

THE D.I.Y. F.G.
(The Do-It-Yourself Fairy Godmother)

CAST OF CHARACTERS

CINDERELLA, a new princess
 FIZZYBIT, a Fairy Godmother
 MR. MESSENGER, a messenger
 GUMBO, Fizzybit's daughter
 CATBREATH, Fizzybit's servant
 QUEEN CHAMOMILE, a stepmother
 PINOCCHIO, a puppet
 MOTHER BEAR, a bear
 FATHER BEAR, another bear
 BABY BEAR, a small bear
 FLORIBELLE, a desperate mother
 JACK CABBAGE, a poor boy
 CUSTARD, a cow
 PRINCE FAITHFUL, a lost prince
 GOLDBLOCKS, a trespasser
 RUMPLESTILTSKIN, a wicked little man
 SNOW WHITE, a beautiful maiden
 7 DWARVES, smallish men
 MOTHER CABBAGE, Jack's mother
 S. NEAKY PETE, a shady character
 GOLDYSTRINGS, a talented harp
 LUCY-GOOSEY, a talented goose
 SNOTTY, a Giant

(Maybe be staged with as few as 12 performers with doubling)

Fizzybit's workshop
 All about Fairy Tale Forest
 Snotty's home in the clouds

DIY FAIRY GODMOTHER

In the darkness, a deep and terrible
roar!

VOICES

(Off) Look out, it's the Giant! Run away, run away! The Giant! He's eating my auntie! Run for your life! Here he comes! Oh, no - he's huge! He's crushed my kitchenette! Ahhhh, my prized begonias! Run away, run away! Look out! (etc)

A pause and then lights up on
CINDERELLA, smiling and waving to an
unseen crowd that we hear cheering.
SHE carries a life-sized "dummy" prince
which she manipulates, having him wave,
etc.

CINDERELLA

(Quieting the crowd, very sincerely and sweetly) Thank you, thank you all so very much...(to prince)...and thank you, dearest husband prince. Please believe me when I say I am so very proud and happy to be your new princess...(to prince)...and wife, wearing these beautiful gowns and eating this delicious food and living in such luxury with my true love husband prince...while the rest of you are living lives of staggeringly boring, dirty ordinariness...and I owe it all to...(does SHE mean the prince?)...my wonderful Fairy Godmother Fizzybit. If she hadn't helped me, I would still be just plain old Cinderella living with my cruel stepmother and selfish stepsisters among the dirt and ashes and general horribleness of my humble abode. Fizzybit is responsible for making all my dreams come true! And now that my stepmother and stepsisters have been very horribly and painfully punished what with the birds pecking out their eyes and snipping off their noses and pulling out their tongues...and not to mention being locked up in the deepest dungeon and weighed down with huge, heavy chains, I would love nothing better than to forget that horrible, terrible, unbearable life. But! I will remember it, painful as it is, so as to remind myself to use my new position to act fairly and compassionately with each and every one of you humble, grubby peasants and to do what I can to help others every day...(to prince)...especially you, my darling Charming. (Blowing a kiss) And so, thank you all for your natural, expected adoration and most of all, thank you, Fairy Godmother Fizzybit!

Cheers and applause as CINDERELLA
and prince wave and exit.

Lights up on FIZZYBIT, a Fairy Godmother, in her workshop. SHE is surrounded by bags and piles of parchments.

Her daughter GUMBO and especially her servant CATBREATH are trying their best to organize things and keep the piles from collapsing but it is hopeless - the mess has quite overtaken the room. There is a suitcase by the door.

Enter a large pile of parchment bundles supported by a small pair of legs.

FIZZYBIT

Fish bits and froggy footsteps! More today?! (Desperate) Are you certain it's really all for me?

MR. MESSENGER

(Out of breath and dropping the very large pile) I'm afraid so, Mistress Fizzybit.

FIZZYBIT

I don't know how much longer I can keep this up! I'm running out of both room and patience!

MR. MESSENGER

(Stretching, his hands on his lower back) I know how you feel!

FIZZYBIT

I'm so sorry, Mr. Messenger. As difficult as it is for me to receive all these pleas for help, I'm sure it's every bit as difficult for you to deliver them.

MR. MESSENGER

If I ever get my hands on that Princess Cinderella, I'm going to wring her neck!

FIZZYBIT

I'll hold her down! Honestly, you try to do something nice for someone and they end up causing you no end of trouble.

MR. MESSENGER

Oh, my aching back!

FIZZYBIT

Perhaps I can help...

FIZZYBIT points her wand at MR. MESSENGER. There is a static sound and a flash of orange light. MR. MESSENGER turns into a donkey. FIZZYBIT looks at her wand, puzzled.

FIZZYBIT

That's not what I intended at all. My wand must be on the fritz.

MR. MESSENGER

Amazing! I'm a new man! I feel like I could bring in more of those heavy sacks all day!

