Sillyheart

By Billy W. Boone

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DEDICATION

For my girls...Meg, Ruby, Norah

STORY OF THE PLAY

In this one-act play, tragedy meets fantasy, myth meets reality. A fairy-tale world winds itself around the real drama of one little girl's battle with cancer and her family's anguish. As they struggle to cope with her prognosis and desperate treatment, the fairy tale characters from the little girl's book play out their own drama. Will an evil sorceress and her dark creatures succeed in pulling Princess Caroline away from her beloved family and prince? Will little Cora's experimental cancer treatment save her? In our imaginations, the villain is always slain, the good win out, and even happily ever after is truly possible. Our fantasies, like so many blankets, can keep us warm in times when the real world is simply too dark, cold and cruel to bear. At the end, we are reminded it's not just children who need fairy tales.

Premiere Performance

Special thanks to Diane Skelton, Spencer Shields, Katherine Williams, Charlie Smith, Heath Ferguson, Joann Pritchard, and the CHS Class of 2012. Original Clarendon High School cast of SILLYHEART:

Cora/Caroline…Mikayla Shadle
Reggie/Arturas...Jordan Luna
Maggie/Yesmine...Amber Keelin
Williams/Wilhelm…Jonah Sell
Nurse Jones...Jerah Luna
Bard/Page/Nurse 1…Dillon Nickell
Agta...Audra Thomas
Aquilla...Bryce McCary
Plautus...Roger Henderson
Lady Vidma...Elizabeth O'Rear
Q'El/Nurse 2…Cole Ward
Draex/Nurse 3...Nathan Dziedzic
Zurit/Nurse 4...Caleb Mitchell
Romnu/Nurse 5...Stone Schwertner
Vishin/Cora's Body Double…Maritta Brady

CAST OF CHARACTERS

5 m, 8 w, 12 flexible (With doubling 3 m, 6 w, 6 flexible)

(In order of appearance)

CORA: A girl, age 8.
REGGIE: Father of Cora, in his mid-30s.
MAGGIE: Mother of Cora, wife of Reggie, in her 30s.
WILLIAMS: Doctor, in his 30s.
BARD: *(Flexible)* Narrator, also servant to King Arturas.
PAGE: *(Flexible)* Royal Page to King Arturas, 20s.
ARTURAS: King of Arthenia, in his 50s.
YESMINE: Queen of Arthenia, in her 50s.
AGTA: A dryad, a woodland nymph.
AQUILLA: A magical water sprite.
PLAUTUS: A wise satyr.
WILHELM: Prince of Bravarid, 18 years old.
LADY VIDMA: An evil sorceress, in her 50s.
CAROLINE: Princess of Arthenia, 18 years old.
Q'EL: A creature of the night in servitude to Lady Vidma.
DRAEX: Another.
VISHIN: Another.
ZURIT: Another.
ROMNU: Another.
NURSE JONES: A woman in her 20s or 30s.
NURSE 1: A man or woman nurse.
NURSE 2: Another.
NURSE 3: Another.
NURSE 4: Another.
NURSE 5: Another.

Doubling can be used as follows.

Cora/Caroline	*Reggie/Arturas*
Maggie/Yesmine	*Williams/Wilhelm*
Bard/Page/Nurse 1	*Q'El/Nurse 2*
Draex/Nurse 3	*Zurit/Nurse 4*
Romnu/Nurse 5	

NOTES

In the play, characters reference a children's storybook entitled "Sillyheart." This work is an entirely fictional book created by the playwright specifically for this play and bears no resemblance to any other intellectual property by the same or similar title. To differentiate between the book and the character by the same name, the book title is in quotations ("Sillyheart"), while the character is not (Sillyheart).

