

THE GUARDIAN ARISETH

A dramatic play in three acts by

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Adapted from the movie

“Rise of the Guardians” by Dreamworks

DRAMATIS PERSONAE.

JACK FROST, *a winter spirit*

NICHOLAS NORTH, *the guardian of wonder*

SANDMAN, *the guardian of dreams*

EASTER BUNNYMUND, *the guardian of hope*

TOOTH FAIRY, *the guardian of memory*

} GUARDIANS

PITCH BLACK, *the Nightmare King*

JAMIE, *a boy of Burgess*

CALEB and CLAUDE, *twin boys of Burgess*

PIPPA, *a girl of Burgess*

CUPCAKE, *a girl of Burgess*

MONTY, *a boy of Burgess*

} CHILDREN

SOPHIE, *Jamie's small sister*

Jamie's MOTHER

JACKSON *of Jack Frost's memory*

Jackson's SISTER

Their MOTHER

NIGHTMARES, YETIS, ELVES, *and*

VILLAGERS *of old Burgess*

CHORUS

ACT 1.

P R O L O G U E .

A frozen lake near Burgess, three hundred years ago.

Enter JACK FROST.

Various VILLAGERS of Burgess passing, taking no notice.

JACK

(Speaks to audience.)

The darkness— It is all I can recall
Of that cold moment when I first awoke
Beneath this lake that winter did befall—
But then— The moon, that with a silver stroke
Did from the silence yield me up and I
Had all my dread and anguish cleared away.

5

Why am I here? What for? He did not tell—
And I must wonder if he ever will.

I am a creature strange, with stranger powers
That by this staff controls the wind and weather 10
And with a touch paints all in icy flowers—
Even my very life shall last forever.

But how did this lone spirit come to pass?
I do not, cannot know— nor can I ask:
Forever lonely shall my spirit be 15
For no-one ever this Jack Frost can see.

[Exit JACK FROST.]

S C E N E 1.

The Workshop at the North Pole.

NORTH *on balcony, crafting in his office.*

On stage the Globe of Belief, lit up by countless spots of light.

Numerous ELVES and YETIS at work.

NORTH

(Shouting.)

Can you lethargic elves step up your game?

Remember, I'm still waiting for your cake!

(Elves quickly serve cake and cookies.)

Well, finally— For next time, make more haste!

Indeed, I long for this exquisite taste.

(A Yeti ascends from stage to balcony and utters incomprehensible noises to North.)

Alack, the Globe?

5

‘Tmust be a joke!

(They rush to stage.)

Away, you pointy-heads, and let me see

The fright this Yeti pointed out to me!

(Looks upon the Globe with sudden shock.)

The lights are fading— Tell, what ploy is this?

(To Yetis.) Check axis balance! Do no detail miss!

10

*(Elves scatter when a sudden gust of wind enters the hall.**Dark shadows appear on the walls and the Globe.)*

Can this be true? I dare not fear the worst—

'Tis darker portent than I thought at first!
I would not act like this for something lesser,
But drastic danger calls for drastic measure!
*(Steps to controls and activates Guardian alarm, sending
polar lights in all directions.)*

This signal fire shall the heavens run 15
And gather my companions here anon!

Pray, harken on, my fellow Guardians:
It is our task to foster and protect
The children of the world, and hence be set:
Against this sudden danger we must act! 20
An ancient evil hath returned, it seems—
And when their hope, their wonder and
their dreams

And memories are verily at stake
We Guardians shall countermeasures take!

Enter TOOTH FAIRY.

NORTH Good fairy, thanks be for thy quick approach! 25

I hope thou hast no business to attend?
TOOTH A decent jest, good North, for I in troth
Have business that indeed doth never end!
You know it well: The children of the world
Lose teeth but ev'ry day, and as opposed 30
To you, who works a single day a year
The thicket of my task doth never clear!

But tell, why have you sent the signal fire
And called the busy Guardians to your cave?
NORTH Dear Tooth Fairy, the circumstance is dire— 35
Methinks it truly is a danger grave!

Enter BUNNYMUND.

BUNNY Pray tell, dear North, why must thine shop
be placed
Within this vast expanse of ice and snow
That is the North Pole? Aye, this is no place
For such a tender rabbit as myself! 40
NORTH 'Twould scarcely be the North Pole called if not

North's workshop was indeed build on this spot!

BUNNY

Well, lesser colleague, be that as it may—
Anon proceed this meeting to explain!

NORTH

Pray, rabbit: Patience. Still we must await
Our fourth before I explanation make.

45

Enter SANDMAN.

NORTH

Good Sandman, finally you join our cast!
Then I shall tell the story now, at last.
I was today by darker presence met—
Alack, I fear: It was Pitch Black himself.

50

TOOTH

Pitch Black?—

BUNNY

—The Boogie Man? 'Tmust be a joke!

NORTH

In truth, he was here— At this very Globe.
At first, black streaks of cinder all around—
It spread onto the Globe and to the ground.
We verily were all with terror struck,
But then before us came— a shadow!—

55

BUNNY

—What?

Methought you said that Pitch himself was here

-
- NORTH Pretentious rabbit, focus on the matter!
- (Sandman loses composure and grabs a nearby elf, shaking him. The bells on his garment alert the Guardians. They look to Sandman, who redirects their sight to window.)*
- NORTH Man in the moon! Dear Sandy, why so quiet?
You should have told us—
(Steps into the moonlight.) —Moon, what is
your guidance?
(An image of Pitch appears in moonbeam.)
- BUNNY So it is true. Pitch Black returned—
- NORTH —Dear Bunny,
I told you! Put more trust onto my belly. 80
- TOOTH Good comrades, focus— For I think there's more.
Pray tell, man in the moon: What must we do?
(Moon signals onto the Guardian emblem on the ground.)
It cannot be— You will into our midst
A Guardian appoint as our fifth?
- NORTH I knew it! This portends a threat indeed 85
If Moon doth think that we assistance need!
- TOOTH I wonder who the Guardian may be...
Perchance the Leprechaun?—

-
- BUNNY —'Tis fine with me
 As long as he doth not the Groundhog choose—
 In truth, all else for me is pleasant news. 90
(An image of Jack Frost appears in moonbeam.)
- NORTH ...Jack Frost?—
- BUNNY *(Disgusted.)* —I take it back! The hog's alright!
 But pray assign not this repulsive sprite!
- TOOTH *(Sceptical.)* It shall be in the end all good effect
 If he assists the children to protect.
- BUNNY Jack Frost? Oh spite, he doth not care at all 95
 About the children of this world! Indeed
 His lust for snarl and mischief doth appal
 And could not further be from what we need!
 He is an arrogant and selfish—
- NORTH —Guardian!
(Pause, Bunny taken aback.)
- BUNNY Jack Frost is many things, but not a Guardian. 100
- NORTH How you two get along we shall soon see
 For you are now assigned to bring him here!
- [Exit BUNNYMUND, frustrated.]

S C E N E 2.

The Town of Burgess.

JAMIE *on balcony, reading while awaiting his friends.*

Enter JACK FROST on stage.

JACK

(Singing to himself.)

Sleigh bells ring, are you listening,

In the lane snow is glistening. . .

(Speaking to audience.)

I, wandering this world for centuries,

Have learned this simple truth: One thing

can please

Alone among the things our life provideth

And this thing all in classes two divideth:

Wise men with beards read books of myth and lore

And gather empty words, but in the end

They never are more clever than before

And win no profit from the time they spent.

The truth of life is this: Be bright and cheery
And bother not with work or tiring strife
For dead and grey is all your theory
And free to take the pleasant fruits of life!

(Ascends to balcony and observes Jamie.)

“Creatures of Myth and Legend” is the book—
Intriguing! Jamie, is it any good?
I venture to assume that some of those
Are very real indeed, and rather close!

Enter CALEB and CLAUDE on balcony.

CALEB Canst thou believe this, Jamie? Snow, at last—
Let’s have a snowball fight, and make it fast!

JACK No need to thank me, children— ‘Tis my pleasure
Providing winter for your joyful leisure.

CLAUDE This winter weather’s strange, so close to Easter—

CALEB Wilt thou attend the famèd egg hunt, too?

