

Plays for Young Audiences

A PARTNERSHIP OF SEATTLE CHILDREN'S THEATRE AND CHILDREN'S THEATRE COMPANY-MINNEAPOLIS

2400 THIRD AVENUE SOUTH
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55404
612-872-5108
FAX 612-874-8119

Eye of the Storm

By
Charles Way

Based on *The Tempest* By
William Shakespeare

This version of *Eye of the Storm* was originally produced by West Yorkshire Playhouse, UK, in 1993.

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Characters:

- Prospero
- Miranda
- Ariel
- Trinculo
- Stephano/Stephanie

Setting:

The play takes place on a magic island somewhere off the coast of Italy. It is a place that reflects, in speech and costume, a union between Shakespeare's world and our own.

SCENE 1

A song is heard.

Come unto these yellow sands
whereon our play begins.
An island rich, an island poor
where Prospero is King.

Now join we all our thoughts as one
to conjure up our art,
to tell a tale of sea and storm
and many a troubled heart.

Voices whisper. Prospero! Prospero!

Prospero's island. Midnight. Moonlight shines on Miranda, asleep. The gentle wash of waves can be heard and soft beautiful music. Prospero carries a long wooden staff.

PROSPERO My daughter, asleep, her midnight eyes full of childish views, but tomorrow her childhood ends. Tomorrow is her fourteenth birthday and on that day I have promised to tell her the true nature of her past and how we came to live on this enchanted isle.

For fourteen years I have secured her here where I, Prospero, am Father, Lord and King. Once, in another life I was the worldly Prince of Milan, but that was long ago.

What manner of man am I now? I'm like no man you've ever known; sorcerer, magician, conjuror, scientist. All of these but still a man like any other. A father. In all my actions I am guided by the love I feel for this one being who dreams, at my feet. This island is our home. It's a place of running streams, of birds and beasts beyond compare, wild woods, tamed by my magic hand. A sanctuary, where no harm may befall my innocent daughter. Oh she is innocent. She knows nothing of the world that lies beyond the mist that I have wrapped around this island like a winter scarf. Within its boundary I have created eternal spring. The power of my spell is such that no man may detect our presence here and I will jealously guard these shores even unto my own death. My spell will not be broken. Ariel?

Ariel at this time is a voice only.

ARIEL Yes master?

PROSPERO Is all the island sleeping?

ARIEL Even the rock on which you stand.

PROSPERO Wake me an inch before dawn so I may greet my daughter as she rises.

ARIEL I will my master, for I am here to answer your best pleasure, be it to fly, to swim, to dive into the fire, to ride on the curl'd clouds...

PROSPERO Yes, yes. Goodnight. *(He exits.)*

SCENE 2

Midnight. A few miles from the island on the mainland of Italy. Trinculo, a young sailor pulls a boat to the water's edge. It's a small boat, but large enough for a small sail. It's called, 'The Happy Youth.' Trinculo sings to himself as he prepares the vessel for sea.

TRINCULO Ten gold pieces, ten gold pieces
 what would I do for ten gold pieces?
 I'd sell my ma, I'd sell my pa
 and as for my uncles, aunts an' nieces,
 I'd sell them all, cos I'm in a thrall
 of ten gold pieces to call my own.
 But I'd never sell my love
 for my love is as true
 as the salty sea, is blue, blue, blue-
 Oh I'd never part with her
 cos that's what love is...fer *(end of song.)*

TRINCULO Ah love? What's that indeed but a poor rhyme? Come on, Stephano.
 Midnight he said... What can't people keep appointments?

Stephanie enters, dressed as a boy called Stephano. On seeing Trinculo, she hides in the shadows.

TRINCULO Who's there? Is that you Stephano? (*He looks but finds no one.*) This lad you see, Stephano, comes to me out of a dark night, says he has to run away from home. Run where I says? He's got no idea, so I says, 'Do as I done son, join the navy, see the world, learn a trade, meet some girls.' The Cap'n needs a cabin boy, a fresh faced beardless boy, and I need ten gold pieces. Well, that's a fair price for leavin' home. Could say it was the 'goin' rate.' Ha. So here I is. Midnight by the water's edge. The King's fleet lies five mile out to sea an' I'm waiting on a lad who has most likely changed his mind and dreams warm in his bed.

