

THE BLACK CROOK: An Electronic Edition

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THE BLACK CROOK,

**AN
ORIGINAL MAGICAL and SPECTACULAR DRAMA
IN FOUR ACTS**

By Charles M. Barras,

Author of "The Hypochondriac," "Modern Saint," "Fairy
of Home," "Woman in White," "Bibio," "Injured Orphan,"
"The Great Goose Case," etc., etc., etc.

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the application of the language, and in it's Dramatical
construction, is strictly original, and as such the author
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DRAMATIS PERSONAE

COUNT WOLFENSTEIN
RODOLPHE (a Poor Artist)
VON PUFFENGRUNTZ, (the Count's Steward)
HERTZOG-Surnamed the Black Crook, (an Alchemist
and Sorcerer)
GREPPO, (his Drudge)
WULFGAR, (a Gypsy Ruffian)
BRUNO, (his Companion)
CASPER
JAN
AMINA, (bethrothed to Rodolphe)
DAME BARBARA, (her Foster-Mother)
CARLINE
ROSETTA

Villagers, Peasants, Choresters, Guards, Attendants,
etc., etc.

IMMORTALS

Stalacta, (Queen of the Golden Realm)
(Her Attendants)
Crystaline, / Rubyblossom, / Sapphira, / Emeraldine,
Scintilla, / Amethysta, / Coralbud, / Garnet

Fairies, Sprites, Naiads, Submarine Monsters, etc., etc.

AMPHIBEA

Dragonfin, Stickleback,
Hackletooth, Mulletmug,
Sharskin, Eeeye,
Splayfoot, Cuttlekonk

GNOMES

Golddust, Spangleneck,
Nuggetnose, Smelterface,
Yellowscale, Pinchback.

INFERNALS

Zamiel, (the Arch-Fiend)
Skuldawelp, (Familiar to Hertzog,)
Redglare (the Recording Demon,)

Skeletons, Apparitions, Demons, Monsters, etc., etc.
The scene is laid in and around the Hartz Mountains.--
Time 1600.

Note.--Hertzog is a hideous deformity, with leaden complexion, humped-back, knotted limbs, crooked body and lame.

Von Puffengruntz is corpulent and rubicund.

Act 1st

Scene 1st-- A quiet valley at the foot of the Hartz Mountains. Cottage of Dame Barbara R. H. 3rd Ent. with practicable upper window and balcony. Set tree beside cottages, at back Set arbor L.H. 3rd ent. Broken water and rustic stone bridge or long rocky trail piece with platform from R to L backed by an extended range of hills or mountain spurs above which light clouds appear, illuminated by the reflected light of the moon. Shortly after rise of curtain the moonbeams grow faint and the ruddy glow of the rising sun diffuses itself over the clouds and horizon.

MUSIC at rise of curtain--enter Rodolphe, at back, R. H. He descends, comes forward and after looking cautiously around claps his hands three times beneath the window. The upper window opens and Amina appears on balcony.

Amina

Surely I heard his well-known signal. Hist, who's there?

Rodolphe

Tis I, Rodolphe!

Amina

Rodolphe! Hush speak low, if my foster mother still sleeps, I will join you. (*retires.*)

(Music. Rodolphe goes upstage and looks cautiously off, then comes down -- Amina enters from cottage.)

Amina

(Throwing herself into his arms)
Rodolphe!

Rodolphe

My own!

Amina

When did you return?

Rodolphe

'Twas past midnight: although wearied and footsore I
could not sleep until I had seen you.

Amina

Oh, how wearily the days and nights have passed since
you left me! What kept you so long?

Rodolphe

Ill fortune, Amina. After reaching Gottingen and finding
no purchaser for my picture I heard that there was a
wealthy traveller at Cassel, collecting works of art. I had
but four silver florins in my pocket yet I hopefully set out
to meet him. After journeying five whole days I arrived at
Cassel only to find that the traveller had departed two
days before.

Amina

And your beautiful picture -- upon which so much of our
future was built -- you have brought it back?

Rodolphe

No. Crushed in my last hope to obtain the means
necessary to our union I left it with a remorseless agent
for a pittance barely sufficient for subsistence during my
journey homeward, and here I am without a single
guilder in my pocket! And what is worse if I fail to redeem
my pledge at the end of two months it is lost to me
forever.

Amina

(Aside) Poor, dear Rodolphe, he knows not the worst--
the heaviest blow is yet to come, How shall I break it to
him? *(Aloud)* Dear Rodolphe, my great joy at seeing you
made me forget for a moment that which I fear to tell you.

*(The moonlight begins to fade and the horizon grow
ruddy with the rising sun.)*

Rodolphe

Fear to tell me! Speak, what has happened?

Amina

Be calm and listen. Last week I attended the festival of
St. John, in company with the other members of the
village choir. Upon raising my eyes after we had finished
the anthem I found a dark, strange man gazing upon me.
A moment after he quitted the spot I enquired who he
was and learned that it was the Count Wolfenstein, the
all powerful lord of this wide domain.

Rodolphe

Well.

Amina

Although I met his gaze but for a moment, I felt that it
boded evil to me--to us.

Rodolphe

Evil! Evil to us?

Amina

Yes, evil, Rodolphe, nor were my fears idle, the next day
brought him here to our humble abode--he told my

foster- mother that he loved me.

Rodolphe

(Starting) Loved!--You?

Amina

Yes, and that we should no longer dwell in obscurity-- that we should be removed to the castle--that masters should be provided for my suitable education, and in a year I should take the place of the late Countess of Wolfenstein.

Rodolphe

And dame Barbara?----

Amina

Joyfully consented. This very day is set apart for our removal. The escort will be here at sunrise.

Rodolphe

And you, Amina, You?---

Amina

I supplicated, wept, remonstrated, but you know, dear Rodolphe, I am powerless.

Rodolphe

(Vehemently) By Heaven, you shall not go.

Amina

Hush, be calm, dear Rodolphe.

(Dame Barbara appears on the balcony)

Rodolphe

I say you shall not! Were he twenty times more potent I would oppose his power to the last.

Barbara

Eh, what, varlet, hussey, only wait till I get down! *(MUSIC she disappears from balcony and enters from door--)* What, jade, ingrate! how dare you? Is this your gratitude? Where is your pride? Now, the most noble Countess of Wolfenstein that is to be meeting young men in secret and on the very day of your betrothal. Oh, if his high mightiness the Count should find it out!

Amina

But mother --

Barbara

Not a word-- how dare you? In with you, into the house, I say! *(Forces her into the cottage, closes the door, then turns to Rodolphe)* So, beggar, you've come back have you? How dare you show your unlucky face here at such a time as this! I had hoped you had fallen into the hands of the conscript officers and gone for a soldier, or better still, been carried off by the demons of the Brocken.

Rodolphe

And yet you see I've escaped both. Hark ye, dame. I love Amina, she loves me, you yourself promised that she should be mine as soon as I could command a hundred silver crowns.

Barbara

Pah, that was before I knew her value, but now that I do know it and others know it too, I've changed my mind. But where are the hundred crowns?--Where's the fortune you were to get for your great painting? I warrant me you haven't got a single groschen of it. Come, let me see the hundred crowns.

Rodolphe

My picture is not yet sold.

Barbara

Ha, ha! Didn't I say so, not yet sold eh? Here's a pretty fellow, that would take a young girl from her comfortable home, a good bed, sweet milk and egg-pudding, to lodge her on pea-straw, and feed her at best on black bread and sour cheese. Oh, was there ever such villainy?

Rodolphe

Nay, but listen to me.

Barbara

Not a word; begone, do you think people of quality have nothing to do but listen to beggars complaints, and above all at such a time as this? Begone, I say, this is to be a festival day, the maidens of the village will be here anon; the grand escort will be here, headed by the Count's chamberlain, Aye, and his Lordship the Count himself will be here, to bear the Countess that is to be and her right honorable foster-mother that is to be to the Castle. *(Music)* Hark, here come the villagers already: Out of the way I say.

(Pushes him rudely aside, goes up and looks off RH-- Rodolphe retires into the arbor.)

(Enter lively from RH at back, female villagers with garlands, followed by males, two of whom bear a rustic chair, festooned with flowers. They descend and come forward, greeting the Dame. Females LH males RH at back. The sun appears above one of the spurs of the Mountains.)

Barbara

(Down RH) Ah, you are early, friends.

Carline

Yes, but not earlier than the sun, for see, it is already peeping over the great toe of the Brocken. But where's Amina?

Barbara

(Drawing herself up) The Countess that is to be is preparing to receive his lordship the Count. But never mind her ladyship, enjoy yourselves until she is ready. Here, Casper, here I am, come with me and bring some refreshments while I help to prepare her ladyship *(Goes into the cottage followed by Casper and Jan. The two latter re-enter with white cloth, wine, fruits, etc. which they arrange on the table beneath the tree)*

Carline

Bless me, how grand Dame Barbara has grown, to be sure. If she goes on at this rate the wide halls of the grand old Castle of Wolfenstein will be a world too small to hold her. I hope this piece of good fortune will not make such a fool of dear 'Mina

Rosetta

I don't understand this, I thought 'Mina was betrothed to the handsome young painter Rodolphe, what ever could have become of him?

Carline

Oh, 'tis said he has gone for a soldier-- But come, while 'Mina is making ready let us rehearse our Festival Dance.

(Music: Grand Garland Dance by principals and full Ballet, during which the Males gather around the table and eat and drink. After dance, Barbara re-enters extravagantly dressed, wearing a monstrous cap ridiculously trimmed)

Barbara

There! Having completed her ladyships toilet I have attended to my own, and, if I know anything about dress, I flatter myself that my appearance would do honor to any occasion. *(Displays herself)*

Carline

(Aside to Rosetta)

Mercy on us, was there ever such a fright! Why she looks for all the world like a great horned owl dressed up in the cast-off finery of a peacock. Ha, ha, ha, Did you ever? Observe me tickle the old buzzard. *(Aloud and with affected admiration)* Why! Dame Barbara, is that you?

Barbara

(Drawing herself up) Of course it is, child. Who else should it be? *(Aside)* I knew I should make them open their eyes.

Carline

Why you've almost taken away my breath. I declare, Dame, you're looking gorgeous--so young and girlish too. Indeed, if I were 'Mina--I beg pardon I mean her ladyship, I wouldn't care to have you in the way when his lordship, the Count, arrives.

Barbara

And why not, pray?

Carline

Because I should consider you a dangerous rival.

Barbara

Nonesense, girl, you don't think so?

Carline

Indeed, Dame Barbara, I was never more serious in my life. *(Laughingly confers with Rosetta and villagers)*

Barbara

It's strange I never noticed it before, but that girl Carline's a very sensible person. *(Music)* Ah, here comes the escort!

(All go up and look off RH. RODOLPHE glides from the arbor into the cottage unobserved.)

ENTER from RH at back, and descending Von Puffengruntz, bearing the wand of office, He is preceded by two servants of the Count's household, as he comes down the Male Villagers take off their caps and the females curtsey

Von Puff

(LH, With pompous condescension) Be covered, good people, be covered; the air of the valley is yet damp. We never insist upon ceremony at the expense of health.

(Aside) Ahem It is the true policy of greatness to occasionally waive a point of etiquette in dealing with inferiors.

Barbara

What a courtly gentleman!

