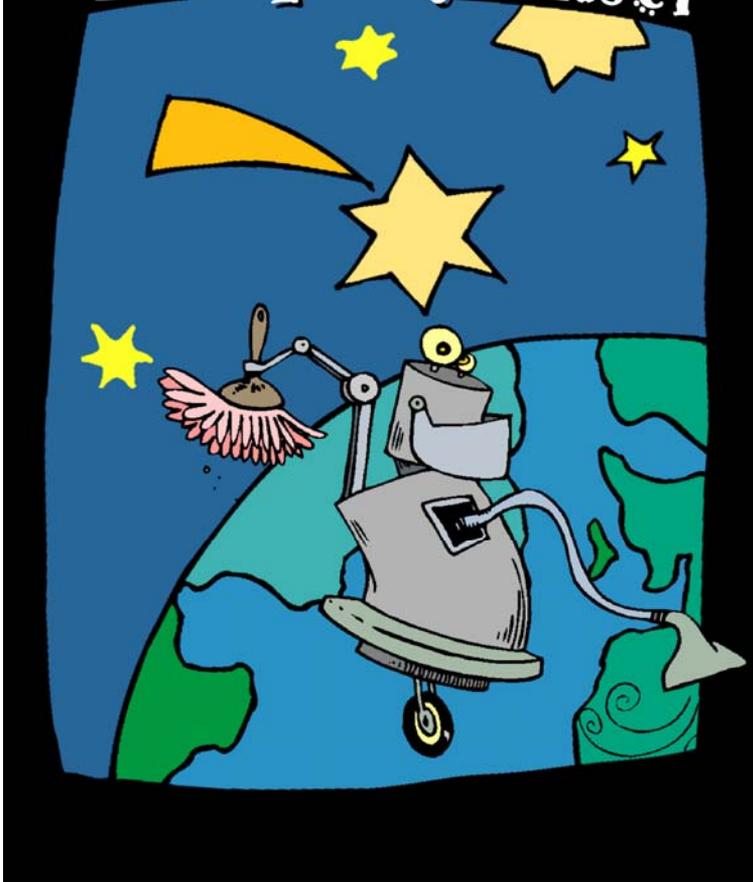


The Sparkle Miser



Kari Catton

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The Sparkle Miser

3

*To my mom and dad,
Georgia and Don,
who have always believed
and have always loved.*

The Sparkle Miser

4

The Sparkle Miser was originally presented by Mid-America Playwrights Theatre, August 10, 1990, Springfield, IL: Mary Hobbs, director.

SPARKLE MISER: Johnny Owens

BUMBLENOID: Michael Coulter

ANFEEZA: Jane Bolin

JULIE: Katharine Stricker and Brittany King

STONE CHILDREN: Sarah Berkshire, Hillary LaMontagne, Graham LaMontagne, and David Shillcutt.

The Sparkle Miser was presented by the Springfield Theatre Centre, May 1993, Springfield, IL.

STACY: Neely Holland

JULIE: Cassie Ann Poe

SPARKLE MISER: Deb King

BUMBLENOID: Jared Owen

ANFEEZA: Marian Levin

DORCAS: Josh Hendrickson

PROFESSOR SHABONNA: Donna Millmore

STONE CHILD 1: Suzanne Harrison

STONE CHILD 2: Lora Fellman

STONE CHILD 3: William Kelly

STONE CHILD 4: Elizabeth Park

The Sparkle Miser

COMEDY/YOUNG AUDIENCES. For millennia, it has been the job of the Sparkle Miser to make stars and place them into the night sky. But making stars is both tedious and time consuming and the Sparkle Miser finds he doesn't have the strength to make stars anymore. Instead, the Sparkle Miser and his assistant, Bumbloid, have resorted to stealing the sparkles from the eyes of children and placing them into the sky. One night, a cosmic security guard lands in Julie and Stacy's bedroom and discovers that the Sparkle Miser has stolen the sparkles from Julie's eyes. To retrieve Julie's sparkles, the trio must first visit Shabonna, the keeper of the Cosmic Code, before they can fly to the Sparkle Miser's floating mansion in outer space. Cosmic chaos and comical characters abound in this delightful show, which is suitable for all ages.

Performance Time: Approximately 60 minutes.

Characters

(3 F, 8 flexible, opt. extras)

SPARKLE MISER: Legendary star maker of the universe who steals sparkles from the eyes of children and places them into the sky as starlight; flexible.

