

**MEET ME AT THE FAIR**  
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## MEET ME AT THE FAIR

CAST: 12 (7f, 3m, 2 m or f)

RUNNING TIME: 60 minutes

TIME: Labor Day Weekend, 1947

PLACE: County or State Fairgrounds

CAST OF CHARACTERS: 12 (7f, 3m, 2 m or f)

Extras (walk-ons) possible

### **LOCAL KIDS**

1. VIRGINIA: (f) 16 years old. In a wheelchair from polio. WANTS: to dance
2. DANIEL: (m) 18 years old. Virginia's brother. A budding artist who.  
WANTS: To paint
3. CAROLYN: (f) 16 years old. Rich and sweet, Daniel has a crush on her. And she on him. WANTS: A friendship with Daniel
4. ELIZABETH: (f) 16 years old. Carolyn's confidante ; WANTS: to keep the peace
5. MARILYN: (f) 16 yrs. old A privileged city kid who WANTS: To be popular
6. GEORGIA: (f) 16; Upper-crust city-girl who WANTS: to preserve her world
7. BOBBY (m or f) 11; Georgia's younger brother or sister; WANTS: attention

### **FARM KIDS**

8. JANSEN (m/f) 14 yrs. old; farm kid; WANTS an adventure
9. RAYMOND (m): 12 yrs. old; farm boy who WANTS: To protect his chicken!
10. JOYCE (f): 13 yrs. old. WANTS: To help her brother because he needs it

### **FOSTER CARE KIDS**

11. ROSIE (f) 16 yrs. old; a born entrepreneur; is savvy to the world and how to use it; WANTS: to make something of herself
12. OZZIE (m) 18 yrs. old. Rosie's brother - lived in foster care until a year ago when he struck out on his own. Very capable; WANTS: to live his life his way

\*Announcer: You can pre-record the announcer's voice or make him/her a character.

**DREAMING AT THE FAIR synopsis:** The State Fair has reopened after two years because of the polio epidemic. On a magical day at the Fair, young fair-goers discover dreams can come true.

The play is continuous without scene breaks.

Meet Me at the Fair

*AT RISE it is early a.m. on a summer day. You may use your county for the setting of the Fair. We are by a grassy knoll in the fairgrounds away from the crowds where people come to rest, to picnic, or to regroup.*

*RAYMOND and JOYCE (brother and older sister) enter followed by JANSEN. RAYMOND has a basket with "Chickie.")*

JANSEN

It's the last day of the fair and nothing spectacular has happened to me. We get the same breakfast I eat at home. I see the same farm animals I see at home. I get up before dawn just like at home. I really need an adventure.

JOYCE

You're a farm kid. Farm kids do not have adventures. We have one more day without chores! Tomorrow we go back to the farm and then there's nothing but work, work, work! And Raymond - you can't bring Chickie to breakfast! What's she going to think when we're eating bacon and eggs?

RAYMOND

I don't eat bacon. You know that! And I won't eat eggs in front of her.

JOYCE

I'm eating the bacon *and* the eggs!

JANSEN

The same old boring farm breakfast...

RAYMOND

How can you live on a farm and get to know the animals and then chow down on them? It's wrong!

JOYCE

One day Mom and Dad are going to figure out that you don't eat meat.

RAYMOND

Not if you and Skippy keep eating my portions.

JOYCE

And you can't carry Chickie around the Fair all day! You were supposed to sell her!

RAYMOND

She won First Prize! She doesn't deserve to become a chicken pot pie!

*(And they exit as VIRGINIA is wheeled on by her brother DANIEL. On the outskirts, CAROLYN and ELIZABETH enter. CAROLYN sees DANIEL and quickly pulls ELIZABETH aside. MARILYN, GEORGIA, and BOBBY stroll on and watch. We hear "snippets" of conversations from the three different groupings.)*

CAROLYN

He's here! Just as I hoped.

ELIZABETH

Somehow I knew "he" would be the reason that we are here at dawn. Did you tell him?

CAROLYN

No.

ELIZABETH

When are you going to, Carolyn? You're running out of time.

CAROLYN

Today. I'll tell him today. I wish I didn't have to.

*(And the conversation switches to VIRGINIA.)*

VIRGINIA

Tell me again why we had to come so early. The ticket takers weren't even ready for us.

DANIEL

I can wheel you around easier without the crowds.

VIRGINIA

Oh, so it's my fault is it? We're making decisions because I'm in this stupid chair.

DANIEL

Virginia! Don't twist my words.

*(DANIEL stops and sees CAROLYN who quickly turns away. He remains watching her with a smile.)*

VIRGINIA

Who are you smiling at? Lordy Daniel, have you no sense? Carolyn De Munn comes from a different world.

DANIEL

She was a good friend to me all those months when you were in the hospital. We're going to go to the Harvest Dance together in October – just as friends.

VIRGINIA

Good! 'cause you're not going to have a "happily-ever-after" with her. At the end of the day she goes home to the top of the hill and you go down to our little hollow.

DANIEL

You're getting very depressing to be around, do you know that?

VIRGINIA

I'm sorry. I'm not good at watching other people smile at each other. Not when I'm left like this - without anything to look forward to.

DANIEL

Virginia – you have your whole life to look forward to!

VIRGINIA

Not anymore.

DANIEL

Virginia –

VIRGINIA

Polio took my future! There! I said it. No one else will.

DANIEL

I know it's hard.

VIRGINIA

You have no idea. (*Beat.*) We need to go into the Education Building. That's the only reason I wanted to come here.

DANIEL

You know that's the only place I don't want to go!

VIRGINIA

Fine! I'll go myself!

DANIEL

Virginia! You can't! I'm supposed to watch over you.

VIRGINIA

I hate this - never going anywhere by myself! It's as if nobody trusts the rest of me because my legs don't work. If you really want to do something for me, why don't you get me some cotton candy?

DANIEL

We only have a dollar left!

VIRGINIA

You shouldn't have bought a ticket for me. Nobody sees a person in a chair.

DANIEL

That would be stealing!

VIRGINIA

I'm a "nobody," Daniel. You didn't have to pay for a "nobody."

DANIEL

I don't think they start selling cotton candy until later – I mean cotton candy for breakfast?

*(MARILYN, GEORGIA and BOBBY approach CAROLYN and ELIZABETH.)*

GEORGIA

I saw you eyeing him. Really, Carolyn! I can't believe you continue to lower yourself.

MARILYN

That's a bit harsh, don't you think Georgia?

GEORGIA

People should know their place. Daniel is clearly on a lower social level.

CAROLYN

Social level? Is there a class system again?

GEORGIA

Yes. We do. Definitely. Besides, I hear the doctors' bills put them in debt. I hear their Dad was looking to work two jobs. He hasn't even finished high school. And *(loud whisper)* his mother's Jewish.

ELIZABETH

So.

GEORGIA

Be realistic. It matters in our world.

BOBBY

I really wish we could go now. This is a boring part of the Fair. And I don't want to discuss people's personal lives. That's boring, too.

CAROLYN

Daniel will graduate from high school! I'd stake my life on it.

