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Hansel & Gretel

**Book & Lyrics by
Kristin Walter**

**Music by
Michael Walter
and Karen Biscopink**

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Cover Illustration by Goopymart

HANSEL & GRETEL
ISBN 978-0-87440-269-8
1858-B

HANSEL AND GRETEL was first produced in April, 2008 at Manhattan Children’s Theatre. The production was directed by Bruce Merrill, with musical direction by Nathan Atkinson and set design by Cully Long. The cast was as follows:

HANK.....Gilbert Molina
GERTIE.....Julia Hochner
MOTHER.....Kelslan Scarbrough
FATHER.....Alvin Chan
WITCH.....Rori Nogee

RENTAL MATERIALS

An orchestration consisting of **Piano/Vocal Scores** will be loaned two months prior to the production **ONLY** on the receipt of the Licensing Fee quoted for all performances, the rental fee and a refundable deposit.

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CHARACTERS

Hank

Gertie

Mother

Father

Witch

Boy

Girl

SETTING

The play takes place in a cottage deep in the Appalachian mountains, the woods nearby, and in the Witch's gingerbread house.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Grace (**HANK, GERTIE, MOTHER, FATHER**)

The Witch's Song (**WITCH**)

The Lord Will Lead Us Home (**GERTIE, HANK**)

The Candy Cottage (**BOY, GIRL**)

Take Me Home (**GERTIE, HANK**)

Grace (Reprise) (**HANK, GERTIE, MOTHER, FATHER**)

Scene One

(The main room of a small cottage. A family of four is sitting around the dinner table. There is a plate in the center covered with a tea towel. They are singing Grace.)

SONG - GRACE

ALL.

LORD OF THE MOUNTAINS
LORD OF THE TREES
LORD OF THE POSSUMS
AND LORD OF THE BEES
WE GATHER TOGETHER
AT THE END OF THE DAY
TO OFFER THIS BLESSING
TO HIM THAT WE PRAY.
THANK YOU FOR SHINING
THE SUN IN THE SKY
THANKS FOR THE STARS
O'ER THE BED WHERE I LIE
THANKS FOR ALL BIRDS
AND THANKS FOR EACH BEAST
BUT WE'RE MOST GRATEFUL, LORD
FOR THIS BOUNTIFUL FEAST.

MAMA. *(removing towel to reveal four small pieces of bread)* I reckon it ain't much of a feast.

HANK. I don't know what you mean, Mama.

DADDY. *(biting into a piece of bread)* Why, we're eatin' high on the hog this season!

MAMA. I just wish we had some hog, or some taters even.

HANK. Don't fret none, Mama. I'm as full as a tick from lunch.

GERTIE. I couldn't eat another bite.

MAMA. I could see the bottom of the flour barrel this morning. We only got enough for a couple more days.

DADDY. I'll go back to the mine in the morning. I heard some men talkin' this afternoon – they said there might be some work this week.

MAMA. I'll go out and check the traps tomorrow. We might a caught us a squirrel or two.

HANK. Or a rabbit.

GERTIE. Rabbit stew!

HANK. Rabbit stew's my favorite!

GERTIE. Hank and I can go pick some berries. There're still a heap of 'em on the bushes by the creek.

MAMA. If the bears ain't got to 'em first.

GERTIE. Oh, Mama, there ain't no bears out here.

DADDY. Well then, the wolves might-a eaten' 'em all up.

HANK. There ain't no wolves neither.

MAMA. Well, maybe the witch took 'em to make her sugar house.

GERTIE. Sugar house?

HANK. What sugar house?

GERTIE. What witch?

DADDY. Don't tell me you ain't never heard of Hansel and Gretel!

HANK. Who?

DADDY. Hansel and Gretel. My Granny used to spin this yarn for me when I was no bigger than the two of you.

HANK. Tell us!

GERTIE. You tell the best stories!

DADDY. Well, let me get my pipe...

MAMA. We ain't had no tobacco in two years, why do you hang on to that pipe?

