

Characters

Palace servant (M/F)	-	A palace servant
Sofia (F)	-	Princess of Spain
Queen (F)	-	Mother to sofia
Ollie (M)	-	A young owl
West wind (F)	-	Grandmother of East Wind
East wind (M)	-	A baby
North wind (F)	-	North wind's mother
Lion (M/F)	-	A lion
Prince (M)	-	the missing Prince Pedro

Scene 1 – Palace Garden, evening

(Lights up. There is a tree at one end of the stage hidden by a screen. Palace Servant is onstage and seats the audience, welcoming them to the palace. While doing so, s/he explains that the Palace is busily preparing for Christmas and the Queen wants Princess Sofia to stay out of trouble because she must look her best. S/he hints that the Princess is rather unruly and won't want to obey. From time to time the Queen pops onstage looking for Sofia and asks the audience if they have seen her. Both Servant and Queen chat to the audience about the Princess, how she always seems to get in a mess and never looks like a real princess. While the Queen exits to look for Sofia, Servant asks audience whether they always do what they're told or if they can be naughty, or what clothes they like wearing best. When all the audience are seated, Servant explains that s/he probably ought to go and help the Queen find Sofia. Exit Servant. SFX. A crash as of someone falling out of a tree. A flurry of leaves fall over the screen.)

Sofia: (offstage) Ouch!

(Sofia enters, limping, her white dress and red shawl torn and dirty, her hair untidy and with twigs sticking to her)

Sofia: (sees audience) Oh, hello! Hello! I've just fallen out of that tree – again. I wanted to find the bird's nest hiding in the branches. I'm sure it's an owl's nest, I heard them squeaking. So I climbed out of my bedroom window onto the nearest branch – just to have a look, not to frighten them – only I fell off. That's the third time this week.

Queen: (offstage) Sofia!

Sofia: Bother. That's my mum. She's looking for me. She always wants me to do something I don't want to, like practise the violin or go to bed early. **(She listens – Queen's voice calling further away)** Have you met her? She's the Queen you know. Queen Maria of Spain. I'm the Princess. Worse luck. **(Looks at her clothes)** Oh no! Look at my dress! Mum wanted me to practise curtsying with my crown on... **(aghast)** my crown! Can you see it? She'll be furious! Perhaps it got caught in the tree when I fell.

Queen: **(Offstage).** Sofia! Where is that child?

Sofia: She's coming. I'd better hide!! **(Runs behind the audience)**

Queen: **(Entering)** Sofia! **(Catches sight of Sofia)** Just look at you! I made that dress specially for Christmas. So you'd look like a real princess for once.

Sofia: **(Stepping out from audience)** Sorry Mum...

Queen: When are you ever going to learn that Princesses do not tear their clothes, or climb trees,

Sofia: ...or lose their crowns?

Queen: Or lose their crowns, or... you haven't!

Sofia: Well, I... I don't know. I think it may be...up in the tree.

Queen: Up in the...

Sofia: Don't worry Mum. I'll climb back up and have a look.

Queen: Sofia, you are a princess. You will not climb back up. We'll ask a servant to do it.

Sofia: But I like climbing trees...

Queen: Now listen to me. Soon it will be Christmas. The Palace will be filled with guests. There will be kings and queens. Dukes and duchesses, Lords and ladies. Please, all I ask is that you behave...

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Queen: **(together)** Like a real princess...

Sofia: **(together)** Like a real princess...

Queen: Exactly.

Sofia: But I *am* a real princess, anyway, worse luck. I wish I wasn't.

Queen: I don't understand you. You're just like your uncle Pedro. He was always climbing trees and getting into scrapes before he disappeared...when he was a boy.

Sofia: I wish I could have met him. **(hugs Queen to comfort her)**

Queen: You're two of a kind alright. I was just so different. I loved being a princess. I could sew, and play the violin; I wore pretty dresses every day and practised my curtsies in front of the mirror. Couldn't you try a bit harder? Now it's time for bed -

Sofia: But Mum, it's only -

Queen: Busy days ahead. I want you to look your best. Ask the servant to bring me your dress and shawl and I'll see if I can mend them. I'll get someone to find your crown in the morning.

Sofia: But I...

Queen: And another thing.

Sofia: What?

Queen: I always did what I was told. Goodnight, Sofia.

Sofia: Goodnight, Mum.

(Reluctantly Sofia starts to go – peeps back, to meet the Queen’s raised eyebrow, then exits.)

Queen: **(shaking her head fondly)** Sometimes I quite despair of her. She’s such a little monkey! She grows more and more like Pedro every day. Pedro is – was – my big brother. He was so funny and clever. He always longed for something exciting to happen to him. And then one day he just disappeared while he was out here playing. I still miss him, though it was such a long time ago. **(To audience)** Have you got a brother? Does he make you laugh? **(Exit Queen)**

(Pause. Sofia re-enters, tiptoeing. She has changed into pyjamas and is carrying the white dress she was wearing)

Sofia: **(To audience)** Has she gone? It’s not that I want to be naughty, it’s just that it’s much too early to go to sleep. Do you have to go to bed early sometimes? I know I should try to be a better princess and not climb trees and all that, it’s just Can I ask you something? Have you ever had an adventure? Something really exciting? **(encourages response. If children say yes)** Oh you are lucky! **(If children say no)** Would you like to have one? You see, that’s what I really long for. My very own adventure. So I could do something daring and brave and it wouldn’t matter if I tore my clothes because I’d have been fighting a fierce dragon, or rescuing a prince from terrible danger, and then I could marry him – the prince that is, not the dragon - and we’d live happily ever after, and... oh!

(SFX. A loud squeaking, scrabbling sound. A gold crown drops over the screen with some leaves and a large brown feather)

Ollie: **(offstage)** Bother! I dropped it.

Sofia: That’s my crown!

(Ollie enters, looks briefly at Sofia, picks up the crown and turns his back on her)

Ollie: White and red and *gold*, the prince is awfully cold. No, that’s not it. *Gold* and red and *white*, the prince has had a fright. Bother!

Sofia: What are you doing?

Ollie: Please don’t interrupt. I’m trying to remember something. *Gold* and white and –

Sofia: That’s mine you know. My crown.

Ollie: Why did you leave it in my tree then?

Sofia: Why is it *your* tree?

Ollie: Because I live in it.

Sofia: I knew there was an owl's nest in that tree! I climb it sometimes.

