



**THOUGHT
PROJECT**

Educate. Engage. Evolve

presents

CHILDREN'S PLAYBOOK

SIX PLAYS. SIX YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS.



About Thought Project

We are an India based feminist theatre organisation.

We make theatre.

And teach theatre.

We use Applied Theatre to address social issues of gender and sexuality.

Our training methodology is rooted in intersectional pedagogies that unpack privilege and power and how they manifest in our interpersonal and professional spaces. We are strongly committed to facilitating spaces that are participatory and interactive using tools of applied theatre and arts based methodologies.

These tools are embodied and experiential that are conducive to participants' deep self reflection. We have engaged with over 10,000 participants across diverse age groups and cultural identities in India.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

To tell one's story and to have that story received in an atmosphere of support and encouragement is transformatory.

What started out as a devised play creation exercise, turned into 6 brilliant plays by our young actors. This was primarily due to their determination and creativity.

For the past 15 months, we have been living in a pandemic, and moving between complete and partial lockdowns. They have adapted to the online platforms quicker than most adults, and have actually been able to work on forms of creative expression.

While guiding the participants towards writing their play, I discovered the untapped reserves of creativity each of them holds, the constant connections and meanings they make of the world around them, and the sheer grit with which they are mediating this new reality we are living in.

I am so excited for young children everywhere to discover these plays, and if I'm being too ambitious, write their own first play!

Theatre holds immense power, and this was reinforced by our young participants.

AANCHAL JAIN
FOUNDER, THOUGHT PROJECT



HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

Reading plays is a social activity. Plays should, by no means, be read alone.

The best way to use this book, is to have a group of children, or family members, get together. Each member picks a character, and reads the lines as they appear. You can dramatise the lines and act out the stage directions. Go a step beyond, and add costumes and props!

The play can also be used as a tool to narrate stories, describe characters, and an inspiration for you to pen your own play.

It all starts with a story. Everything that happens in our lives is a story. Pause, look around, and get writing!

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ANIMAL ADVENTURE



**A PLAY BY
TAVISHI
MISHRA**

- MEET THE PLAYWRIGHT -

TAVISHI MISHRA

AGE - 7 YRS



I am a happy and curious girl living with a family I love dearly - my parents, 3 grandparents, my elder sister, & Billy (my imaginary friend)! My name means courage, and I live upto it. I'm not scared of anything - not even insects or the dark. I love singing, reading and playing pretend. Books take me to different places, and I learn lots of new and interesting things. And pretend play is just so much fun - I can be a queen, or a

doctor, a sorceror, a teacher, a scientist, or detective! When I grow up I want to do something important and exciting, which makes the world better for everyone.

BRIEF SUMMARY

The play is about some strange events in Jenny's village. Join Jenny and her mum on their quest to save the village from the wrath of evil fairy Miranda.

CAST

Jenny [5 Years Old]

Amy, Jenny's Mother [30 Years Old]

Miranda, The Evil Fairy

Sam, The Cat

Ten Cats

Villagers

SCENES

Scene 1 – In The Bedroom Of Amy And Jenny's Cottage

Scene 2 – In The Garden

Scene 3 – In Miranda's Room

Scene 4 – Back In The Garden

Scene 5 Outside Amy And Jenny's Cottage

Scene 6 – In The Village Square

SCENE 1

[The scene begins in the bedroom of a small cottage. The room has a small, child's bed, a wooden cupboard and a stool near the bed. There is a window with faded curtains, drawn tightly. The fan is rotating slowly, showing its age.]

A little girl, JENNY is lying on the bed, with her covers underneath her as it's a hot, summer night. She is wearing a white nightie, which once used to be pink.

On the stool, her mother, AMY, is sitting, looking tired, but reading a story book to her. Three more books are lying on the floor, near her feet.]

AMY: ...and they live happily ever after. Goodnight JENNY, sleep well.

JENNY: Oh! please Mama, can you read one more story? [JENNY asks sweetly]

AMY: *[with a tired laugh]* Alright sweetheart, just one more. 'The Three Little Pigs'... and they chased the wolf away.

JENNY: Mama, I'm tired, but I just can't sleep. Please read me another story.

AMY: Oh JENNY, it's late and we're both tired. Ok, just one last short one. 'The Warrior Princess'. Once upon a time... and the brave princess saved the world. JENNY, now you really need to sleep.

[JENNY closes her eyes and tries to sleep but she struggles to fall asleep]

JENNY: Mama, I'm trying very hard, but sleep doesn't come. What should I do?

AMY: When I was little, even I couldn't sleep easily. My mama would sing a lullaby to help me sleep and it always worked. Should we try that?

JENNY: Alright mama.

[AMY starts singing softly to JENNY, while gently patting her head. JENNY soon drifts into a deep sleep]

[Lights Fade]

SCENE 2

[SCENE 2 is set in a garden with a small, worn-out bench, with chipped green paint. There are some flowering bushes, and lots of grass, now a bit dry in the summer. JENNY is lying fast asleep under the bench, on the grass. It is early in the morning and the sun is just beginning to shine onto the garden. JENNY is still in her nightclothes. JENNY opens her eyes. She looks confused.]

JENNY: *[talking to herself]* Where is this light coming from? I remember drawing the curtains in my room last night.

[JENNY sits up and rubs her eyes]

[speaking aloud] Am I dreaming or am I really in the garden? How did I get here?

[Before JENNY can think any more, a strange voice answers]

CAT 1: Meow! Meow! Meow!

[And soon the air is filled with cats meowing from all directions. JENNY looks around. She is surrounded by cats of different colours and sizes.]

JENNY: *[panicked]* Who are you all? Where have you come from? Why are you here. I'm scared!

[JENNY pinches herself hard to check again, if this is a nightmare. She gets up and tries to run but the cats block her way]

JENNY: *[now shouting desperately]* Mama, help! I'm trapped! Oh God, every time I brush up against one of these cats, they seem to grow bigger! What is happening?

[Lights Fade]

SCENE 3

[SCENE 3 is set in a dark room, eerily lit with candles. In the centre of the room, is a table filled with bottles with strange looking and smelling liquids. A thin, old woman with glowing green eyes is stirring a yellow liquid in a pot, on a fire. A big Persian cat with tiger stripes is sitting and watching her.]

MIRANDA: *[muttering angrily to the cat]* That mother and daughter thought they were very smart. The little one sneakily convinced her mother to try and find the treasure in the forest!