Von Puff

What an imposing female!

Barbara

(Curtseying) Your Excellency is welcome. Von Puff

(Bowling) I cannot be mistaken, I was just about to inquire, but that stately presence and graceful dignity tell me that I am addressing Madam Barbara.

Barbara

(Curtseying) Oh, sir. *(Aside)* How one's manner will betray one, I always said I belonged to a higher sphere.

Von Puff

I come, Madam, by the Count's order to announce that the cavalcade has arrived and is now resting on the plateau, beyond the ravine. His lordship will be here presently and in person conduct your fair foster daughter to her palfrey, that waits without, impatient for the honor to be mounted by her.

Barbara

(Curtseying) Oh, sir, his lordship is so considerate. But may I inquire if I have been thought of? And I also to be provided with a becoming escort? Is there any palfrey without impatient for the honor to be ridden by me?

Von Puff

That shall be my privilege

Barbara

(Astonished) Eh!

Von Puff

That is I have charged myself with the especial honor of being your escort.

Barbara

(Curtseying very low) Oh! *Music*

Von Puff

He comes! Room there for his lordship.

(Villagers range themselves to receive the COUNT who enters RH at back, crosses and comes down LH preceded by guards and followed by Wulfgar and Bruno. When down Villagers shout and wave their caps)

Wolfenstein

Salutation to the good dame Barbara.

Barbara

(Curtesying very low) Oh, your lordship!

Wolfenstein

And how fares your lovely charge?

Barbara

Well, may it please your lordship, quite well, a little nervous from over-anxiety to see your lordship, but that is quite natural with us poor silly things. I suffered dreadfully in that way when my poor dear, dead and gone Christopher courted me. Many and many a time---

Wolfenstein

(Impatiently interrupting her) But the fair Amina,

Barbara

Is quite ready and dying to see you--I will present her to your lordship at once.

She is going into the cottage when Rodolphe appears and comes forward, leading Amina by the hand
(CHORD)

Rodolphe

Allow me dame Barbara, to do the honors.

All the Villagers

Rodolphe! *(Picture of astonishment)*

Rodolphe

My lord Count Wolfenstein, permit me, Rodolphe Werner, a poor artist, to present to you Amina, foster-daughter to dame Barbara, a free maiden of the valley and my affianced bride.

Wolfenstein

Who is this madman?

Barbara

N-n-n-n-n-n-nobody, your Lordship, that is a poor, weak simpleton who imagines he is betrothed to every girl in the village. As your lordship truly says, a madman.

Von Puff

A madman! Mercy on us, we shall all be murdered. Seize him, secure him, somebody, everybody.

(MUSIC Wulfgar and Bruno seize Rodolphe and after a struggle overpower him. Amina screams, clings to him for a moment then throws herself at the Counts feet, he raises and passes her to Barbara, then turns to guards)

Wolfenstein

Release him, (*They release him*) His misfortune claims our pity. Let some of his fellows conduct him hence and see that no harm come to him.

Rodolphe

(*Defiantly*) My Lord Count---

Wolfenstein

Begone, Sirrah!

Casper

Come, Rodolphe, come with me. (*aside*) Are you indeed mad to brave the tiger in his lair--(*Leads him RH*) Come I say, this is neither time nor place to right your wrong. Be calm, I say, be calm.

Rodolphe

(*Shaking him by the hand*) You are right, Casper, you are right. (*Looks scornfully at Wolfenstein*) Come, my friend, come. (*Exit RH 1st Ent. with Casper*)

Wolfenstein

(*Aside*)

'Tis he, the lover. He braves me, too.

(*Aloud*)

Wulgar!

(*Wulfgar advances*) (*Apart to Wulfgar*)

Track younder knave, take Bruno with you. Seize him, but let no eye see you, Place him in the secret vault beneath the eastern wing. Once there--you know the rest.

Wulfgar

(*Nods meaningly*) I understand. (*Gives sign to Bruno and is going RH 1st Ent*)

Wolfenstein

Stay, not now, it will be noted. When the procession moves then steal away by the upper path

(*Wulfgar nods, turns upstage and confers with Bruno. Wolfenstein confers with Von Puffengruntz at back.*)

Barbara

(*Leading Amina forward and aside to her*) Silence, on your life, not a word that you have ever seen him before. If the Count were to know---Mercy on me, I tremble to think of it, there wouldn't be a head left on any of our shoulders.

(*Birds heard singing till scene closes*)

Von Puff

(*Waving his wand*) Let the procession move.

(*Music Wolfenstein joins Amina, Villagers bring forward the festooned chair from LHUE. Wolfenstein assists Amina into the seat. The chair is borne by four villagers. The others form in procession. Wolfenstein beside the chair, Von Puffengruntz pompously leading Barbara by the hand. Wulfgar + Bruno loiter behind and when unobserved steal off R.H.U.E. The procession after making the circuit of the stage ascends the rocks LH and*)

crosses RH, the VILLAGERS singing the following

Chorus

Hark, hark, hark!
Hark, the birds with tuneful voices,
Vocal for our lady fair,
And the lips of op'ning flowers
Breathe their incense on the air,
Breathe their incense on the air.
See, see, see,
See the sun in orient splendor
Gilding every glittering spray ,
Busy weaving jewelled chaplets
For our lovely Queen of May,
For our lovely Queen of May.
Mark, mark, mark!
Mark the plumes of mighty Brocken
Waving in the fragrant air,
Proudly nodding salutation
To our charming lady fair,
To our charming lady fair.

Closed in when procession clears 1st grooves

Scene 2nd

A dark woody or rocky pass (in 1) Lights 1/2 down.

(Music Enter Wulfgar + Bruno RH)

Wulfgar

So, we've reached the pass a good five minutes before him.

Bruno

But if he should cross the bridge?

Wulfgar

Aye, if, but he'll not. I watched him from behind "The Devil's Hump" and saw him part company with that lout at the foot of the old cross. I tell you his path lies this way. *(Crosses to LH)* Hark some one comes. *(Looks cautiously off)* Ha, I was right, 'tis he, quick conceal yourself and when I hood the hawk stand ready to clip his claws.

(Music WULFGAR conceals himself LH Bruno RH)

(Music Enter Rodolphe LH)

Rodolphe

Deeper, let me plunge, deeper still into the heart of the mountains: the light of the sun falls like molten lead on my aching eyeballs. My heart's on fire, my brain is in a whirl, I strive to think, but thought becomes a chaos, Am I awake or is this some horrible dream? Water, water, my throat is flaming. Ha, yonder's a rill trickling from the rock.

(Music. He is going R when Wulfgar who has stolen from his concealment throws a cloak over his head, while Bruno at the same moment pinions his arms, Rodolphe

struggling violently

Wulfgar

Quick, quick, the cord, the cord: he has the strength of a lion.

(Bruno draws a cord tightly over his arms.)

So, away, away!

(Music. They force Rodolphe off RH.)

Scene 3rd

(Study and laboratory of the Black Crook. (in 2) Hertzog discovered LH, seated at table poring over a large cabalistic book. Greppo, pinched and starved asleep on stool RC before a retort furnace in RH flat. An antique lamp illuminates the characters of the book upon the table, upon which is a skull and hour-glass. Door on LH flat. Transparent window in RH flat.

(Music at opening of scene.

Hertzog

(Rising in pain and with difficulty, he closes the book and comes forward)

Vain, vain, some subtle spell is hovering in the air that mocks my power and makes the charms that once were potent a jabbering idle sound. And shall I yield to this Invisible? I, Hertzog, the Crook, whom men call sorcerer. I, at whose name the strong man trembles and the weak grows faint. I whose life of long, laborious years hath well nigh run its course, gleaning dark knowledge in forbidden paths, shall I now seek the light? My eyes are old and dim and could not brave the glare. No, no, I'll work new mines—new mines, and plumb the depths of darker mysteries still.

Greppo

(Snores loudly)

Hertzog

(Turning) How now, knave?

Greppo

(Starts from his sleep and uses the bellows rapidly at the mouth of the furnace)

Hertzog

Come hither, varlet.

Greppo

Yes, master. *(Rises from stool, puts down bellows and comes forward, yawning)*

Hertzog

What, drone, sluggard, snoring again?

Greppo

N-n-n-no good master, no.

Hertzog

Out, lying knave; Did I not hear thee snore?

Greppo

Snore? Aye, granted, but 'twas in thy service, master, much fasting and long watching caused this left rebellious eye to wink, and so I snored to wake it up again.

Hertzog

Bah! shuffling loon, thy drowsing comes of overfeeding.

Greppo

(Viewing himself) Overfeeding? Look I if I were overfed? A scanty chopin of weak sour beer with one poor groschen's worth of musty beans is all the banquet this shrunk belly knows from week to week.

Hertzog

What, rogue, dost grumble?

Greppo

No, good master, no.

(Rumbling thunder) Music. Tremolo piano

Hertzog

Ha, the night grows foul. 'Tis all the better, Bring me my cloak and staff *(Thunder)*

Greppo

(Bringing forward crutch stick and short, black hooded cloak from nail on flat) They are here. *(Places cloak on Hertzog's shoulders)*

Hertzog

(Drawing the hood over his head)
So, now thine own.

Greppo

My cloak: I have none, Master.

Hertzog

Thy cap.

Greppo

Mine?

Hertzog

Thine. *(Thunder)*

Greppo

Oh, Lord, what a night, *(Brings his cap from peg beside the furnace)*

Hertzog

Bring with thee yonder brazen casket.

Greppo

Th-the-the brazen casket?

Hertzog

Aye, echoing fool! *(Thunder)*

Greppo

(Tremblingly goes to table and takes casket) (Aside) The devil's tool-chest *(Aloud)* Whither go we, dread master?

Hertzog

To the Serpents' Glen. *(Loud thunder)*

Greppo

(Starting) Oh Lord, the Serpents Glen! Beelzebub's favorite chapel, surely, good master, you would not, and above all on such a night as this? *(Thunder and lightning, the latter showing itself in transparent window in R.H. flat)* Hark how the tempest howls; Strong pines are toppling down the mountain sides. 'Twere certain death to go abroad to night.

Hertzog

Silence, and follow. *(Goes toward door. lightning and loud thunder)*

Greppo

(Has made a movement to follow, starts back trembling violently.) Master, I cannot!

Hertzog

(Turning fiercely) What, ingrate, do you rebel?

Greppo

No, master, no, my spirit's willing, but my legs are weak.

Hertzog

Wretch, did I not snatch thee drowning from the whirling gulf, bind thy torn limbs with rare medicaments and stanch the current of thy ebbing life that fast was running out?

Greppo

You did, good master, you did. *(Aside)* Out of the water into the fire.

Herzog

Begone! *(MUSIC forte. Throws upon the door in LH flat. LOUD THUNDER & WIND. LIGHTNING. GREPPO starts back)* Fool, begone, I say. *(Seizes and hurls him toward the open door. HEAVY THUNDER & LIGHTNING. GREPPO in doorway entreats. HERTZOG raises his staff)* Away, away!

(THUNDER & LIGHTNING. HERTZOG & GREPPO exit)

Curtain

Act One - Scene Four

Scene: An apartment in the castle of Wolfenstein. LOW THUNDER. Lights up.

