About the Book: *The Doll People* (pub in 2000) is the first of Hyperion's popular series by editor/author Laura Godwin and Ann M. Martin—author of the Newbery Honor Book, *A Corner of the Universe* and *The Baby-sitters Club*, one the best-selling series of all time. The fourth book in the series, *The Doll People Set Sail*, is due to be released in Fall of 2014. Currently, the series has sold more than 900,000 copies.

Plot: *The Doll People* is the story of a family of Victorian china dolls who come to life when humans aren't looking. Annabelle, the youngest, has been very restless, longing for adventure and a friend. The day she finds a mysterious journal is the day she meets her new plastic neighbor, Tiffany Funcraft. The two make a pact to search for Auntie Sarah Doll who disappeared 45 years before. But first they must find the courage to leave the Doll House, hide from humans, escape the cat and be kind to spiders.

Playwrights/Composer: Jahnna Beecham and Malcolm Hillgartner, under the pen name Jahnna N. Malcolm, have published more than 130 books for juveniles and young adults, including Scholastic's popular series, *The Jewel Kingdom* and *Bad News Ballet*. Their musicals *Chaps!, Dogpark the Musical* and *Chaps! A Jingle Jangle Christmas* are published by Samuel French and have been performed around the country. *Holmes and Watson Save The Empire* premiered at the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre and was produced in 2013 in Vancouver, BC. *The Doll People* was workshopped and produced at Smith College October 18, 2013. Visit their website: [www.jahnnanmalcolm.com](http://www.jahnnanmalcolm.com). For licensing, contact Patricia McLaughlin at Beacon Artists: (212) 736-6630
THE DOLL PEOPLE

CAST:
The Doll family is a family of 100-year old Victorian Dolls. They speak with British accents. Tiffany Funcraft is modern, like Playmobil dolls or Betty Spaghetti with snap-on hair and clothes.

Annabelle Doll, 8-years old        Bobby Doll, 5-years old
Mama Doll                          Papa Doll
Uncle Doll                         Auntie Sarah Doll
Nanny Doll                         Tiffany Funcraft, 8 years old
Tegeneria Duellica, a large spider that appears in the attic. (Nanny could double as spider)

Projections and Voice-Overs: Kate and Nora Palmer, Mrs. Ann Palmer, Mr. Palmer, Grandma Katherine and their cat The Captain.

MUSIC REQUIREMENTS: 2 keyboards, percussion.

SET:   Two locations:
1. A two-story Victorian doll house with English toy garden in front. Visible to the audience: Downstairs: The kitchen, parlor and staircase up. Upstairs the nursery and landing. The furniture is painted on the walls and also real, but kept to a minimum. The garden has a bench and topiary tree, with possible place for sitting on edge of planter.

2. The attic is human size with giant trunk, boxes and miscellaneous items found in an attic. There is a step leading to it. The attic is filled with cobwebs that stretch from item to item and cover Auntie Sarah.

Note: In first production the Doll house split in two to reveal the human size attic.

Video projections or animated drawings of the Cat and Palmer family are shown in a giant window upstairs.

Performance notes: The dolls start the show frozen in doll positions, as if they were just left by their human, Kate. They freeze in positions when humans appear. The positions should look like straight backed mannequins. In the Rancher Hoedown dance, they try to keep their bodies erect in doll positions with stiff arms, etc. But their feet are dancing as if Nora is making them dance.

Most of the time, the dolls exit to “other parts” of the Doll House. If they remain on, they would be moving but reading books, or cooking on the stove—nothing distracting.
# SONGS—THE DOLL PEOPLE

Lyrics by Jahnna Beecham and Malcolm Hillgartner  
Music by Malcolm Hillgartner

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SCENE 1: In the Doll House and garden

Start UNDERSCORE.

(Lights up on the screen behind the DOLL HOUSE. The sounds of the Palmer family leaving are heard as lights come up on the interior of the Doll House, revealing the Doll family—ANNABELLE, MAMA, PAPA, NANNY, UNCLE, BOBBY frozen in awkward doll positions as if they've been tossed back into the house. MAMA is in the kitchen; PAPA is in the hall; UNCLE is in the living room. NANNY and BOBBY are in the nursery. Baby is in the cradle. ANNABELLE sits frozen on the front step, holding a green book.)