CAT: But Miranda, you have to admit that JENNY is quite brave and clever! To think of using her mother's magic power of communicating with animals, to get to the treasure – now that's quite something! *[smiling cheekily like the Cheshire CAT in Alice's Wonderland]*

MIRANDA: *[throws down her spoon, splashing some hot liquid on the cat, who yelps and jumps aside]* How dare you, Sam! Whose side are you on. I will turn you into a toad if I hear you praise that girl again. She won't get away with it. My army of cats will be kidnapping her any minute. They will bring her to me!

SAM, THE CAT: Oh dear! What are you going to do with her Miranda?

MIRANDA: Ah, now that's a good question! *[continues boastfully]* I will force her mother to find and bring me the treasure, in return for giving her daughter back. Now, who do you think is clever? Hahaha *[evil laughter]*

[Lights fade]

SCENE 4

[Back in the garden. JENNY is still in the garden, surrounded by the cats.]

JENNY: *[talking to one of the cats – the white one]* Hey kitty, you look kind, please don't hurt me!

WHITE CAT: *[purring]* Don't be scared JENNY. We won't harm you. We are only here to take you with us.

JENNY *[surprised]:* Wow! You can talk? Hey! You actually answered my question. That means you can also understand what I'm saying. Unbelievable!

BROWN CAT: Why are you so surprised? Your mother has the same magic powers, doesn't she? She can talk to and understand animals too. After all, you are her daughter!

JENNY *[sounding excited]:* Yes, but I never realised that I had the power too! Mummy will be so happy when I tell her.

Grey CAT: Oh, but you are not going to see her for quite a while.

JENNY: Why? Now that we are friends, won't you let me go home?

WHITE CAT: We do want to be friends with you and let you go, but we can't. Miranda, the Evil Fairy is our boss. She sent us to kidnap you.

JENNY: But why? *[fear showing in her eyes again]*

BROWN cat: You know about the treasure hidden deep in the forest, don't you? We heard that your mother and you are going after it. So, Miranda is planning to force your mother to hand over the treasure to her. Or else, she won't let you go.

JENNY: But if she's a fairy, can't she get the treasure herself?

GREY CAT: Miranda and her family have always ill-treated animals so she knows that if she goes into the forest, the wild animals will attack her. Her magic won't work when the animals get together and attack her all together.

WHITE CAT: She is cruel to us too. Look at my bruises. If we dare to disobey her, she beats us and starves us. She even turned my daredevil brother into a toad!

JENNY *[looking kindly at the cats]:* Don't worry, we can help each other. My mother is a vet and she will heal your bruises.

[Lights fade]

SCENE 5

[The scene opens with Jenny and the cats reaching her cottage. Her mother is outside, calling out her name and sobbing. She looks worried and afraid.]

AMY *[suddenly seeing JENNY and running towards her]:* Oh, my sweetheart! Thank goodness you are back. I have been so worried. Where did you go early in the morning? And you are still in your nightclothes!

[Before JENNY can answer, AMY notices the cats]

AMY: Where have all these cats come from?

[All the cats start meowing together and AMY soon understands what is happening.]

JENNY: Before the Evil Fairy wonders why the cats are taking so long to take me to her, let's go into the forest and look for the treasure. Once we go deep into the forest, she won't be able to follow us.

[They all rush towards the forest.]

[Lights fade]

SCENE 6

[SCENE 6 opens in the village square. AMY and JENNY are sitting on chairs with garlands around their necks. There are villagers all around them, shouting and cheering with joy. The cats are sitting around them, smiling. They are also wearing garlands!]

VILLAGERS: Hip, Hip, Hooray, three cheers for JENNY and AMY!

VILLAGER 1: You are both so kind and generous. God bless you!

AMY: We did what we had to do. The treasure belonged to the village. It was only right to distribute it amongst us all.

VILLAGER 2: With the treasure that you have shared with the whole village, all of us will be able to live happily and comfortably forever!

WHITE CAT: And the best part is that when Miranda heard that you had found the treasure and distributed it in the village, she burst with rage and died! So, we are free forever.

[EVERYONE cheers happily.]

[Lights fade]

END OF PLAY

THE FRIENDLY GHOST

A PLAY BY

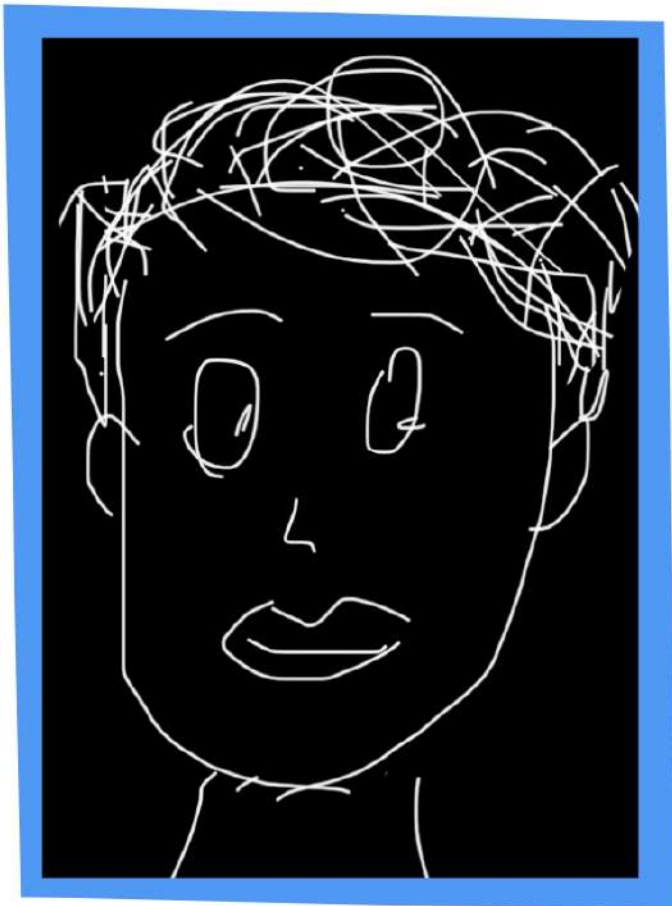
ADHRIT MISRA



- MEET THE PLAYWRIGHT -

ADHRIT MISRA

AGE - 8 YRS



I am Adhrit. I am 8 years old and I live in Mumbai city. I love to read and talk about sharks and cars. I also love to run and play games with my friends. I love my little sister and sometimes trouble her by telling her ghost stories but I always make it a comedy so she doesn't get scared.

I love drama because I can be myself and do any fun thing I want with my friends. As a team, we share a lot of interesting things that each of us enjoys and use it during classes. That makes drama a lot more interesting and fun for me.

