

Adelina and the Magic Cactus of WYSIWYG
An Internet Fairy Tale

A One Act Play

by

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CAST: JUDY, 8, a daughter
GEORGE, 30's, her dad
ADELINA, a puppet
JEET, a puppet
MR. BOSS DUDE, puppet
META TAG 1, a puppet
META TAG 1, a puppet
NARRATOR

TIME: Present

PLACE: Judy's bedroom and a office cubicle

NOTE: Puppets can be simple puppets or actors in costume and masks.

Lights up on Judy's bedroom. Judy getting ready for bed, her father, George tucking her in.

JUDY

Please, please, daddy, please.

GEORGE

Now, Judy. Mommy doesn't want me to keep you up late.

JUDY

But daddy, I can't fall asleep if I don't get a story.

GEORGE

I know, but Daddy's had a long day and he's tired.

JUDY

But daddy, I need a story!

GEORGE

But sweetheart, your mom says you can't stay up and daddy's tired...

JUDY

I wanna story! Story, story, story, story, story, story, story, story, stooooorrrrrrrryyyyyy!!!!!!

GEORGE

Okay. If I give you a story, do you promise to go to bed?

JUDY

Yes, yes! I promise, I promise!

GEORGE

Just one story, okay. Then it's lights out, alright?

JUDY

Okay, daddy. You're the best daddy I've ever had.

George retrieves a laptop from the nightstand.

GEORGE

Tell that to mommy. Okay, now let's see.

JUDY

(leaning over and looking at computer)

Bookmarks, bookmarks!!

GEORGE

Alright, alright. Well, let's see here. Looks like you've seen "Princess Gigabyte in the Kingdom of Pixel," "Downloading Mrs. Cache," "The Three Java Scripts," and "Bob and the Giant Email."

JUDY

Oh, oh, the Giant Email, the Giant Email!

GEORGE

But honey, you've already seen the Giant Email 58 times.

JUDY

But, when, when the Giant Email saves Bob from the Recycle Bin and Captain Netscape and the evil Cookies? That's soooo funny, daddy!

GEORGE

I know, but maybe we should pick something different, okay?

JUDY

I want the Giant Email!

GEORGE

How about this one. "The Magic Cactus of WYSIWYG."
(reading)

(MORE)

"Adelina and her Magic Cactus venture forth from the Land of WYSIWYG into the dangerous Labyrinth of Cubicles of the Mr. Boss Dude and his Meta Tags to rescue Jeet, the lost Prince of WYSIWYG." Oooh, that sounds fun.

JUDY

It sounds dumb!

GEORGE

Let's download that one, okay?

JUDY

But, daddy! I don't know what a cactris is.

GEORGE

That's why we have stories, Judy. To learn about things you don't know. Now, let's get started. Daddy's got an early database systems integration meeting in the morning.

JUDY

Well, it better be a good story or I won't fall asleep.

SHE puts on a large pair of darkened goggles and plugs them into the laptop.

GEORGE

All set?

JUDY

(taking goggles off)

Aren't you going watch it? Mommy always watches it.

GEORGE

No honey, I have to get up...

JUDY

But Daddy! I want you to watch it with me! Please!

GEORGE

Okay, okay. I'll watch it with you.

SHE puts her goggles back on. George puts on a similar pair of goggles, plugs into the computer.

JUDY

Story! Story!

George hits the return button. Lights dim on George and Judy.

NARRATOR

(o.s.)

Welcome "Judy" to E-Fables!

(MORE)

by Grimm Interactive, bringing the world's best loved fables and tales to your desktop in vivid, three-dimensional...

NOTE: "CLICK" denotes George pressing keyboard. This should be audible to the audience.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

(o.s.)

You have "fourteen" interactions in your story bank...

(CLICK)

Review your computer's audio settings by...

(CLICK)

JUDY

Story, daddy! Story!

GEORGE

I'm getting to it.

NARRATOR

(o.s.)

In the...

(CLICK)

After you've...

(CLICK)

To preview...

(CLICK)

You've selected "The Magic Cactus of WYSIWYG," written by Mahmoud Propkek, code by Fassoul...

(CLICK)

design by Klaas...

(CLICK)

Press start to...

(CLICK)

and now, "The Magic Cactus of WYSIWIG."

JUDY

Yea! Story!

Lights up on the cubicle, a small space with three padded cubicle walls. Small desks on the outside walls with computers. Two chairs. On the back cubicle wall a sign reads, "Coding Station 3477." Jeet sits at a desk, typing.

NARRATOR

(o.s.)

Our story begins with Jeet, a young website developer busy coding pages of dynamic internet content for the pre-IPO website, BUYEVERYTHINGNOW.COM. Today is a special day for Jeet, for today is his Fully-Vested Day.

(MORE)

His one thousand shares of stock will achieve full vesture at midnight making him a very wealthy young man.

JEET

My mom wants hair plugs and dad wants a facial laser peel.

NARRATOR

(o.s.)

Yes, but before he can make his parents' dreams come true, he must solve The Riddle Code of JavaScript issued by the CEO of BUYEVERYTHINGNOW.COM, Mr. Boss Dude.

JEET

I must solve the code! I must!

