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The Tempest
By William Shakespeare
Adapted by Scott Hunter

Cast of Characters

Prospero - The rightful Duke The Sea Nymphs Ariel - a trusty servant Miranda - entering a brave new world Moonstone Caliban - man or fish Driftwood Prince Ferdinand - falls for Miranda Coral Queen Isabella - Enemy of Prospero Pearl Antonio - Prospero's evil brother Shell Sebastina - even eviler than her evil sister the Queen Сосоии Gonzola - far too old Brine Adrienne - a silly courtier Sand Francisca - even sillier Palm Trinculo - the Court Tester Tris Stephano - floated ashore on a wine cask - drank it all Ceres Boatswain - cut from the opening Типо Starboard - a sailor Orchid Voice from booth Tib - a sailor Topsail - a sailor

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Act 1, The Prologue – a film

(The curtain opens on a blank screen. The film fades in on a table. A model of an old time sailing ship sits in the middle of the table. On the ship are several action figures meant to represent the characters in The Tempest. PROSPERO comes on screen and looks around to make sure he's alone. He is old, but slightly crazy from being stranded on a deserted island for 16 years. He sits at the table and plays with his action figures.)

PROSPERO (as the action figure Prospero)

So, you've decided to come back have you? Now you shall face the wrath of Prospero!

(He picks up another action figure and speaks as his evil brother in high pitched voice)

I need a diaper change.

(as Prospero)

That's not all you need. Ha. Ha! May it eternally rain cats and dogs upon you!

(Prospero makes wind and rains sound while dropping plastic dogs and cats on top of the ship.)

Well, maybe not so eternally. But you must be punished so now you must listen to... our mother! (He pulls a mother figure out of his coat pocket and speaks in her voice.)

In 1562 we opened a little bakery shop on the corner and we invented pie.

(as evil brother.)

No. This is too much. This is cruel and unusual.

(As Prospero)

You want cruel and unusual? I'll show you cruel and unusual. You shall listen to me sing. Ha. Ha. Ha. This is a little ditty I wrote myself. It goes something like this. Actually, it goes exactly like this: Now sit right back and you'll hear a tale,

A tale of two siblings lost.

One would steal his brother's loot no matter what the cost.

The Queen was an evil dictator, my brother was evil too,

They wrecked us on this desert isle when my daughter was only two.

(Through the magic of special effects, ARIEL suddenly appears next to PROSPERO. She is his head fairy. She is eager to please and innocently optimistic. She has a pair of sunglasses in her hand. PROSPERO jumps and squawks and pulls his action figures close to him to play off the fact that he was playing with his dolls again.)

PROSPERO Ariel.. um... What did you see? **ARIEL** Nothing, Master. **PROSPERO** Oh, well, what are you doing in my cave? ARIEL I'm practicing being invisible as you instructed me. Remember, "Be like the nymphs of the sea, invisible." PROSPERO Invisible to all sight but thine and mine. **ARIEL** My bad. (ARIEL puts on her sun glasses and instantly disappears. PROSPERO talks to the *space she vacated.*) **PROSPERO** Ariel, I have a task for you. (ARIEL appears behind him. He jumps and squawks.) **ARIEL** Why should today be any different? **PROSPERO** Because if today all goes well, I just might set you free. **ARIEL** Proceed. **PROSPERO** Now passing by our island is this ship, which holds on it all my old enemies. **ARIEL** And I shall sink it! **PROSPERO** No. I shall cause a... Tempest!

ARIEL

A Tempest?

PROSPERO

Now, I want you and the Nymphs, as the glorious gusty gales and the biting stormy seas bombard this tiny piece of wood, to use all your powers, to cause all aboard, in small groups of three to five, to jump into the briny froth and swim to shore. Each one must believe the others have perished in the sea. You understand?

ARIEL

Not a wit.

PROSPERO

Make them jump into the sea and swim ashore.

ARIEL

I swim ashore?

PROSPERO

They swim ashore!

ARIEL

Mine's not to reason why.

PROSPERO

I want you to make sure the Queen's son, Ferdinand, swims ashore by himself.

ARIEL

How shall I know him?

PROSPERO

You will know him by his... well, maybe he'll wear a crown or something.

ARIEL

Wearing his crown at sea?

