

CURLED GEESE
By Claudia Haas

claudiahaas@gmail.com
www.claudiahaas.com

All rights reserved

CAST: 2 (1m, 1f)

Eliza: f, 20's, no-nonsense young professional

Zalzabar: m, ageless, genie who is hard of hearing

PLACE:

Eliza's small living room

TIME: Today

PROP: an antique glass bottle as one might find in a flea market, a large knife, laundry basket with laundry

SOUND EFFECTS: sounds of bird wings (optional) and geese honking

Curled Geese

AT RISE we are in Eliza's sparsely furnished living room. A laundry basket containing clothes is on the floor. We hear a blood-curdling scream coming from the kitchen area and ELIZA runs in holding a newly washed bottle and brandishing a chef's knife followed by ZALZABAR.

ELIZA

Get out of here before I - break this bottle and -

ZALZABAR

Nooo! My home! Don't hurt my home!

ELIZA

Just - leave!

(ZALZABAR sobs.)

ELIZA

Don't do that -

ZALZABAR

You wanted me to grieve. You said - just grieve! I am grieving - for you. And my bottle. I will do anything for you - three times. I fulfilled your first wish and grieved. You have two more wishes.

ELIZA

What the -

ZALZABAR

Three wishes. You let me out of the bottle - so you get three wishes! One down, two to go.

ELIZA

My boyfriend sent you, didn't he? He's always doing goofy stuff like that.

ZALZABAR

Toy-bend? You have a toy you want me to bend?

ELIZA

BOY-FRIEND! You don't hear too well.

ZALZABAR

Ears? Yes, my ears are a thousand years old. What do you wish?

ELIZA

I don't wish! Game's over! Go back to wherever you came from!

ZALZABAR

Then give me the bottle.

ELIZA

That's mine! Bought and paid for!

ZALZABAR

But – that's my home!

ELIZA

Go! And tell Sam this wasn't funny!

ZALZABAR

I do not know this Yam, dear Ma'am.

ELIZA

I'm not a "ma'am? You don't know Yam? *Sam!*

ZALZABAR

I the dark I am about Yam, dear ma'am..

ELIZA

I'm not – nevermind. If you don't know Yam, Then you are a PERVERT! ***I could kill you and be acquitted by the weekend!***

ZALZABAR

Splendid use of your voice. I can hear you! I am indeed your servant.

ELIZA

Pervert!

ZALZABAR

In fact, I am your slave. But if you wish three wishes, I will be released.

ELIZA

I DON'T WISH! Go!

ZALZABAR

Is that your wish?

ELIZA

Don't believe in wishes. They come to no good.

ZALZABAR

Wish for a million dollars! I'm told that's what most people wish for!

ELIZA

That's ill-gotten gains! If I wish for a million dollars, I'd probably be hit by a bus tomorrow and never be able to spend it! I know how wishes work! I've read the fairy tales!

ZALZABAR

Fairy whales! What a splendid idea!

ELIZA

No fairy whales!

ZALZABAR

What did you say?

ELIZA

I'm not wishing!

ZALZABAR

Then I'm not going. What can I do for you? Iron? Bathe you?

ELIZA

No! You are a pervert, aren't you? I'm sorry but I have to kill you. To stay safe.

(ELIZA grabs him and puts the knife to his throat.)

ZALZABAR

I don't like this. Why do you want to hurt me? Your faithful slave!

ELIZA

Slavery is illegal!

ZALZABAR

Tell that to Bethaboo-shu-boo.

ELIZA

Who?

ZALZABAR

Bethaboo-shu-boo. He enslaved me.

ELIZA

Bibbity-boo-shu-boo should be brought up on charges. I am unslaving you. So – go! **Scram!**

ZALZABAR

No.

ELIZA

All right. Come here. I'm going to have to kill you.

ZALZABAR

Is that your wish?

ELIZA

No. I really don't fancy murdering you. But – you can't stay here.

ZALZABAR

I don't want to stay here! Make three wishes and then I'm free to go.

ELIZA

And you'll really, really go? Never to return?

ZALZABAR

That's the plan.

ELIZA

Let's do that "World Peace" thing, okay? I wish for World Peace!

ZALZABAR

Is that *really* what you want?

ELIZA

Yes.

(Just then there is the sound of flapping wings and deafening honks which fade.)

ELIZA (cont'd)

*What's that noise? What's happening? I knew this would happen. **I knew you can't trust a wish!**
The world is coming to an end! I made a wish and ended the world!*

ZALZABAR

Look out your window. I think you'll be pleased.

(A few random "honks" are heard. You can punctuate the honks through the next few lines if you wish.)