DADDY. Hush up, Mama and quit pesterin' me. It's my storytellin' pipe. (*puts it in his mouth*) Now, don't that make me look like a proper storyteller?

GERTIE. It's just the thing, Daddy. Now tell us about Hansel and Gretel.

DADDY. Mama, you comin'?

MAMA. Oh, I wouldn't miss it. Scootch over, you two and give me a little piece of floor.

DADDY. You settled?

MAMA. Pay me no mind – you just tell your story, Mr. Storyteller man.

DADDY. I reckon I will. Once upon a time, there were two little children by the names of Hansel and Gretel. They were brother and sister, and they were very poor.

HANK. Like us!

DADDY. A little like you. Their folks was out of work and they didn't get much food to eat. Some days, they didn't even get bread. Those poor little kids was so skinny a good puff a wind would've blown 'em away.

GERTIE. Poor little Hansel and Gretel. Didn't they have berries to pick or fish to catch?

DADDY. Nope. They was hungry and cold all the dad gum time.

HANK. Well, at least they had their Mama and Daddy.

DADDY. Well, they had their Daddy, who loved them very much. But their Mama was a mean as a snake, and jest about as ugly.

MAMA. Oh, fer cryin' out loud!

DADDY. Hush up. I'm telling a story here. One night, their Mama decided they couldn't take care of those kids any more. So she led 'em off into the forest and she left 'em there.

GERTIE. That's just the worst story I ever heard!

HANK. Did they die?

DADDY. They sure didn't. Because Hansel was smart.

They were goin' so far into the woods, he wasn't so sure his Mama knew the way back, so he left a trail of breadcrumbs so they could find their way back home.

HANK. Hansel wasn't no dummy, was he?

GERTIE. So they followed the trail and ended up safe at home, where their Daddy was so happy to see them and...

MAMA. Hang on there, Gertie. Don't let's get ahead of ourselves here. You see, the birds up in the trees saw all those breadcrumbs, and they looked might tasty. So they swooped down and ate 'em all up.

GERTIE. Poor Hansel and Gretel! All alone in the forest!

HANK. What did they do then?

MAMA. Well, they started to walk in the direction they thought was home, but it wasn't. And it led them deeper and deeper into the dark woods.

GERTIE. I got the heebie jeebies.

DADDY. But then they came to a clearing. And in that clearing, was a house.

GERTIE. Was it their house?

HANK. Were they home?

MAMA. It wasn't their house. In fact, it was house the likes of which they'd never seen. It was all made of sugar!

GERTIE. A house made of sugar?

MAMA. The walls were made of gingerbread, and the roof was all vanilla icing. The windowpanes were made of meringue and the fenceposts were peppermint sticks!

GERTIE. Whose house was it? Was it a kindly old widow woman?

HANK. Was it a baker?

DADDY. It wasn't neither of those things.

GERTIE. I know! I know whose house it was! It was the witch!

DADDY. That's right, Gertie! It was a witch!

HANK. Was it a mean witch?

DADDY. It was such a mean witch!

GERTIE. Was it an ugly witch?

MAMA. This witch had fallen out of the ugly tree and hit every branch on the way down!

GERTIE. Well, if she was so mean and ugly, what was she doin' with such a beautiful and tasty house?

DADDY. She used that house to trap little children.

HANK. Now I got the heebie jeebies!

GERTIE. What did she do with the children once she'd trapped 'em?

HANK. Did she eat them?

MAMA. You'll just have to wait until tomorrow night to find out. Bedtime!

HANK. Mama, no!

GERTIE. Not now!

MAMA. Off to bed with you. You've got a big day of berry picking ahead of you. You wouldn't want to be too tired, now would you?

GERTIE. But I'll never get to sleep if I don't know how the story ends. I'll just be fannin' the covers all night!

MAMA. Just lay down and close your eyes. Now scoot!

HANK. Night, Mama. Night, Daddy.

DADDY. See you in the morning.

(HANK and GERTIE exit.)

DADDY. Now that was downright mean, sendin them off to bed without an ending to the story.

MAMA. It'll give them something to think about – get their minds off their empty bellies.

