



**THE SECRET OF  
GRANARD TOWER**  
The Musical

**STAGING THE  
PRODUCTION**

BY

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## SYNOPSIS

A family are travelling back home late one dark, wet night when their car breaks down in the middle of nowhere. With the mobile out of power and no phone in sight, they reluctantly seek help from the only place around with lights on - a spooky-looking building called Granard House.

Their knock is answered by Maria, a sinister woman in black. She beckons them in and to their surprise, takes them to meet Catherine, the friendly owner of the house. Catherine offers them tea and the use of her phone. Unfortunately, a fierce storm cuts off the power and the family are forced to stay the night.

That evening, by candlelight, Polly, the oldest child, discovers a book called the "Secret of Granard Tower". Their host tells them that there is a tower behind the house just like the one in the book.

When Maria sees the book, she warns them not to touch it. The owner ignores Maria's pleas as nonsense and invites the family to team up with her in the morning to visit the tower and find out what the secret is.

During their adventure in the dank, dark tower, the three children, Polly, Sarah and Michael, unexpectedly find themselves alone and have to overcome their fears. They encounter skeletons in cupboards, ghosts who try to scare their wits away and finally, a modern-day, computer literate Vampire and his cronies.

Polly's strong conviction that they can overcome the evil in Granard Tower gives the other two children the courage to continue, and they finally rid the tower of its secret – Vampires!!

## CHARACTER PARTS

<b>SPEAKING PARTS</b>	<b>NUMBER OF WORDS</b>	<b>SCENES THEY APPEAR IN</b>	<b>SOLO OR GROUP SONGS</b>
<b>Narrator</b> (split part into 4)	<b>1192</b>	<b>All</b>	
<b>Family</b>			<b>Secret of Granard Tower</b>
<b>Mum</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>1,2,4,5,10</b>	<b>You made your mummy cry</b>
<b>Dad</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>1,2,4,5,10</b>	
<b>Polly</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>1, 2, 4-10</b>	
<b>Sarah</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>1, 2, 4-10</b>	
<b>Michael</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>1, 2, 4-10</b>	<b>I'm frightened</b>
<b>Catherine</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>2, 5,10</b>	<b>Secret of Granard Tower</b>
<b>Margaret the Guide</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>2,4,5,6,7,8,9</b>	<b>This place</b>
<b>Maria</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>1,2,3,10</b>	<b>Being a vampire's mother ain't no fun!</b>
<b>Vam</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>3,8, 9 &amp; 10</b>	<b>I need blood</b>
Vampire 2	4	8, 9 & 10	Ditto
Vampire 3	13	8, 9 & 10	Ditto
Vampire 4	6	8, 9 & 10	Ditto
Vampire 5	7	8, 9 & 10	Ditto
Skeleton 1	12	5	The Skeleton's song
Skeleton 2	15	5	Ditto
Skeleton 3	12	5	Ditto
Havoc	112	8,	We're under the beds
Frankenstein	62	8,	Ditto
Mummy	17	8,	Ditto
Werewolf	12	8,	Ditto
Girl 1	11	8	
Girl 2	10	8	
Girl 3	9	8	
Girl 4	5	8	
Girl 5	18	8	
Kid 1	9	10	
Kid 2	14	10	
Kid 3	10	10	
Kid 4	8	10	
Kid 5	6	10	
Kid 6	18	10	
Kid 7	10	10	
<b>NON SPEAKING PARTS</b>			
Zombie		8	
Ghosts		6	
The Wall		5,6,7	

## CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

<b>Character</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Narrator</b>	<b>Storyteller that turns into Vampire in final scene. Part can be split into 4.</b>
<b>Mum &amp; Dad</b>	<b>Parents of 3 children. Polly the oldest, Sarah &amp; Michael. Caring parents. Dad is a bit of a joker.</b>
<b>Polly</b>	<b>Squabbly child, bored with her brainy sister and fed-up with her scared brother. Polly finds the secret book. She is assisted by a ghost to solve the problem.</b>
<b>Sarah</b>	<b>Little Miss Know-it-all</b>
<b>Michael</b>	<b>Clingy child, very frightened</b>
<b>Catherine</b>	<b>Owner of Granard House. Friendly woman who likes an adventure and is kind to the family.</b>
<b>Margaret the Guide</b>	<b>Daughter of Maria's ex husband. Poisoned by Maria. Relieved when her book is found that tells the secret band and is a ghost in the story.</b>
<b>Maria</b>	<b>1st husband a vampire, 2<sup>nd</sup> husband she poisoned as well as his daughter Margaret. Maria is evil and protects her Vampire son.</b>
<b>Vam</b>	<b>A computer literate Vampire who likes to party. Plays in a band with other Vampires. Invites local children and Monsters to his parties.</b>
<b>Kids in the cupboard</b>	<b>These terrified children are victims of one of Vam's parties. They have been locked in a cupboard to be brought out when the Vampire's need more blood.</b>
<b>THE WALL</b>	<b>Three children holding a long cloth painted like an old wall for the explorers to pass behind and in front when moving from room to room.</b>