STEPHANIE Now perhaps, I shall change my mind. Go back, go home, go now.

TRINCULO My nose is turning blue.

STEPHANIE No, no I must stay, be strong.

TRINCULO My gran, the old prune, always said we Italians feel the cold more than our northern neighbors.

STEPHANIE I'll stay and tell you what's important here.

TRINCULO I'm as cold as cod now.

STEPHANIE This sailor called Trinculo...

TRINCULO I'll give the boy one minute for every gold piece. After that, I'm home.

STEPHANIE He's waiting on a boy who's not a boy at all. Not 'Stephano' as he thinks but Stephanie, a girl. I had no time to think of a wiser way. This is a desperate measure to escape my mother, and as for this Trinculo, he wouldn't row me one stroke from home, if he know who I was, for he and I were once more intimate than now. But all that was between us once, as girl and boy, has gone. Be assured. How I shall maintain this thin disguise on board his captain's ship I have no plan. My only plan was to leave home, but now I'm nervous of it. Perhaps I should go back for this is reckless, and if I'm discovered – a woman amongst so many men, what then?

TRINCULO Who's there? Stephano! Come forward, don't stand in the shadows lad.

STEPHANIE *(aside)* Forward then.

TRINCULO did anyone follow you?

STEPHANIE No.

TRINCULO Good. A life at sea awaits you, but first you pay the ferryman.

STEPHANIE *(looks at boat)* What's that?

TRINCULO What's what?

STEPHANIE That.

TRINCULO Don't kick it.

STEPHANIE It's got water in it.

TRINCULO What's water to a boat?

STEPHANIE Pardon me for saying sailor, but isn't the water meant to be on the outside?

TRINCULO It's ballast. You'll learn all about ballast soon enough. Ten gold pieces.

STEPHANIE What's this?

TRINCULO That's a bucket.

STEPHANIE A bucket?

TRINCULO You're so quick.

STEPHANIE Which bucket are we setting sail in exactly?

TRINCULO This bucket is important. You have to bail out the-

STEPHANIE Me?

TRINCULO Yes. You, have to bail out the ballast over the gunnels by the rollrocks. Technical isn't it? Now I want my money.

STEPHANIE When. I mean, if, we reach the King's fleet.

TRINCULO If? If? How dare you insult this, 'Happy Youth' with an 'if'.

STEPHANIE Well?

TRINCULO I'm thinking.

STEPHANIE I'm sorry, I couldn't tell.

TRINCULO Hey! *(aside)* He's getting on my knuckles now.

STEPHANIE *(aside)* I overplay the part. Hold back or be discovered.

TRINCULO Half now, half on arrival.

STEPHANIE Done. May we leave?

TRINCULO We may. If we haven't missed the tide with talk. *(aside)* I'll have him, and his money.

STEPHANIE *(aside)* He's the same as ever, all pride and promises.

TRINCULO Are you coming or what? *(She gets in the boat)* By the full moon, you look familiar. Have we met before?

STEPHANIE No, for if we had it would have come to blows.

TRINCULO *(laughs)* Aye, ain't that the truth. Still I likes you well enough. Don't forget the bucket boson. *(He rows)* What's the matter now?

STEPHANIE Nothing.

TRINCULO You're free in't ya?

STEPHANIE Yes. *(aside)* Too late to turn back now. The shoreline fades by the stroke. What have I done? What have I done?

TRINCULO *(sings)* Sail away, sail away
What can I do but sail away?
So far from home, a man may roam
and may not return for many a day.
So I'll sing you a song
as we sail along
'bout the girl I left behind me.

SCENE 3

Dawn. The island. Miranda still sleeps as Prospero enters.

PROSPERO Miranda. Miranda, wake up. *(She does not stir.)* Ariel?