DADDY. Sure, they'll just be dreamin about cakes and cookies all night.

MAMA. Well, it's better than dreamin' about hard bread and water.

DADDY. When I get work again, we'll be eatin' ginger-bread every night.

MAMA. You'll find something soon. You've just been down on your luck.

DADDY. Bad luck's the only kind of luck I've had lately. It was raining soup, I'd be caught with a fork.

MAMA. It'll get better soon. Everyone's been hit hard. Light that lamp, will you?

DADDY. I heard Charlie Wilson talking in town today.

MAMA. Could you hand me those dishes? Gotta get this kitchen cleaned up before we run out of coal oil.

DADDY. The mine company's still looking to explore the smaller shafts.

MAMA. No.

DADDY. The pay's real good.

MAMA. No. We've talked about this, and I won't do it. I won't send my children down into no mine shaft.

DADDY. I know.

MAMA. Little Jimmy Johnson near choked to death last spring.

DADDY. I know.

MAMA. What did you tell Charlie?

DADDY. That if he's fool enough to send his own kids down in that cave, he can go right on ahead. Hank and Gertie are gonna stay safe above ground.

MAMA. Good. We'll make it work somehow.

DADDY. (*smiles*) I suppose we can always take them out into the woods and leave them there.

MAMA. Maybe they'll find a gingerbread house and live happily ever after.

DADDY. They'd have to kill the witch first, though. And I hear she's a mean, ugly old thing.

MAMA. (*laughing*) Dishes are done. Let's get to bed ourselves. Long day tomorrow.

Scene Two

(The woods. HANK and GERTIE are picking berries off a bush.)

HANK. Ain't these just the tastiest things?!

GERTIE. If you don't stop eating 'em, there'll be none left for Mama and Daddy.

HANK. Maybe Mama can bake a pie!

GERTIE. You need sugar to bake a pie, Hank, and we ain't got any of that.

HANK. Sugar! That's just like the story Daddy told us last night. A whole house made of nothing but sugar!

GERTIE. Just imagine it – gingerbread walls and icing and peppermint sticks – sounds like a big slice of heaven to me.

HANK. I dunno – it would get awful soggy when it rained.

GERTIE. Ah, shoot, Hank. It's a magic cottage. Ain't no rain can get inside a magic cottage.

HANK. How about snow?

GERTIE. Nope!

HANK. Hail? That would make an awful dent in the frosting.

GERTIE. Hey! I got an idea! Let's play a game!

HANK. What kind of a game?

GERTIE. Let's pretend that this bush is the cottage, and you and me are Hansel and Gretel.

HANK. Can I be Hansel?

GERTIE. Well, Hansel's the boy, ain't he? Come on! *(acting it out)* Oh, Hansel, I'm so hungry from all that walkin'.

HANK. Me too, Gretel. I sure do wish our Mama and Daddy hadn't gone and left us all by our lonesome

out here in the dark woods. (*out of character*) How's that?

GERTIE. (*out of character*) That's mighty fine pretendin', Hank. (*in character*) Oooh, look Hansel! Over yonder! It's a gingerbread cottage!

HANK. I'm going to take a big bite out of it.

GERTIE. Wait a second, Hansel. We don't know who lives here.

HANK. (*out of character*) Sure we do, it's a mean, nasty...

GERTIE. But *we* don't know that yet.

HANK. Oh, right! (*in character*) I wonder who would live in such a house made all of sugar. Maybe it's a beautiful princess.

GERTIE. Or it might be a mean...

HANK. Nasty...

GERTIE. Ugly...

(The WITCH pops up from behind the bush. The children scream and run back.)

HANK & GERTIE. It's the witch! It's the witch!

WITCH. Now y'all just quit yer catterwallin'! You'll put me in a right state!

GERTIE. You scared us!

HANK. What're you doing, popping out at us like that?
I done got goose bumps all over!

WITCH. Ain't meanin' to scare you. I'm just out doing a little berry pickin'.

GERTIE. Where do you live?

WITCH. Over yonder. Other side of the river.

