

ONCE UPON A FAIRYTALE CRISIS

A Musical

By Drew Lane

ACT ONE

Scene One

1. Prologue/Suddenly Somewhere

FULL CAST

SOMEWHERE A TIME
SOMEWHERE A DREAM
SOMEWHERE A STORYBOOK
NOTHING'S AS IT SEEMS

SOMEWHERE A KINGDOM
SOMEWHERE A CRIME
SOMEWHERE A BIG BAD MAN
SOMEWHERE A RHYME

OPEN YOUR HEARTS, OPEN YOUR MINDS
OPEN YOUR HEADS, OPEN YOUR EYES
HERE IS OUR TALE, IT'S FRIGHT'NING AND FAIR
IT BEGINS NOW, SUDDENLY SOMEWHERE

SUDDENLY A TIME
SUDDENLY A QUEST
SUDDENLY TWO CHILDREN
BORED WITH ALL THE REST

SUDDENLY A STORM
SUDDENLY A NIGHT
SUDDENLY A BLACKOUT
SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT

OPEN YOUR HEARTS, OPEN YOUR MINDS
OPEN YOUR HEADS, OPEN YOUR EYES
HERE IS OUR TALE, IT'S FRIGHT'NING AND FAIR
IT BEGINS NOW, SUDDENLY SOMEWHERE
IT BEGINS NOW, SUDDENLY SOMEWHERE

[As the Prologue ends, we hear thunder overhead, and the curtain opens on two children JESSIE and MATTHEW playing on their games console in front of the TV. They are completely involved in the game. Suddenly, there's a massive

crack of thunder, the sound of frying wires, and a blackout.]

MATTHEW

What the...?

JESSIE

And I was about to beat you too.

MATTHEW

Were not!

JESSIE

Were too!

MATTHEW

Jessie, you just wait until the lights are back on, and I'll whip your butt.

JESSIE

Ha! You wish Matthew.

[The lights go back up.]

MATTHEW

Bring it on!

[Matthew attempts to turn on the TV and the games console, but they don't start.]

MATTHEW

I can't believe it!

JESSIE

What?

MATTHEW

Nothing's turning on!

JESSIE

Let me see...

[Jessie pushes Matthew out of the way and tries to turn everything on.]

MATTHEW

Told you.

JESSIE

Shut up.

[Cue song: 2. I Hate Being Bored]

MATTHEW

So, what are we going to do now?

JESSIE

Don't look at me.

MATTHEW

Come on. I'm bored already!

MATTHEW

I HATE BEING BORED
THERE IS NOTHING THAT I HATE MORE!
I CAN'T STAND IT AT ALL!

JESSIE

I HATE BEING BORED
I WANNA BEAT THE HIGHEST SCORE
IT'S WORSE THAN BEING AT SCHOOL!

BOTH

JUST GIVE ME A POWER SWITCH
BOOT IT UP AND IN A PINCH
THE LIGHTS COME ON AND TAKE MY CARES AWAY
JUST GIVE ME A GAMES CONSOLE
TURN IT ON AND LET IT ROLL
I CAN PLAY EVERY NIGHT AND DAY...

MATTHEW

I HATE BEING BORED
IT'S LIKE STARING AT THE DOOR
NOTHING EVER HAPPENS HERE!

JESSIE

I HATE BEING BORED
IT'S WORSE THAN HEARING DADDY SNORE
SOMETHING'S GOTTA TAKE IT'S PLACE!

BOTH

JUST GIVE ME AN IPAD PLEASE
A VIDEO, AN MP3
SOMETHING TO INVADE MY EARS AND EYES
GIVE ME FAST, GIVE ME BRIGHT AND LOUD
GIVE IT ALL 'CAUSE I WANT IT NOW
DON'T YOU KNOW I REALLY NEED THAT HIGH!

'CAUSE I HATE BEING BORED
I HATE BEING BORED
I HATE BEING

JESSIE
STUPIFYINGLY

MATTHEW
MIND-NUMBINGLY

JESSIE
TUMMY-RUMBLING

MATTHEW
TERRIFYINGLY

BOTH
SO HORRENDOUSLY AND PATHETICALLY
BORED!

JESSIE
Maybe we just have to wait for it to come back on.

MATTHEW
You think?

JESSIE
There's nothing else to do.

[They sit in front of the TV and stare at it.]

MATTHEW
How long do we have to wait for?

JESSIE
I don't know.

[They continue to stare.]

MATTHEW
When the TV comes back on, you're going down.

JESSIE
Yeah, right.

[They continue to stare as Mum enters.]

MUM

That looks like an interesting show.

JESSIE

We're waiting for the TV to work again.

MUM

And staring at it will help?

MATTHEW

Well, there's nothing else to do.

MUM

How about a book?

[The two kids look at mum as if to say "Yeah, right."]

MUM

I'm serious.

JESSIE

A book?

MATTHEW

That's so ... old fashioned.

JESSIE

And boring.

MATTHEW

And stupid.

MUM

Okay then. Give me a second.

[Mum exits.]

JESSIE

A book.

MATTHEW

Stupid book.

JESSIE

Dumb book.

BOTH

Boring book!

[Mum reenters with a large book of fairy tales.]

MUM

Here you go.

[She puts the book on the floor in front of the two kids.]

JESSIE

You really are serious, aren't you?

MUM

It has to be better than looking at a blank TV screen. Besides, this is a book that my grandfather gave me. It's not just your normal everyday book.

MATTHEW

Mum, you just don't get it!

[Cue song: 3. Superseded.]

JESSIE

Books are for old people.

MATTHEW

They're just not "in" any more!

JESSIE

IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN
WHEN YOU WERE A KID
THAT BOOKS WERE ALL
YOU EVER DID
BUT NOT TODAY
THEY'RE TOTALLY OUT!

MATTHEW

IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN
WHEN YOU WERE A GIRL
THAT BOOKS TOLD YOU
ABOUT THE WORLD
BUT NOT TODAY
THEY'RE NOTHING BUT OLD!

BOTH

YOU SEE THAT'S JUST THE WAY IT IS
THE OLD GOES OUT AND THE NEW COMES IN
ONCE THEY WERE ALL YOU EVER NEEDED
BUT NOW BOOKS HAVE BEEN SUPERSEDED!

JESSIE

IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN
ONCE UPON A TIME
THAT BOOKS WERE ALL
WELL AND FINE
BUT NOT TODAY
THERE'S SOMETHING NEW

MATTHEW

IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN
WELL, YEARS AGO
THE BOOKS WERE THE
BIGGEST THING ON SHOW
BUT NOT TODAY

BOTH

WE'RE TELLING YOU!

YOU SEE THAT'S JUST THE WAY IT GOES
YOU CAN'T LIVE IN THE PAST, YOU KNOW
MUMMY, YOU SIMPLY MUST BELIEVE IT
THAT BOOKS HAVE BEEN SUPERSEDED

YOU SEE THAT IT'S A SIMPLE FACT
THAT BOOKS ARE TOTALLY OLD HAT
WE'VE GOT NO REASON TO READ THEM
'CAUSE BOOKS ARE TOTALLY SUPERSEDED!

MUM

Alright then, you two. You've made your point. I'll leave it here anyway. Just in case you get more bored than what you are now.

[Mum places the book on the floor and exits.]

JESSIE

It's a book!

MATTHEW

It's not gonna un-bore me.

[Another crack of thunder erupts and the lights go out once again. But this time they stay out.]

JESSIE

And it just gets better.

MATTHEW

Now there's no power at all!