VOs
“Bye, Mom!”
“Bye Kate! Nora, put that cat down!”
“(meow)”

(ANNABELLE accidentally drops her book into the garden. She lifts her head and gasps out loud.)

ANNABELLE
Oh no!

(ANNABELLE freezes, looking at the garden.)

VOs
“Don’t forget your piano lessons after school.”
“Okay, okay.”
“Your lunch, Nora. You forgot your lunch.”

(The front door slams, and a clock chime is heard. Magical music happens as ANNABELLE comes to life and addresses the audience.)
SONG #1: 26 WETHERBY LANE

ANNABELLE
(sings)
ARE THEY GONE?
IS THE COAST CLEAR?
FINALLY
I'M ALONE HERE.
NOT A SIGHT OF NORA, GRAN OR KATE
TO KEEP ME FROM TAKING
MY ONLY CHANCE
TO HAVE A GOOD LOOK,
I JUST FOUND
THIS LITTLE GREEN BOOK,
MY VERY OWN,
MY SECRET MYSTERY

(MUSIC vamps under dialogue as ANNABELLE hurries out of the dollhouse to get the book she dropped in the garden.)

ANNABELLE
(spoken)
I'm Annabelle Doll. I'm eight-years-old and have been for a hundred years. Which is a very long time, especially for an 8-year-old. And I have always lived right here in this beautiful dollhouse, where very little has changed. Can you imagine? One hundred years spent at 26—

(sings)
WETHERBY LANE,
WHERE EVERYTHING STAYS THE SAME.
THE CHILDREN COME AND GO
BUT WE REMAIN
AT WETHERBY LANE, WHERE IT
NEVER SNOWS OR RAINS
ON OUR PERFECT DOLLHOUSE.

ALL
WETHERBY LANE

ANNABELLE
WHERE EVERYTHING STAYS THE SAME.

MAMA/PAPA/NANNY/BOBBY/UNCLE DOLL
WE NEVER HAVE TO CHANGE
OUR POINT OF VIEW
ANNABELLE
IT’S ALWAYS THE SAME

ALL
AT WETHERBY LANE,
SO PLEASANT, EASY, ALWAYS BREEZY,

ANNABELLE
WE CAME FROM ENGLAND LONG AGO
IN A WOODEN BOX,

MAMA AND PAPA
A GIFT FOR BABY GERTRUDE
FROM WILLIAM SEABORN COX.

NANNY
BUT LITTLE GIRLS GROW UP
AND HAVE BABIES OF THEIR OWN.

ALL
WE WATCH THEM FROM OUR DOLLHOUSE TILL THOSE BABIES ARE
FULL GROWN.

WETHERBY LANE!

ANNABELLE
MUST EVERYTHING STAY THE SAME?

ALL
THE WORLD OUTSIDE US
CHANGES EVERYDAY
BUT HERE IN OUR HOUSE
THERE’S NO
NEED EVER TO GROUSE, WE ARE
ONE BIG FAMILY, ALWAYS HAPPY

ANNABELLE
MAMA IS IN THE KITCHEN,
PAPA’S DOWN THE HALL.

MAMA AND PAPA DOLL
BABY’S IN THE NURSERY
AND LOOK THERE’S UNCLE DOLL.
ANNABELLE
AND BOBBY WITH HIS NANNY,
WHO KEEPS A WATCHFUL EYE.

BOBBY
I DON'T NEED A NURSE!

NANNY
OH YES, YOU DO, M'DEAR,
YOU'RE ONLY FIVE.

ALL
WETHERBY LANE,
WHERE EVERYTHING STAYS THE SAME.
THE CHILDREN COME AND GO BUT WE REMAIN
AT WETHERBY LANE.

ANNABELLE
I DON'T MEAN TO COMPLAIN
BUT IT CAN BE BORING!

AT TIMES I WANT TO RUN OUTSIDE
AND BREATHE THE SUMMER AIR
BUT THEN I MIGHT BE SEEN BY HUMANS
SO I NEVER DARE.

(spoken)
I really love my home and family, but sometimes I long for an adventure. You know something that takes you completely by surprise and turns your life upside down. That's why finding this book is quite thrilling. See? It says My Diary. I wonder who it belongs to—Auntie Sarah!

AUNTIE SARAH
June 23, 1969. Today is a very big day.