GEORGIA

Maybe. But he'll still wind up working at some menial job. Is that what you want? To live with someone who lives paycheck to paycheck?

ELIZABETH

She smiled at a fellow. I didn't know that carried an acceptance of marriage. Come on Carolyn, there's a lot to do and we won't get to it all if we waste our time here. Ta ta, you three. Be careful where you step. I hear the fair is teeming with low-wage workers!

*(CAROLYN and ELIZABETH march off in one direction. GEORGIA stares and then turns her gaze to DANIEL.)*

DANIEL

Let's go see the champion pigs.

VIRGINIA

The pigs wouldn't happen to be in the same direction that Carolyn went, are they?

DANIEL

Just a coincidence, Virginia. A happy coincidence.

*(DANIELS wheels VIRGINIA off as GEORGIA watches intently.)*

BOBBY

I wish we could head over to the rides.

GEORGIA

They're not open yet.

BOBBY

I really wish someone would buy me some cotton candy.

GEORGIA

Too early.

MARILYN

Georgia - why do you care if Carolyn is friends with Daniel?

GEORGIA

Everything works better if you stay where you belong. *Her* mother told *my* mother at church that she suspected there was something between Carolyn and Daniel. I heard Carolyn was being sent away.

BOBBY

I wish I could snap my fingers, turn around three times and have a genie appear and take me to the arcade.

GEORGIA

Why waste your money there? You never win anything.

BOBBY

I wish just for once - you'd be nice to me, Georgia. I'm your only brother.

GEORGIA

Right now, I wish I was an only child. Can't you be quiet? Come on. Let's see the Fair.

BOBBY

Are we going to the Midway?

GEORGIA

No. To the pigs.

BOBBY

Smelly.

*(GEORGIA, BOBBY and MARILYN follow DANIEL and VIRGINIA off as OSWALD with his wagon and sign proclaiming "Oswald's Oscillating Assundries" enters. At least two balloons are attached to the wagon.*

*OZZIE sets up his wagon. He has crude signs such as "Dream Granter," "Go on a Quest!" and "Make Your Dreams Come True." ROSIE enters and spies OZZIE and runs to him.)*

ROSIE

OZZIE! You're here! You're here!



OZZIE

Rosie! I didn't think I'd make it - I almost got arrested last night.

ROSE

Wheeling and dealing?

OZZIE

You just stabbed me in the heart! So, what's going on? You didn't say much on the phone. Except to threaten me if I didn't come today.

ROSIE

I want it to be a surprise! Can you wait a bit?

OZZIE

That's never been my strong point.

ROSIE

I know – but sometimes – when you have to wait – it's all the sweeter. Now it's your turn to tell me something - what's all this? What are you up to now?

OZZIE

I'm a "Dream Granter." For a measly twenty-five cents, I'll listen to your dreams and send you on a quest to make it come true.

ROSIE

I'm not sure I like that. You need to protect your dreams. Not confess them to some stranger at a Fair. You make plans with your dreams. That's how you make them come true.

OZZIE

I'm a good Dream Granter. Remember when you'd make a wish and I'd send you out on a quest?

ROSIE

Wishes - sure. You let them out and they blow in the wind. But not dreams. They're sacred.

OZZIE

This work is getting me places. I made tons of dreams come true at this carnival in Florida. It gave me a nice chunk of change. And what a bargain! It's only ten cents. Nobody loses.

ROSIE

The minute someone doesn't get what they want - they lose. They may never dream again.

OZZIE

Did I teach you nothing? It's not the dream that's important - it's the quest!

ROSIE

Last year, I dreamed that you and I would be together at the Fair this year and here we are. I made it happen.

OZZIE

Only because you threatened to expose my past crimes if I didn't meet you here!

ROSIE

It doesn't matter. I had a dream and now it's real. Do you have a license for this thing?

OZZIE

Nah. It's fine. The Fair's so busy nobody will notice me and my little wagon. It's pretty clever, you have to admit. I'll make some easy money before I'm chased out of here. I miss you, you know? My offer still stands. You can escape from that family you're with and travel with me. We'll see the world.

ROSIE

I'm going to college. And my new family is very nice. Everything is different. Stay put and let me help you. You can go, too. There are ways.

OZZIE

People like us don't go to college! Even dreaming it won't make that happen.

ROSIE

Good times are coming. I was hoping that you would stay here. Make a life close by. Get your high school diploma. We can make both make our dreams come true – together.

OZZIE

I like this new "Grant a Dream" gig. I made it up myself. I'm my own boss. And I get to travel. I've been doing this for six months and Rosie - the people - they tell you the most amazing things. There was this little girl who wanted her cat to fly so they didn't have to keep climbing up trees to rescue it. And then there was a young boy who wished his father would come home safe from the war -

ROSIE

Did he? The father - come home safe?

OZZIE

I don't know.

ROSIE

Ozzie! You're nothing but a charlatan - a fake - you're not a "Dream Granter!" You're a "Dream-Stealer!"

OZZIE

When did you become a saint? How many years did we spend sneaking into the Fair – swiping nasty fried foods -

ROSIE

That was "stuff." Not dreams.

OZZIE

You used to trust me.

ROSIE

Stay here with me. You don't have to be a con-man forever.

OZZIE

I'm good at this! Come on Rosie – tell me your dream. Let me help you make it come true.

ROSIE

I just did. You weren't listening.

OZZIE

We may have different plans but we both want to be together. Let's up the stakes, shall we? If I make someone's dream come true - you'll leave your foster family and come with me. We'll go on quests together and my dream will come true -

ROSIE

I told you - I have plans -

OZZIE

But if I am - as you say - a charlatan - a fake - and can't make dreams come true - then I'll stay here. I'll play protective big brother, work some menial job and finish my education. You get your wish.

ROSIE

I don't know -

OZZIE

What's the matter? Are you worried you'll lose and have to admit that I really am a "Dream Granter?"

ROSIE

Don't be silly. Nobody can "grant" dreams.

OZZIE

We'll see who is right. If you're so sure – take a gamble. Make the bet. Maybe you'll get your dream. Maybe I'll get mine. Deal?

ROSIE

I – well – all right - deal. But it's a sucker bet. You're going to lose.

OZZIE

I don't think so.

ROSIE

I have to attend to – some things...

OZZIE

What – things?

ROSIE

All in good time – just wait here. I don't want to lose you.

*(ROSIE exits.)*

OZZIE

Where would I go?

*(OZZIE settles down – behind his wagon.  
RAYMOND, JOYCE and JANSEN enter.)*

RAYMOND

I'm hungry.

JOYCE

That's because you didn't eat anything.

RAYMOND

Did you look at that breakfast? Meat everywhere! It's terrible!

JOYCE

I'm going back to start packing.

JANSEN

I don't want to pack yet. I'm not leaving until I have an adventure.

JOYCE

Suit yourself. Come on, Raymond!

RAYMOND

I need to find a home for Chickie!

JOYCE

You're never going to accomplish that!

JANSEN

Hey! Look at that wagon – “dreams granted!” I’m going to check it out.

