



TOYS



Words and Music Cenarth Fox

This is a preview script. The complete package including the music is
available from Fox Plays



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Orchestrations & CD

Toys is scored for piano, guitar, bass, percussion, drum-kit, flutes, clarinets, saxophones, trumpets and trombones. These band parts will give your production a real boost and are for hire. There is also a marvellous CD with all the music. There is an instrumental rehearse version and a full band perform version.

Production Package

Groups staging a FOX PLAYS show receive support in the form of free production notes (set-design, costumes, lighting, props, etc) and with musicals, a free set of all the lyrics for chorus members. There is also a video/DVD of the show plus some colour photos.

Illustrations

The art-work of the toys is by Roger Stephen

Some reviews of TOYS

In pure entertainment terms *Toys* is hard to beat. It was a high energy, fast-paced production and the obvious enjoyment of the actors proved infectious to its appreciative opening night audience. Fine, family entertainment. **South Grafton HS**

There is always something delightful about a group of performers who obviously enjoy acting as much as the audience likes watching. *Toys* is a treat for young and old alike. *Toys* is a show not to be missed.

Shepparton Theatre Arts Company

Another successful production thanks to the script! *Toys* went extremely well. “The best ever” was one comment. Thanks again for a great show.

Singleton PS

A lot of fun with some serious messages, *Toys* tackles issues of prejudice, justice, love and life.

Methodist Ladies College

A highly entertaining production with an underlying message of care and co-operation. Audiences were delighted by the witty script and the singing and dancing. *Toys* is a visual delight that captured audiences of all ages.

KooWeeRup HS

This enchanting musical is truly a family show. It operates on different levels with entrancing entertainment for children but many serious and topical issues for adults.

Alpha Theatre

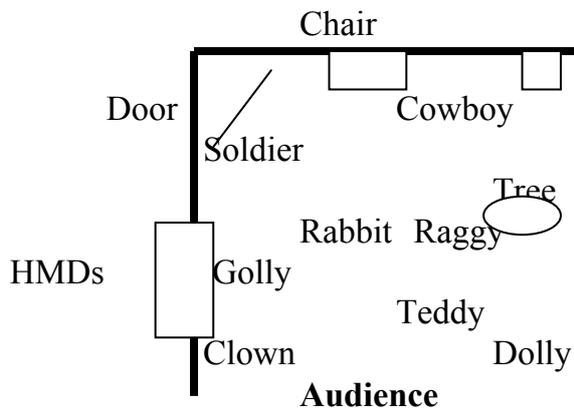
A wonderful musical, our best ever production. **Port Pirie Youth Theatre**



2 TOYS

Setting

A lounge-room on Christmas Eve. Santa has just delivered many beautiful presents which are placed around the room. But these are no ordinary presents. Everything is huge. There's a sentry-box for Soldier, a pretty box for Dolly, a colourful box for Clown, some human's pencils, a large toy-box for the old toys and lots more. Several small (and solid) presents are placed around the tub holding the giant Christmas tree. The trunk soars up through the stage roof. A huge human's chair is upstage. Cowboy is propped on the huge chair. Your set could look like this.



Characters

Ted E. Bear - aggressive, bossy, prejudiced, brave, respected, fallible

Cowboy - honest, genuine, coward, heart-of-gold, easily led, friendly

Rabbit - nervous, easily scared, needs friends, timid, shy

Golly - kind, diligent, sincere, likes Raggy, stands up for himself

Dolly - fuss-pot, selfish, self-centred, snobbish, speaks her mind

Clown - practical-joker, always joking, silly, loves games

Soldier - a bit boring, too straight, NCO status, plays it by the book

Raggy - cheerful, friendly, cares for others, likes Golly

Floppy - a hand-me-down Raggy

Moppy - a hand-me-down Golly

Sloppy - a hand-me-down Dolly

Hoppy - a hand-me-down Rabbit

Whoppy - a hand-me-down Clown

Soldiers - small group like Soldier but with different coloured sash

Cowboys & Cowgirls - small group in Western garb [*Annie Oakley & Wyatt Earp*]

Indians - small group of Red Indians

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Musical Numbers

1.	Overture	Orchestra
2.	Toys	Principals
3.	Escape	Principals
4.	Entrance of the Toy Soldiers	Orchestra
5.	Saloon-Bar Rag	Orchestra
6.	Toys (Reprise)	Company
7.	Dear Santa	Raggy
8.	It's What's Inside	Company
9.	It's What's Inside (Interlude)	Orchestra
10.	It's What's Inside (Reprise)	Company
11.	Good Lookin'	Dolly, Ted, Cowboy & Soldier
12.	My Heart's In The Right Place	Hand-Me-Downs
13.	Entr'acte	Orchestra
14.	Execution	Orchestra
15.	Forgive and Forget	Company
16.	I'm Sure of You	Raggy and Golly
17.	Have A Go	Company
18.	Curtain Calls	Company
19.	Playout	Company

No. 1 - Overture

(The curtain rises. The lights come up. It's Christmas Eve. Santa has delivered several beautiful presents. We can only just see them. The room is dimly lit. Moonlight streams in from a window. The TOYS are still. They wear large name-tags [gift-tags] and when removed, indicate the toy is now alive. Silence. Stillness. Pause. Without moving, TEDDY speaks in a loud whisper)

Teddy Cowboy? Cowboy? Can you hear me?

(TEDDY removes his tag and comes alive. He can't find COWBOY and the darkness confuses him. He moves to DOLLY by mistake and whispers as he unties her tag)

Teddy I thought Cowboys knew all about ropes and things. If I have to help you with ... *(DOLLY comes alive, pops forward and fusses)* Dolly!

Dolly Keep away. Don't touch me. Ohh. *(She fusses over her hair etc)*

Teddy Be quiet. I'm looking for Cowboy.

Dolly Is my ribbon straight? What about my bow? I need a mirror.
(DOLLY looks for mirror, TEDDY looks for COWBOY but "finds" GOLLY. TEDDY begins to remove GOLLY'S tag but is interrupted by a curious DOLLY)

Dolly What are you doing, Teddy?

Teddy *(Keeps working)* Mind your own business.

Dolly *(Annoyed)* You can't undo presents. Stop that at once!

Teddy *(Almost there)* I have to find Cowboy and ... *(GOLLY comes alive)* Golly!

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- Golly** *(Full of beans)* Hi ya Ted ol' toy. What's happnin'? I know. We're havin' a party.
- Teddy** *(Mild panic)* Be quiet. There's no party.
- Golly** Great idea. A Christmas party for all the toys. *(Tells the world)* I love part ... *(A furious TEDDY gags GOLLY)*
- Teddy** *(Hisses at scared GOLLY)* I'm looking for Cowboy.
- Golly** *(Released. Whispers)* Oh I get it. A party for Cowboy.
- Teddy** *(Explodes)* No! Will you shut up, you *stupid* toy! *(DOLLY/GOLLY shocked)*
- Dolly** *(Furious)* Teddy! How *dare* you speak like that!
- Teddy** I'll speak how I like. *(Points at GOLLY)* Especially to him!
- Soldier** *(Undoing his tag)* I say! *(TRIO turn)* Any trouble over there?
- Teddy** Soldier! *(SOLDIER comes down, GOLLY greets him)*
- Golly** No trouble Mister Soldier, *(Salutes)* sir. Just a li'l ol' party.
- Clown** *(Pops out of box)* Party! I love parties! *(TEDDY despairs)*
- Soldier** I'll get the lights.
(SOLDIER moves to light-switch. He must stand on a present. It may take time)
- Teddy** *(Shaking)* Please, please. There is no party!
- Clown** *(At TEDDY)* Who's it for?
- Teddy** No-one. There's no party!
- Dolly** Yes there is. It's for Cowboy.
- Clown** Yippee! Let's go and find him.
(GOLLY, DOLLY and CLOWN are excited. They move to RAGGY and remove her tag. TEDDY non-plussed, shakes with despair. Full, bright lights come up. TEDDY more agitated. SOLDIER re-joins the party)
- Golly** *(As RAGGY comes alive)* Raggy!
- Raggy** Oh. Hello Golly and ... *(Sees the OTHERS)* my, what's happened?
- Clown** We're having a party for Cowboy. Come and help us find him. *(Excited, RAGGY joins OTHERS crowding round RABBIT. They work on the tag)*
- Teddy** You're making a terrible mistake. If you don't stop now, I'll ...
(OTHERS call "Surprise". RABBIT gets a fright and scampers upstage. GOLLY goes after RABBIT. The OTHERS think it's funny but TEDDY is fuming)
- Teddy** See what you've done. You've frightened Rabbit. You bullies.
- Golly** *(Bringing RABBIT back)* It's okay, Rabbit, it's okay. Just relax.
- Rabbit** I'm scared. Please don't frighten me, I scare very easily.
- Raggy** *(Comforts RABBIT)* Sorry Rabbit. We didn't mean any harm.
- Soldier** I'll protect you.
- Clown** *(Excited, bubbling)* And wait'll you hear our news.
- Teddy** Don't listen to them. They should be back as presents.
- Soldier** Well how come you're out?
- Dolly** He's looking for Cowboy.
- Clown** That's right. It's Cowboy's birthday. *(OTHERS excited)*

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Teddy *(Angry)* It's not Cowboy's birthday!
Cowboy *(Removing tag)* Somebody lookin' fur me? *(EVERYONE turns)*
Toys *(Huge surprise)* Cowboy!
Teddy *(At last)* There you are. *(COWBOY comes down)*
Cowboy What's all the noise about pardners?
Raggy *(Hugging him)* Happy birthday, Cowboy. *(OTHERS crowd round)*
Cowboy Hey, hey, hold y'horses. Mighty kind of y'all but there's somethin' real important y'oughta know. *(Pause)* It ain't me birthday. *(TOYS groan with disappointment. TEDDY seizes the opportunity)*
Teddy See, I told you.
Clown *(Mortified)* But I love parties. Please Cowboy, say it's your birthday.
Cowboy Y'want me t'tell a fib? *(TOYS shake heads and say "No")*
Golly *(Breaks the gloom)* Birthday or not, Cowboy, would y'like a party?
Cowboy *(He'd love a party)* Y'darn tootin' I would. *(TOYS excited again)*
Teddy *(Re-panics)* But if you have a party, you'll wake the humans. *(TOYS laugh at TEDDY. Every TOY knows that humans can't hear toys talk)*
Soldier Come on Ted, you know better than that.
Golly You know humans can't hear toys.
Teddy *(Straw-clutching)* But we don't need a party.
Clown Who cares? Let's just have one. *(TOYS excited. TEDDY calls)*
Teddy You can't have a party without a reason. *(TOYS saddened. Pause)*
Rabbit There is a reason. It's Christmas Eve. *(TOYS delighted)*
Golly Hands up those who want a party? *(TOYS raise hands, RABBIT two. TEDDY does nothing)* Against? *(TEDDY raises a hand and is heckled)*
Raggy Come on Teddy, don't spoil it.
Rabbit Please Teddy.
Teddy *(Pause)* I'll have to think about it. *(Sigh from OTHERS. TEDDY wanders DL thinking)* If we have a party, you've got to let me sing.
Golly *(Thrilled)* Of course Teddy. Everyone can sing!
Teddy *(Pause. Smiles)* Okay, *(Loud)* let's sing! *(MUSIC BEGINS. EVERYONE cheers)*

No. 2 Toys

Principals *We're toys who love to play and do so while we may
Though night time is the right time when the humans go away.
To play is such a breeze, we love to trick and tease
Though many humans, any humans always make us freeze.
(TOYS freeze. TEDDY moves about assuring them everything's okay)*
Teddy It's okay. We're safe. The humans are all asleep.
Principals *We toys have joys that no humans know about
Tis fun to run*
Teddy *Hey, you wanna hear me shout?*

TOYS 6

- Principals** *It's great when late, try dancing around the floor*
- Teddy** *Look out! Look out! There are humans at the door!*
(TOYS panic and scatter. TEDDY points at them and laughs)
- Teddy** *Tricked you. Tricked you. Only joking. Ha, ha. (etc)*
- Toys** *(Recovering) Oh Teddy ... That's not funny ... Trickster ... (etc)*
- Principals** *We're toys who love to play and do so while we may*
Though night time is the right time when the humans go away.
To play is such a breeze, we love to trick and tease
Though many humans, any humans always make us freeze.
(As before, the TOYS freeze. COWBOY moves around telling them it's okay)
- Cowboy** *Relax pardners. This is your friendly sheriff speakin'. Relax.*
- Principals** *Oh me, oh my, we love doing what we do*
Right now and how, I like it here with you.
Just smile and sing, there's nothing you have to hide
- Cowboy** *Look out! That shout! There's somebody outside.*
(TOYS panic and scatter. COWBOY points at them and laughs)
- Cowboy** *Hey, hey. Tricked y'all, pardners. I was only kiddin'. (etc)*
- Toys** *(Recovering) Oh, Cowboy ... Smarty-pants ... I'll fix you ... (etc)*
- Principals** *We're toys who love to play*
We are the toys, we are the toys,
We are the toys, we are the toys (Repeat)
The toys, the toys, we are the toys. We are the toys.
- (EVERYONE collapses. The song was fun but hard work. They're happy)*
- Golly** *Gosh dat was fun. What d'ya say, toys? (Happy agreement)*
- Raggy** *(Thrilled) Aren't you glad we did it, Teddy?*
- Teddy** *(Begrudgingly) Yeah. I guess it was okay.*
- Clown** *(Sings this line a la opera) Wah! I love singing. (Laughter)*
- Rabbit** *You know, I'm not frightened anymore. (RABBIT congratulated)*
- Soldier** *Merry Christmas, everyone.*
- Toys** *(Lots of happiness) Merry Christmas!*
- Teddy** *(Stretches) Time to be presents again. I'll fix your tag, Dolly.*
- Dolly** *(Fussing) Oh all right, but be careful. (TOYS replace tags)*
- Rabbit** *Can't we play another game?*
- Golly** *Not now, Rabbit. The humans'll be here soon. (TOYS return to places)*
- Teddy** *(Helping DOLLY) We'll play again tomorrow night.*
- Clown** *But we won't be presents then.*
- Dolly** *I'll have my own doll's house with my own special bed.*
- Cowboy** *(Innocent enthusiasm) Gee willikers, any room fur me?*
- Dolly** *(Snaps) Certainly not. (Carries on showing-off) I'll have my own bath, my own vanity, my own mirror, my own everything!*
- Raggy** *But no-one to play with.*

