

# RED

an original one-act musical

by

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## CHARACTERS

RED	Young girl. Innocent and trusting.
THE WOLF	Feels trapped. Should be played very human-like.
GRANNY	Grandmother of Red. Has been bedridden with grief for more than 15 years.
THE HUNTER	Noble and honor-loving, but with a touch more pride than is good for him.

### SETTING

Granny's house and the forest. Granny's house is sparsely furnished, with a single door and window leading to the outside world, aka the forest. A wood stove, table & two chairs, queen-size bed and bedside table should be among the furniture there. More is unnecessary. The forest is dense and dark, but not necessarily frightening. People should feel exposed when in the woods.

### TIME

The whole show takes place over the course of one day. In a more general sense, the era should resemble something out of a children's fairy tale book. However, it should still feel real enough that the audience connects with the story on a personal level and not only a fantasy level. Both the fantastic and familiar elements should be present.

## SCENES

- Scene 1            Morning. Stage is split four ways:  
                  Granny's house, Red's house, and two  
                  locations in the forest.
- Songs:  
                          WHAT A DAY - All  
                          RED - Granny, Red
- Scene 2            Late morning. Somewhere in the forest.
- Songs:  
                          MY PARADISE - Wolf, Hunter  
                          RED (REPRISE)/OUTCAST - Red, Wolf  
                          HAVE A PICNIC - Red, Wolf
- Scene 3            Afternoon. Granny's house and forest  
                  outside.
- Songs:  
                          A WOLF IS A WOLF (PRE-REPRISE) -  
  Granny, Hunter  
                          MY PARADISE (REPRISE) - Wolf  
                          A WOLF IS A WOLF - Granny, Hunter
- Scene 4            Dusk. Split stage: Granny's house and  
                  somewhere in the forest.
- Song:  
                          WHAT A DAY (REPRISE) - All

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**Scene 1:**

(Morning. GRANNY and WOLF are both asleep, the one in her bed, the other on the ground. HUNTER sits or crouches with musket in hand.

Lights come up on each character as they sing.)

**RED**

WHAT A DAY!  
WHAT A GREAT, BIG BEAUTIFUL DAY!  
LOOK AT THE WAY IT SMILES AT ME.  
WHAT A DAY!  
WHAT A GLADSOME, WONDERFUL DAY!  
AND I WOULD SAY SEEMS IT WAS MADE  
ONLY FOR ME.

**WOLF**

(standing up, stretching)

WHAT A DAY!  
WHAT A DANK, DARK, HELL OF A DAY!  
HEAR THE WAY MY STOMACH GROWLS AT ME.  
WHAT A DAY!  
WHAT A HUNGRY, HORRIBLE DAY!  
AND I WOULD SAY SEEMS IT WAS MADE  
ONLY FOR ME.

**GRANNY**

(from her bed, slightly strained)

WHAT A DAY!  
WHAT A SWEET, MELODIOUS DAY!  
HEAR THE WAY THE BIRDS SING TO ME.

**WOLF**

WHAT A DAY!

**GRANNY CONT.**

WHAT A DAY!  
WHAT A PEACEFUL, GLORIOUS DAY!  
AND I WOULD SAY SEEMS IT WAS MADE  
ONLY FOR ME.

**HUNTER**

(standing)

WHAT A DAY!  
WHAT A GRAND, ADVENTUROUS DAY!

**RED**

A GLORIOUS DAY!

**HUNTER CONT.**

FEEL THE WAY IT'S WILD AND FREE.

**GRANNY**

BIRDS ARE SINGING.

**HUNTER CONT.**

WHAT A DAY!  
WHAT A FINE, HISTORICAL DAY!  
AND I WOULD SAY SEEMS IT WAS MADE  
ONLY FOR ME.

*The following four parts overlap. See  
musical arrangement for details.*

**GRANNY**

WHAT A DAY!  
MELODIOUS DAY!  
HEAR THE WAY IT SINGS TO ME.  
WHAT A DAY!  
WHAT A PEACEFUL, LOVELY, GLORIOUS DAY!  
AND I WOULD SAY SEEMS IT WAS ONLY FOR —

WHAT A DAY!  
WHAT A PEACEFUL, MELODIOUS DAY!  
HEAR THE WAY ... THE WHOLE WORLD IS SINGING TO  
ME TODAY!  
WHAT A LOVELY, GLORIOUS DAY!  
AND I WOULD SAY SEEMS TO BE MADE  
ONLY FOR ME.

WHAT A DAY!  
WHAT A PEACEFUL, WONDERFUL,  
LOVELY, MELODIOUS, GLORIOUS DAY!  
AND I WOULD SAY SEEMS IT WAS MADE  
ONLY ... ME.

**RED**

WHAT A DAY!  
WHAT A GREAT, BIG, BEAUTIFUL DAY!  
LOOK AT THE WAY IT SMILES AT ME.  
WHAT A DAY!  
WHAT A HAPPY, WONDERFUL DAY!  
AND I WOULD SAY SEEMS IT WAS MADE  
ONLY FOR ME.

WHAT A DAY!  
WHAT A WONDERFUL, BEAUTIFUL DAY!  
LOOK AT THE WAY THEY SMILE WITH ME!  
WHAT A DAY!  
WHAT A GREAT, BIG, WONDERFUL DAY!  
AND I WOULD SAY SEEMS TO BE MADE  
ONLY FOR ME.

WHAT A DAY!  
WHAT A GLAD, EUPHORICAL, BEAUTIFUL,  
WONDERFUL, GLORIOUS DAY!  
AND I WOULD SAY SEEMS IT WAS MADE  
ONLY ... ME.

**WOLF**

WHAT A DAY!  
WHAT A NASTY, HELL OF A DAY!  
LOOK AT THE WAY THEY FROWN AT ME.  
WHAT A DAY!  
WHAT A HUNGRY, HORRID, HORRIBLE DAY!  
AND I WOULD SAY SEEMS IT WAS MADE  
ONLY FOR ME.

WHAT A DEPLORABLE, TERRIBLE, HORRIBLE DAY!  
LOOK AT THE WAY THEY ALL HATE ME!  
WHAT A DAY!  
WHAT A HATEFUL, HORRIBLE DAY!  
AND I WOULD SAY SEEMS TO BE MADE  
ONLY FOR ME.