*(JOYCE and RAYMOND argue  
as JANSEN approaches OZZIE.)*

OZZIE

Oh! Hello? Got a dream?

JANSEN

*(Pulling out what looks like a cauldron for a witch!)*

What's this?

OZZIE

It's my magic pot. I put ingredients in it and make dreams come true.

JANSEN

Get out of here!

OZZIE

No - really. Care to try?

JANSEN

How does it work?

OZZIE

That's a secret.

JANSEN

I have a dream - you can't make it come true.

OZZIE

You don't know that for sure. How about I send you on a quest? Then we'll see who's right.

JANSEN

No thanks.

*(JANSEN sits down by OZZIE and gets  
comfortable.)*

OZZIE

Shouldn't you be somewhere - else?

JANSEN

Nah. I'm staying right here. Someone needs to keep an eye on you.

*(The conversation switches to JOYCE and RAYMOND.)*

JOYCE

Raymond! Get rid of Chickie!

RAYMOND

I just want a home for her - with people who will love her and respect her ...

JOYCE

It's a chicken! We're talking about a chicken! Where'd Jansen go?

RAYMOND

Over there. With come carnie fellow.

JOYCE

What's he selling?

RAYMOND

"Dreams granted. Twenty-five cents." Quick! Give me a quarter!

JOYCE

Where'd all your money go?

RAYMOND

What money?

JOYCE

I wish you'd think before you spend. Come on.

*(JOYCE and RAYMOND approach OZZIE. VIRGINIA, DANIEL, CAROLYN and ELIZABETH enter. ELIZABETH is now wheeling VIRGINIA and DANIEL is with CAROLYN.)*

VIRGINIA

Well, that was a waste.

ELIZABETH

Who knew the pigs would be gone already?

VIRGINIA

I didn't terribly want to see the pigs.

ELIZABETH

Neither did I.

*(The conversation switches to CAROLYN and DANIEL.)*

CAROLYN

You have to go to art school! You were given a gift - you can't just throw it away!

DANIEL

Carolyn! I can't pay for an education that will set me up to *not* earn a living.

CAROLYN

I wish you had entered your art work into the high school contest. That painting you did of the meadow is so lovely.

DANIEL

What's the point?

*(And we are back listening to VIRGINIA and ELIZABETH.)*

VIRGINIA

You have to help me get Daniel into the Education Building. He's being very pig-headed and won't go.

ELIZABETH

Why are you so set on going inside? You know he wanted to enter the competition and couldn't. You know your father doesn't approve.

VIRGINIA

I have my reasons - please! Help me. Go on - talk to Carolyn and Daniel - tell them there's a painting you really want to see.

ELIZABETH

There is?

VIRGINIA

There is.

*(ELIZABETH goes over to DANIEL  
and CAROLYN. VIRGINIA wheels herself closer to  
OZZIE. JOYCE and RAYMOND are with OZZIE)*

OZZIE

Let me get this straight - your dream is to find a happy home for a chicken?

RAYMOND

Yes. Can you do it?

OZZIE

Of course I can! I'm a dream-granter! But like it says on the signs - you have to earn your dream.

JOYCE

We just paid you!

OZZIE

You paid for the Quest.

RAYMOND

Your sign says "Dreams Granted!"

OZZIE

And they will be granted - after you finish your quest.

JOYCE

Come on, Raymond - something tells me we just lost a quarter.

RAYMOND

No! I need to find Chickie a home! I'll do anything!

OZZIE

Then listen close. You must find me three extraordinary things. Then I will put them in my magic pot and if you wish hard enough - your dream will be granted.

JOYCE

Oh for goodness sakes, Raymond. Use your brain! He's going to put Chickie in a pot!

RAYMOND

NO!

JANSEN

Don't worry. I won't let him. I'm keeping an eye on him.



OZZIE

I am not going to cook the chicken. I am sending your friend on a quest.

JANSEN

That's kind of like an adventure.

RAYMOND

I don't want an adventure. I want a home for Chickie. What ... am I - questing for?

OZZIE

Something royal so I know your dream is true-blue, something magical to set the dream in motion and something evil that we will vanquish to ensure no harm comes to your dream.

RAYMOND

I don't know what you're talking about.

JOYCE

They're all stuff from fairy tales.

RAYMOND

How am I going to find fairy tales at the fair?

JOYCE

I got it. Are you sure you want to do this quest thing?

RAYMOND

Yes!

JOYCE

Take good care of Chickie. I'm glad we don't have to lug her around anymore. See you later, Jansen!

*(RAYMOND and JOYCE exit)*

OZZIE

Wait a minute! HEY! She doesn't have a home yet. Great. I'm babysitting a chicken.

*(Noticing JANSEN who is doing a "thumbs down approval" rating of OZZIE))*

What? You don't think his dream will come true?

JANSEN

Oh please! Anyone can make that dream come true! Even me. You're nothing but a fake.

OZZIE

Then why don't you leave?

JANSEN

I'm watching you. I'm your conscience.

( *VIRGINIA wheels herself over* )

JANSEN (cont'd)

I think you have a new customer.

(*VIRGINIA comes near.*)

OZZIE

Hey little lady! Need to go on a quest?

VIRGINIA

What I need a quest won't get me.

OZZIE

Got a dream?

VIRGINIA

Look at me. Now, do you really think I need a dream? Or perhaps something more useful? Like a typing class so I can earn a living while sitting in a chair all day. Don't pretend to make dreams come true – someone might get hurt.

OZZIE

Did you take too many bitter pills today?

VIRGINIA

Does it look like my life's a walk in the park?

OZZIE

Wake up Sleeping Beauty. Nobody's life is.

VIRGINIA

What - did you call me?

OZZIE

You heard me. Sounds to me like there might be a real person inside - but she's asleep.

VIRGINIA

My legs are sleeping. And they're not going to wake up.

OZZIE

The mind can do wonderful things.

VIRGINIA

Are you a doctor?

OZZIE

A dream-granter -

VIRGINIA

A fake! Don't you think if I could "dream" myself into walking again, I would have done that?

OZZIE

Try me out - tell me your dream and go on a quest. You never know what you'll discover.

VIRGINIA

You really are shameless! Trying to take advantage of a cripple.

OZZIE

I don't think anyone takes advantage of you.

*(ROSIE enters.)*

ROSIE

It appears I jumped the gun – getting ready too early.

OZZIE

For what?

ROSIE

For that "thing" I'm not telling you about.

*(Noticing VIRGINIA)*

Oh, hello.

OZZIE

Rosie - meet Sleeping Beauty.

VIRGINIA

Virginia.

ROSIE

Watch out for my brother, Virginia. He has been known to cast spells on people!

VIRGINIA

Yeah - well, I've already been cast under an evil enchantment. It's called paralysis.  
Excuse me.

*(VIRGINIA goes to her brother.)*

ROSIE

I hope you haven't been promising to make her dreams come true.

OZZIE

Not to worry. She has no dreams.

ROSIE

So - did you grant any dreams while I was gone?

