

Sprung

by

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based on

The Adventures of Alice in Wonderland

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Cast of Characters

<u>HERALD:</u>	Takes their role seriously. Can be the same person in Clicktoc and Spinsec, or different.
<u>GRIMSLEY:</u>	Self important, greedy person. Not nice to villagers.
<u>LORD ROLEX:</u>	Leader of Clicktoc. Kind and caring, believes in giving people a chance.
<u>VILLAGER 1:</u>	Villager of Clicktoc. Can be part of the crowd in Spinsec and the jury.
<u>VILLAGER 2:</u>	Villager of Clicktoc. Can be part of the crowd in Spinsec and the jury.
<u>COURTIER 1:</u>	Rich person of Clicktoc. Can be part of the crowd in Spinsec and the jury.
<u>COURTIER 2:</u>	Rich person of Clicktoc. Can be part of the crowd in Spinsec and the jury.
<u>SIMON:</u>	A farmer of Clicktoc.
<u>MESSENGER:</u>	Works for Lord Rolex.
<u>VILLAGER 3:</u>	Villager of Clicktoc. Can be part of the crowd in Spinsec and the jury.
<u>VILLAGER 4:</u>	Villager of Clicktoc. Can be part of the crowd in Spinsec and the jury.
<u>COURTIER 3:</u>	Rich person of Clicktoc. Can be part of the crowd in Spinsec and the jury.
<u>COURTIER 4:</u>	Rich person of Clicktoc. Can be part of the crowd in Spinsec and the jury.
<u>ALBA:</u>	A brave person from Clicktoc. willing to help the kingdom reset time.

ALEX: Friend to Alba, not very brave a bit clumsy and easy confused.

FAIRY 1: Cheeky and mischievous resident from Spinsec.

FAIRY 2: Cheeky and mischievous resident from Spinsec.

DERRIK: Wise old dwarf from Soinsec. Helps others fix their mechanical bits and bobs.

ED REDHEART: Evil, mean spirited sibling to Madame Redheart.

SOLDIER 1:

SOLDIER 2:

CHIME WHITE: Nobody knows how old Chime is, except they are wise. They know all there is to know about time.

REDHEART: Mean and angry on the outside but has the potential to be nice. All she wants is the best for Spinsec.

HATTER: Seller of hats, shrewd businessman.

SWEET: Seller of cakes and pies, sometimes gets carried away and is a little silly.

BUYER 1:

BUYER 2:

P MINIT: Maker and seller of time pieces. Sometimes seems to be out of time with everyone else.

TICK: Silly, nonsensical residents of Spinsec.

TOCK: Silly, nonsensical residents of Spinsec.

JUDGE:

Holds a place of power but
not everyone will listen to
them.

ACT ISCENE 1 DISCOVERY

Lights fade up. A throne sits centre stage, the Herald stands downstage right, holding a tall staff.

Courtiers and villagers stand around talking quietly, while others enter stage left.

The Herald bangs their staff three times. Everyone stops talking and looks for Lord Rolex stage right.

A valet leads him in, carrying a cushion which he places on a stool for Lord Rolex to sit on.

The Herald bangs their staff three more times. Everyone stops and listens.

HERALD

Clictoc council is now open!

Everyone starts to talk again, Lord Rolex waits patiently. Minister Grimsley enter stage right and barges his way up to Lord Rolex.

GRIMSLEY

Lord Rolex I must speak with you urgently.

LORD ROLEX

Good afternoon Grimsley. Wonderful to see you.

GRIMSLEY

Of course it is. We must speak in private?

LORD ROLEX

Grimsley, speak here in front of these people. I have nothing to hide and wish to hide nothing.

GRIMSLEY

It's a delicate matter.

LORD ROLEX

Why Grimsley? What have you done wrong?

GRIMSLEY

(panicked)
Nothing my Lord!

LORD ROLEX
Well then?

Grimsley is unsure if he should continue. He looks around him, he looks between the others present and Lord Rolex.

GRIMSLEY
(sighs loudly)
The treasury is almost empty!

EVERYONE
Gasp!

VILLAGER 1
What!

VILLAGER 2
How can this be?

COURTIER 1
Who is to blame for this?

COURTIER 2
Was it stolen?

The villagers and courtiers have all started to talk at once. Lord Rolex raises his hand and the Herald bangs his staff three times. Everyone stops talking.

GRIMSLEY
Something needs to be done immediately!

LORD ROLEX
Is it lower than usual?

GRIMSLEY
No, but it is not...

LORD ROLEX
So its happened before?

GRIMSLEY
Yes, but it is not...

LORD ROLEX
And things usually improve?

GRIMSLEY
Yes, but it is not...

LORD ROLEX

Good! I do not see any need to worry.

GRIMSLEY

My Lord! If you keep spending money on...

(hesitates)

..well...on these people!

Grimsley waves his arm over the gathered crowd.

EVERYONE

Gasp!

LORD ROLEX

My good Grimsley, they are why we are here. To...

GRIMSLEY

You need to raise the taxes!

EVERYONE

Gasp! No!

LORD ROLEX

Tell me Grimsley, what are taxes for?

GRIMSLEY

To get things done and nothing will get done if we don't have enough money.

LORD ROLEX

To get things done for who?

GRIMSLEY

For you Lord Rolex.

LORD ROLEX

No Grimsley.

GRIMSLEY

Well...mainly...ummm...

LORD ROLEX

Come on Grimsley.

GRIMSLEY

Taxes are to provide for the people.

LORD ROLEX

Yes, for the people, not to make me rich...as you seem to think.

(pauses in thought)

Though you do have a point. Maybe I do need to make some changes.

Grimsley smiles and starts to rub his hands together. The villagers and courtiers look on with interest.

LORD ROLEX

I going to cut your wages in half Grimsley.

Grimsley is horrified and starts to stammer but does not actually say anything.

LORD ROLEX

Great idea isn't it Grimsley?

Grimsley does not respond and is helped to the side by one of the courtiers. Lord Rolex watches this and then returns to his seat.

LORD ROLEX

Now, what other business is there today?

The villagers all look at each other. Towards to back of the crowd one villager is urging another to step forward. He is finally pushed out in front.

LORD ROLEX

Welcome my good man! What brings you here today?

The villager, Simon Field, looks at his friend, then back at Lord Rolex.

LORD ROLEX

Tell me your name my friend?

SIMON

Simon my...my lord.

LORD ROLEX

Well Simon, where have you traveled from?

SIMON

From west of the city my lord. A...a co-op of farmers called Harvest High.

LORD ROLEX

Yes, yes. I have heard of it. If I am not mistaken my cook uses flour made from your wheat. He says it is the best.

SIMON

Thank you my lord. That is great praise in deed.

LORD ROLEX

Only giving praise which is well deserved. It must be something of extreme importance to take you away from your business my friend.

Simon again looks at his friends you urge him to speak up.

SIMON

Well my lord...if it pleases my lord...I...I have an...uummm...an idea which...um...my co-op would like help with.

LORD ROLEX

And what is this idea?

Simon's friend taps Simon on the shoulder with a roll of plans.

LORD ROLEX

What is that?

SIMON

Drawings my lord.

LORD ROLEX

Bring them here.

Simon hands the plans to Lord Rolex, who unrolls them. He holds them up hiding behind them muttering as he looks at them. Simon and friends watch fidgeting with nerves. Finally Lord Rolex lowers the plans.

LORD ROLEX

What is it?

SIMON

A machine to water our crops.

Lord Rolex raises the plans again, pauses, then lowers them.

LORD ROLEX

Are you sure?

Lord Rolex raises the plans again and talks from behind it. Simon is unsure and still very

nervous.

SIMON

Yes my Lord.

LORD ROLEX

A machine to water the crops?

SIMON

Yes my lord. We feel, I mean those of us in the Harvest High Co-op have been working on ways we can work more efficiently.

LORD ROLEX

Efficiently eh.

SIMON

Yes my lord. We spend a lot of time ferrying water to our crops. Time that could be spent, repairing equipment or clearing land to expand our farms.

LORD ROLEX

Does it work?

SIMON

Yes my lord. One has been built and used with great success.

Lord Rolex suddenly lowers the plans

LORD ROLEX

Brilliant! Grimsley!

Grimsley is very slow to respond.

LORD ROLEX

Grimsley give this man and his co-op friends the money they need to build more of these amazing water machines.

Grimsley is now fully alert and very upset.

GRIMSLEY

But...but...my lord. Treasury! Money! Empty!

LORD ROLEX

Oh stop babbling Grimsley. If you're not careful I'll think you want to pay for the machines yourself.

(pauses)

Actually I think that's a brilliant idea Grimsley!

EVERYONE

Hooray for Grimsley!

LORD ROLEX

See everyone thinks you're a hero.

GRIMSLEY

(panicked)

No! No! I'll...I'll take them to the treasury now.

LORD ROLEX

Thought you'd see it my way.

Lord Rolex shakes hands with the Simon and his friend and they are led off by Grimsley who is shaking his head. Lord Rolex returns to his seat.

LORD ROLEX

Now. Is there anything else today?