SETTING

The play calls for four distinct acting areas. Downstage sits a bed and nightstand which is used to represent Cora's bedroom, the hospital room, and Caroline's bedroom. Upstage two columns stand with a curtain hung between them. Beside the columns sit two thrones. This represents the palace of the King Arturas. Downstage opposite of the bed, overturned columns and other debris lay scattered around. This represents the altar of the dead that has fallen into disrepair. Two chairs center stage represent the hospital waiting room.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Scene 1: Night. Cora's bedroom. Present day.
Scene 2: Morning. Cora's hospital room. Present day.
Scene 3: Evening. The great hall in the palace.
Scene 4: Late morning. Cora's hospital room. Present day.
Scene 5: Night. Kesherith, the Altar of the Dead.
Scene 6: Afternoon. Cora's hospital room. Present day.
Scene 7: Evening. The palace bedroom of Princess Caroline.
Scene 8: Evening. The hospital waiting room and Cora's hospital bed. Present day.

Scene 1 - "A Thief in the Night"

(AT RISE: CORA plays with her dolls on her bed. REGGIE enters carrying a medicine cup.)

REGGIE: It's time for your medicine, Cora.
CORA: But I don't like how it tastes.
REGGIE: I know it's yucky, but it will help your headache and fever.
CORA: But I don't want to take it.
REGGIE: Here's the deal...if you take your medicine, I will read you a bedtime story, whichever one you want.
CORA: Even "Sillyheart"?
REGGIE: I'm sure you have the whole story memorized--
CORA: *(Interrupting.)* Please?
REGGIE: Fine, I will even read you "Sillyheart."
CORA: Yay!

(REGGIE gives CORA the medicine cup and she drinks it down with a look of disgust. REGGIE then gets the book off the nightstand. He sits beside the bed, clears his throat, and begins reading. CORA sits on the bed.)

REGGIE: *(Passively.)* Once upon a time--
CORA: *(Interrupting.)* No. Read it the right way!
REGGIE: Okay. *(REGGIE speaks in an enthusiastic voice.)* Once upon a time, in the kingdom of Arthenia, there lived a king and queen--
CORA: *(Interrupting.)* King Arturas and Queen Yesmine.
REGGIE: Yes. King Arturas and Queen Yesmine were blessed with joyous news that the queen was with child, the heir to the Arthenian throne--
CORA: *(Interrupting.)* Queen Yesmine was about to have Princess Sillyheart.
REGGIE: That's right, but they didn't know that at the time.

(As REGGIE continues reading, he tucks CORA into bed.)

REGGIE: *(Cont'd.)* With the promise of a successor, all the kingdom rejoiced, except Lord Tyrain and Lady Vidma, King Arturas' uncle and aunt. Lord Tyrain and Lady Vidma knew that the birth of this child would ensure that they would never become the king and queen of Arthenia. To celebrate this most joyous news, a feast would be held in honor of the king, queen, and unborn child. But Lord Tyrain and Lady Vidma set about a plot to kill--

CORA: *(Interrupting.)* Lady Vidma used her evil magic to brew a poison that would kill the king and queen at the royal feast.

REGGIE: Yes. The evil aunt and uncle planned to poison the king and queen at the royal feast. Lady Vidma used her dark magic to brew the most evil poison in the world. One drop could kill twenty men. And the poison was completely undetectable. Lord Tyrain purchased the most expensive bottle of mead in the kingdom and laced it with the poison-

CORA: *(Interrupting.)* Get to the party!!!

REGGIE: Okay. Fine. I'll skip ahead a bit. *(As REGGIE reads, book in hand, he moves about the room, picking up toys and dolls, putting them in their appropriate place.)* "The night of the party came, and the king and queen were host to dignitaries and emissaries from all the kingdoms of the realm. But there were four guests honored above all others. From the Water Kingdom came Aquilla, the water sprite. Next came Plautus, the satyr, the seer of the Animal Kingdom. Third came Agta, the dryad, of the Woodland Peoples. Then came King Marcon and Queen Isabelle of the Kingdom of Bravarid along with their newborn baby, Prince Wilhelm. But before the celebration could begin, Lord Tyrain, uncle of the king, stood and spoke to the gathered crowd. 'Dearest Nephew, My Most Noble King, I remember a day many a year ago when your father held a feast in honor of his future heir. And what a great man you have turned out to be. It grieves my heart that your father, my brother, is not here to offer the royal blessing. I pray you would accept my blessing instead. I, Lord Tyrain, Archduke of Arthenia, son of King Uther,

End of Freeview

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