Ollie: I know. My mum says you're not very good at it. You keep falling out.

Sofia: That's not fair. I didn't know she was watching.

Ollie: **(Wistfully)** My mum sees everything. She's magic.

Sofia: That's a nice thing to say about your mum.

Ollie: No, I mean, she really is magic. Owls are supposed to be full of it.

Sofia: Are you magic?

Ollie: **(Hesitating)** 'Course.

Sofia: Go on then. Show me some magic

Ollie: Sorry. I'm a bit busy just now.

Sofia: Doing what?

Ollie: Practising something.

Sofia: What?

Queen: **(Offstage)** Are you being good now? Have you done what I asked?

Sofia: **(calling together)** Yes Mum! **(looking at each other)** Oh! Was that *your* mum... I thought it was *my* mum! **(laugh)**

Ollie: **(calling together)** Yes Mum! **(looking at each other)** Oh! Was that *your* mum... I thought it was *my* mum! **(laugh)**

Sofia: *Have* you done what she asked?

Ollie: Almost.

Sofia: What was it?

Ollie: She wants me to learn some magic words.

Sofia: Those words you were muttering a moment ago?

Ollie: Yes. They're very important. Mum wants me to know them for when the time is right.

Sofia: What time's that?

Ollie: The right time. **(Sheepish)** I don't exactly know. I just know they're very old magic words, that I have to learn. You do ask a lot of questions.

(Ollie turns away from Sofia and starts muttering as before. She watches him curiously.)

Ollie: Blue and green and pink, the prince.. sleeps! in the...sink.... No. Brown and green and blue, the prince sleeps in the...l - ? Oh no, now I've forgotten the right colours. It wasn't pink or blue.... it was....
(Ollie bangs the crown against his head to help try to remember)

Sofia: Gold? And could you be more careful with my crown?

Ollie: Of course! Gold! **(Lays crown on ground)** Gold and **(sees Sofia's dress)** May I? **(takes it and lays it next to crown)** White and **(sees shawl and lays it down)** Red! Look! **(Ollie points at the three things as he speaks)** *Gold* and *white* and *red*, the Prince sleeps in his.... **(he's forgotten)**

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Sofia: **(Encourages audience to help)** Bed?

Ollie: **(Triumphant)** Bed!! That's it!

Sofia: But what does it mean? What Prince?

Ollie: Ssssh! There's more you know. **(Ollie rearranges the 3 things)** *White* and *red* and *gold*, he sleeps while time grows....

Sofia: Old?

Ollie: I was just going to say that. Old. *Red* and *gold* and *white*, he'll wake on Christmas....

Sofia: Eve?

Ollie: I don't think so. Doesn't rhyme. Listen: Red and gold and *white*, he'll wake on Christmas...

(Sofia encourages audience to say " night")

Ollie: Of course! Night! You *are* clever. Gosh! I've remembered it all! **(Excited)** I wonder if any magic will happen if I keep saying it!

(Ollie begins to walk around the objects gleefully saying the rhyme over and over)

Sofia: (Trying to engage Ollie's attention) Where is this prince? Why is he sleeping while time grows old? Will he wake up this Christmas night? How do you know it's magic?

Ollie: (Suddenly stopping in his tracks) Oh!

Sofia: What?

Ollie: I feel sort of ...tingly. All my feathers are tingling. Look! Oh! (Magic lighting effect and SFX. Ollie spins slowly) Wow! That's amazing!! (Abruptly FX stop. Ollie stops spinning) Gosh!

Sofia: Are you alright? What happened to you?

Ollie: I think.... I think I just had my very first magic turn. Did you see? Oh I must go and tell mum.... (Exits)

Sofia: Wait! What about the Prince? (To audience) What was all that about? Do you think he was just making it up, all that about a Prince sleeping in his bed while time grows old? It's like a fairy tale, isn't it? Supposing, just supposing it really is true.... and there is a Prince asleep somewhereunder a spelljust waiting for someone to wake him up. *Red and white and gold.* (Starts picking up her dress etc) Oh! I almost forgot. I'm supposed to be in bed aren't I? But how can I sleep now with my head full of magic and sleeping Princes and funny owls....

Ollie: (Re-entering) what did you say?

Sofia: I er... I was talking to my friends.

Ollie: (Disconsolate) So you think I'm funny do you? You and everybody else. Just 'cos I can't remember things very well and I'm too big and I can't do any magic properly yet and...

Sofia: I didn't mean to upset you. Honestly. We think you're a great owl (to audience) don't we?

Ollie: There you go again. I'm not a Great Owl. I'm a Little Owl.

Sofia: (Looking him up and down, puzzled) A little owl? But aren't you...rather....

Ollie: Big?

Sofia: For a little owl?

Ollie: That's what everyone says. All my sisters and brothers are perfect Little Owl size. And they can remember things. And they've had lots of magic turns, even the babies. My mum says she despairs of me sometimes.

Sofia: So does my mum.

Ollie: But you look the right size to me. For a human. You can remember things.

Sofia: Yes, but I'm not very good at being a princess. I can't sew, I'm useless at curtsying, I hate wearing dresses and I like climbing trees. So she despairs of me.

Ollie: Well I think you're a great Princess. What's your name?

Sofia: Sofia.

Ollie: **(Putting the crown on Sofia's head)** Princess Sofia!

Sofia: Thanks. And you're a great Little Owl! What's your name?

Ollie: Ollie.

Sofia: What did your mum say about your magic turn? Was she pleased?

Ollie: She was a bit busy. But she said I should keep remembering the rhyme and if the time was right I would have another magic turn and I'd know all about it.

Sofia: All about what?

Ollie: All about... I can't remember.

Sofia: All about the Prince? About where he is? And how I can find him?

Ollie: Yes! What Prince?

Sofia: The Prince in the rhyme of course.

Ollie: Was there a Prince in the rhyme?

Sofia: Yes! The one lying asleep until Christmas night. You know, gold and white and red....

Ollie: Wasn't it green and blue and pink?

Sofia: **(Hesitating)** I don't think so... **(to audience)** Can you remember the rhyme? Come on Ollie. I'm sure we can remember between us. Look, these will help you. **(Spreading out the 3 objects)** Ready?

(With the help of the audience Sofia and Ollie manage to remember the 3 verses of the rhyme. Lighting and SFX as before. Ollie spins. After a moment, Lights back to original state and SFX stop. A pause, as Ollie shakes his feathers and recovers.)