PIPPA Good morrow, friends, who knew it? Snow at last!

MONTY And here we thought the winter was all past.

PIPPA Our work for school is fin'ly finished now
And Jamie can provide us with a sled—
Come, merry friends: Let us to sledding go!

JAMIE Alack, I hear my mother— Pray you, wait!
(Jamie's mother speaks from offstage.)

J. MOTHER Come hither, son, and take some warmer clothes!
Or do you want Jack Frost to nip your nose?
(Jamie exits and soon returns with additional clothing.)

JAMIE Who is Jack Frost..?—

J. MOTHER *(Laughing.)* —No-one! A mere expression!

JACK *(Irritated.)*

Fie, graceless woman! Hast thou no discretion?
I am indeed at hand and very real!
—More real than Bigfoot, that much I can tell...
(Mimicking Jamie's mother.)

Who is Jack Frost?— 'Tis but an empty phrase!
A mere expression left from bygone days.
In that case, woman, who shall take the praise
For this all-perfect snowball in your face?

JACK Know this, young Jamie: I am real, and thus
I shall to you more of my power show.
Hence tell my, why should not the two of us
Together for a brief excursion go?
*(Summons gust of wind that pushes Jamie onto his sled.
He slides offstage. Caleb is the first to notice.)*

[Exeunt JAMIE and JACK FROST.]

CALEB Pray, friends— Desist! And watch this scene
Of Jamie on his sled anon!

PIPPA He rushes quickly down the slope!

MONTY Alack, that way lies busy streets!
‘Tis far too dangerous— Pray, stop!
*(Children rush to side of stage for a better view.
Excited shouts and noises audible from offstage.)*

CLAUDE Oh spite, he crosses to the street,
Can traffic all but closely dodge!

CALEB He rushes off and straight ahead
Onto the founder monument!
*(Crash audible from offstage.
Children torn between shock and awe.)*
The effigy of this town’s great foundation—
Now nothing but a painful limitation! *(Laughs.)*

[Exeunt CHILDREN.]

(Frustrated.)

Capricious is the spirit of a child

And doth me of a dire truth remind:

I am and shall forever be— alone.

Embrace me, wind, my friend— and take me home.

[Exit JACK FROST.]

S C E N E 3.

The Town of Burgess, at night.

JAMIE *and* SOPHIE *on balcony, talking to* JAMIE'S MOTHER *offstage.*

Enter JACK FROST *on main stage, observing silently.*

JAMIE The ride entirely was unbelievable,
Unfeasible, completely inconceivable—

J. MOTHER You've told the story twice, and shown it, too.
Now hop and off to bed, the both of you!

In these three hundred years you have supplied
To your creation with no lead nor guidance
I must have every single method tried
And ev'ry scheme and ev'ry trick applied
Yet still I am unseen by everyone! 25
Why won't you tell me what I need to do
To free myself and have this curse undone
That you in barren silence dealt to me?
From high upon your throne in nightly sky
You dropped me of unto the world— but why? 30

[Exit JACK FROST.]

Enter PITCH BLACK on balcony.

PITCH And so, at last, shall I this play now enter.
 'Tis I, who maketh all souls quake with fear.
 My bleak aspect but briefly seen before,
 Is now my dreaded entrance fin'ly here.

 This revenant is children's fear incarnate-- 35
 I am what lurks under theirs beds at night

And in the shadows hidden lies in wait
On young souls' doubts and fearfulness to prey.

Their horror gives me life and makes me strong
My only foe is Moon's brave Guardians— 40
And I have lain in wait for far too long
Since when in darker age they bested me.

Indeed, in time gone by I was a god
And feared throughout the land by young and old.
But then the Moon did summon forth his knights 45
To thwart my reign with their ambition bold.

What purpose and importance hath all joy
When there's no darker side to balance it?
How can you know the value of your bliss
When you all evil from you lives dismiss? 50

In truth, I am a presence fundamental--
The world cannot without me run its course
Indeed, the evil spectre never dies
And of all fear this Pitch Black is the source!

(Notices sleeping Jamie on balcony and ascends.)

But now, what have we here? A sleeping child 55

In youthful meditation fancies free—

I shall thy pleasure with my might beguile

And make thine dream a sudden nightmare be!

(Bewitches Jamie's dream to become a nightmare. Jamie in visible discomfort.)

Oh, truly, how I do delight in all

That comes upon a sweet and cheerful mind 60

When it doth unexpected fright befall

And their small spirit with distress doth bind.

(Descends to stage and looks up to Moon.)

Be not so angry, Moon— Did you not see

How soon the day would come when finally

My minions of the night would ready be 65

And bring my wrath of terror onto thee?

My reign is nigh, and no-one shall be spared—

Pray tell me: Are your Guardians prepared?

[Exit PITCH BLACK.]

Now to the matter, let us make this quick— 85

JACK Indeed, why hast thou here to Burgess come?

BUNNY In truth, I hurt my honour with this trick,
But not 'gainst you— Now, Yetis: Take him down!
*(Two Yetis appear behind Jack and seize him. They shove
him into a large sack.*

Bunny pulls out an enchanted snow globe.)

BUNNY North Pole is all too far away, and yet
This glittering sphere, to me by North provided 90
Shall let us move with haste by its enchantment

JACK This must be a mistake— Thou art misguided!

BUNNY Be henceforth silent, thou obnoxious spirit!
The word of North is here thine only merit:
If I were not by mission lead, I would 95
Be done with thee and slay thee on the spot!

[Exeunt, with JACK FROST captured.]

S C E N E 4.

The Workshop at the North Pole.

NORTH, SANDMAN, TOOTH FAIRY *and numerous ELVES gathered*
around the Globe of Belief.

Enter BUNNYMUND and YETIS with captured JACK FROST.

- NORTH Be silent, pointy-heads— Our guest is here.
 Make space and from our midst do disappear!
 (Elves back away while Bunny releases Jack.
 Jack speechless at the sight of North's workshop.)
- JACK This can't be real— Methinks I must be dreaming—
 North's Workshop at the pole? I can't believe it!
- NORTH Jack Frost! Young lad, at last we have our meeting 5
 I hope my friend did treat you with respect?
- JACK Politeness is indeed no strength of his—
 No wonder, seeing how dimly lit he is!
- NORTH You are acquainted with each other then?
 Hence let me introduce my other friends: 10
 The Tooth Fairy, our only woman here—
- TOOTH A pleasure, good Jack Frost! Pray tell, your teeth—
 Are they as beautiful as I am told?
 (Tries to control her curiosity, but gives in and pounces onto
 Jack, inspecting his teeth, to his utter confusion.)

They really sparkle just like fallen snow!

JACK I— I shall thee in good acquaintance keep— 15

NORTH ...And Sandman, our oldest— Though asleep.
(Embarrassed as he gives Sandman a waking poke.)

JACK Your rough kidnapping hath my mood displeased,
So tell me, famous North: Why have us meet?
I am a prankster good and true, yet I can
not remember

Committing evil bad enough to bring you 20
four together!

And close to Easter, too! I can't believe
This rabbit can afford to take such leave.
(Pause.)

And by the way, I cannot help but guess:
Do I appear on your famed Naughty List?

NORTH *(Amused.)*

Lad, on that list you hold the first position! 25
But now it matters not— Your board is clean!

JACK *(Confused.)* How come?—

BUNNY —Indeed, that is the very question.

NORTH *(With festive voice.)*

For you are now our fellow Guardian!

(Elves suddenly enter from sides with instruments, ceremonial torches and other festive equipment, swarming the scene. Loud clamour as they take positions.)

NORTH *(Shouting over the noise.)* I love this part! Enjoy it
while you can!

I shall proceed the Oath to read aloud— 30

(Two Yetis hand him a large book.)

JACK *(Shouting.)* A Guardian? Why should I want
that post?

NORTH *(Shouting.)* Of course you want it! Everybody does!

I will now speak this Oath, and then you shall—

JACK *(Yelling.)* Cancel this celebration! Silence, all!

(Sudden, surprised silence. Jack embarrassed.)