## **COSTUMES and MAKE-UP**

<b>Narrators</b>	Smart outfits. Light make-up. Final scene: Black Cloaks and fangs
<b>Mum</b>	Adult outfit with make-up.
<b>Dad</b>	Adult outfit with moustache
<b>Children</b>	Casual outfits of their choice
<b>Catherine</b>	Adult outfit with make-up.
<b>Maria</b>	Austere looking long black dress, high collar. Hair scraped back into a bun. Very pale make-up with dark eyes.
<b>Vam Pire</b>	Flashy black cloak with red lining. White frilly shirt. Black trousers. Pale face with fangs and red eyes.
<b>Vampires</b>	As above but toned down version of.
<b>Children at party</b>	Black leotards with bright coloured skirts. Light make-up
<b>Girls in cupboard</b>	White leotards with bright coloured skirts. Light make- up.
<b>Monsters:</b>	
<b>Havoc, Frankenstein, Werewolf, Mummy and Zombie</b>	Use your imagination and create wild looking characters. Remember they've got to sing a song so don't restrict them too much otherwise they won't be able to move.
<b>Skeletons</b>	Black leotards. Photocopy a skeleton, tacky-back it and attach to outfit with tapes. Skull faces, dark eyes and hollow cheeks.
<b>Ghosts</b>	Circles of thin white cloth with hole for head to go through. Pale faces.

**REMEMBER SOME CHILDREN ARE ALLERGIC TO  
MAKE-UP SO CHECK FIRST!**

## AUDITIONS

You could use the excerpt below or choose your own selection.

Read the story to the children first. Give the children a couple of chances to read through the lines. For those who cannot read well, give them a simple line to repeat so that they can feel included.

Pick those children whose voices can be heard at the back of the hall for your speaking parts.

**Michael:**        *(Screams)* **She's frightening me.**

**Dad:**            *(To Polly)* **Shut up! There's no such thing as ghosts and vampires. They're just things you hear about in stories.**

**Polly:**          **Oh yes there are! My teacher said.**

**Dad:**            **Your teacher knows nothing.**

**Polly:**          **I'm telling her when I get back.**

**Michael:**       **If we ever get back.**

**Dad:**            *(To Polly)* **Will you knock it off, 'cos you're frightening him!**

# SONGS and MUSIC

## PHOTOCOPIABLE SONG SHEET

**CD** WITH:

SONG VOCAL FOR PRACTICE

SONG BACKING TRACKS FOR ACTUAL PERFORMANCE

LINK-UP MUSIC

SOUND EFFECTS

## MUSICAL SCORE

### SONGS in order of appearance :

I'm frightened - Michael.

This place! – The Choir

Being a vampire's mother ain't no fun - Maria

The Guide's Song – Margaret, The Guide

What's the secret of Granard Tower? – The Family & Catherine

The Skeletons' Song – Choir, as Skeleton's dance

You haven't got a ghost of a chance – Choir as Ghosts swirl

We're under the beds - The Monsters & Choir

I need blood – Vam and the Vampires

You made your mummy cry - Mum

### **Finale : I need Blood**

All songs should be choreographed if stage performers are singing them. They can be backed by choir or sung completely by the choir if children lack confidence doing solos.

## SOUND EFFECTS

Car trying to start

Thunder

Rain

Pulley Bell

Door creaking

Creepy music

Door slamming

Giggling & music

Guitar music

Evil laughter



## DANCE

*The Skeletons' Song* lends itself to a simple tap dance with hats and canes.

*You haven't got a ghost of a chance* needs to be choreographed because there is a lot of movement as the ghosts fly around the stage and the cast react to them.

*What's the Secret of Granard Tower* looks good when the family and Catherine synchronise actions throughout the whole song. Bit of a challenge, but the children will come up with good ideas.

## SCENERY and PROPS

**Suggested Backdrop: Picture or painting of Granard Tower with wrought iron gates.**

**Scene One In the Car, at the entrance and then in the house.**

Car- hardboard painted one side with handles on other side for Family to hold. This is coming through the audience, and is not on the stage.

Freestanding door with painted Gargoyles.

Pulley bell.

**Scene Two In the living room**

Couch, table with flowers on, chairs TV, telephone.