WHAT A DAY!  
WHAT A MISERABLE, HELL OF A, HORRIBLE,  
HUNGRY, DEPLORABLE DAY!  
AND I WOULD SAY SEEMS IT WAS MADE  
ONLY FOR ME.

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**HUNTER**

WHAT A DAY!  
WHAT A FINE, ADVENTUROUS DAY!  
HEAR THE WAY IT CALLS TO ME.  
WHAT A DAY!  
WHAT A LIVELY, EXCELLENT DAY!  
AND I WOULD SAY SEEMS IT WAS  
ONLY FOR ME.

O, WHAT A DAY FOR ADVENTURE!  
LOOK AT THE WAY THAT THE WHOLE WORLD  
AND EV'RYTHING'S COMING TO  
ME TODAY!  
WHAT A HANDSOME, GLORIOUS DAY!  
AND I WOULD SAY SEEMS TO BE MADE  
ONLY FOR ME.

WHAT A DAY!  
WHAT A HANDSOME, LIVELY,  
GRAND, HISTORICAL, GLORIOUS DAY!  
AND I WOULD SAY SEEMS IT WAS MADE  
ONLY ... ME.

(The HUNTER and WOLF EXIT. RED begins  
preparing to go to GRANNY'S house.)

**RED**

(happily)

What a day! Granny is sick in bed and I've got to walk through the dangerous woods to bring Granny food so she can eat because if she doesn't eat she will starve and to starve is a very bad thing for anyone to do.

**GRANNY**

It looks like a nice day outside. Who's coming today?... That's right: my granddaughter, Red!

**RED**

Granny's been sick in bed for an awfully long time.

**GRANNY**

Red comes on Thursdays... I think today is Thursday... Yesterday should have been Wednesday...



**GRANNY CONT.**

(shrugs)

Someone will be here soon.

**RED**

Almost ready. Let's see...

GOT MY HOOD AND MY CLOAK AND MY BASKET AND BREAD.  
 GONNA GO VISIT GRANNY WHO'S LYING IN BED  
 WITH HER EYES MOSTLY BLUE AND HER QUILT MOSTLY RED:  
 "LIKE THE SUN IN THE MORNING," I REMEMBER SHE SAID.

**GRANNY**

OH, THE SUN IS OUT SHINING FOR MY GRANDDAUGHTER  
 RED.  
 SHE'LL BE HERE SOMETIME SOON WITH SOME TEA AND SOME  
 BREAD,  
 AND I'M SURE SHE'LL BE WEARING MY OLD CLOAK OF RED:  
 IT WAS BEN'S FAVOURITE COLOR, I REMEMBER HE SAID.

**RED**

RED... RED...  
 THE COLOR OF HER QUILT AND OF MY RIDING HOOD  
 RED... RED...  
 THE COLOR OF ALL THINGS GOOD

**RED**

WITH TEA AND SOME  
 JAM AND SOME BUTTER  
 ON BREAD  
 WHEN I COME EV'RY  
 THURSDAY SHE'S ALWAYS  
 WELL FED.  
 I CAN NEVER REMEMBER  
 HER OUT OF HER BED,  
 JUST SITTING AND  
 STARING AT SOMETHING  
 AHEAD.

**GRANNY**

THE HOUSE IS SO QUIET...  
 ... THEN IN COMES RED!  
 MY DAUGHTER SAYS I SHOULD  
 GET OUT OF BED...

RED... RED...  
 THE COLOR OF THINGS  
 THAT ARE NOT AS THEY  
 SEEM.  
 RED... RED...

RED... RED...  
 THE COLOR OF LOVE;  
 SWEET LOVE.

RED... RED...  
 THE COLOR OF MEMORY.

**GRANNY**

ON A PATH IN A FIELD IN A WOOD MOSTLY DEAD,  
WE WOULD WALK BOTH TOGETHER WHERE NONE ERE HAD  
TREAD,  
AND THE GIRL WALKED BEHIND AND THE BOY STAYED AHEAD  
LIKE TWO MATCHING FLOWERS IN BRIGHT COATS OF RED.

**RED & GRANNY**

RED... RED...  
THE COLOR OF MEM'RIES AND FAR AWAY THINGS.  
RED... RED...  
THE COLOR OF ALL MY DREAMS.

**RED**

RED... RED...  
  
IT WILL BELONG TO ME.  
RED...  
A COLORFUL, SOFT,  
BRIGHT, WARM  
DREAM.

**GRANNY**

RED... RED...  
I LONG TO BELONG TO THE  
MEM'RIES I SEE!  
RED...  
A LONG AGO,  
DISTANT  
DREAM.

(RED EXITS with basket in  
hand.)

BLACKOUT.

GRANNY'S bed gets cleared as  
the next scene begins on the  
other side of the stage.)

END OF SCENE 1

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**SCENE 2:**

(The HUNTER ENTERS. The WOLF is ONSTAGE throughout his speech. The two are only a small distance apart in the woods, but neither one sees the other.)

**HUNTER**

The game begins. Nothing escapes from the hunter; I shall seek my prey to the ends of the earth; I can track a snowflake in a snowstorm, a speck of dust on a windy day. My gun never misses, my prey never escapes.

**WOLF**

(big yawn)  
Augh, morning, light, had to wake up...  
(shakes himself awake)  
Okay. Ready for the day.  
(stomach growls)  
Food. Can't live without it, can't find it in this blasted forest.

(HUNTER & WOLF look around for something to hunt. BOTH settle their gazes on the SPOTLIGHT, which flits about the stage for a bit before going OFFSTAGE.)

**WOLF & HUNTER**

A rabbit!

**WOLF**

That's breakfast.

**HUNTER**

As good as dead.

**WOLF**

So, the question is: is that little bit of food worth all that time and effort...

(stomach growls)  
Yes. Here we go again.

**HUNTER**

I'll have it within the hour!

---

(BOTH hunt the same rabbit throughout the song, neither one seeing the other for the whole song.)

