



Lavinia Roberts

BIG DOG PUBLISHING

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V.I.L.L.A.I.N.S.

FARCE. V.I.L.L.A.I.N.S. is a support group for recovering villains who realize their lives have become unmanageable and that they won't live happily ever after unless they change their ways. Gisela, the evil fairy from "Sleeping Beauty" leads the group, which includes Snow White's vain stepmother, a pack of wolves, a troll, a wicked witch, Cinderella's evil stepmother, and many others. To motivate the villains to continue on their path to living happily ever after, Gisela has invited some inspirational speakers including a full-time fairy godmother, Prince Charming, and Jack from "Jack and the Beanstalk" fame. However, the meeting is interrupted by the Pied Piper, who offers transcendental music and hypnosis as a cure for villainy, and some fairies looking for their F.A.R.T.S. meeting.

Performance time: Approximately 30 minutes.

Characters

(5 M, 8 F, 7 flexible)

GISELA: Evil fairy from “Sleeping Beauty” who serves as the V.I.L.L.A.I.N.S. group leader; female.

BROMHILDA: Evil stepmother from the story “Mother Hulda”; female.

HAGATHA: Wicked witch from “Hansel and Gretel” who had to sell her weekend gingerbread cottage to pay damages to Hansel and Gretel and is holding Rapunzel hostage in a tower; female.

GERLOF: Troll from “Three Billy Goats Gruff”; amiable troll who is terrified of most hoofed animals after a run-in with some goats; has warts; flexible.

JEZEBEL: Vain, evil stepmother from “Snow White”; female.

HORTENSE: Wicked stepmother from “Cinderella” who loves to complain about her stepdaughter; female.

ICABELLA: Snow queen; female.

MARIJN: Sea witch who wishes she had someone to love her other than her pet water snakes; female.

BORIS: Wolf from “The Three Little Pigs,” a hot-tempered, food-oriented mafia leader; male.

IVAN/IVANA: Not-too-bright wolf and Boris’s mafia henchman; flexible.

VLADMIR/VLADMIRA: Wolf who is one of Boris’s mafia henchmen; flexible.

RUMPELSTILTSKIN: Villain from “Rumpelstiltskin”; a strange little man; male.

JACK: Character from “Jack in the Beanstalk” who still lives with his mother in a humble cottage and is Rumpelstiltskin’s mentor; male.

LUCINDA: A full-time fairy godmother who serves as an inspirational speaker at V.I.L.L.A.I.N.S.; female.

PRINCE CHARMING: A charming prince and best-selling author; male.

ASSISTANT: Prince Charming's assistant, a businesslike fairy or elf; flexible.

PIED PIPER: Seedy salesman who offers hypnosis and transcendental music as a cure for antagonistic tendencies; male.

FAIRY 1: Member of F.A.R.T.S.; flexible.

FAIRY 2: Member of F.A.R.T.S.; flexible.

FAIRY 3: Member of F.A.R.T.S.; flexible.

Setting

A meeting room.

Set

There are several chairs CS positioned in a half-circle facing the audience. A podium sits SR facing the audience. There is a table upstage that is set with water cups, a coffee-cup dispenser, and a doughnut box.

Props

Water cups

Coffee-cup dispenser

Doughnut box

Plate of gingerbread cookies

Crossword puzzle

Knitting needles and yarn

Magazine with a sheep on the cover

Nail file

Hand mirror

Purse

Lipstick

Book with a smiling picture of Prince Charming on the cover
entitled, *Happily Ever After: How You Can be the Prince
Charming of Your Own Fate.*

Sound Effect

Magical twinkle sound

*"We are dastardly villains
and our lives
have become unmanageable,
and we won't live happily ever after
unless we change..."*

V.I.L.L.A.I.N.S.

(AT RISE: A meeting room. Boris and Ivan are seated. Hagatha is seated, knitting. Gerlof is seated and working on a crossword puzzle. Bromhilda enters, holding a plate of gingerbread.)

BROMHILDA: Excuse me.

HAGATHA: Hello, dearie. How plump... *(Catches herself.)*
...I mean, how pleasant to meet you, dearie.

BORIS: *(To Bromhilda.)* Hey there, dame. So what's a doll like you doing in a rundown joint like this?

BROMHILDA: Is this where the V.I.L.L.A.I.N.S. meeting is? *(Boris, Gerlof, Ivan, and Hagatha moan. Confused.)* What? I got it right, didn't I? This is V.I.L.L.A.I.N.S. You know, "Vitriolic Individuals Learning to Love, Assist Individuals, and be Nice Society," right?

HAGATHA: Yes, yes, this is V.I.L.L.A.I.N.S.

BROMHILDA: Then why are all of you so upset?

IVAN: 'Cause if you are a new member, that means we don't get to eat you. *(To Boris.)* Right, boss?

BORIS: Ivan, just a kidder, aren't you, kid? *(To others.)* He better learn to keep that mouth of his shut, or he'll be swimming with the fishes. Capish, Ivan?

IVAN: Won't happen again, boss.

(Vladimir enters.)

BORIS: Vladimir, you take care of that punk in the red cape?

VLADIMIR: Yeah, boss. I took her out. Last time she goes walking through the woods, if you catch my drift. *(Notices Bromhilda.)* Hey! Who is the dame? *(To Bromhilda.)* Let me guess...new member?