Everyone on stage looks around at the others. The Herald bangs their staff three times.

HERALD

Council is now closed!

Lord Rolex stands to leave, courtiers and villagers start to talk quietly. A voice is heard off stage. Everyone stops and looks in its direction.

MESSENGER

(off stage)

Wait! Please! Wait!

Footsteps can be heard, a messenger appears stage left.

MESSENGER

(panting)

Urgent...message.

The messenger holds out a scroll and collapse to the floor.

Lord Rolex starts to pace the floor and muttering as he reads.

In disbelief he looks at his watch, then at the clock tower.

LORD ROLEX
Was there anything else?

MESSENGER
Yes my lord.

Messenger takes a large pocket watch out of his satchel.

LORD ROLEX
It is as I feared.

Lord Rolex shakes his head and holds up pocket watch for all to see. Two villagers appear stage left as he does so. They stand and watch what happening, whispering to each other every now and then.

EVERYONE
Gasp!

VILLAGER 1
Does this mean Madam Redheart has been in Clictoc?

VILLAGER 2
What does she want?

VILLAGER 3
How did we not know?

VILLAGER 4
Where is she now?

The villagers and courtiers have all started to talk at once. Lord Rolex raises his hand and the Herald bangs his staff three times. Everyone stops talking.

LORD ROLEX
(to the messenger)
Did you see Madam Redheart or anyone else?

MESSENGER
No my lord.

LORD ROLEX
Did you see Chime White?

MESSENGER
No my lord.

COURTIER 1
Chime!

COURTIER 2
What's she done to Chime?

COURTIER 3
We're doomed!

People start to talking again. Lord Rolex raises his hand and the Herald bangs his staff three times. Everyone stops talking.

LORD ROLEX
Please remain calm. We do not know what has happened, but this message says Chime White has gone to Spinsec.

COURTIER 4
Not on their own accord.

VILLAGER 1
Chime needs to come back!

VILLAGER 2
She's kidnapped Chime!

COURTIER 4
What should we do?

MESSENGER
Call the Army?

LORD ROLEX
What Army?

COURTIER 2
Grimsley got rid of our army.

LORD ROLEX
We usually don't need an army.

VILLAGER 3
Gather another!

MESSENGER
Call the Navy?

LORD ROLEX
What Navy?

COURTIER 3

Grimsley got rid of our Navy.

LORD ROLEX

We usually don't need an Navy.

MESSENGER

Oh dear.

Everyone groans and starts to talk again. Lord Rolex raises his hand and the Herald bangs his staff three times. Everyone stops talking.

LORD ROLEX

We do not have time. Time has stopped!

EVERYONE

Gasp!

Villagers and courtiers stagger or collapse with the news.

VILLAGER 4

How can we have no time? Chime White fixed all that for us years ago.

LORD ROLEX

The question is how are we going to get Chime back.

COURTIER 1

Yes we need to get Chime back to fix the problem.

VILLAGER 1

It'll be Madam Redheart's fault.

LORD ROLEX

We don't know that yet.

VILLAGER 2

Well it'll be here that has stopped time in Clicktock.

LORD ROLEX

We don't know that yet either.

Everyone starts to talk again, some raising their hands to ask Lord Rolex questions.

The two villages standing to the side nod to each other then goes to the Herald and whispers in their ear. The Herald bangs the staff three

times, but says nothing.

Everyone stops and stares at the Herald.

*Alba moves forward, pulling Alex with them,
addressing Lord Rolex.*

ALBA

My Lord Rolex let us be of service.

LORD ROLEX

And who might you be?

ALBA

We...my friend and I are ex soldiers from Clictoc's
disbanded Army.

MESSENGER

Disbanded to save money.

COURTIER 2

No thought to our safety.

COURTIER 3

Sounds like Grimsley!

LORD ROLEX

Please, please, let them speak.

ALBA

Madame Redheart does not scare us.

ALEX

Speak for yourself.

Alba elbows Alex to be quiet.

ALBA

We can find Harold White and return them to Clictock.

EVERYONE

Hooray!

Lord Rolex holds up his hands for silence.

LORD ROLEX

I fear this may be to great a task, even for someone
as brave as you.

Alex is sudden looking very brave.

ALEX

Madame Redheart does not scare us.

LORD ROLEX

I have no army to help you.

ALEX

(worried)

Really!

ALBA

We need no army. It would only alert Madame Redheart to our presents.

LORD ROLEX

I have no navy but I can give you my fastest ship.

Lord rolex whispers to the messenger, who runs off stage right.

ALBA

Thank you.

LORD ROLEX

And these swords of the finest quality.

The messenger enters stage right with two swords. Alex takes one and starts to wave it around, making everyone back off.

ALEX

Awesome!

Alba takes the other. They shake hands with Lord Rolex, villagers slap them on the back as they all wave and say goodbye.

Alba and Alex leave the stage. Lord Rolex stares after them. He raises his hand and the Herald to bang their staff three times.

Everyone watches Lord Rolex leave.

HERALD

Silence!

(pauses)

Lord Rolex has left the building. Council is closed.

Lights fade out as the villagers and courtiers slowly leave stage left, talking as they go.

The Herald does not leave until they have gone and the lights fade out.

SCENE 2 DWARF & FAIRIES

Lights fade up on a bare stage washed in green. A voice over of birds and other animals can be heard.

Alba enters stage right, fighting through the jungle. Alex follows a little later, slowly, looking tired and not happy.

ALEX
Are we there yet?

ALBA
No!

They continue fighting through the dense jungle.

ALEX
What about now?

ALBA
No!

ALEX
When do you...

ALBA
I don't know.

They continue fighting through the dense jungle.

ALEX
Do you think Redheart knows we're here?

ALBA
Hard to say.

Alba stops and offers Alex a canister of water, then gets out a compass to check where they are.

ALBA
Drink?

ALEX
(whining)
I'm so bored.

ALBA

Where's the map?

Alex groans and slumps to the ground, digs in a bag for the map.

ALEX

My feet are killing me. And I'm hungry!

Alba throws their bag at Alex, takes the map then sits down.

ALBA

Here.

Alba tries to concentrate on the map.

ALEX

I'm so glad to be off that ship!

ALBA

Mmmm.

ALEX

It was so uncomfortable.

ALBA

Mmmm.

ALEX

And it kept moving.

ALBA

Yeah.

ALEX

Didn't sleep a wink.

ALBA

What!

ALEX

I didn't sleep a wink.

ALBA

Who was snoring then?

ALEX

I don't know, I didn't hear them!
(stretches & yawns)
I need a nap.

ALBA
But we need to keep going.

ALEX
I can't.

ALBA
But Alex we need...

ALEX
To sleep. Come on just 5 minutes.

Alba looks at Alex as if to protest, checks their watch, shrugs and then leans against Alex. They soon fall asleep.

From different sides of the stage mechanical fairies peek out from their hiding places. They slowly sneak up on Alba and Alex, trying not to wake them. There are times when Alba and Alex stir, causing the fairies to hide or freeze where they are.

FAIRY 1
Beep!

Alba wakes up looks around quickly but does not see the fairies.

ALBA
What was that?

ALEX
(stretches & yawns)
What was what?

FAIRY 2
Bleep!

ALBA
That!

They both look around in a panick but do not see the fairies.

ALBA
Yeah that!

They both stand huddling together. They get out their swords

FAIRY 1
Beep, Bleep!

ALEX
(hysterical)
What is it?

The fairies have moved right up behind Alba and Alex without them knowing. When the fairies speak Alex and Alba split moving to opposite sides of the stage holding their swords out in front of them.

FAIRY 2
Don't know, it hasn't got a label.

The two fairies laugh.

FAIRY 1
Oh look! They've got stingers.

FAIRY 2
Can I sting it? Can I?

FAIRY 1
Could be fun.

FAIRY 2
Could be not.

As the two fairies are laughing Alex starts edging over to Alba, not lowering their sword as they move.

FAIRY 1
I want first sting...Beep!

FAIRY 2
I want first sting...Bleep!

FAIRY 1
Me. Bleep!

FAIRY 2
Me. Bleep!

The two fairies start to argue by Beeping and Bleeping at each other. Derrick the Dwarf enters, takes both fairies by their wings and scolds them for the bad behaviour.

DERRIK

What do you think you two are doing?

FAIRY 1

I saw if first.

FAIRY 2

No I did.

FAIRY 1

So I should sting it first.

FAIRY 2

No I should.

They start to argue again.

DERRIK

That's enough you two!

The two fairies stop instantly and hang their heads.

Derrick releases them, indicating they should be quite, then turns to Alba and Alex.

Alex waves his sword about, Derrick holds up their hands in surrender.

DERRIK

Settle my friends, settle.

Derrick looks at the sword.

DERRIK

I assume you're friends.

FAIRY 1

They might be frenemies.

ALEX

What's a frenemy?

FAIRY 2

You.

The fairies move in closer to Alex.

ALEX

Don't come any closer. I know how to use this.

Alex waves the sword about again and the fairies hide behind Derrik. Derrik slowly raises both hands up in surrender, the fairies copy them.