**HUNTER**

A SPORT  
OF CLEVER SORT:  
I HUNT A RABBIT ALONE IN THE WOODS TODAY.  
I RUN;  
I HAVE MY GUN.  
NO RABBIT ESCAPES FROM ME HERE IN THE WOODS TODAY.

FOR DAYS AND NIGHTS  
IT'S MY DELIGHT  
TO LIVE IN THE WOOD  
AND CATCH MY FOOD,

FOR MY PARADISE  
IS EV'RYTHING YOU SEE AROUND ME.  
MY PARADISE,  
WHERE I CAN HUNT AND SLEEP AND ROAM FREELY  
LIKE A BIRD THAT SOARS AND SINGS AND FLIES.  
I PRAY TO GOD I'LL NEVER LOSE MY PRIZE:  
MY PARADISE.

**WOLF**

EACH MEAL  
IS AN ORDEAL.  
EACH TIME I GO TO EAT SOMETHING IT RUNS AWAY!  
I RUN  
WITHOUT THE FUN  
THAT COMES FROM PLAYING BACKGAMMON OR LAWN CROQUET.

I HAVE TO MOVE  
TO GET MY FOOD.  
IF ANYONE CARED  
THEY'D TAKE ME WHERE THERE'S

MY PARADISE,  
WHERE ALL MY MEALS ARE SERVED RIGHT TO ME.  
MY PARADISE,  
WHERE I CAN LIVE QUITE LUXURIOUSLY  
IN A HOUSE THAT'S WARM AND BIG AND DRY.  
SOMEDAY I HOPE I SEE WITH MY OWN EYES:  
MY PARADISE.

**HUNTER**

AROUND  
 I GO TO TOWN  
 BACK FROM THE HUNT WITH  
 DEAD ANIMALS ON  
 DISPLAY.  
 THE EYES  
 OF PASSERBYS  
 APPLAUD MY SKILL IN  
 AMASSING A VAST ARRAY.

RABBITS AND SQUIRRELS  
 AND TURKEYS AND MORE.  
 WEASELS AND FERRETS  
 AND VENISON GALORE.  
 I SHOOT ALL THAT I CAN  
 FOR MY HOMELAND IN

MY PARADISE!  
 THIS WOOD THAT I KNOW  
 ALL THE PATHS IN:  
 MY PARADISE!

I RULE THESE WOODS  
 THEY'RE MINE.  
 I COME HERE TO RESIDE

FOR MANY DAYS  
 AND NIGHTS  
 IN

MY PARADISE.  
 MY LUNCH AND I CAN  
 BOTH ROAM FREELY  
 MY PARADISE.

I PRAY IT NEVER DIES...

MY PARADISE!

**WOLF**

ONCE A YEAR OR SO  
 I GO TO TOWN  
 TO SEE WHAT THEY WILL  
 SAY.  
 SURPRISE!  
 THEY ALL DESPISE  
 THE VERY SIGHT OF ME AND  
 DRIVE ME AWAY!

I DO NOTHING WRONG,  
 I JUST DON'T BELONG  
 WITH THEM OR THEIR CLAN,  
 'CAUSE MY HOMELAND IS

MY PARADISE!  
 NO ONE WANTS ME TO  
 LIVE IN  
 MY PARADISE.  
 DON'T LET ME PARLAY,  
 BEG OR BARGAIN:  
 HERE IN THE WOODS  
 THEY'VE FORCED ME TO  
 RESIDE!  
 SOMEDAY I'LL GET AWAY,  
 SOMEHOW I'LL FIND  
 MY PARADISE.

MY PARADISE  
 TO  
 LIVE COMF'TERBLY -  
 MY PARADISE.  
 WHERE SOMEBODY WILL CARE  
 ABOUT MY LIFE,  
 AND I'D LIKE  
 WHEN I HAVE FINALLY DIED,  
 TO HAVE SOMEBODY MISS ME,  
 TO HAVE SOMEBODY CRY...

MY PARADISE.

---

(HUNTER, aiming OFFSTAGE, shoots and kills the rabbit, which slides to a stop in front of the WOLF. The song ends.)

WOLF picks up the dead rabbit and walks right into the HUNTER, who was crossing to retrieve it. BOTH see each other.)

**WOLF**

Shoot...

(The WOLF turns and starts to run, and the HUNTER points his musket at HIM.)

**HUNTER**

Freeze! Keep the rabbit where I can see it.

(the WOLF follows orders.)

Now – set the rabbit *down*.

**WOLF**

(tentatively)

B—but i—it's mine.

**HUNTER**

What? I can't hear you. Speak up!

**WOLF**

My rabbit!

**HUNTER**

Good sir, I am the one who shot the rabbit. Therefore, it is mine, and you are trying to walk off with my game.

**WOLF**

Who, me?

**HUNTER**

Yes, you.

**WOLF**

Couldn't be.

**HUNTER**

Then who?

(The WOLF looks over his shoulder at the HUNTER as he thinks and makes a break for it.)

**HUNTER**

Hold it right there!

(the WOLF stops, caught)

I will let you go completely unharmed. All I want from you is what is rightfully mine.

**WOLF**

(turns and begins to cross slowly toward the HUNTER)

It can't be yours. It's in my hand, isn't it?

**HUNTER**

(keeping gun leveled)

Well, I... saw it first and sh-shot it, so... it must... be mine.

**WOLF**

You know what, you're right. I'm sorry, I was in the wrong.

(The WOLF holds rabbit out to the HUNTER.)

It's all yours.

**HUNTER**

Really?

**WOLF**

Sure. Wasn't hungry anyways.

(The WOLF'S stomach growls. HE winces.)

HUNTER lifts gun barrel and steps forward to take rabbit.)

**HUNTER**

Well, thank you sir, how very sporting of you...

---

(The WOLF runs past the HUNTER with rabbit held closely in his paws, OFFSTAGE. The HUNTER tries frantically to re-aim musket to shoot the WOLF.)

Shot.

Beat.)

**HUNTER**

Drat.

(Runs OFF after the WOLF. As HUNTER runs OFF, WOLF sneaks back ONSTAGE and sits down on a big log.)

**WOLF**

The fruit of someone else's labors. Cheers.

(The WOLF bites into rabbit, chews, looks around for humans, swallows.)