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- Dolly** So? Who cares? Anyway, your games are silly. *(TOYS protest)*
- Soldier** I saw you singing before, Dolly. *(OTHERS agree)*
- Teddy** *(Interrupting)* All right, time for tags. Come on. Everyone make yourself a present. *(TOYS reluctantly put final touches to themselves as presents)*
- Cowboy** *(Crossing to TEDDY)* Say Ted, her special bed sounds mighty fine.
- Teddy** *(Pushing him)* Get back to your place. And be quiet. *(Looks around then whispers)* This time, be ready.
- Cowboy** Be ready? *(TEDDY shushes him. COWBOY whispers)* Oh, right. Gotcha. *(TEDDY creeps around checking TOYS. Each says "Goodnight"/ "Merry Christmas" repeated by an impatient TEDDY. He waves a paw in front of some to make sure they're a present. Satisfied, he beckons to COWBOY who tip-toes over, stumbles and is grabbed by TEDDY)*
- Teddy** *(Panic whisper)* You crazy galoot!
- Cowboy** Sorry, Ted. Guess I tripped. *(GOLLY sighs. COWBOY grabs TEDDY in fear)* What was that?
- Teddy** Golly, stupid. Now stay here. *(TEDDY creeps over to GOLLY)*
- Cowboy** *(Whispers)* What's happenin'? *(TEDDY returns fuming)*
- Teddy** Will you be quiet? *(COWBOY speechless)* We can't afford another mistake. Right, they're all presents. Come on, it's now or never. *(TEDDY sets off creeping DL. COWBOY hasn't moved. Pause. COWBOY calls)*
- Cowboy** *(Whispers)* Ted. *(TEDDY turns and fumes)*
- Teddy** *(Furious whisper)* What now?
- Cowboy** I furgot m'lasso.
- Teddy** Leave it. Just get moving.
- Cowboy** I can't leave m'lasso, Ted. I feel kinda ... undressed.
- Teddy** All right, all right. But hurry up! *(COWBOY creeps back to his spot and looks for the lasso. He holds it aloft)*
- Cowboy** Here it is, Ted.
- Teddy** Good. I might need it to string you up. *(COWBOY with lasso creeps to TEDDY. As he passes RABBIT, GOLLY sighs again, COWBOY draws his gun and spins around. RABBIT comes alive and sees gun. RABBIT mimes a scream and sets off upstage like a frightened human - again. TEDDY goes after her)*
- Rabbit** *(Mutters away)* I'm frightened, I'm frightened. Please don't hurt me. Please don't ... *(Continues)*
- Teddy** It's okay Rabbit. *(RABBIT babbles away)* Please Rabbit. Please be quiet. *(RABBIT keeps babbling. TEDDY panics and screams)* Rabbit! *(This blast turns RABBIT to stone, mesmerizes COWBOY and wakes the TOYS. They come alive and remove their tags. What's going on?)*
- Toys** What's going on? ...What was that? ... etc
- Teddy** Please be quiet, Rabbit. Cowboy and I are trying to escape.
- Rabbit** *(At the top of her voice)* Escape! *(The TOYS - not COWBOY & TEDDY - whisper "Escape" one after another. The word races around the room. TEDDY turns to see EVERYONE up and about. He's flustered. He moves to them. MUSIC BEGINS)*

Teddy No, it's not true. We're only playing a game! No! Please!

No. 3 Escape

Principals *Teddy, no, no Teddy, Teddy no. Teddy, no, no Teddy, Teddy no.*

Teddy *I can go where I want to go.*

You can't make me stay here and so.

Principals *Don't start that old story again the plot's so thin*

Don't fight us or we'll fight you and you know we'll win.

Teddy *Why pick on me, why pick on me?*

Leave me alone just let me be.

Principals *You did all this you crept out and made us look fools*

Now you try to run off and break all Santa's rules.

Teddy, no, no, Teddy, no, no.

Teddy, no, no, Teddy, no, no. Teddy no!

(COWBOY could join the TOYS in this song in condemning TEDDY only because he's stupid and doesn't know better. However, once song ends, TEDDY and COWBOY are surrounded and bombarded with questions from some very angry TOYS. Don't pause for applause)

Golly Escape Teddy!

Soldier Whose orders?

Clown Not funny.

Raggy Why Teddy?

Dolly How awful!

Rabbit Escape Teddy?

Toys Escape Teddy? *(Louder)* Escape Teddy?

(TEDDY rises. Attack is the best form of defence. He is fierce and angry)

Teddy Yes, escape, escape, escape! *(TOYS are frightened. Pause)*

Rabbit I'm getting frightened again. *(TOYS regain composure)*

Golly Toys can't escape, Teddy. They have to stay with humans.

Teddy Well I'm different.

Soldier If Santa finds out, you'll be in serious trouble.

Dolly I'm going to tell, Santa. I'm going to dob you in. *(She would too)*

Teddy *(Sarcastic)* Good one, Dolly. First you have to escape and that's illegal!

Raggy I think you owe us an explanation, Teddy. *(OTHERS agree)*

Teddy I owe you nothing. Now clear off. Cowboy and I are going to escape.

(OTHERS murmur "Cowboy" and all turn to him)

Cowboy *(Reluctant)* Ah ... I ain't goin', Ted.

Teddy *(Fuming with disbelief and anger)* What?!

Cowboy I changed me mind. I don't wanna excape. *(Sic)*

Teddy All right you stuffingless cowboy, I'll escape by myself.

Soldier *(Grabs TEDDY who struggles)* No Ted, we won't let you.

Teddy Let me go! Take your paws me this instant! *(GOLLY grabs TEDDY'S other arm)*

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- Golly** *(Emotional)* Toys never escape, Ted, never, ever, ever.
- Clown** *(Helping subdue TEDDY)* And you're not going to be the first.
- Teddy** *(Struggling)* Let go. Let go you stupid toys, I'm doing this for you!
(The struggle continues then stops suddenly. The TOYS are confused)
- Soldier** *(Releasing TEDDY)* Did you say "for us"?
- Teddy** *(Adjusting his clothes)* Yes. For *all* of you. *(TOYS puzzled)*
- Rabbit** I don't understand.
- Teddy** None of you understand. None of you think. If you cared about other toys, you'd know the rules are being broken.
- Clown** What rules?
- Teddy** The Toy Rules of course. *(Louder)* One!
(TOYS except CLOWN spring to attention. This drill they know by heart. It's ceremonial. CLOWN'S a bit slow on the uptake. As drill proceeds, CLOWN remembers and has just about caught up when they finish)
- Toys** Toys must never be left out in the rain.
- Teddy** Two!
- Toys** Broken arms and legs must be replaced.
- Teddy** And three!
- Toys** Hand-me-downs must only be given to nice humans.
- Clown** But those rules are for humans, not toys.
- Teddy** Exactly. And what happens when humans break the rules and still receive toys from Santa? Well? I know for certain, toys are being smashed!
(TOYS gasp)
- Dolly** *(Angry)* Why haven't the elves told Santa?
- Raggy** Perhaps there aren't enough elves.
- Teddy** Perhaps Santa doesn't care. *(Hostile reaction)* Well if the humans are mistreating their toys, how come we were delivered? *(Pause)* Something is definitely wrong.
- Rabbit** *(OTHERS stunned)* I'm definitely getting frightened again.
- Teddy** If I can escape to the North Pole, I can tell Santa and ...
- Clown** *(Taking control)* The *North Pole!* What's wrong with the *flag pole?* Much easier to climb. Or the *totem-pole.* *(CLOWN does brief Indian war-dance. COWBOY draws guns. CLOWN back into spiel)* That's it! Totem-pole. Dead-easy to find. Just follow the arrows. Arrows, totem-pole. Get it?
(CLOWN falls about laughing. The OTHERS were taken in by CLOWN'S gusto but their interest turns to disgust. They groan at the terrible joke. TEDDY continues)
- Teddy** If I can reach the North Pole, I can tell Santa about toys being mistreated. Do you want to be left out in the rain?
- Toys** No.
- Teddy** Do you want to lose an arm or leg?

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Toys *(Louder)* No.

Teddy Then I must escape. *(Emphatic)* I must tell Santa.
(Pause. The TOYS are ashamed. TEDDY was doing this for them)

Soldier Sorry I grabbed you, Ted.

Golly Me too, Ted. Real sorry.

Raggy It's a very long way to the North Pole, Teddy. Can you really make it?

Rabbit I'd be scared going all that way ... and on my own.

Teddy Well I did have a travelling companion *(Scathing look at COWBOY)* but he seems to have turned yellow - on the inside. *(COWBOY gives sheepish grin)*

Raggy I'd like you to escape, Teddy.

Dolly So would I.

Clown Me too. *(EVERYONE supports TEDDY)*

Soldier We all support you Ted but it does seem very risky.
(Long pause. TOYS don't know what to say. Thinking, TEDDY wanders to one side)

Teddy *(Brainwave)* I know. We can *all* escape. *(TOYS are stunned)*

Golly *All* escape! *(TEDDY excited, what a great idea)*

Teddy We can help each other, work as a team. What do you say?

Rabbit *(OTHERS speechless)* I'm frightened.

Clown I used to escape from a cannon.

Teddy It makes sense. The more who escape, the better the chance of someone reaching Santa.

Dolly *(Suddenly upset)* I can't travel by myself.

Rabbit *(Petrified)* Oh yes. What if a human catches me? *(TOYS tense, afraid)*

Teddy *(Calming them)* I know it sounds scary but the frightened toys can go with the brave toys. We can form teams.

Soldier Yes and my troop of soldiers can protect the frightened toys.

Teddy Troop of soldiers? What troop of soldiers?

Soldier *(Proudly)* Why, my fellow foot-sloggers, of course.

Toys What? *(SOLDIER proudly summons his fellow-soldiers)*

Soldier *(Calling out-front)* Company ... quick march! *(MUSIC BEGINS)*

No. 4 Entrance of the Toy Soldiers

(The back of SOLDIER'S sentry-box slides/swings open and 4-8 [or 48] soldiers dressed exactly the same as SOLDIER but with a different coloured sash or belt, march out in single file, rifle on shoulder. The last soldier could be tiny but just as stiff and straight as the others. They march across the front of the stage forming a line/s DR. The TOYS are impressed and chat excitedly)

Soldier Company ... halt. *(Soldiers stop, facing the wings)* Left *(or Right)* ... turn!
(Soldiers turn to face the front. Proudly SOLDIER indicates and TEDDY moves to and inspects the troop.)

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TEDDY could attend to some minor dress imperfection on one or two soldiers. SOLDIER follows TEDDY carrying a raised sword or baton a la ceremonial routine. OTHERS buzz with excitement)

Teddy *(Inspection complete)* Very impressive. I'm sure we'll be safe with this lot.

Cowboy Hey, jurst a minute, Sheriff. You'll need more than cavalry out there. What about injuns? *(TOYS buzz. What's going on?)*

Toys Indians!

Cowboy That's what I said. Injuns.

Soldier This isn't the wild west.

Cowboy An' don't furgit the cowboys.

Toys Cowboys!

Cowboy And *cowgirls!*

Toys *Cowgirls!*

Cowboy I got me a whole posse right here. *(COWBOY whistles. MUSIC BEGINS)*

No. 5 Saloon-Bar Rag

(From the wings or a present with saloon-doors come 4-8 [or 48] cowboys/cowgirls and indians. The cowboys/girls are firing their six-guns making the sound with their mouths - "Pow, pow" "p'ching, p'ching" etc. The indians mime firing arrows. The warring factions spread across the stage and the TOYS cower and take cover. COWBOY thinks it's great. It's just a game to the cowboys/girls and indians (C&I). Choreograph the fight. Some are wounded but fight on. TEDDY calls to COWBOY)

Teddy Cowboy ... Cowboy, stop them. Stop them!

(COWBOY is having a ball but obeys TEDDY. COWBOY fires in the air. This sounds like a real gun - starting pistol or sound effects. The battle stops instantly. The C&I mix with freely and mime discussing the battle DL. They're all good friends. The TOYS begin to recover)

Teddy This is crazy. Cowboys and girls and indians killing each other!

Cowboy No Ted. That's what the humans make 'em do. In their toy-box they're all good buddies. *(To C&I)* Right guys 'n gals?

C&I *(Full of good cheer)* Right, Cowboy!

Teddy Are you mad? We're trying to escape.

Cowboy Great. The injuns can scout and the cowboys and girls ride shotgun. *(TEDDY pauses. The TOYS buzz with excitement)*

Golly Sounds mighty fine to me. Da more da merrier. *(OTHERS excited)*

Teddy *(Agrees but with caution)* Okay, they can escape. *(C&I thrilled)* But no cattle rustlin', card games or fire-water! *(C&I sad - this is bad news)*

Cowboy *(Confidential)* Hey Ted. How about baked beans? We love beans.

Teddy *(Agrees reluctantly)* Yes, yes, you can eat beans. *(COWBOY is thrilled and relays the news to the C&I who are delighted. They buzz with excitement, the TOYS chat excitedly)* All right, settle down.

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(Noise stops. TEDDY speaks with feeling) Now we're all agreed Santa must be told. Some toys are getting a raw deal. This must stop. Agreed?