Tray with tea things on it that gets dropped.

Newspapers and books to look at.

2 lots of candelabra (to be brought on).

Book of Secret of Granard Tower and Map.

Dustpan & brush

**Scene Three In the Vampire's nest**

Coffin with Vam Pire inside.

Candelabra for Maria.

**Scene Four In the bedroom**

Bedcovers and cushions.

Candelabra for Maria.

**Scene Five Entering the Tower and inside the Tower**

Clue Cards: 1. At the Ebony door.. and 2. Is your heart pure..

Moving Wall (see Cast)

Secret of Granard Tower book with picture & map.

Rucksacks (with packed lunch in for children)

Torches and Clue cards for each clue.

4 cupboard doors.

Free-standing board with curtain on it covering a picture of The Tower of London.

Raven with small silver key in its beak on wall.

**Scene Six The Ghost Room**

Clue Card: 3. DON'T BE SCARED, DON'T BE ALARMED

Torches, Handkerchiefs

**Scene Seven Room in Granard Tower**

Table & chairs, window, rucksack with lunch. Book, map & picture. Clue card 4 Your hearts are pure as....

**Scene Eight Vampire's Nest**

Tray of drinks in plastic cups for the party  
CD of pop music  
Guitars for Vampires

**Scene Nine Outside the Vampire's nest**

Table  
Door & Golden Key  
Window  
3 crosses and 3 garlic necklaces

**Scene Ten Vampire's Nest**

3 Crosses and 3 garlic necklaces.

**AT THE EBONY DOOR,  
YOU WILL FIND NO LATCH  
BUT YOUR FAITH WILL MAKE IT  
SWING**

**THEN, THE SUNLIGHT WILL CAST  
A PATH YOU MUST TREAD  
WITHOUT SAYING A THING.**

**AT THE END OF THE PATH, WHERE  
IT SHINES NO MORE,  
YOU MUST TURN YOUR HEADS  
AROUND.**

**A KEY HANGS ALOFT THAT WILL  
OPEN THE DOOR,  
BUT REMEMBER, DON'T MAKE A  
SOUND!**

**IS YOUR HEART PURE?  
HAVE YOU TOLD THE TRUTH?  
OR HAVE YOU SOMETHING TO  
HIDE?**

**THERE ARE THOSE WHO HAD  
SECRETS AND LOCKED THEM  
AWAY  
BECAUSE OF FOOLISH PRIDE.**

**YOU MUST OPEN THE DOORS,  
TILL YOU COME TO THE LAST  
AND IF THAT CUPBOARD IS BARE**

**IT WILL SHOW THAT YOUR HEART  
IS PURE ENOUGH FOR MY SECRET  
WITH YOU TO SHARE.**

**YOUR HEART IS PURE,  
SO YOU CAN PROCEED  
TO THE CURTAIN THAT HANGS ON  
THE WALL.**

**DRAW IT BACK AND BEHIND IT A  
PICTURE YOU'LL FIND OF A PLACE  
YOU MAY SURELY RECALL.**

**THERE IS SOMETHING THEY SAY,  
THAT CANNOT MOVE AWAY FROM  
THIS PLACE,  
YET ONE HANGS FROM THIS  
WALL.**

**AND IF YOU CHOOSE TO SEEK,  
YOU WILL FIND IN ITS BEAK  
THE PATH YOU MUST TAKE TO  
THE HALL.**

**DON'T BE SCARED, DON'T BE  
ALARMED  
IF YOU ARE PURE OF HEART.**

**THERE ARE CREATURES HERE TO  
SCARE YOUR WITS  
SO YOU MUST DO YOUR PART.**

**DON'T SHOW YOUR FEAR IN  
ANYWAY  
JUST SMILE AND GIVE NO CARE**

**AND THEY WILL LEAVE YOU AS  
THEY CAME  
BACK INTO THIN AIR.**

**YOUR HEARTS ARE AS PURE AS  
DRIVEN SNOW  
YOUR BRAVENESS HAS BEEN  
TESTED**

**THE TASK YOU FACE IN THIS  
DARK HOUR  
I HAVE MY TRUST INVESTED**

**THE EVIL YOU MUST OVERCOME,  
WILL NEED A STEADY MIND**

**THE TOOLS TO HELP YOU IN YOUR  
WORK  
UPON THIS SHELF YOU'LL FIND**

**THE LOST SOULS WHO HAVE  
FILLED THIS TOWER  
WILL FIND THEIR PLACE OF REST.**

**WHEN YOU RID IT OF ITS EVIL  
POWER  
THIS LOATHESOME VAMPIRE'S  
NEST.**