PROSPERO

He'll be the one doing the least amount of work. See to it!

.ARIEL

Your servant shall do so.

(She snaps puts on her glasses and disappears. PROSPERO checks to see he is truly alone.)

PROSPERO

Ariel? Ariel? Ariel?

(He goes back to singing and playing with his toys.)

The passengers swam to shore

To my enchanted isle,

With Ferdinand,

Queen Isabelle,

Antonio, my sibling rival,

Gonzola and Sexy Sabestina,

ARIEL'S VOICE

(cutting off PROSPERO and coming out of nowhere)

Here on Prospero's Isle!

(ARIEL instantly appears next to PROSPERO. She wears a bright yellow raincoat and hood. He jumps and pulls his toys close.)

PROSPERO

Don't smile at me.

(She puts on sunglasses and instantly disappears. PROSPERO snaps his fingers and disappears. The film fades out. The screen goes up. The curtain opens on a clearing on an island. There are rocks at the back of the stage and in the rocks are two caves, a big one for PROSPERO, and a little one underneath for CALIBAN, his slave.)

ACT 1, SCENE 1- THE ISLAND. BEFORE PROSPERO'S CELL.

(Enter PROSPERO and MIRANDA. MIRANDA is an overly emotional girl who is easily swayed to extremes. She is particular distraught at this moment.)

MIRANDA

My dearest father, if you have put the wild waters in this roar, stop them. O, I have suffered with those that I saw suffer: a brave ship, dash'd all to pieces. O, the cry did knock against my heart. Poor souls, they perish'd.

PROSPERO

Be calm: there's no harm done.

MIRANDA

O, woe the day!

PROSPERO

No harm. I have done nothing but in care of you, my daughter. Wipe you thine eyes; have comfort. There is no soul hurt, no, not so much as a hair. You are ignorant of what you are, not

knowing who I am, nor that I am better than Prospero, master of a poor island, and thy no greater father.

MIRANDA

Right.

PROSPERO

'Tis time. I should inform you... Sit down, for you must now know.

MIRANDA

You have often begun to tell me what I am, but stopp'd, concluding 'Stay: not yet.'

PROSPERO

Miranda! The hour's now come. Can you remember a time before we came to this island? Twelve years ago, Miranda, twelve years, thy father was the Duke of Milan and a prince of power.

MIRANDA

Sir, are not you my father?

PROSPERO

Thy mother was a piece of virtue, and she said you were my daughter;

MIRANDA

But...

PROSPERO

And thy father was Duke of Milan;

MIRANDA

But...

PROSPERO

And you are his only heir and a princess.

(After a moment it sinks in.)

MIRANDA

O princess. O the blessed heavens!

(She looks around at her island)

How did we end up here?

PROSPERO

By foul play,

MIRANDA

O, my heart bleeds.

PROSPERO

Sit you down.

(He claps his hands and the lights dim and a slide show appears in the sky above the rocks. The first slide reads "Prospero's Back Story.")

Squiggy.

(The slide changes to his brother ANTONIO, smiling in happier days.)

My brother and thy uncle, call'd Antonio—he whom next to thyself I loved most in all the world. Squiggy.

(The slide changes to PROSPERO giving ANTONIO as set of car keys.)

I appointed him to manage my money; I pray you, mark me--that a brother should be so perfidious!

(She doesn't understand.)

False! Thy false, cheating uncle-- Are you listening?

MIRANDA

Sir, most heedfully.

PROSPERO

He was the ivy which had hid my princely trunk, and suck'd my verdure out on't. You understand?

MIRANDA

O, good sir, I do... Not.

PROSPERO

My brother was evil. Being entrusted with my money and my power made him a sinner. He did believe he was indeed the duke-- Do you hear?

MIRANDA

Your tale, sir, would cure deafness.

PROSPERO

He became confederates with... Squiggy

(The slide changes to ANTONIO smiling with QUEEN ISABELLA.)

The Queen of Naples; He gave her annual tribute, did her homage.

MIRANDA

O the heavens!

PROSPERO

Squiggy.

(A slide of the Queen with an evil look.)

The Queen of Naples, being an enemy to me, Squiggy.

(The slide changes to ANTONIO whispering in the ear of QUEEN ISABELLA.)

Hears my brother's evil plan; Squiggy.

