

ARQUIN

and the new story

by
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DURATION: approx 15 mins

NB: Story structured so it's easy to add or subtract characters that Arquin meets

Can also be delivered with as little as 5 actors who have several roles. Role of Arquin can be also be divided up.

CAST:

NARRATOR	FAIRY GODMOTHER	HONEY BEE
KING	PIXIE	WOODCUTTER'S TREE
QUEEN	BEAR	ARQUIN'S STORY MIME
ARQUIN	WITCH	
WOODCUTTER	JESTER	

NARRATOR

Once upon a time, there was an old storyteller named Arquin, who was famous for telling great stories to Kings, Queens, children and even animals. But on this one day, Arquin was asked by the King, to create a new story for the Queen's birthday celebrations on the next day.

KING

Prepare a great story Arquin!

QUEEN

Yes please! And make it funny, adventurous and it needs to have an animal in it.

ARQUIN

As you wish your majesty.

NARRATOR

So Arquin went to his favourite thinking place, beneath the large oak tree, and ate his favourite chocolate chip icecream, which was what he always did to come up with great story ideas...but this time something strange happened.

ARQUIN

Oh no...this is tragic! I am the greatest story teller of all time and I can't think of a new story!

NARRATOR

Indeed. Arquin had never felt this before. He'd always come up with great tales of scary creatures, heroic adventures with knights and dragons, but today he had..

ARQUIN

Nothing!

NARRATOR

So he went for a walk in the woods to find some new inspiration.

SCENE CHANGE/SHORT MUSIC INTERLUDE

NARRATOR

Now Arquin had this great idea. Instead of making up a story, he would go in search of some real stories...and it wasn't long before he got the chance.

ENTER JESTER, ONE HAND EATING APPLE, THE OTHER TRYING TO JUGGLE TWO BALLS - BADLY!

ARQUIN

Hello dear fellow! What seems to trouble you?

JESTER

I have a great show coming up, and I still can't juggle!

ARQUIN

I have an idea! Why don't you try two hands?

JESTER

Huh?

ARQUIN PLACES THE APPLE IN JESTERS MOUTH AND BOTH BALLS IN HIS HANDS.

JESTER

Great! Thanks!

JESTER exits juggling.

NARRATOR

And so after helping the juggling jester, Arquin kept walking, hoping he would find the best idea for a story. When suddenly...

OLD WITCH HOBBLING OUT

WITCH

What are you doing in my part of the woods Arquin?!

ARQUIN

You know my name old witch?

WITCH

I know everything! And if you don't leave, I'll turn your toes into tadpoles, and your fingers into flies!

ARQUIN

Why are you so cranky?

WITCH

Oh. No-one's ever asked that before. It could have something to do with this terrible splinter I have stuck in my foot. It's been there for years!

ARQUIN REMOVES HER FOOT SPLINTER

NARRATOR

So Arquin helped the old witch remove her splinter, in a hope to save himself from being turned into something.

ARQUIN

There you go. Now you can stop being cranky, and let me go.

WITCH

Yes, you're right. I do feel better. With much more strength to turn your whole body into a slimy toad!!!!

ARQUIN RUNS OFF - WITCH CACKLES AND EXITS THE OTHER DIRECTION. WITCH DROPS BIG HANKY AND ARQUIN KEEPS IT.

NARRATOR

Oh well, can't win 'em all. So Arquin managed to escape, still without a story idea, until he ran into..

ENTER SNEEZING HONEY BEE

NARRATOR

...a wheezy, sneezy, honey bee!

HONEY BEE

Oh hi every...(sneeze). Oh this is terrible.

NARRATOR

Now Arquin was a little bit nervous because he was allergic to bee stings. But he felt there was something bigger to worry about.

HONEY BEE

I can't believe how awful this is! (sneeze)

ARQUIN

Excuse me, mister honey bee, but I can't help noticing you're not doing your usual buzzing around, stinging people and collecting pollen to make honey...

HONEY BEE

Don't say that! (sneeze)

ARQUIN

What? Honey?

HONEY BEE

No the other one. (sneeze)

ARQUIN

Pollen?

HONEY BEE

Argh! (sneeze) I can't stand it!

ARQUIN

But you need pollen to make the queen's honey.

HONEY BEE

I know! I know! But I'm (sneeze), I'm allergic to it!

NARRATOR

Now Arquin had never heard of this before.

ARQUIN

Are you kidding me? A bee, allergic to pollen!

HONEY BEE

Argh! You said it again! (sneeze) It's tragic! I'll never be able to make honey ever again!

NARRATOR

But of course Arquin wasn't going to let a little thing like allergies...or the fear of being stung... stop him from helping the honey bee.

ARQUIN PULLS OUT WITCH'S BIG HANKY AND TIES IT AROUND BEE'S MOUTH

ARQUIN

There you go honey bee; that should fix it!

HONEY BEE

Quick! Throw me some pollen!

ARQUIN THROWS A HANDFUL OF POLLEN. BEE BREATHS IT IN.

HONEY BEE

Yes! It worked! Thankyou sir, I'm off to make some honey!

NARRATOR

Now although Arquin still didn't have any story, he did start to feel a bit happier about getting over his fear of bees. But his good mood soon changed when along came...

ENTER WOODCUTTER.

NARRATOR

...a sad and lonely woodcutter.

ARQUIN

What's the trouble woodcutter?