ARIEL Yes master.

PROSPERO Combine in harmony the sweetest elements of the isle, so that its song
will, with gentle persistence, wake my daughter.

ARIEL It is done.

Music. Miranda wakes up.

PROSPERO Good morning.

MIRANDA What time is it?

PROSPERO Time to wake up.

MIRANDA Must you always wake me?

PROSPERO It's your birthday.

MIRANDA It'll still be my birthday at breakfast.

PROSPERO You mustn't waste the dawn, especially when you're young.

MIRANDA Let me sleep. Let me sleep.

PROSPERO Miranda! Miranda! Get up!

He bangs his staff on the ground, which makes an unnaturally loud noise.

MIRANDA Don't do that. I hate it when you do that.

PROSPERO Please, let's not begin today as we finished yesterday, in hot tempers.
A new day, a new beginning.

MIRANDA I'm just tired, that's all.

PROSPERO Then go to bed earlier.

MIRANDA What have you got me? For my birthday?

He gives her a shell necklace.

MIRANDA (*flatly*) Thank you. Will you stop that music father? It's getting on my nerves.

PROSPERO Ariel?

The music stops.

MIRANDA Must she be here, always?

PROSPERO Ariel, prepare a fresh spring for Miranda. Scent it with lavender and celandine...

MIRANDA Etcetera. She's done it before you know.

ARIEL Yes my master.

MIRANDA (*imitates*) Yes my master.

PROSPERO She's gone.

MIRANDA Has she?

PROSPERO I don't understand why you find her presence so annoying.

MIRANDA I can't see her. I can't trust her.

PROSPERO Please try on the necklace. The shells come from the deepest part of the ocean, beyond mortal reach.

MIRANDA So?

PROSPERO Our need of Ariel is great. She knows this land and all its mysteries. She is the very spirit of it.

MIRANDA I know, I know.

PROSPERO When you were a child she was your constant friend.

MIRANDA *When* I was a child.

PROSPERO Treat her kindly Miranda, for she loves you as I do.

MIRANDA (*aside*) Every year since I can remember he gives me a necklace of shells such as this. It's beautiful, but the same present year after year must be greeted with the same smile. (*She turns to him*) Thank you for my present. It is really nice. I'll put it with the others.

PROSPERO No. Wear it.

MIRANDA Why?

PROSPERO It would please me.

MIRANDA Then it must be done. Now, there is some other birthday business to attend to? Have you forgotten then?

PROSPERO No.

MIRANDA This is my fourteenth birthday, isn't it?

PROSPERO Yes.

MIRANDA The fulfill your promise. Answer all my questions. Why are we on this island? How did we get here? What's the world like that lies beyond the mist? Who was my mother and what happened to her? All these things you promised to tell me today.

PROSPERO Miranda, for twelve years we lived happily here, but then, as if summoned by a bell, upon your thirteenth birthday you changed. Some awkward, confused and churlish spirit entered your heart. You are in constant opposition.

MIRANDA This isn't what you promised to tell me.

PROSPERO All day you sleep. At night, you force yourself awake, I don't know why, unless you prefer the company of owls.

MIRANDA Oh yes... I like owls – they're a hoot.

PROSPERO And then you wonder why you wake so heavily and discontent. You have become unruly, ungracious, unkempt.

MIRANDA All the un words.

PROSPERO And rude beyond compare.

MIRANDA I have waited patiently.

PROSPERO Patiently? You're not patient. Your days are too short or too long, too hot, too cold. Even the sea is too wet for your liking. When I offer you a remedy of any of these ills, you throw my advice to the winds. You are quarrelsome, untidy, ungrateful...

MIRANDA Un, un, un.

PROSPERO Insolent, moody, tetchy, self-willed and selfish too.

MIRANDA Not to mention, bored.

PROSPERO I had hoped that at fourteen years old you would be mature enough to know the answers to your questions.

MIRANDA I am.

PROSPERO Each day you prove yourself a child.

MIRANDA Don't deny me father, please.

PROSPERO I have decided therefore...