HANK. How come we ain't never seen you before?

WITCH. I keep to myself mostly.

GERTIE. What are you doing all the way out here?

WITCH. Well ain't you two full of questions? How about you let me ask one or two?

GERTIE. Go ahead, then.

WITCH. Where's your house?

HANK. In the meadow back that way.

WITCH. What are you doin' all the way out here?

GERTIE. Berry pickin'.

WITCH. From the looks of you two, I'd guess that berries is all you been eatin'. You're so skinny a good puff of wind would blow you away.

GERTIE. (*a little defensive*) We had some bread for supper last night.

HANK. And Mama says there might be a rabbit in the traps today.

WITCH. Well, if your Mama says so, I guess it's true. Well, it was nice to meet you Hansel and Gretel.

GERTIE. Those ain't our names. I'm Gertie and that's Hank.

WITCH. Hogwash! I heard you before. You were callin' each other Hansel and Gretel.

HANK. We was just pretendin'.

WITCH. Pretendin' what?

GERTIE. Mama and Daddy told us a story last night before bedtime, and we was just make believing it was real.

HANK. Ain't you never heard of Hansel and Gretel?

WITCH. I guess I ain't.

HANK. Well, shucks, it's an awful good story. Hansel and Gretel's parents leave them all alone in the woods cuz they ain't got no money and can't feed 'em no more. So they walk and walk until they find a cottage made all of gingerbread.

GERTIE. It has icing for a roof and peppermint sticks for fenceposts.

HANK. They start to eat some of it, but then they're caught by the mean old witch who lives there.

WITCH. Well don't stop now. How does the story end?

GERTIE. Don't know. Daddy's gonna tell us the ending after supper tonight.

WITCH. Well, ain't that a shame. Sounded like a mighty fine tale.

GERTIE. Maybe if we run into you again, we'll tell you how it all works out.

HANK. I think the witch locks up Hansel and Gretel and eats 'em up.

GERTIE. Hank! Daddy's stories all have *happy* endings.

WITCH. I just bet they do. Well, off with you. You don't want to be late gettin' home now.

GERTIE. Right nice meetin' you, ma'am. (*They exit.*)

WITCH. The witch locks up Hansel and Gretel and eats 'em up. That sounds like a mighty happy ending to me. (*looks around*) This here's a pretty little valley. I reckon I could settle down here. Plenty of trees, good clean runnin' water, and a whole lot of folks ain't no one gonna miss. Startin' with little Hank and Gertie. Now let's see...a gingerbread house...I can make me a gingerbread house, that's the easy part. No, the trouble is gettin' their Mama and Daddy on my side. That calls for a mighty special curse. One that just works on the grownups. The kind that protect the children and are responsible for the children and tell the children dumb old things like never take candy from strangers. They spoil all my good fun! And I've got just the recipe. Good thing I still have some of that special ingredient in the cupboard. I'll whip up a big batch of gingerbread, and find that Mama near the rabbit traps. Then all I have to do is wait till the sun goes down!

SONG - THE WITCH'S SONG**WITCH.** (*cont.*)

CHILDREN PLAYING LITTLE GAMES
WELL I CAN PLAY THEM TOO
I CAN SPIN A STORY
AND MAKE IT ALL COME TRUE

I CAN TRICK A MAMA
INTO GIVIN' UP HER YOUNG
THEN WORK DELICIOUS MAGIC
BEFORE THIS TUNE IS SUNG

YOU'D BETTER BEWARE
WHEN THE SUN GOES DOWN
YOU'D BETTER BEWARE
WITH A WITCH IN TOWN
I'LL EAT YOUR HEART AND SWALLOW YOUR SOULS
IN CAKES AND PIES AND JELLY ROLLS
SO TAKE CARE
WHEN THE SUN GOES DOWN

I CAN CURSE THE GROWN-UPS
I LEARNED FROM WITCHES PAST
ALL I NEED IS CHILDREN
AND MY SPELL'S AS GOOD AS CAST

I'LL MAKE A BATCH OF GINGERBREAD
SO TASTY AND SO FINE
ONE BITE OF IT AND MAMA'S
PRECIOUS CHILDREN WILL BE MINE

YOU'D BETTER BEWARE
WHEN THE SUN GOES DOWN
YOU'D BETTER BEWARE
WITH A WITCH IN TOWN

I'LL EAT YOUR HEART AND SWALLOW YOUR SOULS
IN CAKES AND PIES AND JELLY ROLLS
SO TAKE CARE
WHEN THE SUN GOES DOWN

Scene Three

(A clearing in the woods. MAMA is checking on the traps.)