(A slide of the the QUEEN and ANTONIO evilly laughing.)

PROSPERO (Cont.)

Which was, that she, the Queen of Naples, should presently exile me and mine out of the dukedom. and give all my honors to my brother. Squiggy.

(A side of ANTONIO unlocking a gate.)

One midnight, Antonio opened the gates of Milan, Squiggy.

(A slide where Soldiers surround PROSPERO and a young MIRANDA.)

Me and your crying self were captured..

MIRANDA

Alack, for pity! I, not remembering how I cried out then, will cry it o'er again!

(She cries.)

PROSPERO

Hear a little further and then cry.

(She instantly stops and thinks.)

MIRANDA

Why didn't they destroy us that very hour?

PROSPERO

They dared not, my people loved me. Squiggy.

(A slide of adoring throngs.)

They hurried us aboard a ship, and carried us some leagues to sea; Squiggy.

(A slide of a sailing ship.)

Where they prepared a little boat, no sail, nor mast; the very rats instinctively had quit it. Squiggy.

(A slide of two dolls in a row boat.)

There they left us, to cry to the sea that roar'd to us.

MIRANDA

Now?

(PROPSERO nods and she cries. Then stops and thinks.)

How came we ashore?

PROSPERO

Luck. And the help of a noble woman named Squiggy.

(A slide of an old servant GONZOLA..)

Gonzola. She was the Queen's advisor and entrusted to carry out the evil plan, Squiggy.

(A slide of GONZOLA offering them food from a drive through restaurant.)

But instead she snuck us food and drink. Squiggy.

(A slide of PROSPERO and young MIRANDA waving from a deserted beach.)

Here on this deserted island we arrived.

(POSPERO claps his hands and the lights come up and show ends.)

MIRANDA

Heavens thank you for't! And now, I pray you, sir, for still 'tis beating in my mind, your reason for raising this sea-storm?

PROSPERO

By the most strange accident, good luck has brought all my enemies to this shore; and by my prescience I find my zenith doth depend upon a most auspicious star, whose influence if now I court not but omit, my fortunes will ever after droop.

MIRANDA

What?

PROSPERO

My enemies are all on shore. Here! Now! Cease more questions: You art inclined to sleep;

(He gives her the Vulcan sleep grip. MIRANDA sleeps instantly. PROSPERO puts on his robe.)

PROSPERO

I am ready now. Approach, my Ariel, come.

(Enter the playful, obedient fairy ARIEL. She is in charge of a large group of not so bright SEA NYMPHS.)

ARIEL

All hail, great master!

NYMPHS

Grave sir, hail!

ARIEL

We come to answer thy best pleasure; be't to fly, to swim, to dive into the fire, to ride on the curl'd clouds, to thy strong bidding task Ariel and all her quality.

PROSPERO

Have your spirits perform'd to point the tempest as I bade you?

ARIEL

To every article.

MOONSTONE

We boarded the king's ship.

Now on the beak.	
CORAL Now in the stern.	
PEARL The deck.	
SHELL In every cabin.	
COCONUT We flamed amazement.	
ARIEL Sometime we would divide, and burn in many places.	
BRINE On the topmast.	
SAND The yards.	
PALM And bowsprit.	
IRIS Then meet and join Jove's lightening.	
CERES Dreadful thunder-claps.	
JUNO The fire and cracks of sulphurous roaring.	
ORCHID The bold waves tremble.	
ARIEL The most mighty Neptune seemed to attack the ship and make his dread trident shake.	
PROSPERO My brave spirits! Who stayed aboard ship?	

ARIEL

Not a soul. All the passengers plunged in the foaming ocean and quit the vessel. The Queen's son, Ferdinand, with hair up with fright-- like reeds, not hair,-- was the first man that leap'd overboard; he cried, 'Hell is empty and all the devils are here.'

PROSPERO

Why that's my spirit! But was this near shore?

ARIEL

Close by, my master.

PROSPERO

But are they safe?

ARIEL

Not a hair out of place, but fresher than before: and, as you instructed us, we have dispersed them about the isle in small groups. The king's son landed by himself.

PROSPERO

Exactly as I asked: but there's more work.

DRIFTWOOD

Is there more toil?

PROSPERO

Yes.

(The SEA NYMPHS all groan.)