Carline

(Enters RH)

Bless me, what a night to welcome her ladyship that is to be to her new home. I declare the old castle trembles and shakes like a great ship at sea. *(LOUD THUNDER)* Mercy on us, what a crash! But pshaw, why should I care how the tempest rages without. Am I not safe within, and in rare good luck too? Only to think that I should be chosen from among all the girls in the village to become Amina's companion and own particular waiting maid. Old Hagar, the gypsy fortune teller whose palm I crossed

with a new quarter florin last week told me that good fortune awaited me, and sure enough, here it is. Only to think of it, that I, Carline Brenner, who for ten long years have been chained to a stupid spinning wheel day and night should become confidential companion to the future mistress of Wolfenstein. Was there ever such good fortune? I declare, I am so happy I could sing for a month.

(Introduced song and exit LH)

Curtain

Act One - Scene Five

Scene: A wild glen in the heart of the Brocken. Perilous rocky pathway leading from above at back, LH to R. Returning crosses over a rock 5 feet high RH 3 exit, with set blasted tree back of it. Large working Raven on limb and vampire doors in trunk. Set rock-piece in center of stage, opposite 2nd grooves, bearing a general resemblance to a rude altar. Set trick plants with serrated leaves R&L. The whole stage is much broken up with rocky sets, leaving the center back of the altar generally open--Lights down. Music at opening. HERZOG appears above LH, followed by GREPPO, making several efforts to turn back is checked by HERZOG.

Greppo

(Coming forward LH when down) Oh Lord, what a place. *(MUSIC. THE RAVEN croaks, flaps its wings and shows red illuminated eyes. Greppo starts)* What's that? *(Turns)* 'Twas the croaking of yonder mock-raven, did'st he ar, master? 'Tis an evil sign, let's begone.

Herzog

Silence, fool. Set down the casket. *(Goes up stage)*

Greppo

I will. *(Sets the casket on ground LC)* Thank St. Michael, I'm rid of that pleasant companion. As I have an empty belly and hope some day to have it filled, I could swear before the Burgomaster that when we passed over the bridge of Beelzebub's Nose I heard voices laughing inside that very casket, -saw blue blazes come out of the keyhole and smelt a strong smell of brimstone. *(MUSIC. RAVEN croaks as before)* *(Looking around fearfully)* Oh Lord, Oh Lord, what a pleasant place for an uninterrupted funeral. Ugh!

Herzog

Knave.

Greppo

Master.

Herzog

Bring hither full.

Greppo

I obey. *(Aside)* Here's a chance, if I can only get out of this, may the Fiend singe me if he catches me back. I'd

rather be on the raging flood than serve him an hour longer. (*Is about to ascend the rocks*)

Herzog

Whither go now, varlet?

Greppo

For fuel, master. This around us is wet with the storm and will not burn. As we came along I noted beneath the shelter of a carg, hard by, many dry faggots. I will fetch them. (*Going*)

Herzog

Come back. (*GREPPO groans & returns*) (*Pointing RH2*)
The dead branches of yon blasted larch will serve.

Greppo

But, master--

Herzog

Dolt, obey me.

Greppo

I'm gone. (*Groans and exits RH2*) (*MUSIC. HERZOG goes slowly up to set altar and smites it three times with his stick. Blue flame issues from the top of the altar and continues through the scene.*) (*Re-enters with armload of faggots*) Here are the faggots, master.

Herzog

'Tis well. Feed yonder flame.

Greppo

A flame! How came we by a flame? I'll swear I brought no tinder-box. More brimstone, I suppose. Oh Lord, oh Lord!

Herzog

Fool, do as I command.

Greppo

I fly. (*MUSIC. He goes slowly & timidly up to and behind altar with faggots*) Now for some devil's cookery.

Herzog

So. Pluck me an inner leaf from yonder adder plant. (*Points to trick plant LH*)

Greppo

I knew it. Vegetable broth.

(*MUSIC. He approaches the plant LH and is about to pluck it when it opens suddenly and discovers a dwarf demon, around whose body is twined a huge green serpent with flaming eyes, distended jaws & forked tongue. As the leaves open the head darts at Greppo viciously. He starts back, uttering a cry of alarm- the leaves closes*)

Herzog

Ha! (*Stamps his foot angrily and points to the plant. Same business as above with Greppo, demon serpent and plant.*) (*Chafing*) So, so. Bring me the green flagon from yonder casket. (*MUSIC. GREPPO goes to casket*)

LH and raises the lid when fire flashes from the box. He starts back in an agony of fear and crossing site upon the small set rock-pieces, RH2, when flames shoot from the stone and springs into the air, uttering a sharp cry of pain) (Enraged) Baffled at every turn! Begone, knave, thy presence mars my work.

Greppo

Most willingly. *(Is about to ascend the rocks)*

Herzog

Not there. *(GREPPO groans & returns)* Keep watch without from yonger crag that overhangs the gorge. *(Points RH1)* Should straggingly footsteps wend this way, give timely warning.

Greppo

(Aside) Stragging footsteps! Stragging indeed to be abroad on such a night, and least of all in such a place as this.

Herzog

Did'st hear me?

Greppo

I vanish *(Exit RH1)* *MUSIC. HERZOG describes a circle and figures on the ground C with his stick, after which the end of the stick ignites and burns with a faint blue flame. He then describes figures in the air, during which latter action he speaks)*

Herzog

Skuldawelp, familiar, slave of my power, I invoke thee.

(MUSIC. A spectre in filmy draper with death's head, luminous eyes, movable jaw and skeleton hands works on from RHUE to C. Illuminated by light from calcium)

Skuldawelp

Your will.

Herzog

Break the malignant spells that thwart and mock me. Bind fast my hidden enemies. Restore to me my lost power.

Skuldawelp

I cannot. An adverse spell has crossed me. My power is spent. All that was mine is thine. Zamiel alone can serve thee.

Herzog

(Thinking) Zamiel

Skuldaewelp

Zamiel!—dismiss me.

Herzog

(Waving his staff) Begone! *(MUSIC. SKULDAWELP glides off LH)* Zamiel! No, no. I dare not invoke his fearful aid. *(MUSIC tremolo piano)* I-I. Ha, what tremor's this? My blood grows very cold, my limbs are failing, a film is gathering over my eyes. *(Falls C)* Can this be death? Death! No, no. I cannot, I will not die. Save me, save,

Zamiel, Zamiel! (*MUSIC forte. He drags himself toward the casket, seizes it, rises with difficulty and totters to the altar, at the foot of which he places the casket, opens it and brings forth a packet containing four lesser packets and begins the following incantation:*) By a bloody murder done 'Gainst a mother by her son! (*Casts red ingredient into the fire. Wild burst of demoniacal Music. A huge green serpent with movable jaw rises from flame behind the altar and strikes viciously at Herzog. The Raven croaks, flaps its wings, and shows its illuminated eyes. The leaves of the adder plant open and disclose demons and serpents as before. Skeleton forms appear above on rocks, pointing to Herzog. MUSIC changes to tremolo piano. The adder plant remains open during the remainder of the scene*) By the venomous tongue that 'stills Poisoned slander till it kills. (*Casts green ingredient into the fire. WILD BLAST of demoniacal MUSIC and same action as before. MUSIC changing to tremolo piano*) By the thief with skulking tread, Who breaks the grave and robs the dead. (*Casts blue ingredient into flame. WILD BLAST & SAME BUSINESS AS BEFORE*) BY all the crimes men hate and fear, Zamiel, master, now appear. (*Casts red ingredient into the fire*) Zamiel, appear, appear!

(*WILD BLAST & SAME BUSINESS AS BEFORE, in addition to which LOUD CRASHING THUNDER & VIVID LIGHTNING, the latter showing in luminous forks in backing. Huge serpents writhe to and fro across the stage. ZAMIEL, bearing a sceptre around which is twined a green serpent, suddenly appears from stump of blasted tree, with strong light from calcium thrown upon him. He holds the picture a moment before speaking. HERZOG kneeling down LH. MUSIC stops*)

Zamiel

Arise! (*HERZOG rises*) Why am I summoned?

Herzog

My life is waning. Give me to live, feed the still currents of my sluggish veins, give me fresh charms and potencies.

Zamiel

Wherefore?

Herzog

Men hate and did they not fear--would despise me. I would repay their hate with hate. I would live on, on, and in that life rival thy dread power of evil.

Zamiel

What wilt thou give for such a boon?

Herzog

Whate'er thou wilt; give me but life and all I have is thine.

Zamiel

'tis not enough. What's thine is mine already.

Herzog

What else?

Zamiel

Listen. A soul younger, fresher, whiter than thine, must on each recurring year be, by your arts, turned to my account.

Herzog

I hear, dread master, and will pay the price.

Zamiel

For every soul thus lost to good and gained to me a year's new life is thine. A single soul, a single year, a hundred souls, a hundred years. 'Tis with thyself to live forever.

Herzog

Forever?

Zamiel

Forever! But should the stroke of midnight fall a twelve-month hence and no lost soul, by you betrayed within that time, come wailing at my gates-- perdition closes on your dark career. Is't a compact?

Herzog

It is.

(MUSIC. ZAMIEL waves his sceptre. THUNDER & LIGHTNING A FIEND (red glare) rises through trap LH2, bearing a large red book, pen and inkhorn.)

Zamiel

(Pointing to book) Sign!

(MUSIC. THUNDER & LIGHTNING. SHEETED SPECTRES rises through trap at back and appear at L&R from behind rocks. SKULDAWELPP reappears LH3, demons and skeletons appear from R & L, all pointing at Herzog who takes the pen and dips it in the horn. The pen ignites and flames blue. He writes in the book, during which the raven croaks flaps its wings, etc. Serpents writhe and demoniacal laughter is heard outside and above. After he has signed ZAMIEL waves his sceptre, gong sounds and Redglare descends with book, etc., amid red fire. Music stops)

'Tis well. Listen, slave. Within a dungeon of the eastern wing of gray and gloomy Wolfenstein there lies in chains a youth called Rodolphe. His fortunes desperate, and desperate souls, like drowning men, wil catch at straws. Begin with him.

Herzog

Dread power, I hear thy mandate and thy will obey.
(Bows low before Zamiel)

MUSIC. THUNDER & LIGHTNING and all the action as before. Red fire from behind altar and at the wings. REDGLARE REAPPEARS RH2, pointing to Herzog. Winged serpents appear above and firey dragon enters LH2, simultaneously with which GREPPO very white with hair on end rushes on RH1 as if to communicate

something)

Greppo

Master, I--

(Is appalled at the sight before him, utters a loud cry, falls upon his knees, clasping his hands and moving his lips as if in prayer)

Quick Curtain

Act Two - Scene One

Scene: A subterranean vault beneath the castle of Wolfenstein. Set floor RH2. Movable in upper part of RH flat. Sliding stone panel in lower part of LH flat.

WULFGAR discovered chaining RODOLPHE to wall of RH flat. MUSIC at rise of curtain. Lights 1/2 down.

Wulfgar

There my fine fellow. I think you're both safe and comfortable. No entreaties; neither light nor sound ever comes here.

Rodolphe

Wretch.

Wulfgar

When you want exercise or change of air and you can manage to get out of yonder little incumbrances- *(Pointing to chains)* - you can take it in the vault beneath. Yonder trap leads to it. You may find it a little mouldy, and may stumble over the skeleton of the last lodger, but that's nothing. Any change is better than no change at all.