**WOLF**

(hides rabbit)

Waiter! Yes, I'm ready with my order: I will have the Rabbit. A la - Dead. With a dozen pork ribs, and the chicken soup for an appetizer, and... cider! A - thing - of cider!

(Pause)

Thank you. That will be all.

(Picks up rabbit. Beat. Throws rabbit on ground. Stomach growls.)

I'm not hungry!

(Beat. The WOLF grabs up rabbit and angrily takes a bite.)

RED ENTERS, the WOLF falls over backwards trying to hide.)

**RED**

LA DA DA DUM DA DA DA DUM DA DEE DA DEH,  
LIKE TWO MATCHING FLOWERS IN BRIGHT COATS OF RED.



**WOLF**

THIS IS NOT A HUNTER ON THE PROWL.  
 THIS IS JUST A GIRL PROB'LY LOST IN THE WOODS  
 ON HER WAY BACK HOME,  
 WALKING ALL ALONE.  
 WHAT IS THAT I SMELL?  
 COULD THAT BE FOOD SHE'S CARRYING?

**RED**

GRANDMA USED TO WALK  
 THROUGH HERE SHE  
 TOLD ME ONE DAY.  
 WITH GRANDPA SHE'D  
 WALK HERE 'CAUSE  
 HE KNEW THE WAY.  
 THAT WAS REAL LONG AGO  
 BEFORE HE WENT AWAY.  
 I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE'S  
 GONE TO AND  
 GRANNY WON'T SAY.

**WOLF**

THEY THINK I'M  
 DANGEROUS AND MEAN.  
 THAT'S ONLY WHEN THEY  
 THREATEN TO KILL ME  
 AND THINK THAT I  
 THREATEN THEM.  
 BUT SHE WON'T THREATEN  
 ME.  
 I'M SURE IF THEY WERE  
 HERE  
 THEY ALL WOULD DRIVE ME  
 FROM HER.

RED...  
 RED...  
 THIS CLOAK KEEPS ME  
 SAFE IN THIS  
 FOREST OF TREES.  
 RED...  
 RED...  
 THIS CLOAK IS MY  
 GRANDMA PROTECTING  
 ME.

WHEN I FIND  
 PEOPLE KIND  
 I WILL KNOW THAT I  
 MUST BE  
 DREAMING.  
 I'LL AWAKE,  
 MORNING'S BREAK,  
 TO  
 MY  
 LIFE.

RED... RED...

I'M THE OUTCAST.

**WOLF**

Just gotta get her to put her basket down for a  
 second...

(WOLF prepares himself as though for an  
 acting part, then lays down on the ground  
 and drags himself across RED'S path.)

---

**WOLF**

(groans)

(Throughout this scene, RED continues to hold onto her basket while the WOLF makes attempts to ease it out of her hands without HER noticing.)

**RED**

Oh! Oh, do you need help? Have you been hurt?

**WOLF**

I- I've been- shot! Help! Help me!

**RED**

Where? Where were you shot? I don't see any blood.

**WOLF**

I- broke my leg. Fell- long way- I can't feel my toes!

**RED**

(feeling WOLF'S leg)

I can't feel where you broke it...

**WOLF**

Insides - I can feel my insides - rupturing... good-bye, cruel world...

(WOLF is thrashing about on the ground when HIS stomach growls. Beat. RED takes a loaf of bread out of her basket, rips a piece off, sets it on the ground DOWNSTAGE of the WOLF, then walks away and watches HIM carefully.)

WOLF slowly calms down as he realizes HE'S lost his audience. HE notices the bread next to him, grabs it and devours it ravenously.)

**RED**

You've been trying to take my basket, haven't you?

(Beat)

---

Maybe.

(Pause)

**RED**  
If you're hungry, I'd be glad to share some of my food  
with you.

(Beat)

Are you hungry?

(Pause. WOLF'S stomach growls.)

**WOLF**  
Yes. I'm hungry.

**RED**  
Okay. Is it okay with you if we share the food?

**WOLF**  
(uncomfortable)  
Yeah.

**RED**  
Okay. Let's have a picnic, then, right here.

(RED sets the basket down and takes out a picnic blanket. The WOLF looks at the basket but doesn't take it. RED takes more things to eat out of the basket, setting them on the blanket.)

**RED**  
Some of that... some of this... some of that other  
thing...  
(sits down, offers hand to WOLF to shake)  
My name's Red. What's your name?

**WOLF**  
W- Wolf. You can call me Wolf.

**RED**  
Nice to meet you Mr. Wolf. Let's see, what should we  
start with...

---

**RED**

DO YOU WANT BREAD OR FRUIT  
TO START THIS PICNIC OUT?  
OR MAYBE SOMETHING ELSE:  
MY MOTHER'S SAUERKRAUT.

Try something. You must be hungry!

**WOLF**

Yeah...

(grabs food and begins to eat ravenously)

**RED**

THAT'S HOW YOU HAVE A PICNIC  
THAT'S HOW YOU BRING A SMILE  
TO ANY FROWNING FACE THAT  
YOU MIGHT MEET  
IN THE STREET.  
SO IF YOU HAVE A PICNIC,  
I'D SAY IT'S WORTH YOUR WHILE  
TO INVITE SOMEONE WHO NEEDS  
SOMETHING LIKE A PICNIC.

HAVE YOU HAD ENOUGH?  
OR DO YOU WANT SOME MORE?

**WOLF**

GOT ANYTHING TO DRINK?

**RED**

CIDER?

**WOLF**

LET ME POUR!

**RED**

THAT'S HOW YOU MAKE A PICNIC;  
THAT'S HOW YOU MAKE A FRIEND.  
LIFE'S SO MUCH EASIER FOR  
THEM TO BEAR  
WHEN YOU CARE.  
SO WHEN YOU HAVE A PICNIC,  
JUST LOOK AROUND THE BEND.  
YOU'RE VERY SURE TO FIND SOMEONE  
WHO NEEDS A PICNIC.

---

**RED CONT.**

SANDWICHES AND ORANGES AND BEETS,  
LETTUCES AND CHOCOLATE-COVERED SWEETS,  
FOOD TO EAT WITH FRIENDS AND LOTS OF FUN  
FOR SOMEONE WHO WOULD NORMALLY HAVE NONE.