ARIEL

Since you give us pains, let me remind you what you have promised, which is not yet performed.

PROSPERO

How now? moody? What is't you can demand?

ARIEL

Our liberty.

PROSPERO

When our task is finished! no more!

ARIEL

I prithee, remember we have done you service; told you no lies, made no mistakes, served without or grudge or grumblings: you promised to release us.

PROSPERO

Do you forget from what torment I freed you?

ARIEL

No.

PROSPERO

You do, and do you think it is too much to ask to do my business.

ARIEL

I do not, sir.

PROSPERO

You liest, malignant thing! Have you forgot the foul witch Sycorax, who with age and envy was grown into a tyrant? have you forgot her?

ARIEL

No, sir.

PROSPERO

I can't hear you!

SEA NYMPHS

No! Sir!

PROSPERO

You have. Where was she born? speak; tell me.

CORAL

(Your city here)

?.

PROSPERO

O, was she so? I must once in a month recount what you were, which you forget'st.

(The SEA NYMPHS gather around and sit on the floor like kindergarteners, eager to hear the story for the umpteenth time. ARIEL stands off. She can't believe that the rest of the NYMPHS are so dumb.)

PROSPERO

This damn'd witch Sycorax, was accused of mischiefs and sorceries terrible to human hearing. She was banished from Argier.

NYMPHS

(like school children reciting)

Argier

PROSPERO

She was banish'd: they did not kill her because she was with child. They set her ashore on this island where she imprisoned you. Is it not so?

COCONUT

Ay, sir.

PROSPERO

Yes in her most immitigable rage, she confined you into a cloven pine; and within the bark imprison'd you a dozen years;

(PEARL raises her hand. PROSPERO calls on her.)

PROSPERO

Yes?

PEARL

A Cloven pine?

PROSPERO

She locked you up in a tree.

ORCHID

Why?

PROSPERO

She was evil.

SHELL

How?

PROSPERO

She was an evil witch. She had magic powers. She left you in that cloven pine twelve years. But within that time, she died.

PALM

And trapped us there forever.

PROSPERO

Where you groaned as loud as mill-wheels.

(The SEA NYMPHS howl as if reliving the experience.)

At that time this island was uninhabited—except for the son of the evil Sycorax.

NYMPHS (whispering)

Caliban!

PROSPERO

Yes, Caliban son of Sycorax.

BRINE

A freckled whelp hag-born?

PROSPERO

Yes, that Caliban, whom now I keep as my servant. You know what torment I found you in. Your groans made wolves howl and penetrated the breasts of angry bears:

(The fairies howl again. Prospero is annoyed. ARIEL shakes her head.) It was a torment to lay upon the damn'd. The evil witch Sycorax, alas, could not undo her spell.

SAND

She was dead?

PROSPERO

Yes. But who was it that rescued you?

(The NYMPHS think. They cannot remember. Finally ARIEL must intercede.)

ARIEL

You? You did.

PROSPERO

It was my magic. When I arrived and heard you, I made the cloven pine open and let you out.

IRIS

We thank you, master.

(The SEA NYMPHS grovel to PROSPERO)

PROSPERO

If you complain once more, I will open an oak tree and peg you in its knotty entrails till you have howl'd away another twelve winters.

ARIEL

Pardon, master; we will be your correspondents to command and do our spiriting gently.

PROSPERO

Do so, and after two days I will discharge you.

(The SEA NYMPHS group hug PROSPERO.)

ARIEL

That's my noble master! What shall we do? Say what; what shall we do?

PROSPERO

Go make thyself like nymphs of the sea.... invisible: be subject to no sight but thine and mine...., invisible!

ARIEL

Alright nymphs. You have your magic glasses.

(The NYMPHS all pull out sun glasses.)

NYMPHS

Yes.

ARIEL

I'm gonna do this one time. Visible.

(She puts on her glasses.)

Invisible.

FAIRIES

Visible!

(They put on their glasses.)

Invisible!

PROSPERO

Go, hence with diligence!

(ARIEL leads the SEA NYMPHS off stage. PROSPERO goes and wakes up MIRANDA.)

Awake, dear heart, awake! you have slept well; Awake!

MIRANDA

The strangeness of your story put heaviness in me.

PROSPERO

Shake it off. Come on; we'll visit Caliban my slave, who never yields us kind answer.