Rodolphe

Monster, begone.

Wulfgar

(Taking up lamp) Oh certainly, anything to oblige. In the meantime, if your exercise should give you an appetite and you should want food, cry out for it. Cry loud and I won't come. Ha, ha ha. Goodnight.

(Exits RH door. Lights down)

Rodolphe

Alone. So ends in darkness and in death all my bright dreams of the future and must I perish thus--I who have but entered the portal of life? No, no, it cannot be! I must, I will burst these bonds. *(MUSIC. He makes an effort to break the chains)* 'Tis vain, they defy even the strength of despair. *(Shuddering)* How awful is the chill of this noxious vault. Its very vapors press upon my brow like the hand of death and freeze my very marrow. *(MUSIC. HERTZOG enters with dark lantern through sliding panel on LH flat)* *(STARTING)* Who's there?

Hertzog

Thy friend.

Rodolphe

Who are you?

Hertzog

(Turning light upon himself) Behold! (*CHORD*)

Rodolphe

(*Starting*) Hertzog, the Crook!

Hertzog

Aye, so men call me. (*Puts lantern off LH2*)

Rodolphe

Ill-omened bird, what brings you here? Yet why should I ask? You come the minister of death? 'tis well, 'tis merciful. Begin your work.

Hertzog

Out, foolish boy. I serve no human master.

Rodolphe

Then why are you here?

Hertzog

I come to give thee liberty.

Rodolphe

Liberty!

Hertzog

Aye. Listen. I hate thine enemy. Thou lov'st a maid of whom thou hast been robbed; would'st win her back? I have the power to serve thee.

Rodolphe

Begone, tempter. I know your power and can guess from whence it comes. Men say you deal in dark and necromantic spells that warp the senses and enthrall the soul.

Hertzog

Pah! Art thou, too, tainted with the vulgar fear that calls philosophy-the natural working of great Nature's laws- a spell of darkness? It is the light, weak boy, the light, which we sage men, who waste our lives o'er midnight lamps, glean from dull vapors for the sluggards' use. Fools sneer the most when least they understand and brand as foul what Nature stamps as fair. Thy gains gall thee, let me loose them. (*He touches them with his staff; they fall to ground*)

Rodolphe

(*Coming forward*) What is your purpose?

Hertzog

Again I say to serve thee.

Rodolphe

How?

Hertzog

Listen, I will tell thee a secret. She whom thou lovest is of noble birth.

Rodolphe

Amina?

Hertzog

Aye, yet not Amina, but the only child and heiress of the noble house of Wellenstein, stolen when but an infant by a revengeful gypsy whom her father scourged and given to gabbling Barbara.

Rodolphe

Amina noble?

Hertzog

Aye, and thou of humble birth, but gold can buy nobility-- nay more, can give thee power to cross thine enemy.

Rodolphe

Why talk to me of gold--to me, the poorest of the poor, whose purse contains not half so much as one poor silver mark.

Hertzog

Thou'rt poor indeed, but thou art poor because thou wilt be poor. 'Tis with thyself to shame the wealth of the mighty Croesus.

Rodolphe

How?

Hertzog

Hast thou not heard of glittering gold in massive piles fast locked within these mountains?

Rodolphe

An idle tale, a senseless fable told by croning gossips. A treasure often sought but never found and some do say 'tis death to seek it.

Hertzog

I tell thee, boy, the story's true, this gold is palpable to sight and touch, and mayt be garnered too, if thou art bold enough.

Rodolphe

I'll hear no more! Thou'dst take advantage of my desperate strait to work some juggle to entrap my soul. Begone I say, begone!

Hertzog

And leave thee to thy doom?

Rodolphe

Aye.

Hertzog

And thy affianced bride--would'st thou so like a graven yield her up onto thine enemy?

Rodolphe

Oh, agony!

Hertzog

'tis true she loves thee, but bethink thee, boy, she is but woman and she may be won. Her noble birth is known to Wolfenstein who means to wed her, and with her fortune to prop his falling house. Already flattered by his serpent tounge, she dries her tears and listens to his suit.

Rodolphe

'Tis false!

Hertzog

'Tis true!

Rodolphe

The proof?

Hertzog

Behold.

(MUSIC. He waves his staff; panel in upper part of RH flat slides open, showing through gauze WOLFENSTEIN & AMINA, the former clasping the hand and kneeling at the feet of the latter whose face is averted. Picture strongly lighted)

Rodolphe

(Starting forward) By Heaven, he shall not!

Hertzog

(Interposing; waves his staff; panel closes) Bravely said!
Bravely said!

Rodolphe

(Turning quickly) What dev'lish compact would you have me sign? Propose it while my reason whirls and desperation aids your dam'd design. If by the act I snatch her from his grasp, I'll pay the ransom though it reach my soul. *(HERTZOG with face averted chuckles sardonically)* Come, philosopher or fiend, whate'er thou art; the price, I say, the price.

Hertzog

Pah! I ask no compact. I would serve thee gratis. I but demand that thou shalt serve thyself. Be rich and thou'lt be powerful. In thy revenge upon thine enemy and mine, thou'lt pay thy debt to me with interest.

Rodolphe

Where lies this wondrous treasure?

Hertzog

Listen. Amid the fastnesses of the Hartz beyond the outlet of the Black Gorge lies a small lake whose waters few have ever gazed upon, for vulgare fear and superstitious dread have long since marked it for enchanted ground.

Rodolphe

I've heard the story.

Hertzog

Trace carefully its northern shore until a rock rising like a wall bars further passage beneath a fringe of tangled vines you'll find a boat concealed. Behold this talisman ring! *(Takes a large ring from his finger)* 'Tis a magnet of wondrous power. When thou hast found the boat step boldly in. This ring will guide thee safely to the entrance of the goldern cavern within the compass of whose glittering walls thy wondering eyes may feast on wealth far greater than the coffer of the world can boast.

Rodolphe

Give me the ring.

Hertzog

'Tis thine. (*Gives ring*) Stay, thou'lt need a henchman.
(*Stamps his foot*) Varlet, come forth. (*MUSIC. Panel on
LH flat opens as before & GREPPO enters*) (*Aside*) He
too shall perish.

Greppo

Your will, Master?

Hertzog

To part with three.

Greppo

(*Aside*) Oh, if this should be true. (*Aloud*) With me?

Hertzog

With thee, knave.

Greppo

Wherefore?

Hertzog

I weary with thine appetite.

Greppo

(*Aside*) Here's a chance. Oh here is a chance if he but
stick to it. I must seem unwilling lest he repent. (*Aloud*)
Dear master, I will reform, believe me, I will reform.
Allowance me to what would starve a mouse. Nay more,
to pleasure you, I will not eat at all. I'll live on air, but do
not cast me off.

Hertzog

I am resolved. Behold thy future master. (*To Rodolphe*)
Thou'lt find him faithful but he breeds a famine. Take for
the present need this purse of gold. (*Offers purse;*
RODOLPHE by a gesture refuses it)> Nay, when thou'rt
rich thou canst repay it.

Rodolphe

(*Taking purse*) Nay, more, if what you say be true, eternal
gratitude---

Hertzog

Pah, you trifle time. (*Moves staff; panel opens*) Yonder
lies your path; it is a glorious one. Begone.

Rodolphe

Farewell. Come, boy, come. (*MUSIC*) (*Exits at panel.*
GREPPO, following turns to entreat HERTZOG, who
raises his staff threateningly. GREPPO exits hurriedly at
panel)

Hertzog

(*Stands in opening and chuckling gazes after them*) The
thought of vegeance stirs within his heart; the lust of gold
is rising in his soul, the path that leads to where 'tis
hoarded ends in death. He's mine, ha, ha! He's mine.

Curtain

Scene Two - Act Two

Scene: A lobby in the castle of Wolfenstein. Enter BARBARA RH, followed by CARLINE.

Barbara

Don't talk to me, girl. Remember your station and consider mine. Who Am I and what am I that I should be lodged in a wing of the castle overlooking the dog kennels.

Carline

Your ladyship is quite right to revel and when I advised your ladyship to calm yourself it was out of consideration for your ladyship's eyes. Any little flurry does so spoil the natural beauty of their expression.

Barbara

Carline, you're a good girl, you're a considerate girl and I forgive you, but eyes or no eyes, I'll not be imposed upon. Where's Mynheer Von Puffengruntz? Where's his lordship's chamberlain?

Carline

(Looking LH) Here he comes down the great stairway as full of flesh and scant of breath as ever. *(Aside)* And as the waddling old porpoise appears to have a liquorice tooth for this silly old buzzard I'll leave them to bill and coo while I run off to comfort dear 'Mina who has passed the whole night in tears for poor Rodolphe.

(VON PUFF enters LH. CARLINE curtseys and exits LH)

Von Puff

Eh, what! Madam Barbara, stirring so early! Why, bless my soul, the mist of the mountain is yet hanging upon the turrets of the castle.

Barbara

Then let it hang and be hanged to it. Stirring indeed! Haven't I been stirring all night and wouldn't the seven sleepers have been stirring all night too, if they had lodged where I did?

Von Puff

Surely nothing has had the audacity to disturb the quiet of your chamber?

Barbara

Nothing? To begin with, do you call such a storm as that of last night nothing? Why the thunder creashed over the castle loud enough to wake the dead. That was bad enough, but only to think that I, the right honorable foster mother that is to be to her right honorable ladyship that is to be passing the night in apartments overlooking a dog-kennel.

Von Puff

A dog-kennel?

Barbara

Aye, a kennel of great, savage hounds, fed late at night on raw meat on purpose to give them the nightmare and

make them dream all night long of chasing wild boars in the forest. Ugh! I shall never get their terrible yelping out of my head.

Von Puff

Believe me, my dear Madam Barbara, it is the first time the brutes ever were known to have been unruly. I promise that they shall be soundly punished and instantly removed. But I too am criminal. The apartments were selected by me because they command the best view of the mountains.

Barbara

But I don't want to look at the mountains. I got a glimpse of it from one of the north windows last night during the storm and it looked for all the world like Beelzebub and his imps were holding a jubilee there.

Von Puff

Enough, my dear Madam Barbara, enough. If the mountain is unpleasant, it shall be removed. No, no! I mean you shall be removed. *(Approaching her in a wheedling manner)* Will it please you to accompany me and choose for yourself?

Barbara

(Simperingly) Really, Mynheer Von Puffengruntz, you have such mollifying ways that--that--

Von Puff

(Taking her hand) Oh-o-o.

Barbara

Would it be prudent? Dare I trust myself? We poor silly things are so weak and you mean so naughty that--that--
(Leans her head upon his shoulder, looks up into his face and sighs)

Von Puff

Confiding innocence, rely upon the honor of a Von Puffengruntz. *(Looks around, sighs, kisses her)*
(BARBARA utters a faint scream and hiding her face in her fan is led off LH by VON PUFF chuckling)

Curtain

Act Two - Scene Three

*Scene: A wild pass in the Hartz mountains. MUSIC.
Lights down. Enter RH RODOLPHE & GREPPO, each bearing an Alpine staff, GREPPO in improved condition.*

Rodolphe

A strange weird place and one it seems not often tread by human footsteps. I fear we've missed the way. What think you, Master Greppo?