Ollie: Wow! It does make me feel peculiar!

Sofia: Well?

Ollie: Well what?

Sofia: What happened?

Ollie: **(Proudly)** Another magic turn. My second. It doesn't half tingle! **(He is absorbed in reliving the experience)**

Sofia: Yes but... was that all? What about the Prince? Tingles won't help me find him. **(Disappointed)** I suppose the time isn't right... What your mum said. Perhaps I'd better forget this whole adventure thing and go to bed after all. **(She starts to pick up her dress and the crown etc.)**

Ollie: What are you doing?

Sofia: Going to bed. Goodnight, Ollie. **(Starts to exit)**

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Ollie: But what about the Prince?

Sofia: What about him?

Ollie: I thought you wanted to find him?

Sofia: But we don't know where he is, do we?

Ollie: He's in the castle of course. Waiting for a true Princess to wake him.

Sofia: **(Returning)** What castle?

Ollie: The Castle of the Sleeping Prince. Far far away and further still. If you want to get there before Christmas Night you'd better get going. It's a long way. Now you'll need ...something...what was it? **(Tries to remember)** Oh, I know... under the tree! **(starts rummaging under the tree)**

Sofia: What's under the tree?

(Ollie triumphantly holds out a bag)

Ollie: Here!

Sofia: **(Opening bag which contains a pair of red, white and gold shoes)** A pair of shoes?

Ollie: They're magic shoes. Go on - try them! You'll know you've come to the right castle when they're quite worn out.

(Sofia takes the shoes gingerly and puts them on. A pause, then magic SFX effect as the shoes carry her all round the space as if they have a mind of their own. At last Sofia falls in a heap and Ollie manages to get a shoe off - the magic SFX stops.)

Sofia: Oh Ollie! You are clever!

Ollie: Am I?

Sofia: Of course you are. You remembered the magic rhyme – well, with a bit of help – you had 2 magic turns, and you found out about the castle and the Prince, far far away and further still...

Ollie: Did I?

Sofia: And about the true Princess who must wake him – obviously that's me – and you found the magic shoes I must wear out on my journey. See? Clever old you!

Ollie: Gosh!

Sofia: I don't suppose you found out exactly how I get to the castle did you?

Ollie: **(Thinks hard)** Umm... yes! Yes, there was something... You have to ask...you have to find... **(sees dress, crown and shawl)** That's it! You have to find the 3 Winds before you find the castle.

Sofia: The 3 Winds?

Ollie: Yes.. West Wind, East Wind and North Wind. And you have to give them something...What was i...Oh yes, you have to give them these **(picks up the things)** because they're the right colours. **(Ollie holds out the three things to Sofia and to the audience as he speaks and puts them one by one into the shoe bag)** To the West Wind – the red shawl– to the East Wind – the gold crown – to the North Wind – the white dress. Will you remember?

Sofia: I don't know. I'm not sure...

Ollie: **(To audience)** Will you help her remember?

Sofia: Ollie.... Couldn't you come with me?

Ollie: There's only one pair of shoes.

Sofia: But you can fly...

Ollie: I don't think I'm very good at adventures...You never know what might happen. Anyway, I'd miss my mum...

Sofia: Oh...Mum...I forgot. She wants me to behave like a real princess, not go off on an adventure.

Ollie: But you will behave like a real princess if you go on this adventure.

Sofia: What do you mean?

Ollie: Only a real princess can wake the Prince. **(proudly)** I remember that bit. This is your adventure, Sofia. Ready? **(Starts to put 2nd shoe on)**

Sofia: But will Mum be alright without me?

Ollie: Don't worry! I'll ask my mum to look after her. Don't forget, my Mum's magic!

Sofia: Like you Ollie! You're magic too now...

(Ollie fastens the 2nd shoe on Sofia's foot. Magic FX - Lights, SFX as the magic shoes carry Sofia about the stage. She grabs hands with one or two of the children before she gets carried offstage and exits)

Ollie: Goodbye Sofia! Good luck! I must go and tell my mum straight away **(makes to go then stops as he remembers, proudly)** Two magic turns in one day! **(exits)**

(Lights fade)

Scene 2 – Home of the West Wind.

(Lights up. Red lighting effect. Red fairy lights over screens. Magic SFX continue as Sofia enters, whirled around the space by her shoes. SFX cuts out and Sofia stops abruptly)

Sofia: Oh! I've stopped – at last! Am I there? **(Looks around)** I can't see a castle. **(Looks at her shoes)** And they don't look worn out yet. **(she peers around)** Everything's turned red. The wind's getting up... Ugh! It's starting to rain! **(she shelters in audience)**

(Enter West Wind, carrying a big red bag and wrestling with a big red umbrella which has blown inside out. She has several pairs of glasses round her neck on red cords)

W. Wind: Oh bother. Bother, bother, bother. It's always doing this! **(West Wind tries to blow the umbrella back the right way. Suddenly, short-sightedly, she notices the audience)** Oh! What have we here? Just a minute...**(puts on a pair of glasses)** oooh, no!. **(Tries another pair)** Oh my goodness. Eyes. Funny little noses. And are those hands? **(Tentatively waves at the audience, encouraging the audience to wave back)** Well, this is a surprise. Lots of lovely humans! **(SFX: wind and rain)** Oh bother this rain. I wonder**(looks round and spots Sofia)** do you think you could come and hold my umbrella for me? **(Sofia steps forward and takes the umbrella. She holds it out to West Wind)** Wonderful. Now. **(West Wind tries to blow at the umbrella, but with no success. She takes a pair of bellows out of her bag and puffs them at the umbrella)** It's no good. I need more puff. **(To audience)** Could you all help me? When I count to 3 could you blow as hard as you can? One...two ...three... **(West Wind and the audience blow. Sofia succeeds in getting the umbrella to turn right way round)** Oh well done. Marvellous! Thank you all! **(West Wind escorts Sofia to side of stage area holding umbrella for her, then notices rain has stopped. Sofia sits with audience)** Do you know I think you've blown the rain away as well! Oh, you are clever! What it is to be young. **(West Wind takes a stool from her bag and sits in the gangway. Addressing audience)** You know I haven't seen a human since that nice chap came along and gave me his umbrella....red, you see... and that was a long time ago. Said he was on an adventure. **(studies umbrella)** I think my grandson has been playing with this. He lives in the East. Too bright for me. I much prefer it here in the West - red is a much cosier colour than gold, don't you think? Have you got anything red? **(West Wind looks at what the audience show her and then catches sight of the red shawl which Sofia has put on while listening to West Wind talk.)** Oh! Oh I say! That's rather nice. Could I have a closer look? That's right, don't be shy. **(Sofia steps forward. West Wind touches the shawl longingly).** Isn't it pretty? And warm too, just right for chilly evenings. Oh yes. This'll do nicely. Tell me my dear, what's your name?