BRIEF SUMMARY

Things turn spooky at Adhrit's house. But this roller coaster ride leads to some interesting discoveries. Something he feared at first is now a friendly face.

CAST

Adhrit [8 Years Old]

Ghost [8 Years Old]

SCENES

Scene 1: Adhrit's House

Scene 2: Outside Adhrit's House

SCENE 1

[SCENE opens in ADHRIT's bedroom at night. It has a single bed with a blue shark bedcover and a pillow to match. There is a purple blanket folded neatly on one end and a crescent moon shaped night lamp is the only source of light.]

ADHRIT is lying on the bed, looking up at the star stickers which are shining. While listening to the slow sound of the fan whirring above his head, ADHRIT suddenly sits up surprised by a sound outside his door. Peeking into the corridor, he sees a light on.]

ADHRIT: What's that sound? Why is the light on in the middle of the night? Should I go and turn it off? mmm, it's best I go do that, better not waste electricity.

[ADHRIT walks slowly out to turn off the light. But the light is moving.]

ADHRIT: Why is the light moving? Hey, who's there?

[He sees a boy, who is now running very quietly into the dark kitchen. ADHRIT chases after the boy.]

ADHRIT: *[loudly]* Hey! Who are you? Stop! What are you doing here? Hey... I'm talking to you. Stop! Why are you running around?

GHOST: *[mumbling something inaudibly - actor can speak gibberish]*

ADHRIT: What? What are you saying? Talk loudly.

GHOST: *[Muttering a bit louder]* I am dead. I am dead.

ADHRIT: Tell me what you are doing here? Who are you? How did you come inside my house and why are you just running around like a headless chicken?

GHOST: *[muttering frantically and running away]* I am bhoot. I am afraid of you. Who are you? What are you doing in my house?

ADHRIT: Hey! Can you stop? *[pause]* Wait a second, what did you say? Your house?

[The boy suddenly disappears near the brown front door. ADHRIT opens the front door and sees the now confused boy standing in the well-lit corridor outside the house.]

GHOST: *[talking clearly]* What has happened to this place? And where am I?

ADHRIT: "You were in my house, so, you better answer me or I will catch you."

[The boy turns and runs and ADHRIT starts chasing the boy.]

[The corridor outside the flat is not very long and there are three silver elevator doors on the left and one staircase on the right behind a white door. The lights are on in this landing. The boy has disappeared again.]

ADHRIT: Arre... Where does this guy keep disappearing? I need to find him and get some answers. Who is he and why is he running around here in the middle of the night? I wonder why he said it's his house. The elevator buttons aren't pressed, so I guess he's gone up the stairs. Hope he doesn't run too fast.

[ADHRIT opens the white door to the staircase and runs up.]

ADHRIT: *[calls out]* Hey boy... can you just wait a minute? I just want to know who you are.

[Still running up the stairs. He stops suddenly. The ghost has stopped in front of him.]

GHOST: *[panicking]* Why are you chasing me? What's going on? Who are you?

[The ghost is glowing and translucent]

ADHRIT: *[shocked]* Oh no! You're not a boy. You're a bhoot! Oh no.... oh no.... run ADHRIT... run quick.

GHOST: *[softly, to himself]* I am bhoot. I am dead. But, why is he running from me? I can't even hurt him!

ADHRIT: *[Panicking and running]* Om bhoor bhuvasvaha. Tat saviturvareinyam... - hey... hey... why are you chasing me?? Om om om namashivay om namashivay... oh god... take him away...

[He reaches the rooftop and collapses outside the door.]

GHOST: *[Running behind ADHRIT, exasperated]* He's flying up the stairs in a panic, it's a miracle he hasn't tripped yet.

ADHRIT: *[mumbling]* Om... I hope he got tired and left. I am exhausted!

GHOST: *[laughing creepily]* Now! Now, Mr. Human, why are you running from me? I am a bhoot and dead. but I'm not completely scary, am I? *[sits next to ADHRIT]*

ADHRIT: *[exhausted, looks at the ghost]* Oh no. Don't you get tired? And why are you laughing creepily?

GHOST: *[looking embarrassed]* Er... well its mostly for my entertainment. The laughing, I mean, not the chasing people. I don't have any friends who can crack a good joke, so I find humor in insane situations. I am a bhoot.

ADHRIT: I know you're a bhoot. You don't have to keep saying that. It sounds funny now. Ha ha ha ha... I am bhoot I am dead. Ha ha ha... you are so funny.

GHOST: *[looks at ADHRIT]* ha ha ha ha

ADHRIT: Listen, it's very late now and I need to go and sleep. We can meet and play again tomorrow, but please come a little earlier so I can sleep well in the night.

GHOST: *[Nods his head and disappears in a flash of light leaving ADHRIT staring at thin air]*

SCENE 2

[Scene opens up on Adhrit's floor. He is waiting for the elevator to arrive The elevator opens up to reveal an old friend.]

ADHRIT: Hey buddy. Good to see you. Now, let's see who reaches the rooftop first. Ha ha..

GHOST: *[frowning]* Hmmm. That is totally not how we're supposed to race!

[Both run up the stairs. The GHOST chasing ADHRIT.]

ADHRIT: Ha ha ha... I beat you again. How can you be so slow when all you do is float?

GHOST: Well, I wouldn't have lost, if you hadn't cheated! And I don't float!! If I did, I would be up in the sky with the clouds.

ADHRIT: Whatever! Now I will race you downstairs. See ya later.

GHOST: I'm sure you will. *[gives an evil grin and disappears in a flash of light, appearing in the same fashion at the bottom of the stairs].*

ADHRIT: Ha ha ha... Okay, okay. You got me.... But no more cheating from next time. Okay?

GHOST: *[smirking]* Sure

[ADHRIT's sounds of laughter fade away.]

SCENE 3

[ONE YEAR LATER – same room as opening scene]

ADHRIT: *[Looking outside his bedroom door]* I can't believe it's been a week since he showed up. I wonder where he's gone. I miss playing with him. Does he miss playing with me too? I wish he comes back soon. I hope that he is happy wherever he is. Maybe he's a star now and I can see him twinkling in the sky somewhere. Then he will actually be floating.