Greppo

Master Greppo! Master Greppo! He calls be Master Greppo! Here's an honor and here's a master. Oh such a master, such a liberal master as this stuffed belly, tight as any drum with goodly provender and generous wine will

testify. *(To Rodolphe)* What think I, princely master?

Rodolphe

Aye.

Greppo

Why since you honor me with consultation and give me leave to think at all- a privilege grown rusty from great lack of use- I say we're right and that the lake we seek is near at hand.

Rodolphe

Why think you so?

Greppo

Because just now I heard a bittern cry and twice ere that I heard a marsh-frog croak, and as they're both accounted water-fowl, 'twere safe to say that we're near the water.

Rodolphe

Then ley us on. *(Crossing to LH)* Ere long the rising moon will pierce this veil of mist and light us to our golden haven. Come. *(Exit LH)*

Greppo

I follow *(Exit LH)*

(Change very slowly--no whistle)

Curtian

Act Two - Scene Four

Scene: The grotto of golden stalactites. A grand and comprehensive water cavern of gold, deeply perspective, with stalactiform arched roof. Cut wings, representing vistas, running parallel and harmonizing with that of the main grotto, the mouth of which (5 feet high by 5 feet wide) discloses an open lake and distant shore at back. Set transparent silver waters, in which are seen sporting fishes and nondescript amphibia; diminutive fairies asleep on the waters of the grotto in golden shells. Set ground or shore-piece, richly studded with gold and jewels. Set masses of emerald and gold R, L, & C., upon and at the foot of which are reclining gnomes and amphibia. Fairies asleep in poses R & L. The Moon, seen through the opening at the back and over the distant shore of the lake, shows red upon its face at the opening of the scene. MUSIC. Shortly afterward, DRAGONFIN, who has been asleep on a jewelled mass on the shore C, slowly awakens, rises and stretches himself. Upon turning he sees the red upon the face of the moon. MUSIC.

Dragonfin

(Uttering a cry of alarm)

Awake, awake!

(Music hurried. Gnomes and amphibia spring to their feet; fairies and water nymphs enter hurriedly r & L; diminutive fairies in shells and fairies poses awaken)
Behold there's blood upon the face of the moon. Our

queen's in danger. To arms! To arms!
(*MUSIC hurried. The sprites in the shells disappear R & L. The gnomes, amphibeas and fairies rush off R & L and immediately re-enter armed. The first named with knotted clubs and tridents, the fairies with javelins. During the action the red disappears from the face of the moon and it resumes its natural color.*) (*Seeing the change*)

Stay, 'tis past. Hark.
(*STALACTA is heard singing beneath the waters. ALL bend forward and listen*) (*After song*)

'Tis she, our queen.

(*ALL kneel. MUSIC. STALACTA rises C from the water and steps on shore, assisted by DRAGONFIN*)

Stalacta

Arise, my loving subjects.

(*ALL rise*)

Dragonfin

Mistress, but now the light in yon great sapphire died out and stains of blood flushed in the face of the pale moon. You have scaped some deadly peril.

Stalacta

You are right. Listen all. Tonight while wandering in the fastnesses of the Hartz without my protecting talisman, I heedlessly trod within one of the charmed circles of our enemy, the arch fiend Zamiel.

All

Ha!

Stalacta

On the instant I was transformed into a white dove with shorn pinions. From beneath the rank leaves of an adder-plant glided a huge serpent. Its eyes were burning coals, its tongue a living flame. I was paralyzed with fear and powerless to move. Nearer and nearer it came. I felt its stifling breath displace the purer air. I saw its venomous fangs glist'ning in the pale moonlight. Rising from out its deadly coil itself, when suddenly a youth, a mortal, strangely present in that wildwood spot, seeing the danger of the trembling bird seized a dead bough, which chance had fashioned like a holy cross, and smote the foul thing dead. Then bore me safely from the charmed spot and gave me life and liberty.

Dragonfin

Revenge, revenge on the minions of Zamiel. (*Goes quickly off RHUE*)

All

Revenge, revenge!

Stalacta

Nay, let no thought other than of joy mingle with this happy time. Remember, 'tis my natal hour, and I would have it, as in the past, a festal one. Let the invisible harmonies of this our realm breathe sweetest concord

only. And you, bright Crystalline, with your four sisters, chase with flying feet the silver hours.

(Seats herself on bank C) (MUSIC. The fairies form for dance. After the first pose a loud prolonged warning note, as if from a shell is heard outside at back. all start in alarm and those hold tyhe attitude of listening. The sound is repeated. Music hurried. The pose is broken and the fairies, gnomes, and amphibeas the latter seizing their arms form an alarm on either side. DRAGONFIN appears quickly through trap behind 1st set water and lands in front of ground piece. STALACTA at the first sound springs to her feet)

Speak, what danger threatens?

Dragonfin

The sentinel shells, played upon by the watchful winds, give alarm. Two daring mortals, armed with the enchanted magnet of the Black Crook approach the secret entrance. Already they have passed the white whirlpool in safety. They come to despoil our realm of its glittering wealth.

Stalacta

Fear not the talisman they bear is powerless against the spells that guard the portal.

All

Ho, ho, ho!

(Echoed without and above)

(MUSIC. Chorus by gnomes, amphibeas & fairies)

Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice!

Sprites of the golden realm, rejoice.

Daring mortals mock our power,

Flushed with the drink that the heart makes bold,

Drunk with the thirst for the glittering gold,

They madly rush on the fatal hour.

Darks spells arise; smite their longing eyes

That they never may gaze on the glittering prize.

Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice!

Sprites of the golden realms rejoice!

Stalacta

My faithful subjects, your Queen commends the zeal with which you would guard from mortal light our beautiful realm. But ere these rash intruders perish I would gratify a strange desire. Speed hence good Dragonfin. Catch me their shadows from the bosom of the moon-lighted lake and cast them upon my faithful mirror. I would look upon them ere they fade forever.

(MUSIC. DRAGONFIN prostrates himself before Stalacta, springs into the water and disappears)

Begin the spell.

(MUSIC)

Chorus by fairies

Mortal shadows dimly cast

By the moonbeam's mystic ray

In the bosom of the lake
Hither, hither fly away,
Flitting through the silver sheen
Come at summons of our Queen.
Guardian spirits let them pass;
Cast their shadows on the glass.

(MUSIC. DRAGONFIN springs from the water, and after prostrating himself before the Queen, rises and points to the water. Fairies wave their wands. A small arched headed frame of gold and coral stalactites rises center at the distant entrance of the grotto, showing small figures of Rodolphe & Greppo in boat, the former at the prow gazing anxiously forward, the latter aft in the attitude of paddling)

(STALACTA who had crossed down RH turns when the picture is fully shown. CHORD.) (Starting)

Ha, 'tis he! He must not perish. Invisible spirits, avert this peril.
Shades of mortals hovering near,
Join your masters; disappear.

(MUSIC. HURRY. The mirror & figures quickly sink) Dragonfin, come hither. Fly with swiftest speed to the rock beneath the waters of the guarded entrance. When the frail bark which now approaches shall be rent assunder by the relentless spells that guard our realm, be at your task to snatch from death these daring mortals and bear them safely hither.

ALL

(Starting forward inquiringly) Mistress!

Stalacta

Nay, question me not, away, away.
Slaves of my power, obey, obey.

(MUSIC. HURRY. DRAGONFIN bows low, springs into the water and disappears. MUSIC. A small boat with two mechanical figures or small doubles of Rodolphe & Greppo, as they appeared in the mirror, appears from LH outside at the distance entrance of the cavern and moves very slowly across. When it reaches the centre of the opening it sinks at the sound of the gong and flash of lightning at back. MUSIC. HURRY. All the gnomes, amphibia, etc. utter exclamations of delight and indulge in extravagant antics, until checked by a gesture from STALACTA. SOFT MUSIC. DRAGONFIN rises slowly from water C, supporting on either side RODOLPHE & GREPPO, the latter gasping violently for breath as his head appears. They step on shore, RODOLPHE & GREPPO lost in bewilderment. DRAGONFIN bows low before STALACTA. The other amphibia & gnomes make a demonstration of attack. STALACTA steps between)

Forbear! Who moves again 'till I alone command shall perish.

(They retire)

Rodolphe

(Rubbing his eyes) Is this a phantasm--this glittering gold, yon flashing gems, these strange fantastic shapes? Have I then passed the portal of an unknown world or am I dreaming?

Stalacta

Welcome, brave mortal, to our bright domain. And you my subjects, know and greet your Queen's preserver.

(MUSIC. Gnomes and amphi-bea cluster around Rodolphe & Greppo, rolling at their feet and indulging in various grateful antics, after which the fairies surround them and evince their delight)

Rodolphe

(Still bewildered) If this indeed be not a dream, tell me, bright being--you whose simple motion seems to sway the moods and passions of this elfin band, who art thou and where am I?

Stalacta

I am called Stalacta, queen of this dazzling realm. The glittering wonders that assail thine eyes are not creations of fantastic dreams but Nature's handiwork wrought with cunning fingers in a bounteous mood.

Greppo

(Who has picked up a large mass of gold at back comes forward) 'Tis true, master, 'tis true. Behold this shining nugget.

Stalacta

Who is thy droll companion?

Rodolphe

My simple henchman, a faithful guide and servitor.

Stalacta

I bid him welcome for his master's sake.

Greppo

Thanks, thanks, your resplendent majesty, thanks.

Rodolphe

You speak of service done; have we then met before?

Stalacta

Yes, once.

Rodolphe

Indeed! When?

Stalacta

This very night.

Rodolphe

Tonight?

Stalacta

Tonight, in the glen of fire, but not as now. Then a poor weak, fluttering, charm-encompassed bird, you snatched me from the jaws of death, broke the dark spell of transformation and gave to me the priceless boon of liberty.

Rodolphe

I do remember--

Greppo

And so do I. Phew, how the sparks flew when master smashed the head of the scaly monster. And such a smell of brimstone. I do believe it was one of the Beelzebub's own imps in disguise.

Stalacta

Again thou art welcome. This is my natal hour. Wilt view the sports of this our carnival?

Rodolphe

Most willingly.

Stalacta

And while the revels proceed thou shalt tell me thy story.

(MUSIC. Seats are brought forward by Amphibea RH1. STALACTA & RODOLPHE sit. GREPPO disposes himself LH1, amusing himself with DRAGONFIN, gnomes and amphibea, who present him from time to time with nuggets of gold and jewels which he thrusts into his pockets until they become greatly distended, during which action the diminutive sprites re-appear in shells on water floating to and from fishing. The fairies form for dance. Grand ballet action by principals and full corps de ballet, during which the fishers in the shells are seen to catch some small silver fish)

Greppo

(after the dance terminates) Ha, ha, dancing; all very well in its way, but there's the sport for me, fishing! Look, master, look; see the little rougues hook the silly shiners. Oh, if there's one thing in the world I love more than another its fishing--such fun to feel the greedy rascals snap and see them wiggle. There's another. Oh I can't stand it any longer; fishing's like the measles, it's catching. *(Turning to amphibea & gnomes)* Would any of you handsome gentlemen oblige me with a spare hook and line?

Dragonfin

(Nods assent and brings him rod and line)

Greppo

Well, upon my word, I'm very much obliged to your scaly magnificence. I'll do as much for you someday. By the way, is your amphibious majesty fond of fish?

(DRAGONFIN nods affirmatively)

What kind?