MAMA. *(sees a trap offstage)* Well thank the good Lord! We caught us a rabbit! Hank'll be so happy to have stew tonight. *(starts to exit)*

WITCH. *(enters)* I see you caught yourself a rabbit.

MAMA. *(jumps)* Oh! You startled me right out of my boots! I didn't see you there.

WITCH. Beg your pardon, ma'am. I'm awful sorry.

MAMA. My heart is racing just a mile a minute.

WITCH. Set down here and catch your breath. You're as white as a sheet.

MAMA. Thank you. *(She sits on a log.)*

WITCH. Did I hear you say somethin' about making a stew for Hank?

MAMA. I did.

WITCH. You wouldn't be talkin' about Hank and Gertie, would you?

MAMA. How do you know Hank and Gertie?

WITCH. I bumped into 'em pickin' berries over to the creek. You got yourself a mighty fine pair of youngsters.

MAMA. Thank you. They're good kids. We're real proud of 'em.

WITCH. Well, you should get that rabbit home.

MAMA. I should. *(starts to leave, then turns back)* It's a big rabbit – there'll be plenty of stew if you want to join us for supper.

WITCH. Oh, that is so very kind of you, but I gotta be on my way. *(turns to go, then turns back)* Do you think you might like a little gingerbread to bring home with you?

MAMA. I beg your pardon?

WITCH. Gingerbread. I made up a batch this afternoon and it's too much for one old lady to eat. I would have given it to the children, but they took off with their berries before I had the chance. Why don't you take it home for them? (*holds out a little parcel*)

MAMA. I ain't had gingerbread in a good five years. Lordy, that smells good.

WITCH. Have a bite.

MAMA. Oh, I couldn't. I'll just take it home for Hank and Gertie.

WITCH. (*brings out another small parcel*) Now look, here's a whole nother piece. There'll be plenty left for Hank and Gertie. Go on. Take a bite.

MAMA. It does look tasty. Maybe just a little nibble. (*takes a bite*) It's so good. (*takes another bite*) I ain't never had gingerbread this good. (*She eats the whole piece.*)

WITCH. Well, now look what you've done; you've gone and eaten it all up.

MAMA. (*She is changed – angry and demanding.*) You said there was more...Where is it?

WITCH. There's the other piece right here.

(*MAMA tries to grab it.*)

Now listen up. You take this piece home and give it straight to your husband. Don't let the children see it. Don't even let them know you've got it. This piece of gingerbread is just for their Daddy.

MAMA. Of course. Why would we waste good gingerbread on those little brats? Give it to me!

WITCH. Not yet. Tonight, you and your husband will take Hank and Gertie deep into the woods and you will leave them there.

MAMA. And then I can have more?

WITCH. And then you can have all the gingerbread
your little heart desires. (*gives her the gingerbread*)

MAMA. (*grabs it*) All the gingerbread I want...

WITCH. Don't forget...

MAMA. Deep in the woods – I won't forget! (*exits*)

WITCH. Now that was just as easy as fallin' off a log.

(*REPRISE*)

Scene Four

(The table. MAMA is getting the rabbit stew ready.

HANK and GERTIE *run in.*)

HANK. Mama, we got berries!

GERTIE. Lots of berries! We filled a whole basket full.

MAMA. *(looking in the basket)* That ain't a whole basket.

That's hardly none at all. What did you do, eat 'em all on the walk back?

GERTIE. We might have ate one or two, but...

MAMA. I sent you out to get enough berries for all of us!

HANK. But we did – look at how many...

