

# THE CURSE OF THE MUMMY HAMSTER

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A short comedy by  
Kemuel DeMoville

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## CAST OF CHARACTERS

OLDEST SISTER, female, 9-11 years old.

OLDER BROTHER, male, 7-9 years old.

YOUNGEST SISTER, female, 4-5 years old.

HEAD GUARD, any gender, the leader of the Royal Guards.

ROYAL GUARDS, a chorus of the Pharaoh's elite guards.

## SETTING

It's a sunny day in ancient Egypt. The play takes place in a room of the Pharaoh's Royal Palace.

## NOTES ON PERFORMANCE

The gender of the characters above is only a suggestion. Feel free to change any pronouns for any of the parts to suit the needs of the production. The Oldest, Older and Youngest characters can easily be changed to reflect any gender.

As none of the characters in this play require the casting of any specific race, ethnicity, sexual preference, gender or the presence or absence of disability, I encourage and support the casting of culturally and linguistically diverse performers, women performers and performers with disability.

## DEDICATION

The play is dedicated to my brothers Chris and Michael and to my cousins Josh and Neva. This piece involves a number of the imaginative games that we used to play after school or on weekends. My grandparents had a huge orchard where we used to spend a number of sunny afternoons making up adventures and games that were a lot like what you see in this

play. I see my sons Tennyson, Barrett and Finlay continuing this storytelling and game playing tradition in the way they play with their young cousins Olivia and Maiya. So I guess in a roundabout way, the play is dedicated to all of the siblings and cousins making memories and having adventures through playful afternoons in sunny spaces.

*(The ROYAL GUARDS enter carrying a small pyramid that houses Jerboa the Royal Hamster.)*

**HEAD GUARD:** Children of the Sedge and Bee, the Royal Hamster is here, as you requested.

*(OLDEST SISTER, OLDER BROTHER and YOUNGEST SISTER enter in a rush.)*

**OLDEST SISTER:** Hello, little Jerboa. Come out and see the sunlight!

**OLDER BROTHER:** Come on, Jerboa. Let's see your furry ears and chubby cheeks!

**YOUNGEST SISTER:** Jerboa! Jerboa! Jerboa!

**OLDEST SISTER:** Where is he? Why won't he play?

**OLDER BROTHER:** Open the door to his pyramid. I'll bring him out.

*(Oldest Sister and Older Brother open the door to the tiny hamster pyramid. Suddenly, at the moment the door opens, an unexpected gust of wind blows.)*

What was that?! What just happened?

**YOUNGEST SISTER:** The wind! Whoosh!!

**OLDEST SISTER:** A hot wind off the Nile!

**YOUNGEST SISTER:** Oh no! Oh no, oh no.

**OLDEST SISTER:** *(Pointing in the pyramid:)* And look there! A pile of wrappings. It must be a mummy's shroud! It can only mean one thing—

**OLDER BROTHER:** The curse of the mummy hamster!

**OLDEST SISTER:** Then that means— that means we're cursed! We're all cursed!

**OLDER BROTHER:** Quick! We need to ask the Royal Scholar for all the scrolls on curses. We need to know everything about the curse.

*(Older Brother and Oldest Sister exit. The Royal Guards begin to chuckle at the thought of being cursed by a hamster.)*

**YOUNGEST SISTER:** No laugh! No laugh! Curse.

**HEAD GUARD:** Guards! You are in the presence of the Royal Children! She may be small, but this is the youngest daughter of our beloved Pharaoh. You will do everything she commands, or I'll have you all demoted to brick breakers or hippo herders.

**ALL ROYAL GUARDS:** Yes! We will do as the Royal Princess commands!

*(Oldest Sister and Older Brother enter with a huge scroll and roll it out awkwardly. They both come down center stage, so that they are in front of the Royal Guards and Youngest Sister.)*

**OLDEST SISTER:** We couldn't find anything on mummy hamster curses—

**OLDER BROTHER:** The Royal Scholar's collection on small rodent tomb curses is severely lacking—

**OLDEST SISTER:** But we did find a scroll that might help. It says that there are five stages of a curse before...you know.

**YOUNGEST SISTER:** No.

**OLDEST SISTER:** Certain death.

**YOUNGEST SISTER:** Serpent death!? Poor snakes.

**OLDEST SISTER:** No. Certain death. Not serpent death.

**OLDER BROTHER:** Although serpent death would make sense for a hamster curse.

**OLDEST SISTER:** Let's just read what the signs of a curse are.

**YOUNGEST SISTER:** The signs! The signs! The signs!

**OLDER BROTHER:** At least someone is excited about being cursed.

**OLDEST SISTER:** The first sign we already know about: an unexpected wind blows across the land.

**YOUNGEST SISTER:** (*Running around the space:*) Whoosh!!

**OLDEST SISTER:** The second sign... It says, "A great fear shall sweep through the bravest in the land, and the people will all be afraid."

**YOUNGEST SISTER:** Be afraid! Be afraid!

**HEAD GUARD:** (*Whispering to the other Guards:*) Do as she commands, or else!

*(The Royal Guards all act very scared.)*

**OLDER BROTHER:** Oh no! It's happening! Our Royal Guards are trembling with fear. What is the third sign?

**OLDEST SISTER:** (*Reading:*) It says the third sign is... "A plague of chicken madness will descend on the land, and everyone will think they are crazy chickens."

**OLDER BROTHER:** It doesn't say that. No way.

**OLDEST SISTER:** See for yourself.

**OLDER BROTHER:** (*Reading:*) Wow. You're right. Chicken madness.

**YOUNGEST SISTER:** Crazy chickens! Crazy chickens! Everyone be a crazy chicken!

*(The Royal Guards all act like crazy chickens. One confused Guard acts like a duck.)*

**OLDEST SISTER:** Look! It's all true! They've got chicken madness. They're all acting like crazy chickens.



**OLDER BROTHER:** Yeah, except that guy is acting like a duck.

**OLDEST SISTER:** That's the ultimate form of chicken madness – a chicken that thinks it's a duck.

**OLDER BROTHER:** I guess that makes sense.

**OLDEST SISTER:** This is all happening a lot faster than I thought.

**OLDER BROTHER:** What's the fourth sign?

**OLDEST SISTER:** *(Reading:)* The fourth sign is statue sickness. Everyone suddenly stops where they are and holds still like a statue.

**YOUNGEST SISTER:** Everybody stone!

*(Youngest Sister claps her hands and all of the Royal Guards freeze in silly poses.)*

**OLDER BROTHER:** *(Seeing the Guards:)* We're doomed! We're all doomed!

**OLDEST SISTER:** The final curse is now upon us! *(Reading from the scroll:)* "The mummy will walk the earth until it has had vengeance on those who defiled the tomb."

**OLDER BROTHER:** That's us! We opened the tomb, and now we'll face the wrath of the mummy hamster!

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