DERRIK

I'm sure you do know how to use it my friend.

ALEX

Friend! You said I was a friend- la-me...no...Fred-n-aly...no wait it was...

Alba steps in front of Alex

ALBA

We have come to explore Spinsec.

FAIRY 1

How do you know we live here?

FAIRY 2

Yeah, tell us that!

ALBA

Umm...well...you look...umm...

DERRIK

...like someone who comes from Spinsec?

ALBA

Like someone who would live in beautiful land like this.

FAIRY 1 / 2

Thank you! (they both bow)

ALEX

For what? Scaring me.

Alex starts behave a brave manner again, Alba elbows Alex.

ALBA

I'm Alba and this is Alex.

DERRIK

An Alba and an Alex.

FAIRY 1

What's an Alex?

FAIRY 2

What's an Alba?

Derrick and the fairies start to walk around Alba and Alex. Sniffing them, touching them, looking them up and down. As they talk Alba and Alex try to say things but Derrick and the fairies talk over the top of them.

DERRIK

I guess you must be from Clictoc.

FAIRY 1 / 2

Lord Rolex!

FAIRY 1

Shoo! Be gone!

FAIRY 2

They have come to harm us!

DERRIK

I think not! Chime White is their mission.

ALEX

Yes!

ALBA

Alex!

ALEX

Sorry.

FAIRY 1

Is it true?

FAIRY 2

Chime White is your mission?

ALEX

Why should we tell you?

FAIRY 1

But you already have.

FAIRY 2

So there!

ALBA

(sighs and shrugs)

Yes, Lord Rolex has sent us to find CH.

FAIRY 1

Who's CH?

FAIRY 2

Chime White silly. Keep up.

FAIRY 1

Thank you. I'm now kept up.

ALBA

Look we need to find CH, Chime White because...

FAIRY 2

We know who CH is.

ALBA

Clictoc s in trouble without them.

DERRIK

We know.

FAIRY 1 / 2

We know!

ALEX

You know.

FAIRY 1 / FAIRY 2

We know, we know. Do you know?

Derrick and the fairies nod their heads. Alba and Alex look at each other in disbelief.

ALBA

How?

DERRIK

My friends, the tales are old.

FAIRY 1 / 2

Very old.

DERRIK

It is said that Chime White stole time and left Spinsec...forever.

FAIRY 1 / 2

Forever!

ALEX

Chime White stole time?

ALBA

I thought they created time for Clictock?

DERRIK

Yes and yes!

FAIRY 1

That's two yes'.

FAIRY 2

Two.

DERRIK

There are two stories. The first, where Chime stole time from Spinsec.

FAIRY 2

Stole it they did.

DERRIK

The second story involves Madame Redheart's ancient family of mechanical magicians.

FAIRY 1

Except for Ed.

ALEX

Ed?

ALBA

Redheart's twin?

DERRIK

So you have heard of Ed.

ALBA

A little, I haven't heard a lot.

DERRIK

That's probably because Ed's not very good with machines.

FAIRY 2

Or people.

DERRIK

True. Madame Redheart's great great great...

FAIRY 1

...great great...

FAIRY 2

...great great...

DERRIK

...grandfather, discovered how to control time.

FAIRY 1 / 2

All kinds of time!

ALBA

How is Chime involved?

DERRIK

Chime was Madame Redheart's great great great...

FAIRY 2

...great great...

FAIRY 1

...great great...

DERRIK

...grandfather's partner.

ALEX

That's really old.

DERRIK

(laughs)
Even older than me.

FAIRY 1

Wow...that is old!

FAIRY 2

Really old!

FAIRY 1 / FAIRY 2

Like really, really old.

DERRIK

That's enough you two!

ALBA

Okay...but why did Chime White steal time from Spinsec.

DERRIK

Don't know. It's not as if Chime would need to.

FAIRY 1 / 2

Don't know! Wouldn't need to!

ALEX

Wait! Look!

Alex points at Derrik and the fairies, they look around trying to find what he is pointing at

ALEX

Machines! You're all wearing mechanical bits and bobs.

Alba and Alex raise their swords again.

DERRIK

I do not work for Madame Redheart, though I do wear some of her mechanical magic.

FAIRY 1

As do I. See my wings.

FAIRY 2

Me too! But mine are old and I'm out of sorts.

FAIRY 1

Out of sorts.

ALBA

Out of what?

FAIRY 2

Sorts. I'm waiting for Derrik to sort it out.

FAIRY 1

Derrik sorts out all our sorts.

FAIRY 2

Derrik's good at sorting sorts.

FAIRY 1

Derrik puts us back together by sorting out sorts.

DERRIK

I repair them from Madame Redheart's rubbish. I sort through her rubbish and find all sorts of things that are useful.

ALBA

So are you trying to tell me...

Marching is heard off stage and Ed Redheart appears with soldiers following them.

ED REDHEART
...that rubbish is trouble.

Everyone stares at Ed Redheart, who indicates for the soldiers to surround Derrick.

ED REDHEART
Arrest that dwarf!

As the soldiers take Derrick the fairies hide, another two soldiers fan out behind Ed. Alba and Alex stand stunned.

DERRIK
I've done nothing.

ED REDHEART
Theft is not...nothing!

DERRIK
I've stolen anything in my ...

Ed uses a monocle to inspect Derrick's mechanical parts.

ED REDHEART
Mmmm...if I'm not mistaken that looks like a royal crest to me. What do you think?

A soldier, who does not even look, just answers.

SOLDIER 1
Yes sir!

ED REDHEART
Take him away. Find a nice dark dungeon for him to rust in.

SOLDIER 2
Yes sir!

The two soldiers that have Derrick push him off stage. Derrick just hangs his head.

The fairies can be seen peeking out from their hiding place.

ALEX

What are you going to do with us?

ED REDHEART

Good question. Is a dungeon good enough for someone from...Clitcock!

ALBA

Who says we're from Clitcoc?

ED REDHEART

(laughs)
You fools. I know everything!

ALBA

Surely not everything.

ED REDHEART

Do not question, just obey or you'll end up like that dwarf. Lying in a dungeon!

ALEX

That seems a bit unfair.

Ed becomes angry then distracted, and seems to be talking to himself.

ED REDHEART

Unfair! You have no idea what's unfair! My life is unfair! My name is unfair!

ALEX

Why? What's Ed short for. It can't be that bad.

ALBA

Edward?

ED REDHEART

I wish.

ALEX

Edwina?

ALBA

That'd we a bit weird.

ED REDHEART

It's Eddies, alright!

ALBA

That's okay.

ALEX

Could be worse.

ED REDHEART

So you'd be happy named after some water going around in circles.

ALBA

Well it's better than Edwina.

ALEX

Does it mean you go round in circles?

E REDHEART

No it doesn't! I don't, won't go round in mine or anyone elses circles. I will lead the way!

Ed starts pacing and muttering to themself.

ED REDHEART

No longer will I do as my sister wants. Ruler or not! She's run the show for long enough. My time has come.

Ed stops and looks at Alex and Alba. Then starts to pace again, muttering to themselves.

ED REDHEART

My plan is perfert! Of course it is, I thought of it. It's my plan. That old ninny is so old, so slow, they won't have got very far.

ALBA

Old man? Do you mean Chime White?

ALEX

I thought we weren't meant to tell anyone.

Alba elbows Alex to be quiet. Ed has stopped pacing and stares at them.

ED REDHEART

Arrest them! Take them away!

ALBA

But we haven't done anything.

ED REDHEART

You know Chime is here. Why? How? Don't care! Take them away!

ALEX

What have you done to Chime White?

ED REDHEART

Take them away I said!

Alba and Alex give a bit of a struggle as they are pushed off stage. Ed watches them go, looking very satisfied.

ED REDHEART

I will make my sister listen. I will make them all listen... to me!

Ed strides off. The fairies slowly come out of hiding. They have a heated discussion, with lots of arm waving, Bleeping and Beeping. The discussion ends and they shake hands.

FAIRY 1

I'll go tell the others and send word to Lord Rolex.

FAIRY 2

I'll go tell the other half of the others and try to find out what dungeon Derrik is in.

FAIRY 1

Good luck.

FAIRY 2

You'll need it!

The fairies rush off stage in different directions. They do not notice Chime White appearing as they leave.

Chime moves slowly, stopping every now and then to check if they have been seen, talking as they go.

CHIME WHITE

They'll have to look harder than that to find me. Speed is not the issue, steady and slow to let time flow. I will get what I came for.

Chime continues to make their way off stage. Lights fade out as Chime leaves the stage.

SCENE 3 - MEETING MADAME REDHEART

The lights come up on a mechanical Spy sitting

center stage. They do not move, their head is down.

Madame Redheart enters pushing a trolley, full of different kinds of mechanical pieces and tools. Madame Redheart hums to herself as she works on the mechanical being.

Ed enters and stands watching. Ed coughs and she does not hear it, so they move in closer as they start to speak.

ED REDHEART

Sister dear, how are you this fine afternoon?

REDHEART

I do not wish to be disturbed Eddies!