OZZIE

I'm working on it. There's a situation that just might pan out. Just you wait – you'll be riding the rails with me tonight.

ROSIE

We'll see.

*(The conversation switches to VIRGINIA and DANIEL.)*

VIRGINIA

I'm back!

DANIEL

Oh! Good.

VIRGINIA

Didn't even notice I was gone.

DANIEL

Virginia! Can you stop -

VIRGINIA

Stop what? Stop being in this chair?

DANIEL

The bitter ... the blame ...

CAROLYN

Daniel! Let it go.

DANIEL

No! She could go into therapy – who knows? But she refuses! I'm beginning to think she likes being in a wheelchair.

VIRGINIA

What do you know? Did you see the people at the hospital - with those thick braces - hobbling on their crutches? Clunking! Everyone looks at them with pity. At least when I'm in the chair – no one looks.

DANIEL

If you don't want to go into therapy – don't! But you can stop trying to make everyone miserable.

ELIZABETH

Daniel - stop!

DANIEL

I'm trying to help her!

VIRGINIA

Yes. I feel marvelously helped. Thank-you Daniel.

DANIEL

Virginia!

VIRGINIA

Leave me alone!

*(VIRGINIA wheels herself away)*

DANIEL

I'm sorry -

CAROLYN

- leave her be.

ELIZABETH

Maybe I should go to her.

*(ELIZABETH catches up with VIRGINIA)*

Virginia! He didn't mean –

VIRGINIA

I know – I don't know why I say these things. I just – can you let me alone, Elizabeth? I'm never alone.

If you're sure –  
ELIZABETH

I am. hanks.  
VIRGINIA

*(ELIZABETH returns to CAROLYN.)  
VIRGINIA returns close to OZZIE  
GEORGIA, MARILYN  
and BOBBY appear. GEORGIA  
and MARILYN are arguing.)*

There he is! Go on - give it a go.  
GEORGIA

I don't want to flirt with him! Besides, he's with Carolyn.  
MARILYN

Come on! It'll really get her blood boiling. She's leaving tomorrow and she'd just hate it if she knew Daniel already found someone else.  
GEORGIA

Can I have some cotton candy?  
BOBBY

Go away.  
GEORGIA

You could - for just once in your life - be a little nice to me. Come on Georgia – try!  
BOBBY

Here! Go find some precious cotton candy. Now - I really wish you would leave me be!  
GEORGIA

*(She gives him some money)*

That's me - being sweet. Take it or leave it.

I know I'm being bribed. I don't mind.  
BOBBY

*(BOBBY will exit and return with cotton candy and  
sit on the grass away from GEORGIA.)*

MARILYN

Why don't *you* flirt with him?

GEORGIA

Don't be silly! Daniel and Carolyn both know I'd never consider going out with the likes of him.

MARILYN

Thanks a lot.

GEORGIA

What are you waiting for?

MARILYN

An opportunity. One doesn't just barge into a conversation and flirt!

*(And the conversation switches again)*

CAROLYN

You've got to stop hovering. Let her do for herself.

DANIEL

She can't. That's the problem. I wish it was me - but it's not.

CAROLYN

She'll do more if you do less. And it's good that we're alone -

ELIZABETH

Should I leave?

CAROLYN

No - I mean just the three of us - because I need to talk to you, Daniel.

ELIZABETH

I feel a sudden need to take a stroll.

DANIEL

You don't need to go anywhere, Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH

Yes - I do.

CAROLYN

Daniel?

I'm here.

DANIEL

*(CAROLYN and DANIEL stare at each other.)*

I'm not.

ELIZABETH

*(CAROLYN and DANIEL continue to stare at each other and ELIZABETH steps away and sits near BOBBY. OZZIE notices VIRGINIA has returned.)*

She's back!

JANSEN

Oh! Sleeping Beauty – can't stay away?

OZZIE

Don't call me that! Please.

VIRGINIA

It's the name of a time-honored princess.

OZZIE

VIRGINIA

I know who she is. Her name was Aurora. An evil fairy came and put a spell on her and she fell asleep for a hundred years. When the evil fairy came to put the spell on me – she missed. Only my legs fell asleep. I wish I could – sleep through all of this.

OZZIE

You're asleep all right. You just don't realize it.

VIRGINIA

I'm – well, I'm just not me anymore. I don't know why I came back here.

OZZIE

You must like something about me. Maybe it's the quest.

VIRGINIA

I don't know where to go. I just seem to be in the way a lot.

ROSIE

You are wanted here. Right, Ozzie?

OZZIE

She can hang with my conscience here.



JANSEN

Jansen. The name's Jansen.

OZZIE

I seem to be attracting non-dreamers. Ironic, no?

VIRGINIA

Dreams just get you hurt.

OZZIE

You have a dream. And it's powerful. Try the quest. You never know what you'll discover.

VIRGINIA

What I need a quest won't get me!

ROSIE

I don't know. Maybe Ozzie's right. Maybe you do need something – a wish!

*(Rosie gets a balloon from the wagon)*

VIRGINIA

I know what I need to do – I'm just not ready.

ROSIE

Here! Take this. We'll start small. Hold on to the balloon, make a little wish – just a whisper and send it away.

JANSEN

Can I make a wish?

ROSIE

Of course.

VIRGINIA

I - don't - make wishes.

ROSIE

Just try, Virginia. It costs nothing to try!

OZZIE

Wait a minute! It costs a quarter!

ROSIE

That's dreams - not wishes.

OZZIE

Well, I ought to get at least a quarter.

ROSIE

Okay you two, got a wish?

JANSEN

Yes.

VIRGINIA

No.

ROSIE

Come on, Virginia. Just the tiniest little hopeful thought. Now - we're going to send the balloons to the heavens. And who knows what will happen? We'll let it go on the count of three. Ready? One ... two ... THREE! Go on – let it go!

*(JANSEN releases his/her balloon and watches it - amazed. VIRGINIA starts to let the balloon go and suddenly grabs it tighter than ever)*

VIRGINIA

I can't! It'll get stuck somewhere - just like I'm stuck.

ROSIE

So - you do have a wish!

VIRGINIA

I - don't! I don't know why I came back here. I'm leaving!

ROSIE

Yes you are. With me.

*(ROSIE jumps off and goes to VIRGINIA'S chair)*

See you later, Ozzie!

*(ROSIE runs VIRGINIA off stage)*

OZZIE

Hey! I don't know if you should be kidnapping someone in a chair!

JANSEN

I told you she would be a tough customer.

*(We switch to ELIZABETH who has settled near BOBBY)*

Hey.

ELIZABETH

Hey yourself.

BOBBY

What are you doing all alone?

ELIZABETH

I'm not alone. I'm being ignored by my sister.

BOBBY

Well, I'm being ignored by my friends. You're Georgia's brother?

ELIZABETH

Yeah.

BOBBY

Sorry.

ELIZABETH

Hey! That's my sister you're talking about!

BOBBY

Sorry again. Aren't we pathetic? The "Unwanted Duo." What do you say - we get out of here and go on some rides?

ELIZABETH

You mean it?