MAMA. Your Daddy and me work all day long to get you enough to eat and you spend your day lollygaggin.
(throws the basket on the floor)

HANK. The berries!

GERTIE. Mama! What is it? What's the matter?

MAMA. Ain't nothin' the matter with me. I'm gonna have me some rabbit stew for supper tonight. I just hope you filled your bellies with berries cuz that's all you're gonna get.

HANK. But you got rabbit...we were gonna have rabbit stew...

MAMA. Your Daddy and me will have rabbit stew. You get off to bed!

GERTIE. But Mama!

MAMA. Now! And Lord help you when your Daddy gets home!

(HANK and GERTIE run off crying.)

MAMA. Come on, nighttime. I can't get rid of those brats fast enough.

DADDY. *(enters)* Do I hear cryin'? Are Gertie and Hank all right?

MAMA. I sent them to bed without supper.

DADDY. What would you do a thing like that for? And when we got rabbit, too!

MAMA. I sent them out to pick berries and they ate 'em all.

DADDY. Ain't these berries on the floor here?

MAMA. Not enough.

DADDY. Enough for what? What in the sam hill is the matter with you?

MAMA. I can't live this way anymore. There's no food, no money for nice things – and it's all their fault.

DADDY. Whose fault?

MAMA. Just think of it – twice as much bread at every meal...

DADDY. What are you sayin'?

MAMA. Tobacco for you, a new dress for me...

DADDY. I don't know what you mean.

MAMA. We can finally be free to do whatever we please...

DADDY. Mama! What has gotten into you?

MAMA. Gingerbread.

DADDY. Gingerbread?

MAMA. I met an old woman today. She gave me this.
(*shows him the gingerbread*)

DADDY. (*still confused, but pleased*) Well ain't that just the nicest thing. And there's plenty for all of us.

MAMA. Plenty for both of us, you mean. Hank and Gertie don't get any.

DADDY. Of course they do. You just ain't feelin' yourself, Mama. I'm going to wake 'em up right now. We'll have ourselves some stew and...

MAMA. Wait! (*contrite*) You're right. I ain't myself today. I've been awful tired this past week, and I reckon I feel a chill comin' on.

DADDY. There's been a nasty flu around town this spring. You should go lay down.

MAMA. Oh, no need for that. I'll be fine. I just need a good hot meal with my family. I'll go wake the children. But first...you take a little bite.

DADDY. I think we should wait 'til after supper...

MAMA. Oh no, let's just have a little time just the two of us. Like it used to be. We don't get much time for just us these days. Go on, take a nibble.

DADDY. Well, all right. But just a little bite. *(takes a small bite, pauses then takes a much larger bite)* That's good gingerbread. *(eats the rest of the piece)* Out of my way. *(tries to leave)*

MAMA. Where are you goin'?

DADDY. I'm goin' out to find Charlie Wilson. There ain't no earthly reason that Hank and Gertie can't be earnin' their own way. They're small enough to fit in those mine shafts.

MAMA. Wait just a minute now. Even if they earn money, it'll still go just to feed them. I got myself a better idea. Why not get rid of 'em altogether?

DADDY. How do you mean?

MAMA. Let's take them out into the woods tonight. Deep into the woods, where they ain't got no chance of findin' their way back. And then let's leave 'em there.

DADDY. Well ain't you just as smart as a whip? They can make their own way in the world. They're nigh old enough.

MAMA. They can find their way to another town where no one knows them...

DADDY. Or us...

MAMA. And we ain't never gotta take care of 'em again.

DADDY. Well, if we've got a long walk ahead of us, why don't you dish out that stew?

MAMA. It'll be dark soon.

Scene Five

(The woods)

MAMA. Hank! Gertie! Pick up your feet. We're in a hurry.

GERTIE. It's so dark out.

HANK. I'm awful sleepy.

GERTIE. Why did we have to wake up so early?

DADDY. We're checkin' the traps. Now hush up.

GERTIE. How come we're checkin' the traps in the middle of the night?