BUMBLENOID: Sparkle Miser's faithful but bumbling assistant; flexible.

ANFEEZA: Cosmic security officer and defender of the Cosmic Code; female.

STACY: Older sister who is determined to find the Sparkle Miser and get her sister's sparkles back.

JULIE: Stacy's younger sister who has had the sparkles from her eyes stolen by the Sparkle Miser.

THADEUS SHABONNA: Genius professor who is the author and keeper of the Cosmic Code; flexible.

DORCAS: Shabonna's faithful robot who loves children; flexible.

STONE CHILD 1: Insecure, scared child who works for the Sparkle Miser; flexible.

STONE CHILD 2: Depressed, sad child who works for the Sparkle Miser; flexible.

STONE CHILD 3: Tired, lazy child who works for the Sparkle Miser; flexible.

STONE CHILD 4: Angry, bossy child who works for the Sparkle Miser; flexible.

EXTRAS (Opt.): As Stone Children.

NOTE: Stone Children may be male or female between the ages of 7-17 years. For flexible roles, change script accordingly.

Set

The sets may be as simple or elaborate as your budget allows.

Stacy and Julie's bedroom. There are two small beds and a window DSR.

Professor Shabonna's place. There is a tall oversized desk and chair.

Sparkle Miser's floating mansion. There is a table.

Synopsis of Scenes

ACT I

Scene 1: Stacy and Julie's bedroom, late at night.

Scene 2: Professor Shabonna's place.

Scene 3: Outer space.

Intermission (opt.)

ACT II: Sparkle Miser's floating mansion in space.

Props

Pad of paper	Teapot
Magic markers	Plate of cookies
Bedding	Scrub brush
2 Pillows	5 Aprons
Badge, for Anfeeza	Large box
Tissue	Glitter
Notepad	Stool
Pen	White glove, for Sparkle
Book entitled "Cosmic Security Rules"	Miser
Wand	Pencil
Serving tray	Piece of paper
Tea cups	Spray bottle, for Twinkletine

Sound Effect

Whistle

**“These sparkles will shine
so very bright,
As the nighttime twinkles
of seeming starlight!
Best of all,
no one will know
no one will know
the secret of their glow!**

—Sparkle Miser

ACT I

Scene 1

(AT RISE: Stacy and Julie's bedroom, late at night. Stacy and Julie are asleep. After a moment, Stacy sits up.)

STACY: Julie? Julie? *(No answer from Julie.)* Are you awake?
I know if you're fakin' it. Julie? *(No response from Julie. Takes a pad of paper and magic markers out from under her pillow. Gets up, sneaks to the DSR window, and sits on stool. Begins to draw as she gazes at the stars. Staring at one special star, recites.)*
I see a little star, shining in the sky.
I'll make a wish on it and hope that by and by,
That that little, tiny star hears me loud and clear,
And grants my wish right away and send it to me here.
So, please, little tiny star, shining very bright,
Grant the wish that I have made,
And please come back tomorrow night.
(Julie sits up. Stacy doesn't notice. To herself.) What's that up there? *(Points.)* I never noticed that before. It's right next to you. It shines almost as bright as you.

(Julie gets up and crosses to Stacy.)

JULIE: What're you doing up?

STACY: *(Startled.)* What are you doing up?

JULIE: I asked you first.

STACY: You're dreaming. Go back to bed, Julie.

JULIE: I'm not dreaming. I'm wide awake. What're you drawing?

STACY: Nothing.

JULIE: Can I see?

STACY: No!

JULIE: I share things with you...

STACY: Do not.

The Sparkle Miser

11

JULIE: Do, too! But you don't like my stuff. You got neat stuff.

STACY: Yeah, stuff that you shouldn't get into.

JULIE: I just want to know what you're doing.

STACY: Go to bed, Julie!

JULIE: Why can't I see it?

STACY: Because you are a snoop! And snoops shouldn't snoop in other people's business.

JULIE: I'm not a snoop.

STACY: Oh, no? I didn't wrinkle these pages.

JULIE: It's not me! I'm always very careful!

STACY: Shhh! Do you want to wake up Mom and Pop?

JULIE: I'm not a snoop.

STACY: If I show you my drawing, will you be quiet and go to bed?

JULIE: Okay.

STACY: It's not done or anything. There!

(Stacy shows Julie her picture.)

JULIE: Stars don't look like that. They're white, not blue. And the sky is black at night, not white.