BROMHILDA: Yes. That obvious?

VLADIMIR: I'll say. You didn't come with any means to defend yourself.

(Vladimir takes out a magazine with sheep on the cover. Gerlof jumps up and points to the magazine Vladimir is holding.)

GERLOF: *(Frantic.)* Is that—? Get it away from me! Get it away!

VLADIMIR: Relax, Gerlof. It isn't a picture of a goat on the cover of "Wolf Weekly." It's a sheep.

(Gerlof sits down and takes a few deep breaths.)

GERLOF: I'm sorry. *(Gets progressively panicky.)* It just kind of looked like one...what with the hooves and the wet noses. And horns—huge horns—that get closer to you...and closer. Too fast. You can't move. And then water...lots of water—

HAGATHA: *(Soothing.)* Just take deep breaths, dearie. Nice deep breaths. There's a good troll...

BROMHILDA: Perhaps a gingerbread cookie would help? *(Holds up the plate.)*

HAGATHA: *(Upset.)* Get that wretched monstrosity away from me!

BROMHILDA: I'm sorry.

HAGATHA: *(Upset.)* Disgusting cookie! Makes my skin feel hot just smelling it!

GERLOF: *(To Bromhilda.)* Pardon Hagatha. Ever since she had to sell what was left of her weekend getaway gingerbread cottage to pay off the damages to Hansel and Gretel, she's been, shall we say, less than keen about gingerbread and children.

HAGATHA: That's not true! I happen to love little children... *(Dreamily.)* ...slowly roasted in rosemary...maybe drizzled with olive oil...

GERLOF: *(To Bromhilda.)* Hi, I'm Gerlof.

BROMHILDA: Bromhilda.

(Queen Jezebel enters followed by Hortense.)

JEZEBEL: Yes, yes, the meeting can start now! I'm here! Your bleak little lives have meaning again.

BORIS: (*Sarcastically.*) Sure thing, doll.

JEZEBEL: No bowing, lowly commoner scum, please. I do tire of simpering. And adore from afar. I'm too tired to have you kissing my feet.

HORTENSE: (*To others.*) Sorry we're late.

HAGATHA: Getting Jezebel out of the bathroom, Hortense, I presume?

HORTENSE: I don't know why they don't just take down that mirror. You know what Jezebel, here, is like if there is a mirror anywhere in her vicinity.

JEZEBEL: Well, hun, if you were the fairest of them all, you might want to spend more time admiring your unrivaled reflection. And it's *Queen* Jezebel, serf filth. Only my equals can call me Jezebel. And there aren't any of those here, or elsewhere, for that matter.

IVAN: What about that dame Snow White? I hear she's one looker.

JEZEBEL: What did you say, you filthy flea-infested fool?

HAGATHA: Nothing, puppet. (*To others.*) Dreadful weather we've been having lately, huh? (*Disgusted.*) Nothing but clear skies and sunshine for weeks!

HORTENSE: I didn't hear anything. You hear anything, Boris?

BORIS: I'm with the dame. Ivan didn't say anything, did you, Ivan?

IVAN: But, boss, I said—

(*Vladimir elbows Ivan to shut him up.*)

HAGATHA: (*To Ivan.*) Nothing! (*Sweetly.*) Have you lost weight, Jezebel? Really, I think you have.

IVAN: I said that Snow White—

HORTENSE: (*Under her breath.*) Here she goes again...

JEZEBEL: (*Angry rant.*) Snow White! Snow White! Why, that putrid princess, that—!

(*Gisela enters.*)

GISELA: (*Enthusiastically.*) Hello, group!

GROUP MEMBERS: (*Unenthusiastically.*) Hello, Gisela.

GISELA: You were saying, Queen Jezebel...?

JEZEBEL: Nothing.

GISELA: No, this isn't nothing, Queen Jezebel. These are your feelings. Your feelings are not nothing. Don't repress them. I am really sensing your negative energy right now. Why don't you just let it out, Queen Jezebel, whatever you are feeling?

HORTENSE: (*Under her breath.*) Here she goes...

JEZEBEL: (*Angry rant.*) That wretched little worthless brat of a stepdaughter of mine. That repulsive, sickeningly disgusting pustule of perfection, that nauseatingly chipper airhead, that toffee-nosed goody-two-shoes, that—

GISELA: My, yes, well, you certainly let that out. You know my motto, "Happily ever after can only start today, if positive things you do and say." Try and be more positive. Think happy thoughts.

JEZEBEL: Happy thoughts. Right. Like just squeezing all the air out of her perfect size-zero waist with a corset?

GISELA: Yes, well, that isn't exactly what I meant, but you have the general idea.

HORTENSE: (*To Queen Jezebel.*) You know, you aren't the only one with an annoying stepchild. My Cinderella is so insufferably irritating and self-righteous, let me tell you—

GISELA: Right, well, we really need to get started, Hortense. We have a super-duper fun V.I.L.L.A.I.N.S. meeting planned for today. I'm just full of rainbows and sunshine and happily-ever-after thoughts seeing all of your smiling faces. Makes me want to burst into song! But before we get started, let's recite our V.I.L.L.A.I.N.S. pledge, 'kay, 'kay?

HAGATHA: But I don't know the pledge.

GISELA: A new member! How exciting! Boris, why don't you recite the pledge for our new member?

[END OF FREEVIEW]