

Plays

THE DRAMA MAGAZINE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

MAY 2009

UPPER GRADES

- A Gift of Love*. *Deborah T. Kinnebrew* 2
Breaking the Record. *Craig Sodaro* 8

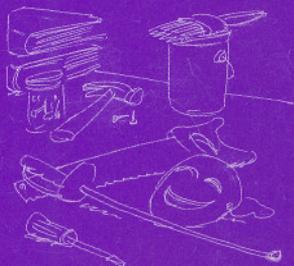
DRAMATIZED CLASSIC (FOR UPPER GRADES)

- The Mikado*. *Gilbert & Sullivan* 19
Adapted by *Craig Sodaro*

MIDDLE AND LOWER GRADES

- Kelly and the Internet Goblins* *Michael Blevins* 31
Bus Stop. *Carol D. Wise* 37
When Bigfoot Hits the Floor *Diana R. Jenkins* 44
The Golden Goose. *Brothers Grimm* 49
Adapted by *Tracy Wells*

- Index to Volume 68. 61



Kelly and the Internet Goblins

Be careful what you wish for. . .

by Michael Blevins

Characters

KELLY KARR, age 11

ALLISON KARR, *Kelly's mother*

HEX-A-POP, *an Internet Goblin*

DAWN-TRACKER

STARSTRIKER

MOONSEEKER

GORGONAN

ZUB

} *Internet
Fairies*

} *Hex-A-Pop's Gob-
lin attendants*

*logue, they all speak front, addressing
the audience directly.*

DAWN-TRACKER:

Welcome! We're so glad you've come to
stay,
And certainly hope you'll enjoy our
play.

MOONSEEKER:

Thank you for letting us bend your ear
And watching the play that follows
here.

ALLISON KARR:

You'll see it's a fairly simple scene—
A girl glued to a computer screen.

HEX-A-POP:

Perhaps because she's an only child
Who lives with her Mom in the city
wild!

GORGONAN:

With mom at work and gone away,
Kelly sits at the computer to play.

STARSTRIKER:

Visiting sites where Internet Goblins
and Fairies dance—
Hidden far from any grown-up's
glance!

TIME: *The present.*

SETTING: *Limbo space, played before
the curtain.*

BEFORE RISE: *Lights come up to reveal
the members of the cast. All are dressed
in black/neutral clothing except for
KELLY KARR, who wears modern
everyday dress typical of an 11-year old
school girl. Later, the other cast mem-
bers will slip on costume pieces over
their black/neutral clothing when they
reenter as Fairies, Goblins, and
Attendants. During the following pro*

ZUB:

Short is our play, and full of wit—
We certainly hope you'll follow it.

KELLY KARR: Enjoying the players and
their youth— Taking from the play a
kernel of truth.

DAWNTRACKER:

And now the curtain will slowly rise,
Displaying to your waiting eyes—

GORGONAN:

A story of Kelly—

MOONSEEKER:

And her imaginary friends.

HEX-A-POP:

So now it's time for you to see
Our whimsical, fantastical comedy!
(*All except KELLY exit. Curtain rises.*)

* * *

SETTING: *Small table with chair is center. On table are computer keyboard and monitor and small hand mirror.*

AT RISE: *KELLY moves to the table and sits facing computer screen. She becomes very involved in what she is doing on the computer. ALLISON KARR enters, carrying a bag of groceries. KELLY jumps up and goes to take groceries from her.*

KELLY: Here, Mom, let me take those.

ALLISON: Thank you, Kelly. I've had such a long day at work and I've still got to go back to finish up. (*KELLY places groceries out of the way under the computer table.*) How was school?

KELLY (Unhappily): It was school! It seems I'm always at school. And when I'm not I'm home doing homework!

ALLISON: Did you walk the dog?

KELLY: Yes. I walked him up where I could see Dakota LaSota's mansion with her limousine parked out front

and then down the hill past Old Lady Bertram's house. Mom, is it true that old Lady Bertram has more money than Dakota LaSota?

ALLISON: I have no idea and it's none of my business, but that's what they say. I'm sure she's got it all stashed away somewhere—in probably the world's largest bank.