MAMA
Uncle Doll, wake up! The coast is clear.

UNCLE DOLL
(turns his head and whispers)
What about the cat?

ANNABELLE
Not a sign of him anywhere.
UNCLE DOLL
I DREAMT THAT MY BELOVED
WAS BACK WHERE SHE BELONGED.
MY AUNTIE SARAH JOINED US
FOR A MERRY SING-ALONG.

AUNTIE SARAH appears, as if in memory and sings to and with UNCLE DOLL.

AUNTIE SARAH
WALTZ ME AROUND AGAIN, WILLIE,
ROUND AND ROUND AND ROUND.

AUNTIE SARAH AND UNCLE DOLL
WALTZ ME AROUND AGAIN, WILLIE,
ROUND AND ROUND AND ROUND.

NANNY/BOBBY
Oh, Uncle Doll!

UNCLE DOLL
SHE’S BEEN GONE SO LONG

MAMA/PAPA
WE KNOW HOW MUCH YOU MISS HER

MAMA , PAPA, NANNY, BOBBY
BUT WE ALL MUST CARRY ON.

ANNABELLE
There were eight of us counting Auntie Sarah...who just disappeared.

ALL
WETHERBY LANE!
WHERE EVERYTHING STAYS THE SAME.
THE CHILDREN COME AND GO
BUT DOLLS REMAIN
FOREVER UNCHANGED,
FOREVER THE SAME,
WE’LL BE HERE TOMORROW
AND TOMORROW

(clap clap) TWENTY-SIX,
(clap clap) TWENTY-SIX,
TWENTY-SIX WETHERBY LANE.

(clap clap) TWENTY-SIX,
(clap clap) TWENTY-SIX,
TWENTY-SIX WETHERBY LANE.

WE'LL NEVER EVER
EVER HAVE TO CHANGE!

(Music play off of Wetherby Lane as characters head for their part of the house.)

MAMA
Today I think I shall bake a cake.

PAPA
Lovely idea.

BOBBY
Where's my top? I can't find my top.

NANNY
Patience, Bobby. I'm sure it's in the nursery.

ANNABELLE
Uncle Doll? Are you daydreaming again?

UNCLE DOLL
What? Oh, yes, my dear. Lovely day, isn't it?

ANNABELLE
It's always a lovely day.

(sits on garden bench, prepares to open the diary.)

Now if my family would just stay put for a moment, I can take look at Auntie Sarah's diary. I found it hidden in the piano forte. It's so clever of her. No one, not our humans or my Doll family, would ever think to look in there.

(MAMA calls to ANNABELLE.)

MAMA
Annabelle! What are you doing out there in the open?

ANNABELLE
I dropped something, Mama. I'll be right in.

MAMA
Hurry up about it. And be very careful. The Captain is nearby.

ANNABELLE
Yes, Mama.
MAMA goes back inside and ANNABELLE opens her diary.

ANNABELLE

Alone at last!

SCENE 2: In the garden

SFX:  BEEP BEEP!!

MUSIC intro SONG #2  GO! GO! GO! begins.

(TIFFANY FUNCRAFT drives a kiddie car onstage through the garden across the front lawn of Annabelle's house. She's dancing and singing in her convertible.)

TIFFANY

Woo-hoo! This is fun.

ANNABELLE

That’s the Barbie Car. But who’s driving?

SONG #2: GO, GO, GO!

TIFFANY

I LIKE TO DRIVE AROUND, I LIKE TO TRAVEL FAR
AND THE FUN BEGINS WHEN I GET IN MY CAR.
PEOPLE TELL ME THAT I OUGHT TO GO SLOW
I JUST TELL THEM:

(Beep Beep)

WATCH ME AS I GO
WATCH ME AS I GO
ALL I WANNA DO IS
GO-O-O-O-O-O
GO GO GO.

ANNABELLE

Stop!

TIFFANY

Get out of the road!

ANNABELLE

As TIFFANY drives in a circle
What road?
TIFFANY
I’VE GOT THE TOP DOWN, IT’S A LOTTA FUN
I’VE GOT MY SHADES ON BECAUSE I LOVE THE SUN
I LIKE TO FEEL THE WAY THE WILD WIND BLOWS
WHEN I TELL THEM:

WATCH ME AS I GO
WATCH ME AS I GO
ALL I WANNA DO IS
GO-O-O-O-O-O
GO GO GO.

