

# ARCHIBALD THE MONSTER

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A short comedy by  
Arthur M. Jolly

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## CAST OF CHARACTERS

KACEY, the eldest of three siblings.

ELLIOTT, the middle child.

YOUNG ROBIN, the youngest.

ARCHIBALD, a very small monster.

DAIRY MAID, timorous.

HEGGLER, easily panicked.

BAKER, lacking courage.

KNIGHT, yellow-bellied.

WIZARD, faint-hearted.

ROBIN, brave and resourceful.

MOTHER (FATHER), ditzy but caring.

### THE VILLAGERS

All roles may be played by actors of any gender, and pronouns and names may be changed to suit, i.e.: Mother can be Father or Parent; the Dairy Maid can be a Dairy Lad or a Dairy Worker, etc.

For smaller casts, the Dairy Maid, Heggler and Baker can also play the Knight, the Wizard, and the Villagers.

## SETTING

A bedroom and a fairytale land.

## DEDICATION

Dedicated to Charlie, who inspired the monster in the first place, and Robin, who taught me to make friends with it.

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*(Lights up on KACEY and ELLIOTT, two older siblings, as they get young ROBIN ready for bed.)*

**KACEY:** Have you brushed your teeth?

**YOUNG ROBIN:** Yeah.

**KACEY:** Really?

**YOUNG ROBIN:** Yeah!

**ELLIOTT:** So if we go in there and check your toothbrush, it will be wet?

*(Young Robin runs off.)*

**KACEY:** Mom's gonna be home soon, and if you're not in bed, we're the ones that will get in trouble.

*(Young Robin walks back in with a toothbrush.)*

**YOUNG ROBIN:** That sounds like a you problem. *(Presenting the toothbrush:)* It's wet.

**ELLIOTT:** I'm sure it is *now*. I invented that.

**KACEY:** Okay – into bed.

**YOUNG ROBIN:** Tell me a story first.

**ELLIOTT:** We need you in bed NOW.

**KACEY:** Mom's coming home any minute!

**YOUNG ROBIN:** Tell me a story or I'll throw a tantrum.

**KACEY:** I don't know any stories.

**YOUNG ROBIN:** Then make one up! I WANT A STORY!

**ELLIOTT:** I could tell you a story about a kid that pretended to brush their teeth but only dipped the toothbrush in water until one day they got a thousand cavities and all their teeth fell out.

**YOUNG ROBIN:** I want a good story! I want one with a monster in it!

**ELLIOTT:** Oh, I think there's a monster in that one.

**YOUNG ROBIN:** MOMMY! I can't sleep because Kacey and Elliott won't tell me a story!

**KACEY:** She's not home yet, she can't hear you.

**YOUNG ROBIN:** Then I'll SCREAM UNTIL SHE IS! WAAAAAH!

**KACEY:** Once upon a time!

*(Robin settles down.)*

**YOUNG ROBIN:** *(Pleased with themselves:)* See?

**KACEY:** Okay, uh... Once upon a time—

**ELLIOTT:** Good start.

**KACEY:** Thank you. ...in a land on the other side of all those faraway lands in the fairytales, there was a tall, cold mountain, and halfway up the tall, cold mountain was a deep, dark cave...and in the very back of the deep, dark cave, there lived a very small, very scary monster.

*(We shift from the bedroom to the world of the story:)*

*(ARCHIBALD appears, creeping and growling.)*

The monster's name was...

**ELLIOTT:** Archibald!

**KACEY:** Archibald—and he was the terror of the local village. Every day, Archibald crept out of the deep, dark cave, and down the tall, cold mountain, and into the little village at the foot of the mountain, and there... Uh...

**ELLIOTT:** He'd hide behind a lamppost.

**KACEY:** Hide behind a lamppost?

*(Archibald hides behind a lamppost as a DAIRY MAID enters.)*

**ELLIOTT:** And when the dairy maid who milked the cows came down the street carrying her pails of delicious milk to sell at the market, Archibald would leap out from behind the lamppost and say...

**ARCHIBALD:** Boo!

**DAIRY MAID:** EEEK!

*(The Dairy Maid drops her milk pails and runs off.)*

**ELLIOTT:** Then the dairy maid would run off down the road with her petticoats fluttering behind her.

*(Archibald scurries out and laps up the milk like a cat.)*

And Archibald would lap up all the spilled milk: lap-lap-lap.

*(Archibald hides behind the lamppost again as the HEGGLER enters.)*

**KACEY:** Yes! Then the heggler—

**YOUNG ROBIN:** What's a heggler?

**KACEY:** A heggler is someone who collects the eggs from a chicken farm.

**YOUNG ROBIN:** I knew that.

**ELLIOTT:** I didn't.

**KACEY:** Now you do. Then the heggler would come by, carrying a basket of fresh eggs to sell at the market.

*(Archibald jumps out again.)*

**ARCHIBALD:** BOO!

**HEGGLER:** WAAAAH!

*(The Heggler drops the basket of eggs and runs off.)*

**KACEY:** The eggs would go flying – splat splat splat – and the heggler would run off down the road with his coattails flapping behind him.