So, Mr. Wolf, where are you from?

**WOLF**

I live in the woods.

**RED**

I like the woods. Do you like living out in the woods?

**WOLF**

Nnnnnno. Not really, no. It gets old fast.

**RED**

Oh. I live with my mother in a house on the edge of town.

**WOLF**

Is that nice?

**RED**

Oh, yes. It's very nice.

**WOLF**

(thoughtful)

Hm. I'll bet it is.

**RED**

NEXT TIME I HAVE A PICNIC  
I'LL PACK FOR MORE THAN TWO:  
IT'D BE AN AWFUL PICNIC TO GO TO  
WITHOUT YOU THERE.

Still hungry?

**WOLF**

Yeah, a little.

**RED**

What would you like more of?

**WOLF**

Anything's fine.

(RED begins packing up while the WOLF continues eating.)

**RED**

Now that we're friends, we should have tea or a party or something. I'm going to be at my grandma's house today. Maybe you could stop by and the three of us could have tea together!

**WOLF**

Yeah. Um, yeah, sure. That'd be great. Tea.

**RED**

Okay. Come by this afternoon.

**WOLF**

How do I get in?

**RED**

You knock on the door, silly, and I'll let you in!

**WOLF**

Oh. Right.

(Beat)

Where— where does your grandma live?

**RED**

She lives about a half an hour walk that way, under the three big oak trees, next to the little stream with the stepping stones.

**WOLF**

Okay.

(Pause)

**RED**

You will come, right? To have tea later today?

**WOLF**

Uh, yes. Yes yes. Tea, later today, good. Good.

**RED**

Okay. It'll be lots of fun! I'll see you later! Bye!

(RED EXITS, waving good-bye to WOLF.  
WOLF is thoughtful and a little confused.

Pause.)

**WOLF**

Well, that was strange.

(looking up after RED)

I'll see you later!

(WOLF runs OFFSTAGE a different way than  
RED went.)

END OF SCENE 2

**SCENE 3:**

(GRANNY'S house on one side of the stage, the woods on the other. See play's Setting for details on GRANNY'S house. RED'S basket is next to GRANNY'S bed but can't be seen from the window. GRANNY is in bed, awake. HUNTER is opposite the house, presumably a long way off in the woods.

Song begins as lights come up.)

**GRANNY**

BEN, DARLING BEN, TELL ME, WHERE HAVE YOU GONE?  
I HAVE BEEN HERE IN THIS BED ALL ALONE  
WITHOUT YOU WITH ME ANYMORE.

**HUNTER**

Blast that wolf...

OH, HOW I LOATHE ANY SEMBLANCE OF WRONG  
DECEIT, TREACHERY: THINGS OF HELL. THINGS I LONG

TO SEE BE NO MORE  
UPON THIS WORLD OF ORDER.  
HE, SCOUNDREL HE BE,  
HE STOLE MY PRIDE!

**GRANNY**

STOLE MY LOVE,

**GRANNY CONT.**

MY ADORED.

**HUNTER**

THIS MEANS WAR!

(HUNTER EXITS. GRANNY falls asleep.

WOLF ENTERS, having walked through the woods to GRANNY'S house.)

**WOLF**

This'd be the place. Three oaks. Stream. Not a bad place. Not a bad place at all.



**WOLF CONT.**

(looks in window)

She's not there. Just some unfortunate creature in the bed. No little girl. Rrred? I think that was her name. I think that was it. Ah, what am I doing? This is probably all a trap.

(looks around)

But if it's not... but if it is. But then if it's not... and therefore, I can conclude... absolutely nothing.

(beat)

She didn't look like she hated me. But then, if she doesn't, someone who cares about her probably will. That's the way with these things. I'll just wait it out. See how it turns out. See if she backs out. Why does a wolf want tea, anyway?

(RED ENTERS holding a teapot and carries it around the house to the door. The WOLF hides, startled. RED goes into the house, shutting the door behind her.)

**RED**

Granny, I'm back with the water.

(GRANNY remains asleep.)

RED puts the teapot on the stove and moves her basket to the table, humming. Then she goes to sit and rock in GRANNY'S rocking chair, for fun.

WOLF looks through window.)

**WOLF**

(deep breath)

Here goes nothing.

(The WOLF knocks tentatively. RED runs to answer the door.)

**RED**

Mr. Wolf! Come in.

**WOLF**

Hi.

---

**RED**  
You're here... early. Did you get here okay?

**WOLF**  
Yeah.

**RED**  
I— I don't have the tea ready yet. The water still needs to heat a little. And...

(sees empty vase)  
Oh! I was going to pick flowers for the table! Um... I'm going to go pick flowers for the table.

(beat)  
You can take out the rest of the food if you like and put it on the table so we can eat it. The dishes are in the basket too. I won't be gone long.

**WOLF**  
Okay.

(RED leaves house and EXITS stage.)

WOLF, left alone in the house, becomes cautious. HE makes sure GRANNY is really asleep, then pulls everything out of the basket one at a time, tasting some things but leaving mostly everything awkwardly on the table. Finally, RED still gone, HE slowly walks around taking in the experience of being in a house by invitation.)

**WOLF**  
LA DA DA DA, NA DA DA DA NDA DA DA DA...  
HEY, THIS IS NICE:  
INVITED IN A HOUSE THAT'S WARM AND DRY.  
(music sustains)

(RED ENTERS with a handful of daisies humming "Have A Picnic" and enters GRANNY'S house.)

**RED**  
I'm back.

**WOLF**

(starts, then relaxes)

So you are.

**RED**

(puts daisies in vase with water)

How is the tea coming?

**WOLF**

Um, I don't know.

**RED**

Oh.

(checks tea)

Should be a few more minutes.

(RED sits down at the table and looks at the food and dishes.)

**RED CONT.**

We can start eating now if you want. While we wait for the tea, and for Grandma to wake up, I mean.

(offers WOLF food)

Do you want any?

**WOLF**

(slowly)

No, actually. I'm not hungry right now.

**RED**

Oh.

**WOLF**

This— this is— this is weird. Is this weird for you? This is weird for me. I — Is this weird for you?

