

Scene One: The Jumble Sale

Props: Bookstall with The Great Christmas Tree Robbery at the back of it. Jacket with 50p label. Sponge Cake

Lights: Spot on Narrators

Narrator: Pam and her Nan are at a jumble sale.
Nan is a regular jumble sale goer. She loves to get a bargain.
Pam has been drawn to a bookstall. She sees a book there that she can hardly take her eyes off.

Lights: Full

Pam: Excuse me! Could I have a look at that big book at the back there, please?

Lady: Do you mean this old one? Of course you can, love. Here you are.

Pam: How much is it, please?

Lady: To you, love, 20p.

(Pam takes the book and wanders onto the stage where she sits quietly reading.)

Nan: Oh there you are. I've been looking all over for you. Here, look at this jacket, 50p. Do you think it'll suit me?

Pam: I think you'll look lovely in it, Nan.

Nan: What have you got there, dear, another book?

Pam: Yes, but it's strange, Nan. As soon as I saw it on that stall, I knew I would have to buy it. It was like a magnet drawing me towards it.

Nan: Cor! You've been reading too many fantasy stories, Pam.
It just looks like a dusty old book to me. You've always
had your nose in a book, haven't you, my little bookworm?

SONG: SHE'S A BOOKWORM

Nan: Come on, Pam! We'd better get back. I've got us a lovely
iced sponge from that cake stall to have with our cuppa.

Pam: Oh great! I hope it's as nice as your cakes, Nan.

Nan: We'll have to save a bit for those football-mad brothers of
yours.

LINK-UP MUSIC

Lights: Blackout

*Props: Remove bookstall. Bring on two beds with pillows & duvets.
GCTR book. Football magazines.*

Scene Two: In The Bedroom That Night

Lights: Spot on Narrators

Narrator: Pam has been glued to the book all day and now it's bedtime. She shares a room with her little brother, Zac, who's football crazy.

Lights: Full

(The children are lying in their beds reading.)

Pam: Zac, this is really the most amazing book I have ever read. Here let me read some of it to you. "That night, when all the children were in bed, the Great Christmas Tree Robbery took place."

Zac: We've just bought a new player.

Pam: Zac! I'm reading to you.

Zac: Oh, I don't want to hear a stupid Christmas story. Let me tell you about the new winger we've just bought. He's our biggest signing. He's from Millwall.

Pam: Do you ever talk about anything but football?

Zac: No, I just love football.

SONG: FOOTBALL CRAZY

(Mum comes in.)

Mum: I think it's time you two were asleep. We're going to buy a Christmas tree in the morning. Do you both want to come to the market to get it?

Zac: Yeah!

Pam: Yes please. Can we get a really big one this year, mum, like the children in my story have?

Zac: Yeah, a great big one that touches the ceiling!

Pam: We always get a little one.

Mum: We'll see. If it's too big there won't be any room for us.

(She kisses them both,)

Goodnight! See you in the morning!

LINK-UP MUSIC

Lights: BLACKOUT

Props: Remove beds & mags.

Bring on christmas tree, box of decorations - including: Teddy, Wooden Santa & Little Trixie, Trixie lights, TV and couch

Scene Three: The Christmas Tree

Lights: Spot on Narrator

Narrator: In the morning, the family set off for the market.
They get the biggest tree they've ever had.
They also buy some new baubles to decorate it.

Lights: FULL

(Enter the family with the tree.)

Pam: Where are we going to put it?

Dad: It'll have to go in the corner, otherwise it'll get in the way.

Bob: Can I put the things on the tree, Mum?

Mum: We can all help. Did you get the old decorations out of the loft, dear?

Dad: Yes, they're in that big box over there.

Bob: Oh goody!

(Bob runs over to grab the decorations.)

Mum: Careful Bob! Some of the decorations in that box are very old. I had them on my tree when I was a little girl.

Dad: And that is a long time ago, but she's wearing well, aren't you, my little flower?

(He gives her a cuddle.)

Zac: Did you, mum, which ones?

Mum: Let me see. Here you are. This old teddy was made by my gran.

Pam: Granny Carter?

Mum: Yes, and my dad made that little wooden Santa and I painted it.

Zac: Cor! You're good at art mum! That's beautiful!

Mum: But this is my favourite. We got this little Trixie in one of the big West End stores when my granddad took me to the pantomime to see Sleeping Beauty with my friend. I loved her.

Dad: Come on, you lot! Let's start dressing the tree. I've put the lights on already. Here look! It's almost like being at Blackpool. Soon we'll be able to charge people to see the decorations.

SONG: OUR LOVELY CHRISTMAS TREE

Lights: BLACKOUT

LINK-UP MUSIC

Props: Leave stage as it is.

Scene Four: The Great Christmas Tree Robbery

Lights: Spot on Narrators

Narrator: That night when the family went to sleep, the Great Christmas Tree Robbery took place, just like it had in the story that Pam was reading.
Every Christmas tree in the world disappeared and when the children awoke in the morning they found their lovely tree had gone.

Lights: FULL

(Pam, Zac and Bob come in. Zac goes straight over to the tv and switches it on. Bob notices that the Christmas tree has gone.)

Bob: Where's it gone?

Newscaster (*off Stage*):

Last night all the Christmas Trees in the world disappeared. People are completely baffled as to why this has happened, and some suspect that it may be an extra-terrestrial force that has caused it. There are no trees in any of the markets or shops.

The Prime Minister said that this serious situation is going to cause a lot of sadness to the children of the world and that all countries must get together to solve the problem. The leader of the Opposition said.....

(Pam turns the tv off.)

Pam: Oh my goodness! I know about this!

Zac: What do you mean? Have you seen the spacemen?