KELLY: I wish I were old lady Bertram. You'd never have to work again, and you'd dine in the finest of restaurants! No, you'll have everything catered in. And as for me, I'd never have to do homework again!

ALLISON: If wishes came true, Kelly, this world would be a topsy-turvy place. But since it's working and not wishing that makes the world go round, I'd better get back to the office before it gets too late. And you, my dear, tend to your homework while I'm gone. Don't sit around complaining and dreaming. Complaining never healed poverty and daydreaming is a waste of time for little girls. (*ALLISON exits.*)

KELLY: Yes, but what if the dream came true? What if I wake up some morning and find myself turned into Old Lady Bertram, with all her riches in my pockets? (*She thinks a moment and then speaks as she types on keyboard.*) How to be rich. . . (*Reading from screen*) "Learn the principles of economics." (*Disappointed, as if talking to the screen*) I don't have time for that! (*She continues searching, then reads the computer screen.*) "How to Make a Million Dollars in Real Estate." (*Looking closer*) "Must be eighteen years old." That counts me out! (*Determined, she continues to scan the screen*) "Ask the Internet Fairies and Goblins." (*Shocked*) What!? That sounds simple enough! (*She quickly clicks the mouse and anxiously looks at the computer, reading the results on the*

screen.) "The Internet Goblins and Fairies have power to grant any wish that mortal surfers make"! (*Sits back, dreamily*) Oh, I wish it were true and that they'd grant me mine! If I could just click away and have the Goblins and Fairies come, I'd say: "Good Goblin, I am tired of being Kelly Karr, always having to do homework and walk the dog! Make me someone else!" (*KELLY closes her eyes a minute as if to picture the bliss. During the last sentence HEX-A-POP enters, creeps up behind KELLY, and elfishly props herself up on table next to computer.*)

HEX-A-POP: A stupid wish, Kelly, more suitable for your dog than you!

KELLY (*Startled, sitting up and staring, and then rubbing her eyes*): Are you an Internet Goblin?

HEX-A-POP (*Indignantly*): Do I look like anything else? Come, blow the cobwebs from your brain and stop staring—it's rude. Although you've never seen us, you've obviously heard of us before now? (*No response from KELLY*) Internet fairies and goblins?

KELLY (*Coming around*): Seen you and heard you!? I've sometimes thought I did! Sometimes late at night, when I'm working on the computer doing my homework I could swear I hear little voices coming from the speakers or see little flashes of light flickering the screen. But I thought it was because my eyes were tired.

HEX-A-POP: You've paid better attention than I thought.

KELLY: But I didn't know that cyberspace was so near!

HEX-A-POP: It's always near to those who believe it and look for it, Kelly.

KELLY: And will you really grant me my wish?

HEX-A-POP (*Getting off table*): I will do more than that. I will give you three wishes. And I will grant them all, as sure as my name is Hex-a-Pop!

KELLY (*Dazzled*): Three wishes! That's really generous of you! And I'll get to see the internet fairies too?

HEX-A-POP (*Naming each one of the fairies, as they enter*): Of course, you will. Here they come now. Dawn-Tracker! (*DAWN-TRACKER enters.*)

DAWN-TRACKER: From your morning surf on the web! (*KELLY stands and curtseys low.*)

HEX-A-POP: Starstriker! (*STAR-STRIKER enters, carrying a black white-tipped cane. KELLY curtseys.*)

STARSTRIKER: From Excitement-Online!

HEX-A-POP: MoonSeeker! (*MOON-SEEKER enters. She carries a blue feather boa.*)

MOONSEEKER: From Air.com! (*KELLY curtseys. GORGONAN and ZUB enter and approach. They carry ruby-jeweled saber swords.*)

HEX-A-POP: And Gorgonan and Zud, Internet Goblins whose law is my word!

GORGONAN and ZUB (*In unison, speaking in a low monotone robotic voice as KELLY curtseys once again*): Cyberspace Surfer, what is your command and wish?