(DRAGONFIN indicates that he likes large ones)

Like large ones, eh? All right, I'll make you a present of the first ten-pounder I catch.

(MUSIC. He fishes from the shore RC and catches two small fishes, the last quite diminutive. The amphibea gnomes and fairies laugh boisterously as each fist is drawn forth) (GREPPO coming down crestfallen)

Pshaw, mere sprats and sardines. Not my kind at all. This is too much like taking advantage of confiding

innocence.

(To Dragonfin)

Couldn't your finny excellency oblige me with a more tempting bait, something that would seduce some big, greedy, wiggly-waggly fellow into taking a nibble?

(DRAGONFIN nods affirmatively. MUSIC. DRAGONFIN goes to the margin of the water and draws out a large crab which he places in the hand of Greppo. It seizes him by the finger to the great delight of the amphibia, gnomes & fairies. He struggles frantically to extricate himself & is finally released by Dragonfin who baits the hook with the crab and gives him the rod & line)

(GREPPO takes DRAGONFIN apart confidentially)

I don't know about this. Excuse me for asking the question, but, as an unprejudiced observer, don't you think this style of bait more likely to bite the fish than the fish to bite the bait?

(DRAGONFIN shakes his head and indicates a large fish will take it)

All right, here goes then.

(MUSIC. He casts the line into the water. A moment after it is violently seized and a frantic struggle ensues, during which he is nearly drawn overboard two or three times. Suddenly an amphibeous monster spring from the water and pursues Greppo around, off and on the stage to the great delight of the amphibia, gnomes & fairies who indulge in boisterous laughter. GREPPO in his terror throws himself at the feet of STALACTA for protection. She rises and waves her hand. The monster retires and is pacified by DRAGONFIN)(GREPPO comes forward)

Really, my fishy-fleshy friend, you must excuse me. I beg ten thousand pardons. I hadn't the remotest idea in the world that any of you bottle green gentlemen were lying around loose in the bottom watching for a supper of raw crabs. Indeed I hadn't.

(The monster growls and makes a start at him. MUSIC. DRAGONFIN interposes and pacifies the monster by putting him on the back, the taking his hand passes it into that of Greppo.)(GREPPO shakes monster's hand cordially)

All right, I accept your apology.

(Turning to Dragonfin)

Now you're what I call a true friend--a friend in need. You stick by a fellow when he hasn't the courage to stick by himself. This is the second time you've done me a service. Once in saving me from too much water and now in saving me from too much luck, and I'll let you see that I can be grateful. You like fish?

(DRAGONFIN nods affirmatively) (Passing the monster over to him)

Consider him yours.

(All the amphibia, gnomes & fairies laugh and go up)

Stalacta

(Rising & leading Rodolphe forward) Thy story claims for thee my pity and my aid.

Rodolphe

And Hertzog, the Black Crook--

Stalacta

Is a vile sorcerer whose dark unhallowed spells were wrought for thy destruction.

Rodolphe

How!

Stalacta

Beneath the entrance to this charmed spot lie intertwined among the branches of the coraline whole hecatombs of human bones, the whitened relics of adventurous mortals who like thyself have sought this realm. Until tonight no human eye has ever seen the dazzling splendor of this wondrous dome. No human footsteps save thine own and his who follows thee have ever pressed these sands of gold. Had not thy coming been to me forshadowed and all my power been interposed to snatch thee from the impending doom, thou too had'st joined the hapless throng that mouldering lies beneath yon depths.

Rodolphe

Then is thy debt to me already paid.

Stalacta

Not so. I am still thy debtor and must ever be. Thou art environed by danger and need the power of my protection. Return into the outer world again; thy happiness is there. She whom thou lov'st is worthy of thy love; therefore return.

Rodolphe

Amina, dear Amina!

Stalacta

In the secret cells of this cavern whose walls are solid gold lie counteless hoards of richest treasure, gleaned for ages by the tireless gnomes. In the crystal depths of these waters sparkle gems richer by far than human eyes have ever gazed upon. Of these thou shalt bear with thee the choicest. Behold my gift.
(MUSIC. A jewelled stalactiform etagere with strong light from calcium on it rises C in front of ground-piece bearing upon its different shelves rich vases filled with gold and various colored jewels which DRAGONFIN, gnomes & amphibia remove, performing a series of grotesque evolutions to marked Music. Etagere sinks-- after which MUSIC. STALACTA waves her hand; a golden boat studded with jewels glides on from RH to RC)

This bark, protected by a potent spell shall bear thee safely to yon neighboring shore. My faithful gnomes shall be the treasure bearers. But ere we part, take thou this jewelled circlet.

(Gives him a ring from her finger)

Should danger threaten as perchance it will, for baffled malice has a thousand stings--press but thy lips upon

the gem and thou wilt find me by thy side.
(MUSIC. RODOLPHE kneels and kisses her hand)
(Raising him)
Farewell.

(MUSIC. RODOLPHE steps into the boat. GREPPO, bearing a large mass of gold affectionately embraces Dragonfin, shakes hands with the gnomes and amphibia, kisses the fairies, bows low to Stalacta and gets into the boat. A dolphin, glittering in green & gold, rises from behind 2nd or 3rd set waters with principal danseuse bearing vase of treasure. Other dolphins float on R & L with diminutive sprites bearing treasure. Copious shower of gold, the other sprites on the water catching the flakes in silver shells. Roses by gnomes, amphibia & fairies. The whole scene brilliantly lighted.)

Slow Curtain

Act Three-Scene One

Scene: Six Months later. Illuminated gardens of Wolfenstein by moonlight with terrace and illuminated castle at back. This scene, standing as it does, the entire act, should be elaborate and beautiful. MUSIC AT RISE. Masqueraders in ball costume discovered promending. Grand Ballet divertissement, after which the masquers gradually disappear at different entrances. Enter from the terrace BARBARA, masked, flauntingly dressed and carrying a huge fan, followed by CARLINE.

Barbara

(Unmasking and coming forward) Phew, what a relief. Thank the saints his Countship's birthday comes but once a year. Another such festival would be the death of me. Ah! I'm stewed, fried, boiled and roasted. (Fans herself vigorously)

Carline

(Aside) And still as tough as Dame Gretchen's gander that was twenty-one last Easter. (Aloud) Why, Madame Barbara, I thought you enjoyed it.

Barbara

So I do, child, so I do, particularly the masquerading. One has so many pleasant things whispered in one's ear, but I can't say much for the waltzing. It's such a terrible thing to take the starch out of one's linen.

Carline

La, Madame Barbara, what's a little starch? Nothing. If I waltzed as gracefully as you-- (BARBARA makes a gesture of satisfaction) --and has such an inviting waist-- (BARBARA pinches her waist) --I'd keep at it until I was as limp as a boiled cabbage leaf.

Barbara

Then you--you think me graceful, eh?

Carline

(Aside) As a hippopotamus. (Aloud) As a sylph. You

were the envy of all the ladies and the admiration of all the other sex. Did you notice the courtly gentleman in the blue mask?

Barbara

He who danced so often with the lady Amina?

Carline

Yes, madame.

Barbara

And what of him?

Carline

Nothing, only he was frantic to get an introduction to you.

Barbara

No was he?

Carline

Yes indeed, Madame. And when his lordship the count engaged the lady Amina for a moment, he turned to me, and slipping a golden crown into my palm with one hand, pressing his heart with the other, asked with a sweet sighing silvery voice, trembling with emotion, "Who is that lovely being?"

Barbara

No! Did he?

Carline

Yes indeed, Madame. (*Aside*) The saints forgive me for lying. (*Aloud*) And Mynheer Von Puffengruntz, who overheard him, turned pea-green with jealousy.

Barbara

(*Fanning herself & pressing her hand upon her heart*) Be still, little trembler, be still. I declare, my silly heart is fluttering like a poor little starling in a gold cage.

Carline

(*Aside*) More like a big buzzard in a steel trap.

Barbara

Carline, take my fan, child. (*Gives it*) The exertion will make my complexion too ruddy.

Carline

So it will, Madame, and ruddy complexions are not genteel. Allow me. (*Fans her vigorously*)

Barbara

Not so violent, girl. You'll disarrange my hair. Gently, very gently, a sort of sportive zephyr.

Carline

I understand, Madame. You want a mild sort of tickling sensation-- something like one feels on one's neck when a gentleman whispers in one's ear.

Barbara

(*Languidly*) Ye-es. (*Sighs*) And he called me a-a-what did he call me?

Carline

A swan-like creature. *(Aside)* A goose.

Barbara

Oh. *(Sighs)* Who can he be, I wonder.

Carline

Nobody appears to know exactly, I heard his lordship the Count whisper to the Baron von Puffengruntz that he suspected the mysterious blue mask to be no other than the young prince Leopold. Once, while dancing, his domino came open at the breast and I saw a collar of jewels fit for an Emperor. However, as everybody is to unmask at the grand banquet, we will then know all about him.

Barbara

Eh, what, the Prince Leopold?

Carline

So his lordship the Count thinks.

Barbara

Why he's already affianced as everybody knows, to the young Princess Frederica.

Carline

Dear me, so he is. How unfortunate!

Barbara

Poor young man, how I pity him. What a terrible thing it is to be of royal blood and not have the liberty to choose for one's self. Heigho! I know it is a sad, cruel, wicked thing to blight a young and budding affection, but as the right honorable foster-mother that is to be of her right honorable ladyship that is to be, I mustn't encourage his highness in a hopeless passion. *(Displays herself)*

Von Puff

(Entering from terrace LH)(At back, admiringly) There she is! What a grace. What a dignity. What a walk.

(Coming forward LH) Ah-a-a!

Barbara

(Sighing) There's another victim to love's cruel dart. My fan, child.

Carline

(Giving it) Be careful, use it gently Madame; remember your complexion. *(Aside)* What a lovely couple--powder and puff.

Von Puff

(Aside) What a golden opportunity. *(Aloud)* Young woman, as I left the grand hall I heard your mistress asking for you.

Carline

(Aside) Of course, I understand, cunning old walrus. May I return, Madame?

Barbara

Yes, certainly child, that is if her ladyship requires you. *(Coquettes with her dress, etc.)*

Carline

(Aside) I thought so, willing old pelican. She's beginning to preen her feathers already. Never mind, I shall have another flirtation with the prince's equerry, the drollest and most agreeable fellow in the world, and such a rogue. *(Exit terrace LH)* *(VON PUFF LH gazes admiringly at Barbara and sighs)*

Barbara

(RH casting sidelong glances at him) Heigho! There he is. My charms tonight have completed the conquest. He's fast bound in the bonds of rosy cupid. I see a proposal in one eye and a marriage settlement in the other, But I mustn't draw him in too suddenly. These men are like trout, they must be played with a little.

Von Puff

Full moon of the festival, why have you so cruelly robbed the grand hall of your light, and left us to grope about in the dull glimmer of the sickly stars.

Barbara

Don't talk to me about moonship and sickly stars, you heartless, gay deceiver.

Von Puff

Deceiver!

Barbara

Deceiver. Didn't I see you gallivanting with the fraulein Von Skragneck, the new Burgonmaster's daughter?

Von Puff

Politeness, my dear Madame Barbara, merely politeness, on my honor. The fact is I-I had the misfortune to tread on the lady's favorite bunion, and what you mistook for tenderness was only an apology-an apology, believe me, my dear Madame Barbara, only an apology.

