

The Queen Fairy And The Darkness
(A sort-of children's story that's not even remotely for kids)

By Ira Gamerman

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CHARACTERS: 1F, 2M

MS. FAIRY- F, 26

An actress in a children's show.

CHILD IN AUDIENCE- M, 3

An irrational child.

FATHER IN AUDIENCE- M, late 30s

The high strung father of Child in audience.

SETTING

The audience of a children's theater with very bad lighting equipment. Now.

NOTE ON CASTING:

This play exists in a somewhat stylized world, so there is no need to cast actors who are the literal ages of the characters. In fact, casting a 20-something actor who could play a 3 year old boy would be the choice that best serves the play.

Sudden TOTAL Black out. Pitch Dark. No lights.

MS. FAIRY

Oh no! The lights have all gone out! What are we ever to do?

MS. FAIRY produces a tiny flashlight. She clicks it on. It emits a tiny light. It is her "little fairy." MS. FAIRY holds the flashlight up to her ear.

MS. FAIRY

What's that little fairy? (*she listens to the flashlight*)

OH NO!

Little fairy says the lights are out because the QUEEN fairy-MOTHER of ALL THE FAIRIES-

is FADING AWAY because YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN her!!!!

There's only one way to save her.

You need to think, "I DO BELIEVE IN FAIRIES" and clap your hands TOGETHER. CLAP WITH ME NOW.

Ms. Fairy encourages the audience to clap.

MS. FAIRY

Clap, Clap, CLAP, CLAP, CLAP, CLAP, WAIT!

I THINK I SEE SOMETHING FLICKERING.

IT'S Only A LITTLE LIGHT. THAT MEANS you've gotta CLAP HARDER!

The audience claps harder hopefully.

MS. FAIRY

That's GOOD! THE LIGHT'S GETTING A LITTLE STRONGER NOW.

CLAP CLAP CLAP

STOP!

THAT'S IT! WE DID IT!

(*beat. Still pitch dark*)

WE DID IT!

(*beat. Still pitch dark*)

WE- Um.

let's uh- KEEP CLAPPING!

The audience claps, hopefully.

MS. FAIRY

YEAH!

YES!

YEAH!

Ya know I think I see a little- It's very hard to see. But just KEEP believing.

CLAP, CLAP, CLAP.

I know... it doesn't LOOK like much, but I'm- I definitely think I see a light... SOMEWHERE.

Okay. You can stop.

Let's maybe rethink um-

MAYBE the light is IN YOUR HEARTS and if you keep like an INTERNAL mental sort of... light on, then like, ya know, everything'll be cool and-

VOICE OF A CHILD IN AUDIENCE
DADDY THE QUEEN IS DYING.

MS. FAIRY
NO! NO! The QUEEN IS NOT DYING.

VOICE OF A CHILD IN AUDIENCE
WAAHHHHHHHHHHHHH

CHILD starts crying.

MS. FAIRY
She's NOT dying! It's just the LIGHTING equipment here in FAIRY-land was made by... Pirates, and can lose it's MAGIC at REALLY INOPPORTUNE TIMES.

VOICE OF A CHILD IN AUDIENCE
SHE'S DEAD, DAD. SHE'S DEAD. (*Starts crying*).

MS. FAIRY
It's no. REALLY. PLEASE don't cry.

VOICE OF A FATHER IN
AUDIENCE
I'm sorry. Are the lights gonna come on soon?

MS. FAIRY
Sir, I am SO sorry about this.

VOICE OF A FATHER IN
AUDIENCE
I mean, I paid a lotta money for this show.

MS. FAIRY
I assure you that the MAGIC Fairy light-booth elves are using all of the fairy dust they can to handle the situation.

The child cries louder.

VOICE OF A FATHER IN
AUDIENCE
Ya know that's not REALLY gonna do it for me.

VOICE OF A CHILD IN AUDIENCE
I WANT MOM. I WANT MOM NOW.

VOICE OF A FATHER IN
AUDIENCE
Son, I told you Mommy is away.

VOICE OF A CHILD IN AUDIENCE
BUT WHEN WILL SHE BE BACK?

VOICE OF A FATHER IN
AUDIENCE
I told you, you'll see her again when you are a VERY old man.

VOICE OF A CHILD IN AUDIENCE
HOW OLD?

VOICE OF A FATHER IN
AUDIENCE
Older than grandma.

VOICE OF A CHILD IN AUDIENCE
BUT I WANT HER NOW!

VOICE OF A FATHER IN
AUDIENCE
I'm sorry. Could I get a little HELP here? Please!

MS. FAIRY
I'm just an actre-

VOICE OF A FATHER IN
AUDIENCE
Well, here's the situation, Ms. Fairy. His mother is away, ya see. ON A VACATION. A very BIG, Very LONG, very EXTENDED vacation. VERY fun. Exceptionally fun. With Lots of LIGHT everywhere and uh.... FLYING. IN the SKY.

VOICE OF A CHILD IN AUDIENCE
There's a cure for her allergies there.