ED REDHEART

Must you call be that.

REDHEART

It's your name isn't it.

ED REDHEART

Yes. But you know how I feel...
(sighs)
I bring distressing news...

REDHEART

Don't care!

ED REDHEART

Perhaps you might like to talk with me and the...
strangers I found wandering in our fair kingdom.

REDHEART

Dungeons! Now!

EDWARD REDHEART

The are from Clictoc. Maybe sent by Lord Rolex.

Madame Redheart looks up quickly, then returns to her work.

REDHEART

Don't mention his name. It hurts my ears.

EDWARD REDHEART

Sorry your majesty, but I think they could be of use to us. To you.

REDHEART

Who are they? What do they want?

EDWARD REDHEART

I believe Lord Rolex sent them with...

REDHEART

They can clean the dungeon.

ED REDHEART

I believe Lord Rolex sent them and Chime White is or was with them.

REDHEART

Chime would not come here again.

ED REDHEART

I am sure that Chime IS here again.

Madame Redheart stops and looks at him before speaking.

REDHEART

Bring them in.

ED REDHEART

(yelling)
Bring them in!

Three soldiers enter pushing Alba and Alex in front of them Redheart walks over to Alba and Alex, she looks them up and down.

REDHEART

So you have come to Spinsec to cause trouble.

Holds up her hand to silence them both.

REDHEART

I have no time for trouble makers. Take them to the dungeon.

ALBA

We're not here to make trouble.

REDHEART

Dungeon!

ALEX

I don't want to go to the dungeon.

ED REDHEART

Your majesty is there something else they could do?

Redheart thinks for a few seconds, staring at Alba and Alex, who is fidgeting.

REDHEART

Yes. They can clean all the dungeons.

ED REDHEART

Is there nothing else?

REDHEART

Oh, then they can..let me see...

ED REDHEART

Something to do with Clicktoc, perhaps.

REDHEART

Yes, I think there is. You shall make yourselves useful and find out where Chime White is.

ED REDHEART

What a good idea sister dear.

REDHEART

And you will do it before you, him or anyone, causes any trouble.

ALBA

Why would we do that?

REDHEART

Because I say so, or it's off to the dungeon.

ALEX

I'm going to tell Lord Rolex on you.

REDHEART

(laughs)

Is that meant to be a threat?

ED REDHEART

Chime White should never have betrayed our family.

ALBA

He what?

REDHEART

Chime White shall regret returning to Spinsec.

ED REDHEART
So true.

REDHEART
That settles it. Take their swords!

The soldiers take Alba and Alex's swords.

EDWARD REDHEART
Find Chime White or you shall live in my darkest
dungeon forever.

*Alex is trying to hide behind Alba. Ed Redheart
is looking very pleased.*

REDHEART
Take them to the castle gates and send them into the
city.

ALEX
Are you letting us go?

REDHEART
You have three days to find Chime White. Now get out,
all of you. I have work to do.

*The soldiers shuffle Alba and Alex out. Redheart
goes back to working on her machine.*

ED REDHEART
Will you use your mechanical spy to follow them?

REDHEART
I think I'll use my mechanical spy to follow them, as
I do not trust them. But I'm still have trouble...

ED REDHEART
Will this help?

*Redheart looks up as Ed produces a mechanical
heart and holds it out to her.*

REDHEART
It's beautiful!

*Madame Redheart takes the heart gently in her
hands.*

REDHEART
You didn't make it did you?

EDWARD REDHEART

I found it in the archives. By the look of it, it must have been built by one of our great grandfathers.

Madame Redheart is very happy and mesmerised by the mechanical heart.

REDHEART

Yes. I think you are right. I can see it was not made by you, too intricate for you. Excuse me, I must examine it closer.

Redheart leaves the stage, pushing her trolley of things. Edward watches her leave.

Edward moves to downstage right and calls for a soldier.

EDWARD REDHEART

Sergeant!

SOLDIER 1

Yes sir!

EDWARD REDHEART

Have those strangers from Clictoc followed. Report to me, and only me.

SOLDIER 1

Yes sir.

Soldier salutes and leaves.

EDWARD REDHEART

They will not spoil my plans.

Edward leaves the stage. Lights fade out.

SCENE 4 AROUND TOWN

Hatter and Sweet appear on stage from different directions. They do not acknowledge each other but call out their sellers call. It is only them on stage pretending to entice buyers, this could be members of the audience.

Each have large trays in front of them, held up by straps that go around their necks. Hatter's holds different kinds of hats, Sweet's has

different kinds of cakes and tarts.

HATTER

Hats for sale. Sale of hats.

SWEET

Fresh today. Daily fresh.

HATTER

Hats for sale. Sale of hats.

SWEET

Fresh today. Daily fresh.

HATTER

Hats for sale. Fresh daily.

SWEET

Fresh today. Sale of hats.

They both stop, confused and look at each other.

They nod at each other in recognition, then continue. Customers now start to come on stage, some stop to look, buy. Others brush them away.

When they are not dealing with a customer they are calling out their sellers call.

HATTER

Hats for sale. Sale of hats.

SWEET

Fresh today. Daily fresh.

Slowly the costumers die away, and Hatter and Sweet come together center stage. There are a couple of groups on either side of the stage. They pay no attention to Hatter and Sweet.

HATTER

Afternoon Sweet.

SWEET

Noon Hatter.

HATTER

How's business?

SWEET

Middlin! That new taxes is takin the cake!

HATTER

Know what you mean. I've had to cut me prices and change my selling technique.

SWEET

What'd you mean?

HATTER

Watch this!

Hatter winks at Sweet, then walks closer to one of the groups.

HATTER

Hats for sale. Sale of hats.

One member of the group indicates they are not interested.

HATTER

I understand. I can see why.

Buyer 1 steps away from the group and closer to Hatter.

BUYER 1

I beg your pardon.

HATTER

No offense intended. I wouldn't be able to help you anyway.

BUYER 1

Why won't you help me?

HATTER

Your heads too big.

BUYER 1

My what! How dear you!

HATTER

See I knew it. You know what I'm saying without me saying.

BUYER 1

Saying what?

HATTER

Modest as well you are. Very nice.

BUYER 1

Now look here you, what...

HATTER

That's very nice of you, but I just wouldn't understand. See me, I've got a small head because there's nothing in it. But you, well, I can see how knowledgeable you are, by your big head. Full of brains that head is.

BUYER 1

Arh...yes..well...

Buyer 1 is confused but also pleased with the compliment.

HATTER

So like I said I couldn't help you anyway.

BUYER 1

Why not?

HATTER

I don't have anything big enough. See try this.

Hatter gives him a hat to try on that is obviously too small. Buyer tries it on, struggles to make it fit.

HATTER

See!

Hatter takes the hat back and starts to leave. Buyer 1 points to another hat in Hatters tray.

BUYER 1

What about that one?

HATTER

I don't think it'll fit. Honest I don't have a hat to fit.

BUYER 1

Just give it here!

HATTER

No I'm terribly sorry.

BUYER 1

Look here. The customer is always right.

HATTER

I know but...

BUYER 1

Just hand it over!

Hatter hands it over and it fits. Hatter looks surprised.

HATTER

Well I never! See, that's brains right there.

The buyer is very happy with themself.

BUYER 1

How much?

HATTER

2 pounds each, but for you 6 pounds for 2.

Money exchanges hands. The buyer walks away with a hat on their head and one in their hand. Hatter returns to Sweet, who smiles and applauds the Hatter.

SWEET

Well done! Now let me see...

Sweets looks around the stage, finally spots the last group, approaches it while saying his sellers call

SWEET

Fresh today. Daily fresh. Fresh today.

Stops by the Buyer 2, tips his hat her.

SWEET

Sorry my fair lady I did not mean to disturb you.

Lady nods her head in acknowledgment of Sweet then turns away. Sweet speaks as he turns for Buyer 2.

SWEET

Unlike Madame Redheart it is obvious you do not need my wares.

BUYER 2

I beg your pardon!

SWEET

Nothing fair lady. I do not wish to see a frown upon such a beautiful face.

Buyer 2 smiles and looks very pleased.

BUYER 2

You mentioned Madame Redheart, did you not?

SWEET

Well yes, but ...

BUYER 2

A great beauty of Spinsec. Were you comparing me to her?

SWEET

No, never!

Buyer 2 starts to become upset.

SWEET

Can I compare your beauty to her.

Buyer 2 is confused but happy.

SWEET

It is obvious that you do not need to use my wares to enhance your natural beauty.

BUYER 2

Well thank you...but...but how does...you sell cakes and tarts!

Sweet looks around to see who is listening.

SWEET

Madame Redheart has found....no I cannot tell you.

BUYER 2

Tell me what?

SWEET

That Madame Redheart uses...no I promised.

BUYER 2

Promised who?

SWEET

Why Madame Redheart of course. But as I said you do not need to know the secret.

BUYER 2

The secret of what?

SWEET

Oh, if you insist! My jam cream tarts have beautifying qualities.

BUYER 2

Oh what utter nonsense!