Toys *(Fired up)* Yes!

Teddy Well come on, *(Louder)* let's hear it for the toys. *(MUSIC BEGINS. Big cheer)*

No. 6 Toys Reprise

Company *We're toys who love to play and do so while we may
Though night time is the right time when the humans go away
To play is such a breeze, we love to trick and tease
Though many humans, any humans always make us freeze.
We are the toys, we are the toys,
We are the toys, we are the toys. (Repeat)
The toys, the toys, we are the toys
We are the toys.*

(Song ends and EVERYONE is excited and buzzing. TEDDY take control)

Teddy Okay, we must escape in teams. Dolly, you go with the soldiers.

Dolly Just a minute. I'm not sure I can trust those soldiers.

(Soldiers stand on their dignity. DOLLY is adamant. TEDDY more so)

Teddy Do as you're told. *(Soldiers happy, DOLLY displeased)* Cowboy, you and y'mates look after Clown and Rabbit. Raggy, you stick by me.

(TOYS are buzzing and move to named groups, shake hands with those they don't know. DOLLY does so with reluctance. She's a snob)

Teddy Now before we escape, I want the house searched. Provisions. Anything we can use for our trip.

Cowboy *(Thrilled)* Hey, rustlin'! *(To C&I)* Rustlin' guys! *(C&I whoop)*

Teddy Everyone. Get cracking! *(They move off noisily)* And be quiet! *(They move off whispering with excitement)* Raggy, I want a word.

(TEDDY takes RAGGY DL and mimes their plan of escape. The OTHERS are jamming up UR. They can't open the door. SOLDIER comes down)

Soldier *(Saluting)* 'Scuse me, Ted. Bit of bother with the door.

Teddy *(Not happy)* Oh, do I have to do everything? *(To RAGGY)* You wait here.

(TEDDY goes upstage to supervise door-opening. SOLDIER follows. A small present is dragged over and a toy climbs up to reach the door-knob. TEDDY gets EVERYONE to push. After some heaving, the door flings open and the TOYS fall through and off-stage UL. Most scamper off. Once the door is open, the exit needs to be swift. Of course it could be an unseen door and all this business would be mimed. TEDDY guides the TOYS off-stage and goes with them to see they're on the right track. GOLLY has slipped away from them and comes down to RAGGY who attends to her present)

Golly Raggy. *(She gets a small fright and turns)*

Raggy Oh Golly. You gave me a fright.

Golly Who is you escapin' wid?

Raggy I'm going with Teddy. Isn't he brave?

Golly Yes but ... (*GOLLY is worried*) I don't have nobody.

Raggy Oh that can't be right. Teddy probably forgot and ...

Golly He didn't forget. He don't like me. He wants me to stay behind.

Raggy (*Laughs at GOLLY'S silly mistake*) No. Teddy's not like that.

Golly He told me to shut up.

Raggy (*Shocked*) He didn't!

Golly And he said I was stupid.

Raggy (*Even more shocked*) But that's dreadful.
(*GOLLY almost breaks down during this next speech. RAGGY comforts him*)

Golly I didn't deserve it, Raggy and I don't wanna be left behind.

Raggy There, there, I'm sure Teddy will let you escape.

Golly (*Pulls back angry*) Teddy doesn't like me because I is black.

Raggy (*Confused*) But that's not a reason.

Golly Teddy says black toys is different and I has to go away.

Raggy But we're all the same. We all have arms and legs and stuffing and ...

Golly Teddy says my colour is wrong.

Raggy Don't be silly.

Golly (*Pathetic*) I thought I'd change my colour. Den maybe Teddy'll like me.

Raggy (*Horried*) Change your colour!

Golly I could paint myself and be white or blue or green.

Raggy (*Firm advice*) Now you listen to me, Golly. You will not change your colour. You're perfect. We love you just the way you are.

Golly But if I'm black, Teddy won't let me escape.

Raggy Well see about that. (*TEDDY re-appears upstage*) He can't make you ...
(*RAGGY sees TEDDY*) Teddy. I'd like a word.

Teddy (*Coming down*) I haven't finished with you.

Raggy (*Almost demanding*) Why can't Golly escape?

Teddy (*Snaps back*) Who says? *I'm* not stopping him.

Raggy You haven't given him a team.

Teddy He can go by himself. Now hurry up and pack.
(*TEDDY turns and moves away. RAGGY is furious. She stamps her foot*)

Raggy That's disgraceful, Teddy. (*TEDDY stops, turns slowly. He's angry*)

Teddy How dare you speak like that. I'm in charge. It's my idea and if you're not careful, I'll leave you behind. (*RAGGY upset, grabs TEDDY'S arm*)

Raggy Oh please Teddy, I want to go. But ... I'd like Golly to come with us.

Teddy Well don't look at me. I'm not stopping him.

Raggy (*Excited*) Then he can join our team.

Teddy No way. I'm not escaping with a black toy.

Raggy (*Angry*) Then it's true. You *did* say awful things about Golly.

Teddy (*Nasty. Points at GOLLY*) He's a show-off and a smarty-pants.

Raggy No he's not. He's friendly and fun and he's my friend.

Golly And Santa made me.
Raggy That's right. Santa made Golly.
Teddy *(Nasty)* Well he made you wrong.
Raggy *(Furious)* Teddy!
Teddy And when I reach Santa, I'll tell him you're a show-off.
Golly *(Getting wild)* Just who do you think you are, Teddy?
Teddy *(Grabs Golly)* Don't you threaten me.
Raggy *(Separates them)* Stop it! Stop it at once.
Golly What's behind this big, bossy act?
Teddy Nothing, Show-off, and I am not bossy!
Raggy Yes you are. You're bossy and rude and mean.
Golly We're all toys, Teddy.
Raggy And that's all that counts.
Teddy Well I know black toys show-off. *(Moves upstage)* And I'm going to make sure Santa finds out. So there ... *(Stops at edge of stage)* Show-off!
(TEDDY storms off-stage after the other TOYS)
Golly *(Pause. Softer)* I'm sorry Raggy. I didn't mean to drag you into all this.
Raggy I'm glad you did, and I want to help you.
Golly But you think Teddy's right?
Raggy *(Shocked)* Oh no, of course not. But, I wonder why Santa made you black? I mean, why are some of us white or yellow or pink or black?
Golly Who knows? Who cares?
Raggy Maybe Santa made black toys for black humans. Maybe you shouldn't be here.
Golly But Santa delivered me here.
Raggy *(Thinking aloud)* Perhaps by mistake. *(GOLLY devastated. RAGGY gets brainwave)* I know. I'll ask him.
Golly Ask him!? But you mightn't reach da North Pole and even if ...
Raggy No. Now. I'll ask Santa right now.
Golly *(Confused)* But he's gone, he won't be back till next Christmas.
Raggy Golly, I believe there's an elf here. Do you? *(Pause. GOLLY nods)* Santa always leaves an elf behind to see if the humans are nice to us on Christmas Day.
Golly But the elf can't talk to toys, not away from da North Pole.
Raggy But the elf can hear. I'll ask the questions the elf can take to Santa. We can find out why we're different and if what Teddy says is true.
Golly *(Not certain)* You seem pretty sure.
Raggy *(Hopeful)* Oh yes. Santa will hear me. He'll send someone or something will happen. Santa cares for us, he wants us to be happy. You believe that?
Golly I think so ... and I would like to know if it's okay to be black.
Raggy I'll ask Santa right now. *(GOLLY embarrassed)*

Golly *(Backing away)* I'll see if I can help the others. Good luck and whatever happens, I'll always like you. *(GOLLY exits UR. RAGGY waves and calls)*

Raggy Thanks. I'll do my best. *(She looks around, is nervous and clears her throat)*
Dear Santa. *(Pause)* Dear Santa. *(Despairs and talks to herself)* Oh perhaps there's no elf. *(Summons up the courage)* No, I promised Golly. *(Strongly to front as lights dim)* Dear Santa. *(MUSIC BEGINS)*

No. 7 Dear Santa

Raggy *Dear Santa, is it right to talk about the colour of a toy?
Does it matter if I'm not the same as Rabbit or as Clown?
Does it matter if I'm white or yellow, black or red or brown?
Does it matter that Teddy can put Golly down?
Dear Santa, is it right?
Dear Santa, is it right to laugh about the body of a toy?
Do you worry if we're fat or bony, tall or short or thin?
Do you worry if our hair is long, can this be a sin?
Do you worry that Golly is dressed in black skin?
Dear Santa, is it right?
Please tell me, I believe in what you say
And I'll try and do the very best I can
Please help me, you encourage us to pray
Santa please, Santa please, Santa please, oh please.
Dear Santa, you're my friend
Only you can tell me what I need to know
Don't forget me, little Raggy, see I find it hard to speak
Don't forget me cos without you I'm so helpless, I'm so weak
Don't forget me and really the truth's all I seek
Dear Santa is it right? Dear Santa is it right?*

(RAGGY is alone, looking into space, waiting, hoping. Suddenly the lights come up and the silence is shattered as a frantic RABBIT and a distressed DOLLY burst into the room. They rush down to RAGGY)

Rabbit Ooh, help. Help. Raggy, anyone. Help. Help. *(Continues)*

Dolly Raggy, you must help us. *(Distress continues)*

Raggy What's happened?

Dolly It's Teddy, poor Teddy.

Rabbit It's awful, it's awful, you've gotta help.

Dolly A terrible accident. He might be finished.

Raggy *(Suddenly panics)* Oh no! It wasn't Golly was it? Did Golly do it? *(GOLLY enters and comes down. RAGGY hasn't seen him yet)*

Rabbit Poor Teddy. I've never been scared like this before.

Golly Raggy, sorry I left you alone.

(RAGGY goes to GOLLY and lets fly. He grabs her flailing hands)

Raggy

Golly, how could you? It's wrong, wrong, wrong!

Golly

(Confused) Sorry Raggy. I didn't mean to be black.

(Struggle stops as TEDDY enters carried by the C&I. OTHERS enter. TEDDY groans throughout. Ham! He is gently placed DL on a present and everyone except GOLLY crowds around. The Soldiers, C&I move back a little. RAGGY rushes to TEDDY)

Raggy

Teddy you must forgive him. *(TEDDY groans)* He didn't mean it. *(Another groan)* I know he didn't mean it.

Soldier

Please remain calm, Raggy. Any unnecessary noise will frighten the horses.

Raggy

But it's my fault. It's all my fault.

Clown

It's nobody's fault. Teddy fell down the stairs. *(Big groan from OTHERS)*

Raggy

(Pause. Stunned) Fell down the stairs?

Cowboy

(Big gesture) Yes m'am. He wuz a tumberlin' tumbleweed. *(TED groans)*

Dolly

(Has recovered) Yes, I saw everything. Teddy was showing off.

(Huge groan from TED. RAGGY moves to GOLLY, DR. OTHERS close round TED)

Raggy

I'm very sorry, Golly.

Golly

Dat's okay.

Raggy

I'm sorry for hitting you and even more sorry for thinking you hurt Teddy.

Golly

Dere's no harm done. Well, not to me.

Raggy

Will you ever forgive me?

Golly

Of course. You ain't done nuttin'.

Raggy

(Pause) Golly, I did talk to Santa. I asked if it was all right for us to be yellow and white and black and ...

Golly

(Eager) Did anytin' happen?

Raggy

(Excited) Yes ... *(Suddenly sad)* I ran over and hit you.

Golly

(Laughing) Hey, dat's okay. C'mon, let's help Teddy.

(They move to TEDDY where the action continues complete with groans)

Clown

(Sad) I think it's the end for Teddy.

Soldier

He's badly wounded and has lost some stuffing. He needs a transplant.

(Buzz of excitement from TOYS. This is serious)

Rabbit

I'm frightened. I don't like hospitals.

Dolly

Well he can't escape looking like that.

Cowboy

(Just a suggestion) I guess we could give up the escape. *(Sic)*

(TOYS react strongly. They don't like the idea. They want to continue)

Soldier

We're not giving up. We must obey orders.