UM, BEEP BEEP!
UM, BEEP BEEP!

(TIFFANY jumps up and does a dance break at ANNABELLE who joins in trying to
imitate her.)

ANNABELLE
You had better be careful.

TIFFANY
What for??

I NEVER WALK WHEN I KNOW THAT I CAN RUN
BUT DRIVING IN MY CAR IS EVEN BETTER FUN
ROCKING TO THE MUSIC ON THE RADIO
YOU CAN'T STOP ME

(Gestures for ANNABELLE to join her in the car, who sings with her.)

TIFFANY and ANNABELLE

WATCH ME AS I GO
WATCH ME AS I GO
ALL I WANNA DO IS
GO-O-O-O-O-O
GO GO GO!.

TIFFANY
(Takes a photo of herself and ANNABELLE with her plastic doll phone.)
Selfie! Now you drive.

(TIFFANY pushes ANNABELLE into the driver's seat.)
ANNABELLE
I've never driven before. Wait, we're going to hit my house!

TIFFANY
That’s your house?

ANNABELLE
Yes!!

(They slam into side of house.)

*SFX: CRASH!*

TIFFANY
Oops.

(hops out of the convertible.)

ANNABELLE
(Covering her face.)
Is there a lot of damage?

TIFFANY
Not a scratch. Plastic can handle anything.

ANNABELLE
My house isn’t plastic. It’s made of pine. And it is one hundred years old.

TIFFANY
(Flips up sunglasses, examines house.)
Whoa! An antique. Very cool.

ANNABELLE
It was manufactured in England. So was I.

TIFFANY
England? Is that like a toy company?

ANNABELLE
No, it’s a country across the ocean.

TIFFANY
(Circles ANNABELLE)
Is your hair real?

ANNABELLE
Of course. I’m the deluxe model.
TIFFANY
Green. Very cool.

ANNABELLE
That was an accident when my human was playing with a pot of paint. It is, unfortunately, permanent.

TIFFANY
I like it. *(Knocks on her own hair)* Mine’s plastic. Check it out.

ANNABELLE
*(Gingerly touches TIFFANY’s hair)*
Very strange.

TIFFANY
It snaps on and off. I can change my hairdo, like that! *(Snaps her finger)*

ANNABELLE
Careful! You’ll break a finger.

TIFFANY
No way. They’re plastic too.
*(Wiggles fingers, does a cartwheel or spins in a circle)*
My whole body is plastic.

ANNABELLE
Not me. I’m made of china. I have to be awfully careful. One wrong move and I might shatter my foot or arm. Forty-five years ago, Papa broke his foot. It had to be glued back together.

TIFFANY
Forty-five years! How old are you? *Who* are you?

ANNABELLE
I’m Kate’s doll, Annabelle. I’m eight years old and have been for a hundred years.

TIFFANY
Nice to meet you, Annabelle. I’m Tiffany Funcraft and I’m eight years old, too. But I’m totally new.

ANNABELLE
Oh, you must be from Nora’s new family of dolls.

TIFFANY
Yep. Nora’s my girl. She’s wild. We live down the hall. Hey! Where’s your barbecue?
ANNABELLE
Barbie's cue? She has a car, but I don't know what a cue is.

TIFFANY
(Hops up on the garden bench)
You're funny. A barbecue is where we grill hotdogs.

ANNABELLE
Oh, my word! You eat dogs?

TIFFANY
We don't eat anything. The food's all plastic like us. Besides, a hot dog is a sausage, not a real dog.

ANNABELLE
Well, that's a relief.

TIFFANY
I live in the Funcraft Dream house. We've got it all—microwave, flat screen TV, X Box.

ANNABELLE
I have no idea what you're talking about. My home is old but it has all of the latest furnishings including a Queen Victoria wingback in the parlor complete with lace antimacassars on all of our furniture.

TIFFANY
This I gotta see.

ANNABELLE
Come on, then.

SCENE 3: Inside the Doll House

(TIFFANY steps inside Doll House with ANNABELLE following behind into Parlor. TIFFANY sees old phonograph with horn.)

TIFFANY
What's this? Some kind of tuba?

ANNABELLE
That’s our Victor phonograph. We play our records here.