MAMA. I'm sick and tired of your foolish questions, Gertie. Now quit flappin' your gums and keep on movin'!

GERTIE. *(to HANK)* We ain't got traps set out this far.

HANK. *(to GERTIE)* There ain't nothin' out this far.

DADDY. Quit your chattering. We're here.

HANK. Where's here?

MAMA. You two just set there under that tree. Daddy and I are gonna go check the traps.

GERTIE. All right, Mama. *(They sit, PARENTS exit.)* Hank, what the devil is going on? Mama and Daddy never ball us out like that.

HANK. You reckon' maybe they're sick?

GERTIE. Might be. Or they could've gone plumb crazy. I can't figger.

HANK. Gertie, I'm scared. What if they don't never come back?

GERTIE. What do you mean, "if they don't never come back?" They're comin' back! They wouldn't just dump us in here the woods in the middle of the –

HANK. It's like the story! It's Hansel and Gretel! They're too poor to feed us, so they left us in the woods to die!

GERTIE. They wouldn't never do that! They won't even let us work in the mine, why would they leave us in the woods?

HANK. I don't know! They ain't been themselves all day. Mama's talkin' so mean, and Daddy yanked me out of bed so hard I darn near broke my arm.

GERTIE. We gotta find 'em. Which way did they go?

HANK. That way.

GERTIE. Then let's go. (*They begin to walk.*) Mama! Daddy!

HANK. Mama!

GERTIE. Daddy!

HANK. Where'd they go?!

GERTIE. Mama, Daddy, please come back! We'll be good, we promise!

HANK. We'll pick more berries –

GERTIE. We'll work in the mine if that'll help, just please don't leave us!

HANK. Mama!

GERTIE. They're gone, Hank.

HANK. They ain't gone! They can't be! Daddy!

GERTIE. They must've gotten lost. So we have to figger out what to do now.

HANK. I'm hungry.

GERTIE. I know. I'm hungry, too. Oh! Daddy gave us bread! (*pulls a small piece out of her pocket*) Get yours out, at least we can eat this.

HANK. I ain't got mine.

GERTIE. Where'd it go?

HANK. I ate it.

GERTIE. Already?

HANK. I was hungry. We didn't get no supper, remember?

GERTIE. Oh, Hank, look at you – you’re a downright mess – crumbs all over your shirt and... *(They realize.)*

GERTIE & HANK. Breadcrumbs!

GERTIE. We can follow the trail!

HANK. And that’ll lead us right back home!

(They begin to search the ground for a breadcrumb trail.)

HANK. I got some over here!

GERTIE. Well let’s follow ’em. *(They walk for a moment.)*
Where’d they go?

HANK. We must’ve lost the trail.

(They search some more.)

GERTIE. I found some over this way!

HANK. Well, come on, then! *(They walk for another moment.)* Trail’s gone.

GERTIE. We’re gettin’ nowhere fast here, Hank.

HANK. Where’re the crumbs? I ain’t so tidy – I must of dropped darn near a thousand of ’em. *(brushing crumbs off his shirt – a bird whistles in the distance)*

GERTIE. The birds...Hank, remember in the story?
The birds came down and ate all the crumbs so they couldn’t find their way back.

HANK. *(sits down)* I’m tired.

GERTIE. Well we can’t just give up. We gotta keep movin’.

HANK. Why? Mama and Daddy don’t love us no more, we’re all alone in the pitch dark. We might as well just stay here and let the bears get us.

GERTIE. Now you quit yer mopin’ and get up off the ground. Mama and Daddy love us, they just got lost. We’re gonna go find us some help.

HANK. You can go on – I ain’t movin’.

GERTIE. Hank –

HANK. Quit pesterin' me. I'm tryin' to get some sleep.

GERTIE. I ain't leavin' without you.

HANK. I'm too tired.

GERTIE. You can do it, Hank. Just get up on your feet.

