

# Side 1

# Branwen & Modron

## WITCHES

MODRON Little child, so innocent, so helpless. I was once just like you, but something happened. Never mind eh? (She tickles the child under the chin) Oh little child - an idea occurs to me. A bright, bouncing bold idea. You can come with me. Aye - I'll bring you up as if you were my own. I will teach you everything I know and I know so much, so much. My little sleeping ...

**START** Branwen approaches.

BRANWEN Don't touch her.

MODRON Sister. What kept you?

BRANWEN The child is in my care.

MODRON Then you're careless indeed to leave her alone in the forest where I found her.

BRANWEN I found her first. She was abandoned by a poor forest girl who was sick and couldn't feed her. Now she is my gift to the King and Queen. You cannot interfere.

MODRON Cannot?

BRANWEN My light was upon her.

MODRON Not when I found her, therefore I claim her as my own.

BRANWEN You? What use would you have for a child?

This enrages Modron.

MODRON I? I will bring up the child as if she were my own.

BRANWEN Oh Modron, whatever goodness there is left in you I call upon it now. Let the baby be seen by the King and Queen. They've waited so long for a child and suffered so much. Let them be happy. Let the child be happy. (Pause)

**END**

# Side 2

# Peredur & Guinevere

KING

QUEEN

~~BRANWEN But why Modron? Why?~~

~~MODRON Because you provoke me. The child is invisible.~~

~~She makes her spell and the women retreat. Enter the King and Queen.~~

**START**

PEREDUR I told you not to walk ahead. We're lost, totally lost.

GUINEVERE Sssh. What sound was that?

PEREDUR What?

GUINEVERE I heard something from the trees.

PEREDUR It's just the wind in the leaves.

GUINEVERE No.

PEREDUR Come - we should return to the castle. The forest is full of strange creatures.

GUINEVERE I thought I heard a cry. It sounded like - like a baby crying.

PEREDUR This is not funny Guinevere.

GUINEVERE But I heard it.

PEREDUR It's the forest. It knows our deep desire and plays tricks upon us. Come let's go.

GUINEVERE It came from over there I think.

PEREDUR Guinevere. Come back.

**END**

~~The Queen searches.~~

~~BRANWEN Now with all the powers at my command I overturn my sister's hand. Come light, come shine. See the child, see the child.~~

~~Suddenly a ray of light shines down.~~

her fingers pricked and blood appears  
she shall not die, she shall not die,  
but sleep the sleep of a hundred years.  
And when at last her sleep is done  
then must someone mortal come  
the clouds of time to part on high  
by a kiss of love or else she'll...

She sighs exhausted.

PEREDUR Guinevere. Look at me. It's alright. Briar Rose will not prick her  
finger because - I will burn every spindle in the land, every thread,  
every needle, will all be destroyed.

BISHOP But Peredur, the people of your kingdom rely on their spindles to  
make clothes.

PEREDUR Then I'll buy cloth from other kings. All the spindles will be  
burned and she will reach her sixteenth birthday, unharmed. After  
that, Modron's curse will have no meaning. Come, I must see to  
this.

GUINEVERE Branwen?

BRANWEN I can do no more.

Exit King and Queen with baby. Branwen and Modron have returned to their respective cells  
either side of the stage. Gryff awaits Branwen.

START

BRANWEN You saw?

GRYFF Everything.

BRANWEN I've a job for you.

GRYFF A job? You mean you're going to pay me?

BRANWEN I cannot watch over Briar Rose all the time, there are other people  
in the seven kingdoms of the world who heed my help.



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GRYFF                    So?

BRANWEN                So I'd like you to stay with Briar Rose throughout her childhood.  
Be her friend.

GRYFF                    Can't.

BRANWEN                Gryff!

GRYFF                    One look at me an' she'll scream 'er 'ed off!

BRANWEN                She's a baby, by the time she knows the meaning of ugliness, she'll  
be used to you.

GRYFF                    Thanks for nothing. An' what about her parents? What will they  
think? Hello Mam, Hello Dad, I've brought home a friend to play,  
he's half a dragon.

BRANWEN                Gryff!

GRYFF                    What?

BRANWEN                You'll be invisible. No one will be able to see you, except Briar  
Rose. Look after her Gryff, be her childhood friend, and I will  
work hard to make a spell which one day will make you a  
complete dragon.

GRYFF                    That can breathe fire?

BRANWEN                Yes.

GRYFF                    And fly round the world in four and a half minutes.

BRANWEN                Yes.

GRYFF                    Alright then, I'll be her friend - but stay true to your promise or I  
won't be yours. What's that?

BRANWEN                That Gryff is the light of the fire which burns all the spindles in the  
land.

**END**

# Side 4

Gryff & Briar Rose  
HALF HUMAN  
HALF DRAGON  
SLEEPING  
BEAUTY

~~BRANWEN All summer long, they played.~~

~~MODRON And played.~~

**START**  
BRIAR ROSE (*Searches for Gryff*) Oh I can sniff the dragon Gryff - his smell is so revealing his legs are short - and he's got warts - and his face is unappealing. Found you!

GRYFF (Flatly) Oh-I- am surprised.

BRIAR ROSE Let's play -

GRYFF Picnics!

BRIAR ROSE You can't be hungry already.

GRYFF I'm a dragon in' I?

BRIAR ROSE What do real dragons eat in the wild?

GRYFF Princesses.

BRIAR ROSE (Smiles) Were you born half a dragon?

GRYFF I wasn't born was I? I was hatched.

He lays the picnic.

BRIAR ROSE Like a chicken?

GRYFF No, like a dragon.

BRIAR ROSE From an - egg though?

GRYFF Yes.