Sofia: Sofia.

W. Wind: Princess Sofia?

Sofia: Yes...How do you know?

W. Wind: Just a hunch...Now my dear, what brings you this far and further still?

Sofia: What did you...? I'm looking for the castle of the Sleeping Prince. Do you know where it is?

W. Wind: **(Thoughtfully)** The castle of the Sleeping Prince eh? **(Nods sagely)** No, never heard of it.

Sofia: You've never heard of it?

W. Wind: No. Sorry. Round here is it?

Sofia: I don't know.

W. Wind: Well if you don't know where it is, why have you come here to find it?

Sofia: I didn't mean to come here. I wasbrought.

W. Wind: Brought? Who brought you?

Sofia: My shoes.

W. Wind: Your shoes.

Sofia: Yes. These.

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(Sofia takes off her shoes and places them on the ground in front of W.Wind who tactfully moves back a bit in case they are smelly).

Sofia: I'm supposed to wear them out before I get to the castle.

W. Wind: Looks like you've got a way to go then. Where did you get them from?

Sofia: They were under the tree in my garden. My friend Ollie found them. He's an owl.

W. Wind: Owl, you say. Ah, now I see. Magic, is he?

Sofia: He's learning. **(Proudly)** He had two magic turns while we were talking. And then he knew where to find the shoes.

(West Wind tentatively picks up a shoe and inspects it, changing her glasses to do so)

W. Wind: Red white and gold eh? I think I've seen shoes like this once before. Tell me my dear... why did you want to put them on? You could have just left them under the tree.

Sofia: Because....I wanted to have an adventure. You see, I'm not a very good princess. I can't curtsy properly. And I can't sew.

W. Wind: **(Inspecting the shawl which Sofia still wears)** Obviously.

Sofia: And then I met Ollie ...

W. Wind: The owl.

Sofia: Yes. When he told me about the castle and he found the shoes, I knew the time was right to try and find the Sleeping Prince.

W. Wind: Hmmm. Did he mention anything else by any chance? About your journey? **(she fingers the shawl hopefully)**

Sofia: Errm... I don't think so...

W. Wind: **(expectant pause)** No? Well, my dear – I'd better not keep you. You'll be wanting to get along. And I've got some work to do before I turn in.

(Sofia sits and puts her shoes back on during the next conversation)

Sofia: Work? What work do you do?

W. Wind: Why, blow of course. What else should a wind do?

Sofia: You're a wind?

W. Wind: Yes my dear, I'm a wind. West Wind as it happens.

Sofia: The West Wind! Of course! Now I remember. But surely you know where the castle is!

W. Wind: Not I, my dear. Maybe you should ask my grandson the East Wind. He might know. Well, I'd better get blowing. It was nice meeting you.

(West Wind retires towards a screen and puffs her bellows etc)

Sofia: **(calling after her)** How will I find your grandson?

(West Wind takes no notice. Sofia stands up, her shoes now on)

Sofia: Come on then shoes, take me to the Castle of the Sleeping Prince! **(Nothing happens)** Well take me to see the East Wind then. **(Nothing)** What's happened? Why won't they work any more? What am I supposed to do now? **(To audience)** Do you know? **(Sofia**

encourages the audience to help her remember what she must do, which is give the red shawl to the West Wind) Of course, you are clever to remember! (Calling) West Wind? West Wind!

W. Wind: **(Re-entering) Did someone call? (Puts on her glasses) Why Princess Sofia – are you still here?**

Sofia: Dear West Wind, I really need your help to find your grandson....and we wondered if you'd like this as a present? **(offers shawl)**

W. Wind: **(Fumbling with glasses) Just a minute.... (gets the right pair and sees the shawl) Oh! Oh yes. Oh yes I would. (takes it lovingly and puts it round her.) Perfect! Warm as toast! Well done my dear. Now we can get on at last! I just need to blow into your shoes.... If you wouldn't mind?**

(West Wind arranges Sofia as she wants her and puffs with the bellows into the shoes, which start moving a little.)

W. Wind: And now we need to blow you on your way. **(To audience) I'm sure you'll all help, won't you? Ready my dear? Ready everyone? 1,2,3...(Everyone blows) And again, 1,2,3....(Everyone blows) Once more, 1,2,3... (Everyone blows.**

(Sofia gets blown offstage and exits to magic SFX which continue under the following:)

W. Wind: Marvellous! Goodbye Princess! Give my love to my grandson and tell him to be good! Goodbye! **(She lingers waving her umbrella, then touches the shawl) How lovely. For a moment I wasn't sure she was going to give it to me, and then I couldn't have helped her. But all's well that ends well. So pretty! (W.Wind exits still muttering to herself)**

(Lights fade, SFX grow)

Scene 3 – Home of the East Wind

(Lights up to half. Gold lighting effect. Gold fairy lights over screens. Magic SFX continue as Sofia enters, whirled around the space by her shoes. She whirls offstage again before SFX cut out)

E. Wind: **(Offstage) 1...2...77...11...100! Ready or not here I come! (East Wind enters, blowing a raspberry. He is a baby dressed in a golden nappy and vest, with a mop of golden hair and a big gold ring on his finger. He looks at audience with glee) Found you! Found you! Found you!**

(Enter Sofia who is looking behind her and doesn't notice E.Wind. Sofia finds somewhere to put down her bag. East Wind puts his finger to his lips)

E. Wind: **(To audience) Sssshhhh!(East Wind creeps up behind Sofia) BOO!!!!**

(Sofia starts in surprise, East Wind giggles in delight.)

E. Wind: I frightened you!

Sofia: You made me jump.

E. Wind: Jump! Jumpy jumpy JUMP! Big Jump! You jump now!

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(Sofia jumps)

E. Wind: 'Gain!

(Sofia jumps again)

E. Wind: 'Gain!

(Sofia jumps again)

E. Wind: Together jump!

(Sofia and East Wind jump all round the space)

E. Wind: Jumpy jumpy jumpy! What's your name?

Sofia: Sofia.