JUDY

When do I see the cactris?

GEORGE

Hang in there, honey.

JUDY

This is so slow.

NARRATOR

(o.s.)

If Jeet does not solve the riddle, he will lose his stock and will be banished from Internet World for one whole week.

JEET

I'll lose my cutting edge!

JUDY

One week?! That's forever!

GEORGE

Just watch, honey.

NARRATOR

(o.s.)

Let's go now to Coding Station 3477 where Jeet is coding tree navigation menus as a special visitor arrives. But before we do, please take a moment to fill out our ...

(CLICK)

Thank you. And now, The Magic Cactus of WYSIWYG.

Lights full on cubicle. Jeet stops typing, gets up and stretches. He looks over the back cubicle wall, both ways, sits back down, puts on headphones and plugs them into his computer. A few taps. He bobs his head to the music.

JEET

(singing very low)

"Get your motor running, head out on the highway..."

Adelina enters carrying a large backpack. She eyes the sign on the back cubicle wall. The right spot. Jeet is oblivious to her presence.

JEET (CONT'D)

"Looking for adventure, for whatever comes my way, born to be wild, born to be wild."

Adelina taps him on the shoulder.

ADELINA

Hello.

JEET

(startled, taking off headphones)

Oh, hello, hello. I was just... hello, hi. I'm Jeet.

ADELINA

I'm Adelina. I'm your new cubicle mate.

JEET

You're not going to tell on me are you?

ADELINA

Tell on you? For what?

JEET

You know, the...

(motions "headphones")

ADELINA

Why would I do that?

JEET

It's against the rules to listen to classic rock-n-roll music. If Mr. Boss Dude finds out, I'm in the Trash Bin.

ADELINA

That's silly.

JEET

It's true. Mr. Boss Dude hates classic rock-n-roll. The coding guy that was here before you? He got fired for downloading Foghat. You know

(whispering)

"Slowride." He was just eleven minutes away from full vesture, too.

JUDY

What's classic rock-n-roll?

ADELINA

Why does he hate classic rock-n-roll music?

JUDY

Daddy?

JEET

He was born in 1980.

JUDY

What's classic rock-n-roll?

JEET

And if you play any Disco, it's immediate dismissal.

GEORGE

It's music daddy listens to.

ADELINA

He's that strict?

JUDY

Oh, old people music.

JEET

Oh, yeah.

ADELINA

Then why were you listening to Steppenwolf just now?

JEET

(whispering)

You know about Steppenwolf?

ADELINA

Of course. Classic, head-banging rock. Great tunes to drive to, you know, "Get your motor running!"

JEET

Shhhh! Don't do that. You'll get me fired. Mr. Boss Dude!

ADELINA

Oh, come on. This is an internet company. Look at the cool chairs and the basketball court...

JEET

But today is my Fully Vested day! If Mr. Boss Dude finds out about Steppenwolf, I'm dead! Promise you won't tell? Oh, please, promise you won't tell! I'll buy you a jet ski!

ADELINA

Okay, okay. Your secret's behind my firewall, Jeet.

JEET

Oh, Thank you, thank you. I means so much to me.

ADELINA

So, when do I get to finally meet Mr. Boss Dude?

JEET

Oh, no one ever sees or talks to Mr. Boss Dude! He only communicates with you one time, on Fully Vested Day when he sends you The Riddle Code of JavaScript. And I must solve...

ADELINA

You must solve the Riddle Code of JavaScript to get your shares. Right?

JEET

You know about the Riddle Code of JavaScript?

ADELINA

The Riddle Code of JavaScript is well known throughout the Labyrinth of Cubicles, Jeet. So is Mr. Boss Dude.

JEET

How do you know...? Then why?... Do I know you?

ADELINA

I have come to save you, Jeet.

JEET

Save me? What are you talking about?

ADELINA

I am talking about who you really are.

JEET

Who I really am? Who are you?

ADELINA removes a cactus plant from her bag, it is lit from the bottom and quite decorative.

ADELINA

Your ride.

JEET

Huh?

JUDY

Is that the cactris?

ADELINA

I have been sent to bring you back.

GEORGE

Yes it is, sweetheart.

JEET

Bring me back? What are you talking about.

ADELINA

My name is Adelina and I am from the Land of WYSIWYG. And this is the Magic Cactus of WYSIWYG. It is the source of all that is and all that was and all that will be. And only you know the secret of its Magic. For you are a Prince.

JEET

Okay, okay. Look lady. I don't know who you are or what this thing is or what you're talking about but today I'm gonna be filthy rich and tomorrow I'm buying an SUV with a 10-CD changer. So, whatever drug you're on...

JUDY

It looks dumb.

ADELINA

I have come to take you home.

GEORGE

Just watch, sweetheart.

Judy takes off goggles.

JUDY

Oh! This is too slow!

JEET

Home? I've got another three hours to put in.

GEORGE

No it's not. It's fun.

JUDY

I want another one! Download another one!

ADELINA

That is not the home I'm talking about, Jeet. Your real home.

JUDY

(tugging on Dad's shirt)

Another one! Another one!

Wonder what happens next?

For a copy of the full script, email me at:

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Thanks!