BOBBY

The higher and faster the better!

ELIZABETH

That'll make Georgia happy. She wanted me to go away!

BOBBY

*(They look over where GEORGIA is in deep conversation with MARILYN and DANIEL is still conversing with CAROLYN.)*

What're we waiting for?

ELIZABETH

*(BOBBY and ELIZABETH run off.  
DANIEL and CAROLYN walk together -  
it is an awkward situation.)*

You - wanted to speak with me?

DANIEL

Yes.

CAROLYN

*(Pause)*

It's - pretty silent - for someone who wanted - to talk.

DANIEL

Yes.

CAROLYN

*(Pause)*

The Harvest Dance?

DANIEL

Yes. No.

CAROLYN

You - don't want to go with me?

DANIEL

Yes.

CAROLYN

Yes - you do want to go with me or yes - you don't want to go with me?

DANIEL

Neither.

CAROLYN

DANIEL

I didn't think there were any other choices. You found someone else.

CAROLYN

No! I'm-going-to-a-horrid-boarding-school-tomorrow-for-an-entire-year-and-I-hate-it-and-I-didn't-know-how-to-tell-you.

DANIEL

What did you just say? You're going away?

CAROLYN

For a year!

*(DANIEL puts his arm around her to comfort her.)*

DANIEL

It's okay, Carolyn. How long have you known?

CAROLYN

*(Sobbing)*

All summer!

DANIEL

You've known all summer that you're going away for an entire year and *I'm* comforting *you!*

CAROLYN

I didn't know how -

DANIEL

I thought we were friends.

CAROLYN

We are.

DANIEL

Friends tell each other things. Things like, "I'm going away for a year." Excuse me, I had better get back to Virginia.

*(We switch to GEORGIA and MARILYN. They have been closely watching the scene between CAROLYN and DANIEL.)*

GEORGIA

I think that's your opportunity.

MARILYN

I couldn't have planned it better myself.

*(MARILYN approaches DANIEL as  
GEORGIA goes to find BOBBY.)*

MARILYN

Hey, Daniel! You look like you could use a friend.

DANIEL

Oh - hi, Marilyn. Have you seen Virginia?

MARILYN

No, I'm sorry - is she lost?

DANIEL

She was just over there - Virginia? VIRGINIA! Where could she have gone?

*(GEORGIA rushes over)*

GEORGIA

I can't find Bobby - did anyone see where he went?

MARIYLN

Maybe he's with Virginia. She's gone off somewhere.

DANIEL

No! She doesn't just "go off" anywhere.

GEORGIA

Mom'll kill me if I don't bring Bobby home.

*(CAROLYN approaches)*

CAROLYN

What's wrong?

MARILYN

We don't know where Bobby and Virginia went.

CAROLYN

Maybe they're all somewhere together. With Elizabeth. She seems to have wandered off also.

GEORGIA

Has everyone gone crazy? Why can't people stay where we put them?

DANIEL

That guy over there! I think Virginia talked to him!

GEORGIA

Geez, Mom really likes Bobby! I need to find him!

*(They rush to OZZIE)*

DANIEL

Excuse me -

OZZIE

Do you want a dream granted?

DANIEL

No - I'm looking for someone - my sister -

GEORGIA

- my brother -

OZZIE

Oh - so you do want me to grant you your dream!

DANIEL

No! I just need to know if you've seen my sister - it's hard to miss her - she's in a wheelchair -

OZZIE

It's going to cost you -

DANIEL

Oh for goodness sakes! I'm trying to find my sister! She may need me!

MARILYN

Come on - the Agriculture Building is right here - she probably wandered inside. Don't waste your time with him.

*(DANIEL and MARILYN run off)*

OZZIE

Wait! I didn't say I wouldn't help! She's fine! She's with my -

*(To JANSEN)*

Watch my stuff, will ya?  
OZZIE (cont'd)

*(OZZIE runs off)*

I'll help -  
CAROLYN

What about me? Isn't anyone going to help me?  
GEORGIA

Come on Georgia. Let's go to the information booth and report Bobby missing.  
CAROLYN

*(As GEORGIA and CAROLYN exit,  
we hear RAYMOND let out a large  
painful noise.)*

Owwwww!  
RAYMOND

*( RAYMOND and JOYCE could appear in an  
audience aisle. RAYMOND is scuffed  
up and limping.)*

I wish you hadn't climbed the tree.  
JOYCE

Hold this -  
RAYMOND

I'm not holding a flea-bitten bird's nest. I don't know why you need it!  
JOYCE

It's royal Oh! Did you see that butterfly! I need that butterfly!  
RAYMOND

*(RAYMOND runs off and JOYCE  
will follow)*

Watch where you're going!  
JOYCE

Owwwww  
RAYMOND  
*(Offstage)*



*(JOYCE runs off as ROSIE enters with VIRGINIA.  
JANSEN runs off to search for Virginia.)*

VIRGINIA

Empty. Where'd everyone go?

*(From the back of the house we hear calling)*

GEORGIA

Bobby!

DANIEL

Vir-gin-ia!

ROSIE

Sounds like someone's looking for you!

VIRGINIA

My brother. This is the first time I've been away from a family member in almost a year!  
I like it here – all is quiet -

JOYCE

RAYMOND! GET OUT OF THE GARBAGE!

ROSIE

... sort of ...

DANIEL

VIRGINIA!

MARILYN

*Virginia!*

JANSEN

VIR-GINNNNN-IA!

VIRGINIA

Sounds like lots of people are looking for me. I should go.

ROSIE

Go ahead.

VIRGINIA

Aren't you coming with me?

ROSIE

You still have arms. You could find your brother - if you really wanted to.

VIRGINIA

I'm mad at him. I made his dream come true and he doesn't even know it.

ROSIE

Dream?

VIRGINIA

He painted a picture. A truly marvelous picture of our Grandfather's meadow. I entered it in the Art Show and it won a blue ribbon. I have the note here.

*(She brings out an award letter.)*

ROSIE

Virginia, you're a dream-granter!

VIRGINIA

No! Well - sort of. The Show is in the Education Building but he refuses to go in there.

ROSIE

Well, if he won't go into the Art Show - maybe we can bring the Art Show to him.

VIRGINIA

What are you talking about?

ROSIE

Let me think it through. It just might work. I have some secrets of my own. So, how did you manage to get the painting to the Fair?

VIRGINIA

With the help of some teachers. I can do - some things.

ROSIE

You can do a lot of things, Virginia.

*(Pause)*

I used to think I couldn't ever do anything. I've been in foster care since - forever. My brother was with me until last year. We were in this new home - not so great, you know. And finally he ran away. I was brought to another home and all of a sudden things changed. These people - encouraged me. A teacher helped me see possibilities. Somehow, I rediscovered hope.

VIRGINIA

And I lost hope two years ago.

ROSIE

I'm sorry.

VIRGINIA

I thought I was going to die. And sometimes – I wanted to. But I'm still here and my family – well, they've been wonderful even when I'm not wonderful to them. I'm sorry, too. Foster care must be hard.