Look, this is all so very flattering, 35

But I don't fit to be a Guardian:

Hard work and full commitment is your thing

Yet I delight in joy and pleasant fun.

Your work and mine indeed are far apart—

BUNNY This has my very point been from the start! 40

(Pause. Guardians unsure how to respond.)

To be a Guardian is destiny.

JACK But why would he not tell me this himself? 60

Why did he not this mission deal to me

Three hundred years ago, before my wait?

And finally, now this is his reply—

The greater scheme he did for me devise:

To spend eternity in some dark cave 65

And form new methods children to entice!

(Short pause.)

I don't mean insult—'Tis but what I see—

BUNNY *(Sarcastic.)* Explain how this could not
offensive be—

(To North.) On this you should my judgement
trust, dear North.

Methinks we dodged a bullet with this move. 70

In truth, this spotted and inconstant boy

Knows nothing of what brings our children joy.

JACK You must have heard of Snow Day, haven't you?

'Tis not boiled eggs, but kids like what I do.

BUNNY *(Suddenly serious.)*

But none of them believe in you, or do they? 75

That is the reason why you are invisible—

Now speak!—

JACK *(Helpless.)* —Alack, great North, you must explain!

NORTH If Moon indeed did choose you as a Guardian 90

You must have something verily unique...

(Reconsiders his approach.)

Tell, what am I to you? What do you see?

On first appearance, I intimidate—

But if you know me well, it is unveiled

That I in my true nature cheerful am! 95

Yet there is more: I am mysterious

When I at night unseen my presents bring—

(Leans in on Jack.)

I'm fearless— caring— and so forth and yonder!

But at my very core, what can you see?

(North towering over Jack, their faces very close.)

JACK *(Confused.)* Your have— big eyes?— 100

NORTH *(With sudden smile.)* —That's right! I have big eyes!

And they are big because they're full! Of wonder!

That is my center and my legacy:

Eyes that can wonder see in everything!

Eyes that can see the trees ablaze with light 105

And magic in the air on winter night.

Wonder is what I put into this world
 And guard in children all around the globe.

It is what makes me Guardian— And you?
 What is you center, Jack?—

110

JACK *(Perplexed.)* —I do not know!
(Tense silence.)

BUNNYMUND *re-enters and hastily ascends to balcony, agitated.*

NORTH What is your message, Easter?—

BUNNY —Oh, Alack!

The Tooth Palace is under fierce attack!

NORTH *(In sudden fear, shouting to Yetis below on stage.)*

Prepare the sleigh as soon as possible—

We take depart to Tooth Palace anon!

JACK North, I shall never join—

115

NORTH *(Yelling decisively.)* —There is no time!

We are under attack, and you will come!

[Exeunt, in haste. NORTH drags JACK FROST along.]

S C E N E 5.

*Tooth Palace.**Enter NORTH, SANDMAN, BUNNYMUND and JACK FROST on balcony.**On stage numerous NIGHTMARES, passing from side to side.*

JACK

(Laughing.)

I thought you heartless, Bunny! But alack,
When I a fall out of the sleigh did fake
Thine shocked expression showed that after all
In my wellbeing you an interest take!

*(As they descend to stage, Nightmares start to attack.**Guardians shocked.)*

NORTH

By Shostakovich, what is this? Methinks

5

Tooth Palace is by shadows overrun!

To arms, companions— Let these monsters taste

The might that Guardians' bravery doth bring!

(Draws scimitar and fends off attacking Nightmares.

Guardians join the skirmish.)

BUNNY *(While fighting.)* Pray tell me, North: What are these
things, and how

Did such abomination come to be? 10

NORTH These are Pitch Black's creations, and indeed

Their horrid shape is hideous, I agree!

They are the children's nightmares' dark remains

And on their own are all too simply slain,

But still: Defeating them is hard, I fear 15

When they in such a multitude appear!

(They continue fighting and force Nightmares to retreat.)

[Exeunt NIGHTMARES.]

NORTH *(Panting.)* This fierce assault doth darker

portent hold:

For if indeed Pitch Black hath been so bold

His hordes of shady minions here to send

I dare not ask about his dark intent! 20

BUNNY *(Looking up at the Palace's arches.)*

I am afraid his scheme is clear to see:

As you know well, this castle's frame doth keep

Within itself, by fairy hand collected

From all around the world young children's teeth—
In that is Pitch's stratagem unveiled: 25
Look upward and behold the empty scape—
He hath his minions lead these halls to raid
To steal their teeth, and with them to escape!

Enter TOOTH FAIRY, exhausted. GUARDIANS rush towards her.

NORTH Good Fairy! Art thou hurt? We were in shock
When we heard of this treacherous attack! 30
TOOTH I am unharmed, and yet it matters not
Compared to other losses here— Alack,
'Tis true that Pitch hath stolen all these teeth
And left me with no thing but pain, and grief...

Enter PITCH BLACK on balcony.

PITCH My colleagues, I must verily confess 35
Your mis'ry in my presence doth impress!
TOOTH Pitch Black— Thou monster! I will have thine head!

*(Rushes to balcony in rage, but Pitch exits
and reappears on stage.)*

PITCH Apologies, yet that shall have to wait.

NORTH Why this? Explain yourself, thou ghost of old!

PITCH *(Amused.)* Can you not see it yet? You shall behold 40

Within your time how I take what is yours,

How I beset Moon's knights with darker force

Until the Guardians destroyèd be,

And by it make the world believe in me.

(Jack takes sudden notice.)

I've had enough of hiding under beds 45

And watch invisibly your gross excess!

(Notices Jack.)

But what is this? Young lad Jack Frost! How come?

Pray tell me, have you been close friends for long?

JACK I am no Guardian, and not their friend—

By chance I came here, not by their intent! 50

PITCH A neutral party? 'Tis all fine with me.

I shall your presence in this fight allow,

Although I will your company ignore—

But then, you must be used to that by now.

Enter numerous NIGHTMARES from sides.

- PITCH Pray tell, how do you like my little knights? 55
 Be not afraid— 'Twould only make them stronger.
 They smell your fear and use it, and I shall
 With their help tolerate your reign no longer.
- BUNNY What fear? We aren't afraid of you, weak spectre!
 Since ages dark no-one hath feared your name! 60
- PITCH Good Easter, oh how right you are— Indeed:
 The dark ages— Oh, I do long for them.
 When unopposed I did my power wield
 With Guardians none to stop my evil plans...
 Until the moon, just like a silver bow 65
 Full-bent in nightly sky had me behold
 How from the deep his Guardians arise
 And how they crushed me into nothingness.
- Since then, I am no more than wind and dust
 When I appear, all think 'twas but a dream— 70
 And all around the mortal world I must
 Witness them say: There is no Boogieman!
 I am invisible— Not unlike you,

thy scheme!

How can these different things connected be?

PITCH

(Amused.)

Do you not know? Did they not tell you this?

With ease you can behold how great it is

To be a Guardian and wield their might, 95

But then there is to it a darker side—

Such is the nature of Moon's sly deceive:

You live because these children do believe.

But when you lose their trust you shall instead

Witness how all you are to shreds is teared. 100

If you the league of Guardians will enter

So it shall be, Jack Frost— But pray remember:

The higher you arise, the more you fall.

And be assured: Demise doth come to all.

[Exit NIGHTMARES and PITCH BLACK.

GUARDIANS try to stop him, but in vain.

(Tense silence among Guardians.)

BUNNY

I must admit, good North: I stand corrected— 105

Pitch Black indeed returned, as you did say.

NORTH

I wish this time my feel had been untrue,

- Had I in truth a home— a family?
TOOTH Why art thou in shock? Canst thou indeed
Not recollect a single piece of it? 130
- JACK *(Struggling to comprehend.)*
The answers were at hand, in all these years!
I searchèd everywhere, and they were here!
- If I can my lost memories review
I'll understand who I am meant to be!
TOOTH Alack, I fear that chance is all but gone 135
As Pitch hath stolen each and every one!
- JACK Then we must fight and take them back anon
And make him pay for what he here hath done!
- NORTH *(With commanding voice.)*
Your search for truth doth move my heart, and yet
There is a matter more severe at hand! 140
Our dear Tooth Fairy's in a sorry state,
As she is now incapable of flight.
Not able her rough business to attend,
Children will stop believe, and she will die!
In truth, as long as I have winter breath 145
I won't allow to leave her to her death!