ELIZA

What did you do? It's wall-to-wall geese out there!

ZALZABAR

I tried to be conservative. There are only ten thousand of them. I thought one million would be excessive.

ELIZA

Why do they look like that?

ZALZABAR

Like what?

ELIZA

Their necks – they're all spiraled. They're deformed!

ZALZABAR

They are not deformed! They are exactly what you wished for! Curled Geese!

ELIZA

WORLD PEACE! I wished for WORLD PEACE!

ZALZABAR

Are you sure?

ELIZA

Uncurl them! *Uncurl them!* I don't need 10,000 dead geese on my conscience because they cannot breathe!

ZALZABAR

Are you sure?

ELIZA

Yes! Wait! Repeat my wish back to me... what are you going to do?

ZALZABAR

Uncurl the geese.

ELIZA

Good.

(He does so and "honks" are heard.)

ELIZA (cont'd)

Holy crap! *You really are a genie?*

ZALZABAR

Told you.

ELIZA

And if you could hear properly – we really could have had World Peace!

ZALZABAR

It's a possibility.

ELIZA

You – have to take those wishes back. I never wished for Curled Geese.

ZALZABAR

I'm afraid the magic does not make allowances for the hard of hearing!

ELIZA

What am I going to do with a thousand uncurled geese?

ZALZABAR

Ten thousand.

ELIZA

But what am I going to do with them?

ZALZABAR

Eat them?

ELIZA

I'm a vegetarian! I suppose I could wish them away.

ZALZABAR

Can't do that. You asked me to grieve. I did. You asked for curled geese and I went out of my way to bring you ten thousand of them and then you asked for the geese to be uncurled. Three wishes. Done! I'm human now. I can leave.

ELIZA

You can't leave me here with ten thousand uncurled geese! I can't care for them. I have no lake, no pond, no food...

ZALZABAR

They'll just fly away.

ELIZA

You're going to let my wish just fly away?

ZALZABAR

I thought it was a strange wish. But I'm not supposed to judge.

ELIZA

Go. Before I really do slit your throat. I can do that easily. I'm a butcher.

ZALZABAR

Oh. A butcher who's a vegetarian.

ELIZA

Yes. My life is hard.

ZALZABAR

I see. I don't suppose you'd let me have my bottle back? For old times sake. After all we've been through.

ELIZA

I collect old bottles. This one spoke to me.

ZALZABAR

It was just a thought.

(ZALZABAR starts to exit.)

ELIZA

It's not all that great being human. You have to work and pay bills and then – there's all the horrid things in the world that I could have fixed and didn't.

ZALZABAR

I know. Still I like being back.

ELIZA

And heartbreak. There's heartbreak out there.

ZALZABAR

There's heartbreak in here.

(The honking starts up again.)

ELIZA

Sam. He cheated on me.

ZALZABAR

What?

ELIZA

HE CHEATED ON ME!

ZALZABAR

How do you know?

ELIZA

My sister told me.

ZALZABAR

How does she know?

ELIZA

He cheated on me with her!

(The honks grow louder.)

ZALZABAR

I'm sorry.

ELIZA

What?

ZALZABAR

I SAID I'M SORRY!

ELIZA

SO AM I! Look at me! My cuteness quotient is zilch! Can't even hold on to a worthless boyfriend! I'm a vegetarian who cuts up meat for a living! And I have ten thousand geese in my yard! *How pathetic am I?*

(And amid honks, ZALZABAR approaches ELIZA, takes her hand and kisses it. Honking fireworks continue.)

ELIZA

What are you doing?

ZALZABAR

WHAT?

ELIZA

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

(We may hear the fluttering of thousands of wings as the honks are heard further and further in the distance. Then all is quiet.)

ZALZABAR

Your cuteness quotient is not gone. You're lovely. I wanted to show you that.

ELIZA

Thank-you. My geese are gone.

ZALZABAR

Look out the window.

(ELIZA does so.)

ELIZA

Noooooooooo! Can't be!

ZALZABAR

Golden eggs. I always like to add a little flair to wishes. There should be a few thousand of them.

ELIZA

Do you know what this means? I could – make a lot of wishes come true for others. Thank-you. I'm Eliza by the way.

(She goes over to shake his hand.)

ZALZABAR

Zalzabar.

ELIZA

Thank-you, Zalzabar. This could be the start of a wonderful friendship.

ZALZABAR

It could. Especially if you put down the knife.

(And she does. She goes to her laundry basket, dumps out the clothes and looks at Zalzabar.)

ELIZA

What are you waiting for? We have to collect eggs!

(And ELIZA exits and ZALZABAR dances after her as the lights fade to black.)

END OF PLAY