ROSIE

Sometimes. Not always. Will you never walk?

VIRGINIA

Don't know. There've been surgeries. There's some life in these limbs. But not a lot. With another surgery and tons of expensive therapy – I may have a future clunking around. For someone who was a dancer –

ROSIE

You were a dancer?

VIRGINIA

Once upon a time. It's been tough trying to figure my new body out.

ROSIE

You're still holding on to the balloon.

VIRGINIA

I know. I like the idea of holding something that could potentially fly. But you're wrong, Rosie - about having a wish. I don't. Do you – have a wish?

ROSIE

Lots of wishes and one powerful dream – where I can make something of myself. I hope you can find a powerful dream. They keep you going.

VIRGINIA

I – don't think that's possible.

ROSIE

I used to make myself crazy knowing that I would never grow up in a real home. Never have a mother and father to guide me. It was hard to stop thinking of those things.

VIRGINIA

How did you stop?

ROSIE

I didn't exactly stop. just finally started thinking of other things. Things that were possible. Everything was one big jumble for awhile. It's hard – but even a foster kid can make something of herself. At least that's what I keep telling myself.

VIRGINIA

How will you do that?

ROSIE

The only way I can figure out – is through schooling. I know I have to go to college.

VIRGINIA

College is expensive. I was hoping for a scholarship. I really wanted to dance but it wasn't going to pay for schooling. My father wanted Daniel and me to have real careers. He went nuts when he found out he raised an artist and a dancer. Anyway, I don't see college in my future anymore.

ROSIE

You never know. Maybe there will be a scholarship. Maybe not. Maybe we can work and take one class at a time. So what if it takes ten years? I stopped thinking of what is impossible.

VIRGINIA

I – don't know the possibilities for me anymore. The dancing is out.

ROSIE

Maybe you will create the dance – instead of dancing someone else's steps.

VIRGINIA

How can I create when I can't move the way I want?

ROSIE

Somewhere inside you Virginia – there is still movement. It just doesn't come out the way it used to.

VIRGINIA

There was a time – when I was in the hospital – I thought – wouldn't it be nice to just slip away ... just be free from my legs –

ROSIE

- but you fought back -

VIRGINIA

I don't know why.

ROSIE

You couldn't let go. That's what you need to remember.

DANIEL

*(Offstage)*

*Vir - gin -ia!*

VIRGINIA

He's getting annoying, isn't he?

DANIEL (OS)

Virginia!

ROSIE

Where's his painting?

VIRGINIA

In the Education Building. I have to get him to see it.

ROSIE

Maybe – we can bring it to him.

VIRGINIA

I don't see how.

*(JANSEN appears looking for VIRGINIA.)*

DANIEL

*(offstage)*

VIRGINIA!

JANSEN

Hey! Your sister 's over here -

ROSE

Come on –let's get that painting.

*(JANSEN moves in closer to VIRGINIA.)*

VIRGINIA

I should go to him – he sounds worried.

ROSIE

It'll just take a few minutes. We'll grab the painting and go.

JANSEN

Are you – going to *steal* a painting?

ROSIE

You bet I am. Care to help?

JANSEN

Absolutely!

*(ROSIE wheels VIRGINIA offstage with JANSEN following. GEORGIA and CAROLYN enter.)*

GEORGIA

It's like he evaporated! How can a kid just disappear?

CAROLYN

We have the entire security force looking for him. Don't worry Georgia.

GEORGIA

I wished it. I wished for him to go away and he did!

CAROLYN

Maybe he's on the rides.

GEORGIA

He doesn't have any money. And besides - they make him sick.

CAROLYN

Let's try the Education Building. It's the only building we haven't been in.

GEORGIA

Somehow, I cannot see my brother walking voluntarily into any building marked "Education." Unless he didn't go voluntarily - Carolyn!

CAROLYN

We'll find him!

GEORGIA

I wish -

CAROLYN

Georgia! Don't wish! Really. You don't have the knack! Come on - the Education Building's always crowded – it's easy to get lost in there.

*(CAROLYN and GEORGIA exit as ELIZABETH and BOBBY enter. BOBBY*

*has a stuffed "magical" animal.)*

ELIZABETH

I wish you had told me about your motion sickness before we rode the roller coaster.

BOBBY

I'm sorry. I thought I outgrew it. I think I'll just sit still for awhile with my prize.

ELIZABETH

You did really well at the arcade.

BOBBY

I don't know what to do with it. Want it?

ELIZABETH

My mom won't let bring any more stuffed animal into the house. I sort of have – a hundred of them. We should probably find your sister. So she doesn't worry.

BOBBY

Nah, she probably didn't even notice I was gone.

*( RAYMOND comes limping in followed by JOYCE. He is heavily bandaged and has some items: a jar that used to contain a butterfly, and a bird's nest. JOYCE carries a fried chicken wing in a bag. RAYMOND sees the wagon is unattended and rushes over.)*

RAYMOND

HE'S GONE! HE LEFT CHICKIE ALL ALONE! SHE COULD HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPED!

JOYCE

Unfortunately, she wasn't.

RAYMOND

BUT SHE COULD HAVE!

JOYCE

You are becoming very odd , do you know that? I'm tired. I'm going to rest. *Away from Chickie!*

*(JOYCE settles close to ELIZABETH and BOBBY. RAYMOND gets CHICKIE and joins JOYCE.)*

ELIZABETH  
*(Looking at RAYMOND)*

Oh my. What happened to you?

RAYMOND

I was sent on a quest! For royal things!

BOBBY

That's kind of neat.

RAYMOND

I really need something magical very, very badly or my chicken will not have a home.

BOBBY

What?

RAYMOND

I'm on a quest. And if I finish it – everything will be perfect.

BOBBY

And if you don't finish it?

RAYMOND

My world will fall apart. All because my magical butterfly flew away.

BOBBY

Something magical? Here – want this?

*(BOBBY shows RAYMOND his stuffed animal. It could be a unicorn or a dragon.)*

RAYMOND

Joyce! Something magical! And I didn't need to climb a tree or go into the garbage to get it!

*(ROSIE, VIRGINIA and JANSEN enter with DANIEL'S painting. It has a blue ribbon on it. They also bring an easel and will be setting it up.)*

JANSEN

Do you have some kind of pull with these people?

ROSIE

Sort of. I won this contest and I have to give a speech – which I'm really nervous about – and I thought – wouldn't it be nice to have a painting as the backdrop. I can do a very



ROSIE (cont'd)

good “Poor-little-old-me-orphaned-at-a-young-age” imitation. When people feel sorry for you – they kind of give in to you. Besides – the Fair is giving me an award. They have to be nice to me.

VIRGINIA

That’s awful!

ROSIE

I know.

JANSEN

It’s – kind of dishonest. But I am forever in your debt.

ROSIE

Who exactly are you?

JANSEN

Jansen. I’ve been wanting some sort of adventure and spending the afternoon with a con artist has given me one! It’s what I wished for!

VIRGINIA

What’s the award for?