FIZZYBIT

(Horrified) There are more?!

MR. MESSENGER

Still a whole stack of sacks left to be unpacked. But I'm afraid they'll have to wait...hee haw, hee haw...until after lunch - I'm suddenly overcome with a craving for a nice bale of hay...

FIZZYBIT

Oh, dear. Never you mind, you've done enough for today, I'll have my girls bring in the rest of them. You just go on back to the castle and have a well-deserved rest.

MR. MESSENGER

Looks like you're my Fairy Godmother now as well! Won't my wife be happy to have me back early! Hee-haw, hee-haw!

MR. MESSENGER exits.

FIZZYBIT

(Calling off) Your wife? Wait, I'd better change you back!

SHE points her wand off, there is a bang, a loud "meow!" and a flash of purple light. Maybe some smoke drifts in. SHE frowns, shakes the wand, tries again but nothing happens.

FIZZYBIT

Treacle tarts and toffee apples, Mrs. Messenger is not going to be happy about that. (SHE looks off, sighs with annoyance and then to GUMBO and CATBREATH) All right, you two, haul 'em in.

GUMBO and CATBREATH drop what they are doing and head to the door.

GUMBO

(Pinching CATBREATH) Out of my way, useless worm.

CATBREATH

Ow!

GUMBO and CATBREATH exit.

GUMBO

(Off) Mo-ther! There's ever so many!

FIZZYBIT

(Concentrating on her wand) Oh, stop complaining. It's only parchments, how much can they weigh?

GUMBO

(Off) A lot!

GUMBO enters doubled over as if with a great load despite carrying or dragging only a single small sack. SHE drops it and collapses onto it.

CATBREATH enters carrying many sacks very easily and looks pointedly at GUMBO.

GUMBO

(Weakly) I'm a delicate flower.

FIZZYBIT

Sassafras and spatulas! How can there be this many more?! I must've heard from the entire kingdom already! Curse that big-mouth, rotten Cinderella for blabbing about what I did for her! Now every simpleton and his sister wants a Fairy Godmother to come along and fix all their problems.

CATBREATH

But isn't that what you like to do?

FIZZYBIT

There's only so much magic to go around. It's not as if there's an endless supply, you know. (SHE waves her wand, there is a farting noise) You see? Stupid wand. I just filled it! (SHE shakes the wand vigorously)

CATBREATH

But they desperately need you, Fizzybit! (Unrolling some parchments) Listen to them!

QUEEN CHAMOMILE

(Entering) My stepdaughter has run away and cannot be found anywhere!

PINOCCHIO

(Entering) How I long to be a real boy!

MOTHER BEAR, FATHER BEAR, BABY BEAR

(Entering) A little blonde girl keeps breaking into our house!

FLORIBELLE

(Entering) I couldn't spin straw into gold and now I'm going to lose my baby!

JACK CABBAGE

(Entering with CUSTARD, his cow) Ever since my dad was killed by the Giant, my mother and Custard and I are so poor and hungry!

CUSTARD

(Sadly) Moo!

QUEEN CHAMOMILE, PINOCCHIO, BEARS, FLORIBELLE, JACK

(In unison) Please, please, please help me, you're my only hope!

FIZZYBIT

Do the math - one Fairy Godmother versus everybody else! I can't help them all!

CATBREATH rolls up the parchments and QUEEN CHAMOMILE, PINOCCHIO, BEARS, FLORIBELLE, JACK and CUSTARD exit.

FIZZYBIT

So...no more Fairy Nice Guy. Gather up all those letters together.

GUMBO

(Pinching CATBREATH) You heard her - hop to it, lame-brain.

CATBREATH

(Gathering parchments into one big pile, perhaps with a rake or shovel) Ow! Gumbo, stop pinching me!

FIZZYBIT

(Shaking her wand harder than ever to concentrate whatever magic is left and then waving it over the pile) "Dear...Whoever: As to your recent request for assistance in your hour of need...get lost! You're going to have to fix your own problems because I am going on vacation so pretend like you're a tree and "leaf" me alone!" (Looks at GUMBO and CATBREATH) Too much?

CATBREATH

Little bit.

FIZZYBIT

(Resigned) "Warmest regards, Fizzybit." Addressed and done!

SHE concentrates, points the wand.
There is the sound of wind chimes, a
flash of pink light.

FIZZYBIT

(With a satisfied sigh) Ah! I knew there was still a bit of magic left in there. Now, letters, go and deliver yourselves!

SHE waves her wand again, nothing
happens. SHE shakes the wand, blows on
it, rubs it on her dress, tries again,
nothing. It's quite dead.

FIZZYBIT

Calliopes and crabgrass! Completely empty! (SHE throws the wand to the ground and stamps on it) Stupid wand! (Takes a deep breath) Long past due for a new model, anyway, I suppose. You two will just have to deliver them yourselves. They'll tell you where to go. Im off!

FIZZYBIT picks up the suitcase and exits.