VOICE OF A FATHER IN
AUDIENCE
Yes! Exactly! That's right. When you see your mom next there'll be no more coughing up rose petals all over the bed. She'll be TOTALLY CURED of her... allergies. Isn't that right Ms. Fairy?

MS. FAIRY
I don't uh-

VOICE OF A FATHER IN
AUDIENCE
In fact, you've seen her, haven't you?

VOICE OF A CHILD IN AUDIENCE
You've seen my mom Miss Fairy?

MS. FAIRY
Uh-

VOICE OF A FATHER IN
AUDIENCE
She sure has. And She's looking better every day isn't she?

MS. FAIRY
I-

VOICE OF A FATHER IN
AUDIENCE
And she misses WALLY here VERY much, right?

MS. FAIRY
Yes. She does.

VOICE OF A CHILD IN AUDIENCE
Well, why doesn't she come back?

MS. FAIRY
Um. ELVES how is that magic light-board coming?

VOICE OF A FATHER IN
AUDIENCE
You're not gonna answer my son?

MS. FAIRY
Sir, I know I'm just a fairy by trade, but I think ALL THIS might kinda be YOUR responsibility to explain to Wally.

VOICE OF A CHILD IN AUDIENCE
Explain what, Daddy?

VOICE OF A FATHER IN
AUDIENCE
Nothing honey. There's nothing TO explain! Because you see, the DOCTOR thinks that there might be a strong possibility of S- U- I- C- I- D-E if MMMMMM (*referring to the son*) doesn't take things well.

MS. FAIRY
How old is your son?

VOICE OF A CHILD IN AUDIENCE
I'm 3!

MS. FAIRY
Nothing personal, sir. Again I'm just a lowly fairy, but I don't understand how a Doctor could SAY something like that.

VOICE OF A FATHER IN
AUDIENCE

Well, the man has a PHD. Do you have a PHD?

VOICE OF A CHILD IN AUDIENCE

Dad, What's "S-U-I-C-I-D-E if mmmmmmmmm"?

VOICE OF A FATHER IN
AUDIENCE

It's one of the cures for allergies that your MOM tried.

MS. FAIRY

Sir, I think you need to tell MMM, what's going on.

VOICE OF A FATHER IN
AUDIENCE

Well, see, THAT'S why I took him to this PLAY, so that I could have a JUMPING OFF POINT to GET INTO A POTENTIAL DISCUSSION AFTER THE SHOW. And I'm PAYING You to tell a story to FACILITATE THAT, but there SEEMS to be NO story.

MS. FAIRY

Well- the lighting ELVES aren't exactly doing their MOTHERF...fff-ferrying job. So-

VOICE OF A FATHER IN
AUDIENCE

So then just make something up.

MS. FAIRY

Why can't YOU make something up?

VOICE OF A FATHER IN
AUDIENCE

BECAUSE I'M NOT A FAIRY OKAY? I'M NOT EXACTLY GREAT at EXPRESSING my EMOTIONS like all the FAIRIES here in, in, in, FAIRYland, with THE FAIRIES okay? So PLEASE just DO SOMETHING like I'm PAYING YOU to do.

MS. FAIRY

Sir, I'm not-

VOICE OF A FATHER IN
AUDIENCE

You want more money? Is that it? Fine. Okay. I'll give your little elves money for a new light- whatever? I'll fund it, Okay? Does that work?

MS. FAIRY

There are witnesses here that heard you say that.

VOICE OF A FATHER IN
AUDIENCE

Then make with the story, NOW, please.

VOICE OF A CHILD IN AUDIENCE

STORY! STORY! STORY!

MS. FAIRY

Okay. Well uh- this a story just for Wally.

MS. Fairy Hands Wally The Flashlight.

VOICE OF A CHILD IN AUDIENCE

YAAAAAY.

WALLY shines the flashlight at Ms.
Fairy.

MS. FAIRY

It's the story of- called... the LIGHT and the DARKNESS.
So, once upon a time there was this... girl
and her name was... LIGHT.
And on the day she was born, she was visited by a scary man,
named Darkness.
And Darkness wished her good luck on being born.
But said that one day- Maybe very far from now, but who knows-
that Darkness would come back and turn off light forever.
But Light was young and didn't pay this very much mind and
went on with her life.
And when she grew up, She got a good job that gave her lots
of money and let her tell fun stories to children.
And she had a handsome husband who loved her very much.
And together they had a beautiful son.
And not too long after her son was born, Darkness paid her
another visit.
"Why are you here?" She asked.
"I'm here to turn you off" Said Darkness.
"But I have a job and money." She said.
"That doesn't matter." Said Darkness.
"Well, who will tell fun stories to children?" she said.
"That doesn't matter." Said Darkness.
"But what of my husband? He'll get lonely without me."
"That doesn't matter." Said Darkness. "I'm here to turn you
off."
But Light PLEADED "What of my son? I won't get to see him
grow up and have a family of his own, or get a job, or tell
stories if you turn me off."
"No," Darkness said.
"You won't."

Wally clicks the flashlight off,
suddenly. Total Darkness. End.