[About to fall asleep looking at the stars on his ceiling, ADHRIT suddenly sits up]

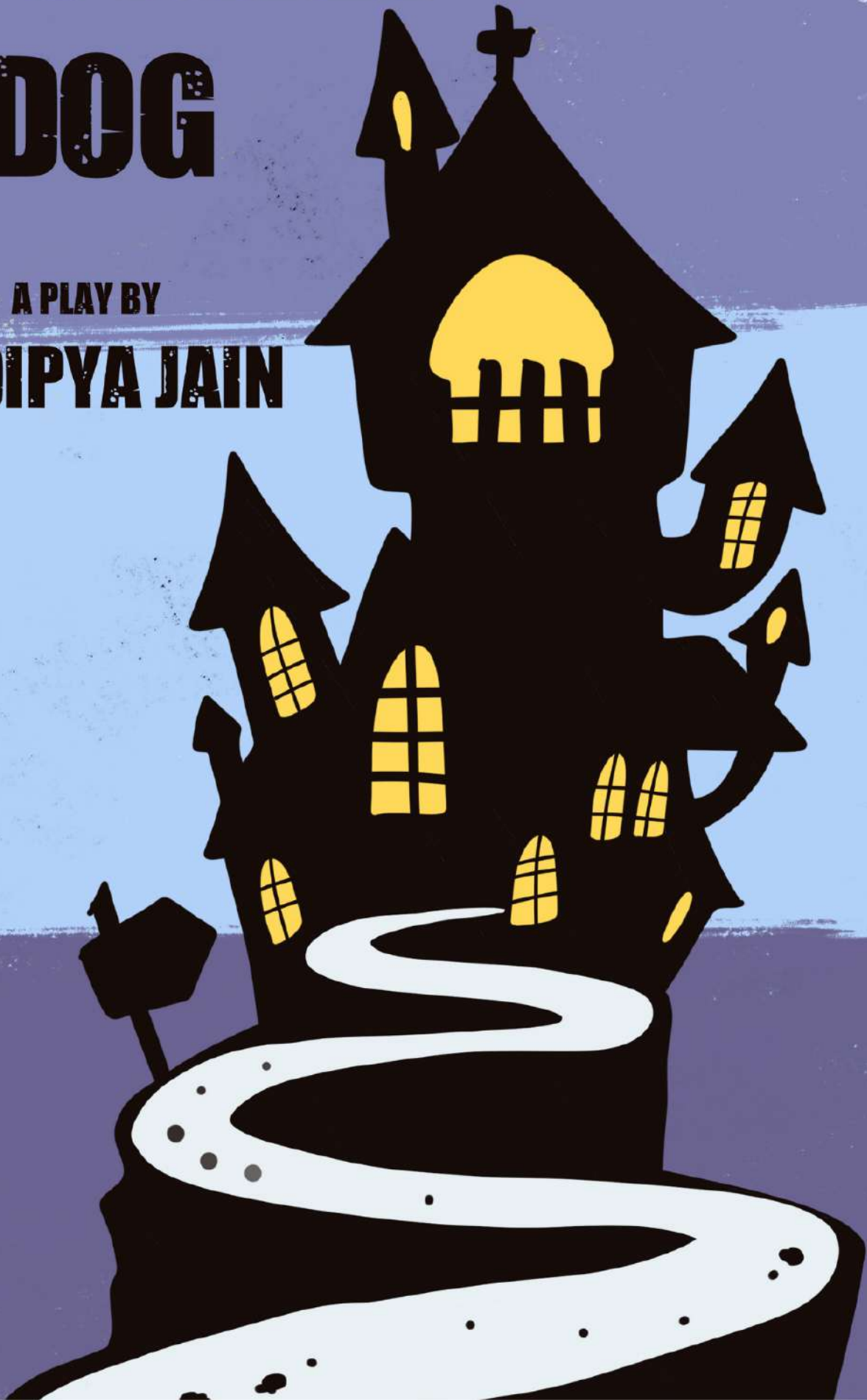
I can't believe I didn't even ask him what his name was. *[Slaps forehead]* What a silly friend I've been!

[Lights fade]

END OF PLAY

THE STREET DOG

A PLAY BY
DEDIPYA JAIN



- MEET THE PLAYWRIGHT -

DEDIPIYA JAIN

AGE - 8 YRS



I'm from Mumbai. I am a very restless child. I can't sit quietly for more than 5 minutes. I'm always doing something or the other. To get my energy meter down, I swim everyday and love it. I also love to play basketball and hope to play like Michael Jordan. My coach calls me the best player in my batch.

Sports keeps me busy and happy. I don't enjoy studying much, though I score well in my exams. Math is my favourite. My mom calls me a big time *nautanki*. I was fascinated by drama while watching JENNY and Wendy on YouTube. I loved how they have role plays and new stories with their toys.

BRIEF SUMMARY

This is the story of Tyson, and his adventurous life in the city of Mumbai. The story tell us the importance of being kind to strangers.

CAST

Narrator

Tyson – The Lonely Dog

The Car Driver

Jackle - The Helpful Passerby

Leo - The Ghost Puppy

[The play takes place in a busy city like Mumbai. There are lots of cars, many houses and tall buildings. It's a busy street. Everybody is in a rush and no car is willing to wait. Several pedestrians are walking on the footpath.]

NARRATOR: In the busy city of Mumbai, there lived a lonely street dog, TYSON. He was very sad because he had no friends to play with and no parents to take care of him. He wandered the busy streets all day long for food to eat and friends to talk to.

TYSON: I haven't had a proper meal in three days! If only I could find something to eat. Like that delicious hamburger that child is eating, with those crunchy fries. Ah! They're my favourite. My stomach is growling just at the sight of that food.

NARRATOR: At that very moment, the boy across the road dumped his half eaten meal. Tommy's eyes almost popped out of his head! He jumped up high and leapt onto the busy road. He wildly ignored the traffic and the honking horns

CAR DRIVER: Hey watch where you're going you silly dog! This is such a nuisance. Look now you're injured. I don't have time for this nonsense.

NARRATOR: She drove off in her car, while Tyson lay on the road, his leg bleeding. All the cars sped around him, but nobody stopped to help him. At last, Jackie saw Tyson. She was passing by and rushed over.

JACKIE: Oh no! Your leg is hurt really bad. Come let's clean this wound.

NARRATOR: JACK carried TYSON to the other side of the street, gave him water to drink and splashed a little on his face.

JACKIE: Is that better now? *[Tyson nods]*

You need to be careful on the roads. Some people are merciless. Look before you cross on a road.

TYSON: I will. Thank you for rescuing me. I'll be on my way now.

NARRATOR: Tyson walked for many miles, looking for some safe place to rest. He finally found a huge mansion, that seemed to be abandoned. Wild creepers grew all over the ground, the paint had peeled off the walls, and there was absolute silence.