In time of dire need, we stand as one!

BUNNY

What is your plan?—

NORTH

—We must uphold belief

That Tooth Fairy exists, lest she will die!

And hence we must collect her teeth in time!

150

If children all around the world can see

That no-one comes at night, them to collect

Then all is lost for our dear Tooth Fairy—

So as her friends, in her stead shall we act!

[EXEUNT ALL except TOOTH FAIRY,
in grief but comforted.]

ACT 2.

SCENE 1.

Pitch Black's Lair.

Enter PITCH BLACK on balcony.

On stage a darker version of the Globe of Belief.

PITCH

Indeed, how truly wonderful and strange
The spirit of a child— one moment kind,
Then soon a raging evil, uncontrolled
By the constraint that hath an older mind.

The Guardians are foolish to depend 5
On something as controllable as this—
And he who doth his vim entir'ly spend
To save a child even more foolish is.

To know of loyalty and gratitude
They are far too naive and changeable, 10
And easily they draw away again
When newer things come readily available.

(Begins to descend to stage.)

But yet, the Guardians on them depend
For their belief and trust is all to them.
Without a doubt they fight their noble cause 15

Against the looming evil that I am.

But this is not a battle they can win—

Too easily I can their life attack:

The children of the world shall serve me well

With their inconstant spirit— But Alack! 20

(Rushes to Globe of Belief.)

What must I see on this obsidian globe

That serves as perfect copy to the one

Good Father Winter doth at North Pole use—

Hath yet not come to pass what I foretold?

How can it be that still around the world 25

All youth doth in their Guardians believe?

Doth not my silent cunning yet unfold

With which I planned these mortals to deceive?

Tooth Fairy, badly injured from the loss

Of children's weak belief and foolish trust 30

Must cower at her palace, bound by grief

And certainly cannot her task attend—

(Pause.)

But yet, some unknown actor doth these teeth
With haste collect, to act in fairy's stead!

(Realizes.)

Oh, how the high have fallen, and indeed 35

Do bite the dirt to serve their fellow's need!

Who would have thought that famous

North himself

With Easter shall for once cooperate

To rush for aid with haste and do the task

Their miserable friend doth of them ask! 40

(Pause, Pitch amused.)

I shall allow it— And it matters not!

For their pathetic efforts are in vain:

Tomorrow night, the vastness of my plot

Is shown, and of my foes none shall remain.

[Exit PITCH BLACK.]

S C E N E 2.

Jamie's Room.

(They compare their bags of collected teeth.)

Enter NORTH.

NORTH Quit jesting, friends! This is no competition!
(Pause, then North reveals large bag of teeth with grin.)
But if it was, then I would surely win!
And yet, this is no cause for celebration.
For dire is the peril we are in. 20

Enter SANDMAN.

NORTH Dear Sandman, hast thou been successful, too?
My true congratulations onto you.
Methinks if we continue in this way,
Tooth Fairy might yet see the light of day!
(Jamie awakes. Guardians shocked.)

JAMIE Am I awake or sleeping? Who are you? 25
And how did you my room so slyly enter?
(Pause as he eyes the Guardians.)

A scarlet coat— A beard like fallen snow—
 I can't believe my eyes! You must be Santa!
 You do exist! I knew it from the start.

(Jamie thrilled.)

And then, this hare must be your counterpart— 30
 The Easter Bunny— All is true indeed!

...Although I thought that you would smaller be!

(Laughs.)

And you must be the Sandman, just as true—
 That I would once awake look onto you!

JACK So you can see us?— 35

BUNNY —Well, not all of us—

Methinks that of our group he one did miss...

JAMIE *(Ignoring the to him invisible Jack.)*

But why are you all gathered in my room?

BUNNY *(Nervous.)* We did but for a— nightly visit come!

NORTH Good Sandman, work you spell and take him out!

(Sandman begins preparing dream sand.)

JAMIE Dear friends, explain!— And pray: Be not so loud! 40

Your clamour will awaken our dog

And he shall enter here to guard—

BUNNY *(In sudden terror.)* —A dog!

Good Jamie, keep that monster tightly bound!

JACK *(Confused.)* Why art thou of a sudden so in shock?

BUNNY This child unveiled the presence of a hound! 45

JACK Art thou afraid of it? 'Tis but a dog—

BUNNY Yet hast thou seen what dogs can do to rabbits?

JACK *(Amused at Bunny's fear.)*

Now as thou sayest it— Yes! A dreadful business,
But still: Thou art so large, why all this fright?

BUNNY 'Tis in my rabbit nature, foolish sprite! 50

JACK A good surprise, for I thought thee just spiteful,
But now I see that thou art also frightful!

(Aside.) Against this weakness I'll advantage take:
With sudden noise his shock to panic make!

For I indeed delight in everything 55

That doth distress onto this rabbit bring!

(While all wait for Sandman to enchant Jamie, Jack activates with sly of hand Jamie's alarm clock. In dread, Bunny pounces onto North. Both stumble into Sandman and are by his magic put to sleep. Jack snickering.)

JACK This fell out better than I had devised!

For sleep now binds not only rabbit's eyes

But North's as well— Truly a fab'lous jest!
(Pleased.) ...And after all, in pranks I am the best. 60

(Sandman embarrassed. He quickly puts Jamie to sleep and drags Jack to opposite end of stage with accusing glare.)

JACK

What is it, Sandman? Why so serious?

Is it that Jamie all of this hath seen?

No worry— Come tomorrow, it shall seem

To him a fleeting vision and a dream...

(Nightmares pass on balcony hastily.)

...Not something that in earnest happened here. 65

But wait— I sense a darker presence nigh.

(Suddenly serious as they notice the Nightmares.)

Alack! Again the nightmares do appear

Let us with haste outside, these fiends to fight!

[Exeunt JACK FROST and SANDMAN.]

Enter SOPHIE.

SOPHIE

(Speaking to audience, confused.)

I am Jamie's young sister, not as old,

Awakened from her sleep by curious sound. 70

I enter brother's room and must behold
A group of strangers, sleeping on the ground!

I am still very young, of speech incapable,
But I was worried for my brother's sake.
Although, my infant mind is changeable— 75
And in these strangers do I interest take!

This giant rabbit, then this man— They seem
As if they sprung directly from a dream!
How did such strange occurrence come to be?
...And what's this gorgeous, brightly 80
flickering sphere?

*(Picks up North's snow globe and by accident opens a portal
to Easter's Warren. Intrigued, she enters the gateway.)*

[Exit SOPHIE.]

SCENE 3.

The Town of Burgess, at Night.

NORTH

(To Jack Frost.)

Art thou alright, young lad? Pray, rest assured:

This loss is hard a blow on all of us.

That he was now the victim of this war— 15

JACK

—I'm fine! 'Tis just... I should have done

much more.

Pitch Black's stab from behind, I should have

seen it!

I should have known and should have intervened!

(Silence. North sighs.)

NORTH

We Guardians three remain, and we have learned:

Life can indeed from us our dearest take. 20

At times, it dealeth what you haven't earned—

This truth is one from which none can escape.

Remember this, Jack Frost: Pitch Black hath power

No more than what you fear of him allows.

He doth depend on us to flee and cower 25

In order to profect his evil plans.

That is the strength that we can take from him:

To stand against his power, and to fight—

And not surrender freely our vim!
So listen, spirit: Do not lose your light. 30

It matters not what you so far have been—
For now indeed, thou art a Guardian!

JACK But North, how can I know about my task
When I know not about my hidden past?

NORTH In time, you shall discover, verily— 35
Believe it, I can feel it in my belly!

*(They move to the Globe where Tooth Fairy is
observing the lights.)*

TOOTH Behold how fast these lights go out— Alack!
All taken in by fear's unholy grip...
With no-one to defend these children's dreams
How can we hope to counter Pitch's scheme? 40

BUNNY There is a way how we can still prevail:
Remember that tomorrow's Easter day!
If to this moment we put all our might
We can still persevere and turn the fight!
(North in thought for a moment.)