**RED**

No.

**WOLF**

This isn't— strange... with... this... me... you're not yelling at me... not scared of me. Are you scared of me?

---

**RED**

I'm not scared of you.

**WOLF**

Okay. Okay. Just... Why? Why not, I mean.

**RED**

I don't know. You've been nice to me. And we're friends, right?

**WOLF**

That's one way to look at it...

**RED**

Granny might think this was weird. But it'll be okay because you're my friend. Granny always likes it when I bring my friends over.

**WOLF**

I'm... your friend.

**RED**

Of course.

**WOLF**

We're... fr-

(Beat)

I can't handle this. I'm leaving.

**RED**

No! Don't leave! We haven't had tea.

**WOLF**

It- it scares me. People beat me up when I come too close to houses like this one. Both my parents were killed foraging too close to houses like this one. I'm not- I thought it was a good idea, it seemed like a good idea, but it's not. I'm leaving.

(WOLF begins to leave.)

**RED**

*I'm* not scared of *you*.

(WOLF stops in doorway.

Pause.)

**WOLF**

What about your Granny there?

**RED**

I'll talk to her. She won't be scared when she finds out that you're my friend.

**WOLF**

I'm your friend.

**RED**

Yes.

(Beat.)

Is that okay?

**WOLF**

I— I'm willing to find out.

(turns back into the house)

I think the tea's ready.

**RED**

Oh. Thank you. Here.

(hands WOLF her red cloak)

You can have this. Granny won't be able to recognize you when she wakes up. You don't have to be afraid of her.

(RED pours tea for three. The WOLF puts on the cloak and the hood so that his telltale ears are covered up.

GRANNY begins to move in bed. SHE is just waking up.)

**GRANNY**

(muttering)

Ben, Benjamin?... Ben, where are you?...

**RED**

Granny? Granny, are you awake?

---

**GRANNY**

Ben, not so fast. I can't keep up. Slow down... come back...

(wakes up)

Red? Red, wa— is that you?

(WOLF pulls the hood down further and slouches.)

**RED**

Yep, it's me. I brought a friend with me today. We started tea without you. I hope you don't mind.

(RED brings GRANNY'S portion over to HER in bed. The WOLF continues to eat at the table, hunched or slouched.)

**GRANNY**

Did you ask your mother about that leak in the ceiling?

**RED**

Yes. She said she'd come down to fix it next week. Granny, here's your tea.

**GRANNY**

Thank you, dear.

**RED**

And some biscuits.

**GRANNY**

Thank you. Set them on the table.

(RED does.)

**GRANNY CONT.**

So, you brought a friend today, Red? Who is it?

**RED**

Mr. Wolf.

(GRANNY starts, then does a double take.)

**GRANNY**

*Mr. Wolf?* Oh, heh heh, what a curious name. Who is he? What does he do?

**RED**

Um, he works in the forest. Exploring. Things. I think.

**GRANNY**

Like a hunter?

**RED**

Ssort of. But without the gun, or the being mean to animals.

**GRANNY**

Red, hunters are very good people. It was a hunter that saved me many years ago. Did I ever tell you that story?

**RED**

No.

**GRANNY**

(stops, then)

Ask your mother about it. I'm sure she remembers. So, do I get to meet this friend of yours or is he just going to sit at the table all day with his back to me?

**RED**

Well, uh... he's nervous about meeting you.

**GRANNY**

Oh? Why is that?

**RED**

Well... see, he's not a human, so he thought you might be scared of him. But you really shouldn't be.

**GRANNY**

Oh, you brought in one of your pets and dressed it up in my red hood? Is it a bird? Like last time?

**RED**

No—

**GRANNY**

A rabbit?

**RED**

No. Granny, he—

**GRANNY**

A dog? Cat? Squirrel? Mouse? Red, c'mon, tell me who he is. I want to meet your Mr. W—

(she chokes on this word)

Mr. W—... Mi—... W—... W—... Red, you didn't.

**RED**

Granny...

(The WOLF suddenly gets up to leave, dropping the cloak to the floor.)

**WOLF**

I really should be going now.

(GRANNY sees the WOLF'S face and faints from the shock.)

**RED**

No, stay here. You'll be fine.

**WOLF**

Did you hear her? Look at her! She's an old woman who faints from fear at the sight of me.

**RED**

(pleading)

She'll be better when she wakes up.

**WOLF**

By that time, I will be long gone.

**RED**

She can't hurt you —

(GRANNY has woken up. SHE looks at the WOLF and screams at the top of her lungs.)



---

(The WOLF tries to leave again, but RED holds him back.)

The HUNTER ENTERS.)

**GRANNY**

Get him out of here! Get him o— stay away from him, Red! Get over here!

**RED**

Granny, —

(GRANNY screams again.)

The HUNTER hears GRANNY'S scream. HE drops his pack and runs to the house to help, opening the door.)

**HUNTER**

Is anyone hurt? I heard a cry of distr— (gasp) The wolf!  
(beats the WOLF back into the house with the butt of his gun; to GRANNY)  
Please remain calm, ma'am. I'll take care of this liar for you.

(RED runs between the HUNTER and the WOLF.)

**GRANNY**

Red, get back here!

**RED**

He's not a liar — he's my friend!

**HUNTER**

Stand back, little red-cloaked girl! This wolf is a friend of no man.

**RED**

(grabbing gun)

Stop it!

**HUNTER**

Let go!

**GRANNY**

Shoot the wolf! Shoot it! Quickly!

(HUNTER pushes RED to the floor and aims at the WOLF.)

**HUNTER**

Gladly.

(RED dives at the HUNTER'S legs. The WOLF jumps to side.

Shot. Blackout.

Lights up. WOLF lays motionless on the floor, a head wound visible to the audience. RED is lying by the HUNTER, out of breath and in shock.)

**GRANNY**

Is it dead?

**HUNTER**

I never miss. He won't trouble you again, I assure you of that.

**GRANNY**

Thank God!

(GRANNY falls back onto her pillows.)

**HUNTER**

I'll dispose of the body for you ma'am.

**GRANNY**

Thank you...

