



# RAPUNZEL

## AND THE WITCH WHO WOULD NOT SHARE

### A Musical Play for Young Actors

#### Cast

Rapunzel .....  
 Prince .....Gothel (witch) .....  
 Narrator 1 .....Narrator 2 .....  
 Witch 2.....Witch 3..... Witch 4 .....  
 Man .....Woman .....  
 Animals of your choice – non speaking .....  
 Children in the garden (optional) .....  
 Boy (Rapunzel’s brother) .....Girl (Rapunzel’s sister).....  
 Trader 1 (vegetables) ..... Trader 2 (jewellery) ..... Trader 3 (chocolate) .....  
 King .....Soldier(s) .....  
 Singers .....

**Notes and synopsis:** This is a simple, lively 35 minute children’s musical based loosely on the traditional story of Rapunzel. A witch (and her sisters) trick a couple into parting with their baby. The sad couple leave the land, under threat of death. The baby Rapunzel grows into a lovely girl with long hair. Jealous of Rapunzel’s beauty, the witches lock her out of sight in a tower. Rapunzel escapes once to play with the animals in the garden, but they catch her. As a punishment, they cut off her hair and put a spell on the tower so that there are no doors and no stairs. The cut hair is woven into a rope. Each day, the witch climbs up the rope to bully the miserable lonely girl. One day, a prince is passing, and hears Rapunzel singing. Infatuated, he climbs the rope but falls into a bed of thorns and becomes blind and loses his memory. Some time later, as a beggar, he chances to meet Rapunzel once again. Her tears fall into his eyes and his blindness is cured. The King and Rapunzel’s real family come in search of their offspring. All are reunited and the witch goes to jail.

**Props/ Scenery Notes:** Long braided hair for Rapunzel which then becomes a rope, 4 broomsticks, “Rampion leaves”, bedclothes, “baby”, scissors, coin, trays for market traders containing vegetables, fruit and jewellery including a ring. Basic scenery is desirable, with a woodland scene. A raised section of staging could suggest the room at the top of the tower. In the authentic tale, the witch climbs Rapunzel’s hair but in this version, the hair becomes a detached rope to make things more practical.

**The Special CD contains:**

**This script (to customize if needed), Sheet Music if you need it, and these audio tracks:**

**For song rehearsals:**

- TRACK 1: WITH VOCALS: Why are you here?
- TRACK 2: WITH VOCALS: Under Lock and Key!
- TRACK 3: WITH VOCALS: Get out of Our Garden!
- TRACK 4: WITH VOCALS: Am I Sleeping?
- TRACK 5: WITH VOCALS: We wish you well

**For performance:**

- TRACK 6: MUSIC ONLY: Why are you here?
- TRACK 7: MUSIC ONLY: Under Lock and Key!
- TRACK 8: MUSIC ONLY: Happy Animal Hoedown!
- TRACK 9: MUSIC ONLY: Get Out of Our Garden!
- TRACK 10: MUSIC ONLY: Sad Music
- TRACK 11: MUSIC ONLY: Am I sleeping?
- TRACK 12: MUSIC ONLY: We wish you well

**Narrator 1:** Once upon a time, in a far and distant land there lived a man and a woman. They had always wanted a child. It seemed as if would never happen, until one day, the woman rushed into the room with some good news for her husband. **(Enter woman and man, from opposite sides of the stage)**

**Woman:** Husband! Husband! Good news! Good news! I am going to have a baby!

**Man:** At last! A child to share our hopes and dreams with! That's fantastic news! **(Both exit)**

**Narrator 1:** Near their house there was a lovely garden which was full of beautiful flowers and herbs. No one dared to go in there it because it belonged to a dreadful witch and her sisters. One day the woman was looking into the garden, and she saw a flowerbed full of fresh green rampion. Rampion is a vegetable similar to a radish. Some people call it rapunzel. The woman felt a strange desire to eat some of it, but she knew she must not go into the garden. She began to pine away, and began to look pale and miserable. She didn't know that the witches had secretly put a spell on it to make it so appealing. Her husband was alarmed, and watched as his wife became more and more ill. **(Enter man and woman who is staggering)**

**Man:** My dear wife! What is the matter with you?

**Woman:** I must have some of that:rampion, which is in the garden near our house. If I don't get some I am sure I shall die.

