

# Rescuing Dreamwood

*by Claudia Haas*

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**STORY OF THE PLAY**

Prince Ernie needs to be married quickly! Dreamwood Castle is broke and a rich princess with impeccable lineage must be found immediately. Unfortunately, the evil fairy Liesl has plans to take over the castle. As Queen Marta holds a fundraiser -- er -- ball to auction off Prince Ernie, it is found that Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, Snow White, Rapunzel and Beauty are not proper princesses at all. The decidedly unsuitable Princess Hank shows up with a plan to make things right. She has a pal who can spin straw into gold. Unfortunately, no one will listen, especially Queen Marta who is busy fighting rumors that she married a man who was once a frog. A compilation of numerous fairy tales, this wild romp to save Dreamwood will have audiences laughing and rooting for hapless Ernie and the "unprincessy" Hank.

Running Time: 85-90 minutes

**ORIGINAL PRODUCTION**

The play premiered at the Tea Tree Players in St. Agnes, Australia, in July 2007 under the title *The Princess, the Bad Fairy and the Pea*.

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(5 m, 11 w, 3 flexible, extras possible)*

KING KROAKER: Was once a frog; an amiable man ruled by his wife.

QUEEN MARTA: Domestic queen; rules the roost; kissed a frog to be queen.

PRINCE ERNIE: A bit nerdy being the son of a former frog but charming in a way.

PRINCE CHARMING: Ernie's cousin; charming.

PRINCESS CINDERELLA: A bit pushy.

PRINCESS SNOW WHITE: Impossibly insipid and cheery.

PRINCESS SLEEPING BEAUTY: Not the nicest princess.

PRINCESS RAPUNZEL: As sane as someone who lives in a high tower can be.

PRINCESS BEAUTY: Loyal to her Beast.

PRINCESS HENREITTA (*called HANK*): A very unprincess-like princess who had a troubling experience with gold.

GOLDILOCKS: Castle servant and thief!

HANSEL: Castle pastry cook.

GRETEL: Castle chef.

RED RIDING HOOD: Servant who is intelligent, practical.

JACK: Servant peasant boy from Jack and the Beanstalk and Prince Ernie's friend.

PIPSQUEAK: A mouse-like attendant who makes announcements.

LIESL: A bad, very bad fairy.

SERF: Liesl's assistant; downtrodden.

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: Hank's friend and a magical person.

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**SETTING**

Castle ballroom and the castle grounds in the town of Dreamwood. The ballroom contains two thrones, perhaps some potted plants and any other royal-looking décor desired.

**SYNOPSIS OF SCENES**

**Act I**

**Scene 1:** Once upon a time, a spring day in the castle.

**Scene 2:** Two days later.

**Scene 3:** Moments later.

**Scene 4:** The next day.

**Act II**

**Scene 1:** The night of the ball.

**Scene 2:** The next morning.

**Scene 3:** A short time later.

**Scene 4:** That evening.

**Scene 5:** The next day, morning till the midnight deadline.

**Scene 6:** The next day.

**SOUND EFFECTS**

Trumpet calls, fanfares, waltz and underscoring music, thunder and rain, pounding on the door, clock chimes, breaking glass.

**PROPS:** Please see end of script for a complete list.

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**ACT I**  
**Scene 1**

*(AT RISE: PIPSQUEAK enters and addresses the audience.)*

PIPSQUEAK: HEAR YE! HEAR YE! I ask all who hear me to gather around for tales of enchantment. Oh! You're gathered. Well done. You will now hear a story of magical proportions, of a bad fairy, a king who was a frog and of a castle! Yes, indeed. A castle in danger. Please observe: it is a typical morning in Dreamwood. The King and Queen are on their thrones.

*(In the half LIGHT, we see KING KROAKER and QUEEN MARTA sitting on their thrones quietly. A fancy, diary-type book is by the side of the Queen's throne.)*

PIPSQUEAK: *(Cont.)* Prince Ernie and his pal Jack are tasting a gingerbread house that pastry cook Hansel has created. Chef Gretel is offering a healthy bowl of fruit.