ROSIE

I had to write an essay on “What the State Fair Means to Me.” And since Ozzie and I used to sneak in every year – I had a lot to write about! The foods, the rides, the animals, the car races, the music –

VIRGINIA

How could you afford to do anything?

ROSIE

We sometimes – took what wasn’t ours. I know – it was wrong and I wouldn’t do it again. What you see before you is a reformed con artist!

JANSEN

So my adventure has a happy ending!

VIRGINIA

What now?

ROSIE

We really should look for your brother. He must be frantic.

*(MARILYN, DANIEL and OZZIE enter)*

DANIEL

Are you sure your sister is a responsible person?

OZZIE

My sister - responsible? Well, no - but I'm sure Sleeping Beauty is okay -

ROSIE

Speak of the devil -

MARILYN

Daniel! Look!

*(DANIEL rushes over)*

DANIEL

VIRGINIA! I've been looking all over for you! Are you all right?

VIRGINIA

I think so.

*(GEORGIA enters with CAROLYN)*

GEORGIA

If we don't find him - I'm going to run away and nobody will ever see me again and I don't want to have to do that - because I really don't wish to be poor -

CAROLYN

Relax, Georgia. You won't have to be poor -

*(BOBBY looks up and sees GEORGIA and waves and comes over)*

BOBBY

Hey Georgia!

GEORGIA

Bobby?

*(GEORGIA rushes over and embraces BOBBY in a huge hug which BOBBY barely submits to.)*

I've been so worried - I've looked everywhere - we were in all these buildings and I kept seeing little kids who looked like you and weren't you -

GEORGIA (cont'd)

*(She abruptly lets go of him)*

You little sneak! How dare you go off and leave me to worry! I almost had a nervous breakdown looking for you!

BOBBY

Gee, Georgia - I didn't know you cared.

GEORGIA

I didn't say I cared - you don't look so good.

BOBBY

I went on some rides.

GEORGIA

What is the matter with you? You know they make you sick! You know they're not good for you. How many times do I have to tell you these things?

*(GEORGIA, CAROLYN and BOBBY retreat to the back as they discuss their adventures.*

*ELIZABETH, VIRGINIA, and DANIEL join them.*

*ROSIE has her essay script out and all are busy. JANSEN joins RAYMOND.)*

RAYMOND

Where have you been?

JANSEN

For your information, I was having an adventure with a con artist! You don't look so good.

RAYMOND

I know – but I finished my quest! So Chickie should have a loving home.

JANSEN

I don't know about that Ozzie character – but I tell you what – if he can't give Chickie a home – I can. I don't think Mom and Dad would mind another chicken.

Really?  
RAYMOND

Sure.  
JANSEN

RAYMOND  
*Why didn't you tell me this earlier? Before I got myself all cut and bruised?*

JANSEN  
Didn't think of it till now.

*( RAYMOND sees  
OZZIE and rushes to him.)*

RAYMOND  
Give me back my quarter!

OZZIE  
What happened to you?

RAYMOND  
I got all banged up searching for your magical things! Don't change the subject! You left Chickie all alone and who knows what could have happened to her! And I found her a home all by myself so I didn't need your silly quest!

OZZIE  
Not so fast - let's discuss it. Show me what you found. Did you find the magical things??

RAYMOND  
I found a castle – see. It's a bird's nest and that's royal. My Dad says his home is his castle and so I figured the bird's home is also his castle. And I had a butterfly which used to be a caterpillar – and that's magical! But he flew away and my new friend gave me this magical stuffed animal. And now – for something evil –

*(RAYMOND gets the bag with the fried chicken  
from JOYCE)*

Here. I can't bear to look at it.

OZZIE  
*(Taking the fried chicken leg out)*  
It's a fried chicken leg!

RAYMOND

I know! And once it was an adorable chickie! It's evil what they do to chickies! So, you see - I did everything you wanted. And guess what? I found Chickie my own home -

OZZIE

Oh really? How?

RAYMOND

Jansen over there lives on a farm and can take Chickie home – I should've asked him earlier.

OZZIE

But you didn't think of it until after you went on the quest. You got what you wanted because of "the quest." No refunds.

*(OZZIE moves to ROSIE who is nervously studying a piece of paper.)*

OZZIE

Rosie?

ROSIE

It's starting Ozzie – it's starting!

OZZIE

What?

*(We hear an announcement.)*

ANNOUNCEMENT

The presentation for the winning essay by Miss Rosie Randall will be held outside the Agriculture Building. All are welcome. Then, take a stroll in the staging area and see one of the blue ribbon paintings from a very fine young artist. Following that, there will be music provided by our 4H members. The presentation is free and will begin in two minutes.

ROSIE

Omigosh! Omigosh! It's starting. I'm nervous!

OZZIE

Rosie?

ROSIE

I'm on, Ozzie. I get to read my essay and I get a prize and everything. That's why I wanted you here.

OZZIE  
You won the essay contest?

ROSIE  
First prize!

OZZIE  
You won the essay contest????

ROSIE  
I won the essay contest! Isn't this just the best day? How about you? How's your day going? Grant any dreams?

OZZIE  
Sort of. Maybe. I'm not sure.

ROSIE  
It has to absolutely be for real if I'm going to join you.

OZZIE  
I know.

*(As OZZIE and ROSIE deal with each other we hear DANIEL'S conversation with VIRGINIA.)*

DANIEL  
Virginia? Is - that my painting?

VIRGINIA  
Nah. How would your painting get here?

DANIEL  
VIRGINIA! *That's* my painting!

CAROLYN  
Daniel? Do you see what I see? The painting – that was in the hall at school – Daniel's painting?

DANIEL  
Virginia?

VIRGINIA  
I entered it. Last spring. I knew you were worried that it would hurt me - to enter the painting of our summer up north before all this happened - but it doesn't, Daniel. It's beautiful.

CAROLYN

It has a blue ribbon by it! Come on - check it out!

MARILYN

Georgia? Did you see? Daniel's painting got a blue ribbon.

GEORGIA

The painting's not too bad. For - you know - someone who's kind of working class.

MARILYN

Georgia! What's with your "class" obsession anyway?

GEORGIA

It's how things are. And when you change the order of things – it doesn't work out.

MARILYN

It works out – if you love each other.

GEORGIA

Love doesn't last forever. Later – after you've been married a long time – you need something in common. I know.

MARILYN

That's not how it is –

GEORGIA

That's exactly how it is. My mother was poor.

MARILYN

I didn't know –

GEORGIA

Nobody knows – so don't go blabbing it around. But it's true. My mother was poor and my father reminds her of that all the time. And sometimes my Mother says she will leave and take Bobby and me – and just go somewhere and be poor again. And I don't want that – I mean Marilyn – it's all I have -

MARILYN

What is?

GEORGIA

Money. Status. I don't really have any other talents.

MARILYN

You can – on occasion be a good friend.

GEORGIA

Marilyn?

MARILYN

Sometimes. Not often. With me, anyway. And look – Daniel’s painting is pretty good, isn’t it?

GEORGIA

Yeah – I wish I could paint like that.

MARILYN

It’s a gift – I certainly couldn’t do that. It’s nice – don’t you think - that he is so talented.