E. Wind: 'Fia! **(Hopefully)** 'Fia got sweetie?

Sofia: No...I don't think I have. I'm sorry....

E. Wind: **(Pouting)** Want sweetie!... **(sits)**

Sofia: Don't be grumpy! I want to be friends.

(Sofia plays Peepbo with him)

Sofia: Is your daddy here? I'm looking for The East Wind you see.

E. Wind: Windy.... Eas' Windy blow....**(blows raspberry)**

Sofia: Yes. Is that your daddy? The East Wind?

E. Wind: Daddy blow....**(blows a very deep raspberry)**

Sofia: Yes. Where is he?

(Sofia tries to engage East Wind but he's lost interest in her and is beginning to crawl towards her bag)

Sofia: Oh this is hopeless! What am I going to do?....

(East Wind finds Sofia's crown and plays with it)

Sofia: Hey! Put that back! That's my crown!

E. Wind: Gold! Crown!

(Sofia chases East Wind, who blows her off track each time she's about to catch him. East Wind finally gets cross and blows a huge raspberry which knocks Sofia over. East Wind becomes absorbed by crown again.)

Sofia: Ouch! How did you do that? **(Penny begins to drop)** Are you... but you can't be....The East Wind...Is that...*you*?!

E. Wind: **(Absently, happily playing with the crown)** Eas' Windy... **(burps)** oops pardon!

Sofia: I wish the West Wind had warned me you were just a baby.
(Approaching him) East Wind. Do you know how to find the Castle of the Sleeping Prince?

(East Wind nods his head)

Sofia: You do?

(East Wind shakes his head)

Sofia: You don't? Do you or don't you?

(East Wind shakes and nods his head and finishes by blowing a raspberry)

Sofia: Listen. Your Granny the West Wind said you'd help me.
(East Wind takes no notice, playing with crown).

Sofia: You're not listening!

E. Wind: Nanny Wind. Nanny Wes' Wind. **(He makes the crown into bellows and pretends to puff with it)**

Sofia: That's right. She sent her love and told you to be good.

E. Wind: Good Windy...

Sofia: So please help me find the Prince.

E. Wind: Pince! Pince asleep! **(puts head on hands and snores)**

Sofia: So you do know about him. Then tell me how to get to the castle?
(East Wind continues to snore. In exasperation Sofia snatches her crown back)

E. Wind: Naughty 'Fia! **(turns away in a strop)**

Sofia: How am I ever going to get any sense out of you. You're just a baby.
(East Wind puts his fingers in his ears.)

Sofia: And a very naughty baby at that.
(East Wind sticks out his tongue at Sofia, who notices the crown)

Sofia: You've bent it! This is hopeless! **(To audience)** How can I get him to help me? **(With audience's help, Sofia remembers she must give East Wind the crown)** Of course! Though I don't know what my mum will say! East Wind?
(East Wind plays hard to get)

Sofia: I'm sorry I took my crown away. You can have it if you want it?
(Sofia offers the crown to East Wind)

E. Wind: Goldy! Goldy crown.... Windy's?

Sofia: Yes. It's for you. If you'll help me find the Sleeping Prince?

E. Wind: **(Puts on crown)** Pince asleep. Castle!

Sofia: Yes. How will I get there?

E. Wind: Mummy Windy. Mummy know!

Sofia: Mummy No?

E. Wind: **(nodding)** Yes! Mummy know.

Sofia: **(puzzled)** Yes Mummy no?? What are you talking about?

E. Wind: Mummy Norf Wind. **(blowing loudly)**

Sofia: Oh! Your mummy's the North Wind! And she knows where the castle is!

E. Wind: 'Fia ask Mummy! **(He starts to crawl off)**

Sofia: But I don't know how to find her! Don't go!

(East Wind exits)

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Sofia: He really is the most exasperating, annoying, naughty...

(E.Wind re-enters with gold balloons but overhears her)

E. Wind: Not naughty! Naughty 'Fia! **(cries)**

Sofia: I'm sorry East Wind. I didn't mean to be rude. I think you're very sweet...and nice.... And if only you'll help me find your Mummy the North Wind, I'll be your best friend ...

E. Wind: Bes' Friend 'Fia!

(East Wind offers his cheek for a kiss – Sofia kisses him and East Wind grabs Sofia and hugs her)

E. Wind: Love Fia! 'Fia soosies now.

Sofia: Susie's? Who's Susie?

E. Wind: Soosies, silly!

Sofia: Susie's silly? **(Realising)** Oh, *Shoesies!*

(Sofia puts on her shoes. Meanwhile East Wind blows up the balloons.)

Sofia: **(Puzzled, to audience)** Why is he blowing up balloons? What's he going to do?

E. Wind: 'Fia b'oons!

(East Wind gives Sofia the balloons)

Sofia: Why do I need these?

E. Wind: B'oons (**makes raspberry noise**)

Sofia: Oh, I see! The balloons are going to blow me to the North Wind!

E. Wind: Everybody blow! (**blows raspberry to illustrate**)

Sofia: (**To audience**) And he wants you all to help by blowing. Will you? You're good at that!

E. Wind: Ready...Steady...*blow!*

(East Wind aims his balloon at Sofia, as if he is controlling where she goes, and keeps blowing raspberries, encouraging the audience to do likewise. During this, Sofia lets go of her balloons and is blown around fast when she does. Finally East Wind blows Sofia towards offstage. Magic SFX start)

E. Wind: Bye bye 'Fia!

Sofia: Goodbye East Wind! Thank you!.....(**exits**)

E. Wind: Eas' Wind got crown now. Goldy ring and goldy crown! Good Windy!.....(**To audience**) Bye bye!

(East Wind collects all the balloons and exits. Lights fade)

Scene 4 – Home of the North Wind

(Lights up. White lighting effect. White fairy lights over screens. Magic SFX continue and combine with SFX of wind and storm. FX Glitter ball snow. Enter Sofia whose shoes stop midstage as magic SFX cuts out. Sofia looks around her, shivering with cold. North Wind enters with a broom. She is dressed in white, with a white apron. She sweeps but Sofia is standing in her way)

N. Wind: Excuse me, my prettykin....

Sofia: Sorry. **(Sofia moves, but continues to get in the way of the sweeping)** Are you by any chance the North Wind?