(At this point, GRANNY begins to tune out the world, so she doesn't hear the exchanges that follow.

The HUNTER begins moving, but, before HE can get to the WOLF, RED recovers from her shock and throws herself over the WOLF'S motionless body.)

---

**RED**

No! Get away! You villain!

**HUNTER**

But, little girl, I simply—

**RED**

(furious)

Don't. Touch. Him.

(Awkward beat)

**HUNTER**

Well, I guess I'll be seeing you both then. I've done my duty. You can treat the body how you like.

(HUNTER waves to both, then leaves, picking up his pack and EXITING toward the town. RED is crying.)

**RED**

Mr. Wolf? Mr. Wolf, wake up. Wake up! He didn't kill you. He didn't kill you.

(SHE looks at the open wound and bursts into fresh tears. SHE hurriedly picks her red cloak up and tries to wipe the blood away with it. SHE hums the chorus of "Red" as she does this.)

**RED CONT.**

I promised you you'd be safe. I'm sorry.

(She uses the cloak as a blanket to cover the WOLF, then goes to stand by GRANNY'S bed.)

**RED**

(quietly)

Granny?

(GRANNY begins waking up.)

---

**RED CONT.**

(louder)

Granny.

**GRANNY**

Red?

(recognizes her)

Red! Are you okay? You're not hurt?

**RED**

No, I'm fine Granny.

**GRANNY**

Thank God! You could have been killed!

(GRANNY pulls RED tight to her chest, and RED climbs up next to HER.)

**GRANNY CONT.**

I couldn't live if you had died too.

(Pause)

**RED**

Granny?

**GRANNY**

Yes, dear.

**RED**

What happens when someone you love dies?

**GRANNY**

Well, you become very sad usually. And then you try to make whatever happened unhappen, but— but it doesn't work. And, then...

**RED**

Then what, Granny?

**GRANNY**

I don't know.

(RED begins crying again.)

**GRANNY**

What's wrong, dear? Tell Granny what's wrong.

**RED**

The hunter killed my friend! The wolf was my friend and he didn't do anything wrong and he killed him and he didn't hurt anyone!

**GRANNY**

Red! Stop going on like that over an animal. Over a w—  
Over a wolf, nonetheless.

(RED continues crying.)

**GRANNY CONT.**

(softer)

It's okay, Red. There's no need to cry. It was for your own safety.

(senses that she's not being comforting)

Red...

(RED falls asleep crying.)

Music starts.)

**GRANNY**

RED, LITTLE RED, SAFE AND SOUND IN MY ARMS...  
RED, I AM GLAD THAT THE— WOLF DID NO HARM,  
AS HE DID TO BEN LONG AGO.

WHY DO YOU CRY O'ER THE WOLF, LITTLE RED?  
FOR HE DESERVED TO DIE FOR THE SINS OF HIS FATHERS:  
A WOLF IS A WOLF, NOTHING MORE.

**HUNTER**

WE'LL SEE HIM NO MORE  
UPON THIS WORLD OF ORDER.

**GRANNY**

THIS WORLD IS IN O-O-ORDER!

**HUNTER CONT.**

HE, SCOUNDREL HE BE,  
HE'S BEEN CUT DOWN  
NOW THAT I'VE EVENED THE SCORE.

**GRANNY**

RED, WHY WERE YOU NOT AFRAID OF THAT MONSTER?  
I — I WAS SO SCARED AND BEN TRIED TO DEFEND ME.

**GRANNY**

BUT WHY,  
WHY DID BEN DIE  
WHILE YOU, RED,  
ARE STILL LIVING?  
THIS WOLF  
DIDN'T ATTACK  
WHEN HE COULD  
HAVE AND KILLED YOU.  
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

I MUST TRY  
TO EXPLAIN  
TO MYSELF  
WHY YOU LIVE  
WHILE MY LOVE  
LIVES NO MORE.

**HUNTER**

WOLF IS DEAD...  
GOOD AND DEAD!  
YOU WERE DEFEATED:  
JUSTICE SERVED.  
NOW HE'S DEAD.  
GOOD AND DEAD.  
HE CAN HARM NOTHING!

I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN

A WOLF IS JUST A WOLF:  
A CREATURE THAT CANNOT  
BE TRUSTED.  
HE, WE WILL AGREE,  
SHALL BE THE CREATURE WE  
ALL MOST ABHOR.

(Instrumental)

A WOLF IS JUST A WOLF,  
NOT AN MALIGN  
MALEFACTOR.  
HE — LORD, CAN IT BE —  
HAS HE BEEN WRONGED  
AND NOT I AS BEFORE?

A WOLF IS JUST A WOLF  
NOT A THING TO BE  
TRUSTE-ED.  
HE ALWAYS WILL BE  
IN THE WRONG  
EVERMORE!

**GRANNY**

HE HAD NOT YET SINNED,  
YET I DESIRED EXECUTION.  
I BLAMED HIM FOR MY  
LOSS WHICH HE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN  
CULPABLE FOR.

**GRANNY CONT.**

Why weren't you afraid, Red? Don't you know he could  
have killed you?

(RED begins to wake up.)

**RED**

(rubbing her eyes)

Where am I?

**GRANNY**

You're right here. It's your Granny. Remember me? I think you're okay now.

**RED**

(dazed)

I... this is your house.

**GRANNY**

Yes, it is.

**RED**

I... I thought... where's Mr. Wolf? He was right h-

(SHE suddenly remembers what happened and flies off the bed to go check on the WOLF.)

**GRANNY**

Red? Red, where are you going?

**RED**

(frenetically)

He's still hurt. The bleeding's stopped... um...

(grabs some of GRANNY'S pillows and puts them under the WOLF'S head, on the floor)

There.

**GRANNY**

Those are my pillows!

**RED**

I know! Uh, water.

(gets up and takes the flowers out of the vase to use the water and gets a napkin)

Water to wash the ... the wound.

**GRANNY**

Red, what are you doing?

**RED**

Won't he be all right, Granny? How do you check a pulse...

**GRANNY**

I don't know, dear...

**RED**

He's going to be okay, isn't he, Granny? He's okay, right?

**GRANNY**

Red, sometimes bad things happen and there's nothing we can do about them.

