

# **Weird Sisters: The Legend of Tatterhood**

by

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# Weird Sisters: The Legend of Tatterhood

a play

## CHARACTERS

NARRATORS (6)

HELGA SPECTRE, a queen

WOMAN OF THE WOODS, a woman who lives in a cave

TATTERHOOD, 16, an odd girl who is bad at climbing trees

ASTRID, 16, a girl who is less odd and is great at climbing trees

YOUNG TATTERHOOD, 7-10

YOUNG ASTRID, 7-10

YOUNG GIRL, daughter of the Woman of the Woods

QUEEN WITCH, ancient, but full of life

WITCHES (4 OR MORE)

TROLLS (2 OR MORE)

## SETTINGS

A castle surrounded by a stone wall.

The woods and a cave.

A ship.

The darker woods.

## PRODUCTION NOTES

In its first production, the Narrators doubled as the witches and trolls. This was very effective. It called for some reassigning of some lines to allow for quick changes, but it was very successful.

Young Tatterhood and Young Astrid can also be played by the same actors who play older Tatterhood and Astrid.

1.

Out of darkness emerge six  
Narrators. They look as if they've  
just washed ashore. They come  
together to form a circle, hands  
together, facing each other.

Then, with a quick motion, they  
separate and spin to face outward,  
slowly grasping hands once again to  
form the circle.

NARRATORS

There once was a castle on a hilltop.

NARRATOR 1

In that castle, there lived a queen.

The Narrators crouch down to reveal  
Queen Helga, standing in the center  
of their circle. Helga holds a  
golden scepter.

NARRATORS

The Queen of the Hilltop.

NARRATORS

Helga Spectre.

NARRATOR 6

Spectre?

NARRATOR 2

It was a family name.

NARRATOR 3

Although she had no family.

NARRATOR 4

What do you mean she had no family? She  
had a--

ALL NARRATORS BUT 4

Shhhh!

NARRATOR 1

The castle was surrounded by a great,  
unsurmountable wall.

NARRATOR 2

Some folks say the queen built the  
wall herself.

NARRATOR 3  
Stone by stone.

NARRATOR 4  
So she could be safe.

NARRATORS  
Protected.

NARRATOR 5  
And so, she lived by herself in that  
great castle.

The Narrators let go of each  
other's hands and spread out,  
watching Helga.

NARRATOR 6  
There was no king.

NARRATOR 4  
She never married.

NARRATOR 1  
She walked the castle grounds, hearing nothing  
but the wind in the trees.

NARRATOR 4  
Tree.

NARRATOR 1  
Tree. She walked the castle grounds--

NARRATOR 4  
There was only one tree.

NARRATOR 3  
The tree with the golden apples.

A tree appears. It is full of  
golden apples.

NARRATOR 2  
The tree was miraculous. It bore fruit all  
year round, even in the dead of winter.

NARRATOR 4  
That's all she ate. Golden apples. Every meal.  
Golden apples. Breakfast.

ALL NARRATORS  
Golden apples.

NARRATOR 4

Lunch.

ALL NARRATORS

Golden apples.

NARRATOR 4

Dinner.

ALL NARRATORS

Golden apples.

NARRATOR 4

Midnight snack!

NARRATOR 1

They get it. She walked the castle grounds,  
hearing nothing but the wind in the tree.

NARRATOR 6

And the deafening sound of her regrets.

The other Narrators stare at  
Narrator 6.

NARRATOR 6

She had a lot of regrets.

NARRATOR 2

Sometimes you could hear her whispering  
to herself.

NARRATOR 4

Muttering to herself.

NARRATOR 5

But not to herself. It's like she was speaking  
to someone only she could see.

HELGA

You won't hurt me again. You won't hurt me  
ever again. You'll never get over that wall.  
I'm safe. I'm safe. I'm safe.

NARRATOR 6

The queen was crazy. Like--

Narrator 6 flicks a finger on her  
lips to make a crazy sound.

NARRATOR 3

Sadness will do that.

NARRATOR 2  
Solitude will do that.

NARRATOR 4  
Eating nothing but golden apples will do that.

NARRATOR 5  
She felt so alone.

HELGA  
I'm so alone.

Narrator 6 flicks her finger on her  
lips again.

NARRATOR 1  
Her loneliness grew and grew and grew... She  
felt it the most at the time of the Yule  
Winter Festival.

HELGA  
Yule has come again. And I'm alone. Yuletide  
should be a time of... Family.

NARRATORS  
She wanted a family.

HELGA  
I want a family. I want...

NARRATOR 1  
And she made a Yuletide wish.

HELGA  
I want a child. Please, send me a child.

NARRATOR 2  
And her wish went unanswered.

NARRATOR 1  
She made her wish day after day.

HELGA  
Please, send me a child.

NARRATOR 2  
Month after month.

HELGA  
Please, send me a child.

NARRATOR 3  
Year after year.

HELGA  
Please.

NARRATOR 4  
After year.

HELGA  
Send me a child.

NARRATOR 5  
After year.

HELGA  
Please.