TYSON: *[trying to walk towards a mansion in front of him]* God! This house looks spooky! It has such huge doors, my eyes cant even see the top of it. Should I go inside? This place is perfect to live, but it's so scary. Ahhh! What to do. Okay let me just take a quick look inside.

NARRATOR: TYSON peeps into the house through a hole in the door. It is HUGE. He decides to inside the house.

TYSON: This is nice. But what's that sound? Huh? I just felt something on mu back. Aaaah! Ahhh!!! *[turns around]*

NARRATOR: Tyson turned around to face a dog. But it wasn't an ordinary dog. It was all white and had blue eyes. It was a...

TYSON: A GHOOOOSSTT! Please dont kill me. I'll leave. Let me go.

LEO *[smiling]:* Don't worry. I am not scary. I am a friendly ghost. Don't be scared . My name is LEO. I see that you've hurt your leg. Let me cure you with my magical powers. ABRAACADABRAA SIM SIM SU!!!

NARRATOR: TYSON was all cured. The blood stains were all gone. He could walk easily and it didn't hurt him.

TYSON: WOW!! Thank you Leo.

LEO: Not a problem. Are you hungry? I can make some lovely burgers for you. It will give you some energy. ABRAACADABRAA SIM SIM SU!!! 5 burgers for you!

TYSON : *[hurriedly eating]* Hurray! What an amazing friend I've got!

NARRATOR: Now TYSON and LEO are best friends. Both of them live together in the 'not so scary haunted house.'

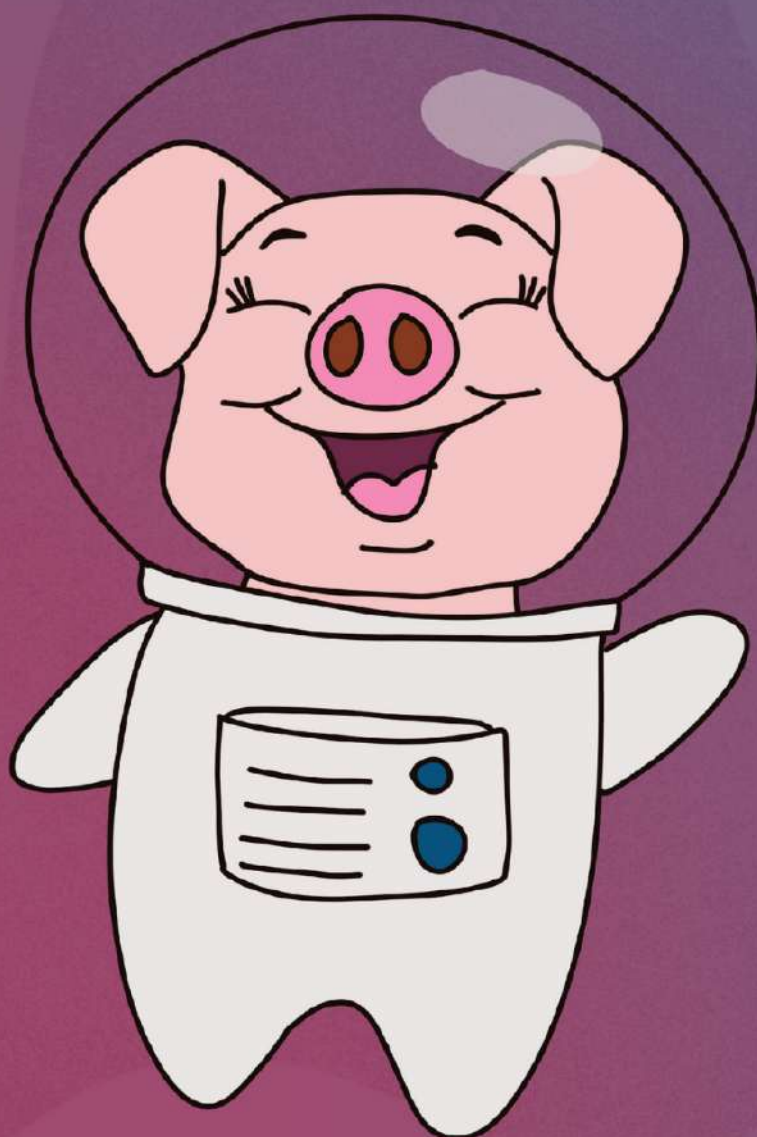
[Lights fade]

END OF PLAY

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ALIEN PIG

A PLAY BY MIRAYA GARG



- MEET THE PLAYWRIGHT -

MIRAYA GARG

AGE - 8 YRS



My favourite thing to do is to sing and colour. Sometimes I like that my brother helps me do a lot of things. My favorite food is dosa, pizza and pasta. I also play 2 instruments - ukulele and piano. I love animals especially dogs. My favorite days in the week are Friday,

Saturday and Sunday. My favorite time in a day is the evening when I get to play a lot with my friends.

BRIEF SUMMARY

All is calm on Medley Farms until 3 piglets are born. Anna's excitement soon turns to horror. What does Anna find out and how does she save Medley Farms?

CAST

Anna [8 Years Old]

Ginny, The Pig

Mrs. Rose [Anna's Mother]

Piglet 1

Piglet 2

Piglet 3

Rainbow, The Unicorn

SCENES

Scene 1: Medley Farms + Anna's House

Scene 2: Pig Sty + Anna's House

SCENE 1

[It was almost evening. It was a little windy and the sun was still out. Anna lives on Medley Farms with her mother. It was a green and lush patch of grassy land. Anna lived in a red brick house and on the farm lived many farm animals. The scene opens up with walking back to her house. She is tired after a long hardworking day at the farm.]

MRS. ROSE *[from the doorway of the house]:* Anna, come home quick. I have made you some fresh buttermilk and cookies.

ANNA: Ooh my favourite! *[Anna runs home]*

[Anna and Mrs Rose are munching on cookies.]

MRS ROSE: Anna, I must say, even though you are young, you take up so much work on the farm. Without you, it would be impossible to run the farm! While most kids are playing and making merry, you are taking the cows out to graze or milking them.

ANNA: Oh mama, I love being on my farm, surrounded by my favourite animals. I am not missing out on anything.

MRS ROSE: You're an absolute darling, my child. By the way, the vet said that your very beloved pet Ginny, will give birth anytime now. We must be prepared.

ANNA: Oh wow! That is so exciting. I cannot wait to play with Ginny's babies.

[That same day, later in the night]

MRS. ROSE: Wake up Anna!

ANNA: I am very tired Mama, let me sleep.

MRS ROSE: Ginny is giving birth to her babies! We must hurry and go there.
[Anna is wide awake now. She jumps out of bed and along with her mother, rushes to the sty.]

