

An Incredible Magical Fairy Tale  
for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

by

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**TITLE:** An Incredible Magical Fairy Tale for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

**SYNOPSIS:**

What can I say? It's another magical fairy tale of a wooden boy who wants to be real that takes place in the gay, ole land of make-believe, somewhere far, far, far...far..*far* away—from here, sadly.

**CHARACTERS:**

ANGIO ~ The wooden boy who wants to be real.  
(NOTE: If desired, 2 different actors could be ANGIO, but one female is encouraged.)

GINO ~ Angio's loving father, who would do anything for his son.

HARRIET ~ A for-hire wizard who sees all and knows all. In the business of making dreams of the heart come true.

**SETTING:**

The home of ANGIO and GINO, represented by a chest with various wigs; one is required, others can be implied.

A treacherous road that includes hills and a ledge with many sharp thorns; represented by the aisles, a row of seat and the audience's knees.

The home of HARRIET; it must have a place that can hide the characters. A simple curtain would work.

OPENING SCENE: ANGIO is trying on a wig when GINO calls out to him. He quickly places the wig back into the chest.

GINO

Angio, are you ready to go?

ANGIO

Father, do I have to do this?

GINO

What is the matter? You have waited so long to become a real boy.

ANGIO

Are you sure she has magic enough? Can you be certain of her? What if she only wants to take your money?

GINO

She comes highly recommended. You remember my friend Geppetto. She was the one who made Pinocchio real. He gave me her card, and with it, I get a ten percent discount.

ANGIO

But father, how can you trust a woman who will eat children?

GINO

Do not listen to those lies! It was not her. It was her neighbor, several trees away. I have it on good authority.

ANGIO

From what authority?

GINO

I forget her name. The nice lady down the street. On the corner. Who lives in that crazy house. The shoe house with all the kids.

ANGIO

Mrs. Hubbert?

GINO

Yes. And she would know. Her middle boy has a friend, someone you know, I have seen you all together, who is cousin to someone who lives next door to the family who lives in the candy house. The stepmother, I am told, is quite the bitch, and has terrible rotting teeth.

ANGIO

Which friend, father? The space-cadet who keeps falling down the hill? Or the jerk who likes to watch the village panic every time he cries wolf?

GINO

I hate that kid. He needs professional help. But, no, it wasn't him. I'm almost certainly sure, with very little doubt, that it was that idiot girl who keeps losing her sheep. How many times must you lose your sheep before you realize you should not be in the sheep herding business?

ANGIO

Apparently more than an infinite number.

GINO

Oh, we must go. She charges extra if we are late. And sometimes, when she is very busy, she bumps people.

ANGIO

There must be another way for me to become real.

GINO

She's in the neighborhood—more or less. And it is good to support local businesses. We are going to her.

(seeing the chest open)

Angio, have you been messing with the wigs again?

ANGIO

I was trying to organize them.

GINO

They are organized. You disorganize them. When I go to find a wig for my puppets, I cannot find the one I want. You take them to clean or to comb or to trim. I do not need you to take care of my wigs. Now, I wish not to tell you again. Stay out of the wig chest. Understood?

ANGIO

Oh, father, look at the time. We should go.

GINO

Yes, yes, we should. Come.

For their treacherous journey, they go up the aisle, cross the ledge through the audience—whose knees are the sharp thorns—and then down the aisle to the road that leads to the forest where HARRIET lives.

GINO

These hills, they exhaust me.

ANGIO

Soon father, once we cross the ledge, it will be all downhill from there.

GINO

For which I will be grateful. Be careful as you go. The ledge is so narrow and the thorns so sharp. She is indeed a strange one, to live where the journey is so treacherous. At last, safe ground to rest. It should be easy now for an old man like myself. And there, I see her house.

ANGIO

Father, can we talk?

GINO

Yes, talk.

ANGIO

Can we stop and talk, please? The other day a fellow approached me saying he could make my truest wish come true. He said he could beat the witch's price by 20%.

GINO

Shush! Do not call her that. She is a wizard. She went to a very famous school in England. Did this fellow who approached you, go to a wizard's school?

ANGIO

I didn't ask.

GINO

So you know nothing of his worth. What if he is nothing more than a con? I have heard of such men. Vultures. Besides, I paid in advance and there are no refunds for changing your mind. And, she guarantees her work. If she can't do it, she gives you credit towards another wish. Does your fellow do that?

ANGIO

I didn't ask.

GINO

Did you even ask for his name?

ANGIO

I did. But he said I had to guess it, and I couldn't.

GINO

Then we shall continue on our way. I am so happy for this day. I cannot express my joy.

The door swings open.

HARRIET

Ah, right on time. Come in, come in to my humble home. You must be Angio. I'm Harriet, but everyone calls me Harri. You may also if you like. I understand you want to be a real boy. (beat) Or do you?

GINO

It is all he has talked about for the past year.

ANGIO

Father, this is your wish for me. Ever since talking to Geppetto, you have thought of nothing else.

GINO

He does not want to admit it. He is a good son. He worries about the cost. But I am a good father. I think only of his happiness. Now we are here, on the same day he was given a heart, a soul and a brain by a kindhearted wizard passing through town. He said where he had been, the streets are paved with gold and shines bright like the sun. Can you imagine such a place? If I lived there, I would never seek to leave. Only this day for Angio would inspire my feet to move away.

HARRIET

I have heard of such places. And the wizard you speak of, is a charlatan. But his gifts are true. Angio, I see you spend most of your time in the hills, with the shepherd, and the sheep of course, watching them from afar, do you not?

GINO

He does. I must always call him down.

HARRIET

You see, I know you better than you think. I know what is in your heart, for I see all and know all. I know a trickster tried to steal you away from me. Your father was wise to stay the course he was on. And you would be wise to stay away from him, should your paths cross again. Far, far, far, far...far...*far* away.