N. Wind: Could you just move a little...

Sofia: Sorry. Did you say you were the North Wind? Only I'm looking for her. Sorry....

N. Wind: **(stopping)** Why don't you go and play somewhere else, poppet? You are rather in the way...**(resumes sweeping)**

Sofia: Sorry. It's just that...I have to find the North Wind.

N. Wind: **(stops and looks at her)** Oh you poor darling, you do look cold. Why don't you put a coat on?

Sofia: I haven't got one.

N. Wind: Oh well. Perhaps you'll get one tomorrow. For Christmas.

Sofia: Christmas? Is it Christmas tomorrow?

N. Wind: Is it Christmas tomorrow! You sweet thing, of course it is! Why do you think I'm doing all this cleaning and sweeping!

Sofia: But it can't be Christmas tomorrow! I've got to find the castle first. **(looks at her shoes)** And my shoes aren't worn out yet! I must have further to go....

N. Wind: Far, far and further still....

Sofia: Yes.... You are the North Wind aren't you? The East Wind's your son, isn't he? He blew me here.

N. Wind: Such a precious cherub! And did you visit his dear old Granny the West Wind too? Always got the wrong glasses on! Oh, my family! Love them to bits. Now, would you mind....?

Sofia: Sorry. Please, North Wind, will you blow me to the Castle of the Sleeping Prince now?

N. Wind: **(still sweeping)** Mmmm?

Sofia: Only I've got to get there quickly if it's nearly Christmas. (**North Wind continues to sweep, ignoring Sofia. Sofia finds her dress in her bag, seeks affirmation from the audience, then offers it to North Wind**) Look, I've got something for you.

N. Wind: Oh just what I need, clever dumpling. Thank you.

(**North Wind takes dress and immediately uses it to wipe the floor**)

Sofia: Oh! My dress.... My mum made it....

N. Wind: Was it a dress? It looks a bit torn.

Sofia: I climbed a tree. Only I fell out of it.

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N. Wind: Sounds like quite an adventure! Does your mum know? (**inspects the dress**) Oh well, I'm afraid it's not much use as a dress now. I'll just carry on shall I?

Sofia: But aren't you going to help me?

N. Wind: Help you, sweetheart? Help you how?

Sofia: To find the Prince. I've got to wake him on Christmas Night, or....

N. Wind: Or what?

Sofia: Or... I don't know.

N. Wind: And even if you do reach the castle and find the Prince in time - what happens then? Do you know how to get home again?

Sofia: (**realising**) No.

N. Wind: But you'll want to be home for Christmas Day, won't you? Not still gallivanting about on an adventure in a pair of old shoes and no coat, even if you have got a Prince in tow. You'll want to be with your mum.

(**Sofia nods**)

N. Wind: And she'll want to be with you. I expect she'll have a cosy fire going, won't she? And a Christmas tree? Stocking at the end of your bed? Presents all wrapped up in a heap? No-one quite like Mum, is there my petal?

(Sofia is by now close to tears. North Wind gives her a big white handkerchief with the letter P in one corner)

N. Wind: Think about it my little sugar plum. I could help you get home right now in the blink of an eye.

Sofia: Could you? How?

N. Wind: **(Taking a snow globe from her apron pocket and giving it to Sofia).** All you have to do is shake this. You know sometimes the best adventures can be had at home.

Sofia: But what about the Prince?

N. Wind: Oh, he'll be alright. He's been asleep so long, a few more years won't hurt.

Sofia: But... I've come such a long way to find him. Far far and further still. **(To audience)** What do you think I should do? Go home now? Or find the Prince? **(encourages audience response)** Yes – I'll try to find the castle. I want to finish my adventure. I'm sure it is the right time, like Ollie said, and my mum will be alright. I'll get back somehow. I've still got my shoes...

(Sofia offers the snow globe back to North Wind)

N. Wind: You're a brave girl, my little princess. But be careful.... it is a magic castle after all, and magic can be very surprising – you never quite know what you'll find. Oh, and whatever you do, don't stay longer than Christmas Night or you'll fall fast asleep like the prince did, poor chap. Keep the globe, my chicken. It will still work for when you need it. Hurry now...it's quite dark already...Christmas night!

(North Wind resumes her sweeping and starts to exit)

Sofia: But how am I going to get to the castle? Aren't you going to blow me, like the others did?

N. Wind: Why would I do that my ladybird? The castle's just over there...you can walk easily. Just follow the path! Goodbye! Good luck! **(exits)**

(Lights fade)

Scene 5 – Outside the castle

(Lights up dimly. SFX wind. Snow FX - Glitter ball . Spooky SFX. Sofia takes a few hesitant steps, peering into the gloom)

Sofia: I can hardly see anything. I wish it would stop snowing, I can't see the path properly. **(ducking as if something has flown past her)** Oh! What was that? **(SFX. bump offstage)** Hello? Is there anyone there?

Ollie: **(muttering offstage)** Gold and white and *red*. The Prince is stillin bed! That's it!

Sofia: Ollie!

Ollie: **(entering)**Red and gold and *white*, At last it's ChristmasNight !

Sofia: Ollie? It's me! Sofia!

(Sofia peers around in the dark, but Ollie can see her clearly)

Ollie: Princess Sofia! Thank goodness I've found you!

Sofia: Where are you Ollie? I can't see you it's so dark.

Ollie: It's all right, I can see you! **(Going to Sofia)** Owls can see in the dark, you know.

Sofia: I'm so glad you're here Ollie. But how did you find me?

Ollie: Mum taught me a new rhyme and suddenly I was flying through the air. I've come to tell you something very important – it's about the castle!

Sofia: What?

(Ollie looks shamefaced)

Sofia: Oh Ollie, can't you remember?

(Ollie shakes his head)

Sofia: Well can you remember the new rhyme?

Ollie: I think so. Gold and white and red, The Prince is still in bed! Red and gold and white, At last it's Christmas night.

Sofia: What's the third verse?

Ollie: What third verse?

(SFX. A loud noise offstage. Sofia rushes to Ollie and grabs him)

Ollie: White and red and *gold*... Please let go your hold...

Sofia: Was that it?

Ollie: No, but you're holding my feathers too tight.

Sofia: Sorry! Come on Ollie. I must get to the castle. There's not much time! Try to remember while we go.