**Man:** But I can't go in there,,,,, they say there are witches in that garden!

**Woman:** Fine! But if you loved me, you would get me some of that rampion!

**Man:** Most women in your condition get cravings for coal, or chocolate or pickled onions!

**Woman:** No! No! No! Rampion! That's what I need!

**Man:** How about a nice cabbage or a cauliflower from the market?

**Woman:** No! Rampion it must be. Quickly! I am dying. **(Both exit)**

**Narrator 2:** The man loved his wife so much that he agreed. At twilight, he climbed over the wall into the witches' garden and grabbed a handful of rampion, and took it to his wife. She made herself a salad of it, and ate it without stopping. It tasted so good to her – but the next day she longed for it three times as much as before. Her husband went back into the garden in the gloom of evening, and picked some more. This time she stewed it with butter and black pepper. But the more she ate, the more she wanted. Her poor husband had to go back for more.....So back into the garden he went, in the middle of the night.....

**(Man enters garden stealthily, picking rampion leaves. Witches enter and catch him)**

**CD Track 1 \*\*\*\*\* Song: Why Are You Here? \*\*\*\*\* Backing track 6**

**Witches:** *Why are you here? We are disturbed!  
This is our garden! These are our herbs!  
He has picked our leaves!  
We have caught a thief!  
If you will agree to pay we will let you go away!*

**Man:** *I cannot pay! Please let me go!  
Is this your garden? I didn't know!*

**Witches:** *He has picked our leaves!  
We have caught a thief!  
If you will agree to pay we will let you go away!*

**Witch 2:** How dare you come into our garden and steal our rampion like a thief?

**Witch 3:** You shall suffer for it. We want justice!

**Witch 4:** Justice! Justice! We have watched you stealing our rampion night after night. You must pay! You must pay!

**Man:** But I have no money! I only took it to save my dying wife.

**Witch 2:** We are not a charity! How do you propose to pay? Ten thousand florins please! At once! Our medicine does not come cheap. Have you got ten thousand florins?

**Man:** No! Only 1p

**Witch 3:** Then your wife must die! Because this is the only medicine that can save her!

**Witch 4:** Unless you can pay what you owe us. (*Man shakes head*)

**Gothel:** Have you got any chocolate? You can pay me in chocolate if you prefer.....No? Hmm. There might be a way to save your wife. I will allow you to take away with you as much rampion as you need, on one condition.....

**Man:** Anything! Anything!

**Gothel:** You must give me the child which will be born very soon. It shall be well treated, and I will care for it like a kind mother.

**Man:** Why don't you get yourself a husband and have a child of your own? (*Witches laugh*)

**Witch 2:** Don't be daft! She is 200 years old! She has a bent nose! She has a wrinkled face!

**Witch 3:** Her broomstick needs an M.O.T.

**Witch 4:** Would you marry such a person?

**Man:** No, I suppose not.

**Gothel:** Be gone at once before I change my mind! And remember to tell your wife the baby is mine! Mine I say! Hah ha hah! (**Exit all**)

**Narrator 1:** The terrified man agreed and he took the rampion to his dying wife. She was in her room, begging for more of the delicious vegetable. (*Enter man and woman, who flops down in bed. Woman is concealing a baby ready to be "born"*)

**Woman:** Rampion! I must have rampion!

**Man:** I have brought you the vegetable you crave. Gothel the witch says she will give you as much as you want! But it comes at a terrible price! The witch wants to take our first child! What shall we do? Shall we run away?

**Woman:** No! If we do that, there will be no baby! And I will surely die! (**Sadly**) We must give her the child!

**Narrator 2:** When the woman had given birth to her baby, Gothel and her sisters appeared. (*Enter witches*)

**Gothel:** Give me that baby! I will care for her! (**takes baby**) Ah! Cootchy Coo! I will call her Rapunzel. She will be mine and nobody will take her away from me! I won't share her with anyone, because she's MINE!