*(Archibald eats up all the eggs.)*

**ELLIOTT:** And Archibald would slurp up all the broken eggs: slurp slurp slurp slurp!

*(Archibald hides once more as the BAKER enters.)*

**KACEY:** And when the baker passed by...

**ELLIOTT:** With a tray of fresh, hot donuts...

**ARCHIBALD:** BOO!

**BAKER:** Golly golly golly!

*(The Baker drops the tray and runs off.)*

**KACEY:** The donuts would go flying and bounce and roll all over the place –

**ELLIOTT:** Bdoing bdoing bdoing –

**KACEY:** And the Baker would run away leaving a trail of flour dust as he went.

*(Archibald scurries around munching up donuts.)*

**ELLIOTT:** And Archibald would munch up all the donuts: munch-munch-munch-munch.

*(All the Villagers enter.)*

**KACEY:** Well, one day the people of the village decided they'd had quite enough.

**DAIRY MAID:** My milk is spilled, and I'm just crying about it!

**HEGGLER:** My eggs are broken – I knew I shouldn't keep them all in one basket!



**BAKER:** My donuts are ruined—I'm fed up with this hole business!

**ELLIOTT:** This hole business?

**BAKER:** I'll be walking around with a glazed expression all day?

**ELLIOTT:** One more.

**BAKER:** I'm feeling crumby because I kneaded the dough!

**ELLIOTT:** There you go!

**KACEY:** So the villagers came up with a plan.

**VILLAGER ONE:** *(Or Dairy Maid:)* We should offer a reward to whoever gets rid of the monster!

**VILLAGERS:** Yes!

**VILLAGER TWO:** *(Or Heggler:)* A bag of gold!

**VILLAGERS:** *(Checking their pockets:)* No.

**BAKER:** Free donuts!

**VILLAGERS:** Yes!

**KACEY:** Heroes and would-be heroes from all over came to try their hand—first was a great big knight with shiny armor who walked like this: clank, clank, clank.

*(A KNIGHT approaches.)*

**ARCHIBALD:** Boo!

**KNIGHT:** Awhooga!

*(The Knight runs away.)*

**ELLIOTT:** And then there was a wizard with a magic wand...

*(A WIZARD approaches.)*

**ARCHIBALD:** Boo!

**WIZARD:** Gadzooks!

*(The Wizard runs away.)*

**VILLAGER THREE:** *(Or Baker:)* This will never work.

**VILLAGERS:** The monster is TOO SCARY!

*(The Villagers run off in fear.)*

**KACEY:** BUT... In a tiny, tumble-down house at the edge of the village, there lived a little child named...

**ELLIOTT:** *(Duh:)* Elliott.

**KACEY:** No...Robin.

**YOUNG ROBIN:** That's my name!

**KACEY:** What are the chances?

**ELLIOTT:** But this Robin didn't throw tantrums at bedtime.

**KACEY:** And this Robin didn't have shiny armor or a magic wand—and certainly never had donuts or fresh eggs. A lot of times, Robin didn't get very much to eat at all because Robin's family were very poor.

*(Another, older ROBIN and MOTHER enter.)*

**MOTHER:** Good news, Robin! I found half a donut that the monster missed, and I traded it for a handful of uneaten spaghetti that's only three days old...so we shall have supper tonight!

**ROBIN:** That's wonderful, Mother! You're so good to me.

**MOTHER:** I sometimes wish we could eat half as well as the monster does, but that's never going to happen. Besides, he's a horrible monster who scares people, and no one wants to be like that.

**ROBIN:** I have an idea!

**MOTHER:** That's wonderful! I had an idea once, but I sold it for a crust of bread and a piece of old cheese.

**ROBIN:** What was the idea?

**MOTHER:** I don't remember. Something about how to make a cheese sandwich. I'm sure your idea is better.

**KACEY:** And it was. Robin took a crayon—the only toy they had—and an old piece of cardboard they found in a dumpster, and they drew a big scary face...and then cut out two eyeholes to make it into a mask...and then Robin grabbed the three-day-old spaghetti—which turned out to be too awful to eat anyway—and put it on their head like a wig!

*(Robin, wearing a scary mask and a scary spaghetti-wig, creeps across the stage and up behind Archibald.)*

**ROBIN:** Ahem.

*(Archibald turns around.)*

**BOOO!**

**ARCHIBALD:** AAAAGH!

*(Archibald runs off.)*

**KACEY:** Archibald ran right up the street with his feet going pitter pitter patter and his heart going thumpety thumpety thump—

**ELLIOTT:** And he ran right out of the village and through the woods—

**KACEY:** And up the tall, cold mountain—

**ELLIOTT:** And right to the very back of his deep, dark cave.

*(The Villagers enter.)*

**DAIRY MAID:** Here's lots of fresh milk for you!

**HEGLER:** Have all the eggs you want!

**BAKER:** I made a whole tray of donuts just for you!

*(All the Villagers cheer for Robin.)*

**KACEY:** And everyone lived happily ever after.

**ELLIOTT:** Except Archibald, I guess.

**YOUNG ROBIN:** That's not a good ending.

**ELLIOTT:** You're not going to throw a tantrum after all that —

**YOUNG ROBIN:** What happened to Archibald?

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