SWEET

Oh but it is true. I could never deceive one as beautiful as you.

Buyer 2 looks happy but still unsure. Sweet shows her one of his jam cream tarts. Then looks around to see nobody is looking.

SWEET

This is more than my life is worth, but then so is your beauty. Try it!

BUYER 2

Try it?

SWEET

Yes

(pause)

For free.

Buyer 2 hesitates.

SWEET

Madame Redheart uses the cream around her eyes and cheeks, she says it maintains her smooth complexion.

Sweet mimes what she should do with the cream. He encourages her to try it. While she is rubbing the cream into her face he explains the next step.

SWEET

She smears the jam onto her lips. She is adamant it keeps her lips red and full.

Buyer 2 dips into the jam and adds it to her lips. Sweet sudden steps back as if in shock.

SWEET

Well I never!

BUYER 2
What!

Buyer 2 is panicked.

SWEET
I would not have believed it possible if my eyes had not seen it happen.

BUYER 2
What is it?

SWEET
Before my very eyes, my fair lady you have become even fairer. Beauty does not describe what now stands before me.

BUYER 2
Oh...really?

SWEET
If I was not a humble baker I would ask for your hand in marriage.

Buyer 2 hesitates, Sweet is shaking his head in disbelief

BUYER 2
How much?

SWEET
Oh no I couldn't ...

BUYER 2
How much!

SWEET
Well, 1 pound each. But as a special to you, 7 pounds for 6.

BUYER 2
I'll take a dozen.

Money changes hands. The buyer looks around to make sure nobody has seen and leaves quickly. Sweet goes back to Hatter. They shake hands.

HATTER
Well done Sweet. How long do think it will take?

SWEET

Tomorrow morning I'd say. Such a beauty secret will not stay secret for long.

They both laugh.

Chime White appears and slowly makes his way across the stage. Hatter notices him.

HATTER

(points)
Isn't that Chime White?

SWEET

It is! What's old Chime doing in Spinsec.

HATTER

Do you believe what they say?

SWEET

One of those stories must be true.

HATTER

There's trouble a foot!

Sweet looks at his watch and shakes his head.

SWEET

To late!

Hatter looks at Sweet, then checks his own watch. They look at each other shocked.

HATTER / SWEET

Times stopped!

P Minit runs on, rushing up to Chime. Minit is wearing a long trench coat.

P MINIT

Chime ! Chime wait up!

Chime pauses then continues walking slowly trying to get pass P Minit.

CHIME WHITE

Not the time. Not the time.

HATTER

Whats going on Minit?

CHIME WHITE

This one thinks I'm a business opportunity.

SWEET

What?

P MINIT

Haven't you heard. Time has stopped in Spinsec!

HATTER / SWEET

So it's true!

SWEET

I'd thought my watch was broken.

HATTER

Me too.

P MINIT

Madame Redheart is not happy...and she thinks... and well...Chime is back in Spinsec..and...and...

CHIME WHITE

It's not my fault!

P MINIT

But...but...

SWEET

Whose fault is it?

Chime White goes to talk and is interrupted by P Minit.

P MINIT

But you could fix it...couldn't you.

HAROLD WHITE

Of course I could, but I need time. Time!

P Minit nods their head in agreement. Hatter and Sweet look confused. Chime White and P Minit stand talking quietly. Hatter and Sweet move downstage talking.

HATTER

What do you make of all that?

SWEET

No idea. But I think we should keep an eye on old Chime back there.

Alba and Alex enter, it looks like they are arguing so they do not notice Hatter and Sweet.

SWEET

Who are they?

HATTER

Oh no! I saw them with Ed Redheart.

SWEET

Ed Redheart!

They both look back at P Minit and Chime White talking not noticing anyone else. Then they look at Alba and Alex.

SWEET

Quick hide Harold. I don't trust Ed Redfart and I don't trust them.

Sweet points to Alba and Alex.

HATTER

Same!

Hatter moves back and stands in front of P Minit and Chime White, while Sweet goes over to Alba and Alex. Hatter can be seen trying to warn Chime and Minit. Sweet is trying to keep Alba and Alex occupied.

SWEET

Fresh today. Daily Fresh!

Sweet offers a pie to Alba.

ALBA

No thank you.

SWEET

You?

ALEX

Why thank you.

Alex goes to take it and Alba stops him.

ALEX

But I'm hungry.

ALBA

We don't have time.

SWEET

Ah...sadly none of us have time anymore.

ALEX

I heard the news just a few minutes ago...

Alba nudges him to be quiet.

ALBA

Sad times, sad times.

Alba notices Hatter and the others, tries to get a better look, but Sweet gets in her way as he talks.

SWEET

But never to sad for a nice piece of cake, jam tart or cream pie. What do you say?

(pause)

Half price.

Sweet is holding a cream pie as if offering it to Alba.

ALBA

Who's that?

Points over Sweets shoulder to Hatter and P Minit trying to hide Chime as they slowly walk off stage.

Sweet turns to look, and hits Alex in the face with the pie. This brings the attention back to where they are standing.

Sweet tries to help clean up the mess. Alba is angry, Alex is wiping it off and tasting it.

ALEX

Mmmm, that's nice.

SWEET

Thank you. It's my best seller.

ALEX

Can I taste vanilla?

SWEET
Yes with a little honey added.

ALEX
Yes, I think I can taste...

ALBA
Enough!

Alba looks over at Hatter, points at them again.

ALBA
What are they doing?

SWEET
Selling hats.
(yells)
Hatter! Hatter!

HATTER
Yes Sweet's!

SWEET
My friend here wants to buy a hat.

HATTER
Coming! Coming!

Hatter rushes over, P Minit stands facing the audience, still trying to hide Chime. He opens out one side of his coat at a time to do so.

Hatter has a hat in each hand as he rushes over.

HATTER
Large. No, no, no,...XLarge!

ALBA
What!

Hatter has placed a over sized hat on Alba's head, who tries to take it off and Sweet pushes it back on. Meanwhile Hatter has turned to Alex.

HATTER
Same for you. Very large head...

ALEX
Hey!

HATTER

...room for lots of brains.

ALEX

Oh! Thank You.

Alex appears happy to wear the hat, looks pleased. Tries on others hats. Meanwhile Alba is still trying to get the hat off.

Alba finally removes the hat from Alex's head and their own. Shoves them back at Hatter.

Chime has left the stage with P Minit's help.

ALBA

Enough!

Alba looks over to where Chime had been.

ALBA

Where'd they go?

P Minit rushes back on stage.

P MINIT

I'm right here, no time to spare! Ha, time is my speciality!

P Minit opens out both sides of his coat and it is lined with watches.

ALBA

I thought time had stopped?

P MINIT

Theoretically yes. Wrist watches don't count, they watch time, they don't make time.

ALBA

But they still need time.

P MINIT

Technically yes.

Alex is looking at the watches and points one out.

ALEX

Oh I like that one?

PM

Good choice!

P Minit hands it to Alex, who places it around his neck.

P MINIT

Press here to activate.

P Minit presses the side of the watch and everyone goes into slow motion. They also talk in slow motion.

P MINIT

Slow time very popular.

ALBA

No!

All five are moving in slow motion. Alba is trying to get to Alex to turn the watch off.

Alex is talking with Minit about the watch.

Hatter and Sweet and getting in Alba's way.

ALEX

So cool.

P MINIT

Very relaxing.

ALBA

No.

P MINIT

Yes.

Finally Alba manages to turn off the watch. They all collapse to the floor.

ALBA

Right!

ALEX

That was amazing!

P MINIT

Thanks. As I said it is...

ALEX

What's that one.

Points to a watch

P MINIT

Second time around.

They all seem to be interested except Alba, who is becoming impatient.

Hatter points to a watch

HATTER

How about this one?

P MINIT

Fun time.

SWEET

(laughs)

We sure need some of that at the moment.

They all nod

P MINIT

This is my new one.

P Minit takes out a watch to show the others.

P MINIT

This is ...

They all stare at in wonder. With some ceremony P Minit holds up the watch and throws it.

P MINIT

Time flys.

They all follow its path, then cringe when they hear smashing noises.

HATTER

Sounds like a smashing time.

P MINIT

Arh yeah...it needs tweaking.

Alba has finally had enough.

ALBA
No more! We're looking for Chime White.

HATTER
Oh really.

SWEET
I know him.

ALBA
Do you know where he is?

P MINIT
Not sure. Maybe.

ALEX
What does that mean?

ALBA
Just tell us what you know? We're running out of time.

PM
Well.. he opens his coat I have a watch that could help with that.

ALBA
No! Just tell us what you know.

Sweet, Hatter and P Minit all look at each other, then as they answer they point in different directions. Alex and ALba look in the different directions.

HATTER
Chime was over there!

SWEET
No I'm sure it was over there!

P MINIT
No, no it was that way!

HATTER
Are you sure?

P MINIT
No. Are you sure?

SWEET
No.

Sweet and P Minit look at Hatter and nod. They then all point in the same direction.

HATTER / SWEET / P MINIT

That way!

Alba and Alex start off in that direction, they stop and look back at the other three, who nod at them. Alba and Alex rush off stage.