NORTH When I consider this, I must confess: 45

Indeed, for once you're right— This is our chance!
Prepare the sleigh with haste— let us anon
To Bunny's Warren make a quick advance!

BUNNY

(Grinning.)

My day, my rules, good North! Forget your sleigh.
My rabbit hole shall take us— Please, this way!

50

(Points to offstage with welcoming gesture and smile.

Guardians suspicious.)

[Exeunt.

SCENE 5.

Bunnymund's Warren.

Enter GUARDIANS and JACK FROST, stumbling onto stage

out of a rabbit hole, visibly nauseated.

TOOTH

What a distasteful process! Pray, good North—
Let us in this way travel nevermore!

-
- Till now, I eyed your sleigh but with disdain,
 But this vile method puts it all to shame!
- NORTH That is what I have told thee from the start— 5
 Compared to this, my sleigh is graceful art!
- BUNNY *(Concerned.)*
 Be silent, friends— Something is not in order.
 There is an unknown presence hidden here—
 My trained nose doth smell a curious odour
 That in my Warren's not supposed to be! 10
- TOOTH Alack, could Nightmare King indeed be here?
 BUNNY At hand? How did he my defences pass?
 TOOTH If he at present doth engage, I fear
 With Sandman gone, this fight may be our last...
(They approach the end of stage with weapons ready.)
- BUNNY Come out, Pitch Black! Hide in the dark no longer 15
 And show how you my sanctuary invaded—
 My wardens guard this refuge near and yonder—
 Explain how you these strong defences raided!

Enter SOPHIE, in hand NORTH's snow globe.

GUARDIANS *stumble back in surprise.*

-
- 35
- If you are verily the Guardians,
 When did you last in fact spend time with kids?
 For I must well admit: Your expertise
 Would better for a torture chamber fit!
- NORTH We are Moon's knights, remember? And as such
 We are engaged in bringing joy to children! 40
 This task fills every second of our lives,
 And hence we truly have no time— for children!
(Slightly embarrassed.)
- JACK If she can ruin our Easter preparations
 By just her infant presence here alone
 Then I must say: The Guardians indeed 45
 Are in much worse a shape than I had known!
- TOOTH I see kids all the time when they're asleep—
 Methinks awake they can't much different be!
(To Sophie.)
 Come, little girl: Let's over yonder play—
- JACK *(Mimicking a mother.)*
 Be careful, kids! And stray not far away! 50
- [EXEUNT TOOTH FAIRY and SOPHIE.]
- BUNNY *(Proud grin as he looks around the Warren.)*

Tell me, strong North, how large is the importance
And the effect of your beloved Christmas
The presents, the compassion— and the feast,
‘Gainst this, the green enchantment that is Easter?

You can at last no more deny the truth: 55
Cold winter’s joyous day is well and good,
But in our peril, where is your defence?
Have you perchance your might already spent
When Pitch was hidden still, beneath our sight?
At time when we were dancing in the light 60
That generous Moon was dealing down upon us
And not, as now, did cower from the darkness?

But I assure thee: Now our dread hath passed—
For here is Easter Day, arrived at last!
There shall be spring, on every continent! 65
The lands and hearts ablaze in golden light
Of pleasant merriment, of joy and hope!
And all the world shall coated be in bliss!
My gift shall, like a golden envelope
Embrace the minds and hearts of every child 70

And yield them up from darker days of fright
 Into my world of hope and blazing light!

That is my Easter magic: Life anew
 From ice and stillness of cold winter sprung
 To colour every soul in vibrant hues 75

And make their weakened spirit strong again.
 My light will shine their way through their distress
 With hope support their spirit fast and faster!

NORTH Thou speakest the right: This time, I must confess:
 Christmas is but a second place to Easter. 80

Let us our preparations start anon—
 For 'tis most true that Time doth fastest run.

[Exit NORTH.]

JACK *(Uncomfortable.)*

I must admit— I made a crass mistake
 When I did you as but a ruffian take—
 In all these years I thought you were a fool 85

That ever hath no else than eggs in mind.

But now that I can see your nature true

I realize at last: The fool was I.

For thou art at this time our strongest man.
We need your good defences, for I fear
That Pitch might 'gainst us action take again.

JACK

Put trust in me, we won't be long indeed:
We leave and shall return with rabbit's speed!

110

(Tooth Fairy takes Sophie's hand and they leave.)

[Exeunt JACK FROST, TOOTH FAIRY and SOPHIE.]

S C E N E 6.

Burgess at night, and later Pitch Black's Lair.

Enter TOOTH FAIRY and JACK FROST with SOPHIE on balcony.

SOPHIE lies down and falls asleep soon after.

TOOTH

The child is now returnèd safe and sound—
We should back to the Warren make our way.
In times like these, when nightmares do abound
We shall in here not any longer stay.

Is by its sound at once in me awakened—
Belike a vision from a long past century
Remindeth me of what I have forsaken...

(Struggles with conscience.)

There is still time! I don't need to return 25
To Easter's vivid sanctuary yet.
A small excursion cannot harm if I
More insight on this sudden voice can get!

[Exit JACK FROST.]

Stage lighting switches to indicate change of location.

At Pitch Black's Lair, re-enter JACK FROST on balcony.

On stage a large pile of tooth containers.

JACK Oh, I am out of breath in this fun chase!
In truth, I have no memory of this place— 30
I must confess that I was led astray...
Alack, methinks I might have lost the way!
(Descends.)
I should with haste return— But what is this?

JACK I fear thee not, thou devil! Gather here
And fight, for I am stronger than you think! 50

PITCH *(Laugh.)*
Thou speaketh the right: Thou art not scared
of me—
But verily afraid of other things.

JACK Thine empty speech will earn you nothing, spirit!

PITCH 'Tis more than empty speech, for I do know it.
It is the one thing that I always see: 55
In man and beast unveiled their darkest fear.

My presence cannot scare you, but I know
Your fear: 'Tis that none will believe in you.
And worst of all, you know not how it came
To pass that you shall ever be alone... 60

You fear you'll never truly understand,
The cause for your existence comprehend—

(Exits and reappears on stage.)

But hark: I know a way to end your pain.
I can provide to you that what you seek:
You shall your recollections all regain— 65
The only thing you have to do is speak!

(Reveals in his hand a tooth box. Jack stricken.)

I shall leave it to you, if you but ask—
Your spirited desire fills you up
To overflowing— This alone can stop
The dread that comes with knowing not your past. 70
(Tense pause.)

You want it, Jack— Indeed, you long for it!
‘Tis in your reach, but still you are afraid
What Moon’s brave Guardians will of you think—
To deal with Pitch... They’re sure to feel betrayed!
You fear to disappoint them with your choice. 75
...Allow me then to put your mind at ease:
The Guardians will never take you in—
They can pretend, but in reality...
Because indeed, Jack Frost, can you not see?
Thou art a villain just as much as I. 80

JACK You know not who I am!—

PITCH —But yes, I do.

You are Jack Frost, the very king of fools!
You spawn disaster everywhere you go—

E'en now...—

JACK *(Suspicion arises.)* —Explain yourself! What did
you do?

PITCH I did no thing, and I can prove it, too— 85

For I stood here, conversing— What of you?

Have you perchance some other place to be?

Some Warren to defend from darker peril?

*(Throws tooth box to Jack, who catches it,
petrified by sudden realization.)*

JACK Curse you, Pitch Black! And all your villainy!
There is no fiend in hell like you, thou devil! 90

(Rushes to balcony and tries to exit.)

PITCH Why would you in such haste you exit take?

The Guardians flee, their general away—

And you must know: By now, it is too late.

To you, Jack Frost— A Happy Easter Day!

[Exit PITCH BLACK from stage, with laughter.

Exit JACK FROST from balcony, in dread.