KELLY: I wish to be the incredibly rich Old Lady Bertram, because she has more money than anyone! (*As KELLY speaks she stands facing the audience, with her back to HEX-A-POP, who has now moved on top of computer table. HEX-A-POP instantly drops across KELLY's shoulders a long tattered*

shawl, and on her head pops a gray, bushy, and messy fright-wig. GORGONAN and ZUB have previously brought on these costume pieces. STARSTRIKER claps his hands three times. This business should be done with the utmost grace and swiftness. Goblins and Fairies join hands and dance around KELLY in a swirling circle, making a great deal of noise cheering and enjoying their wish fulfillment. Lights flash about in a colorful manner and the sounds of laser beams whizzing by and howling wind are heard. The moment the tattered shawl falls across KELLY's shoulders she bends over with a rheumatic groan.)

HEX-A-POP: Your wish is granted, Kelly!

KELLY (*Shouting angrily over them*): Stop with the dancing, already! Stop dancing now! (*They stop dancing with mock deference.*) I can hardly walk! A cane, someone! Bring me a cane! I cannot move. (*STARSTRIKER gives her his cane.*) I cannot move! I must sit down. Every bone in my body has pain in it!

DAWN-TRACKER: Well, look on the bright side—it's a beautiful sunny day!

KELLY: Well, it's not warming my withered skin!

MOONSEEKER: And the sky is a gorgeous bright blue today!

KELLY: Big deal! My eyes are so old and my neck so creaky I cannot see it!

HEX-A-POP: And your homework—there is no more homework for you.

MOONSEEKER: No dog to walk. Your own private dog walkers take care of that.

HEX-A-POP: All your days are free to spend as you want.

KELLY: Yeah, free to spend it in moaning pain!

DAWN-TRACKER: Now only the finest of foods will be served to you and they are yours just for the asking.

KELLY: Little good that will do me when I don't have a tooth in my head! (*She starts to move, leaning heavily on the cane and moaning.*)

HEX-A-POP (*To KELLY*): But think of all the money you have!

KELLY: Who cares, if I have to ache like this. (*After a moment's thought, then suddenly*) I get it now, Old Lady Bertram's age and pain come along with the money! For every dollar I have there's a pain in my back. Please, Hex-a-Pop, give me my second wish. You'll see how smartly I choose this time.

HEX-A-POP: What now, Kelly? (*KELLY stands in front of computer table, facing audience as before.*)

KELLY: I would like to be young Dakota LaSota who is the same age as me and is a star of movies and MTV, and who has loads of money and happiness and power besides! (*STARSTRIKER claps his hands three times. Lights flash, as before, and laser beams whizzing accompanied by howling wind sound. HEX-A-POP and others once again circle KELLY, creating a great deal of verbal excitement. HEX-A-POP whisks off KELLY's wig and shawl, and drops in their place a leather jacket and a funky, youthful jewel-studded baseball cap with long blond hair flowing from it. GORGONAN and ZUD carry off the wig and shawl. KELLY now has a "starlet" air.*) Was there ever so nice a jacket? Or such a cool hat? My dog would not even know me! I have to look at myself in the mirror. (*She moves to table to pick up mirror. HEX-A-POP stops her.*)

HEX-A-POP: Hold on, Kelly! Movie stars don't use a little hand-mirror to look in.

KELLY: Then I'll run to my mother's room and look in her big mirror. And then run next door to her office so she can see me. (*KELLY moves to exit.*)

MOONSEEKER: Slow down! Movie stars don't run.

DAWN-TRACKER: Nor do they hang out with common folk of the neighborhood!

KELLY (*Sulking*): What's the point of being a rich movie star if I can't do as I please? Tell me that. (*Wearily*) And this leather jacket is awfully hot!

HEX-A-POP: Expensive leather jackets aren't so "cool" as they might seem, my little starlet!

KELLY: Is there nothing I can do for fun? Don't I have fans to cheer me on?

STARSTRIKER: But fans are just common people; peasant types, you know. Look, here comes one now.

DAWN-TRACKER: Yes, a very common sort. She looks worn out from work. Poor woman. (*ALLISON enters, still dressed in her work clothes. She looks tired and frazzled.*)

KELLY: Poor woman!? Why, that's my mother! (*KELLY goes to meet ALLISON. GORGONAN and ZUB follow after KELLY like an entourage of sorts.*)

ALLISON (*Stopping suddenly*): Oh, my heavens! You're. . . you're the movie star Dakota LaSota! (*ALLISON is awestruck.*)

KELLY: Mom! Look at me! Don't you know me?