MIRANDA

'Tis a villain, sir, I do not love to look on.

PROSPERO

But, as it is, we cannot do without him: he makes our fire, fetches in our wood and serves in offices that profit us.

(PROSPERO knocks at the entrance to the small cave.)

What, ho! slave! Caliban! You earth, you! speak.

CALIBAN(Within)

There's wood enough within.

PROSPERO

Come forth, I say! there's other business for you: Come, you tortoise! when? You poisonous slave, got by the devil himself upon thy wicked mother, come forth!

(Enter CALIBAN. He is Smeaglesque in his creepiness. He raises his hands and tries to put a spell on PROSPERO.

CALIBAN

As wicked dew as e'er my mother brush'd with raven's feather from unwholesome fen drop on you both! a south-west blow on ye and blister you all o'er!

PROSPERO

To-night you shalt have cramps.

(PROSPERO points his finger and shoots cramps to CALIBAN.)

Each pinch more stinging than bees.

CALIBAN

This island's mine, by Sycorax my mother, which you stole from me. When you came first, you stroked me and would give me water with berries in't, and teach me how to name the lights that burn by day and night: and then I loved you and show'd you all the qualities o' the isle, the fresh springs, fertile fields: cursed be I that did so!

(He tries to cast a spell again.)

All the charms of Sycorax, toads, beetles, bats, light on you!

(PROSPERO cramps him again.)

And here you imprison me in this hard rock, whiles you keep from me the rest o' the island, you have used me!

PROSPERO

You most lying slave! I have used you, filth as you are, with human care, and lodged you in my own home, till you sought to violate the honour of my child.

CALIBAN

O ho, O ho! would't had been done! You prevented me; otherwise, I would have peopled this isle with little Calibans.! Oh, Miranda.

(CALIBAN chases MIRANDA over the set. PROSPERO cramps him, this time with malice, as MIRANDA runs into PROSPERO'S cave.)

PROSPERO

Abhorred slave! I pitied you, took pains to make you speak, taught you each hour one thing or other: I taught you language! When you sought my daughter you were deservedly confined into this prison.

CALIBAN

You taught me language; and my profit on't is, I know how to curse. You... you... Hag-seed! (PROSPERO pinches him.)

The red plague kill you for teaching me your language!

PROSPERO

Go! Fetch us fuel; and be quick or I'll fill all your bones with aches, and make you roar that beasts shall tremble to hear you. Slave; away!

(CALIBAN scampers off. ARIEL and the SEA NYMPHS dance in to upbeat music. They wear their glasses and lead PRINCE FERNANDO onto the stage. The music ends.)

FERDINAND

Where should this music be? i' the air or the earth? I was sitting on a bank, weeping that the Queen, my mother, was shipwrecked; this music crept up on me: So I have follow'd it, or it has drawn me rather. But 'tis gone.

(The music begins and the NYMPHS dance off stage. ARIEL dances over to the cave.)

No, it begins again.

(PROSPERO brings MIRANDA out of the cave. He snaps his fingers so they are both invisible. They walk up to FERDINAND to inspect him. FERDINAND lies on the floor in utter despair. MIRANDA gets down on the floor inches from him.)

PROSPERO

Say what you see.

MIRANDA

What is't? A spirit? Lord, how it looks about! Believe me, sir, it carries a brave form. But 'tis a spirit.

PROSPERO

No, it eats and sleeps and hath such senses as we have. This gallant which you see was in the ship wreck; but he has lost his fellows and strays about to find 'em.

MIRANDA

I might call him a thing divine, for nothing natural I ever saw was so noble.

(PROSPERO snaps MIRANDA visible face to face, right in front of FERDINAND. He yelps and jumps up to run away. PROSPERO casts a spell on him.)

PROSPERO

Holla who.

(FERDINAND freezes and then turns to see MIRANDA. He has love in his eyes. He speaks in a seductive voice and moves back to MIRANDA)

FERDINAND

Most sure, you are the one on whom these songs attend! O you wonder! Please tell me if you be maid or goddess?

MIRANDA

No wonder, sir; but certainly a maid.

FERDINAND

You speak my language! heavens!, but how do you come to speak it here?

MIRANDA

It is the only language I know.

FERDINAND

I am the most important of them that speak this language.