By fierce attack, my sanctuary was taken 15
And with it died this Easter's fragile light.
(*Pause.*)

I cannot to the Nightmare King surrender—
For hope is my whole being, 'tis my center!
To forfeit hope is but to lose myself—
I cannot do't— But hark, who doth here enter? 20

*Enter CALEB, CLAUDE, PIPPA, MONTY and CUPCAKE on stage,
with empty baskets.*

CLAUDE There are no eggs, my friends— No single one!
CALEB Methinks that we have searchèd everywhere—
 Over hill, over dale,
 Thorough bush, thorough brier,
 Over park, over pale, 25
 Thorough flood, thorough fire—
 There are none at all!
MONTY I must surrender— Let us home return!
 Methinks this year there shall no Easter be...

- BUNNY *(Rushing down, seeing his opportunity.)*
 Think no such thing, as long as there is me! 30
(Shows the handful of remaining eggs.)
 Take these— I can't provide you any more,
 But in a pinch, they will suffice, or no?
- CALEB *(Gazing in the distance.)*
 I can't believe it—
- BUNNY —Yes, I must confess
 You speak the truth, these eggs are not the best—
- MONTY My friends, forget this business— Easter's done! 35
- CUPCAKE Pack up your things, and let us home return.
- PIPPA But why would he not come?—
(Shouting out.) —Where are you, Bunny?
 I'm waiting for you, Bunny... Pray, come to me!
 [EXEUNT CHILDREN, disappointed.]
- BUNNY *(Shocked.)*
 Why do I of a sudden feel so weary—
 How can this be— I fear— they cannot see me! 40
(Long pause. Bunny petrified in horror.)
 This feeling I have dreaded for so long
 Hath finally arrived with ghastly touch—

The Guardians shall see you never more! 70

[Exit JACK FROST, miserable.]

(North exhausted.)

BUNNY We never should have trusted him— Indeed
I'm pleased to see he's finally away!
'Twas clear from the beginning: He is weak
And easily by darkness led astray.

NORTH I understand thine sentiment, good Easter. 75
But my concern lies in another thing—
Moon's Guardians now count not more than three.
Our waning strength doth darker portent bring.

Easter means newfound hope and life anew—
Its ruin doth of looming evil warn. 80
'Gainst Nightmare King we seem to hold no power
And our league grows weaker by the hour.

[Exeunt GUARDIANS.]

Enter JAMIE.

- Art thou still searching for an Easter egg? 100
- PIPPA Oh stubborn friend, did you our call not hear?
We're set, to Burgess our return to take.
Are you indeed still searching, Jamie?—
- JAMIE —Yes!
I am! A single one would all suffice—
- CLAUDE The Easter Bunny's fake, so take some rest! 105
- JAMIE But I have seen him, with my very eyes!
- MONTY 'Twas none more than a dream, and far from true!
Be thankful that your nightly visions still
Like childish spirit fancy free and pure,
And cheerful are, not yet with Nightmares filled! 110
(Children nod sadly.)
- CALEB My friends, methinks it true: This year we shall
No Easter have— And if you ask me true,
The Easter Bunny is no more than myth!
And after this mishap, we know for sure.
[Exeunt CHILDREN except JAMIE.]
- JAMIE *(Less confident than before.)*
I swear, he doth exist! I know for sure! 115

For in his baffling presence I have been!
They all were gathered in my very room—
Could all of that be nothing but a dream?

[Exit JAMIE.]

ACT 3.

SCENE 1.

The Freezing Wasteland of the South Pole.

On stage JACK FROST, *uncomfortable and regretful.*

Enter PITCH BLACK.

PITCH I had foreseen that it would end like this—
 What hidden was is now made plain to see:

In truth, the Guardians never trusted you—
To them you are a villain, just like me.

I did but try to make you see this truth, 5
Destroy t'illusion of their false belief—
I understand your pain, Jack Frost— I do!
But now we've come to this, and all is grief.

(Jack Frost, enraged, pounces onto Pitch, but he evades.)

JACK You understand no single thing, you tyrant!
This is your ploy, your fault, you miscreant! 10

PITCH *(Calmly.)* I would not be so sure if I were you.
I know full well the pain of being neglected—
For am I not the king of outcasts true
Since Guardians' rise by all world disrespected?

I know the feeling not to be believed in— 15
To long for love, for friends, for family!
For eons I have seen this dread, and felt it!
No-one deserves to bear such malady.

My life in shadow spent, I did believe
I would in anguish ever lonely be— 20

I'll say it one last time: Leave me alone.
 Return to darkness— Bother me no more! 40

PITCH

(Masking anger.)

'Tis all your choice, Jack Frost— So shall it be.
 But first I shall my pain to you instill
 And let my powers utter, for indeed:
 If I can't have your service, no-one will!

(They clash and fight.)

During the battle, they ascend to balcony. After a while,

Jack Frost is disarmed and Pitch takes his staff.

Sudden pause, Pitch in triumph.)

Behold, mad spirit: Here your power dies! 45

Your magic leaves you as I take this staff—

'Tis not my way to deal your true demise,

For as I said, that is another's task—

But let it me received on every side

That here Moon's pawn, the young Jack Frost, 50

hath died!

(Breaks the staff in twain and tosses the pieces

to Jack Frost's feet.)

[Exit PITCH BLACK.

JACK FROST petrified.

JACK

And so this joyful spirit finds his doom.

With powers gone by breaking of my staff,

This icy crevice shall become my tomb—

Indeed, 'tis as Pitch said: Fate comes to all:

For with my magic stolen all away 55

I cannot call upon the loyal aid

Of him who truly is my only friend:

The wind! Without him, this shall be my end...

(Sits down, forlorn.)

And after all, the Nightmare King was right:

I truly make a mess of everything! 60

Wherever doth appear this cheerful sprite

Doth always he but cataclysm bring!

So this is what the world hath left for me:

A frosty prison, suiting well my name!

In ice encased I shall forever be— 65

With these two sticks to illustrate my failure!

(Pulls out the small box of teeth.)

And all of this, for what? A box of teeth!

A truly dreadful price to pay for this:

Destruction and a needless load of grief—

I wonder what would happen if I open it...? 70

(Opens the box of teeth.)

Stage lighting changes from cold to warm colours as JACK FROST'S

memories manifest below him on stage. He watches in awe.

Enter JACKSON and his SISTER, talking to JACKSON'S MOTHER offstage.

MOTHER Be careful, children— Stray not far away!
 And be ye back at home ere sun doth set!
 Remember Jack: You can't have fun all day—
 So guard from any harm thine sister well!

JACKSON We shall, dear mother— Be 'bout us at rest! 75
 We go but quickly these new skates to test
 At nearby pond, and shall return to you
 Belike the wind! So until then: Adieu!

[Exeunt JACKSON and his SISTER on opposite side.]

Stage lighting switches back to normal.

JACK *(Rushing from balcony in bliss.)*
 Oh cherished vision— Aye, I know that boy:
 ‘Tis me! Before I was Jack Frost— My memory! 80
 Oh how I wish I could this image touch,
 His face, that new, yet so familiar is!
 And still, ‘tis just a dream, I can but watch—
 Though verily: I must see more of this!
(Ascends back to balcony, picking up
the box of teeth in anticipation.)

JACKSON *and his SISTER reappear on stage as lighting switches again.*

He slowly takes off his ice skates, eyes fixes on his terrified SISTER.

Cracking of ice is audible.

J. SISTER Jackson, help! I think the ice doth break! 85
 JACKSON It’s alright, sister— Keep thine eyes on me—
 You shall be fine—
 J. SISTER —Oh brother, I’m afraid!
 JACKSON Pray patience, sister— All shall harmless be.

(Masking apprehension as ice continues to crack.)

I promise you, dear sister: "I will not break—
The ice shall hold us, and we shall not drop 90
To colder death below— Instead, we'll take...
A little fun, alright?—

J. SISTER *(Fighting back tears.)* —No, we shall not!

JACKSON *(Laughing nervously.)*

Oh sister dear, would I play tricks on you?
I wouldn't—

J. SISTER —Yes! Sly tricks is all you do!

JACKSON You're right— But do believe me: Not this time. 95

I promise you: We shall be naught but fine!
Good sister, I can save you easily—
And you but need to put your trust in me.
(Pause.)