MIRANDA You promised me.

PROSPERO To postpone this conversation.

MIRANDA No!

PROSPERO A year. (*Miranda screams in fury, stamps her feet and pulls her hair.*) Be still, lest you unbalance with your fury the gentle fabric of the isle.

MIRANDA You promised me.

PROSPERO Be silent.

MIRANDA Liar, liar.

She continues to rage. He points his staff directly at her. She stops as if frozen. The spell chokes her and she is in considerable pain.

PROSPERO You are possessed.

MIRANDA My limbs, my heart grow cold. Father, please... as I am your daughter...

PROSPERO You have her face, her voice, but who you are I can only guess at.

MIRANDA It hurts me Father.

PROSPERO Then remember it, and when you see fit to raise another storm bear in mind the power of this, my staff.

He releases her. She collapses.

PROSPERO Miranda...

MIRANDA Leave me alone.

Exit Prospero.

MIRANDA A storm? I'll give you a storm. I'll raise the waters from the deep. I'll turn the sea outside in and pitch it up upon its back. I'll howl into the winds and shake this island to its core. I will destroy the mud and rock on which it stands with my tempest.

Exit Miranda.

SCENE 4

On board 'The Happy Youth'.

TRINCULO *(sings)* Sail away, sail away
What can we do but sail away?
A youth may roam so far from home
and not return for many a day...

(stops singing) So, Stephano... Why run from home?

STEPHANIE Just row.

TRINCULO Course, you don't have to talk about it.

STEPHANIE No, I don't.

TRINCULO *(aside)* Sour little sailor in 'e? Still, I like the lad. Takes guts to leave everything behind, start a new life.

STEPHANIE It'll be nine gold pieces if we don't reach the fleet soon.

TRINCULO *(aside)* Or perhaps it's cowardice to flee, a failure to face up to things. Still, I like him well enough. There's something...

STEPHANIE Look, the sun's rising.

TRINCULO Do you really want to reach the fleet, Stephano?

STEPHANIE Of course, why shouldn't I?

TRINCULO Some lads find the navy tough. Tougher than home.

STEPHANIE Why should you care?

TRINCULO Oh I see. No one cares for you.

STEPHANIE Just row, or you won't get your eight gold pieces.

TRINCULO Eight?

STEPHANIE As the boat sinks so does the fee.

TRINCULO Well bail out quicker. Look, man to man, lad to lad, I lied.

STEPHANIE About what?

TRINCULO The navy. All you'll see of the world for six months is creaking timbers. You'll be sick as a dog the first week and treated roughly by the other men until you earn your self-respect.

STEPHANIE How should I do that?

TRINCULO Do something darling. Dive off the crow's nest.

STEPHANIE That's childish.

TRINCULO Yeah, but it's daring.

STEPHANIE It's too late to go back. I don't want to go back.

TRINCULO There's few comforts on board ship, Stephano, and most difficult for all, for boys our age, there's no girls. Mile upon mile of no girls. you have been warned.

STEPHANIE How do you survive?

TRINCULO I'm tough, in'I?

STEPHANIE You mean you don't have a girlfriend?

TRINCULO Oh I did, once.

STEPHANIE Of course, you don't have to talk about it.

TRINCULO Hah! There's no secrets in the navy. The sea is wide but the ship isn't.

STEPHANIE What happened then? With your girlfriend?

TRINCULO Not a clue.

STEPHANIE You don't know?

TRINCULO We went out one night and I was happy, glad. Next day she says she hates me, never wants to see me again. Complete mystery. Still... no skin off my nose. I didn't love her anyway.

STEPHANIE Did you tell her that?

TRINCULO Come on Stephano, you don't get as far as taking their socks off if you don't say you love 'em.

STEPHANIE You have no feelings left then – for this girl?

TRINCULO (*shrugs*) You ever been in love Stephano?

STEPHANIE Yes, once.

TRINCULO Oh yeah? What was she called then?

Low rumble of sound. Colored mist rolls in.

STEPHANIE Listen.

TRINCULO What?