**Witch 2:** Can I help you change her?

**Gothel:** No! She's mine! Not yours!

**Witch 3:** Will you let me play with her?

**Gothel:** No way! She's mine! Not yours!

**Witch 4:** Can I hold her, Gothel?

**Gothel:** No! Whose baby is it? MINE!

**Woman:** Actually, the baby is mine!

**Man:** Yes! You are stealing our baby!

**Gothel:** Hop it, you ungrateful wretches! I gave you my rampion. It's a fair bargain. I ought to turn you into frogs, then you'd hop it. In fact, you'd both better leave this land if you value your lives! Go! Go! Go! And don't let me catch you round here again! **(Man and woman exit. Witches exit with child.)**

**Narrator 1:** In fear and with great sadness, the man and woman left the land. Their baby Rapunzel grew into a beautiful child. The witch did take care of her, but she wasn't a happy woman. She was selfish and jealous. She did not want to share her child with anyone. Rapunzel grew into an elegant young lady with long golden hair. To keep her from meeting anyone else, the witch locked her in a tall tower in the middle of a forest. **(Enter Gothel, other witches and Rapunzel)** Once a day, Gothel and the other witches went to the tower to take Rapunzel some food. She didn't like sharing her food, but she didn't want Rapunzel to die because she would have nobody to bully!

**Rapunzel:** What have you brought for me today, kind Gothel?

**Gothel:** Rampion soup, rampion sandwiches and rampion pie.

**Rapunzel: (disappointed)** Rampion again?

**Gothel:** Ungrateful wretch! Don't you want your rampion?

**Rapunzel:** I am so hungry I must eat it...Oh! But I see you have chocolate in your basket!

**Gothel:** Yes! Yummy scrummy creamy chocolate...And it's all for *me*. I NEVER share chocolate with anyone! EVER!

**Witch 2:** You nasty girl! You should eat what you are given and then lick your plate clean.

**Witch 3:** I always eat what I am given. I eat cabbage. It's so lovely when it's full of slugs and snails!

**Witch 4: (aside to Rapunzel)** I am the kindest witch. I will share something with you!

**Rapunzel:** Ooh, thank you! Is it chocolate? Is it cake?

**Witch 4:** No. I will share a secret with you. Gothel is not your real mother! Your real mother gave you away when you were a baby. Nobody wants you! And nobody loves you! Hah ha hah!

CD Track 2 \*\*\*\*\* SONG: UNDER LOCK AND KEY \*\*\*\*\* Backing Track 7

*(Gothel) I've got you safe and sound under lock and key!  
I've got you safe and sound you can't escape from me!  
I've got you safe and sound under lock and key!  
You are mine! I won't share! You belong to me!  
If I give you freedom you will leave me!  
I won't let that happen it would grieve me!  
Let me in when I ask it! I've got food in my basket!*

*(All) She's got you safe and sound under lock and key!  
She's got you safe and sound! You must escape from her!  
She's got you safe and sound under lock and key!  
She wants you! She won't share! You are a prisoner!  
If she gives you freedom you will leave her!  
She won't let that happen it would grieve her!  
Let her in when she asks it! There's a key in her basket!*

**Gothel:** Well, I can't stay here all day. I'm going to eat my chocolate. Enjoy your lunch, my dear! Hah Hah hah! **(Exit Gothel, locking door, leaving basket)**

**Rapunzel:** Oh! I'm so lonely! No-one cares for me! But at least I won't starve! Hey! What's this? **(Finds key)** It's a spare key! I can go and play in the garden! **(unlocks door)**

**Narrator 2:** Rapunzel didn't see any harm in exploring the witches' garden. And as soon as she went outside, she found she had some friends after all.

*(Enter animals - e.g. rabbit, fox, mouse, bird, hedgehog, dog, cat etc. They all dance:)*

**CD Track 8 \*\*\*\*\* HAPPY ANIMAL HOEDOWN \*\*\*\*\***

*(Optional: If you have lots of time and a very big cast to cater for, some children can also join the dance and then teach Rapunzel some playground games. )*

**(Witches enter)**

**Gothel:** Stop! Stop! Stop! What's going on here?

**Witch 2:** Who gave you permission to play in here?

**Witch 3:** Get out of our garden!

**Witch 4:** Get out of our garden!

**CD Track 3 \*\*\*\*\* Song: Get Out of Our Garden\*\*\*\*\* Backing Track 9**

*This is our garden! And we do not share!  
This is our garden! You can't play in here!  
Go! Go! Go! Run! Run! Run! This is no place for fun!  
This is our garden! And we do not share!  
This is our garden You can't play in here!  
Go! Go! Go! Run! Run! Run! This is no place for fun!  
Get out of our garden!  
Get out of our garden! Get out of our garden! Get out of our garden! Get out of our garden!  
Go Go! Go! Run! Run! Run! This is no place for fun!*

**(Exit all except Gothel and Rapunzel)**

**Gothel: (to Rapunzel)** You wicked child. You are not allowed out! You need to be punished! I know! I will cut off your hair so you can remember this day!