Hatter, Sweet and P Minit all let out a loud breath. They shake hands and leave the stage, going in different directions.

Lights fade out.

SCENE 5 SNEAKY ED

Lights come up on the spy robot sitting center stage. The robot does not react to Ed Redheart.

ED REDHEART

(off stage)

Hello anyone there!

Pauses, sticks head around the corner. Sees no one is there and enters. Sees the spy robot and makes his way carefully towards it.

ED REDHEART

What on earth is this stupid mechanical thing doing here?

Ed sniggers, walks to the side of the robot.

ED REDHEART

Are you turned on?

Looks for a switch on the mechanical spy.

ED REDHEART

Hello. Anyone home.

Ed waves their arms in front of the mechanical spy.

ED REDHEART

Of course not. Stupid thing, spy my foot!

Ed looks around the room.

ED REDHEART

Now let me see, where does she keep it?

As Ed Redheart hunts around the room the spy robot remains still. Occasionally it will look at what Ed is doing. Ed will look up as if they know the robot is looking, but the robot looks away before Ed sees the spy robot looking..

Finds what he is looking for, a strange looking tool, he pulls out a bag and hides it in there. Removes an envelop from the bag. Rings a bell, the messenger appears.

ED REDHEART

Personally deliver this. Do not talk to anyone, do not stop for anyone.

Ed hands the bag and an envelop to the messenger.

SERVANT

Yes. Talk to no one, stop for no one.

EDWARD REDHEART

Good! Now go!

Messenger bows and rushes off. Ed laughs, then goes up to the robot.

ED REDHEART

What do you think of that? Ha! Neither of them will figure it out.

Ed walks off laughing. Spy robot sits still while they leave, pushes a button on its wrist, then stands and leaves.

SCENE 6 MORE DIRECTIONS

Tick and Tock wander on playing a game of some sort. They hear Alba and Alex talking off stage and become scared.

ALEX

(off stage)
It's the wrong way!

ALBA

(off stage)
What should we do now?

ALEX

(off stage)
Make them pay!

ALBA

(off stage)
Let's get them.

Alba and Alex rush on stage, they look around as if searching for Hatter, Sweet and P Minit. Tick and Tock are standing very still with their backs to them, and their hands over their eyes.

ALEX

You! Where did they go?

TICK

Haven't seen anyone.

TOCK

Don't know nothing.

ALBA

Look here! We just want to know if you can help us.

Tick and Tock still do not turn around. Alba and Alex turn them around, and they still have their hands over their eyes.

TICK

Haven't seen anyone.

TOCK

Don't know nothing.

ALEX

no wonder you haven't seen anyone, you've got your hands over your eyes.

TICK / TOCK

No we haven't!

They face each other and cover each others eyes.

Alba turns away with Alex, Tick and Tock place their own hands over their own eyes but start to sneak looks as Alex and Alba talk and leave the stage.

ALBA

This is ridiculous. They're not going to help us.

ALEX
What should we do then?

ALBA
Go back the way we came.

ALEX
Back to Clictoc?

ALBA
No! Back in that direction.

ALEX
And turn left, not right.

ALBA
Right.

ALEX
No. Left!

ALBA
I thought you said right.

ALBA
Left not right.

They leave the stage. Tick and Tock walk in the direction they left, sneaking looks all the way.

TICK
Should we follow them?

TOCK
Or tell someone?

TICK / TOCK
Both!

They look at each other, nod, shake hands and leave in different directions. As they are running off they collide with the fairies who have just run on stage. There is lots of stumbling and falling about.

FAIRY 1
Tick!

FAIRY 2
Tock!

TICK
That's me.

TOCK
That's you.

FAIRY 1
We've got news.

TICK
Terrible news.

FAIRY 2
So have we.

TOCK
No time.

FAIRY 1
We could be to late.

TOCK
We are, there's no time.

FAIRY 2
They took it away.

TICK
We know.

FAIRY 1
They know.

TOCK
What'll we do?

FAIRY 2
Get help.

FAIRY 1 / FAIRY 2 / TICK / TOCK
Okay.

They shake hands, high five, and do all sorts of things before rushing off stage in different directions. SCENE 7 THE CULPRITS

Chime White walks slowly across the stage. Stopping every so often to check the time. Alex and Alba appear, arguing about the time that they have wasted.

They do not notice Chime at first.

ALBA

Honestly Alex, do you always have to be so...so...so annoying!

ALEX

Me annoying! Well do you always have to be so...so...I'm always right!

ALBA

Well one of us needs to be awake. Not distracted by food, or...or silly inventions.

ALEX

Is it my fault I like to eat. It's always...

Chime now finishes their sentences. When he does they look at him, but at first do not realise who it is.

CHIME WHITE

...time.

Alba and Alex look at Chime then carry on.

ALBA

Eating food has...

CHIME WHITE

...a time and a place.

Alba and Alex look at Chime then carry on.

ALEX

You tell that to me...

CHIME WHITE

...everytime.

Alba and Alex look at Chime then carry on.

ALBA

Your stomach is not on...

CHIME WHITE

...a timer.

Alba and Alex look at Chime.

ALEX

Can we help you?

Chime is sitting down resting and watching them.

CHIME WHITE

No.

ALEX

In that case, please mind your own business. And...

Alba has been staring at Chime White the entire time, now pulling on Alex's arm. Alex brushes Alba off and continues. The spy robot is hiding in the background, watching.

ALEX

...allow my friend and I to argue in peace!

ALBA

It's Wh...White.

ALEX

Who's Wh...White! You tell me I never make sense and just listen...

ALBA

Chime!

Alba waves at Chime, who waves back as they look over at him.

ALEX

You mean Chime. As in time.

ALBA

.Yeah

At first Alex says nothing then he visibly shows he understands.

ALEX

(whispering)
I was expecting them to look a bit different.

ALBA

Really?

ALEX

Yeah. So what do we do now?

Before Alba can answer 4/5 soldiers appear and circle the three, pushing them closer together.

Ed Redheart follows behind the soldiers. The spy robot quietly exits.

EDWARD REDHEART

Finally! Chime White, you are under arrest!

CHIME WHITE

You may arrest me, but your time is up.

EDWARD REDHEART

Stop raving you old fool. Take Chime away.

Two soldiers edge Chime forward and they slowly start to make their way off stage. They take a while, the others watch, looking impatient.

Alba and Alex try to escape at one point, but are stopped by the soldiers.

ED REDHEART

Now, as for you two.

ALEX

Yes now time to give us a reward for finding Chime White.

Alba agrees and nods approval.

ED REDHEART

(laughing)

Oh, you are funny...I think not.

ALBA

I think so.

ED REDHEART

Not!

ALBA / ALEX

So!

ED REDHEART

Not!

ALBA / ALEX

So!

ED REDHEART
Not!

ALBA / ALEX
So!

ED REDHEART
Not happening!

Ed steps back and indicates for the soldiers to arrest them.

ED REDHEART
Arrest them!

All soldiers except one, take them away.

ALEX
Where's our reward?

ALBA
We found Chime not you!

ALEX
I don't want to go to the dungeon.

Ed calls the remaining soldier over.

ED REDHEART
Go tell Madame Redheart we have Chime White, and that we have discovered the other two are spies.

SOLDIER
Yes.

ED REDHEART
Time is almost here, but I must not waste time. Ha, time. What a wonderful thing you are...well, now it's my time.

Ed Redheart walks off stage laughing.

SCENE 8 COURT TIME

The lights fade up on some characters standing on stage talking while others come in carrying chairs, boxes and other things to sit on, placing them in random places, creating groups chatting.

There is also a large box center stage for the

Judge to stand on.

Madame Redheart arrives, everyone stops talking, looks at her, then continues talking. When Edward Redheart arrives, they do the same. When the judge arrives, followed by the Herald, they do the same.

The Judge goes to their place center stage and coughs, nobody takes any notice. The Judge tries this a few times then indicates for the Herald to bang his staff on the ground. He does this three times.

JUDGE

Order in the court! Order in the court!

Everyone looks at the Judge. Characters sit in their seats or turn to look at the Judge. Hatter, Sweet, P Minit and a few others rush over to the Judge yelling out orders.

HATTER

I'll have a cup of tea please, two sugars.

SWEET

A slice of cake would be nice.

P MINIT

Oh yes please, I'm starving.

TICK

Coffee and cream. No sugar.

FAIRY 2

Club sandwich please! Could you cut crust off?

Fairy 1 from their seat.

FAIRY 1

Don't forget my order.

TOCK

Or mine!

Judge raises their hands and yells.

JUDGE

Silence!

HATTER

What about my order?

P MINIT

I'm still hungry.

SWEET

What about a small piece of cake.

JUDGE

Take your places!
(pause)

NOW!

The Herald bangs their staff on the ground three times.

There is a lot of commotion as characters shift chairs, boxes and whatever they have brought on stage with them.

Madame Redheart and Ed get caught up in the commotion and are not happy about it.

Finally everyone sits stage right, like a jury. The Judge is center stage with the Herald just behind them and Madame Redheart stands to his left. Ed stands just to the left of the jury on his own.