TIFFANY
Where do you plug in your iPod?
ANNABELLE
I have no idea what that is.

(TIFFANY discovers wingback chair or poof is soft and bounces on it.)

TIFFANY
Dude, check this out!

ANNABELLE
Careful!

TIFFANY
I love to bounce. My whole family bounces!

ANNABELLE
Oh, dear…

(TIFFANY bounces on couch or poof and hops onto the floor as DOLL PARENTS, UNCLE and BOBBY enter.)

MAMA
Gracious me! Who on earth are you?

ANNABELLE
Mama, Papa, Bobby—this is Tiffany Funcraft, she's part of Nora's new doll family.

PAPA
Very pleased to meet you, Miss...Funcraft, did you say?

TIFFANY
You got it. I live with my mom and dad, brother Bailey and cat Whiskers, just down the hall.

MAMA
Down the hall? But how in heaven's name did you get here?

ANNABELLE
She drove the Barbie car. Isn't that amazing?

UNCLE
Amazing?

PAPA
It's terrifying. The Captain patrols those halls.

BOBBY
You must be really brave.
TIFFANY
Well...

BOBBY
Aren’t you afraid of Permanent Doll State?

TIFFANY
I haven’t really thought about it.

THE DOLL FAMILY
Not thought about it!

TIFFANY
Nope.

UNCLE
I think about it all the time.

MAMA
It really is the most frightening thing.

TIFFANY
Permanent Doll State?

ALL
(In a whisper)
P. D. S.

ANNABELLE
(with a shudder)
Imagine being frozen forever just because you were seen by a human.

TIFFANY
Frozen forever?

ALL
Forever!

BOBBY
You could never bounce a ball.

TIFFANY
No way!

UNCLE
Or play the piano forte.
What's that?

Or lead family sing-alongs.

Or read stories.

That’s totally unfair!

Young lady, how old are you?

I'm eight. How old are you?

(whispers)
That's not polite to ask.

Says who?

My dear, there are rules for polite society, and there are Doll rules.

And you appear to want to break them all.

Nanny?

Yes, ma’am.

This young lady is in dire need of some instruction.

She is?

My yes. She doesn't know the Doll Rules.
NANNY
That's not good.

PAPA
And she hasn't a clue about Permanent Doll State.

NANNY
Not good at all!

*MUSIC intro SONG #3 NEVER DO THAT*

TIFFANY
But—

MAMA
*(Holds up a finger for silence)*
Ah-ah-ah!
*(points for TIFFANY to sit on the sofa between BOBBY and ANNABELLE)*
Now, child—listen and learn.

*(The family gathers around to give TIFFANY the rules.)*

**SONG #3: NEVER DO THAT**

NANNY
WHEN YOU WERE MADE, YOU TOOK AN OATH,
A VOW OF SECRECY

MAMA
TO NEVER TALK OR MAKE A MOVE
THAT ANY CHILD COULD SEE.

FAMILY
NO CHILD MUST EVER SEE.

TIFFANY
A LIVING DOLL CAN SKIP AND PLAY

NANNY
BUT ONLY OUT OF SIGHT

UNCLE
WHEN CHILDREN HAVE GONE OFF TO SCHOOL
OR WHEN THEY SLEEP AT NIGHT.

ALL
WHEN THEY SLEEP AT NIGHT.
ALL
WE NEVER-NEVER BLINK WHEN PEOPLE LOOK,
WE NEVER-NEVER SING OR CHAT.
WE NEVER MOVE AN INCH,
WE NEVER-NEVER FLINCH
WHEN STUFFED IN A SHOE OR HAT.

TIFFANY

No?

ALL
NO, WE NEVER DO THAT!

TIFFANY
BUT LIVING DOLLS ARE SPECIAL,
NOT JUST ORDINARY TOYS.
WE LAUGH AND RUN, HAVE LOTS OF FUN
AND MAKE A LOT OF NOISE.

ALL
NO! WE NEVER MAKE NOISE

MAMA
WE NEVER WANDER OFF ALONE
TO SEE WHAT WE CAN SEE

But—

UNCLE
WE NEVER LEAVE OUR DOLL HOUSE

TIFFANY

What?

PAPA
IT'S HOME ENOUGH FOR ME!

TIFFANY /ANNABELLE

NOT ME

ALL
OH! ENOUGH FOR ME!