Golly

We gotta fix Teddy. If he's sick, he can't escape and Santa never delivers broken toys. *(TOYS agree)*

Cowboy

(To TEDDY) Hang in there, pardner. You're gonna get fixed and I'm gonna help. *(Huge groan from TEDDY. Doctor Cowboy? Oh no!)*

Soldier What type of stuffing does he have?
Clown A lot. He's very fat.
Dolly He must have the right stuffing. Everything must match.
Soldier Right, hold him Cowboy. You too Golly. *(To TEDDY)* This'll hurt me more than you, Ted. *(Liar)*
(COWBOY and GOLLY hold TEDDY. SOLDIER removes stuffing. TEDDY gives enormous groan. The TOYS are anxious. SOLDIER moves DR with the stuffing. The principals follow but glance back to TEDDY)

Soldier Who has stuffing like this?
Raggy Not me.
Clown It's not funny stuffing so it can't be mine.
Dolly *(With contempt)* Urgh. That's last season's. Couldn't possibly be mine.
Rabbit *(Timid as always)* I'm not sure. It might be mine.
Raggy No Rabbit. I saw Santa making you. It's not yours. Or mine.
Cowboy Shucks, nobody out west got that stuffin'.
Soldier No soldier either. So it looks like Teddy ... has to die.
(TOYS shattered. Pause. GOLLY speaks quietly but with strength)

Golly No he don't. I's got dat stuffin'. *(TOYS delighted)*
Raggy Golly!
Soldier Are you sure, Golly?
Golly Sure I's sure. Here. Look at dis.
(GOLLY reaches inside his chest and removes some stuffing. He winces with pain and the OTHERS suffer with him. SOLDIER takes and compares the two pieces. He smiles)

Soldier Exactly the same. *(Excitement from OTHERS)* Well done, Golly. Now we can operate. *(They move to TEDDY but stop suddenly when GOLLY calls)*

Golly Hold it! *(Pause)* Ain't you folks forgettin' somethin'?
Soldier *(Checking)* Ah, doctor, stuffing, patient. No. All set.
Golly *(Louder, more adamant)* Whose stuffin's dat?
Clown *(Excited)* Oh I get it. A guessing game. *(GOLLY ignores CLOWN)*
Golly Since when has a li'l please an' thank you gone outa style? II mean it might be nice to ask before y'pinch half me insides.
(Silence. Pause. The TOYS are ashamed at having forgotten their manners)

Rabbit Sorry Golly.
Dolly We didn't think you'd mind.
Golly Well I do. He's been pretty mean to me. And rude.
Soldier Look, Golly. This is important. It's a matter of life and death.
Cowboy Gotta help y'pardner, pardner.
Clown Come on Golly, be a sport.
Raggy *(Final plea)* Oh please, Golly. *(Pause. A plea)* Please.
Golly *(Pause. Gives in because of Raggy)* Well ... okay.
(TOYS are delighted. They rush over to TEDDY. RAGGY goes to GOLLY)

Raggy *(Very happy)* Oh Golly, isn't it wonderful?
Golly He's pretty lucky, you know. After what he said about me.
Raggy No, you don't understand. This is our answer. Santa arranged this to answer our questions. *(GOLLY doesn't understand)*
Golly Santa pushed Teddy down da stairs?
Raggy *(Amused)* Only so you could help him. I asked Santa if colour or shape or size were important. And this is his answer.
Golly *(Starting to get the picture)* So Santa likes me?
Raggy You, me, Teddy. Everyone. *(Thrilled)* Santa loves us all.
(They hug one another with happiness. TEDDY, meantime, has been surrounded by the TOYS who've just finished telling him the good news about the transplant. With a gruff blast, TEDDY forces the TOYS back and struggles to stand. They're shocked by TEDDY. RAGGY and GOLLY join the OTHERS)
Teddy No! Never, never, never! *(He sways and is helped)* Leave me alone. I'm still a good toy.
Soldier Teddy, you're seriously wounded.
Clown You can't escape like this.
Teddy I can escape. I can ... *(He collapses. Many TOYS help him sit)*
Cowboy Take it easy, pardner.
Dolly You look terrible!
Teddy *(In pain. Admits defeat)* Maybe I have lost some stuffing. Maybe we'll have to postpone the escape. *(Buzz of disappointment from TOYS)*
Soldier Whatever we do, Teddy, you *have* to be fixed.
Raggy Golly can help you.
Teddy *(Bitter)* I don't need him.
Dolly Only Golly has the right stuffing.
Teddy *(Tries new tack)* I've changed me mind. You lot escape, I'll stay behind. *(TOYS confused, uncertain)*
Rabbit I'll be scared without you.
Cowboy Hey pardner, you're part of t'posse.
Soldier It's no use, Ted. You're reporting sick and that's final.
Teddy *(Snaps at SOLDIER)* You deaf or something? I'm *not* escaping.
Raggy But you're broken, Teddy.
Dolly And Santa never delivers broken toys. *(Pause. TEDDY is beaten on every argument. He clutches at straws)*
Teddy I can *try* to escape.
Toys *(Strong)* No!
Teddy I can *pretend* I'm all right.
Toys *(Louder)* No!
Teddy *(Despairing)* Then I have to get fixed?
Toys *(Forceful)* Yes!

Teddy But I don't like black toys. They show-off.
Dolly You're the show-off.
Raggy Teddy, you have to understand.
Teddy (*Angry again*) I don't *have* to do anything.
Soldier You have to get fixed. (*TOYS support this. "That's right"*)
Golly Listen Teddy. I know you don't like me though why I ain't sure. But I is sure about one ting. I'm black on da outside and you is yella. But underneat' Teddy, we is da same.
Teddy (*Snaps at GOLLY*) Showoff!
Golly An' you can shout 'n stomp forever but nuthin', nuthin's gonna change da fact dat we is da same. (*TEDDY threatens but backs off as GOLLY pours it on*) An' furdernmore, da most important part of any toy is not dere colour but what's under dat colour. (*MUSIC BEGINS*) It's what's inside dat counts Teddy, it's what's inside.

No. 8 It's What's Inside

Golly *You can shout until you're hoarse and make a million racist claims
You can torment me and torture me and call me awful names
You can pick on me and pester me and say dat I'm to blame
But underneath my furry friend, we is both da same*

Company *Dey is both da same, dey is both da same
Dey is both da same.
It's what's inside of you dear old Teddy
That the world outside can see.
It's not your nose and it's not your clothes
But it shows through your personality.
And what's inside of you dear old Teddy
Well you never, never, never can hide
Cos what's inside comes out dear old Teddy
What counts is what's inside.
It's what's inside, it's what's inside
It's what's inside, it's, it's what's inside
What counts is what's inside
You cannot hide, you cannot hide
It's, it's what's inside.
Side. It's what's. It's what's.
It's what's, it's what's in, in, in. Inside.*

Raggy Colour means nothing, Teddy. We're all important. We're all the same.
Teddy (*TEDDY tries one last alternative*) Listen, why don't I hide?
Soldier (*Angry*) Teddy, if you don't volunteer for this operation, you'll face a court-martial and possibly worse.

(Gosh. What could SOLDIER mean? EVERYONE is serious. TEDDY surrenders)
Teddy Oh all right. But hurry up and *be careful!*

No. 9 It's What's Inside Interlude

(The operation takes place during the musical interlude. The stuffing is taken, from GOLLY'S back, and carefully carried under escort from the soldiers and C&I before being placed inside TEDDY. The stuffing is passed carefully along a line of TOYS across the stage. GOLLY sits on a present DR, TEDDY lies, groaning on a present DL. GOLLY suffers much more than TEDDY but it's big brave TED who does all the groaning. EVERYONE is concerned. RABBIT races to and fro, checking and hoping/hopping - paws crossed of course. Time the operation so that it finishes as the music ends. When it's over, RAGGY goes to GOLLY. The OTHERS help TEDDY)

Raggy How do you feel, Golly?

Golly *(Feeling his missing stuffing)* Not bad. Not bad at all.

Raggy *(Hugs her hero)* Oh Golly, you're wonderful. *(They chat)*

Soldier Come on Ted, up you get. *(Groaning, TEDDY rises)* Easy.

Cowboy You're lookin' fine, pardner. *(TEDDY is still being helped)*

Dolly Fix your buttons, Teddy. *(Buttons adjusted)* That's better.

Teddy *(Miserable)* I feel awful. I've never had an operation.

Rabbit *(Thrilled)* Oh Teddy, now you can be a present again.

Teddy *(Instant transformation)* Present! No way. I'm leading the escape!
(MUSIC BEGINS. Big cheer from COMPANY)

No. 10 It's What's Inside Reprise

Company *It's what's inside of you dear old Teddy
 That the world outside can see
 It's not your nose and it's not your clothes
 But it shows through your personality
 And what's inside of you dear old Teddy
 Well you never, never, never can hide
 Cos what's inside comes out dear old Teddy
 What counts is what's inside
 It's what's, it's what's
 It's what's, it's what's in, in, in, inside.*

(TOYS are bubbling, TEDDY'S all fired up, even GOLLY'S happy)

Teddy We're wasting time. Everyone prepare to escape. *(Hubbub increases)*

Raggy *(Calling)* Wait Teddy! You've forgotten Golly.

Soldier He can come with us.

Cowboy Shucks no. We want Golly with us. *(EVERYONE requests GOLLY)*

Teddy Silence! *(TOYS settle)* How can squabbling toys escape? *(TOYS ashamed)*
 I'm in charge and I'll pick a team for Golly.

Soldier *(Saluting)* Aye, aye, Ted. We await your command.

TOYS 21

- Teddy** Golly goes with ...
- Clown** Hold it! This calls for an introduction. (*Big speech*) Mister Bear, Mister Golly, distinguished guests, fellow presents, toys and toyettes.
- Toys** Toyettes?
- Rabbit** What's a toyette?
- Clown** (*Full of glee*) It's a wee toy. (*Thinks it a great joke*) Get it? Toyette. Wee toy. Ah ... (*CLOWN dies laughing. TOYS groan - again!*)
- Teddy** Will you stop clowning around. All this toyfoolery is wasting time. (*CLOWN suitably chastised*) Now Golly ...
- Golly** Yes Ted?
- Teddy** You go with Raggy. (*RAGGY thrilled*)
- Golly** (*Can't believe it*) And you?
- Teddy** (*Gruff throwaway*) Yes, and me. (*Loud to all*) Now come on. Where are those provisions? Check the whole house. We need maps, compass, tickets, soap, needle and thread, Santa's phone number -everything. The sooner you're back, the sooner we go. Now get cracking!
- (*Excited TOYS exit UR discussing what they'll find - TEDDY'S operation, the escape, etc. Talk, talk, talk. Door is slightly ajar so the exit is simple and swift. TEDDY is exhausted and sits DL, resting on a present. DOLLY remains upstage, fussing. She looks around then moves to TEDDY*)
- Dolly** Teddy. (*TEDDY gets a small fright*) I want a word.
- Teddy** (*Weary*) Not now. I'm resting. Go and look for things.
- Dolly** This is important.
- Teddy** So's my rest.
- Dolly** I've got a problem.
- Teddy** You can't even spell "problem".
- Dolly** I don't expect you'll understand but I need some information.
- Teddy** (*Stronger*) We're going to the North Pole, not on the teddy bears' picnic.
- Dolly** I don't care if we're flying to the moon. I must look my best.
- Teddy** Bully for you.
- Dolly** How many outfits will I need?
- Teddy** (*Can't believe it*) How many outfits?
- Dolly** (*Calmly continues*) Yes and do you think *one* beauty-case will be enough?
- Teddy** (*Stunned further*) *One* beauty-case!
- Dolly** And will the hairdressers have hot-rollers?
- Teddy** (*Shaking head in disbelief*) Dolly, listen to me. Out there is the big, wide world of danger and trouble. Maybe even death. You'll need courage, guts, determination, skill, (*Build it*) perseverance, cunning, luck, pluck, (*Faster*) bravado, strength, heroics and an (*Builds to a shout*) undying belief that you are going to make it. (*DOLLY listens emotionless. TEDDY is exhausted*)
- Dolly** (*Pause*) I know all that but there's still a problem.

- Teddy** *(What this time?)* Oh yeah? Like what?
- Dolly** My hair-dryer doesn't take batteries.
(TEDDY despairs, drops his head in his paws. COWBOY and SOLDIER enter UR)
- Soldier** *(Concerned)* Ted. *(He and COWBOY come down. DOLLY moves DR)*
- Cowboy** Pardner, what's up? You been scalped?
- Teddy** *(Recovers a little. Indicates DOLLY)* This dear toy is about to start a death-defying mission and now she tells me ...
(TEDDY goes off into short giggle a la going gah-gah)
- C'boy/S'dier** What?
- Teddy** *(Almost crazy)* Her hair-dryer doesn't take batteries. *(TEDDY whimpers, it's all too much. SOLDIER and COWBOY are dismayed but not like TEDDY)*
- Cowboy** *(Genuinely upset)* Shucks, Miss Dolly, that's terrible.
- Soldier** That's dreadful. *(Gets idea)* Hang on. Maybe our field troop's got a portable generator. *(TEDDY'S despair is building into rage)*
- Cowboy** Yippee that's jurst dandy, Soldier. *(Pause)* Say, what's a gen-p'tato?
- Soldier** No, no. Gen-er-a-tor.
- Teddy** *(Explodes. Has gone bananas)* Portable generator!
- Soldier** Yes, Ted. In basic training we run a cable from the main ...
- Teddy** *(Still crazy)* I know what it is. What I don't know is why I'm lumbered with peanut-brained lulus like you two! *(SOLDIER and COWBOY offended)*
- Cowboy** Hey now, easy pardner.
- Teddy** *(Fuming)* This is mission-impossible, into-the-valley-of-death stuff and *(Pointing at DOLLY)* she's worried about her Shirley Temple hair-do.
- Dolly** *(Fights back)* And why not? What's wrong with taking pride in your appearance!
- Soldier** Exactly. Spit 'n polish.
- Cowboy** Y'darn tootin'. A cowboy has a bath, once a year!
- Teddy** But what's the use of lookin' beautiful if you're smashed to smithereens?
- Soldier** I think that's *blown* to smithereens, Ted.
- Teddy** Smashed, blown, who cares?
- Dolly** I care. And so should you. Brush your fur, Teddy.
(She brushes his arm. The OTHERS join this tack and TEDDY is taken over)
- Cowboy** Polish them paws, partner. *(COWBOY polishes)*
- Soldier** Shine those shoes, soldier.
(SOLDIER points and TEDDY, almost in a trance, rubs his foot on the back of his leg. He's been brainwashed)
- Dolly** Big or little occasion, Teddy, you've gotta look ... *(Chord)* your ... *(Chord)* beeeeeest!
(NOTE: The MUSIC BEGINS as indicated by the word "Chord". The tempo isn't fixed in the first bar. The word "best" is drawn out as the music takes off under it at the correct tempo. Lights go nightclubbish. It's a fun number. Plenty of life)

No. 11 Good Lookin'

- Dolly** *Some dollies live for money, some dollies live for fame
Some love to splash, lots 'n lots of cash, life to them is just a game.
Some dollies pick on pleasure, party on till very late
Go let 'em rage, stompin' on a stage
Life for me is lookin' great.*
- Soldier** *Some soldiers turn out lazy, some soldiers turn out dumb
Some never try, me oh me oh my, life for them is oh so glum.
Some soldiers stick with sloppy, never have a plot or plan
Go let 'em flop, like a messy mop
Life for me is spick 'n span.*
- Quartet** *Good lookin', good lookin', such a pretty sight
Good lookin', good lookin', everything is right
Good lookin', good lookin', fashion dynamite
Good lookin', good lookin', got me lookin' good tonight.*
- Cowboy** *Some cowboys live for whisky, some cowboys live for cards
Some live for dice, any kinda vice
Soon they need a lot-a guards.
Some cowboys take on rustlin'', some fight and remonstrate
Go let 'em brawl, go watch 'em crawl
Life for me is shootin'' straight.*
- Teddy** *Some teddies duck their duty, some teddies shirk their share
Some stride a fence, never makin'' sense
Mumble, grumble, sit 'n stare.
Some teddies lack the courage, stand up and counted be
Not so this toy, to know's a joy
Big 'n brave for all to see.
Very good looking tonight!
(Repeat chorus, dance and give it heaps. Wheeee! Immediately song ends, lights return to normal. The OTHERS return with nothing. TEDDY issues an order)*
- Teddy** *Right. In your teams. Line up. Soldier, their reports.
(The TOYS form three groups. DOLLY is with the soldiers DC. COWBOY, CLOWN and RABBIT are with the C&I DL and RAGGY and GOLLY are together near TEDDY DR. SOLDIER checks the two main groups, RAGGY and GOLLY and then salutes TEDDY)*
- Soldier** *(Ceremonial) All present and accounted for, sir!*
- Teddy** *(Returns salute) Very good. Now, what about provisions?*
- Soldier** *(Still at attention) Soldiers report no sign of the enemy, sir!*
- Teddy** *(Impatient) Yes, forget all that stuff. What goodies did they grab?*
- Soldier** *(Still at attention) No goodies grabbed, sir! (OTHERS impressed)*
- Teddy** *(Annoyed) I told them, I ordered them to collect provisions.*

Soldier *(Very proper)* Looting's against regulations, sir!