Pam: No, it's in my story. It's the story I've been reading in that book I got from the jumble sale. I knew there was something strange about that book.

Zac: *(Groaning)* Huh oh!

Bob: I want my tree back! *(He cries.)*

Pam: Where's that book?

Lights: Spot on Narrators

Narrator: Pam looks for it and finds it in a corner of the room. It has a Trixie sitting on the top of it.
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Lights: Full

Trixie: Hello, Pam!

Pam: Oh, who are you?

Trixie: Pam, I'm Trixie and I am here to help. You are the only one who can solve the problem of the missing trees because you have the special power of the book.

Pam: *(Frightened.)* I haven't finished reading the story. I don't know what happens.

Trixie: You will, Pam. I'll help you with it but no one else can go near that book. It is too powerful and they may get hurt.

(Zac and Bob come over to see who Pam is talking to.)

Zac: Talking to yourself again, eh Pam. What's going on?

Pam: I'm the only one who can solve the Great Christmas Tree Robbery. The answer is in that book. The Fairy said.

Zac: What Fairy? Oh my goodness, have we all gone mad? Let's have a look at that book!

Trixie: Don't touch the book, Zac, or.....

(Zac touches the book and freezes.)

Pam: She told you not to touch the book. Why don't you ever listen?

Bob: I want my Zac. (*He runs over and touches Zac and freezes as well.*)

Trixie: I think I can help.

(She waves her wand over the pair of them and they unfreeze.)

Now, don't go near the book again! Only Pam can touch that book. It's too powerful. Next time you might get really hurt.

Zac: I'm sorry and thanks for unfreezing me. I was really worried I was going to miss the match on Saturday. Here, you couldn't wave that wand over my team so that we win the cup this season could you?

Pam: Zac, shut up!

Trixie: You'd better start reading it again, Pam, to see what happens.

Lights: Spot on Narrators

Narrator: Pam reads on through the next chapter to discover that the Spirit of Grump has stolen all the Christmas trees and taken them to the Forest of Grump.
Grump hates Christmas. He had a very unhappy childhood and doesn't want anyone to enjoy Christmas. He's been working on this plan for some years and now he's managed to steal all the trees.

Lights: Full

Pam: It says that there's only one path to the Forest of Grump and that is through Pantomime Land.

Trixie: I know that Grump. He's a real trickster. You won't be able to just go through Pantomime Land. He'll make it very difficult for you.

Pam: You're right! I can't read anymore. The pages won't turn. It says "No more clues 'til Pantomime Land."

Trixie: Well, I can get you there, but it'll take a lot of power. Close your eyes everyone!

SONG: IT'S A NIGHT FOR MAGIC

Lights: BLACKOUT

Props: Clear stage.

Put on gold boxes of all sizes to make it look like a sparkly golden cave. Pendulum clock on wall with genie lamp inside.

Scene Five - Aladdin's Cave

Lights: Spot on Narrators

Narrator: The children arrive in Pantomime Land.
And I've suddenly gone into rhyme.
There are clues they must get to help them find the trees.
But they really don't have too much time.

Lights: FULL

(Enter Troupe)

Pam: Oh isn't this a beautiful place! A cave made of gold.

Bob: It's all shiny and pretty.

Trixie: It must be Aladdin's cave.

Zac: And that over there must be his lamp. I'm going to give it a rub to see if the Genie is in it.

Lights: Spot on Narrators

Narrator: But they cannot go near it.
It's held by a spell
And Pam must work out what to do.
She must read through the book 'til she comes to the place
Where the story reveals the first clue.

Lights: Full

Trixie: Pam, you will have to read on. Can you turn the page now?

Pam: Yes, the pages are moving again.

Trixie: We will have to find out how we can get to the lamp and break the spell.

Pam: Let me find where I got to. Oh look! It's us in this picture and we're in this cave. How strange! It says that if we don't find the clue, we'll be here for ever and ever.

Zac: We're playing a Man United on Saturday. I'm not missing that!

Bob: It's boring in here and we've got no tv.

Lights: Spot on Narrators

Narrator: For hours they search 'til they're all tired out. Then Pam reads the page a fifth time. When she gets to the end her eyes light up.

Lights: Full

Pam: There's a bit that's not written in rhyme.
I've got it. It's here! Well, I think that it is.
"The pendulum of time leads to where?"

Trixie: It's that clock. It must be, with the pendulum. It must be inside.

Zac: It's not working. We'll have to wind it up.

Pam: You're good at winding things up, Zac, especially me.

(Zac goes to the clock and looks inside. He finds an old lamp.)

Everyone: It's Aladdin's lamp.

(Zac rubs the lamp and a genie appears.)

Genie: Hello my friends. I understand you are looking for the path to the Forest of Grump. Well, my dears, you'll have to go through Sleeping Beauty's castle to get there and there's all that thicket to get through. Not an easy job I have to say, because it's been growing for almost a hundred years.

(Aladdin appears)

Aladdin: And you'll have to find a prince to wake her up with a kiss.

Zac: Aladdin! Where did you come from?

Aladdin: I've been watching you all the time. I can show you how to get there but I haven't a clue how we'll get out of the place afterwards. The Pantomime season starts tomorrow, and I've got to be in Wimbledon for the show.

Pam: Mum and Dad are taking us to see that.

SONG: PANTOLAND

Aladdin: We'd better get going then. Come on!
Here don't forget your book *(Pam runs back to get it.)*

LINK-UP MUSIC

Lights: BLACKOUT

Props: Clear the stage.

Bring on thicket, Sleeping Beauty's bed and dog basket with toy dog inside.

Place clue underneath dog.

Prince's costume ready to hand to Aladdin.