STACY: *(Pulls picture back.)* This is my picture, Julie. I will draw it the way I want to, okay?

JULIE: Gee, I was only trying to help.

STACY: Did I ask for your help? Go to bed. *(Hops back into bed and pulls the covers over her head.)*

JULIE: I will, but first I want to make a wish.

STACY: Why don't you wish yourself away to another planet?!

JULIE: I'm telling!

STACY: No! No! Gosh, Julie, I was....kidding. Go on. Make your wish. *(Pause.)* Hurry up. Make your dumb wish.

JULIE: *(Recites.)* "Star light, star bright,
The first star I see tonight.
I wish I may and I wish I might,

Have the wish I wish tonight.”

STACY: That rhyme works only on the first star you see.

JULIE: I have a special star I wish on every night. It doesn't care if it's not the first star I see. And it doesn't care if I make a wish late at night, either!

STACY: Oh, geez. *(Pause.)* What did you wish for?

JULIE: I'm not telling, or it won't come true. Why don't you make a wish, Stacy?

STACY: Because I'm in bed and you should be, too.

JULIE: *(Excited.)* You could make a wish on that pretty star over there. *(Points.)* But you better hurry up before it goes away.

STACY: Goes away?

JULIE: Oh, it's so pretty! It's a bright purple ball with a sparkling bluish tail. Hurry, Stace, it's going behind that building over there.

STACY: Stars don't fly behind buildings.

JULIE: There it goes. Oh, too late.

(Stacy goes to window. During the following conversation, Sparkle Miser and Bumbloid enter through the window unnoticed.)

STACY: Where?

JULIE: *(Points.)* Over there.

STACY: Julie, I don't think that was a star.

JULIE: Then what was it?

STACY: I don't know...could have been a falling star.

JULIE: This was big.

STACY: Maybe it's a comet.

JULIE: A comet? Oh, no! Pop better see this.

STACY: No, no! Don't wake him up. We're supposed to be asleep.

JULIE: But I'm scared!

STACY: There's nothing to be scared of. I said it might be a comet.

MISER: *(Grandly.)* But I am not a comet!

The Sparkle Miser

13

BUMBLENOID: Not a comet!

(Startled, Stacy backs away from Miser and Bumblenoid, pulling Julie with her.)

STACY: Who, who are you?

BUMBLENOID: Who are we, you say? Who are we?

STACY: Yes. Who are you?

BUMBLENOID: *(Indicating Miser.)* Why, he is none other than the one and only, the absolute king of stars, the greatest star-maker of all time—

JULIE: Who?

MISER: *(Grandly.)* The ever-glowing, ever-sparkling...Sparkle Miser.

BUMBLENOID: And I am his faithful assistant, Bumblenoid.

JULIE: *(To Miser.)* You were that bright moving star?

MISER: Oh, my dear, I am not a star.

JULIE: I never even heard of you before, Mr. Spartser Nickel.

BUMBLENOID: Not the Spartser Nickel. The Spartnel Mitzer.

No, no, the Starpel Rizer. No! The Martle Spisser. No!

MISER: The Sparkle Miser.

BUMBLENOID: No, not that! *(Realizes.)* I mean, yes! The Sparkle Miser!

MISER: *(To Stacy.)* I suppose you have never heard of me, either.

STACY: Never.

BUMBLENOID: You have undoubtedly been deprived of one of the most spectacular legends of the universe!

MISER: *(To Stacy and Julie.)* It has been my duty for billions of years to decorate the heavens with the dazzling beauty of glittering stars. I squeeze and mold various gases into a ball of radiating beauty and place it in the sky.

BUMBLENOID: *(To Stacy, Julie.)* It's a very tough job...

MISER: *(To Stacy, Julie.)* As you gaze up into the sky, my dears, you are looking at the results of my work!

STACY: You made all those millions and millions of stars?

BUMBLENOID: Correction! Most of them are stars. Some are merely sparkles.

MISER: That's enough, Bumblenoid.

JULIE: I thought all twinkles were stars.

MISER: Making stars, dear children, is a tedious and time-consuming task. It takes much too much time and energy to make a single star. I've been doing it for years, decades, hundreds and thousands and millions of years!

BUMBLENOID: *(To Julie and Stacy.)* Actually, the Sparkle Miser would like to retire. He isn't as young as he used to be—

MISER: Quiet! *(To Julie and Stacy.)* Frankly, my dears, I am taking a short vacation. You do take vacations, don't you?

[END OF FREEVIEW]