Teddy *(Groans)* Oh. *(Indicates C&I)* Well what about them? They're not shy of the odd bushwhack or rustlin'.

Cowboy *(Coming down)* Great news, Ted. The injuns surrounded a wagon-train out back in the prairie. There was wagons full of all kinda pro-viz-e-ons. It wuz like takin' candy from a baby.

Teddy So where's the candy?

Cowboy Ah, well, jurst as the injuns went a-swoopin' in fur t'kill, along came the cavalry an' ...

Teddy The cavalry!

Cowboy Yep. Them's the good guys who wear fancy coschooms.

Teddy *(Furious)* I know who they are. And I suppose the cavalry drove the indians away and you've got no provisions.

Cowboy *(Genuinely impressed)* Hey, how did you know that?
(Hubbub from OTHERS. TEDDY looks in dismay, shakes his head and wanders DR. The TOYS chat amongst themselves. COWBOY and SOLDIER return to their groups. GOLLY, prompted by RAGGY, approaches TEDDY)

Golly Teddy.

Teddy *(Speaks without turning)* Go away.

Golly I got me a question.

Teddy *(Still without turning)* I said, "Go away".
(GOLLY looks at RAGGY. EVERYONE is watching TEDDY. RAGGY urges GOLLY)

Golly *(Blurts it out)* Why is we escapin'?
(TEDDY turns slowly. He's quietly fuming. Pause. RAGGY tries to explain)

Raggy What Golly means is, are you sure some toys are being mistreated?

Teddy So now I'm a liar? *(EVERYONE protests "No" "Of course not" etc but TEDDY continues his attack)* I am a very important toy and I have definite proof some toys are torn, tatty and tossed aside. *(Huge shock. It's a terrible fate)*

Rabbit I ... I'm getting frightened.

Golly *(Gentle but persistent enquiry)* But how do you know?

Raggy Yes, Teddy. Who told you?

Floppy *(From inside toy-box)* We did. *(All except TEDDY are stunned. Pause)*

Dolly *(Nervous)* Who spoke?

Teddy *(Sarcastic. Mimicking FLOPPY)* It was just little old me.

Raggy *(Pause. Nervous)* There's someone here.

Rabbit *(Petrified)* I'm frightened, I'm extremely frightened.
(RABBIT panics and the OTHERS catch the fear. SOLDIER moves to TEDDY)

Soldier A patrol, Ted. I'll send a patrol. *(COWBOY rushes over)*

Cowboy Now hold y'horses. My injuns kin track a posse daed easy.

Soldier My soldiers, Ted.
(COWBOY and SOLDIER mime their dispute. All the TOYS chat excitedly. DOLLY looks towards the toy-box and sees the lid open very slowly)

- Dolly** *(Pointing)* Look!
(EVERYONE stops talking and turns to where DOLLY is pointing. The lid opens a little bit more. Perhaps add a creaking sound. The TOYS are scared and cling to one another. Pause. Suddenly SOLDIER barks an order)
- Soldier** Company ... *(Soldiers form a line facing the toy-box and prepare their rifles as SOLDIER commands)* ... at one hundred paces ... independent firing ... *(One soldier is a bit too keen and needs a reprimand)* ... wait for it ...
- Cowboy** *(All fired up)* Okay you guys, head 'em off at t'pass.
(The C&I rush towards the toy-box, guns and bows and arrows at the ready. The soldiers are in formation, the C&I back-up the soldiers. A million weapons point at the toy-box. Many TOYS are C ready to defend the OTHERS who retreat CL/UL clinging to each other in fear)
- Teddy** *(Normal voice)* Excuse me. *(Pause)* I say, excuse me.
- Soldier** *(Calling back)* Not now Ted, we've got a battle.
- Teddy** *(Calling)* Ah, would all those toys, that's right, toys, in the toy-box, please show themselves.
- Soldier** *(Shattered)* Toys?
- Cowboy** *(Dumbfounded)* Toy-box?
(Pause. EVERYONE looks at the toy-box. Slowly FLOPPY'S head appears)
- Floppy** *(Very friendly)* Hello. *(TOYS buzz with interest. Weapons are lowered)*
- Teddy** *(Still calling)* And the others. *(MOPPY'S head appears)*
- Moppy** Hello. *(Another friendly soul and the TOYS start to relax)*
- Sloppy** *(Pops up)* Hello. *(A big smile. The TOYS respond. Weapons are put away)*
- Hoppy** *(Head appears)* Hello. *(A wave and a smile. HOPPY joins the line-up)*
- Whoppy** Hello. *(The TOYS chat excitedly about these "new" toys)*
- Teddy** *(Calls over the hubbub)* Well come on. Let's be havin' you.
(Pause. The TOYS in the toy-box look at one another then suddenly take off. With glee and gusto, the five hand-me-down (HMDs) toys come down to earth. They could abseil, slide, roll, jump, swing, dive, whatever is safe. The TOYS scatter. The HMDs land in a higgledy-piggledy pile C/DC and are surrounded by wide-eyed TOYS. The HMDs think it's a great joke and laugh and tease one another)
- Teddy** Back-off, give them room. *(The TOYS retreat, the HMDs start to untangle themselves and form a sloppy line)* Time for introductions.
(The HMDs introduce themselves. They are happy, friendly and well-worn)
- Floppy** Floppy.
- Moppy** Moppy.
- Sloppy** Sloppy.
- Hoppy** Hoppy.
- Whoppy** And Whoppy. *(Big buzz from the TOYS. CLOWN inspects WHOPPY)*
- Clown** You look like a ... Say, do you play games?
- Whoppy** Me? Play games? Oh no. *(Points behind CLOWN)* Look!

(CLOWN turns, WHOPPY mimes kicking CLOWN'S backside.. CLOWN jumps, turns and realises it was a game. CLOWN and WHOPPY laugh like mad and warmly embrace)

- Rabbit** *(To HOPPY) Excuse me. Have you ever been frightened?*
Hoppy *Ahh. Only when I'm not scared.*
(RABBIT pauses thinking. Oh. HOPPY sounds like RABBIT'S type of toy. They move to one side and mime an animated chat)
- Dolly** *(Looking down her nose at SLOPPY) Would you mind not staring?*
Sloppy *(Arms extended and huge smile) It's me. Cousin.*
Dolly *(Mortified) Cousin! How dare you!*
Sloppy *Remember me? I was the pretty one.*
Dolly *Was is right. Go away.*
Sloppy *Don't be like that. We all grow old you know. (DOLLY scoffs) Once your human dumps you, you'll be nice 'n sloppy like me. (DOLLY is revolted)*
- Soldier** *(Stunned) Y'mean, all you toys were once brand new?*
Floppy *Just like Raggy. (RAGGY and FLOPPY greet one another)*
Moppy *An' just like Golly. (MOPPY and GOLLY greet one another)*
Cowboy *Then how come y'all bin fightin'?*
Sloppy *No fight, Cowboy. This is human wear 'n tear. (TOYS are shocked)*
Rabbit *(Shocked) Humans did that?*
Hoppy *Oh we're the good ones. You should see the toys left out in the rain. (TOYS horrified)*
- Whoppy** *Some without arms or legs. (Horror. TEDDY moves to calm things)*
Teddy *Thank you secondhand toys. I think we can ...*
Floppy *Ah, excuse me, Teddy.*
Teddy *Don't interrupt. It's because of you we're going to escape.*
Moppy *We know and we're most grateful.*
Sloppy *But please don't call us secondhand.*
Hoppy *The humans still love us - lots and lots.*
Whoppy *It's the toys in the bottom of the toy-box or those left outside who've been forgotten.*
- Soldier** *According to regulations, you're secondhand.*
Floppy *Oh no, we're H M Dees. (Buzz from TOYS. "What are H M Dees?")*
Moppy *That's us. Hand-Me-Downs. (TOYS buzz again)*
Sloppy *We're broken, worn, torn ...*
Hoppy *And a little bit frightened ... sometimes.*
Whoppy *But don't be fooled, folks. (MUSIC BEGINS) In one particular place ...*
HMDs *(Happy) We're perfect.*

No. 12 My Heart's In The Right Place

- HMDs** *Just because our suits have lost their sparkle*

*Just because our bones are bent and broke
 Just because our style makes you all resile
 Doesn't mean that we're not o - kay, listen
 Just because our pose is less than perfect
 Just because our shape is seldom straight
 Just because our guise wouldn't win a prize
 Doesn't mean that we ain't great.
 Our heart's still in the right place
 Even though we've lost some stuffing
 Our heart's filled up with good grace
 This is true we sure ain't bluffing
 We mean well, care for all toys
 And although we come apart
 Our heart's still in the right place
 In the right place is our heart.*

(Dialogue during the song)

- Floppy** Rag dolls are raggy and I'm a ragged Raggy. But *(Indicates heart)* here I'm good as gold.
- Moppy** My curls ain't curly. My teeth ain't pearly. *(Indicates heart)* But y'all know I'm hearty.
- Sloppy** My dress, my hair, my ribbon, my bow, my nails, my shoes, well, no dolly's perfect. Oh, *(Indicates heart)* but right here, I'm a knockout.
- Hoppy** I'm scared to hop, my ears both flop, I'm called a sop. But stop. *(Indicates heart)* It's still on top.
- Whoppy** I've copped a whack or three when living life with glee. But blows or throws, I've kept the pose, *(Indicates heart)* the secret's here, you see.
- Company** *It's the heart, it's the heart, it's the heart, it's the heart.
 (HMDs dance and repeat the chorus. The TOYS are won over. The HMDs are full of fun and happiness. They're all heart. TEDDY speaks over the hubbub)*
- Teddy** Now someone asked how I heard about humans hurting toys.
- Golly** *(Slightly ashamed)* Yeah an' I is very sorry Ted.
- Raggy** We do trust you, Teddy. Don't we? *(Others agree)*
- Teddy** Thank you. And without further ado, let's get ...
- Soldier** Hang on, Ted. *(TEDDY can't believe another interruption)* What about these second-handers?
- Sloppy** *(Annoyed as are all the HMDs)* Oh not again. Please, we aren't second-hand.
- Teddy** They can escape too. *(TOYS buzz)* The more the merrier.
- Moppy** Sorry Ted, no can do. *(Sudden silence. Pause)*
- Whoppy** We'd like to escape but we're already committed.
- Dolly** *(Looking down her nose)* Obviously not to us.
- Floppy** *(Shocked)* Goodness, Dolly, you couldn't be more wrong.

Hoppy We told Teddy in the first place.

Moppy We belong to a human and once you make a promise to live with them, well ..

Teddy A promise is a promise. Yes we know.

Whoppy You're still new toys, without an owner. There's no obligation.

Soldier But when the humans find us gone, they might get very upset.

Hoppy Yes but your mission is so important you just *have* to tell Santa.

Rabbit Even if we get scared along the way.

Moppy We'll be okay. And remember, our heart's still in the right place.

Floppy And when you've gone, we'll all be thinking of you.

Teddy Thank you H M Dees. We appreciate your help and kindness. But now we must depart. *(SLOPPY suddenly distressed. TEDDY is interrupted AGAIN)*

Sloppy *(Panics)* Oh no! The humans! *(Slight panic amongst TOYS)* The little ones! *(The other HMDs suddenly remember)*

Teddy *(Angry and confused)* What little ones?

Whoppy *(Distressed)* Our owners.

Moppy We heard them say they'd sneak down before dawn. *(TOYS panic)*

Soldier Down here? In this room?

Floppy Yes. This room. To look at you. *(Panic increases)*

Hoppy I'm scared. I'm going home. *(HOPPY scrambles back into toy-box)*

Whoppy Me too. *(All the HMDs rush back to the toy-box. It might mean them going round the back to climb up a hidden ladder in order to appear at the top again)*

Teddy *(Calls over the confusion)* Calm down! Everyone be quiet! *(TEDDY ignored. He realises and tries a different tack)* Back to your presents. Quickly!

(More confusion as the TOYS go back to their presents. SOLDIER rushes up and switches off the main light. Soldiers and C&I disappear whence they came, the main TOYS struggle with their tags, the HMDs are climbing onto and into the toy-box. Lots of noise, complaining, etc. There must be a flurry of activity and noise.