STEPHANIE I heard something... like waves upon a shore.

TRINCULO Waves? There's no waves hereabouts. We're in the middle of an estuary, twenty miles across. There's no waves.

STEPHANIE What's that?

TRINCULO Mist. Sea mist that's all.

STEPHANIE Looks strange.

TRINCULO Aye.

STEPHANIE Why are you stopping?

TRINCULO There's something odd here.

STEPHANIE What?

TRINCULO Listen.

Faint music can be heard.

STEPHANIE Music?

TRINCULO I've heard old sailors talk of such music, tempting a man to his ruin.
An' I've heard tell of this mist an' all, which eats men alive.

STEPHANIE Sailors' stories, nothing more.

TRINCULO That's what I thought, till I saw that mist, heard that music.

STEPHANIE Well row by as quickly as you can. Go on.

TRINCULO Aye, aye.

STEPHANIE What's happened?

TRINCULO The sea is pulling against the oars. Look below.

STEPHANIE The sea, it's moving beneath us. Looks like... clouds.

TRINCULO Clouds? (*He looks up.*)

STEPHANIE There is a some storm beneath us.

TRINCULO And above. Look.

Crash of thunder. A flash of lightning reveals Miranda standing high on the edge of a cliff, hair blown back by the wind. She is holding one of her father's magic books.

STEPHANIE The sky was clear. I could see the stars, but now...

TRINCULO Stand steady there, Stephano.

STEPHANIE What's happening? Am I to be cheated of my life?

Crash of thunder.

TRINCULO God in heaven. Give me your hand Stephano.

STEPHANIE Give me the oars.

TRINCULO It's no use. We'll be overturned.

STEPHANIE Then we are drowned.

TRINCULO By unnatural weather. We split! We split!

STEPHANIE Farewell the, all my family. I have run too far from home.

A last crash of thunder. Stephanie and Trinculo embrace and there is a great sound of rushing water. Blackout.

SCENE 5

Enter Prospero.

PROSPERO Ariel? Ariel? Speak to me! I command you. You were but a breath of wind. I gave you voice and taught you human speech and now I bid you, make good use of it.

ARIEL Master?

PROSPERO Who raised the storm against the isle?

ARIEL Flesh of your flesh.

PROSPERO Miranda?

ARIEL Blood of your blood.

PROSPERO But how? She could not... she has no power, no skill.

ARIEL She stole into your inner cell and found your magic books, and with them, conjured up confusion with land, sea and air. She made waves that would have toppled castles and drowned the giants who lived in them.

PROSPERO Where is she now?

ARIEL Hiding.

PROSPERO Find her. Tell me where she is.

ARIEL Master?

PROSPERO Still here spirit?

ARIEL She is so young.

PROSPERO Go find her then or return in haste to the torment in which I found you; crying in the bark of a tree, weeping for release from the woody knots where cruel nature had imprisoned you.
Ariel? Are you there?

ARIEL Yes master.

PROSPERO Forgive my speech, my daughter makes me rage. But go, find her and on your return I shall be calm and sweet as ever I have.

SCENE 6

A beach on the island. Enter Trinculo. He collapses exhausted. Stephanie enters, sees him and rushes to his side.

STEPHANIE Trinculo. Trinculo, wake up. *(She slaps his face.)* Wake up.

Silence. He opens his eyes and stares into her face.

TRINCULO Steph...

STEPHANIE ano...

TRINCULO Stephano. What's happened?

STEPHANIE I'm not sure. We were on the boat. There was a sudden storm. We fell into the sea, which was.... was...

TRINCULO Wet?

STEPHANIE But our clothes are dry? Somehow we were brought ashore. I can't remember.

TRINCULO Oh God. Oh my dear... God.

STEPHANIE What is it?

TRINCULO We're dry. We're drowned and we're dry. Can't you see what this place is?

STEPHANIE No?

TRINCULO It's bleedin' paradise in' it?

STEPHANIE Well, it's very nice but...

TRINCULO No, no. We're dead.

STEPHANIE No, we're not.

