

The Story Club

A Play in One Act

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Cast of Characters

IVY, girl, 10 years old, Story Club "Boss," Charlie's big sister

CHARLIE, boy, 7 year old

JUSTINE, girl, 9 years old

HANNAH, girl, 10 years old, new next door neighbor

Setting

A sunny Saturday afternoon in Ivy and Charlie's backyard. In their imaginations: an enchanted wood for days and days.

Production Notes

There should be no black-outs between scenes. Scenes are only marked for the purpose of indicating larger beats.

SCENE 1

The setting is IVY and CHARLIE'S backyard. They have a playground, perhaps with swing-set & slide, etc. This can be as simple or elaborate as the producing company decides, but there should be multiple levels and playing spaces. It is especially important that the Ogre have a "lair," and that the Ogre and Fairy Queen areas are obviously defined. These can be creatively rendered - think "kids' fort."

The spirited, inventive, and often dictatorial 10-year-old Ivy enters as though in a sacred ritual. She is wearing a crown, perhaps butterfly wings, and carrying a wand. 9-year-old JUSTINE, who finds herself frequently torn between Ivy's virtuosity and 7-year-old Charlie's hijinks, follows behind, pulling a colorful trunk on wheels. Charlie, who loves Ivy's stories, but has his own idea of how things should go, carries a hat in which pieces of paper are folded. Other than Justine and Charlie's giggling, the entire entrance should feel like a parade and familiar ceremony.

Shhhh!

IVY

Sorry!

JUSTINE

Welcome, Subjects, to my Royal Castle.

IVY

I thought it was a pirate ship.

JUSTINE

Justine! Try to keep up.

IVY

JUSTINE

Well, it was a pirate ship last week!

CHARLIE

I liked the pirate ship - but I wanted to play the dread pirate with an eye patch instead of a parrot. Ivy! You said next time that -

IVY

Today we are here to hear a brand new story.

JUSTINE

Yay! A new story!

IVY

Do we have the costumes?

JUSTINE

Yes, your Royal Highness!

She refers to the colorful trunk.

JUSTINE (CONT'D)

It's really full!

IVY

Mom bought a bunch of new stuff at the garage sale next-door.

JUSTINE

Did somebody else move in yet?

CHARLIE

There was a moving truck yesterday, but we haven't seen anybody.

IVY

Charlie? Do you have the hat with the characters in it?

CHARLIE

Yes, Ivy.

IVY

Don't you mean yes, your Royal Highness?

CHARLIE

Aw...do I have to?

IVY

Charlie! Come on! The story will never work if you don't participate. You promised.

CHARLIE

Fine. Yes, your Royal Highness.

IVY
Thank you, my loyal subject. Pass the hat.

JUSTINE
What's the title, Ivy?

IVY
I'm not Ivy right now. Remember?

JUSTINE
Sorry. What's the title, Fairy Queen?

IVY
The title of today's story is "The Ogre and the Fairy Queen."

JUSTINE
Not again!

IVY
What do you mean?

They look at Justine.

JUSTINE
(beat)
You're the Fairy Queen, right? You always get to play all the Queen parts.

They look at Ivy.

IVY
I'm telling the story! I know the part best - and I'm the oldest! Besides, I picked it first before we even got started.

CHARLIE
Why do we always have to have fairies and queens? Let's make this one about Karate Champions!

JUSTINE
Oooh! Yeah! Karate Champions!

IVY
This story is NOT about KARATE CHAMPIONS! This is my story!
(beat)
Does somebody else want to tell the story??

They are quiet.

IVY(CONT'D)
That's what I thought. Now pass the hat.

Justine picks a piece of paper out of the hat.

JUSTINE

Great! Just great. I'm the Ogre. I always have to play the bad guy.

IVY

Remember what Mrs. Eberly said at the school play.

(Beat)

She said it to your grade, too, Justine. There are no small parts -

JUSTINE

Only small parts.