Then... Art perchance thou set to play a game?
Believe me, sister— It shall be alright. 100

We shall play... Hopscotch, just like every day,
And merrily play our fears away!

(Cracking continues as Jack slowly moves.)

It's easy, see? Hop, one! Now you:

Step lively now— Hop one, and two!

*(Shy laughter from Jackson's sister as he reaches
for a familiar looking stick to his side.)*

One more, and I can reach you with this pole— 105

Come just a little closer... Steady— Go!

*(Using the staff, Jackson gets hold of his sister and
hurls her to the edge of the pond and offstage.*

*The force propels him to the center of stage as
stage lighting turns off and loud crack is audible,
followed by splash of water. Tense pause as stage is dark.
after a moment, the moon appears from above,
sending slowly brightening moonlight in eerie silence.)*

From offstage, CHORUS speaks, representing Moon's call.

CHORUS Darkness shall be the first thing you remember.

From water's cold embrace I yield you up—

My silver beam doth portent hold for you,

And bathed in light begins your life anew. 110

The silent moon is witness to your deed—
You saved your sister's life at dreadful cost.
For this, thou shalt henceforth a Guardian be—
Arise, my cheerful knight— Arise, Jack Frost!

*Stage lighting returns to normal as Moon disappears,
leaving a speechless JACK FROST. Pause.*

JACK

(Ecstatic.)

So doth this vision fin'ly show my past 115

And ends my long unknowing now, at last!

I had a home, a family— a sister!

And then I gave my life away to save her—

(Looks up at Moon.)

This is the reason why you chose me, Moon—

I saved her life... I am a Guardian! 120

(Jumps up and looks around with newfound energy.)

I must this icy prison quickly flee,

With North and all the Guardians to meet.

I fear they need my help now more than every,

Lest Pitch shall win, and all is lost— Forever!
Although, alack: My power's all but left 125
Since in my fight with Pitch my staff was cleft!
...My will is all that's left to me, but aye:
With newfound hope, so shall my strength regrow!
*(Staff is mended with sudden flash of light by
Jack Frost's will to come to Guardian's aid.
His surprise quickly turns to determination.)*

My plan is set: I rush without delay
To duel Nightmare King and save the day! 130
[Exit JACK FROST.]

SCENE 2.

The Workshop at the North Pole.

On stage NORTH, BUNNYMUND *and* TOOTH FAIRY,

observing the Globe of Belief.

Dear friends, I must admit: You had me worried—
 Lad Frost and Sandman put up such a fight.
 I truly did enjoy our little quarrel,
 But all must end— And this shall end tonight!

15

(Approaches the Globe.)

Behold this globe— The symbol of your valor!
 The solemn emblem of your righteous strife—
 And on it do remain if children's lights

No more than six!—

20

(One of the lights fades.)

—Oh, sorry! Five!

(Turns to North as lights continue to flicker and go out.)

Oh North, how I do revel in your pain—
 They die like flies! No more than three remain.

(Almost dances around Guardians in bliss.)

Another gone— Two left! Now only one!
 And then, within a glimpse, there shall be...—

(Pause. The last remaining light doesn't expire.

Pitch suddenly upset.)

—None!

(Masking rage as the last light still shines steadily.

He turns to North with grimace.)

Fate hath delivered you from death, good North— 25
A lonely champion for the Guardian's rule.

I shall pay visit to this stalwart soul
And test the bounds of his belief in you!

[Exit PITCH BLACK, rushing.]

BUNNY In sea of fear, this beacon of belief
Shines on and doth provide a small relief— 30
Perchance there still is hope for our league
To persevere, e'en in this time of grief!

NORTH 'Tis truly so— Good friend, thou speakest right!
Pray, Yetis: Do prepare anon my sleigh!
We've lost all of our pow'r and fighting might, 35
But to this lonesome child we must with haste!

[Exeunt GUARDIANS.]

S C E N E 3.

Jamie's Room.

On stage in bed JAMIE, in his hand his old stuffed rabbit.

JAMIE

(To stuffed rabbit.)

So now we two have to a crossroads come,

And shall a frank discussion have anon.

If you, with Santa, Sandman and the Fairy

Indeed appeared in this room verily,

Then you shall have to prove it on the spot— 5

How you will do it, matters to me not.

(Waits, but nothing happens.)

For my whole life I have believed in you—

On Easter day each year you've spawned anew

My joy and hope, and for my trust you owe me.

So if indeed you do exist— Just show me! 10

(Silent pause.)

A nod, a tiny sparkle of a sort—

Come on, that can't too complicated be!

If anything at all you can provide—

The slightest sign would be enough for me...

(Waits, but no response comes.)

I'm waiting, Easter Bunny— Send your sign! 15

(Pause. Jamie puts the toy down in disappointed sadness.)

...I knew it— You are nothing but a lie.

Enter JACK FROST on balcony as JAMIE lies down in bed.

JACK

How fate plays ever unexpectedly!

It shuffles through the lives of beast and man

And holds the strangest twists in store for me:

From joy to hopelessness, and back again! 20

With will and hope restored I rushed in haste

To Pitch Black's lair, the fiend again to face,

To free the world from a distressing fate

And for my failings recompense to make.

But Pitch had all but vanished, and in shock 25

On his obsidian globe I did behold:

The children of the world their faith had lost,

Except a single lone believer bold.

I knew at once: This faithful child was him—

The only one that on our side remains. 30

But now I see: His state is just as grim,

As he called onto us— and nothing came.

I wonder if I can provide the sign

That he of Easter Bunny asked in vain...

(Descends to stage and touches Jamie's bedroom window.

Frost flowers appear on its surface, spreading.

Jamie suddenly wide awake.)

JAMIE

I can't believe it— This must be the signal 35

That I did of the Easter Bunny ask—

He really hath his indication sent

And his existence proved to me at last!

(The icy pattern spreads across the walls of Jamie's bedroom

as he watches in amazement. He turns away from the

window and reaches out to touch the wall, whispering.)

He's real... He's sent his sign to me!

But all this ice— Say, could it be... 40

(Eyes widen as realization comes.)

...Jack Frost?—

JACK *(Dazed.)* —Hold on! Did you just say...?

JAMIE Jack Frost.—

JACK *(In disbelief.)* —He said it twice! You said—
(Jamie turns back around and freezes, eyes wide in awe.)

JAMIE Jack Frost!—

JACK —That's right, but— but that's me!

You said it! Yet— How can this be?

Hold on— Say, can you hear me?

45

(Jamie nods, speechless.)

And can you... Can you see me?

(Jamie nods again. Jack thunderstruck.)

JACK ...He sees me! Oh, delight— What joy this is—

Let snow rain down upon this sprite in bliss!

(Snow starts falling on stage as Jack Frost leaps for joy.)

JAMIE I can't believe it— You just made it snow

Down from the ceiling of my room!—

50

JACK —I know!

JAMIE You're real!—

JACK —Of course! 'Tis me who brings to you
Those blizzards and those merry days of snow?

And your ride on the sled the other day—

JAMIE That, too, was you?—

JACK —It was me, verily!

JAMIE But what of Santa, Tooth Fairy 55

And Easter Bunny— could they be—

JACK Real, real, real!—

JAMIE —I knew!

JACK Every tale you know is true.

*(Their ecstatic talking is suddenly interrupted by
Jamie's mother, calling from offstage.)*

J. MOTHER What art thou shouting at, dear child? Pray, sleep!

JAMIE *(Struggling for an excuse.)*

I'm talking to... Jack Frost!— 60

J. MOTHER —Jack Frost? I see! *(Chuckles.)*

(On stage both in silent amusement.)

JACK Thou truly art our champion, little boy—

The very last believer in our league!

Pray, come with me: We must with haste away,

To flee Pitch Black and with my friends to meet.

I must rush to the Guardians' aid anon— 65

For soon, the Nightmare King shall hither come...

I fear that final conflict will ensue

For one remaining faithful child— For you!

[Exeunt JACK FROST and JAMIE.]

S C E N E 4.

The Town of Burgess.