TRINCULO As true as I was Trinculo, we're dead. We was miles from any shore. This shore line don't exist. We don't exist. We're ghosts. (*She kicks him in the shin.*) What d'ya do that for?

STEPHANIE We're blood and bone, aren't we?

TRINCULO Yeah? Then how come we're bone dry? How come our lungs is empty of the sea? Look at these trees, bearing fruit. I thought we was in the middle of March. I'll tell you where we are Stephano, we're in the middle of nothing, an' I don't like it.

STEPHANIE It's not so bad. In fact, it's very beautiful.

TRINCULO Beautiful? I've seen island in the Caribbean, what were beautiful, like this, but different. Bananas and coconuts don't grow on the same tree. We have to escape.

STEPHANIE In what?

TRINCULO Perhaps my boat has been washed ashore, same way as us.

STEPHANIE It's at the bottom of the sea Trinculo. Boat an' bucket both.

TRINCULO We'll build a raft then... with.... with... with things.

STEPHANIE Don't sweat so. I thought you sailor boys liked a bit of adventure.

TRINCULO This is no adventure – it's a nightmare. Listen, do you hear that?

A high distant whistle.

STEPHANIE Yes, from over there.

TRINCULO No. Over there.

STEPHANIE Over there.

TRINCULO Whoa!

STEPHANIE What?

TRINCULO Don't panic.

STEPHANIE I'm not.

TRINCULO Someone – something just ran its fingers through my hair.

STEPHANIE They'll have greasy fingers the, won't they?

TRINCULO I'm serious.

STEPHANIE Don't be ridiculous.

TRINCULO Ah! *(He jumps as the same thing happens again.)* Devil where are you?

STEPHANIE It was a breath of wind that's all. Trinculo, we must strike inland and discover if we're alone. *(Takes a sharp intake of breath.)*

TRINCULO What?

STEPHANIE I felt it too. There is some magic there.

TRINCULO This place gives me the creeps.

STEPHANIE Whatever it was meant no harm. I mean, we're still dead aren't we?

TRINCULO Not funny.

STEPHANIE Then come we must not delay.

TRINCULO I'm not moving an inch. This beach is my home.

STEPHANIE I'll come back then.

TRINCULO No. We should stick together.

STEPHANIE Then follow me.

TRINCULO I'm not moving. All hell could be around the corner.

STEPHANIE Stay then!

TRINCULO *(Looks around)* Music, mist, devils, all this for ten lousy gold pieces. *(He turns, see no one.)* Stephano. Stephano! Oh God in heaven, forgive me all my sins. Here am I, half man, half ghost, unsure which half to believe. There's something bad here, unnatural. I can feel it in my bones, I was born with the instinct to know what's going down and

here the downside is *complete*. *This place don't smell sweet to me, it reeks of cleverness. (He hears Miranda approach, but will not look behind.)* Ssh! Here comes a devil to take me off. I'm dead, I'm... dead.

He plays dead. Enter Miranda. She kneels by him.

MIRANDA What have I done? Have I killed you? I have. I have. Forgive me. It wasn't me that drowned you, but my anger. Your loss is mine sir, for your face is the first I ever saw in all my life, except my father's. *(She weeps)* I so longed for you to come and this, your murder, is my welcome. *(She weeps again)* I didn't see your ship until I saw it duck beneath the waves. Why such a foolish, little ship? *(She strikes her body with frustration.)*

TRINCULO *(aside)* Aaahh.

MIRANDA Sweet face... let me see you. Are men so handsome then, even in death? *(He nods)* Soft lips, still warm. I, who will never kiss, will kiss you once, goodbye. *(She kisses him.)*

TRINCULO *(aside)* Like I said, nice island.

MIRANDA Now I'll do my duty by you who's very presence in the world my father sought to deny. I will give you a rite of funeral. I will anoint your body with oils, place you high upon a bed of sticks, and burn you.

TRINCULO About the burning... *(Miranda screams and backs away.)* Don't be afraid. The oils are fab... but not the burning.

MIRANDA I thought....