Madame Redheart is prosecutor for Spinsec.

There are empty seats stage left, this is the dock. Down stage of this is the witness box, a low box for them to stand on.

JUDGE

Bring in the culprits.

Chime White, Alba and Alex are led in by soldiers and taken to the docks. The soldiers stand behind them, one either side, one behind them.

P Minit stands and waves to Chime, Hatter and Sweets stand and stop this.

JUDGE

Madame Redheart what do you charge these mischief makers with?

REDHEART

That one...

Madame Redheart points at Chime White.

REDHEART

With theft!

EVERYONE

Gasp!

REDHEART

Those two...

Madame Redheart points at Alba and Alex.

REDHEART

... with failing to fulfill a contract!

EVERYONE

Gasp!

REDHEART

Oh...and for being spies!

ALBA / ALEX

Spies!

ALBA

What contract?

ALEX

Did we have a contract?

JUDGE

Silence!

(pause)

Serious charges Madame Redheart. Very serious indeed.

(pause)

Is there anyone who will defend the culprits?

Everyone is quiet as they look around at each other. Lord Rolex enters stage right.

REDHEART / ED REDHEART

Gasp!

Everyone, except them applauds.

REDHEART

Oh come on! He's not that good!

ED REDHEART
He might be.

HATTER / SWEET / P MINIT
He is! He is!

JUDGE
Silence in the court!

HERALD
Silence in the court!

Everyone quietens down. Lord Rolex now stands to the right of the Judge.

JUDGE
Madame Redheart, present your evidence.

REDHEART
Evidence? Not necessary!

ED REDHEART
Go sis!

REDHEART
Verdict first, evidence later.

The Judge makes some notes, while Ed applauds his sister, others sitting in the jury around him glare at him until he stops.

JUDGE
Lord Rolex.

LORD ROLEX
Your Honor.

JUDGE
Thank you.

LORD ROLEX
Your welcome.

JUDGE
Do you have evidence to present?

LORD ROLEX
Yes your honor. I would like to call Derrik the Dwarf to the witness box.

HERALD

Derrik Dwarf to the witness box.

Derrik is brought on stage by a soldier and taken to the docks. The soldier remains with him. The Herald walks to the dock.

HERALD

In accordance with Ancient Time Law, do you Derrik Dwarf swear to...

DERRIK

I'd rather not, my mum taught me it's not polite!

The Herald looks at the Judge, they both shrug.

JUDGE

Lord Rolex the witness is yours.

Lord Rolex steps forward, the Herald returns to his position behind the Judge.

LORD ROLEX

Thank you your honor.

To Derrik.

LORD ROLEX

Derrik do you recognise any of the poor souls on trial here today?

DERRIK

Yes!

LORD ROLEX

And?

DERRIK

That is Chime White - famous for saving Time, creating time, announcing time, balancing time, extending time...

The Judge indicates for the Herald to bang his staff. Derrik stops. Then suddenly blurts out the next line.

DERRIK

And for stopping time her in Spinsec.

EVERYONE

Boo.

LORD ROLEX

How do you know it was Chime White who stopped time?
Did you see him do it?

DERRIK

No, but...but Madame Redheart said it was him.

LORD ROLEX

So no real proof.

Derrick the Dwarf shakes his head. Lord Rolex then looks to the jury, who all shake their heads.

Madame Redheart rushes forward.

REDHEART

My turn! My turn!

Madame Redheart pushes Lord Rolex out of the way.

REDHEART

How long have you been Derrick the Dwarf?

DERRIK

To long, I can't remember.

REDHEART

Mmmm, memory loss. So how can you remember it was me who blames Chime White?

DERRIK

(to judge)
She's got a point.

ED REDHEART

She does have a point.

JUDGE

It's a small point.

LORD ROLEX

A very small point.

DERRIK

But it is STILL a point.

While this is happening Madame Redheart crosses her arms looking very smug.

EVERYONE

It is a point.

Everyone goes quiet, looking at the Judge.

JUDGE

Next witness!

HERALD

Next witness!

LORD ROLEX

Tick and

REDHEART

...Tock!

Tick and Tock get up together and approach the dock. Soldier 1 and 3 move to the dock holding a large clock. The Herald moves and stands next to the soldiers.

HERALD

In accordance with Ancient Time Law, do you Tick and Tock swear...

Judge coughs, the Herald looks at him. Judge shakes his head and the Herald starts again.

HERALD

In accordance with Ancient Time law, do you Tick and Tock promise to tell the truth.

TICK

I do.

TOCK

We do.

Madame Redheart moves in front of Lord Rolex.

REDHEART

Have you seen those two culprits in our land, searching for Chime White?

LORD ROLEX

Objection, leading the witnesses.

JUDGE

She's not taking them anywhere. Overruled!

HERALD

Overruled!

REDHEART

Well, tell me. Have you seen them?

TICK

Yes.

TOCK

No.

REDHEART

(impatient)
Which one is it?

TICK / TOCK

Both!

REDHEART

How is that possible? Just answer the question!

LORD ROLEX

Objection!

JUDGE

Why? Don't you want them to answer the question?

LORD ROLEX

Yes, but...

JUDGE

Good! Overruled! Carry on.

HERALD

Overruled! Carry on.

REDHEART

Tell me, where did you see them?

TICK

Over there.

Points to Alba and Alex. Tick looks at Tock who nods.

TOCK

Over there, but I'm really trying not to look.

Lord Rolex moves forward and interrupts as Madame Redheart is getting impatient with Tick

and Tock. Who are both looking frightened of her.

LORD ROLEX
Where else have you seen them?

Tick and Tock point in different directions, everyone else looks in the different directions as they point. Madame Redheart stamps her foot and stomps off and stands next to the Judge.

LORD ROLEX
Did you see anyone else besides these three here?

TOCK
Yes.

TICK
Yes.

Madame Redheart rushes forward, pushing Lord Rolex aside.

REDHEART
Who? It was them wasn't it? Come on admit it, it was them.

Madame Redheart points to the three accused, Lord Rolex calmly steps in front of her.

LORD ROLEX
Who? Are they in this court?

TICK
No.

TOCK
No.

REDHEART
Yes they are! They're over there!

LORD ROLEX
Can you tell me their name?

TICK
Spy...

TOCK
...machine.

Madame Redheart is shocked and looks nervous. The jury all start talking. Judge indicates for the Herald to bang his staff. Everyone quietens down.

LORD ROLEX
What, or who is that?

TICK
It watches you...

TOCK
...but says nothing.

Lord Rolex looks confused, Madame Redheart is starting to panic. Ed Redheart starts to sneak off.

HATTER
It makes noises.

P MINUTE
It doesn't work though.

SWEET
A bit like you!

Everyone laughs and Ed Redheart stops, pauses, then moves back next to the jury. The Judge indicates for the Herald to bang his staff. Everyone stops laughing and talking.

LORD ROLEX
Tick. Tock. What or who is a spy machine?

TOCK
Ask him...

Tick and Tock point to Chime White.

TICK
... he fixed it!

EVERYONE
Gasp!

Everyone starts talking all at once. Tick and Tock start jumping up and down.

TICK / TOCK
He fixed it! He fixed it! He fixed it!

The Judge indicates for the Herald to bang his staff and everyone quietens down.

Madame Redheart is standing over Chime White.

REDHEART

(slowly and loudly)
How...dare...you!

Chime White stands, ignoring Madame Redheart.

CHIME WHITE

I dare nothing Madame. How dare you!

REDHEART

Stop it! Stop this instant!

CHIME WHITE

It's not too late to change all fate.

REDHEART

Stop talking such nonsense.

Lord Rolex ignores Madame Redheart and moves in front of her again.

LORD ROLEX

What do you mean? Who's fate?

CHIME WHITE

Clicktock...Spinsec.

REDHEART

Spinsec is fine, well it will be once I manage to fix the time thingy and it is..

LORD ROLEX

..not the issue. It is whether these three are guilty of a serious crime against Ancient Time law.

CHIME WHITE

I am guilty!

Lord Rolex and Madame Redheart both look at Chime White.

EVERYONE

Gasp!

The Jury start to talk very animatedly.

Ed Redheart is caught up in the commotion and brought back into the group each time he tries to sneak off.

The Judge indicates for the Herald to bang his staff. Everyone quietens down.

REDHEART

Wonderful! Case closed!

Madame Redheart rubs her hands together and prepares to leave.

JUDGE

Wait!

Everyone looks at the Judge.

JUDGE

Chime White explain yourself.

CHIME WHITE

I am guilty of setting time right.

JUDGE

Time right? But...

The Judge and everyone else, except Chime White look at their watches. They all look at each other.

EVERYONE

Uuuuu!

CHIME WHITE

If you had taken time you would have seen it is almost on time again.

P MINIT

He's right. It's not perfect time yet.

TICK

It's still out by a tock.

TOCK

Or is that a tick.

FAIRY 1

It's a tick, tock.

HATTER

But they said you fixed the spy thingy, not time.

DERRIK

It's a just machines.