(Pause while RED tries to come to terms with this fact.)

**RED**

(holding the WOLF)

No! No! You've got to be alive! You've got to be!  
(shaking the WOLF)

Live!

(The WOLF coughs and sits up a little, alive. The bullet only grazed his head and shot one of his ears off.)

**RED**

You're alive! You're alive!

**WOLF**

Wha- stop that. Stop shaking me. Uhghhh.  
(collapses to the ground again)

**RED**

Are you alright? How do you feel?

**WOLF**

I'm fine. I feel- oww, my head hurts.

**RED**

You're hurt there. Stay still.



**WOLF**

What are you doing? Why didn't he kill me?

**RED**

I wouldn't let him. It's not right. You hadn't done anything wrong.

**WOLF**

Didn't do anything wrong? I— well, that's not quite true...

**RED**

I didn't want you to die.

**WOLF**

You— You didn't want me to die?

(RED shakes her head)

Your eyes are all wet...

**RED**

(trying to wipe them dry)

I was— crying. I'm okay now.

**WOLF**

You were crying. You were worried about me?

(RED nods her head. The WOLF tries to process this. HE falls back onto his pillow.)

**WOLF**

Thank you.

**RED**

You should rest now.

**WOLF**

I can rest. The hunter's not coming back?

(RED shakes her head.)

**RED**

He's gone for good.

**WOLF**

That's nice. Thank you.

(The WOLF falls asleep.)

**GRANNY**

Red?

(RED comes over to GRANNY'S side.)

**RED**

Yes?

**GRANNY**

Will he be okay if you leave him alone for a minute?

**RED**

Yes. I think so.

**GRANNY**

That's good.

(Beat)

Red, fifteen years ago, your grandfather was killed. I haven't— since then, I haven't left this house or even this bed.

**RED**

That's why you've been in bed all this time? Do you miss Grandpa?

**GRANNY**

Yes, dear. Very much.

**RED**

Granny, ...

**GRANNY**

I want to get out. And walk again. And... take my hand.

(RED does. GRANNY pauses.)

**RED**

Are you ready, Granny?

---

I don't know.

**GRANNY**

(GRANNY stands up slowly, holding onto RED's hand. SHE begins to walk for the first time in 15 years, albeit with her granddaughter's help.)

**GRANNY**

(gesturing)

The rocking chair.

(GRANNY very slowly walks over to the rocking chair and sits down in it.)

**GRANNY**

It's so cold.

**RED**

Do you need your quilt?

**GRANNY**

No, no...

(remembering)

My slippers! Under the bed. You can bring those here.

(RED does.)

**GRANNY**

Thank you, dear.

(SHE shivers a little.

RED looks at her GRANNY and thinks about what she is about to do. Then SHE goes and takes her cloak off of the sleeping WOLF and puts it around GRANNY'S shoulders.)

**GRANNY**

Won't he be cold now?

---

**RED**

He'll be fine.  
(hugs GRANNY)  
I love you, Granny.

**GRANNY**

I love you too, Red.

(RED begins to take the red quilt off of the bed, along with more pillows, to make a sort of bed for the WOLF on the floor.)

**GRANNY**

(slowly, to no one or herself)  
I think if one stands for a very long time in the same place, trying very hard not to move or to keep something that died a long time ago that you couldn't save; if you try very hard to forget what happened and hide away from everything that reminds you, then you find ...

(RED lifts the WOLF'S head to put pillows under it and sit him up more, and HE wakes up.)

**WOLF**

What—?

**RED**

Shh. Lean back.

**GRANNY**

... You find that you can't move. Because you're scared that, if you do, it might hurt you again. ...

(RED is cleaning and bandaging the WOLF'S head.)

**WOLF**

Ow!

**RED**

Sorry.

**GRANNY**

... But it's not worth it, to hide and do nothing or to forget and know nothing. Why, if you don't know and you don't do, then... then it's not worth being alive. It can't be worth avoiding death if you're not alive to begin with.

(Beat)

**WOLF**

Granny?

**GRANNY**

Yes?

**WOLF**

Uh, thank you.

**GRANNY**

(honestly, as if to a child)  
You're welcome, dear.

(Blackout.)

END OF SCENE 3

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**SCENE 4:**

(GRANNY'S house is still set up like in the previous scene. GRANNY'S bed is empty. GRANNY is sitting in her rocking chair and RED is in the house with her. Three places are set on the table {or some other similar sign}, signifying that the WOLF always has a home to return to there. The WOLF is in the forest somewhere, his head bandaged. The HUNTER is off somewhere else in the woods, separate from the house and presumably on his way back into town.)

*The following four parts overlap.*

**GRANNY**

WHAT A DAY!  
WHAT A CURIOUS DAY!  
SOMEHOW I'LL SAY  
THAT I FEEL MORE LIKE HE'S HERE WITH  
ME TODAY!  
WHAT A STRANGE MIRACULOUS DAY, TODAY!  
AND I WOULD SAY SEEMS IT WAS MADE  
PERFECTLY.  
AH — !

**RED**

WHAT A DAY!  
WHAT A WONDROUS, BEAUTIFUL DAY!  
LOOK AT THE WAY HE IS:  
SO VERY CAREFREE AND  
GLAD TODAY!  
HOW HE'S SO MUCH BETTER TODAY.  
AND I WOULD SAY SEEMS IT WAS MADE  
PERFECTLY.  
AH — !

**WOLF**

WHAT A DAY!  
WHAT A MAGICAL, WONDERFUL DAY!  
LOOK AT THE WAY  
THAT THEY HAVE TREATED ME THOUGH I'M A BEAST.  
WHAT A DAY!  
WHAT A PARADISAL DAY!  
IT WAS MADE  
PERFECTLY.  
AH — !

**HUNTER**

WHAT A DAY!  
BUT HOW I FEEL I HAVE MADE TODAY  
STORIES TO TELL I HAVE  
I'VE WON AND I'VE LOST AND I'VE WON AGAIN  
ALL TODAY!  
WHAT A JUSTLY HISTORIC, MEMORIAL DAY!  
AND I WOULD SAY SEEMS IT WAS MADE  
PERFECTLY...  
FOR ME!

THE END