WE NEVER-NEVER MOVE WHEN CHILDREN TALK,
WE NEVER-NEVER ANSWER BACK.
WE NEVER-NEVER SIGH
AND NEVER-NEVER CRY
WHEN THEY GIVE OUR HEADS A WHACK!

TIFFANY
OUCH! *(gestures with fist)*

ALL
NO, WE NEVER DO THAT!

TIFFANY
WHAT IF, WHEN THEIR BACKS ARE TURNED,
WE SNEAK A LITTLE PEEK?

ALL
*(shout in horror)*

No!

TIFFANY
OUT OF ONE LITTLE EYE?

ALL
*(shout)*

No!

TIFFANY
TELL ME WHY?

PAPA
BECAUSE WE ARE DISCREET, THAT'S WHY!

ALL
NO—WE NEVER DO THAT!

TIFFANY
We don’t?

ALL
NO—WE NEVER DO THAT!

NANNY
IF YOU ARE CAUGHT OUT ON YOUR OWN
AND GIVE US ALL AWAY

MAMA
THE PUNISHMENT YOU’LL SUFFER, CHILD,
WILL MAKE YOU RUE THE DAY!
ALL
OH! YOU'LL RUE THE DAY!

TIFFANY

Punishment? Like being grounded?

ANNABELLE

Worse.

PAPA

Permanent Doll State!

TIFFANY

Yikes!

MAMA

A heavy price to pay.

SO IF BY CHANCE YOU GET THE URGE TO RUN OFF ON YOUR OWN

TIFFANY

Yes?

MAMA

AND ARE SURPRISED BY HUMAN EYES,

PAPA

YOU'LL FIND YOURSELF ALONE.

PAPA/UNCLE DOLL
OH—YOU'RE ALL ALONE.

ALL
YOU’LL NEVER-NEVER SING A HAPPY SONG,
YOU’LL NEVER-NEVER MAKE A PEEP.
YOU’LL NEVER-NEVER WAKE FROM THAT MISTAKE,
YOU’LL ALWAYS BE ASLEEP.

SO—

MAMA

DON’T EVER!
UNCLE

NO, NOT EVER!

PAPA

WE MEAN NEVER

NANNY

NEVER

MAMA/PAPA

NEVER

BOBBY

THAT'S RIGHT,

PAPA/UNCLE DOLL

NEVER NEVER NEVER!

MAMA/NANNY

NEVER NEVER NEVER!

ALL

NO—DO THAT!

DON’T EVER DO THAT!

TIFFANY

Whoa. That’s a lot of rules!

NANNY

Can’t be helped. They’re absolutely necessary.

(MAMA and PAPA move the Barbie Car away from the house and encourage TIFFANY to leave.)

MAMA

Tiffany, it’s been lovely to meet you, but you really must hurry back to Nora's room while you are still safe.

ANNABELLE

But Mama, she’s already here. Can’t she stay a wee bit longer?

BOBBY

Please let her stay.

PAPA

The rules, children. Remember the Doll Rules.
ANNABELLE
Yes, Papa.

TIFFANY
Catch you later, guys.

MAMA
Be careful!!

TIFFANY
Come on, Tiffany, I’ll walk you to the garden.

(ANNABELLE leads the way but as she steps into the garden, the Palmer’s cat, THE CAPTAIN, appears through a projection, peering in the window of the Doll House. It can be just a cat eye that blinks. Depending on the production, just seeing the eye and focusing light on ANNABELLE and dimming light on the others emphasizes her being caught by herself in the open.)

BOBBY
Annabelle! The Captain.

ANNABELLE
Oh, no!

(The cat’s head turns and looks (or just blinks) at ANNABELLE, who is backing up outside. The family huddles together in panic as ANNABELLE runs, trying to find a place to hide.)

TIFFANY
(Still in doorway with the rest of the family)
Who’s the Captain?

BOBBY
(Whispers)
That cat!

SFX: menacing growl!

PAPA
Annabelle, freeze!

ANNABELLE
Stay back, Captain! Back!

BOBBY
Poor Annabelle!
MAMA

(Waves her apron from the door at the cat. Then goes back to freeze.)
Shoo! Scat!

(TIFFANY jumps out in the open by the car waving her arms and taunting the cat.)