GINO

See, such a powerful wizard she is. Worth every penny I had to chase from here to there and back again.

HARRIET

Stop worrying about the money, Angio. Your father has already paid me in full, the non-refundable fee to make your greatest wish come true. He believes your heart's desire is to be a real boy. Is this so? For I want to make sure you are truly getting what is in your heart.

ANGIO

If you speak the truth, and you can see all, then you must know my heart's true desire. And if my father has paid you to have this wish come true, then do it. Or give him back his money, for you will have surely proven yourself to be a fraud and can do no more than sell false hope.

HARRIET

So be it. When your son returns, Gino, he will be all that his heart wishes to be.

GINO

Son, for me, I am happy. But for you, I am happier. Your dream is about to come true.

ANGIO

I hope you are right father.

HARRIET

Enter, Angio, and have no fear.

(A brief lyrical resonance commandeers the room, proclaiming HARRIET's magic and the evolution of ANGIO. She was true to her words and gave Angio his heart's desire.)

Here now, Gino, is your beloved daughter.

GINO

What is this? What have you done? What evil trickery is this? My son was right. You were not to be trusted. You are a witch indeed. You have turned my most favorite day into a day of mourning forever. You must undo this. If you do not, I will tell the bounty hunters where to find you, and they will burn you at the stake for the witch that you are. I will pour water on your sister and watch her melt and there will be a smile on my face.

ANGIO

Father, has the mere sight of me, though happy as I could be, turned your heart cold and left it without compassion? Do you not seek out the goodness in those around you? Has all that you have taught me vanished so quickly? I fear to ask, are you still my father?

GINO

I am still your father, but you are no longer my son. Please, I want my son back. Give me back my beloved son, without whom, I will lose my will to live. You must make this right, I beg of you. Does not the crying of an old man break your heart? Please, return the joy I once had.

HARRIET

You wish to have your joy again, is this so? For I want to make sure you get your truest wish.

GINO

Yes, yes. The joy I had this morning when my love for Angio brought me the most wondrous smile.

HARRIET

You are aware, this will cost you extra, right? A modest fee, cash only.

GINO

Whatever it takes, no matter the cost. I wish only to smile again when I think of my Angio.

HARRIET

So be it. I will return your smile and the joy you once had. Or I will give you credit towards another wish—with a five-year guarantee.

GINO

Such a deal. (beat) Do not worry son. I will make everything right again. For this is what a father does for his beloved child. All will be well.

The lingering drool of a tuba struggles to hold the note, waiting for the magic to take effect. There is great relief when the proclamation is fulfilled.

HARRIET

Angio, I have given you your heart's desire and to your father, I have returned his joy. Behold... Just give it a moment. For some it takes a bit longer. Your father was... well, I'm sure you know. He's not big on changing. I'll be honest with you, he voids the guarantee. Oh, wait, there we go. A smile is forming. ... How you feeling Gino? Are you a happy?

GINO exits the room. He looks at ANGIO, and then finally smiles.

GINO

Indeed. Where once stood my beloved son, now stands my beloved daughter. For myself, I am happy, but I am happier still for you. Your heart's desire has come true. Let us go home now and celebrate.

ANGIO

Yes father, let's.

(They exit to begin the journey home, but HARRIET summons ANGIO back.)

Father, we have forgotten to thank the wizard. I will thank her for both of us. Wait for me.

HARRIET

Talk to me, girlfriend. Did I not see and know all that was in your heart? Did I not give you everything you wished for? Did I not give you and your father happiness? Do you still think me a fraud selling false hope?

ANGIO

No. You are a great wizard indeed. Better than the one who gave me a heart, soul and mind. For his gifts gave me knowledge I had not before, and then saddened me, knowing what would never be.

HARRIET

Did you hear that Merlin? I am all that and more. (beat) He brags that his wizard school in Russia is better than mine. Such hog-wash. He denies the evidence of my power. Fake proof my ass.

ANGIO

Then I wish I could face him and give testimony to your greatness. Or sing of your mighty power from the highest tree, like a bird's lovely song. For sure, there is no way I can ever thank you enough.



HARRIET

You can give my card to your friends. If you like them, write your name on the back and I will give them a ten percent discount. But if you despise them, write nothing, and I will turn them into a hideous monster that will forever hide in the woods, unseen.

ANGIO

I shall do exactly that. I will give it to the boy whose name I refuse to speak. He is a bully who deserves to be a monster on the outside, just as he is on the inside.

HARRIET

Perfect. I can test my latest spell on him. I'm thinking of calling it MAGA, short for Make Assholes Go Away. ... No? Doesn't do anything for you? Eh, it's a work in progress.

ANGIO

I am certain you will succeed, but I must go now and rejoin my father.

HARRIET

One last thing, Angio, before you go. Life will be different for you now. You will experience many changes, both inside and out. You may lose your friends. Strangers will fight to keep you from your happiness. Others will conspire to do you harm. I wish I could keep these events from happening, but no wizard has magic strong enough to do so. Still, Angio, do not regret what is in your heart, for that is what makes the person in you, real. Only this has the power to fight the evil surrounding you. So go Angio, rejoin your father, but keep close the words I have said.

ANGIO

Never to fear that I will forget. You and your words will remain forever in my heart.

(rejoining her father.)

Father, I would rather take the scenic route home. It's longer, but less treacherous. It'll give us time to talk.

The longer walk is through the woods,  
where they disappear into the forest—  
somewhere offstage.

GINO

I would like that very much. So, what shall I call you now? I have a name in mind, if you want to hear it.

ANGIO

I would love to, father. What name do you have?

GINO

Caitlyn. I have it on good authority, it is the name of Olympians.

THE END