GUMBO

Id burn that wand if I were you, breaking down and leaving you with all this work.

CATBREATH

(Tidying up, absently picking up the wand and putting it in her pocket where it sticks out) What do you mean, me? She said "you two" - that means both of us.

GUMBO

I'm her daughter and you're our servant. When she's away, you have to do what I say and I say you have to deliver them all by yourself.

CATBREATH

Gumbo, it'll take forever!

GUMBO

Then you'd better get started, hadn't you.

CATBREATH

I'll tell Fizzybit!

GUMBO

You do that, Catbreath, and I'll turn you into a toad.

CATBREATH

Go ahead! Try it!

GUMBO takes out a small training wand, tries to use it. Nothing happens.

CATBREATH

That's just a training wand and you don't know how to use it.

GUMBO

Not yet...but I can sit on you and make you eat a toad! At least I'll be a Fairy Godmother some day. You'll never be anything but a useless drudge who can't help anyone. Even the Blue Fairy wouldn't take you on as an apprentice and she's about as low in the magic biz as it gets.

CATBREATH

She is not! And how do you know about that?!

GUMBO

I read the letter she sent you. (In a "fairy-type" of voice) "I'm afraid you have no qualifications and no potential to receive any magical training whatsoever." You know things are bad when you're rejected by a common fairy - ha! Nothing lower than that.

CATBREATH

She doesn't know what she's missing. I'd be a good apprentice. Dumb, old fairy won't even give me a chance.

GUMBO

Stop blubbering and get going...or do you want me to pinch you again?

CATBREATH picks up as many parchments as possible.

CATBREATH

(Exiting) I'll help people and make them happy one day, you'll see!

GUMBO

Fat chance! Good-for-nothing bedbug! Wait'll I get my real wand, I'll have some fun with you then!

GUMBO plays with her wand before biting off a piece.

GUMBO

Licorice now...but magical some day!

GUMBO exits along with the workshop.

Enter a forest and QUEEN CHAMOMILE, PINOCCHIO, FLORIBELLE and BEARS.

QUEEN CHAMOMILE holds a small mirror which SHE silently talks to.

PINOCCHIO brings on a stump and sits beside it, putting his arm around it.

The bears' house comes on. The BEARS are hiding behind it but we don't know that.

FLORIBELLE enters with a baby and hides behind a bush.

PRINCE FAITHFUL gallops in, looks about confusedly, checks his map, gallops off again.

PINOCCHIO, QUEEN CHAMOMILE and FLORIBELLE
Oh good Fairy Godmother Fizzybit, please, please, please help me!

Enter CATBREATH carrying a few parchments. SHE studies them as they show her the way.

CATBREATH
It's a good thing these parchments are self-directing, I'd never find everyone if I had to do it on my own. Now, let's see...

GOLDILOCKS skips in humming a little tune.

GOLDILOCKS
Excuse me, you haven't seen any dumb, old, smelly bears around, have you?

CATBREATH
No, but I just got here myself. (Looking around a bit frightened) Wait, are there usually bears around here?

GOLDILOCKS
(Gesturing to the house) There are but you don't have to worry, they never eat anybody. You can do practically anything you want to them and they're so stupid that they don't do anything back but growl. I tease them all the time.

CATBREATH
That's not very nice.

GOLDILOCKS
(Mimicking) "That's not very nice." You're not going to get very far with that attitude, sister. Someone in this forest will eat you up before you know it. Word of advice - if you do meet those bears, just act tough and tell them you're a friend of Goldilocks, they won't give you any trouble.

GOLDILOCKS sneaks into the bears' house.

CATBREATH

What a strange little girl. (With a big sigh, looking at her parchments) Finally, last ones of the day.

QUEEN CHAMOMILE

Mirror, mirror, in my hand, who's the fairest in the land?

CATBREATH

Boy, people have not been happy when they find out Fizzybit isn't going to help them.

A chiming sound from the parchments.

CATBREATH

Oh! I've found another one! Who is it this time? (SHE looks through the papers)

QUEEN CHAMOMILE

(Crossing) Fizzybit? Did you say Fizzybit?

CATBREATH

(Checking the paper) You're...Chamomile?

QUEEN CHAMOMILE

Queen Chamomile, actually, but don't let's be so formal. You got my message!

CATBREATH

You're having trouble with your stepdaughter?

QUEEN CHAMOMILE

Yes, she's run away! She's been ever so upset ever since I married her father a year ago. She misses her mother, poor thing, and although I would never want to take the first Queen's place in her heart, I've tried and tried to be understanding to gain some bit of affection and trust but she won't have it.

CATBREATH

She still doesn't like you?

QUEEN CHAMOMILE

No. And now she's missing and her father and I are very worried.

CATBREATH

Forgive me for saying but that doesn't really sound like a problem you need magic to fix. Don't you have foresters and trackers and huntsmen to look for her?