Barbara

Oh, you men, you deceiving men, you are always ready with an excuse.

Von Puff

On the honor of a Von Puffengruntz, I swear I speak the truth. The fraulein Von Skragneck indeed! Haven't I got eyes? Ah, cruel fair one, compared with her and all others, you are the stately sunflower in a meadow of dandelions. As-as-as the queen hollyhock in a garden of chickweed.

(MUSIC. Tremelo piano. DRAGONFIN ascends quickly through trap behind low set plant RH2. He steps forward & listens)

Barbara

It's coming at last, I know it's coming. *(Pressing her heart)* What a strange flutter. I hope I'm not going to faint. Dear me, what weak silly creatures we are. I must nerve myself for the trying occasion. How fortunate it is that I happen to have my smelling salts about me. *(Draws*

flask from his pocket, turns back to Von Puff and drinks)

Von Puff

She's moved. She's overcome with emotion, she turns to hide her blushes. She yields, and now, like a conqueror, I'll gather in the fruits of victory. *(He kneels with difficulty at the feet of Barbara, his face half-averted, and is about to take her hand when DRAGONFIN glides quietly back of and between them, extends his left hand to Von Puff and takes Barbara's in the other. Both sigh) (Squeezing the hand of DRAGONFIN who shakes with suppressed laughter) Poor, frightened thing, how she trembles.*

Barbara

Dear me, how strangely the tender passion affects him. He's shaking like an aspen and his hand is as cold as ice.

Von Puff

Bewitching siren, listen to the voice of love.

Barbara

Oh, Mynheer Von Puffengruntz, how can you--

Von Puff

Don't call me Von Puffengruntz, call me Maximillian, call me your Maximillian. *(Squeezes Dragonfin's hand; DRAGONFIN squeezes Barbara's)*

Barbara

Oh, don't, you naughty man, you--you hurt my hand.

Von Puff

No, did I? Queen of love and beauty, then let me heal the bruise. *(Kisses the hand of Dragonfin rapturously who, at the same time, kisses Barbara's)* And now that I've healed it let me call it mine. *(Looks for the first time attentively at the hand, continues inspection up the arm until he encounters the grinning face of Dragonfin, when in speechless terror he drops the hand, makes various floundering attempts to regain his feet and exits hurriedly LH1)*

Barbara

(Aside) Shall I keep him a little longer with Cupid's dart sticking in his bosom, or shall I end his misery. *(Aloud)* Ahem, you'll-you'll never be a haughty boy again? *(DRAGONFIN squeezes her hand)* And you'll promise never to tread on the froulein von Skragneck's bunion? *(DRAGONFIN SQUEEZES her hand) (Aside)* Poor fellow, joy has made him speechless; he can only answer with a squeeze of the hand. *(Aloud)* Well then, Maximillian, I'm yours. *(Falls into Dragonfin's arms, looks up into his face. MUSIC. She utters a piercing scream and rushes off RH1) (DRAGONFIN imitates & indulges in extravagant antics until Music changes, when he starts, inclines his ear to the ground & listens--rises, moves cautiously to RH1 starts, pointings off RH, shakes his clenched hand threateningly & quickly disappears through trap RH)*

Hertzog

(Entering RH1 hurriedly & disturbed) Foiled, tricked, crossed in the hour of my victory. A life desperately played for and fairly won snatched from the jaws of death. He lives, my chosen victim lives, and flushed with triumph and vast hoards of gold, stalks boldly forth to mock mock. Oh curse the interposing power the stepped between us. A withering palsy light upon her arm and blight and pestilence infect the air she breathes! Oh impotent, on, driveling fool. To work, to work. A soul once tampered with must be pursued, not cast aside to tempt another. So runs the bond to which I've sealed. 'Tis well, 'tis well. I'll track him as the sleuth hound tracks the stag. He must be, shall be mine.

(MUSIC. Exit hurriedly RH1. MUSIC. Re-enter masquers RH back; they cross & disappear)

(Enter LH from terrace CARLINE, laughing immoderately, followed by GREPPO, who is dressed in a smart but outre livery)

Carline

No, no, Master Equerry, that won't do. You are very clever, very droll and you tell very funny stories, but that last joke is a trifle too much.

Greppo

But my dear Susetta--

Carline

But my dear Susetta--

Carline

(Laughing) There, there. I knew you were not in earnest. My name's not Susetta.

Greppo

Of course it isn't. It's- it's- what is it?

Carline

No it isn't "What-is-it"- -it's Carline.

Greppo

Of course it is, but you see I always mean Carline when I say Suesetta. Therefore Susetta--that is my dear Carline, when I tell you I love you--

Carline

(laughing) I don't believe a word you say. Why you arrived here scarcely three hours ago, and you've already been making love to half the girls in the castle.

Greppo

It's a mistake, my dear Susetta--I mean Carline, altogether a mistake. I had my eye on you from the first, and any little outside pleasantries you may have happened to notice was only to get my hand in.

Carline

And this is only to keep it in, I suppose. No, no. I'm not as simple as I look, and I tell you, clever master Equerry, it won't do.

Greppo

But my dear Carline, allow me to tell you that I'm not an equerry.

Carline

NO?

Greppo

(Drawing himself up) I'm consulting secretary, confidential adviser, portable treasury, and principal disbursing officer to his highness the Prince. *(Aside)* Everybody takes matter for a Prince and it's no part of my business to undeceive them. Besides if he isn't a Prince he deserves to be and I ought to be his Prime Minister.

Carline

Dear me! Consulting Secretary?

Greppo

Consulting Secretary!

Carline

Confidential Adviser?

Greppo

Confidential Adviser!

Carline

Portable Treasury!

Greppo

Portable Treasury. Behold! *(Showing two glittering purses)* Here are two purses, my master's and my own. From this-- *(Showing one nearly empty)* by the Prince's order came the gold I scattered among the servants in the courtyard. With this *(Showing full one)* I intend to endow the maiden of my choice.

Carline

And you really mean--

Greppo

That you are she.

Carline

No.

Greppo

Yes.

Carline

I'm afraid to trust you.

Greppo

Allow me to make a deposit. *(Gives purse)*

Carline

(Opening & admiring purse) Oh, dear, you've taken my breath away.

Greppo

No, have I? Permit me to return it to you. *(Kisses her)*
Now listen, my dear little Carline, I have a secret and as there should be no secrets between man and wife--that is, man and wife that are to be, I'm going to share it with

you.

Carline

A secret, dear Greppo?

Greppo

Dear Greppo! Oh, say that again.

Carline

(With increased tenderness) Well then, dear Greppo.

Greppo

Oh, thank you. You needn't repeat it again at present. That's as much as I can stand 'till I get used to it.

Carline

Well, then, the secret.

Greppo

Yes. In the first place, do you love your mistress, Carline?

Carline

Love her? I'd die for her.

Greppo

No, no, no, no. I don't want you to go quite that far. I'm not ambitious to be a widower before I've had my honeymoon.

Carline

Well, then, I love her dearly.

Greppo

That's better. And she loves my mas-- that is, young Rodolphe the painter?

Carline

Better than her own life, poor lady.

Greppo

And would marry him but for this ruffianly Count Wolfenstein?

Carline

Yes--but the secret.

Greppo

(With caution) Well, then, you must know-- *(MUSIC)* Hark, somebody's coming. *(Enter from terrace LH RODOLPHE & AMINA. He is brilliantly dressed, wearing a collar and other ornaments of glittering jewels-blue mask & domino. AMINA also wears mask & domino.)*

Amina

Some one is here.

Rodolphe

Fear not; they are our own people. *(Comes forward with Amina)* Leave us, good Greppo, and take your companion with you.

Greppo

Yes, good master. Come along, Carline.

Carline

Surely I've heard that voice before?

Greppo

(Taking her arm) Hush. That's the secret I was going to share with you, and if you'll take a stroll with me in the ramble that leads to the lover's paradise I'll tell you all about it.

Carline

Yes, dear Greppo.

Greppo

Oh, don't!

(MUSIC. They go off LH1)(RODOLPHE & AMINA unmask)

Amina

Oh, dear Rodolphe, is this a dream?

Rodolphe

What's past seems so, but day has dawned on our long clouded night and thgis the awakeing.

Amina

Your story is indeed most wondrous. But on, dear Rodolphe, I tremble for your life If you should be discovered the vengeance of the ruthless Wolfenstein, backed by his horde of fierce retainers would be terrible.

Rodolphe

Fear not, I will defend my right with my life. The same kind power that interposed between me and destruction protect us still. You shall be saved. All is ready for our flight. On the border of the forest, beyond the boundary of the gardens, swift horses are concealed. After midnight the moon veiling her face behind the bracken, will cast a deep shadow over the valley. When it is quiet I will be beneath your window. The rest is easy. Carline and my faithful Greppo will accompany us.

Amina

(Throwing her arms around him) Oh, my Rodolphe, my more than life, coming this suddenly from the darkness of my despair into the sunlight of this new-born hope has dazzled me. My eyelids close. I cannot look this great joy in the face. I fear to call it mine.

Rodolphe

Fear?

Amina

Fear with that fear that springs from woman's love.

Rodolphe

(Kissing her) Be calm, sweet love, be brave, and all will yet be well. *(MUSIC. piano. LAUGHTER heard outside at back)* Hark, the masquers come this way. Let's mingle with the throng. *(They mask & cross to LH1) (MUSIC louder. Masquers enter LHR laughing & chatting - remaining RH at back. While so engaged and after all are on, MUSIC changes to hurry.)* HERTZOG with drawn sword enters hurriedly at terrace LH, followed by guards,

WOLFENSTEIN with drawn sword, WULFGAR, BRUNO & VON PUFF with BARBARA, the two latter remaining on terrace. HERTZOG down RH1 glaring on Rodolphe)

Wolfenstein

(C at foot of terrace steps) Let no one stir; guard every avenue that leads from hence. (To guests) Bear with me, friends, there's treason in our midst.

All

Treason?

Wolfenstein

'Tis said a serf, a wretch, usurping the semblance of a noble prince and bent on outrage has dared to mingle with this goodly throng. If that be false to all I'll make amends for this rude breaking in upon the general joy. If it be true 'tis fit we know it. Therefore I do command that all shall here unmask.

Amina

Lost, lost.

All

Aye, let all unmask.

(All unmask. RODOLPHE in doing so, throws off his domino, draws his sword, and places himself before Amina. CHORD)

Wolfenstein

'Tis true; yield, audacious miscreant!

Rodolphe

Never, while life remains!

Wolfenstein

Upon him, guards, hew him to pieces!

(MUSIC. Ladies scream. AMINA faints and falls into the arms of GREPPO who enters LH1. WOLFENSTEIN & GUARDS are rushing upon Rodolphe.)

Greppo

The ring, master, the ring.

(Rodolphe kisses the ring. Foot, border and wing lights flashed quickly up. STALACTA springs from LH1 in glittering mail, with helmet, sword & shield, followed by Dragonfin, armed with a trident. Fairies & nymphs as Amazons with breast plates, helmets, shields and javelins. LH1. Gnomes & amphibia with knotted clubs and tridents form LH 2 & 3 and on terrace R & L. WOLFENSTEIN, Guards and gentlemen shrink back appalled. HERTZOG stands the embodiment of baffled rage. VON PUFF on terrace faints and falls into the arms of BARBARA, who fans him)

Quick curtain

Note--from the cue "Hew him to pieces.", the whole action is hurried and simultaneous. Foot and stage lights flashed quickly up when Rodolphe kisses the ring.