**Rapunzel:** Oh, no! Not my lovely golden hair!

**Narrator 1:** In her anger she clutched Rapunzel's beautiful hair, and snip, snap, she cut it off. Then she took her back to her prison. She made a spell to remove the stairs and the door to the tower. The witch was able to get in by climbing a rope spun from Rapunzel's hair.

**CD TRACK 10 \*\*\*\*\* (Sad music as narrator speaks:) \*\*\*\*\***

**Narrator 2:** Time passed. Each day, the witch climbed the rope with food, but Rapunzel was sad and lonely without a friend in the world. No animals came near. No people came near. Rapunzel was terrified of heights, so she daren't climb down the rope to escape. And so, Rapunzel was isolated and desperately lonely. Meanwhile, far away in a distant land, her real mother and father were talking. They had raised a family of their own, but they missed their first child so badly. **(Enter man, woman, boy and girl)**

**Man:** After all these years, I still can't stop thinking about our lovely baby girl.

**Woman: (to boy)** Across those mountains, you have an older sister you have never met.

**Boy:** What happened to her

**Man:** A witch kidnapped her when she was a baby

**Girl: (to woman)** Why don't we go and get her? I'd like to meet my older sister!

**Woman:** We could go back and find her. Perhaps the witch is dead by now.

**Man:** I doubt it ...but we could make sure Rapunzel is all right.

**Boy: (to man)** Aren't you afraid of the witch?

**Man:** Yes I am! But I am an old man now. Maybe she won't recognise me.

**Woman:** Very well. Let's go and find out what happened to Rapunzel! **(All exit)**

**Narrator 1:** One day, a prince was riding through the forest and he spotted the tower. **(Enter Prince)** He was tired from his journey, so he tied up his horse, and fell asleep. He woke when he heard the horrible voice of the witch. The witch was calling "Rapunzel! Rapunzel! Let down your hair! Let down your hair!" He watched her climb the rope. He thought he was dreaming, so he went back to sleep. When he woke, he heard a haunting melody coming from the tower. **(Rapunzel appears and hums a tune)** The song was so charming that he stood still and listened. The prince looked for the door of the tower, but none was to be found.

**CD Track 4 \*\*\*\*\* Song: Am I sleeping? \*\*\*\*\* Backing Track 11**

**Prince:** *Sleeping! Am I sleeping? That girl sings like a dream!  
Dozing! Am I dozing? Her voice is so supreme!  
I have strayed day after day. I am amazed to hear her sing that way!*

**All:** *Come down! Let him meet you!  
Let him see if his dream is true.*

**Rapunzel:** *Sleeping! Am I sleeping? That boy looks like a dream!  
Dozing! Am I dozing? His looks are so supreme!  
Here I stay day after day I am amazed to see him ride this way!*

**All:** *Come down! Let him meet you!  
Let him see if his dream is true.*

**Prince:** **(calling)** Hello! Hello!

**Rapunzel** **(appearing)** Shhhhhh! Be quiet!

**Prince:** Pardon me! But your singing is so sweet! **(aside)** What a gorgeous creature!

**Rapunzel:** Go away! The witch will catch you! Then we'll both be in trouble! **(aside)** What a handsome young fellow!

**Prince:** I see no witch! Where is she?

**Rapunzel:** She's gone home, I think.....

**Prince:** Come down and meet me, Rapunzel.

**Rapunzel:** I can't! I'm afraid of heights!

**Prince:** Who are you? And where's the door?

**Rapunzel:** I'm Rapunzel. Please rescue me! But there is no door!

**Prince:** No problem! Let down the rope! I'm coming up!

**End of script sample 2/3 of the way through**

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