Characters

Lucinda (F)	-	AKA “Little Red Riding Hood” is a woman who wears a red cape.
Hansel (M)	-	A boy who speaks with an accent **(not necessarily German)**.
Gretel (F)	-	A girl who speaks with a similar accent.
Grandma (F)	-	an elderly woman.
Wolf (M/F)	-	A frightening character possibly in a wolf costume holding a notebook and carrying a “grandma” dress.

Scene 1 – Grandma's House

(At rise, Hansel and Gretel are seated in chairs inside the house. They have been glued to the seats and are trying to escape.)

Hansel: I'm stuck!

Gretel: I can't get out of this chair. I told you we shouldn't come here.

Hansel: You said there'd be candy here.

Gretel: I didn't say that we should just break in to get it.

Hansel: Well, how else are we going to get it? You know *she* isn't going to just give us some.

Gretel: And what happens when *she* gets back? She's going to have us for dinner.

Hansel: We've gotta get out of these chairs.

Gretel: What kind of cruel person thinks to put glue on the seats?

Hansel: An evil mastermind, that's who!

Gretel: Maybe we should just start screaming for help. **(starts to open her mouth)**

Hansel: No, don't! *She* might hear you.

Gretel: Oh yeah. What are we going to do?

(Lucinda enters through the door and sees the two children. Both Lucinda and the children take turns screaming in fear at each other. Feel free to improvise.)

Lucinda: Are you here to rob me?

Hansel: Rob you? Can't you see we are glued to these chairs? How are we supposed to rob you?

Lucinda: Why are you glued to the chairs?

Gretel: What? Do you think we did this to ourselves?

Lucinda: How would I know and why did you scream at me?

Hansel: Because you're the….

Gretel: Yeah, you're the…

Lucinda: I'm the what?

Hansel: **(Together)** The Wicked One!
Gretel: **(Together)** The Wicked One!

Lucinda: The what? Oh, come on. Do I look wicked?

Hansel: Well, no, but…

Gretel: You could be in disguise.

Lucinda: For goodness sake! I am no Wicked One. Now, calm down and tell me what happened.

Hansel: Well, we found this AirBnB that was supposed to have lots of candy.

Gretel: So we decided to check it out.

Lucinda: You mean you decided to break in!

Hansel: What do you want from us? We got helicopter parents and need to boost our own self esteem!

Lucinda: **(mockingly)** Really? But what is all this about a Wicked One?

Gretel: Well, there were a couple of Yelp reviews about his place that mentioned the presence of an evil grandmother but we just thought those were from angry reviewers.

Hansel: Until we found ourselves caught in her trap of glued chairs. We thought you were her.

Lucinda: I came here to see *my* grandma but I can assure you she's not evil.

Gretel: Oh yeah? Then why does she lure little children here with candy?

Lucinda: My grandma does not lure children here. Besides, she's diabetic. Look around. You see any candy here?

(Lucinda waves her hand around the room. Hansel and Gretel do not see any candy and shake their heads.)

Lucinda: My grandma is a sweet lady who wouldn't hurt anyone. So just relax.

Hansel: OK, OK. So, how are you going to get us out of here?

Lucinda: Let me see what I can find to get you off those chairs.

(Lucinda looks around the house for a tool for prying the kids off the chairs. As she looks –)

Lucinda: By the way, what do I call you two?

Gretel: I'm Gretel.

Hansel: And I'm Hansel.

Lucinda: Oh, good. Gretel and Hansel. I bet your parents are all worried about you. We'll just get you two out of those chairs and then… **(freezes)** Wait a minute! Gretel and Hansel. Hansel and Gretel! You're Hansel and Gretel?

Hansel: I'm Hansel.

Gretel: And I'm Gretel.

Lucinda: **(moves closer to the children)** Don't you know about your own story?

(Hansel and Gretel look at each other then look back at Lucinda)

Hansel: **(Together)** No.
Gretel: **(Together)** No.

Lucinda: You were right to be worried about the Wicked One. You are being hunted as we speak but you must have come to the wrong house. **(still looking for a tool)** We have to get you out of here and send you home to safety.

(Lucinda continues to look but can't find anything except knitting tools.)

Hansel: You never told us your name.

Lucinda: Oh well, yes. My name is Lucinda but people sometimes call me Little Red Riding Hood because I always wear this lovely cape. **(shows off her cape)**

Gretel: Did you say Little Red…

Hansel: Riding Hood?

Lucinda: Why, yes.

(Hansel and Gretel cover their mouths and gasp)

Gretel: Don't you know *your* story?

Lucinda: *My* story?

Hansel: Yes. You are going to be visited by a hungry horrible wolf who will disguise himself as your grandmother and then…

Lucinda: And then, what?

Gretel: He's going to eat you.

(Everyone screams.)

Lucinda: **(calms everyone down)** OK, OK. Let's just calm down. We can figure out a way for all of us to get out of this. We just need to think.

(Suddenly Grandma enters through the door. When the door is open, Lucinda, Hansel, and Gretel start screaming again. Eventually Grandma gets their attention.)

Grandma: What is going on here?

Gretel: Are you the Wicked One?

Hansel: Are you the Evil One?

Lucinda: Are you the Hungry Wolf?

Grandma: Oh my goodness, no! **(to Lucinda)** I'm your grandmother. **(to Hansel and Gretel)** And the most evil thing I have ever done is refuse to tip the Self-Checkout Machine at the

grocery store. Maybe this will help… **(goes to get a very large clearly marked container of candy)** Here you go. **(gives some candy to Hansel and Gretel)**

Gretel: I told you there was candy here.

Lucinda: **(to Grandma)** I thought you were diabetic.

Grandma: Oh, I always keep a little on hand for guests. **(to Hansel and Gretel)** And who are you two?