ALLISON: Oh, I'd know a big movie star

like you anywhere. It's an honor.

KELLY: But, I'm Kelly, not Dakota LaSota!

ALLISON (*Aside, to others*): Oh, poor thing—it's gone to her head. She's lost her wits.

KELLY (*Earnestly*): But Mom, I am your daughter!

ALLISON: No, I don't think so, dear. You were never my daughter, as these fans here will tell you. So, get those crazy ideas out of your head, please. My daughter is a nice little girl who does her homework and walks her dog. Honestly, you are no daughter of mine. I am a simple worker and mother—not nearly the likes of your status.

KELLY: Who is my mother if it isn't you?!

ALLISON: Dear, everyone knows that your rich and famous father, who's known the world over for his many films, adopted you when you were just an infant.

KELLY (*Clutching ALLISON with a cry of sudden terror*): No, look at me! Look closely. Look close and see that I'm your Kelly! (*ALLISON looks a long moment, and then sorrowfully shakes her head, as if in pity. KELLY steps back, silent and dismayed.*)

ALLISON: If you don't mind, I need to go now or I'll never finish my work before the day is out. (*KELLY makes a gesture of assent, and ALLISON exits with KELLY gazing after her.*)

DAWN-TRACKER: What now, Dakota LaSota? It's almost dark and your dad and limo are waiting for you.

KELLY: But I don't have a father and my mother doesn't know me!

STARSTRIKER: There's an expensive catered dinner waiting for you at your mansion, Kelly. You don't want such a nice meal to get cold.

KELLY: It's not so nice as my mother's kiss.

MOONSEEKER: But there's music there, Kelly, as soft as the music in dreams.

KELLY: It won't sound half as nice as my mother's voice.

HEX-A-POP: But there will be jeweled lamps lighting your bed, Kelly.

KELLY: I'd rather have the lovelight of my mother's eyes. What are expensive meals and music and jeweled lamps to me? *(Despairingly)* I want my mom! And I only wish to be Kelly, schoolgirl. Kelly, schoolgirl, Kelly, schoolgirl . . . *(Sobbing, KELLY, flings herself on the table. Her leather jacket has come unfastened, and is swiftly removed by GORGONAN and ZUB, who also remove her baseball cap/wig. Her closed eyes and deep breathing show that she has cried herself to sleep.)*

GORGONAN *(Moving around her with ZUB):* Sleep! And let these wishes seem like the semblance of a dream.

ZUB *(Making motions as if casting a spell):* Lightly dreamed and lightly sped, leaving with you in its stead—

GORGONAN: Sweet dreams, your days to fill!

ZUB: Sleep! It is the internet fairies' and goblins' will! *(Fairies and Goblins vanish, leaving KELLY alone. ALLISON enters and bends over KELLY.)*

ALLISON: Why, Kelly! Asleep so early?

KELLY *(Opening eyes and then flinging her arms around ALLISON):* Mom! You know me now! Now that I'm not Dakota LaSota!

ALLISON *(Confused, then chuckling):* Dakota LaSota?! Goodness, child. You're still dreaming.

KELLY: And they're gone, too, the Internet Fairies and Goblins. And I'm here with you and not in a mansion. And my three wishes have vanished like smoke. It must have been a dream. And yet. . .and yet. . .! To be myself and no one else; to make the most of what I have and never complain about what I don't have! That's Fairy and Goblin wisdom! I'm so glad I'm not Old Lady Bertram with creaky knees or Dakota LaSota with her power and fortune! And before I finish my homework, I think I'll walk the dog. *(ALLISON looks completely bewildered as the curtain quickly closes.)*

THE END

(Production Notes on page 60)

PRODUCTION NOTES

Kelly and the Internet Goblins

(Play on pages 31-36)

CHARACTERS: 7 female; 1 male. (The cast is flexible and may be played by an all-female cast or any combination of male and female actors, with appropriate dialogue changes, e.g., "Old Lady Bertram" becomes "Old Man Bertram," and so forth.)

PLAYING TIME: 15 minutes.