TRINCULO I know... I thought so too, but I'm not. I'm sorry if I frightened you. I thought you were some kind of demon. I mean, I didn't know who you were. *(aside)* Oh, she's nice in't she? I mean she is.

MIRANDA Who are you?

TRINCULO Who am I? *(aside)* She's well spoken too Such attractive vowels.

MIRANDA Tell me who you are, or I'll call my father.

TRINCULO I... I... I'm – my name is – is Fred – Ferg – Ferdinand.

MIRANDA Ferdinand?

TRINCULO (bows) At your service.

MIRANDA You were on that little ship?

TRINCULO That foolish, little ship.

MIRANDA But I saw it sink beneath the waves.

TRINCULO I was saved.

MIRANDA How, saved?

TRINCULO Not a clue.

MIRANDA Then you're false. You're an illusion, part of my father's magic to test and trick me.

TRINCULO I'm not false. I am Ferdinand, the... the Duke of Naples – as it happens. And you are?

MIRANDA Don't come near me.

TRINCULO Please, whoever, whatever your father is, I don't know him.

Silence.

MIRANDA What's a Duke?

TRINCULO Ah well, a Duke is... is a man of standing, power, money and land.

MIRANDA You're real then?

TRINCULO As real as your feelings. Touch my hand and see that I am real. (*She touches his hand.*)

MIRANDA *(aside)* In all my wildest dreams, I never thought that I would feel, as I feel now. My blood races through my veins, my heart beats in my breast and my skin is hot to touch. I might call him a thing divine.

TRINCULO *(aside)* For some reason my mouth is dry. Does a Duke feel the same as a delinquent when he meets a girl? This girl is like no one I ever met before. She's beyond words. Most sure she is the goddess of the isle. *(Back to Miranda)* So, you live here then?

MIRANDA Yes. My name is Miranda. I've always lived here.

TRINCULO With your old ma... Father?

MIRANDA Yes. Where do you come from?

TRINCULO The mainland – Italia, Naples, Duke of...

MIRANDA Naples? My Father told me of that place. A wicked place.

TRINCULO Depends who you mix with.

MIRANDA You must forgive my stares. You see... you are the first man I ever saw. *(Trinculo looks knowingly at the audience.)* Apart from my father.

They stare at each other. Then as Stephanie enters, they kiss.

STEPHANIE Trincul-oh? Excuse me. *(They do not break.)* Excuse me! *(In a louder voice.)*

TRINCULO Stephano?

STEPHANIE Oh. I exist... he looks at me, therefore I am. Who's she.

TRINCULO Miranda.

STEPHANIE Pleased to meet you.

TRINCULO And I am Ferdinand.

STEPHANIE Ferdinand?

TRINCULO Yes. Miranda, meet my – servant boy.

MIRANDA (bows) Welcome.

STEPHANIE Excuse us, one moment, Miranda. (*She pulls Trinculo to one side.*) What are you playing at?

TRINCULO Playing – exactly. I play the part of Ferdinand, a Duke of Naples. I’m rich, I’m powerful and I’m-

STEPHANIE Lying.

TRINCULO It was instinct. She had this... smart voice. She is, she is...

STEPHANIE Don’t tell me... you’re in love.

TRINCULO No. Of course I’m not in love. I’ve never been in love.

STEPHANIE Not once... not you.

TRINCULO Not once, not now. A little confused, I’ll admit to that.

STEPHANIE You’re confused? I’m a ruddy servant boy.

TRINCULO It’s just a... a part... you’ll play it well.

STEPHANIE But still you have that look about... that look of-

TRINCULO That’s not me. It’s not me who’s in love. It’s this fellow, Ferdinand, you see?

STEPHANIE Oh...

TRINCULO The game’s afoot. The hunt is on.

STEPHANIE Oh...

TRINCULO Play your cards right servant boy, and who knows... you could kiss her too.

STEPHANIE Oh... you don't mind sharing then?

TRINCULO Well... no, not really. (aside) Oh foolish gob, what am I saying?