NORTH, BUNNYMUND *and* TOOTH FAIRY *come crashing onto stage.*

NORTH Alack, I cannot even fly my sleigh!
Such is the true extend of our misfortune—
But then: What of it? Be that as it may,
For we at last have reached our destination.
The town of Burgess! A can scarce believe 5
Our final fight might be in such a place,
In such a little town with no importance—

Let's find this last believing child with haste!

Enter JACK FROST, with JAMIE.

GUARDIANS *taken aback, but regain composure.*

- NORTH Jack Frost! Mad spirit, what's your business here?
- JACK The same, I do believe, as yours, good North— 10
The last remaining light, and our hope.
Be not afraid, young Jamie. Come, step forth!
- JAMIE *(Shyly, but amazed.)*
I— must be caught up in a dream, again!
You're all real, after all— What a relief!
I thought it fantasy when you appeared— 15
- NORTH Don't worry, child— It is but your belief
That keeps us all afloat against this foe,
And for this service, we all owe to you.
(Jamie embarrassed. He notices Bunnymund and approaches, touching his fur.)
- JAMIE Oh Easter Bunny, you're so huge— and awesome!
...But also fluffy and adorable! 20
- BUNNY *(Disturbed.)* Hold on!—

(*To Jack Frost.*) —You made him say that,
did you not?

JAMIE Fie, he made me again believe in you!
 (*Bunnymund looks to Jack Frost, surprised. Their moment
 of reconciliation is interrupted by thunder.*)

Enter PITCH BLACK on balcony.

PITCH And so shall we all meet again,
 In thunder, lightning, and in rain!

JACK (*To Guardians.*)
 Protect the child, and get him out of here— 25
 Make your escape as I shall dance with fear!
 (*To Pitch.*)
 Now let this fight be lost, and won!

PITCH Aye, so 'tshall be ere rise of sun!

[*Exeunt GUARDIANS and JAMIE.*]

(Pitch descends, and they fight.)

PITCH So tell me: Do you like my newfound power?
 How fares against this might thine faithful virtue? 30

It shall be fine— We'll best this threat together

(Jack Frost approaches balcony from below.)

JACK

I heard these words before— And then, I saved her 55

By might of fun— That's it! That is my center!

(Returns to original position with newfound vigour.)

We shall by Pitch tonight not be undone—

Instead, methinks we'll have a little... Fun!

[Exeunt JACKSON and his SISTER from balcony.]

JACK FROST *grinning as stage lighting switches back*

and action on stage resumes.

PITCH

Too soon, this battle shall come to its end—

Young child, dost thou believe in the Boogiema— 60

(Gets suddenly interrupted by a snowball hitting his face, thrown by Jack Frost.)

Sudden silence. Jamie can't help but snicker and

North lets out a chuckle.

As Pitch wipes snow off his face in disgust, Guardians and Jamie make their escape.)

[Exeunt GUARDIANS and JAMIE.]

If we remain in fear of Nightmare King, 75
Then I already know we'll never win.
Rekindle faith within each child,
And meet again, to turn the fight!

[Exeunt GUARDIANS and JAMIE.]

After a while, enter PITCH BLACK on balcony.

PITCH

(Speaking to audience.)

I ever closest feel to the divine
When I can witness suffering and pain, 80
And mortal anguish, for these are the times
When our world doth reveal its true design.

Dread is eternal— None can e'er escape it—
It reaches all as destiny unfolds.

For fear is nature's core, and as I deal it 85
I truly am the king of all the world.

*(Descends. Over time, numerous Nightmares enter and
gather around him.)*

Never hath man, nor beast, nor sprite been able
To flee my grasp— And if, then not for long.
For suffering and pain do come to all—
In truth: None can avoid the gift I bring. 90

From anguish, fear's the natural conclusion.
Fear drives all mortals in disastrous ways.
And as all things come quickly to confusion
The world is well prepared for my dark plays.

Why should I then put effort to my cause? 95
The world doth fall to me but naturally!
When fear doth spread, I must but watch in awe
As by and by all things succumb to me.

*Re-enter GUARDIANS, with CHILDREN, from left as
PITCH BLACK and NIGHTMARES move to right side.*

PITCH

(Incredulous..)

A rag-tag band of kids? You must be joking.

Is this your chosen strategy, Jack Frost? 100

I thought your task was to protect all children,
 Yet now you send as warriors them forth!
(Nightmares neigh. Jack Frost turns to Children.)

JACK They're just bad dreams!—

BUNNY *(To Pitch.)* —Come here and face us, sprite!
 They're innocent— This is the Guardians' fight!

PITCH Brave Easter Bunny, this is well and good— 105
 You will protect these children well— But say:
 Who then shall give protection onto you?
(Short pause. Children step forth.)

JAMIE I will!—

CALEB —And I!—

CLAUDE —And I!—

PIPPA —And I!—

MONTY —...And I!

(Pitch surprised, then smiling. He mimics despair.)

PITCH A league of fearful children— Oh, alack!
 I must retreat— 110
(Suddenly serious.) —But first: Nightmares: Attack!

NIGHTMARES *charge as CHILDREN extend their hands.*

NIGHTMARES *crash onto them, but burst into golden light.*

Stage lighting flickers wildly as NIGHTMARES continue to charge in vain. PITCH BLACK in horror.

PITCH How can this be?— Jack Frost! What is thine plan?
Nightmares, come forth, and swiftly strike again!

Soon, all NIGHTMARES have bursted into light and disappeared.

On balcony, golden light gathers.

Enter SANDMAN on balcony.

General shock and awe on stage. PITCH BLACK stumbles back.

PITCH How— Sandman, all revived! I can't believe—
I slew thee verily— How can this be?
(Sandman descends and duels Pitch, who visibly struggles.)

How come...? Is foul defeat all that I've earned? 115
Thine ancient pow'r prevails, and I must flee!
(In utter disgust and disbelief.)
Spite! I cannot explain how you returned—

From above, MOON shines brightly.

PITCH

(Looking up.)

Explain it, Moon! How did this come to be?

I am Pitch Black, the king! Am I not he?

How did this lord of shadows lose to you,

Who's naught but silver light? Is it not true:

With ease a childish spirit is corrupted— 5

Too well they let the dark to them appeal!

In turn too hard's the task to guard and save it,

To keep all children from the harm I deal.

Is Nightmare King not set to win this war?

Have I not yet my triumph harshly earned? 10

For I had in my fist the Guardians—

Each one, and then I crushed them all in turn:

I ruined Tooth Fairy's palace, and her soul,

I even had the mighty Sandman slain,

Disrupted Easter Day, and Easter's hope, 15

And took all trust in mighty North away!

And in despair you summoned forth Jack Frost

To end with icy might my looming threat—

We must around the world kids' faith revive.
There's work to do— And so we shall away!

- JAMIE *(Looking up to Jack Frost, suddenly saddened.)*
But Jack, pray stay— You cannot leave so soon! 15
For what if Pitch returns to haunt again?
Who will be there to stop his ghastly reign?
What if, in fear— I cannot see you then...?
- JACK
Good friend! Doth you believe in our Sun
Decrease when every day the night doth come, 20
And in Moon's tender light her face is gone?
- JAMIE
Of course not! Come night's end, she will return!
- JACK
And do you stop believing in her light
Is blocked by clouds that keep her from your sight?
- JAMIE
Not ever!— 25
- JACK —We shall always be there, friend—
The Guardians live, e'en when we are apart.
We watch your ways and guard you to the end,
Stand at your side, and live within your heart.
Farewell, brave child! And be ye not afraid:
If Pitch returns, we will be at your aid! 30

[Exeunt CHILDREN.]

JACK

(Speaking to audience.)

Wonder, Hope, Dreams, and Fun—

such are the memories
that of their childhood everyone
doth for a lifetime hold.

We Guardians five do guard this treasure pure
And stand forth to protect it evermore.

Our enemy is verily eternal, 35

For fear doth have a place in everyone—

But he shall never our lord become,

As 'gainst him stands the joy of being young.

With Sandman well returned

And children's faith restored, 40

So ends our merry play

As now the curtains falls.

I am Jack Frost, a Guardian—

How do I know? Moon told me so!

So if the moon doth speak within your spirit, 45

Take to your heart the message— And believe it!

[Exeunt omnes.]

E N D .