ANNA: Oh mom, this is so exciting! Look there is the first one, and the next, and the next! Triplets, so exciting.

MRS. ROSE: It is indeed! You have three more friends to play with now.

ANNA: Yes. They're so tiny! I cant imagine they'll grow up to be as big as Ginny.
[she goes closer to the baby pigs] But hold on, something is wrong.

MRS. ROSE: Whats wrong, Anna?

ANNA: Mom, look at their eyes. They are so eerie, red, and robotic. Do you see what I see?

MRS. ROSE: Oh come on you silly girl! Im sure its totally normal. This is just the way newborn piglets are.

[Anna was still not convinced. She knew something was wrong.]

SCENE 2

[Few weeks later. Anna has gone to visit her grandmother few houses down the road. She has gone for the day. Everything at Medley Farms is ordinary. Atleast yet. The scene opens up in the sty, where all the piglets are have a secret conversation.]

PIGLET 1: Anna is gone. It is time to activate Mission House. Let's destroy the whole farm; and then we can build a house for all our friends from planet Mars.

PIGLET 2: Excellent idea, brother. Let's start with the shed, then the horse stable, and then the rest of the farm.

PIGLET 3: Activating Mission Destruction.

[The piglets started destroying the entire farm and disrupted everything. Mrs Rose hears the commotion and comes outside to see what the noise is about.]

MRS ROSE: Oh my God, what have you all done! There is something truly wrong with these piglets. I should have listened to Anna. *[Calls and informs Anna about the situation.]*

[Anna comes home few minutes later.]

MRS ROSE: Anna, you were right! These piglets have destroyed most of the farm. They are not harmless at all!

ANNA: Don't worry mom, we will figure a way to get rid of them.

MRS ROSE: Nothing seems to be working, I tried everything. They are very powerful.

ANNA: Mom, look outside. It is a rainbow, and I can also spot a unicorn.

[The unicorn descends near their house. She has a big smile on her face.]

RAINBOW: Hello Anna! I am here to help you.

ANNA: Oh! Yes, please. Ginny's little babies are destroying our farm and they seem like aliens.

RAINBOW: Yes, and that's why I have come to you. I am from the Alien Control Committee. These aliens want to take over your farm and make a house for all the other aliens from Mars. I am in charge of capturing these aliens and sending them back to Mars.

But I need some help, I heard you're great with the lasso?

ANNA: That's right. Let me get my lasso and show you where the aliens are.

[Rainbow with her unique magical powers and strong horn, and Anna with her lasso, gathered up the aliens. They saved the farm.]

RAINBOW: And here is the last of the aliens, all in this sack. With DANGER written on it.

ANNA: Thank you so much for your help! You saved our wonderful farm from those aliens.

RAINBOW: You're welcome! Unfortunately, I have to leave now.

ANNA: Oh, I wish you could have stayed. What if the aliens come back?

RAINBOW: Oh, don't worry. They won't come back now. With your amazing lasso skills, we caught them all. And if they do come back, I am sure you will be catch them by yourself.

ANNA: We [Anna holds her mother's hand] will miss you! Bye!

RAINBOW: Goodbye Anna and Mrs Rose. I'll be off now.

[Rainbow said goodbye and flew away. Anna and her mother lived on the farm with her beloved animals happily ever after.]

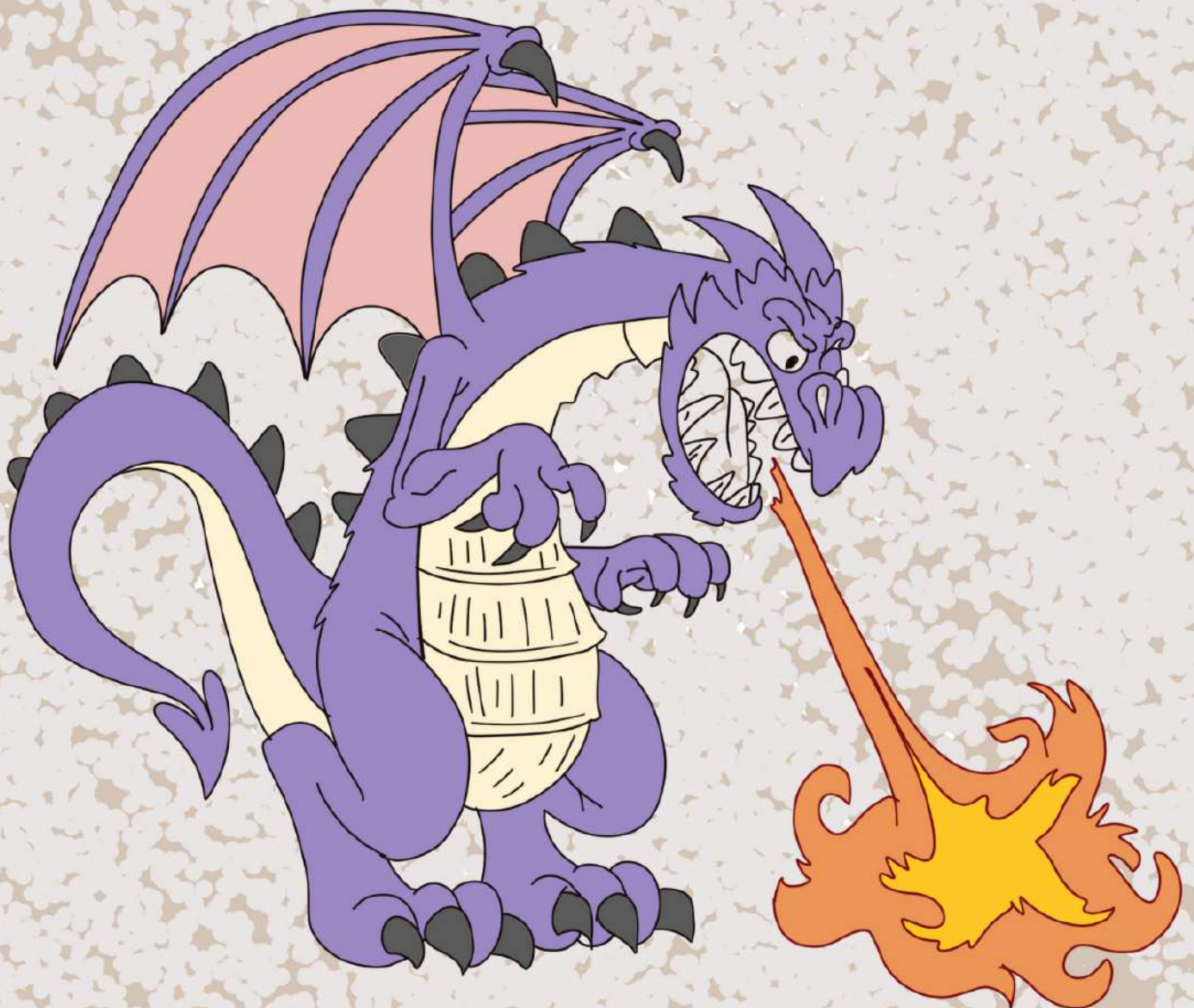
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END OF PLAY

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THE LIVING LANTERNS

A PLAY BY KYRA SANGHVI



- MEET THE PLAYWRIGHT -

KYRA SANGHVI

AGE - 8 YRS



I'm from Mumbai and I love drawing and spend hours reading books on Indian mythology. I enjoy acting as it allows me to play different characters. I am a nature lover and love growing trees and spend time with them.