IVY

Justine!

Ivy looks witheringly at Justine.

JUSTINE

(not enthusiastic)

Only small actors.

IVY

Right!

JUSTINE

Why don't you play the Ogre then?

IVY

(with great patience)

I can't do that, Justine. I already picked Fairy Queen.

CHARLIE

I want to be the Ogre!

IVY

You can't. You're too little. And Justine already picked that one.

JUSTINE

I'll switch! He can be the -

Ivy gives Justine a stern look.

JUSTINE (CONT'D)

(sighs)

Fine.

CHARLIE

I want to be the Ogre.

IVY

Did you pick Ogre?

CHARLIE
No.

IVY
Pick from the hat, Charlie.

He does.

CHARLIE
Fairy princess??!

Justine laughs.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
No way!

IVY
Come on! It's just a story!

CHARLIE
No way! I'm not gonna be a fairy princess. That's...
that's... I'll tell mom!

IVY
Fine! You can be the Fairy Prince.

CHARLIE
I don't want to be a Fairy anything! Fairies are girls!

IVY
Not all the time.

CHARLIE
I'm not doing it!

IVY
(sighs)
Fine. Elf Prince, then.

CHARLIE
Elfs are boys?

IVY
Yeah, sure. Okay, so I'm the Fairy Princess, you're the Ogre,
and you're the Fairy Prince.

CHARLIE
Elf Prince.

IVY
That's what I meant.

JUSTINE
 Come on, Ivy! Start the story!
 (chanting)
 Start the story! Start the story!

CHARLIE
 I wanted to be the Ogre.

IVY AND JUSTINE
 Shhhhh!

Justine moves close. Charlie
 listens, but sulks.

SCENE 2

IVY
 Once upon a time there was a Beautiful Fairy Queen -

Justine and Charlie giggle. Ivy
 glares, then continues.

IVY (CONT'D)
 A Beautiful Fairy Queen, and her beautiful daughter The Fairy
 Princess -

CHARLIE
 Nuh-uh!! Her Karate Prince -

IVY
 (sighs)
 And her magical son, The Fairy Prince -

CHARLIE
 I'll go inside!

IVY
 Geez Charlie! I'm just trying to make it sound nice! Her
 regular old son, The Elf Prince...

Ivy looks around. Charlie and
 Justine are quiet.

IVY (CONT'D)
 They lived in the woods in a beautiful magical castle made
 all of flowers.

Everything seemed perfect and happy, but...little did the Fairy Queen or her subjects know, deep in the dark, dark wood with all the Snakes and Spiders, lived an angry ogre.

CHARLIE AND JUSTINE

Oooooooh!

IVY

The Ogre was very, very ugly and warty -

JUSTINE

Hey!

IVY

(hisses)

It's just part of the story, Justine!

JUSTINE

(long-suffering)

Okay.

CHARLIE

I can be ugly and warty.

IVY

The ugly warty Ogre wanted nothing more than to be beautiful. And she knew that if she captured the Fairy Prince, the Fairy Queen would have to share with her the magical secret to turning beautiful...

Magical music begins. Ivy's voice could continue as a voice-over. The children try on costumes they pull out of the colorful trunk, then proceed to decorate the playground with fabric and items from the box. Ivy's imagination is taking shape.

IVY'S VOICE

Deep in her lair in the dark of a forest, the Evil Ogre began hatching her Evil plans...

JUSTINE/OGRE

(in a crackly/gruff voice)

That Fairy Queen thinks she can have everything! She runs the forest - everyone does whatever she says - because she is so beautiful! It's not fair. If I were beautiful, I could live with the rest of the creatures of the forest. But, because no one can stand to set their eyes on me, I have to live in this dingy cave. It's NOT FAIR! Well, things are going to change around here. I'll tell you that much!

Justine growls loudly. Ivy/Fairy Queen and Elf Prince look frightened.