GEORGIA

It’s all just a jumble. Nothing’s the way I thought it was. And you know what's worse? That Carolyn -

MARILYN

Carolyn spent hours helping you to find Bobby!

GEORGIA

I know – why would she do that?

MARILYN

Wouldn’t you have done the same if she needed help?

GEORGIA

I don’t know.

MARILYN

Yes, you would.

GEORGIA

I – hope so.

*(Meanwhile DANIEL crosses to see his painting up close.)*

DANIEL

*(Crossing to his painting)*

That's - my painting.

ROSIE

I know.



DANIEL

I'm – Daniel. Virginia's brother.

ROSIE

I know that, too.

DANIEL

It's like a dream come true.

ROSIE

It looks like a lot of dreams are coming true.

OZZIE

All but one. If she would just admit she has one.

*(He looks at VIRGINIA who does not notice.)*

ANNOUNCER'S VOICE

If you could all take your seats. The ceremony is about to begin.

*((GEORGIA, MARILYN and ELIZABETH gather around. As do BOBBY, RAYMOND, and JOYCE. JANSEN joins them.) Everyone gets settled. DANIEL may be wearing the blue ribbon. We hear an announcement.)*

ANNOUNCER

The State Fair is proud to announce that the winner of "What the State Fair Means to Me" essay contest is Miss Rosie Randall! Miss Randall will now read her essay for you.

ROSIE

*(ROSIE can do a lot of this directly to the audience.)*

Thank-you so much. I'm - nervous. You know - I dreamed of this day - for a year. But in my dreams - I wasn't nervous.

OZZIE

You're doing well, Rosie.

ROSIE

The Fair is a feast for senses. Reach out and touch – a soft chick, a wooly lamb. Feel the stickiness of sugar spun into cotton. Ride the Ferris wheel and notice a touch from the sky. Taste a soft-serve ice creaming melting down your hands. Or the crunch and crackle and salt of all that fried food on a stick. Listen to the ukuleles in the park and the big Band sound from the Grandstand. Then meander to the barns and hear the cornucopia of

## ROSIE (cont'd)

moos, oinks and neighs. Gaze your eyes on the coat of arms at the International Center or the balloons drifting up and away to new places. Take in the aroma of butter and salt from the popcorn vendor and the vanilla scent as you pass the cookies. And then discover your sixth sense.

Feel the sweet dreams that went into the blue ribbon chocolate layer cakes, listen to the beating heart of the needlepoint or the color wheel in the paintings. Appreciate the longings of all that come here wishing for a good harvest and a sustaining winter. And remember we are still united in hope for a bountiful harvest to help us through the winter. We wish for the coming year to bring goodness and sustenance. A year filled with hope. A year of accomplishment. Take it in. It comes but once a year.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Thank-you Miss Randall for the lovely sentiments. Please give her a hand. We will close the program with the band "Hearts and Hands" who will play for your enjoyment.

*(As the music plays, all react. A few may dance in the aisle, on the perimeter of the stage. RAYMOND may dance with CHICKIE. CAROLYN with DANIEL. ROSIE with OZZIE. However you would like it.*

*VIRGINIA starts swaying to the music. Then her arms gently dance. She circles the stage alone – in her chair and comes to the painting and touches it. All may stop and watch her. VIRGINIA is in her own world.*

*OZZIE approaches and turns her chair and slowly they begin a dance of sorts. They touch hands. The chair will glide, turn, they come apart and then together. Daniel joins them and turns her in the chair. The music ends and there is some sporadic applause for the band and the dancers. "MUSIC NOTE: You may compose some music, find a piece from SLEEPING BEAUTY for a young performer to play, or find a piece in public domain. It should be fairly slow. If you have a license that covers background music, use any song that speaks to you and your license permits.)*

## OZZIE

Hey, Sleeping Beauty. I think you just woke up.

*(DANIEL hugs VIRGINIA and they quietly speak as OZZIE joins ROSIE)*

ROSIE

Ozzie! Her dream - you helped her get her dream -

OZZIE

Does that mean I get my wish? Joining me, Rosie?

*(ROSIE moves away as the others depart. There are good-byes amid all the different groupings. First we are with ELIZABETH and CAROLINE.)*

ELIZABETH

Carolyn, it's time. Your father will be picking us up soon.

*(Now we move to JOYCE, RAYMOND and JANSEN.)*

JOYCE

Come on, Raymond. We need to pack up.

RAYMOND

Promise you'll take care of Chickie.

JANSEN

You're going to visit in two weeks! You'll see her then!

*(JANSEN, JOYCE, and RAYMOND exit. ELIZABETH and CAROLYN start to go. CAROLYN holds back with DANIEL.)*

ROSIE

I told the administration you'd pick up your painting here. I hope that's all right.

DANIEL

It's perfect. Virginia?

VIRGINIA

I know. It's time to go. I'll be ready in a minute. Why don't you go say good-bye to Carolyn? I'll meet you at the gate. Oh! Daniel? Do you have a quarter?

DANIEL

One grimy, sweaty one. Here. I'll be waiting.

*(Now we move to GEORGIA and BOBBY.)*

GEORGIA

Come on, Bobby. We better be off before I lose you again.

*(GEORGIA starts to leave and stops and goes to DANIEL.)*

Daniel? The painting – it's – pretty. Very, very pretty.

DANIEL

Thanks, Georgia.

GEORGIA

You're welcome.

*(The awkwardness over, she turns to go.)*

Come on Bobby!

*(DANIEL, CAROLYN, ELIZABETH, GEORGIA, MARILYN and BOBBY exit.)*

*(VIRGINIA approaches OZZIE.)*

OZZIE

I guess I'll get going. Someone - somewhere must have a dream.

VIRGINIA

Ozzie -

*(She hands him a quarter.)*

OZZIE

I didn't send you on a quest.

VIRGINIA

Didn't you? Here –

*(She unties the balloon.)*

I needed a dream. Not a wish.

ROSIE

Then free it. Let it soar.

*(VIRGINIA unties the balloon and wheels herself away.)*

ROSIE

You won the bet, Ozzie. I'll leave the orphanage and go with you.

OZZIE

I don't think I made her dream come true. I think you did. You need – to stay here and make your plans and if it's all right - I'll continue down my own path.

ROSIE

Are you sure?

OZZIE

Yeah. Are you going back now?

ROSIE

Not on your life! Not till the Fair closes. It's a beautiful night. I want get on the Ferris wheel and see everything lit up. We can spend the evening together.

OZZIE

You always did know how to get your own way.

*(DANIEL enters and stops as he watches VIRGINIA. She has the balloon up in the air but is still holding on to it. She tries to stand. She is wobbly and doesn't really make a go of it but the effort was there. ROSIE and OZZIE also watch.)*

*Determined, VIRGINIA sits up as high and mighty as she can. And with a great force of energy, propels the balloon into the air. All watch the balloon. VIRGINIA makes one gesture of accomplishment. She may not be "back" yet but she has found new life. The lights fade to black.)*

End of Play