NARRATOR 6  
After year.

HELGA  
Please!

NARRATOR 4  
Her wish remained unanswered.

NARRATOR 1  
And then... One year, Yuletide arrived once again. She fell to her knees and made her wish in desperation.

HELGA  
Please. My only wish is for a child. Please, send me a child. I will do anything.

NARRATOR 3  
She went to bed.

Helga goes to bed.

NARRATOR 2  
She awoke the next morning to a sound that wasn't the wind in the tree.

NARRATORS  
It was a child.

Helga is asleep. A Young Girl in a hood appears in the tree. She slips as she attempts to pluck a high up apple. The Narrators all gasp. Helga wakes up.

HELGA  
What? Who?

Helga explores where the sound  
came from.

YOUNG GIRL  
Please, help me.

HELGA  
How did you get into my tree?

YOUNG GIRL  
I'm falling, please--

HELGA  
How did you get over my wall?

YOUNG GIRL  
I climbed. Please--

HELGA  
Impossible, no one can climb my wall.

YOUNG GIRL  
Please, help me, I'll fall.

HELGA  
Good.

Helga starts to walk away. The  
Narrators come behind her.

NARRATOR 1  
The queen was going to let the girl fall.

YOUNG GIRL  
I'll probably die.

HELGA  
Serves you right, you little thief.

YOUNG GIRL  
I'll do anything.

NARRATOR 2  
Then, she had a thought.

HELGA  
Wait a moment.

NARRATOR 3  
All those years she spent alone.

NARRATOR 4  
All those years she had wished for a child.

NARRATOR 5

And here was a child.

NARRATOR 1

What if, she thought. What if this girl was the answer to her wish? She thought--

NARRATORS AND HELGA

This girl could be my child.

YOUNG GIRL

What?

HELGA

What's your name, girl?

YOUNG GIRL  
(Lying)

Um. Fiona?

HELGA

Fiona? That's an interesting name. What's your family name?

YOUNG GIRL

Family name?

The young girl looks around for inspiration. She sees an apple.

YOUNG GIRL

Apple?

HELGA

Fiona Apple?

The young girl nods.

HELGA

If I help you, Fiona Apple, will you stay with me?

YOUNG GIRL

Stay with--

HELGA

Me?

YOUNG GIRL

Ummm...

HELGA

You could have whatever you want. Stay with me here in my castle. As my daughter.

YOUNG GIRL

That's kind of you, and creepy, but all I really want is to get down from this tree without breaking my neck. I have no interest in being your daughter.

NARRATOR 3

That wasn't the answer Helga was hoping for.

Helga cries.

HELGA

I'm so alone.

YOUNG GIRL

Don't cry. It's nothing against you. It's just... I already have a mother.

HELGA

I thought my wish had been answered. I've been wishing for a child.

NARRATOR 4

And then the girl had an idea.

YOUNG GIRL

If you want a child, my mother could help.

HELGA

How could your mother help me have a child?

YOUNG GIRL

She has powers.

HELGA

What kind of powers?

YOUNG GIRL

She has control of magic. She can bend nature to her will.

HELGA

Your mother is a... She's a... a...

NARRATOR 2

She couldn't bring herself to say the word.

YOUNG GIRL

A witch?

NARRATOR 1

That word was like an earthquake.

NARRATORS

Witch.

NARRATOR 2

It echoed through her body.

The Narrators whisper "witch" over and over.

YOUNG GIRL

Yes, my mother is a witch.

The Narrators echo the Young Girl's word "witch."

HELGA

No. No.

YOUNG GIRL

What's wrong?

HELGA

No. I won't go to a... a...

YOUNG GIRL

Witch?

The Narrators' repeating of the word "witch" gets intense. Helga covers her ears and falls to her knees. The Narrators are silent.

YOUNG GIRL

If you truly want a child, my mother can grant your wish.

NARRATOR 1

Queen Helga was faced with a conundrum.

NARRATOR 2

She had long ago learned that witches were "dangerous."

NARRATOR 3

Very dangerous.

NARRATOR 5

And yet, witches were powerful.

NARRATOR 6

Could this witch give her a child?

NARRATORS

Could it be worth the risk?

YOUNG GIRL

Help me down, please, and I'll take you to her. She can give you a child.

Helga considers, then slowly makes her decision. She makes her way to help the Young Girl down from the tree.

YOUNG GIRL

Thank you. I was afraid I was going to fall and break my neck.

HELGA

Where does your mother live?

YOUNG GIRL

Far into the woods.

HELGA

How will we get over the wall?

YOUNG GIRL

Over the wall?

The girl crosses to the wall. She pulls a stick from her pocket and taps a stone on the wall. A hole appears. Helga follows the young girl through the hole.

## 2.

NARRATOR 3

They hiked through the woods for days.

Helga and the Young Girl hike through the woods.

HELGA

Can we stop?

YOUNG GIRL

We'll never get there if we keep stopping.

HELGA

We'll never get there if I die from exhaustion.

They stop.

HELGA

Tell me about your mother.