Hansel: I'm Hansel

Gretel: And I'm Gretel.

Grandma: And what are they doing stuck to my chairs?

Lucinda: They came to steal your candy.

Grandma: Is that so? Oh yeah? Well, we'll see about that!

(Grandma pulls a large crowbar out of a hidden location and approaches the children. Upon seeing Grandma approach them, the children start screaming again.)

Lucinda: Grandma! Don't hurt them!

Grandma: Hurt them? Oh, don't be ridiculous. I'm not going to hurt them. I'm going to set them free.

(Grandma goes to the children, puts the crowbar behind them, and wrenches them free from the seats with some struggle. Feel free to improvise.)

Hansel: Thank you!

Gretel: Yes, thank you.

Grandma: Oh, you're welcome. **(sees Super Glue)** Oh, goodness me. I always forget to put the cap back on that Super Glue.

(Grandma puts the cap on the glue then puts the glue in her pocket. The children run to Grandma and Grandma hugs them. Then there is a knock at the door; Everyone gasps.)

Lucinda: Who is it?

Wolf: **(from behind the door with an open notebook and dress in hand)** Pizza delivery.

Lucinda: We didn't order any pizza.

Wolf: **(shuffles pages)** Uh, special delivery.

Grandma: The mail doesn't come out this way.

Wolf: **(shuffles pages)** Uh, yeah. That's right. I'm afraid I'm lost. Could I come in please and, uh, use your… phone?

Grandma: Go away!

Wolf: Are you sure you can't let me in? Not by the hair of your chiny-chin chin?

All: **(Except Wolf)** No!

Grandma: And you leave my facial hair out of this!

Wolf: Then I will have to huff and puff and *blow* your house down!

Gretel: Look, buddy! You've got the wrong story. There are no pigs here.

Wolf: What? **(shuffles pages)** It's got to be here somewhere. Ah! **(puts on the dress and speaks in a high pitched voice)** Could I speak to the exclusive proprietor of this fine establishment, please?

Grandma: Oh, why certainly! **(opens the door)**

Lucinda: Grandma!

(The Wolf walks in still reading from the notebook.)

Hansel: No! It's the Wicked One!

Wolf: Oh, no, no, no. Not me. I am a most gentle and gentile geriatric.

Lucinda: Who are you?

Wolf: **(to Lucinda)** Oh, my dear! You're Little Red Riding Hood aren't you? Don't you recognise me? I'm your sweet and kind Grand… **(looks at Grandma then flips pages)** Uh, Great Aunt. Yes. I'm your great Aunt Lupie!

Lucinda: I don't have a great Aunt Lupie.

Wolf: Of course you do, dear. Check your Twenty Three and Me results. You'd be surprised what shows up.

Lucinda: You can say that again!

Wolf: Then come along with me so I can get you back home and cook you, I mean cook you a fine dinner. Doesn't that sound nice? **(heads toward Lucinda)**

Grandma: Just a moment!

Wolf: What?

Grandma: What's with the script?

Wolf: Script? No. I'm just trying to catch up on some reading.

Grandma: You're new at this aren't you?

Wolf: Well, I, uh…

Grandma: C'mon. I get it. You got tired of chasing rabbits and squirrels and so you went on YouTube and found out how to track down kids in red capes.

Gretel: That's just plain sick!

Grandma: Then you downloaded the script and thought you could just improvise your way through it.

Lucinda: Amateur! Next thing you know you'll be doing ten-minute plays in some backwater theater.

Wolf: I much prefer musicals.

(Hansel and Gretel begin singing and dancing their favorite musicals in their own accents.)

Grandma: **(calms down the children)** Children, please! Come sit down.

(Grandma motions toward the two chairs where the children were stuck before. The children move toward it.)

Grandma: Oh, not over there. **(points somewhere else)** Sit over there.

Lucinda: Maybe you shouldn't have given them so much candy!

Wolf: **(reaches for Lucinda's arm)** OK, missie. It's time to come home with your Auntie!

Grandma: **(cuts The Wolf off from Lucinda)** Just a moment there.

Wolf: What is it? We need to get back in time for my… uh, our dinner. **(to Lucinda)** You must be getting hungry, dear. I know I am!

Grandma: You really are bad at this!

Wolf: What do you mean?

Grandma: You missed a whole section of the script.

Wolf: What? No I didn't.

Hansel: Yeah, you did. What about the whole "My, what big ears you have!" bit, huh?

Wolf: **(flipping through pages)** What?

Gretel: Yeah, and the "My, what big teeth you have!" thing. What about that, huh?

Wolf: **(still flipping through pages)** When was I supposed to say that?

Grandma: Here! Let me help you. It's right here. **(points to a place in the notebook)**

Wolf: What? I don't see it.

Grandma: Let me get my highlighter and show you.

(Grandma takes the Super Glue out of her pocket, takes off the cap, and then squeezes it onto the notebook paper.)

Grandma: There! You see it now?

Wolf: No!

Grandma: Then take a closer look.

(Grandma slams the notebook onto The Wolf's forehead until it is stuck and The Wolf is covered by the notebook.)

Wolf: Hey! I can't see anything!

Grandma: Right this way.

(Grandma kicks The Wolf out the door and closes it. Everyone celebrates.)

Grandma: Now that the Big Bad Wolf is gone. We can all relax. **(to Lucinda)** Why don't you take these nice kids out to the zoo and see some *nice* animals?

Lucinda: OK! C'mon kids.

(Hansel and Gretel express their glee as they grab some more candy and exit with Lucinda. Grandma walks around the room and straightens up for a bit.)

Grandma: Oh, this place is always a mess. I think I need to downsize. I heard there's a lovely one bedroom shoe for sale.

(Grandma exits)

Curtain