When the main light goes out, we're back to the original lighting. It makes things even more scary and EVERYONE reacts with greater fear and distress)

Teddy *(Getting ready)* Hurry up. We can escape later.

Dolly *(Distressed)* My tag's not straight. Somebody help me. *(She fusses)*
(RAGGY races over, helps DOLLY then darts back to her position. CLOWN stops fixing his tag and wanders back to centre. He's grinning from ear to ear)

Clown I'd just like to say this is the best game I've ever played.

Teddy *(Worried)* Clown! Get back.

Clown *(To HMDs)* Great joke, Whoppy. You're the best.

Whoppy *(Can't believe CLOWN thinks it's a game)* It's no game, Clown. It's real.

Golly Look out! Here they come.

Toys *(Panic-struck)* Clown!

(CLOWN suddenly realises and nearly dies. CLOWN swivels, slips and scrambles back to his place. Oh boy. TEDDY whispers fiercely, "Hurry". Other TOYS are in place, HMDs peer over the top of the toy-box and CLOWN finally gets into position. Pause. Silence. Sound effects begin. A door creaks. The HMDs duck and the top of the toy-box drops. On tape or live on a P.A. system we hear young voices)

Child 1 Shhh. I think Santa's been. Shine the torch over there.

(A small follow-spot, representing a torch, comes on. It starts on one side of the room and moves slowly inwards. The TOYS are frozen with fear. The torch passes slowly but keeps moving. It passes RABBIT, stops, then re-traces its path. It returns to RABBIT and stops. We see RABBIT'S terror. Pause. RABBIT starts to crack. She crunches her face, opens her mouth. She is just about to scream when there is a total BLACKOUT)

ACT TWO

No. 13 Entr'acte

(The curtain rises. Dim lights rise as they did at the beginning of the play. There is no time lapse. In fact we actually go backwards. The HMDs are peering out of the toy-box, CLOWN has just arrived back in his spot. The sound of a door creaking is heard, the HMDs drop out of sight and the lid of the toy-box drops. On the P.A. we hear a child's voice)

Child 1 Shhh. I think Santa's been. Shine the torch over there.

(As before, a small follow-spot is switched on beginning on one side. It repeats its passage across the room. The TOYS are frozen in fear. The light passes RABBIT, stops then re-traces its path. Again RABBIT'S face contorts and she is about to scream)

Voice 2 Stop! We promised Mum we wouldn't look till morning. Come on, back to bed. *(Voice 1 is not happy)*

Voice 1 Oh all right. Spoilsport. *(Follow-spot is killed)*

(Creaking-door is heard again. Silence. The children have gone. The TOYS are not sure. Nobody moves. Pause. TEDDY quietly removes his tag, comes alive and looks around quickly. He crosses to the box of human's pencils, (by the tree) removes one, (it's about a metre long) and on a greeting card (from a present by the tree) he moves DC, kneels and writes quickly. He mutters as he writes. From time to time he glances about but the TOYS are still presents. He finishes writing and reads his handiwork. Don't take too long over this business)

Teddy *(Reading)* Dear Santa blah, blah, blah ... and serve you as best I can. Your obedient toy ...

(TEDDY is about to sign the note but stops. Suddenly SOLDIER comes alive and coughs. TEDDY hastily puts card and pencil behind himself as SOLDIER creeps over)

Soldier *(Whispers)* Ted? Is that you?

Teddy *(Whispers. Covering up)* Shhh. I think they've gone.

Soldier How come you're down here?

Teddy Ah ... I'm checking for booby-traps.

Soldier *(Excited and surprised)* Booby-traps!

Teddy You can't trust humans. *(Pointing UR)* You check up there.

Soldier *(Excited and obedient)* Yes sir!

(SOLDIER tippy-toes UR looking for booby-traps. TEDDY replaces pencil and card beside/on tree. SOLDIER finds nothing and returns to a relieved TEDDY)

Teddy Anything?

Soldier All quiet on the Western Front. What now?

Teddy Reveille. *(SOLDIER turns but is stopped)* Without the bugle.

Soldier *(Saluting)* Message received and understood, sir!

(SOLDIER moves quickly and quietly amongst the TOYS. The soldiers march out and are sent to switch on the lights. COWBOY fetches his C&I friends. The principals remove their tags and come alive. They chat quietly and excitedly. SOLDIER issues more orders and other soldiers wake the HMDs who quickly climb down and join the whispering throng. The lights come up and the hubbub increases. EVERYONE whispers excitedly. TEDDY surveys scene and calls for attention)

Teddy Thank you. *(Louder)* Thank you. *(Noise stops)* It's over. The humans have gone. *(Relief from EVERYONE)*

Rabbit Are you sure?

Teddy Yes, I'm sure.

Hoppy Very sure?

Teddy *(Exasperated)* Very sure. But they'll be back at dawn. We must escape now! *(TOYS excited. EVERYONE talks. "Oh gosh" "I'm excited" "This is it")*

Golly Pity there ain't no provisions.

Teddy We'll have to go without them. Now let's ... *(TEDDY is interrupted AGAIN)*

Moppy There are plenty of provisions!

Toys *(Surprised)* What?!

Floppy Lots 'n lots. We've got heaps. *(TOYS can't believe it)*

Teddy Do you know where they are?

Sloppy Oh course. We live here.

Teddy *(Gives orders)* Right, you *(Pointing at soldiers)* and you *(Pointing at C&I)* go with the H M Dees and collect provisions. Anything to help the escape. Be quick and be careful.

(The HMDs lead the soldiers and C&I off via the door. EVERYONE talks at once)

Whoppy Come on, follow the leader. *(Lots of chat as they exit via the door)*

Teddy *(To the TOYS remaining)* Right. Last-minute packing. Go!

(TOYS go to their present/box/wrapping and tidy up. SOLDIER is ready and helping others when he spies card written by TEDDY. He picks it up, surprised)

Soldier Hey, what's this? *(Furious, TEDDY storms to SOLDIER)*

Teddy What do you think you're doing? *(Grabs card)*

Soldier I was only having a look. *(The OTHERS take an interest in this conflict)*

Teddy *(Indignant)* That's personal property.

Golly Easy, Ted.

Teddy You've got no right to this. Is it addressed to you?

Soldier No, but ...

Teddy Then mind your own business.

- Soldier** It's addressed to Santa. *(TOYS gasp. "Santa")*
- Teddy** *(Lost for words)* Well ... ah ... *(Recovers)* that makes no difference.
- Rabbit** Yes it does. We can deliver it in person. *(TOYS like this idea)*
- Teddy** I'll post it in the first letter-box we come to.
- Dolly** I'd like to see it.
- Teddy** Sticky-beak.
- Clown** So would I.
- Cowboy** An' me. Specially if it's got any purdee pickchers.
- Teddy** *(Under pressure)* Look it's just a note to Santa from ... *(Looks at note)* no-one.
- Toys** No-one!
- Teddy** Yes. From anonymous.
- Clown** Anonymous who?
- Raggy** I think you should read it, Teddy.
- Golly** Me too. *(OTHERS all support this)*
- Teddy** All right, all right. *(Pause)* I'll read it.
- Dolly** Out loud.
- Teddy** *(Annoyed and frightened)* Out loud?!
- Soldier** Yes Ted. We all want to hear.
(TOYS agree. TEDDY looks at them, sighs in frustration then studies the note)
- Teddy** It's in toy writing and addressed to Santa. It says, "Dear Santa, If you return and I'm missing, it's not my fault. The other toys made me leave. *(TOYS react)* When we meet, Santa, I'll tell the whole story. Meanwhile, I'll be good and serve you as best I can. Your obedient toy ..."
(TEDDY looks up) There's no signature. *(Stunned silence. TOYS are speechless then angry)*
- Golly** Who wrote dat?
- Soldier** *Made* to leave!
- Cowboy** Sounds mighty strange t'me.
- Teddy** *(Very deliberate)* My friends, we have a traitor. *(TOYS aghast)*
- Raggy** *(Shocked)* Not here. It can't be.
- Rabbit** I'm frightened.
- Dolly** It has to be one of the H M Dees. Sloppy. I'll bet it's her.
- Golly** Can't be. They're stuck in the toy-box.
- Clown** Has to be a soldier.
- Soldier** Impossible. We never take initiative.
- Teddy** That leaves the cowboys and indians.
- Cowboy** Ah, sorry folks but we ain't too hot at readin' 'n writin'.
- Golly** Then it has to be one of us. *(Silence. Pause. They look at one another)*
- Dolly** *(Suddenly angry)* Well don't look at me.
- Rabbit** Or me. I'm too scared to write to Santa.
- Teddy** Well as no-one's prepared to own up, I say we forget the note.

(TOYS don't like this. They object strongly. "No way" "Let's check it out" etc)

- Soldier** I'm not escaping with a traitor.
- Dolly** *(Threatens SOLDIER)* Watch your lip, Buster.
(EVERYONE talks at once. DOLLY & SOLDIER argue. The OTHERS all claim innocence. CLOWN starts a routine causing EVERYONE to freeze. CLOWN moves around pointing and speaking in a sinister voice)
- Clown** I spy with my little eye, someone who wrote the note.
(CLOWN spins once or twice and points at COWBOY who draws and points his guns)
- Cowboy** *(Not happy)* Cut the jokes, Clown, less y'wanna perform at Boot Hill!
(CLOWN scared and hides. TOYS confused. COWBOY replaces guns)
- Teddy** I've got an idea. We need some pencils and some paper.
- Golly** There's a box of human's pencils over there. *(Points at tree)*
- Raggy** We could write on our tags.
- Teddy** Right. Everyone get a pencil and their tag and spread out.
(EVERYONE excited. Each fetches his/her tag and with a pencil, handed out by GOLLY [RAGGY gets GOLLY'S tag] spreads out across the front of the stage. They knell although some [Clown] could sit. It's a game and they're excited)
- Rabbit** What do we draw, Teddy?
- Cowboy** *(Springing to his feet)* I kin draw. Jurst watch.
(COWBOY draws and spins his guns in a short, impressive display. Other TOYS - not TEDDY - applaud. COWBOY is all smiles as he replaces his guns)
- Teddy** Need I remind you we're looking for a traitor? *(Instant seriousness)*
Everyone write the words "Dear Santa". Then we can compare the writing and catch the traitor. *(TOYS buzz with excitement and awe)*
- Soldier** Brilliant, Ted. Absolutely ...
- Teddy** *(Barks an order)* Write!
(SOLDIER nods and writes. The OTHERS are writing. COWBOY is not sure. TOYS may need to use two hands to hold the large pencils. TEDDY looks around then switches pencil to left hand. This seen by the audience. He writes)
- Raggy** *(Looks across at TEDDY)* Teddy! *(TEDDY thinks he's been sprung)*
- Teddy** *(Nervous)* W W What?
- Raggy** I didn't know you were left-handed.
- Teddy** What? Oh, that. Yes. *(Relieved)* Ever since I was a little teddy.
(RAGGY returns to her writing much to TEDDY'S obvious relief. COWBOY whispers)
- Cowboy** *(A tinge ashamed)* Hey Ted. What do I write, pardner?
- Teddy** *(Not addressing COWBOY direct)* Them what can't write proper, just put X.
(Sic. COWBOY smiles and nods. He starts to write then stops. Problem. He slides towards DOLLY who sees him and turns snobbish)
- Dolly** Don't copy. *(She covers her work and COWBOY is forced to move on)*
- Cowboy** Golly.
- Golly** *(Keeps writing)* A'hm busy.
- Cowboy** Need y'help, pardner.

- Golly** *(Stops and looks at the pathetic COWBOY)* Okay, shoot.
- Cowboy** How do ya spell "X"?
- Golly** Dat's easy. *(Hops up and helps COWBOY write)* E .. C .. K .. S.
- Cowboy** *(Admires his/GOLLY'S work)* Hey thanks, Golly. Terrific.
- Teddy** *(Rising)* Okay, hand them in to me. *(TOYS react with surprise/anger)*
- Dolly** You! Why you?
- Teddy** I'm in charge. *(TOYS object. "That's not fair" "Everyone helps" etc. TEDDY relents)* Oh all right. We'll all judge. Cowboy, string up some tinsel.
- (COWBOY stretches some thin rope [already in the tree-tub] wrapped in tinsel from the tree-tub to the toy-box. A hidden peg is needed on both items. GOLLY collects and replaces the pencils. The rope needs to hang low so the faces of the TOYS can be seen behind the tags. The TOYS hop up and chat with one another. "Let's see yours" "Did you spell it correctly?" etc. The tags, using their pliable soft wire ties, are hung on the tinsel. The TOYS spread out and examine them a la an art show. TEDDY moves DL holding the note to Santa. The OTHERS have forgotten the gravity of the situation and are enjoying the art show)*
- (NOTE: An alternative is for COWBOY to collect the tags after TEDDY says "String up some tinsel, Cowboy". COWBOY takes the tags offstage. Immediately a length of tinsel-covered rope is lowered from the roof with the tags already hung. The tags could hang above the toys' heads as close to the front of the stage as possible. Obviously you need a fly-tower or similar and another set of tags. COWBOY scampers back. The art show continues)*
- Raggy** *(Pointing at one of the masterpieces)* That's very nice. Who did that?
- Clown** I'm not sure. It could be mine.
- Golly** *(Pointing to another masterpiece)* Hey, look at dis!
- Dolly** *(It must be pretty)* Oh isn't it beautiful?
- Cowboy** *(Indicates his masterpiece)* Don't furgit mine, folks. Right over here.
- Soldier** *(Pompous ignoramus)* I'm very impressed with the standard of work.
- Rabbit** *(Overwhelmed)* You know, I just can't understand all this modern stuff.
- Teddy** Time's up. Let's pick the traitor. *(TOYS silent)* Take a good look at the writing on this card. *(Holds up note)* I'll point to each tag. If you think the writing's the same, raise your hand or paw as the case may be. Got it? *(TOYS agree)*
- Soldier** Oh I get it. The highest score wins.
- (TOYS excited. It's become a game. TEDDY moves and points to first tag. We can't see the writing, the tags face upstage. Mutterings but no hands. RABBIT continually looks at the OTHERS. She'll vote when they do. Same result for the next two cards. At the fourth card, CLOWN, DOLLY, GOLLY, RAGGY and COWBOY later and suddenly RABBIT, all raise a hand. RABBIT raises two but one is dragged down. TEDDY moves along counting. Finished, he's all smiles. They didn't pick him)*
- Teddy** Excellent. I knew it'd work. Now, whose writing's that? *(Points to tag)*
- Soldier** Hang on. There are more tags. *(TEDDY despairs)*
- Teddy** Awwwr. *(Pause)* Look, we have a majority. The others can't be guilty.
- Clown** Oh no you don't. The rules of the game say you must ...