P MINUTE

Unless it is a time thingy!

SWEET

You mean a time machine?

DERRIK

Yes! Then that could mean...

HATTER

It's true!

FAIRY 2

It's true!

REDHEART

It cant't be?

ALEX

What are they talking about?

ALBA

I have no idea.

FAIRY 1

The legend?

JUDGE

Surely not the Ancient legend!

LORD ROLEX

The legend of the spring.

EVERYONE

Gasp!

Everyone is silent.

*Ed Redheart has managed to leave the stage and
Madame Redheart is trying to leave.*

JUDGE

You!

Points to a soldier.

JUDGE

Find Ed Redheart. Now!

Soldier rushes off stage.

JUDGE

Detain her!

Points to Madame Redheart.

REDHEART

You will do no such thing! Let me go.

She struggles as Soldier 2 and 3 guide her back to center stage.

JUDGE

Put her in the docks.

Madame Redheart goes to speak but thinks better of it. She slumps down next to Chime White who is sitting down again.

JUDGE

Chime White, do you believe in the legend?

Chime White jumps up again.

CHIME WHITE

Time is undone if the spring is sprung!

HATTER / SWEET / PM

Time is undone if the spring is sprung!

FAIRY 1

How do you know if the spring is sprung?

DERRIK

Because it's undone.

EVERYONE

Oh. If it's undone.

REDHEART

This is ridiculous! My machine...and yes I admit it was a time machine. It was build to try a fix time in Spinsec, not...

JUDGE

Silence!

HERALD

Silence!

EVERYONE
Silence!

LORD ROLEX
Chime, how many springs have sprung?

HAROLD WHITE
One large and two small.

FAIRY 2
That's three.

HAROLD WHITE
Three springs sprung.

EVERYONE
Gasps!

Judge indicates for the Herald to bang his staff. Everyone is quiet.

REDHEART
I don't understand...

LORD ROLEX
Did you fix both of the sprung springs?

CHIME WHITE
Yes!

REDHEART
You meddled with my machine?

HAROLD WHITE
Yes.

FAIRY 2
But that's only two springs.

CHIME WHITE
Yes.

Ed Redheart is brought back in. The Judge looks at Ed, then Madame Redheart, then back to Ed. Everyone follows his gaze from one to the other.

JUDGE
Quick! Bring me the book of Ancient Time law!

Nobody moves. Then suddenly they all start searching, except the accused, Madame Redheart,

Ed Redheart, Lord Rolex, soldiers and the Judge.

P MINIT

It's not here.

FAIRY 1

Is this it?

Everyone looks the Judge shakes their head. The search continues.

TOCK

Can't see it.

TICK

Open your eyes.

FAIRY 2

Is this it?

Everyone looks the Judge shakes their head. The search continues.

DERRIK

It might be under here.

HATTER

Or in here.

SWEET

Or under here.

TICK

No it's over here.

TOCK

No it's over here.

SWEET

Found it!

FAIRY 1

He found it!

SWEET

Here it is!

EVERYONE

He found it!

JUDGE

Well bring it here.

Sweet holds out a small book, carries it as if it is very fragile. Gently gives it to the Judge.

As the Judge starts to look through it everyone moves in a little at a time. Getting closer and closer.

JUDGE

Ant time...buying time...down time...

P MINUTE

That's my favourite time.

TICK

All the time.

JUDGE

Flying time...keeping time...

FAIRY 2

Don't understand that one.

FAIRY 1

We know.

TOCK

No time.

HATTER

Not yet, we've only go to the L's.

JUDGE

little time...long time...over time...

DERRIK

I definitely don't like that time.

JUDGE

Here it is!

Judge reads, then turns back pages, stops, reads some more.

CHIME WHITE

See what I mean.

JUDGE

Yes. Yes I do.

REDHEART

Well!

EVERYONE

Well!

LORD ROLEX

What do you see?

JUDGE

That Redheart...Ed Redheart did it!

Lord Rolex and Chime White nod in agreement.

EVERYONE

What!

REDHEART

No! That's not possible.

LORD ROLEX

But it is.

REDHEART

It...it was you and your interfering explorers.

ALBA / ALEX

No!

ALEX

I know nothing of springs and sprunges.

ALBA

We came to Spinsec to rescue Chime White.

CHIME WHITE

Thank you.

ALBA / ALEX

You're welcome.

LORD ROLEX

Madame Redheart it is you who is mistaken.

REDHEART

Never! It's your fault. You sent...

JUDGE

Let Lord Rolex speak.

LORD ROLEX

Thank you Judge. It is true that I sent Alba and Alex to Spinsec, but...

REDHEART

See! What did I tell you.

LORD ROLEX

As I was trying to say, it is as they say...to rescue Chime White.

CHIME WHITE

Thank You.

LORD ROLEX

You're welcome.

DERRIK

What about Ed? Derrik points to Ed Redheart.

ED REDHEART

What about me?

FAIRY 1 / FAIRY 2

Ed did something wrong too.

TICK / TOCK

Ed always does something wrong.

EVERYONE

Always!

EDWARD REDHEART

I've done nothing. I know nothing.

HATTER

We know that.

SWEET

What we don't know, is what you did.

P MINIT

And did something you did.

ED REDHEART

I know nothing about the workings of Ancient Time. I have...

JUDGE

According to this card you were the last to take this book out of the library.

Judge waves a card above his head.

Lord Rolex steps forward to read the card. He nods in agreement.

LORD ROLEX

It's Ed's name and signature on the card.

He hands it back to the Judge.

REDHEART

Oh Ed, why?

EVERYONE

Oh Ed, why?

EDWARD REDHEART

Really, do you need to ask. You're as silly as the rest of them.

Madame Redheart starts to cry and is consoled by Chime White.

LORD ROLEX

I have never done you any harm, I have...

EDWARD REDHEART

Always just been...tooooooo nice!

EVERYONE

Tooooooo nice?

ED REDHEART

Clictoc and Spinsec need a real leader.

DERRIK

Like who?

ED REDHEART

Me!

LORD ROLEX

You?

ED REDHEART

Yes me. That little book told me what I needed to take control of both kingdoms.

EVERYONE

Both kingdoms?

ED REDHEART

To take back what was rightfully mine.

HATTER

But isn't wanting both kingdoms a little greedy?

ED REDHEART

No.

JUDGE

Twice the damage.

ED REDHEART

And twice the fun. Oh what joy it has been to see sad times spread throughout the land.

P MINIT

More like mad times.

FAIRY 1

How did you do it?

ED REDHEART

Simple! Stealing Chime White's pocket watch...

CHIME WHITE

I knew I hadn't lost it.

ED REDHEART

...meant he would come looking for it. I sprung one spring inside it.

LORD ROLEX

Then sent it to me. Pushing me in to action.

REDHEART

You knew if I found anyone from Clictoc here in Spinsec, I'd blame Lord Rolex for anything that went wrong.

ED REDHEART

Yes and yes!

CHIME WHITE

And blame me for anything left over.

ED REDHEART

Maybe you lot are not so silly after all.

HATTER

So you used the pocket watch to destroy time in Clictock?

ED REDHEART

Of course! That silly pocket watch is an ancient time piece.

LORD ROLEX

Important to both kingdoms, so it has unimaginable power.

P MINUTE

Then you came back...

EDWARD REDHEART

...and sprung two more springs in the mechanical heart I gave to my darling sister.

CHIME WHITE

All to ensure time in Spinsec also stopped.

Lord Rolex takes a pocket watch from his pocket and gives it to Chime White.

LORD ROLEX

Here you are Chime. Do what you must.

Chime takes it gently and moves center stage. Hatter, Sweet, P Minute go to help him, each looking up every now and then, Chime sending them to get things. Lord Rolex and Madame Redheart try to see what they are doing but get shooed away. Ed is detained by the soldiers.

CHIME WHITE

Done!

EVERYONE

About time!

LORD ROLEX

So time is?

CHIME WHITE

On time!

Everyone checks their watches, many have more than one.

JUDGE

Only one more thing needs to be fixed.

ED REDHEART

There's no hurry, take your time.

JUDGE

Edward Redheart you are sentenced to...

SWEET

No more time for you mister.

HATTER

This must be a really low time.

P MINUTE

But it's definitely your time.

DERRIK

Well we know it's high time.

JUDGE

For you to go to the dungeons!

LORD ROLEX

For the rest of time.

JUDGE

However long that may be.

REDHEART

To scrub and clean machines.

Soldiers gather around Edward Redheart and take him off stage. The rest cheer and start congratulating each other.

FAIRY 1

So does that mean the explorers are free?

TOCK

You mean Alex and Alba?

FAIRY 2

I guess so.

TICK

What do you think Madame Redheart will do?

TOCK

Stay out of trouble.

FAIRY 2
Make friends with Lord Rolex?

FAIRY 1
Do you really think so?

FAIRY 2
Will they really...

TICK / TOCK / FAIRY1 / FAIRY2
...live happily ever after.

They all laugh.

TICK / TOCK / FAIRY1 / FAIRY2
Only time will tell.

THE END