TIFFANY

(shouts)
Hey, cat! Over here! (chants) Nyah nah nah nah nah!

(TIFFANY dives for the Barbie car with her head down and feet sticking up. She freezes. ANNABELLE runs to try to help her friend, but UNCLE DOLL and PAPA run out and drag her inside the living room.)

PAPA and UNCLE
Annabelle! Get back here!

ANNABELLE
We’ve got to help Tiffany. She's stuck in the Barbie car.

MAMA
It's too dangerous. The Captain is out there. We should wait until we’re certain it’s safe.

ANNABELLE
But Mama—

MAMA
You’ll be putting us all in danger. Wait, Annabelle, just wait.

BOBBY
But Tiffany can't get out!

MAMA
Not another word. Now please come into the Doll House before any of the humans see you.

ANNABELLE
Yes, Mama.

UNCLE DOLL
Please, please! Let’s get out of the open.

(MAMA, PAPA, NANNY, and UNCLE DOLL hurry into the inside of the house, going off stage.)
ANNABELLE
(to BOBBY)
Tiffany just saved my life. I can't leave her out there. She's like catnip to that awful creature.

BOBBY
You heard Mama and Papa. You would be breaking Doll Rules.

ANNABELLE
Mama and Papa sound so stuffy.

BOBBY
You had better not go out there!

ANNABELLE
Oh, Bobby, stop acting like a baby.

BOBBY
I am not a baby! You're being mean—

ANNABELLE
I'm not.

BOBBY
And I don't want to play with you!)

(BOBBY runs in and up the stairs into the nursery.

ANNABELLE
Fine. Go to the nursery where you belong.

SFX: CAT meow in distance

Tiffany!

SCENE 4: In the garden and nursery
(ANNABELLE runs out to the Barbie car, carefully checking over her shoulder and hiding behind trees, etc.)

ANNABELLE
Tiffany! I'm here.

TIFFANY
Pull my feet. My head's stuck.
(She does; TIFFANY rolls out of the car and hops to her feet. She's pretty shaken but tries to act brave.)

TIFFANY

Woo! Frogs! That was fun.

ANNABELLE

Fun? I was scared out of my wits.

TIFFANY

That cat is one major beast.

ANNABELLE

You haven't seen his teeth. They could make you faint. Please come away from the garden.

TIFFANY

You should have seen your face when he appeared.

ANNABELLE

You were awfully funny with your feet sticking out of the Barbie car.

TIFFANY

(Does a hand-stand.)

Did I look like this?

ANNABELLE

Just like that. You're fun. Quick! Come to the nursery where Captain can't get us.

TIFFANY

Will that be cool with your parents? They seemed to want me to leave.

ANNABELLE

They just didn’t want you to get caught and end up in Permanent Doll State. Now, please come in.

TIFFANY

Okay. I'd like to see your room.

(The girls go inside and climb the stairs to the nursery. BOBBY is hiding by the bed or behind a curtain. TIFFANY is looking around at the nursery things.)

ANNABELLE

This is the nursery, where we play.
TIFFANY
Hey! I like your rocking horse. What's his name?

ANNABELLE
He doesn't have a name.

TIFFANY
Why don't we call him Rocky?

ANNABELLE
Rocky?

TIFFANY
Prince Rocky! PR for short.

ANNABELLE
Brilliant!

TIFFANY
(peeking through curtain into the inner nursery)
Hey, what's this?

ANNABELLE
That is where we sleep. See? That's my bed and Bobby's bed. And Baby's taking a nap in the cradle.

TIFFANY
Shhh!

ANNABELLE
I'm sorry my parents sounded so strict. But they have a reason besides Doll Rules. Auntie Sarah.

TIFFANY
Auntie Sarah?

ANNABELLE
She's Uncle Doll's wife.

TIFFANY
I guess I didn't meet her.

ANNABELLE
You couldn't.
TIFFANY
Why?

ANNABELLE
Because of what happened forty-five years ago.

TIFFANY
Forty-five years! That’s like forever.

*(TIFFANY finds a music box, opens it.)*

**MUSIC BOX music begins to play.**

**SONG #4: THE SAD THING**

ANNABELLE
NO ONE WANTS TO TALK ABOUT IT.
NO ONE SAYS A WORD.
EVEN AUNTIE’S HUSBAND.
I MEAN, IT’S SO ABSURD.