- Teddy** It's not a game.
- Dolly** I always consider everything before I choose.
- Teddy** You've already chosen.
- Dolly** *(Snooty)* Well, I might change my mind. *(TEDDY can't believe it)*
- Teddy** *(Going crazy)* I don't believe this. Six toys voted for this tag. Six is a majority. Forget the others, it's case complete.
- Cowboy** *(Truth and justice always)* Listen sheriff, we wanna fair trial.
- Teddy** This *is* fair!
- Clown** We haven't tried everything. *(TOYS agree)*
- Teddy** This isn't the toy Olympics. We don't need a first, second and third. We're after one traitor. *One.*
(OTHERS agree with SOLDIER. They stare hard and hopefully at the despairing TEDDY. Shaking his head he reluctantly agrees to their request)
- Teddy** *(Muttering)* The things I put up with. All right. This tag. *(TEDDY moves along with his back to TOYS. Immediately he points, EVERYONE except COWBOY raises their hand. TEDDY doesn't see, carries on)* And this tag.
- Cowboy** Hold it, Ted. Look!
(TEDDY turns and sees raised hands. He can't believe it. He staggers DR. COWBOY, full of enthusiasm, moves along counting the votes. He uses his fingers. Counting really taxes him. Actually he can count up to seven. With the figure "six" locked in his head, COWBOY dashes to the shattered TEDDY. OTHERS drop their hands and move towards TEDDY to learn the result. If the tags are flown, fly them out. If not, SOLDIER & GOLLY remove them and rope)
- Cowboy** Six, pardner. It's a dead-heat!
- Teddy** *(Outraged)* It can't be six! *(COWBOY misunderstands - naturally)*
- Cowboy** Yep. Look. *(He uses the fingers that prove his point)* One .. two ..
- Teddy** *(On the attack)* Idiot! Six and six are twelve. We're eight. Twelve and eight are not the same.
- Clown** *(Being helpful)* Only three the difference.
- Teddy** *(Explodes)* Four!
- Clown** *(Can't believe it)* Four? *(Someone convinces CLOWN)*
- Teddy** Will you crackpots get this straight? We're looking for one traitor. One toy who's lied and betrayed us. One. *(Emphatic)* You can't vote twice.
(Pause. Silence. No-one knows what to say)
- Dolly** You haven't voted yet, Teddy.
(TEDDY stares at them then makes one last effort to explain the situation)
- Teddy** I'll go over it again. Soldier found the note on the tree. Then he ...
- Soldier** On the floor, Teddy. I found it on the floor.
- Teddy** Tree, floor, who cares? Then he called out.
- Soldier** We must be correct, Ted. I should know because I found it.
- Teddy** *(Blurts it out not thinking)* Well I should know because *(Emphatic)* I wrote it!
(Huge shockwave. TEDDY is mortified. The TOYS are speechless. Jaws drop)

Raggy *(Can't believe it)* You wrote the note!

Soldier *(Stunned)* You! Our commanding officer!?

Rabbit I'm really and truly scared.
(TEDDY moves away ashamed and defeated. His giant scheme has collapsed)

Golly *(First to recover)* Well, goll-ee Ted, congratulations.

Others *(Not TEDDY. Shocked)* Congratulations?!

Golly None of us done think of insurance. *(TOYS murmur "Insurance")* An each-way bet. Smart thinkin, Ted. Mighty smart.

Cowboy *(Drawing guns)* Not so smart's what I'd call it. *(The TOYS panic)*

Raggy *(Worried)* Cowboy!

Cowboy *(Angry at TEDDY)* No back-stabbin', lily-livered sidewinder's gonna git away with that. I'm gonna drill you, mister.
(TOYS grab COWBOY and stop him from shooting TEDDY who almost wants to be put out of his misery. SOLDIER takes control)

Soldier No, Cowboy. You can't shoot a toy in cold stuffing.

Cowboy *(Being restrained)* Why not? He's a traitor.

Soldier Let's be civilized. Get the firing-squad. *(TOYS unsure. "Firing squad")*

Raggy *(Distressed)* No, Soldier! That's wrong!

Soldier *(Taking control)* Cowboy. Get the others. *(COWBOY hesitates)* Now.
(COWBOY breaks free and, looking back, moves slowly then increases speed as he exits through the door)

Rabbit This is terrifying. I'm decidedly frightened.

Soldier Ted E. Bear, you have confessed to being a traitor and according to regulation number four hundred and twenty-six, section twelve, sub-section nine, paragraph three of the Toy Act, seventeen hundred and fifty-two, you are hereby sentenced to be executed by firing squad. Prepare the prisoner.
(MUSIC BEGINS)
(GOLLY, CLOWN and perhaps DOLLY take the card from TEDDY and lead him to the tree-tub)

No. 14 Execution

(Action continues during [even after] the music. COWBOY dashes in breathless followed by the soldiers marching stiffly in a line. The soldiers stop DR)

Cowboy Couldn't find ... *(Puffs)* the others. Just ... *(Puffs)* soldiers.

Soldier Soldiers are all we need. *(Gives order)* Places everyone. *(The sad and helpless TOYS move UC. TEDDY stands straight and tall. He's brave to the end. SOLDIER addresses the soldiers)* Firing-squad ... prepare.
(Soldiers move C and form one/two lines opposite TEDDY. TOYS upstage comfort one another. SOLDIER walks slowly to TEDDY and offers a blindfold. TEDDY defiantly shakes head. SOLDIER offers a hand and after pausing, TEDDY extends a paw and the two toys shake. SOLDIER then forgets that emotional aberration, spins on his heels and moves upstage of the firing-squad)

- Soldier** Squad ... ready. *(The soldiers kneel or stand to attention)* Aim! *(Soldiers aim rifles at TEDDY. The TOYS upstage are crying)* ... and ...
(TOYS upstage look away. SOLDIER raises his hand for the signal. He opens his mouth and drops his hand. As he screams "Fire!", a steam-train whistle - sound effects - is heard. The sound of the train means the soldiers can't hear the command. EVERYONE is surprised. They look towards door)
- Golly** Hey, what's dat?
- Soldier** *(Determined to do his duty)* Squad ... aim! *(The soldiers snap out of it and again point their rifles at TEDDY)* And ... *(Again SOLDIER raises his hand and brings it down calling "Fire". Again it is drowned out by a loud blast of the train whistle. Again EVERYONE looks upstage. COWBOY and CLOWN move quickly UR. The soldiers are again distracted. SOLDIER is furious)*
- Soldier** Are you deaf? Do as I say! Now, take aim. *(Soldiers point their rifles at TEDDY who by this time is totally confused)* And ... *(Hand raised)*
- Cowboy** *(Shouting from upstage)* It's a train! *(TOYS react)*
- Clown** *(Coming down. Excited)* A train with provisions.
(Great joy from EVERYONE. TEDDY is forgotten. The TOYS, SOLDIER and the soldiers form a line facing DR from the door to DL. They push to get into line. They look upstage talking at once. "Let's see! ... What is it?" etc. The sound of the steam locomotive is heard (sound effects). The whistle blows and the commotion on stage increases. The whistle sounds again - louder. Suddenly there is a BLACKOUT. A split-second later a dazzling beam of light bursts through the door and shines on audience. The steam locomotive bursts onto the stage with loud sound effects and gushes of steam. The loco with perhaps a tender and one flatcar or carriage stops DL. The loco could be electric or battery-powered or simply pushed discreetly by hangers-on. The train is about one third the size of the toys. The HMDs are on board sitting on the tender and carriage. The C&I run along either side whooping and a wailin', firing their six-guns, waving their bows, etc. Gradually the lights return to normal. The TOYS gather round. They can't believe it. A real steam train. Lots of chat)
- Whoppy** *(Waving from the driver's cabin)* Hello everyone!
- Toys** *(They gather round)* Hello ... Where did you get it? ... What is it? etc
- Cowboy** *(Thrilled. Calling)* Hot-diggidee. A real train.
- Sloppy** *(Happy, calls)* You wanted provisions, here they are! *(TOYS excited)*
- Soldier** All by yourselves?
- Hoppy** That's right. Only borrowed, of course. *(Big laugh from EVERYONE)*
- Floppy** So now you can escape in a train.
- Raggy** *(Excited)* Oh it's wonderful. Teddy will be so happy.
(RAGGY stops suddenly. Pause. TOYS go quiet. The HMDs are confused. RAGGY looks over to TEDDY who still stands ready to be executed. EVERYONE turns and looks at TEDDY. The line opens up. We can all see TEDDY. Pause. A tricky time for all)
- Whoppy** Oh I get it. You're playing a game!
- Clown** *(Very serious)* No, Whoppy. It's not a game.
- Sloppy** Why is Teddy over there? *(Pause. The TOYS don't know what to say)*

Soldier *(Finally confesses)* We were engaged in a tactical mission involving the elimination of a treasonable toy.
(This is confusing for the HMDs and C&I. They mutter "What?" and scratch their heads)

Golly *(Comes clean)* We wuz about to shoot Teddy.
(Huge shock to HMDs and the C&I. What is going on? The HMDs climb down)

Moppy *(Stunned)* Shoot Teddy!

Dolly He's a traitor. He told lies.

Sloppy But you can't *shoot* him!

Soldier He was court-martialled and ...

Hoppy *(Going to TEDDY)* But it's unthinkable to actually shoot him!
(HOPPY and FLOPPY go to TEDDY and bring him down. TEDDY is embarrassed about his failure yet relieved to still be alive. The OTHERS argue)

Cowboy He done cheated on us and that ain't fair.

Whoppy Oh come on, Cowboy. Not playing by the rules is wrong but ...

Soldier As I was saying, the regulations require that ...

Moppy Regulations! They're for humans.

Dolly No, they're for toys.

Sloppy New toys. Stupid toys.
(The TOYS are angry. TEDDY has arrived C and ill-feeling is growing)

Rabbit We were only doing what was right. *(The TOYS agree)*

Floppy For new toys, yes. But not for us. Not here in the real world.

Soldier Teddy's a traitor.

Hoppy That may well be but H M Dees have a way of dealing with that.

Cowboy Plug 'im. *(TOYS agree)*

Moppy Humans say that. And new toys too.

Whoppy But not us. We've got a better way.

Soldier *(Non-believer)* Oh yeah?

Sloppy Yeah. A much better way. *(MUSIC BEGINS)*

No. 15 Forgive and Forget

Whoppy *When you find a friend who's fallen*

Moppy *Made a real boo-boo.*

Hoppy *Just remember*

Floppy *No-one's perfect,*

Sloppy *Here's what you must do.*

HMDs *Forgive and forget, you'll soon find we bet,*
A feeling you ain't had before
Forgive and forget, you just cannot let
This chance to be good out the door.
When pardons are granted, reprieves become law
You won't rue the day or regret.

*Instead you'll feel very happy, delighted and more
When you simply forgive and forget.
C'mon and do it, just do it, it doesn't take that much*

Soldier

He's guilty.

HMDs

Do it, just do it and what a lovely touch.

Rabbit

He's naughty.

HMDs

Do it, just do it, you'll all fill up with pride.

Clown

A traitor!

HMDs

Do it, just do it, and feel so good inside.

(Dialogue during song. HMDs quiz TEDDY who is very sincere and humble)

Whoppy

Teddy, did you mean to do wrong?

Teddy

(Sincere) No.

Floppy

Are you sorry, very sorry?

Teddy

I'm sorry I hurt my fellow toys. (TOYS are not yet convinced)

Hoppy

Will you try and be good?

Teddy

I promise to try and help everyone.

Moppy

Would you like to be forgiven?

Teddy

(Humble, genuine) Yes please. I really would.

Sloppy

(To TOYS) Well toys, there you are. Forgive and forget? How about it?

(TOYS go into a huddle. They mime brief conversation, lots of gesticulating. They turn to face the others looking serious. What will they say? Pause)

Soldier

We've decided. (Pause. Still grim faces. Tense moment. SOLDIER looks at TOYS and nods. This the signal for all the TOYS to burst into smiles and shout)

Toys

(Loud and happy) Forgiveness!

(TEDDY is overcome. EVERYONE is overjoyed. Lots of hugging as the entire company joins in a rousing repeat of the chorus. The song ends and EVERYONE is buzzing. Happiness, friendship, TEDDY back at the helm, the train to take them to the North Pole and the escape ready at last)

Teddy

(Loud 'n proud) This time, we go!

(Huge cheer from EVERYONE. The HMDs help the TOYS onto the train, the C&I mill around [they'll be providing an escort] and SOLDIER grabs a red flag and exits DL - the direction the train is facing)

Soldier

(Calling to Ted) I'll check the track, Ted.

(TEDDY waves approval but is busy learning how to drive. The HMDs bid farewell and TEDDY starts the train. A puff of smoke, a burst of steam if possible, two toots on the whistle and a cheer from EVERYONE. They are just about to depart when SOLDIER enters waving the red flag. He calls loudly)

Soldier

Hold it! Stop the train!