(Sofia and Ollie exit round the screen, Ollie re-enters the other side trying to remember the rhyme which gives Sofia time to change her shoes offstage.)

Ollie: White and red and *gold*... The castle has been *sold*... White and red and *gold*...

Sofia: **(re-entering)** My feet are very cold!

Ollie: Sofia, look! Your shoes...they're quite worn out!

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Sofia: **(She looks down)** So they are. But where's the castle?

Ollie: There! Look!

(Lighting FX - A castle appears on the wall)

Ollie: **(triumphantly)** White and red and *gold*. Here comes a Princess *bold*. And that's you!

Sofia: A princess bold! Going to wake the Prince! **(walking forward purposefully)**

Ollie: Wait! Sofia! I've remembered what I had to tell you. It's another rhyme.... When she reaches the gates of iron, she must prepare to meet...

(SFX. Lion roars offstage)

Ollie: A Lion!

(Sofia and Ollie duck down, scared. SFX. There is another roar which turns into a sneeze - Lion has a cold.)

Lion: **(Entering)** *Aaatchoo! Aaa...Aaa....* Bother this cold! I hate being cold and I hate having a cold. Especially at Christmas. **(To audience)** Anyone got a hankie? **(sniffing)** Mmmm. Yum! Are you my Christmas dinner? You'd be nice with roast potatoes. **(Lion sniffs and sneezes. Starts another sneeze then sees Sofia and Ollie)** Well well well. What's this? A very scruffy little girl and a much-too-big owl.

Sofia: Excuse me. Is this the Castle of the Sleeping Prince?

Lion: It might be. Why do you want to know?

Sofia: I'm looking for the Prince. I've got to wake him up on Christmas Night.

Lion: **(laughs till she sneezes)** A whippersnapper like you? Not a chance.

Sofia: But I'm a princess. A princess bold.

Lion: You expect me to believe that?

Sofia: But it's true. **(To audience)** Isn't it? Oh please let me in!

Lion: No. **(roars)**

(Sofia steps back)

Ollie: You let her in, or I'll turn you into a **(To audience)** what shall I turn her into? **(Encourages audience to supply suggestions)** Yes. I'll turn you into a – **(uses a suggestion from audience)**!

Lion: And how will you do that?

Ollie: Owls are magic you know. I know magic rhymes.

Lion: Oh I am scared. Aaatchoo! I tell you what. You make my cold go away and I might reconsider. Don't you know a magic rhyme for that?

Ollie: Um...No. I only know what my mum tells me.

Lion: What's that then?

Ollie: She says you have to feed a cold. Feed a cold and starve a fever.

Lion: Feed a cold eh? What a good idea. I think I'll feed my cold with owl.

(Lion rushes at Ollie but Sofia jumps in between them)

Sofia: You're not to hurt him. And you've got to let me in to the castle.

Lion: Shan't! Out of my way Princess. **(Chases Ollie)**

Ollie: Sofia...think of something!

Sofia: I'm trying!

(Sofia manages to get behind Lion and grab her tail just as she lunges at Ollie)

Ollie: I know! There's another verse of the rhyme:

The only way to make her go, Is pelting her!... with lots
of.....of.....of..(encourages audience to help him find the rhyme)

Ollie: Snow!

Lion: Snow?

Ollie: Thick, thick snow!

(Ollie picks up an imaginary snowball and throws it at Lion. Sofia follows suit and they encourage the audience to join in)

Lion: Ow! Ow! Stop! *Stop!!* I hate snow. It's all wet and horrid. Stop it I say!.....owwww! It's not fair! I've got a cold... Leave me alone, you big bullies....pick on someone your own size...

(Eventually Ollie chases Lion offstage, still sneezing.)

Ollie: **(Exiting after Lion)** Hurry Sofia! To the castle! While it's still Christmas Night!

Sofia: Thank you Ollie! Thank you everyone! Here I go! **(exits)**

(Lights and SFX fade)

Scene 6 – Inside the castle.

(Lights up dimly, spooky SFX.)

Sofia: **(Entering and peering round).** Look at all the cobwebs! It's so dusty. I don't think anyone's been here foryears. **(Calls)** Hello? Is anyone there? **(Sofia exits behind a screen. Offstage)** There's all sorts of stuff here. **(Sofia makes some clattering offstage as she moves stuff)** What on earth's this?

(Sofia re-enters with a trolley on which the Prince is lying invisible under a cobwebby cover. She parks it and starts to go back to the screen)

Sofia: Now where's that Prince!

(Prince snores loudly. Sofia stops in her tracks and looks around. Prince snores again. Sofia tiptoes to the trolley and pulls off the cover, revealing the Prince sound asleep. He is covered in cobwebs and dust)

Sofia: It's him! The Sleeping Prince!

(Prince snores again)

Sofia: Well, he's certainly asleep! **(To audience)** What do I do now? How do I wake him? **(Encourages audience response)** Kiss him? I don't think I want to. He's covered in cobwebs.

(Sofia gives the Prince a shake then peers at him, puzzled)

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Sofia: Besides he's...he's...

(Prince yawns and stretches, shakes off the cover, coughs a bit with the dust, pulls off some cobwebs and sits up. He is an old man with grey hair and beard. Lights brighten)

Sofia: Old!!

Prince: I say! I think I must have nodded off for a while. Oh hello! Who are you? You look awfully like my sister.

Sofia: I'm Princess Sofia from Spain. I've come on an adventure to find you.

Prince: That's funny. I come from Spain too. And I'm on an adventure. I'm the Prince. How do you do?