IVY/FAIRY QUEEN

What was that?

CHARLIE/ELF PRINCE

Maybe it was thunder.

IVY/FAIRY QUEEN

I do hope so! That would mean rain. That would be so nice for the fairy flowers!

CHARLIE/ELF PRINCE

Or maybe it was a bear!

IVY/FAIRY QUEEN

He could bring us magical honey.

CHARLIE/ELF PRINCE

Or MAYBE it was a Karate Champion chopping down a tree with his bare hand -

IVY/FAIRY QUEEN

My dear, loyal subjects! I have a very important announcement to make.

Charlie/Elf Prince draws near.
Ivy/Fairy Queen addresses the audience.

IVY/FAIRY QUEEN (CONT'D)

Today is our own dear Elf Prince's Royal Birthday!

Charlie/Elf Prince bows.

IVY/FAIRY QUEEN (CONT'D)

Let us all prepare for a celebration and feast to take place this Royal Afternoon.

JUSTINE/OGRE

Do you hear this, Spider and Snake Friends?

(evil laughter, then
mimicking Queen)

"Royal Celebration of the little Prince Brat." Hah! Must be nice. Hmmm... how can I bring ruin upon this "special" event? I must do my worst... Snake Friends? Can I count on you?

IVY/FAIRY QUEEN

(whispers)

Charlie - quick - you go be the Snakes!

Charlie sneaks over to the Ogre Lair and becomes the Snake Friends. This could be done with just Charlie's hands, or with puppets. The Spiders could be represented the same way.

CHARLIE/SNAKE FRIENDS

Yesssss...

JUSTINE/OGRE

I will need a jacket of snake scales strong enough to repel fairy magic!

CHARLIE/SNAKE FRIENDS

Sssssure!

JUSTINE/OGRE

And how about you, little poisonous Spider?

Charlie becomes the poisonous Spider, speaking in a tiny voice.

CHARLIE/POISONOUS SPIDER

Me and my friends can make a net!

JUSTINE/OGRE

(evil laughter)

Ah! Yes! You and your friends will spin a net for me... strong enough to hold a prince!

Ivy/Fairy Queen begins to "play" a recorder - this can be pretended while a music cue plays.

IVY/FAIRY QUEEN

Come on, Elf Prince!

CHARLIE

I like being the Snakes and Spiders!

IVY/FAIRY QUEEN

COME ON!

CHARLIE

But -

Ivy gives Charlie a withering look. Reluctantly he returns to being Elf Prince. The Fairy Queen "plays" her recorder. Charlie/Elf Prince, much to Ivy's annoyance, begins to practice karate.

Meanwhile, the Ogre is sneaking up on the Royal Party with a shimmering net.

IVY/FAIRY QUEEN
What exactly are you doing, my Royal Son?

CHARLIE/ELF PRINCE
I'm practicing my Royal Karate! Hiiiiyah! Chop!

IVY/FAIRY QUEEN
(between her teeth)
Fairies don't need karate!

CHARLIE/ELF PRINCE
But elves do. Hiiiiiyahahah!

Just then, the Ogre appears, capturing Charlie/Elf Prince in her shimmering net. She is laughing evilly. The Fairy Queen tries to use her magic wand on the Ogre, but nothing happens.

JUSTINE/OGRE
Ha ha ha! Your magic will not work on me, Fairy Queen! Look at my coat! It's made of snake scales!

IVY/FAIRY QUEEN
Oh no! A snake scale coat! Everyone knows fairy magic won't work on those!

CHARLIE/ELF PRINCE
I'll use my karate!

IVY/FAIRY QUEEN
THERE IS NO KARATE in this story!

The Elf Prince tries to use karate.

JUSTINE/OGRE
Sorry, but you are no match for my magic spider net!

The Ogre carries off Charlie/Elf Prince. The Fairy Queen begins to cry.