(He leans in to get close enough to kiss her. PROSPERO pops up between them and becomes instantly visible. FERDINAND jumps back, startled and no longer in seducer mode. He's in fight mode now.)

PROSPERO

How? the best? What are you, and how would you fare if the Queen of Naples heard you?

FERDINAND

I am in wonders to hear you speak of Naples. As for the Queen? The king of Naples does hear me; and that he does I weep: for I myself am the king of Naples, who with my own eyes beheld the Queen, my mother, ship wreck'd.

MIRANDA

Alack, for mercy!

FERDINAND

Yes, faith, and all her lords and ladies; and the Duke of Milan. All drowned.

ARIEL

(aside to PROSPERO.)

At the first sight they have changed eyes.

PROSPERO

Delicate Ariel, I'll set you free for this.

MIRANDA

This is the third man that e'er I saw, the first that e'er I sigh'd for.

FERDINAND

O, if you are a virgin, I'll make you the queen of Naples.

(They both lean forward at the waist and prepare to kiss. PROSPERO freezes them with a snap. He is suddenly frantically worried that things are moving too fast and tries to think.)

ARIEL

This is swift business.

PROSPERO

Soft!

ARIEL

They are both in each other's powers;

PROSPER

Soft!

ARIEL

Too easy winning makes the prize easy!

PROSPERO

Then I must uneasy make.

(He picks up his daughter by the waist, still frozen, and carries her away from FERDINAND. He then assumes her place and unfreeze the couple. FERNANDO yelps.)

PROSPERO

One word to you; I fear you have done us disservice.

MIRANDA

Why speak you so?

PROSPERO

I charge you that you have put thyself upon this island as a spy, to win it from me!.

FERDINAND

No, as I am a man.

MIRANDA

There's nothing ill can dwell in such a temple: if the ill spirit have so fair a house, good things will strive to dwell with't.

PROSPERO

Speak not you for him; he's a traitor. Come; I'll manacle thy neck and feet together: Sea-water shalt you drink; thy food shall be wither'd roots. Follow.

FERDINAND

No; I will resist such entertainment till mine enemy has more power.

(FERDINAND draws his sword.)

PROSPERO

What? I say, put thy sword up, traitor; you make a show but you dare not strike. Follow me, for I can here disarm you with this!

(PROSPERO holds up his index finger.)

And make thy weapon drop.

FERDINAND

Right.

(PROSPERO twirls his finger and FERDINAND'S sword flies out of his hand. FERDINAND starts to run and PROSPERO freezes his feet. FERDINAND tries to pry them up, but he can't.)

MIRANDA

O dear father, make not too rash a trial of him, for he's gentle and not fearful.

PROSPERO

He is a traitor.

MIRANDA

Beseech you, father.

PROSPERO

Hence! hang not on my garments.

MIRANDA

Sir, have pity.

PROSPERO

What! An advocate for an imposter! hush! You think there are no more men like this, having seen but him and Caliban: foolish wench! To most men this is a Caliban..

MIRANDA

My affections are then most humble; I have no ambition to see a goodlier man.

PROSPERO

Come on; obey:

(PROSPERO releases FERDINAND,. but he make him weak and unable to stand without wobbling.)

PROSPERO

Thy nerves are in their infancy again and have no vigour in them.

(FERDINAND melts to the ground, all his bones are mush. MIRANDA gets down on the ground next to him to look into his eyes.)

FERDINAND

So they are. But what does it matter if I might, through my prison bars, once a day behold you, my goddess?

MIRANDA

All right.

FERDINAND

Then space enough have I in such a prison.

PROSPERO (Aside to ARIEL)

It works.

ARIEL

We have done well.

PROSPERO

You shalt be free as mountain winds: but first do all points of my command.

ARIEL

To the syllable.

(PROSPERO gives her a long list of things to do. ARIEL looks annoyed at so many chores. She marches off stage shaking her head. MIRANDA helps FERDINAND up but he keeps falling back over, too week to stand.)

MIRANDA

Be of comfort; my father's usually of a better nature, sir.

PROSPERO

Come, follow. Speak not to him.

(PROSPERO pulls MIRANDA away and drags her off stage protesting. FERDINAND falls over. Unable to stand, he rolls off stage after his departing love.)