BRIEF SUMMARY

Patrick is very excited to showcase his dragon lanterns at the Lantern Festival. But his beautiful lanterns come alive and well, do what lanterns do - breathe fire on everything around them. How did this happen? How can Patrick stop them?

CAST LIST

Patrick [the lantern maker]

Patrick's Assistant

Sage Holy

Ellen, The Wise Lady

Group of Villagers, 10

Lantern Dragons, 3

SCENES

Scene 1: Patrick's Lantern Store

Scene 2: Lantern Festival At A Village

Scene 3: Village On Fire

Scene 4: A Deep Forest

SCENE 1

[A lantern makers shop, lanterns hanging from ceiling with strings ,a brown cupboard with a steel handle where raw material for making lanterns are kept, pink walls which have pictures of lanterns all around green flooring with raw material lying around, a lantern maker wearing a BROWN coat as it's a winter afternoon making lanterns and an assistant wearing a green t-shirt and white jacket.]

NARRATOR: PATRICK and his assistant talking.

ASSISTANT: PATRICK sir, these are really fine lanterns! We have dragons, lotus, unicorn, lion and a tiger - you are the best lantern maker in town!

PATRICK: Well I wouldn't know about best, but yes I am very happy with how they've turned out. Imagine how beautiful they will look when lit up on New Years' Eve.

ASSISTANT: Well, before we sell them, I think you should display them at the Annual Lantern Festival.

PATRICK: What is that?

ASSISTANT: It is a huge festival where lantern makers from all over the world come to show their work and the best lantern maker gets a HUGE prize!

PATRICK: *(excited)* Really? This sounds very interesting. Let's go there!

ASSISTANT: Yes, I am sure you will win sir!

NARRATOR: They pack all the lanterns and go to the festival

SCENE 2

NARRATOR: The Annual Lantern Festival was a merry affair. Everywhere you looked there was colour, lights and energy. The festival took place in the town centre. Thousands of people had gathered to showcase their lanterns, and even more to look at these creative lanterns. And where there are so many people, there had to be several food stalls, blasting music and children running around.

PATRICK: Woah!! Look at these wonderful lanterns all around. I wonder if we would win!!

ASSISTANT: I am certain we will! Your handiwork and creativity is remarkable. Let's keep our fingers crossed.

PATRICK: Let's go check out what other people have created.

NARRATOR: Meanwhile in a deep dark forest, a young sage named Holy was meditating. She had been meditating for the past several few weeks, to achieve enlightenment. She was completely engrossed in recalling the mantras she was chanting. Holy had spent a long time memorising them, as it was important to say them correctly, as even one wrong word could have disastrous results. But despite her best efforts, the sage's memory lapsed and she said ONE incorrect word. This led to everything that looked like a dragon, come to life. Remember PATRICK's lanterns?

PATRICK: Look at the lanterns! What...how...why is this happening! I can't believe my eyes!

ASSISTANT: The dragon lanterns have come to life! And...what is that? SIR, is that FIRE?

PATRICK: Yes, it is. I had created these lanterns from a story I read as a child. These were the most powerful dragons in ancient times. What have I done!

ASSISTANT: The entire town will be burnt to ashes sir! We have to stop this.

NARRATOR: The festival was in absolute chaos. EVERYONE was running helter-skelter to save themselves. Laughter and smiles turned to screams and cries for help.

ELLEN [a wise old lady]: EVERYONE! There is a wise sage in the forest. She is very learned and I am sure she will have a solution for us.

Others: Yes! Let's go!

SCENE 3

NARRATOR: Sage Holy was sitting quietly under a Banyan tree and meditating. The people rush to her.

ELLEN *[in a scared voice]* – Sage Holy, we are very sorry to interrupt you but we need your help! Some strange dragons are blowing fire from their mouths and have been destroying the village. All of us are really scared and don't know how to save ourselves.

NARRATOR: Sage Holy opens her eyes in shock. She is trying to understand how this happened, when it comes to her in a flash.

SAGE HOLY EVERYONE, I know exactly why all this is happening. But don't worry, this can be solved. There is a special mantra to fix this problem, all the dragons will go back to sleep, if only I can remember what the mantra was.

NARRATOR: She tries hard to recall what she had learned in the monastery.

SAGE HOLY *(in a loud voice)* Ah! Yes, I remember it now! *(speaks loudly)*

“Mahabali Matu Tusha Stubha!!”

NARRATOR: EVERYONE looked in the direction of the town square. They could still hear the dragons roaring and flying in the sky.

PATRICK: Why is this not working? You said the dragons will go back to sleep after the mantra! But they're not sleeping.

SAGE HOLY The dragons are too strong. Okay, everyone. We have to say the mantra together, as loudly as possible, with NO MISTAKE. Repeat after me - “Mahabali Matu Tusha Stubha!!”

EVERYONE: Mahabali Matu Tusha Stubha!!

SAGE HOLY Now together. 1..2..3!

[everyone together] Mahabali Matu Tusha Stubha!!

NARRATOR: Just when the last word was chanted, the dragons started getting quieter and quieter and finally turned back to lanterns. The people let out a huge cheer for Sage Holy!

ELLEN: Thank you Sage Holy for saving us.