IVY/FAIRY QUEEN
Oh no! My Royal Son! This is terrible!
(To Charlie/Elf Prince)
Don't worry! I'll save you!
(Then, to self.)

I'll fight the Ogre. But no karate. That's just stupid and doesn't even exist in Fairy Land.

CHARLIE/ELF PRINCE
(from the Ogre's lair)

Hey! I heard that!

IVY/FAIRY QUEEN
I'll have to fight magic with magic. But... will need a good plan.

The Fairy Queen paces while she concocts a plan. Justine/Ogre pretends to tie Charlie/Elf Prince with magic spider thread.

JUSTINE/OGRE
There! I've tied you up. Now don't even TRY to escape, Elf Boy.

CHARLIE/ELF PRINCE
Don't worry! I won't! Fairy Land is boring!

JUSTINE/OGRE
Huh?

CHARLIE/ELF PRINCE
Ogre Land is way more fun.

IVY/FAIRY QUEEN
Hey! That's not how this goes!

JUSTINE/OGRE
(nervously watching Ivy)
Uh... I've got you bound with unbreakable spider thread...

CHARLIE/ELF PRINCE
Cool! I like spiders!

IVY/FAIRY QUEEN
No you don't! Fairies don't like spiders!

CHARLIE/ELF PRINCE
Good thing I'm an elf.

JUSTINE/OGRE
Uh... if you move an inch, my poisonous Spider will bite you!

CHARLIE/ELF PRINCE
What's his name?

JUSTINE/OGRE
Whose name?

CHARLIE/ELF PRINCE
Your poisonous Spider.

JUSTINE/OGRE
Uh...

IVY/FAIRY QUEEN
It's Poisonella!

JUSTINE/OGRE
Poisonella!

CHARLIE/ELF PRINCE
Okay. Poisonella, Ogre, can I join you please and be an Ogre too?

IVY/FAIRY QUEEN
NO WAY! Charlie! You'll mess up the story!

JUSTINE/OGRE
Um...

CHARLIE/ELF PRINCE
I'll be your helper! We could defeat the Fairy Queen together! I know karate!

JUSTINE/OGRE
I don't know...

IVY/FAIRY QUEEN
Charlie! Don't agree to it, Justine. This is my story! You love my stories!

Justine/Ogre looks unsure.

JUSTINE/OGRE
I don't see why we couldn't both be ogres, Ivy.

CHARLIE
I want to be an ogre! Not a dumb old prince!

IVY/FAIRY QUEEN
But then who will be the Prince?? My story only has one bad guy! Justine, you'd better do what I say, and not what my baby brother says, if you ever want to be in my stories again.

JUSTINE/OGRE
Okay.

(beat)

Yes.

IVY/FAIRY QUEEN
Thank you!

CHARLIE

No fair.

JUSTINE/OGRE

I mean, yes to you, Charlie! Elf Prince, you can be an ogre. I'm going to use... Ogre Magic to turn you into one right now!

IVY/FAIRY QUEEN

Ogre Magic??! What kind of magic is that!? I'm the creative one around here and I'm not coming up with an idea for THAT!

Justine/Ogre looks really nervous.

JUSTINE/OGRE

Um... see this cage?

(beat)

Inside is... another Spider! A magic Spider named... Bitey! When Bitey bites you, you will turn into an ogre.

Beat.

IVY/FAIRY QUEEN

Bitey?! What kind of a name is Bitey??

CHARLIE/ELF PRINCE

Open the cage, please, Ogre. I'd like to meet Bitey.

Suspenseful music plays as Justine/Ogre opens the cage. Charlie puts his hand in, then contorts and wriggles as he turns into an ogre.

CHARLIE/ELF PRINCE (CONT'D)

Yeow-ooouch!

He growls.

IVY/FAIRY QUEEN

That's not how it goes.

CHARLIE/OGRE

(in ogre voice)

It does now, Fairy Queen!

Want to read the entire script? Order a free electronic perusal copy today!