*(PRINCE ERNIE, JACK, HANSEL and GRETEL get into place and freeze.)*

PIPSQUEAK: *(Cont.)* Goldilocks is showing King Kroaker some material for a new jacket while Red Riding Hood is working on the castle budget with Queen Marta. Off to the side, we spy Liesl the "bad fairy" with her servant, Serf.

*(GOLDILOCKS approaches KING KROAKER and freezes. RED RIDING HOOD does the same.)*

PIPSQUEAK: *(Cont.)* I said, Liesl is off to the side! OFF TO THE SIDE! WITH HER SERVANT, SERF!

*(SERF rushes on like a maniac.)*

SERF: Excuse me!

PIPSQUEAK: Will you please tell Liesl to enter?

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SERF: She won't come on. She told me to tell you she will not stay off to the side like some common household fairy.

You must put her center stage or leave her out of it.

PIPSQUEAK: She will go where I say. I am setting the scene.

*(LIESL stomps on. She is one very angry fairy. She quickly whispers something to SERF. She then stomps off flailing her arms and muttering to herself that she doesn't have to take this abuse.)*

SERF: I don't know how to tell you this, but if you do not put her center stage, she will put a nasty spell on you.

PIPSQUEAK: I will not be blackmailed by a nasty fairy!

LIESL: *(Poking her head out.)* I'll have my revenge on the lot of you! I'll take over the castle! Come along, Serf.

SERF: *(Looking a wee bit embarrassed.)* Excuse me ... I had better go –

LIESL: SERF!

*(SERF runs off. The FIVE PRINCESSES all poke their heads in and begin to enter.)*

CINDERELLA: Excuse me! Where do we go?

PIPSQUEAK: You are not on yet.

RAPUNZEL: How is that possible? The story is about the princesses. Everybody knows that.

PIPSQUEAK: You come on later.

SLEEPING BEAUTY: What'd he say?

BEAUTY: Something about – later.

CINDERELLA: I am expected home to sweep the cinders!

RAPUNZEL: And I must return to my tower!

SNOW WHITE: *(Very, very sweetly.)* That's all right. We can wait.

BEAUTY: No! I must attend to the Beast!

PIPSQUEAK: Princesses! Kindly make your exit. You must wait for your cue!

SLEEPING BEAUTY: Do you notice we wait around a lot? Waiting to be rescued? Waiting for our prince?

SNOW WHITE: It is our lot in life.

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*(THEY exit muttering to themselves about what a hard life they have.)*

PIPSQUEAK: And now, kind ladies and gentlemen, our story begins!

*(PIPSQUEAK exits as LIGHTS rise to full. ALL spring into action at Castle Dreamwood. MUSIC could underscore the scene.)*

QUEEN MARTA: I will give a ball!

RED RIDING HOOD: But Your Majesty, unless you start to curtail your expenses, the castle is in danger of becoming bankrupt!

QUEEN MARTA: I don't understand why. We have a kitchen filled with silver –

RED RIDING HOOD: Gone –

QUEEN MARTA: Gone?

*(GOLDILOCKS tries to attend to the KING but is also listening intently to the conversation.)*

RED RIDING HOOD: Stolen.

QUEEN MARTA: Well, what about the gold-plated dishes and glassware?

RED RIDING HOOD: Missing.

QUEEN MARTA: And the jewels?

RED RIDING HOOD: Misplaced.

QUEEN MARTA: And our library books with the pages edged in gold and their covers jewel-studded?

RED RIDING HOOD: Oh! I hadn't thought to look at those.

QUEEN MARTA: And our gold nuggets?

RED RIDING HOOD: Under lock and key. They are the only thing keeping the castle afloat, Your Highness. And the nuggets are dwindling.

QUEEN MARTA: What is happening around here?

RED RIDING HOOD: Thieves.

QUEEN MARTA: Thieves?

RED RIDING HOOD: We are close to being broke.

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