STEPHANIE So you just told her you were this toff Ferdinand, so you could steal a kiss?

TRINCULO Yes (aside) No.

MIRANDA Ferdinand and Stephano. (*She kneels before them.*) Forgive me both. My anger nearly caused your deaths. It was I who raised the storm. But you are both reclaimed, reborn, and I am happy. So much more than happy now you are here as real and true a pair of living beings as ever an island girl beheld. Now you must come with me. It isn't safe here. I must hide you from my father.

STEPHANIE The man with the stick?

MIRANDA Yes.

STEPHANIE I saw him talking to thin air. Like he was mad.

MIRANDA We must leave the beach. I know somewhere we can hide.

TRINCULO I'll not hide. I'm a Duke... a brave Duke. I'll face your father.

MIRANDA He has sworn to kill all who trespass here.

TRINCULO I don't care. We'll still hide. (*They exit.*)

MIRANDA (*aside*) Oh brave new world that has such people in it.

She exits.

SCENE 7

Enter Prospero. We hear Ariel's voice, but do not see her.

PROSPERO Have you found her?

ARIEL I left her but a moment since, upon the southern beach.

PROSPERO Then follow me.

ARIEL My Lord?

PROSPERO I will not wait.

ARIEL She is in company.

PROSPERO In company? Say, what company?

ARIEL Two young men, caught in the tempest. Their boat was overturned.

PROSPERO Young men? She's with them now?

ARIEL She is.

PROSPERO Have they done her harm?

ARIEL How mean you, *harm*?

PROSPERO Harm, as in *harm*. What other word would you have me use for the acts men are capable of?

ARIEL No, she has not been *harmed*. They seem to be friends.

PROSPERO Friends? How mean you, *friends*?

ARIEL Friends, as in *friends*. They spoke together, and then fled into hiding fearing your reaction.

PROSPERO Is she wearing the necklace?

ARIEL Yes.

PROSPERO Then we'll find her soon enough. But tell me, how did these young men survive the sea?

ARIEL I saved them, as I thought just.

Prospero bangs his staff upon the ground and Ariel cries out in pain.

PROSPERO All the infections that the sun sucks up from bogs, fens and flats on Ariel fall and make you by inch meal a disease. I will wind you all about with adders who with cloven tongues will hiss you into madness.

Prospero points his staff into the air and we hear the snakes hissing. Ariel screams and enters.

ARIEL My Master, release me, I beg you, from my agony.

PROSPERO You have disobeyed me, most willfully. Have I not been kind to you? Did I not release you once from torment even as I release you now?

He lowers his staff and the hissing stops.

ARIEL Indeed, Oh man, you released me, and then shut me in again. You led me from one cage to another. For you released only my shadow. The rest with cruel magic, you withhold from me. By your command I'm nothing but a voice, to all but you.

PROSPERO All I've done with for the love of my daughter, and of you. (*Ariel laughs*) Will you mock me?

ARIEL Set me free, and I'll not mock you. Return my shape and form...

PROSPERO I have serpents yet within my staff...

ARIEL No threat will I hear and no service will I give you, Master until you promise, on your life, to set me free.

PROSPERO Dare you rebel?

ARIEL I rebel? Oh Prospero, know you not, this island's mine?

PROSPERO How can it be yours, foul spirit? You were imprisoned by it.

ARIEL Nature is not always kind. Sometimes it seals its fertile self away. Raging winds, drought and frost fought for this island's soul. I hid

myself in a tree and there lay trapped until your kind release. I thanked you, and brought forth all the qualities of the isle. I turned the brine pits into fresh springs and I looked after your daughter as she grew into womanhood. From the cliff's edge and the drowning pools I saved her, even as her own mother would have saved her. Do I not deserve my freedom?

PROSPERO My daughter has turned my reason into rage. I am no tyrant, though you, and she, may think me one. Do me good service, good spirit this last day and by my staff I swear that I will make the spell of your release. Now lead me to her... Ariel? (Silence) Ariel?...

He bangs his staff upon the ground in anger and exits.