SAGE HOLY: You are most welcome. You are all safe now. *[closes her eyes and goes back to meditation]*

[Lights fade]

END OF PLAY

THE PRINCESS AND HER TEACHER

A play by Kyra Mehta



- MEET THE PLAYWRIGHT -

KYRA MEHTA

AGE - 6 YRS



I am from Mumbai, my favorite color is red and pink. I like to read lots of books and watch movies & TV shows with my parents. My favorite book series is Princess in Black and my favorite screen shows are Paw Patrol and The Blacklist. My favorite story characters are Princess

Magnolia, Rainbow Ruby, Princess Kiki and Sky. I love these characters very much because they are always brave and helping others. I love drama because I get to hear new stories. I enjoy cycling and playing cricket with my Dad. And, I love to paint and cook with my Mom. I hope to cook as well as Georgia from Junior Masterchef Australia when I grow up.

BRIEF SUMMARY

White Christmas, cold winter and warm desserts - Laura and Vini are having the perfect day, with Ms Rachel. Relive the merry and beauty of winter, like the royals.

CAST

King Philip

Queen Elizabeth

Prince Vini

Princess Laura

Ms. Rachel

SCENES

Scene 1: Vini And Laura's House

Scene 2: Ms Rachel's House

Scene 3: Mall

Scene 4: Vini And Laura's House

SCENE 1

NARRATOR: It was a grey brick palace where VINI and LAURA were getting ready to go to the city. Inside the palace, it was sparkling with Christmas decorations and bright sunlight. It was a beautiful day outside the palace. VINI and LAURA were very excited. VINI was wearing his favourite blue shirt and black pants. LAURA was wearing her prettiest pink dress. The golden carriage was waiting to take them to the city. It was Christmas Eve and very cold, but all the streets looked bright and colourful with decorations and shiny lights. The 2-horse carriage moved towards the city with a ding-a-ling bell noise.

VINI: The streets look lovely.

LAURA: Yes, it is really shining bright.

VINI: I can't wait to meet MS. RACHEL.

LAURA: Do you know we are going shopping with her!? We spoke yesterday on the phone!

VINI: Hurrah! Yipee! I love shopping at the mall.

LAURA: I am really excited to eat Ice-cream!

SCENE 2

[The carriage reached MS. RACHEL's house in a short while. She had a small house, but had a big Christmas holly on her front door – in a bright red and green colour. She was waiting at the door with a big smile, for the prince and the princess.]

MS. RACHEL: Welcome Kids! Hope you are having fun on your holiday!

VINI: Your house looks pretty.

[LAURA agreed by nodding her head with a smile]

MS. RACHEL: Are you kids ready to go to the mall and help me with my shopping?

LAURA: Yes, MS. RACHEL. We can't wait to go with you. Let's go!

[VINI led the way for all 3 of them towards the carriage. MS. RACHEL let the kids get in first and shut the carriage door after she settled into her seat]

VINI: Are we getting fruits and vegetables, MS. RACHEL?

MS. RACHEL: Yes, VINI, you are right. I even have to shop for some gifts for my friends for Christmas.

LAURA: My mother, Queen Elizabeth, also bought some gifts for all of us and our friends last week.

MS. RACHEL: Yes, children. This is a season of giving joy to everybody. It is about sharing and caring.

SCENE 3

NARRATOR: They reach the shopping mall shortly. The scene at the mall was amazing. You could hear the laughter of the people as well as lovely Christmas music on the speakers. There was a live piano which was played by a man in Santa's clothes. All the shops were having Christmas specials and were all crowded with happy people. MS. RACHEL, VINI and LAURA got down from the carriage with a big smile on their faces. They walked slowly into the shopping mall, while looking around at the wonderful red, green and golden decorations. They moved to the fruit and vegetable shops.

MS. RACHEL: Let me buy some fruits and vegetables and pick my friend's gifts from the gift shop. You kids can go to the cake and ice-cream shop right there and wait for me.

[The shop's name was Desserts & More. VINI and LAURA ran fast towards it and caught a table. MS. RACHEL waived to the shopkeeper about the kids order and he waved a thumbs-up]

VINI: I would like a strawberry ice-cream please. With sprinklers and lots and and lots of strawberry pieces!

LAURA: Me, too!

[VINI and LAURA got their ice-creams and got busy eating it fast, before it melted]

MS. RACHEL *[who joined them quickly]*: Just ONE dessert? On Christmas Eve? That's not right.

Ms Rachel goes to the counter and returns with a huge tray filled with mouthwatering treats]

You must try this carrot cake here. It is absolutely lip-smackingly delicious. And this cupcake! They've decorated it to look like Rudolph the reindeer. Oh and this mint chocolate milk, is perfect to end our scrumptious meal!

LAURA: You are the best, MS. RACHEL!

SCENE 4

[KING PHILIP, QUEEN ELIZABETH, LAURA and VINI are at the dining table.]

KING PHILIP: Did you kids have fun today, with MS. RACHEL?

QUEEN ELIZABETH: Can't you tell from their faces? They haven't stopped talking about their time with Ms Rachel!

VINI: We shopped for presents and ate strawberry ice-cream, carrot cake, Rudolph the reindeer cupcakes and mint chocolate milk!

LAURA: This was all at Desserts & More. I am so stuffed. But I also helped MS. RACHEL pack her stuff in bags and put her fruits & vegetables in her fridge. I also did all the gift wrapping for her friends. She is my favourite! I really like spending time with her.

QUEEN ELIZABETH: I am proud of you, LAURA. You did a great job.

VINI *[rubs stomach and groans]*: My belly is so full.

KING PHILIP: Oh, dear! In that case, you are not going to have the chocolate cake and apple pie I made you?

QUEEN ELIZABETH: I agree, dear. I don't think they can eat any more.

LAURA & VINI *[in unison]*: WE CAN WE CAN WE CAN! We are not that full! We want it all!

QUEEN ELIZABETH: If you want it, you will have to help me wrap my gifts for the Christmas tree.

LAURA & VINI *[in unison]*: Deal!

[KING PHILIP laughed out loud]

SCENE 5

NARRATOR: Next day, when they woke up, it was a white Christmas! It had snowed all night! It was freezing cold and both VINI and LAURA were shivering, as they ran towards the Christmas tree and opened their gifts fast. They just tore the gift wrapping without waiting for their parents.

VINI: MS. RACHEL has gifted me warm woolen gloves and a muffler. Yahoo!

LAURA: MS. RACHEL has gifted me a cozy sweater and a glittering tiara!

VINI: A tiara!? What for!? Why an extra gift for you!?

LAURA *[shouting with joy]*: Because I am her favourite too!!

NARRATOR: KING PHILIP and QUEEN ELIZABETH watched them from the corner of the room and smiled with joy. They had helped MS. RACHEL in keeping their gifts a surprise till the very end, by hiding them in the golden carriage. It was a very Merry Christmas for the Princess. And her teacher, MS. RACHEL.

[Lights fade]

END OF PLAY

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