COSTUMES: Can be as elaborate or minimal as desired. Black attire for all during Prologue except for Kelly, who wears everyday modern dress throughout. Allison wears work outfit. Other performers add simple pieces to create the illusion of Internet Goblins and Fairies: Hex-A-Pop wears flashy black-sequined shoulder gear, black tights, black leotard, black-sequined shorts and suspenders, and a dark-colored, glittery partial face mask. She carries a sparkly saber sword. Dawn-Tracker wears hot-pink gauzy skirt, black tights, black leotard and pink-sequined tube top with small glittery wings, and a long hot-pink feather boa. Starstriker wears black pants and shirt, a black coat and tails trimmed in silver sequins, white gloves, and black top hat. A pair of small, shiny glittered wings is attached to the back of his

coat. He also carries a black white-tipped cane. Moonseeker is dressed in a black leotard, black tights, and sheer blue skirt, blue-sequined tube-top with two small blue glittery balloons attached to represent wings; and carries a blue feather boa. Over black leotards and tights, Gorgonian and Zub wear flashy red-sequined shoulder straps and arm bands, red-sequined shorts, red-sequined thick/wide belts, and dark-colored but glittery partial face masks. They carry ruby-jeweled saber swords.

PROPERTIES: Bag of groceries, messy gray wig and hooded-shawl, brightly colored leather jacket and jeweled baseball cap with blonde wig attached, **SETTING:** A limbo space with a chair and small table complete with computer monitor and keyboard (or a portable laptop) and small hand mirror.

LIGHTING and SOUND: No special effects required. However, the magical effect will be greatly enhanced if supported by effective lighting and sound as suggested in the script text—fog could be used to cover the entrances and exits of the Fairies and Goblins if desired.

Subscribers. Persons and entities with subscriptions in force at the time of the performance may produce the plays in any issue of this magazine royalty-free, provided the performance is part of a regular school or dramatic club activity. Such persons and entities may also reproduce copies of the individual play being produced for members of the cast, and may videotape or record rehearsals or performances of the play, for use by such members in connection with preparation for a performance of the play. Subscribers may not videotape or record the production of the play for any other reason, and may not reproduce or transmit the production via television or radio, or via the internet or other electronic methods, without the written permission of, and the payment of any required royalties to, Plays/Sterling Partners, Inc.

Non-subscribers. Persons and entities that are not current subscribers to this magazine must apply in writing to Plays/Sterling Partners, Inc. for royalty quotations and permission to copy, reproduce, distribute, transmit, publicly display, or publicly perform any of the plays herein. Permission will be granted on a per-performance basis only, and under no condition may permission be transferred.

All readers. All rights not expressly granted by these paragraphs are reserved by Plays/Sterling Partners, Inc. If you have a question about the rights granted herein, or would like to request permission to perform, distribute, transmit, display or copy any of the literary or dramatic works in this magazine, please contact PLAYS, The Drama Magazine for Young People, P.O. Box 600160, Newton, MA 02460.

Publisher: PETER A. DIMOND

Editor: ELIZABETH PRESTON

Editorial Assistant: PAIGE TURNER

Shipping: WOODY PALLET

Cover Illustration: CHRIS DEMAREST

P.O. Box 600160, Newton, MA 02460-0002

(617) 630-9100 Toll-free: (800) 630-5755 Fax: (617) 630-9101

E-mail: lpreston@playsmag.com

www.playsmag.com

© Sterling Partners, Inc. 2009. Title registered as trademark.

PLAYS, The Drama Magazine for Young People (ISSN 0032-1540, USPS 473-810) is published seven times a year, monthly except June, July, August, and September, and bimonthly January/February, by STERLING PARTNERS, INC., P.O. Box 600160, Newton, MA 02460. Subscription rates: 1 year, \$44.00; 2 years, \$80.00; 3 years, \$114.00; \$9.95 per copy (includes shipping and handling). Canadian: Add \$12 per year to cover postage. All other foreign: Add \$25 per year to cover postage. Canadian & foreign subscriptions must be paid in U.S. funds drawn on a U.S. bank (or if in U.S. funds drawn on foreign bank, add \$4 U.S.). Periodicals postage paid at Boston, MA, and additional offices.

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to:

Plays/Sterling Partners

P.O. Box 600160

Newton, MA 02460

Printed in U.S.A.