(The engine gives a blast of steam and TEDDY either stands or climbs off and confronts SOLDIER. TEDDY'S back to being gruff and bossy)

Teddy

Are you crazy? Get off the track!

Soldier

Bad news, Ted. I can't get clearance for the train.

- (EVERYONE groans/sighs/is angry. TEDDY can't believe it)*
- Teddy** What clearance?
- Soldier** *(Indicating where he's been)* The signal-box hasn't heard of us.
(More distress and frustration from EVERYONE)
- Teddy** This is the Escape Special, express to the North Pole.
- Soldier** The toy in the signal-box said he must have written authority from the railway authorities. *(More frustration)*
- Teddy** *(Angry, despairs)* Red tape! We've overcome everything except red tape.
- Sloppy** Don't worry, Ted. I know those toys. I'll fix it. Hoppy, you come too.
(SLOPPY and HOPPY exit DL. TEDDY and SOLDIER mime dispute. The OTHERS chat and wait anxiously. TEDDY addresses the company)
- Teddy** Only a minor delay. When the signal's changed, we're off. Nothing can stop us now! *(Big cheer from EVERYONE. SLOPPY and HOPPY arrive puffing)*
- Sloppy** It's okay! It's okay!
- Hoppy** The signal's been changed.
- Teddy** *(Barks an order)* Soldier!
- Soldier** *(Calls)* All aboard!
- (The principal TOYS hop aboard, SOLDIER blows a whistle, the engine gives a toot and away we go. EVERYONE cheers and waves. Steam and sound effects as the train exits DL. [If you have room, the train could do a circuit of the stage before exiting.] SOLDIER jumps on at the last second, the soldiers march off beside/behind the train but the C&I wait UC in a huddle. The HMDs skip after the train and wave. They gather DL waving to the disappearing/disappeared TOYS. Ad lib farewells)*
- Moppy** Good luck.
- Floppy** Take care. Bye.
- Whoppy** See you next Christmas. *(TOYS wave and call back)*
(The farewells and train sounds fade away. The HMDs are sad. Pause. HOPPY is the first to turn. She turns and sees the C&I in a huddle, buzzing with excitement)
- Hoppy** *(Distressed)* Look! *(The HMDs turn and are horrified)*
- Sloppy** *(Calling)* You've missed the train.
- Whoppy** They're playing a game.
- Moppy** *(Panics. Fearful)* No! It's an ambush!
- C&I** *(Loud)* Ahhhh!!
(With this drawn-out, loud yell, the C&I dash off after train. Cries of C&Is fade away. HMDs scatter to avoid the rampaging C&I then rush DL to see what has happened. No sights or sounds. HMDs despair. The escape has been ambushed. They spread out around the set. Pause. From off-stage we hear groans. The HMDs look up. TEDDY is the first to arrive. He enters groaning being carried or helped by two or more C&Is. The HMDs quickly stand. They are confused)
- Sloppy** *(Distressed)* Teddy!
(Other TOYS enter in dribs and drabs being helped by one or more of the C&Is)
- Moppy** Golly!
- Floppy** Raggy!

(TOYS sit in various places. They are not well. The HMDs move amongst them)

- Hoppy** *(Distressed. Speaks for all the HMDs)* Oh it's terrible!
- Whoppy** I'd hate being attacked by cowboys and indians.
- Clown** *(In pain)* We weren't attacked.
- Sloppy** But we saw them go after you.
- Raggy** They were the ones who saved us.
- HMDs** *(Surprised)* Saved you!?
- Teddy** *(Suffering the most)* I'm afraid we had a slight accident.
- Hoppy** *(Distressed)* Oh no!
- Soldier** Going down the hall we turned left instead of ...
- Moppy** *(Shocked)* Left!
- Cowboy** Straight into the broom cupboard *(closet)*.
(The HMDs cringe in pain realizing the extent of the tragedy)
- Rabbit** A huge mop fell on me and I was very frightened. *(HOPPY comforts)*
- Soldier** The train's a write-off.
- Dolly** *(Almost in tears)* And all my clothes are ruined.
(She means her other clothes. SLOPPY comforts DOLLY who warms to her cousin)
- Floppy** I'd like to apologize to the cowboys and girls and indians. *(Other HMDs agree with FLOPPY)* And thank them for saving the toys. *(More agreement)*
- Teddy** *(Struggles to his feet)* I want to say something. *(Pause)* I'm resigning as leader. *(Protests from EVERYONE)*
- Soldier** *(Shocked)* No Ted. You can't!
- Golly** We need you, Teddy. *(TEDDY raises his paw for calm)*
- Teddy** Time for the truth. I blew it with Cowboy when we first started.
- Cowboy** Hey, that wuz my fault, pardner.
- Teddy** I fell down the stairs, I told lies to Santa and now I've crashed the train.
(OTHERS are not happy. They want TEDDY to remain leader)
- Floppy** That wasn't your fault.
- Teddy** If it wasn't for my mistakes, we'd be gone by now.
- Dolly** If it wasn't for you, there'd be no escape. *(OTHERS agree)*
- Teddy** *(Pause)* I've made up my mind. *(Moves DR)* As leader, I quit.
(TEDDY quietly despairs. EVERYONE is depressed. Some TOYS HMDs go to TEDDY trying to persuade him to change his mind. He won't. The OTHERS spread out and sit. Depression. The lights dim. RAGGY wanders DL and GOLLY follows. Light DR area)
- Golly** Raggy, what are we gonna do?
- Raggy** Make Teddy change his mind. We have to.
- Golly** He's pretty stubborn.
- Raggy** And rude and bossy and mean. But we love him and we need him.
- Golly** *(Pause)* Raggy ... I've decided to escape by myself.
- Raggy** *(Shocked)* No, Golly! You can't!
- Golly** It's for da best.

Raggy But you're coming with us!
Golly If Teddy ain't da leader, dere won't be no escape. I'll go by m'self.
Raggy *(Distressed. Takes his hands/arms)* It's too dangerous.
Golly No it ain't. I's da toy wid da magic stuffin', remember?
Raggy *(Pause)* Then this means ... goodbye.
Golly Only for a little while. We can meet at da North Pole.
Raggy But you mightn't ...
(RAGGY chokes, she may never see GOLLY again. She hugs him and fights back the tears)
Golly Hey now.
Raggy Take care, Golly. Please take care. *(MUSIC BEGINS)*
Golly I ain't sure what'll happen out dere, but I is sure of one ting.

No. 16 I'm Sure Of You

Golly *I'm not sure how Santa can make toys,
I'm not sure how reindeer can fly.
I'm not sure of chimneys with fire and smoke
I'm frightened that Santa might burn up and choke.
I'm not sure if humans will love me or if what Teddy says is true
But I will be happy if you're with me Raggy
The one thing I'm sure of is you.*

Raggy *I'm not sure if there's a tomorrow, I'm not sure just where I might be.
I'm not sure of dangers I'll face every day
I'm frightened of strangers who stand in my way.
I'm not sure if we'll be together, I'm not sure if we'll see it through
But I will be happy if you're with me Golly
The one thing I'm sure of is you.*

Duet *The one thing I'm sure of is you.*

(Pause for applause. Suddenly a fierce storm erupts. Use sound effects. The lights return to normal but flicker and flash, thunder and rain are heard. EVERYONE is terrified. RAGGY and GOLLY cower, the OTHERS take cover, petrified. RABBIT is terribly distressed and runs around screaming "I'm frightened" etc. She is chased and brought back. The storm in its fury continues until RABBIT has been calmed. The lightning and thunder cease but the rain continues. EVERYONE recovers a little)

Floppy That's what I call a storm.
Rabbit I'm frightened of storms. *(RABBIT is calmed)*
Whoppy Good job the train crashed. You'd be swept away in this rain.
Cowboy Sure ain't a night to camp out under t'stars.
Moppy Looks like da end of de escape.
Soldier It'll be too late soon. The humans collect us at oh six hundred.

- Hoppy** Anyway, you haven't got a leader.
(Misery returns. The TOYS are so despondent. Pause. Slowly TEDDY rises)
- Teddy** I've been thinking. *(EVERYONE turns to TEDDY)* I could escape alone. If I get washed away or run-over well, all you've lost is one Teddy.
(Lightning flashes and thunder clap is heard. EVERYONE cringes again)
- Soldier** *(After thunder dies away)* It's too risky, Ted.
- Teddy** *(Packing his bag)* So? Have you got a better idea?
(CLOWN springs to his feet and sells his latest scheme. CLOWN enthuses)
- Clown** I've got it, I've got it!
- Others** What?
- Clown** *(Sneezes)* A cold. *(OTHERS furious)* No, wait. We can't get wet in the house. And we can't escape if we stay here. *(Slower)* So let's take it with us. *(Being ridiculed)* I'm serious. We can do a Yesah and escape together.
- Cowboy** I thought I wuz dumb, Clown. But you's is even dumber.
- Dolly** It's preposterous. This house is far too big for us to move.
- Clown** *(Smug)* So who said we move it?
- Golly** Even da humans couldn't move dis house.
- Clown** Yesah could.
- Sloppy** Who's Yesah?
- Clown** *(Pleased as punch)* He built a special house and floated away.
- Others** *(Roar at Clown)* That's Noah!
- Clown** *(Terrible Italian accent)* Yesah, Noah. It's all a the same-a.
(EVERYONE disgusted. CLOWN grins and gives them a razz. WHOPPY goes to CLOWN and the two share the joke. OTHERS despondent. They wander off in small groups and sit dejectedly. TEDDY finishes filling his colour co-ordinated rucksack and pops it on his back. He moves centre-stage reading a map)
- Cowboy** Hey, pardner. What'cha doin'?' *(OTHERS look up)*
- Teddy** *(Reading map)* Just checking directions. North is ... that way.
(TEDDY moves a little to face what he thinks is north. The OTHERS either sit up or move to TEDDY. They can't believe he's really going)
- Raggy** *(Quietly)* You can't go, Teddy. It's too dangerous.
- Soldier** Suicide-mission, Ted, you won't stand a chance.
- Teddy** I see. And what are my chances if I stay here?
- Dolly** No chance.
- Teddy** Exactly. At least this way I won't die wondering. You see, that's the trouble today. Too many toys give up. First hurdle, first problem, they quit. Well I'm a hurdle-jumper, a problem-solver. I'm someone who won't give up.
(MUSIC BEGINS) It's your choice. Your decision. Me? I'm gonna have a go!

No. 17 Have A Go

- Teddy** *Every day you'll meet another problem
Some are big and some are very small*

*Some you'll overcome, some'll strike you dumb,
Some'll put your back against the wall.
Every day you'll strike a snag or struggle, feel like giving up or giving in
Still you've gotta try, here's the reason why, it's the only way to win.*

(TEDDY wins them over and they join the song with high hopes and strong voices)

Company *You've got to have a go, you owe it to yourself,*

Come on and see it through

You've got to have a try, goodbye is what you say to doubts, excuses too

You've got to have a fling and cling to faith in all the things

That you can do

You've got to soldier on, anon or out on show,

You've got to have, you've got to have a go.

Teddy *Now's the time, folks. Now or never. Stand up and be counted, throw down the gauntlet, raise the flag and give it a go. Are you with me?*

(TOYS stirred by TEDDY'S song and fiery speech. They want to escape)

Others *Yes!*

(Atmosphere electric as EVERYONE repeats the chorus during which minor suitcases, sacks, bags, etc are given to the TOYS by the HMDs. With the soldiers and C&I right behind, the TOYS march off DL singing proudly and defiantly. Without a trace of being superstitious, DOLLY raises her cute umbrella. The HMDs are singing full gusto and clamber onto presents etc as the song nears its end. Time it well so that the exit begins just as the last few bars are being sung. The HMDs wave enthusiastically and the curtain quickly falls)

No. 18 Curtain Calls

Chorus *We're toys who love to play and do so while we may
Though night time is the right time when the humans go away
To play is such a breeze, we love to trick and tease
Though many humans, any humans always make us freeze.*

HMDs *Our heart's still in the right place even though we've lost some stuffing
Our heart's filled up with good grace, this is true we sure ain't bluffing.
We mean well care for all toys and although we come apart
Our heart's still in the right place, in the right place is our heart.*

Company *You've got to have a go, you owe it to yourself,
Come on and see it through.
You've got to have a try, goodbye is what you say to doubts, excuses too
You've got to have a fling and cling to faith in all the things that you can do.
You've got to soldier on, anon or out on show you've got to have,
You've got to have a go.*

The toys, the toys, we are the toys. We are the toys!

(The soldiers and C&I take their bows during the first-time singing of TOYS. The HMDs take their individual bows during MY HEART'S IN THE RIGHT PLACE. The principals take their bows during HAVE A GO)

No. 19 Playout

Rehearsal Material and Performing Rights

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Fairy Tales

The musical which looks and sounds fantastic.

Welcome to the annual convention of the F.T.A. – the Fairy Tales Association. Every year in some fairy tale location, the fairy tale characters meet to discuss their lives and tales. It's just like any other type of convention. There are workshops and plenary sessions and the odd social get-together. But this year, things start to get a little out of hand. Mind you, everyone's there. It's a who's who from the world of mystery, magic and myth. Little Red Riding Hood, the Wolf, Cinderella, Snow White, Beauty and the Beast, the Handsome Prince, Hansel and Gretel, Jack of beanstalk fame – everyone. There's even a weird witch and rumblings above from the giant of all ogres. Now the best way for you to get all the goss from the world of fairy tales is to actually attend the convention. So just go through the woods, past the castle and head for the cottage by the beanstalk. Look, you can't miss it. It's right in front of you! Have fun! Oh and by the way, make sure you live happily ever after.

Includes the hit song *Fall In Love*. Fairy Tales is a hit with adults, teens and children. And it looks stunning. There is a free preview script at www.foxplays.com