(Prince throws off the cover and gets up. He is wearing worn out red, white and gold shoes just like Sofia's)

- Sofia:** Oh look! Your shoes are the same as mine!
- Prince:** Rather worn out I'm afraid. But there may be a bit of magic left in them. **(confidentially)** I found them under a tree you know. In the Palace garden.
- Sofia:** So did I!
- Prince:** Really? But I don't think I know you do I? And I've lived in the Palace a long time.
- Sofia:** But you can't have! I live there with my mum, the Queen of Spain.
- Prince:** Well I live there with my old dad the king, and my little sister the princess. But her name's Maria, not Sofia.
- Sofia:** But that's my mum's name! She's Queen Maria of Spain.
- Prince:** My sister's a pretty little girl. Likes sewing and playing the violin. Always does what she's told. Not like me. I'm always climbing trees and getting into scrapes. My father says he despairs of me.
- Sofia:** That's what my mum says about me. I'm not a very good princess, you see.
- Prince:** And I'm not a very good prince. Which is why I wanted to go on an adventure....
- Sofia:** Me too!
- Prince:** Really? So when I found a pair of shoes under the tree, which turned out to be magic, I was off! With a bit of help from an owl as it happens.
- Sofia:** Ollie?
- Prince:** No.... I don't think so. She was a girl owl. Just learning magic.
- Sofia:** **(Realising)** Oh! *Oh! Oh!!!* Of course! What did you say your name was?
- Prince:** Oh, sorry, didn't I tell you? I'm Prince Pedro, at your service!
- Sofia:** I knew it! You're my long lost Uncle Pedro who disappeared before I was born! And the owl who helped you was Ollie's mum.
- Prince:** But I never had a niece! And I only left the palace a little while ago. The shoes carried me off!
- Sofia:** And did you meet the West Wind?

Prince: (remembering) Yes! Gave her my big red broly...

Sofia: And the East Wind?

Prince: (laughing) Yes! He got my gold ring, the little tinker....

Sofia: And the North Wind?

(Sofia holds out the handkerchief that North Wind gave her)

Prince: My handkerchief! Look, there's the P for Pedro that my sister Maria embroidered for me! I remember it all now. I found the castle, managed to avoid a very hungry lion andand...then what?

Sofia: Then you fell asleep. It's a magic castle, you see. If you stay too long that's what happens. And you've stayed here fast asleep until a princess – *me* – could come along and wake you on Christmas night.

Prince: I say! **(He starts to feel his long grey hair)** Good heavens. Where did all that grey hair come from? And a beard! **(chuckles)** Oh well. I'd better make up for lost time, there are plenty more adventures to be had and I'm still young inside! I say! Would you like to come with me?

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Sofia: Thank you Uncle Pedro, but I think I want to go home now. My adventure's over.

Prince: What a pity. I have a feeling we'd get on rather well. Two of a kind!

Sofia: Two of a kind. **(hugs Prince)** Will you come and visit us soon? My mum would love to see you. She misses you very much.

Prince: Does she? Then of course I will! Give her my love and tell her I'll see her very soon. Come on then, shoes....off we go! Goodbye everyone! Whoooooops! Goodbye!

(SFX as shoes carry him offstage)

Sofia: Goodbye Uncle Pedro! Have a good adventure! **(yawning)** I'm beginning to feel very sleepy. I think I'd better go too, before I....**(yawns again)**

Prince: **(Re-entering anxiously)** I say, Sofia..... there's a rather hungry lion with a cold outside. Any tips on how to get rid of her? I can't quite remember.....

Sofia: That's easy. **(To audience)** We can tell you, can't we? **(Encourages audience to tell Prince)**

Prince: Snow? Of course! **(To audience)** Thank you so much! **(To Sofia)** Are you sure you don't want to come with me?

(Sofia smiles, but shakes her head)

Prince: Oh well.... Off I go! **(Exit)**

Sofia: Well, who would have thought the Prince would turn out to be my long lost Uncle Pedro! **(yawning)** It's almost morning. I must hurry! **(She takes out the snow globe)** I hope this will work. **(looks round her)** Goodbye castle. Goodbye winds! Goodbye adventure. I'm going home!

(Sofia shakes the globe and exits – Magic SFX. Lights fade)

Scene 7 – Palace garden

(Lights up. Queen enters, humming a Christmas tune and carrying a present)

Queen: Sofia! Sofia! Are you awake? It's Christmas Day!

(Enter Sofia, running)

Sofia: Mum! **(hugs Queen)** I'm so glad to see you!

Queen: Why Sofia, darling.... Just look at you! You look like you've been on a journey far, far away and further still! I quite despair of you! **(kisses her)** Happy Christmas darling! **(gives Sofia the present)**

Sofia: Thanks Mum! Happy Christmas. **(Looks round)** Oh it's so nice to be home. Did you miss me?

Queen: **(puzzled)** Miss you? You funny child, what are you talking about? Go on, open it!

(Sofia opens the present and finds some dungarees)

Queen: They're for climbing trees in, so I don't have to keep mending your dresses. I made them myself.

Sofia: Why, they're just like Uncle Pedro's!

Queen: Uncle Pedro? Yes, he was always wearing dungarees. How on earth did you know that?

Sofia: It's a long story. But it's got a very happy ending! Would you like to hear it?

Queen: Why yes... I would, very much!

Sofia: I'll just get dressed then and I'll tell you all about it. Oh, and I've got something for you, too. Hold out your hand and close your eyes!

(Sofia puts the handkerchief in Queen's hand, which she moves behind Queen's back)

Sofia: There! No peeking! Not till I come in. **(Kisses Queen)**

Queen: How exciting! Oh I do love Christmas! **(exit)**

(There is a scrabbling sound from the tree)

Sofia: Ollie?

(A Christmas present falls from the tree)

Ollie: **(Entering)** **Bother!** I dropped it! **(sees Sofia)** Princess Sofia! You're home!

Sofia: And so are you! But how did you get away from the lion?

Ollie: **(proudly)** Magic! What about the Prince? Did you find him?

Sofia: Yes. He was my Uncle Pedro.

Ollie: I know. My mum told me when I got home.

Sofia: Will you thank your mum for me? She's taken good care of my Mum!

Ollie: She's good at magic.

Sofia: Like you!

Ollie: **(sees present)** Oh there it is. This is your Christmas present. From me and mum.

(Sofia opens the present: it's a new pair of shoes.)

Sofia: Oh Ollie, they're great.

Ollie: In case you ever want another adventure....

Sofia: Thank you. Are they magic?

Ollie: Yes. But not until I tell you the magic rhyme.

Sofia: What magic rhyme?

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Ollie: Err....I don't remember just now. But I'm sure I will.....

Sofia: **(together)** When the time is right!

Ollie: **(together)** When the time is right!

Sofia: And till then I'm going to remember what the North Wind told me: that sometimes the best adventures can be had at home.

Queen: **(Calling offstage)** Are you coming?

Sofia: **(together)** Yes Mum! **(laughs)**

Ollie: **(together)** Yes Mum! **(laughs)**

Sofia: Happy Christmas everyone!

Ollie: Goodbye!

(Sofia and Ollie exit, laughing. Lights fade)

THE END