SONG - THE LORD WILL LEAD US HOME

I KNOW YOU'RE FEELING FRIGHTENED
FAT FROM THOSE WE LOVE
I'LL COMFORT YOU WITH STRENGTH
THAT'S A BLESSING FROM ABOVE.
TAKE MY HAND AND PRAY
FOR THOSE WE HOLD SO DEAR
THOUGH THEY'RE LOST THEY'LL SOON BE FOUND
AND WE'LL HAVE NO MORE FEAR.

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

(GERTIE comforts HANK and they get ready to journey on.)

GERTIE & HANK.

HOWEVER DARK IT FEELS OR
HOW FAR AWAY WE ROAM
THE STARS ARE SHINING BRIGHTLY
THE LORD WILL LEAD US HOME.

HANK. Sun's up. *(They begin walking.)*

GERTIE. Does any of this look familiar to you?

HANK. No. I ain't never been out here before.

GERTIE. Hey! Take a gander over there! Does that look like a clearing?

HANK. It does a little.

GERTIE. Well, where there's a clearing, there's sometimes a creek nearby.

HANK. Oh, I hope so! I'm so thirsty!

GERTIE. Maybe we can find a berry bush, too. *(She gasps as they enter the clearing. A gingerbread house is revealed. It's guarded by two gingerbread people.)* Land sakes! Will you take a look at that.

HANK. I got goosebumps.

GERTIE. My goosebumps have got goosebumps.

HANK. There really is a gingerbread house.

GERTIE. Gingerbread walls –

HANK. And an icing roof –

GERTIE. And fenceposts made of peppermint sticks!

HANK. Wait! What are those?

GERTIE. They look like giant gingerbread people.

HANK. It's a gingerbread boy and girl.

GERTIE. Do you reckon we could eat them?

HANK. I don't know. They look eatable. *(starts to walk over to them)*

GERTIE. Wait! Maybe this ain't such a good idea.

HANK. What do you mean?

GERTIE. Just think a minute, Hank. We got the rest of the story – Mama and Daddy lose us in the woods, birds eat up our breadcrumb trail and now we find us a big old gingerbread house. Don't you remember whose house it was?

HANK. I'm too hungry to think straight, Gertie. I'm takin' a bite of that cookie. *(starts to take a bite)*

BOY. Ouch!

HANK. *(to GERTIE)* What did you say?

GERTIE. I didn't say nothing.

HANK. You said, "ouch."

GERTIE. No, I didn't. But I still reckon it ain't such a good idea to –

(HANK ignores her and goes in a second time.)

BOY. Ouch!

GERTIE. Did you say "ouch?"

HANK. No. *(They back away from the GINGERBREAD PEOPLE.)* I think it was him.

GERTIE. Couldn't be. Could it?

(GINGERBREAD PEOPLE *begin to move.*)

SONG - THE CANDY COTTAGE

BOY & GIRL.

COME INTO THE CANDY COTTAGE
WE'VE GOT TREATS TO EAT
CUZ IN THIS HERE CANDY COTTAGE
EVERY TREAT IS SWEET

THERE'S PEPPERMINT AND LOLLIPOPS
AND LICORICE AND MORE
FANCY TASTES I'LL BET YOU
AIN'T NEVER HAD BEFORE

COME ON IN
JUST TASTE IT DON'T BE SHY
DIG RIGHT IN
DON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU TRY

THE GINGERBREAD IS TENDER
IT MELTS RIGHT ON YOUR TONGUE
THE PEPPERMINT IS CRUNCHY
BUT WAIT! WE'VE JUST BEGUN

BEFORE YOU EAT THE DOOR
CHEW ON A FROSTING COVERED WREATH
TOPPED WITH GUMMY GUMDROPS
THAT'LL STICK IN SIDE YOUR TEETH

THROUGH THE GATE
WHICH CANDY WILL YOU CHOOSE?
DON'T YOU WAIT
THERE AIN'T NO TIME TO LOSE

(*short dance break*)

WELCOME TO THE CANDY COTTAGE
COME AND FOLLOW ME
EAT UNTIL YOUR BELLIES BUST
AND BEST OF ALL IT'S FREE!

BOY. Welcome to the gingerbread cottage.

GIRL. Everything your heart desires, right here in the house.

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