When curtain drops 1st time, hold the picture to answer encore.

Act Four - Scene One

Scene: Six months later. An apartment in the castle of Wolfenstein. MUSIC. Enter BARBARA RH.

Barbara

Alas that things ever fall so ill. 'Tis now siz months since that never-to-be-forgotten night, and still no news of the lost mistress of Wolfenstein. Nor yet of his lordship who has sworn an oath never to return to the castle until he has brought her back and revenged himself on the horrible monster who has stolen her. And that graceless baggage Carline, too, to go off at the same time, leavimng all the woes of the household to fall on my poor shoulders. And then to make matters worse, spells and witchcraft turn all things upside down. The cows milk vinegar, the wells are dry, the hens lay addled eggs--

Von Puff

(Entering RH with very red nose & tipay) And all the wine's turned sour.

Barbara

(Looking ruefully at him) There's another comfort. To think that I, the right honorable foster-mother that was to have been to her right honorable ladyship that was to have been, for whom many a young and tender heart has sighed in vain, should ever have thrown herself away upon a wine-butt.

Von Puff

Hic! A wine-butt, Madam Von Puffengruntz?

Barbara

Aye, a wine-butt, a beer barrel, a brute that hasn't drawn a sober breath since the day after we were married, now more than three months ago.

Von Puff

Hic! A beer-barrel?

Barbara

(Savagely) I said a beer-barrel.

Von Puff

Hic! Certainly, of course, just whichever you please, my dear, wine-butt or beer-barrel, it's all the same to me. You know you will cackle.

Barbara

Cackle!

Von Puff

Hic! Cackle, my dear. You know I never have a moment's peace. You're not even quiet when you're asleep. You snore, Madam Von Puffengrunz, you snore, loud enough to split the drum of my ear and rip up the seam up my nightcap.

Barbara

Snore, you wretch, I snore?

Von Puff

Hic! Yes, my dear, and have the nightmare. Hic! I don't like a wife that snores and I hate a wife that has the nightmare. In future I'm going to have separate apartments. Hereafter I intend to sleep alone.

Barbara

Alone.

Von Puff

Hic! I said alone.

Barbara

Am I awake? Who and what do you take me for?

Von Puff

Hic! I took you for a gentle spice—a sort of seasoning to the dull life I led here in the castle, but damn it, Madam, you've turned out to be all the condiments in one, a bottom layer of mustard, a top dressing of cayenne pepper and a subterranean lake of vinegar in the middle.

Barbara

(Enraged, approaching; he retreats around LH) Cackle! Snore! Nightmare, separate apartments! Cayenne pepper? You wretch! You sot, you villain. I'll Pepper you! *(Pulls his wig off)* There, take that and that and that. *(Beats him over the head with it 'till both off LH)*

Curtain

Act Four - Scene Two

Scene: The retreat of Rodolphe in the forest of Bohemia.
MUSIC. Distant sound of hunter's horn.& echo.
RODOLPHE & AMINA enter LHUE, followed by GREPPO. The former two are in hunting costume.

Rodolphe

(Throwing his spear and horn to Greppo) I weary with the chase. Call together our people and bid them lead our horses to where the forest path crosses the brook—there we will join them.

Greppo

'Tis wisely resolved, good master. The sun declines, night comes on apace and we are yet some three good miles from home. Besides I'm hollow as a drum. Moreover, in early autumn venison keeps not overlong and the fat haunch of yonder noble buck cries out for speedy roasting. Pray do not tarry long.

(Exit LH2)

Rodolphe

Well, dear love, tomorrow ends the year of our probation. Tomorrow, at the holy altar's foot, I call you mine.

Amina

Tomorrow! How brief the time and yet how long 'till then.
Oh, Rodolphe, will it come to us? There seems to be a
lurking danger in the air--a cloud between us and the
coming light.

Rodolphe

Fear not. Here in the deep seculsion of our forest home
we are safe from all pursuit. (*Distant horn and echo at
back LH*) Hark, 'tis Greppo calling in the huntsmen. Let's
on to meet him.

(*MUSIC. They are crossing to RH when they are
suddenly confronted by HERTZOG, WOLFENSTEIN &
WULFGAR, who enter quickly RH2*) (CHORD)

Wolfenstein

Ha, ha, ha! At last we meet!

Rodolphe

(*Starting back and drawing his sword*) Fly, Amina, seek
safety with our people. My arm shall bar pursuit.

Amina

No, Rodolphe, we will die together.

Wolfenstein

Alive, take him alive! Yield!

Rodolphe

(*Standing on his defense*) He who takes my sword must
win it.

Hertzog

Put up thy blade; she whom thou would'st invoke is
powerless to aid.

Rodolphe

False wretch, but that another life hangs on the slender
thread of mine--though coward numbers swarmed on
every side--I'd try this issue with my single sword. But
know thou still art juggled with. The poower I once
invoked is potent still. (*MUSIC. He kisses the ring.
STALACTA springs from thicket LH flat in glittering full
armor, DRAGONFIN on from LH2*) Behold, we meet on
equal ground!

Wolfenstein

Though environed by a thousand fiends my hate would
find a way to reach you.

(*MUSIC. Grand triple sword combat: RODOLPHE &
WOLFENSTEIN: DRAGONFIN & WULFGAR:
STALACTA & HERTZOG. WOLFENSTEIN &
WULFGAR are slain. HERTZOG wounded and
dismayed flees RH2. AMINA, who during the combat
has knelt in prayer, throws herself into the arms of
Rodolphe.*)

*Both kneel at the feet of Stalacta. DRAGONFIN indulges
in grotesque exultation over the bodies of Wolfenstein &
Wulfgar)*

Curtain

Scene 3rd

The Forest.

Enter RODOLPHE RH supporting Amina.

Rodolphe

Look up, Amina, all danger's past. Courage, ere long, we'll meet our people.

Amina

And you are safe?

Rodolphe

Safe! Come, poor trembling dove. Courage, courage.

(Exeunt)

(MUSIC) (Enter Hertzog, infuriate, RH)

Hertzog

Let one vast curse fill all the air! Am I then juggled with! Malignant powers, obey your master's call. Viewless spirits of evil, work now your direst spells! As toppling mountains crush the mighty pines, crush thou the power that thwarts and mocks me. Zamiel, mighty master, I invoke thy aid.

(MUSIC. THUNDER. Two fiends enter quickly R & L, bearing lighted flambeaux)

Fiends

Your will?

Hertzog

Summon your infernal legions--pursue yon flying pair. Fire the forest, girdle them with a belt of flame; close every avenue of escape. Away, away!

(MUSIC. THUNDER. Fiends rush off LH, followed by HERTZOG)

Curtain

Act Four - Scene Four

Scene: Burning forest. A grand & comprehensive conflagration scene. Lights down. MUSIC at rise. Loud crackling noise and red fire on both sides. RODOLPHE & AMINA enter LH2 as they attempt to escape they are driven back from R & L by fiends with flaming torches.

Amina

(In agony) I burn! I suffocate!

Rodolphe

Courage, courage. The ring, the ring!

(He kisses the ring; Gong sounds; a rock opens in LH flat disclosing a grotto of silver stalactites. They quickly enter. HERTZOG & the fiends spring forward, when STALACTA steps forward from the opening, holding aloft a glittering cross. HERTZOG & the Fiends shrink back)

Tableau

Curtain

Scene Five

Scene: The forest at night. Lights down. Sound of hunter's horn and very faint echo. GREPPO enters RH)

Greppo

What's the use? Now what is the use? The oftener I call, the fainter comes the answer. Here it is quite dark, Master waiting for the horses and I wandering about like a jack o' lantern, following the horn of some goblin huntsman. There's some devil's work going on. *(Starting)* I beg his infernal Majesty's pardon; I hope I haven't said anything to offend, but strange sights and sounds are in the air. Birds that ought to have gone to roost an hour ago fly screaming from tree to tree. The dismal screech-owl, from his hole in the oak answers to the croak of the dreary monk-raven and just now I saw a big fat buck scampering through the forest with his tail on fire. Oh, dear, oh daer, what fearful omens. And I'm to be married tomorrow. If anything should happen to me--if my poor dear little Carline should happen to be left a widow before she's made a wife--if I should never taste--that is, if I should never know--Oh, Lord, it won't bear thinking of. I'll try once more. *(Winds the horn. Echo without scarcely audible)* Worse and worse. Oh Lord, Oh Lord. I want to go home. *(Exit LH)*

Curtain

Act Four - Scene Six

Scene: Pandemonium. ZAMIEL in council, seated on an illuminated throne of skulls & flame at back C. To R & L of C, lesser thrones, that on the right occupied by Redglare, with pen and open book, that on the left by a secretary writing. At the foot of the central throne two dwarf-demons, pages with wands in attendance. MUSIC AT RISE. Fiends discovered in a chorus of demoniacal yells and fiendish laughter, dancing around a flashing chasm. After the action is continued a brief time, ZAMIEL waves his sceptre. Demons separate and form R & L.

Zamiel

'Tis well. Let silence reign awhile. How stands the record of the dying year? Has every seed brought sinful fruit? Is all the harvest gathered in--is every bond fulfilled?

Redglare

All!--All save one.

Zamiel

Who plays the laggard?

Redglare

One who sought to rival thy great power; Hertzog, the Black Crook.

All the Fiends

Ho, ho, go.

(Echoed without and above, followed by a single wild blast of infernal music)

Zamiel

If, when the brazen tongue of clamorous time, now trembling on the midnight verge, proclaims the appointed hour, the wail of the fresh soul by him betrayed, breaks on the air of hell, let him be summoned.

(MUSIC. The demons utter a wild wail of delight and resume the dance; the gong strikes twelve. At the first stroke, the demons cease dancing and hold separate pictures of exultation. At the termination of each stroke loud and continued thunder; demons utter a wild cry. Zamiel rises and waves his sceptre. If possible the scene breaks away and discloses vistas of Pandemonium teeming with infernal life & wreaths of flame, from which appear illuminated heads of demons, skeletons, & nondescript monsters. Gong sounds. HERTZOG is dragged on from RH2 by fiends and is dashed into the flaming chasm. Demons howl and dance around until

Curtain

Act Four - Scene Seven

Scene: Subterranean gallery of emerald & crystal stalactites. MUSIC AT RISE. Characteristic march. Grand procession of amphibia & gnomes bearing in their arms and upon their heads salvers and shells and quaint vases filled with gold and jewels. They are followed by Amazons in armor, led by Stalacta. They march from L to R, doubling the march and varying the evolutions 'till the transformation is ready when they exit RH and the scene breaks slowly away to

Scene Eight

MUSIC AT OPENING. An elaborate mechanical and scenical construction of the realms of Stalacta, occupying the entire stage. This scene must be of gradually developing and culminating beauty, introducing during its various scenes, Stalacta, the entire host of fairies, sprites, water nymphs, amphibia, gnomes, etc., bearing treasure. Rodolphe & Amina, Greppo & Carline. Calcium lights, brilliant fires and
Slow Curtain