BRIAR ROSE Like a chicken. (She clucks and imitates a chicken)

GRYFF Hey? It was a spell what went wrong. I told you before. (He eats.)

**END**

PEREDUR            Playing! What else do children do?

GUINEVERE        Why don't you show him round your garden, Briar Rose?

The King and Queen exit. Briar Rose and Owain remain.

GRYFF             Branwen.

BRANWEN         Stay with them Gryff.

GRYFF             But...

BRANWEN         Don't let her out of your sight! (Exits)

GRYFF             (Grumpily) Yes Miss -No Miss -three bags full Miss!

**START** BRIAR ROSE        This is not my idea.

OWAIN             I know. It was my father's.

BRIAR ROSE        Doesn't he like you? Your father?

OWAIN             No. I don't know. Yes, yes.

BRIAR ROSE        Why did he send you away then?

OWAIN             Um ... to "discover myself."

BRIAR ROSE        My parents think I'm perfect. Although, nothing I do is ever good enough. Isn't that odd? I could dance every dance better than anyone else, answer every riddle in the universe, and it still wouldn't be good enough. Would you like a sweet? (pops one in her mouth and puts the rest away). But wanting one and having one are two different things, aren't they? So what shall we do Owain, son of Owain, son of Owain, etcetera...?

OWAIN             Don't know.

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BRIAR ROSE "Don't know." What do you like doing? Well, what are you good at?

OWAIN Nothing.

BRIAR ROSE You must be good at something. Everyone's good at something.

OWAIN Not me. I'm "utterly useless."

BRIAR ROSE Can you hop on one leg? Go on then. See you're quite good at hopping on one leg.

OWAIN Is there much call for this in your kingdom?

BRIAR ROSE Not really. ~~Is there, Gryff?~~ **END**

OWAIN Gryff?

BRIAR ROSE That's Gryff.

He turns and sees Gryff and screams in terror, falls over, brings out his sword and stares wide-eyed.

GRYFF Oh charming!

OWAIN What is it?

BRIAR ROSE You mean you can see Gryff?

OWAIN Yes-there.

BRIAR ROSE You mean, you can see Gryff?

OWAIN Yes, it's there-there.

BRIAR ROSE You can really see him?

OWAIN Yes.

BRIAR ROSE With your eyes?

# Side 6

# Gryff & Owain

HALF HUMAN  
HALF DRAGON

PRINCE

START

GRYFF

It's the first breath of Autumn... come, time is already slipping by.  
(*Scuttles around picking up twigs etc.*)

OWAIN

What are you doing?

GRYFF

The castle is hidden somewhere in the great forest; the great forest is as big as an ocean. We could spend our whole lives searching for it, so we need help. (*He arranges the items he has gathered into a circle.*) There are, beings, creatures, living in this forest whom you may never see, but they see you.

OWAIN

Fairy folk?

GRYFF

Aye. The Tylwyth Teg. Modron hid the castle from human eyes - the Tylwyth Teg are not human.

OWAIN

What's this?

GRYFF

An offering, a sign, we wish to speak with them. Hazel, elder, oak, blackthorn. These they like. Step inside.

OWAIN

Now what?

GRYFF

We wait - if they want to, they'll find us. (*They sit back to back*)  
*Might as well get some shut eye.*

OWAIN

Oh Gryff. Why didn't I take my chance? I could have fought Modron, but I was scared. I'm scared now.

GRYFF

Me too, boyo.

OWAIN

You?

GRYFF

Aye. I'm only half a dragon, remember.

OWAIN

What do the fairies look like?

GRYFF

Don't know, never seen 'em, but folk say they be no taller than a hand, no wider than a smile.

OWAIN

Are they friendly?

END



START

TYLWYTH TEG 2/4 Cos you're not welcome.

TYLWYTH TEG 1 At all.

OWAIN My name is-

TYLWYTH TEG 1 Yer name is nothin'.

TYLWYTH TEG 2 Here.

TYLWYTH TEG 2/3 Nothin'.

TYLWYTH TEG 2/4 You're human.

TYLWYTH TEG 1 You smell human.

TYLWYTH TEG 2 Rotten stink o' drains.

OWAIN They're not polite, are they? Gryff?

GRYFF Stay calm.

TYLWYTH TEG 2/3 An' we don't feel nice.

TYLWYTH TEG 2/4 Or polite.

TYLWYTH TEG 1 We feel vile.

OWAIN Why?

TYLWYTH TEG 1 (*Very aggressively*) We're always vile when we're scared.

TYLWYTH TEG 2 We attack people when we're scared.

TYLWYTH TEG 2/3 Which is a shame really, 'cos I want to be liked.

TYLWYTH TEG 2/4 So do I.

TYLWYTH TEG 1 This one's not bad looking really.

END

# Side B

# Spider King & Owain

START

SPIDER KING I have eyes and spies in every corner of every cottage and castle in the kingdom. The tiniest vibration of a web is to me, a message. Therein lies my power.

OWAIN Then you know where the castle is.

SPIDER KING Yes.

OWAIN Then tell me.

SPIDER KING And in return?

OWAIN I- I give you my friendship.

SPIDER KING (Angrily) I don't want your friendship. I don't need your friendship - I'm perfectly happy without your friendship, thank you!

OWAIN What do you want then?

SPIDER KING Apart from ruling the world? I want him.

OWAIN Gryff? What for?

SPIDER KING To eat - of course.

END

At this juncture one of the long legs of the Spider King can be seen extending itself toward the terrified Gryff.

OWAIN You mean ... you're going to eat him?

SPIDER KING Well, I won't exactly eat him. I'll suck him dry.

GRYFF Ah.

SPIDER KING Then he'll sort of crumble into dust - like this.

He lifts and drops a handful of dust.

OWAIN You can't-you just can't.