AUNTIE SARAH LEFT ONE DAY
JUST LIKE THAT SHE WENT AWAY.
NO ONE WENT TO FIND HER
WHY? THEY WOULDN’T SAY.

*(BOBBY emerges from his hiding place  but ANNABELLE doesn’t hear him join her.)*

BOBBY/ANNABELLE
THE SAD THING
IS THE VOICE THEY NEVER HEAR
BECAUSE THE PAIN OF LOSING HER
IS SOMETHING THEY ALL FEAR.
AND SO WE ACT AND CARRY ON
AS IF OUR AUNTIE SARAH ISN'T GONE.

BOBBY, ANNABELLE, TIFFANY
THE SAD THING

BOBBY/ANNABELLE
IS THE SILENCE THAT’S SO LOUD

BOBBY
THE EMPTY PLACE AT DINNER
THAT WE NEVER TALK ABOUT.
ANNABELLE
IT’S NOT THAT THEY DON’T CARE.

ANNABELLE/BOBBY
IT’S JUST THAT THEY DON’T DARE TO FACE THE TRUTH

TIFFANY
BUT SHE’S OUT THERE ALL ALONE
WITHOUT A FRIENDLY FACE TO
LIGHT A LAMP TO GUIDE HER HOME.

TIFFANY/ANNABELLE
UNTIL SHE’S BACK AGAIN

BOBBY
TILL SHE’S SOUND AND SAFE

ANNABELLE
IN EACH AND EV’RY WAY

BOBBY AND ANNABELLE
SHE REMINDS US EV’RY DAY

TIFFANY, ANNABELLE AND BOBBY
THAT THE SAD THING
IS WHY THIS HOUSE IS NOT A HOME

ANNABELLE
AND WHY EACH DAY

BOBBY
WE HOPE AND PRAY

ANNABELLE/BOBBY
SHE’LL FIND US ON HER OWN

TIFFANY
YOU CAN’T JUST LET THIS BE
YOU CAN’T LET AUNTIE SARAH ALWAYS BE

ALL
THE SAD THING.

TIFFANY

Where do you think she is?
ANNABELLE
Somewhere in the Palmer Family's house.

TIFFANY
Have you looked for her?

ANNABELLE
No. My parents and Uncle Doll are too frightened to do it. But lately I’ve been thinking about going to look for Auntie Sarah myself.

TIFFANY
I say do it.

ANNABELLE
But what if Auntie Sarah is in permanent Doll State.

TIFFANY
What if she isn’t? She could just be stuck somewhere, like under the bed or behind a couch.

ANNABELLE
That would be terrible!

TIFFANY
I think we should form a club and go look for her.

ANNABELLE
A club? You mean just you and me?

TIFFANY
A secret club. (nods)

ANNABELLE
What fun! Oooh! And we can have a secret name. You know, something that only we understand.

TIFFANY
Like FAST.

ANNABELLE
Fast?

TIFFANY
You know, F for find, A for Auntie, S, Sarah, T, Today—FAST.
ANNABELLE
That's good.

TIFFANY
Or how about SAS? Seekers of Auntie Sarah.

ANNABELLE
Or how about SELMP—the Society For Exploration of Lost and Missing Persons.

TIFFANY
(ponders this clunky name)
SELMP?

ANNABELLE
No one would ever be able to figure it out.

TIFFANY
(conspiratorially)
I like it.

ANNABELLE
We’d be just like Nancy Drew.

TIFFANY
Or Dora the Explorer!

(BOBBY sticks his head out from his secret hiding place.)

BOBBY
Or the Hardy Boys!

ANNABELLE
Bobby! You were spying on us!

BOBBY
Was not!

ANNABELLE
Was too!

BOBBY
I was here first!

ANNABELLE
He’s got a point.

TIFFANY
ANNABELLE
Well, he can’t be in our secret club.

BOBBY
You’re acting beastly.

ANNABELLE
I don’t mean to be beastly. I just have something I need to tell Tiffany. In private.

(ANNABELLE ushers BOBBY to the door.)

BOBBY
Please! Please, let me be in the club.

ANNABELLE
I’ll think about it.

TIFFANY
Catch you later, Bob!

(ANNABELLE pushes BOBBY out of the nursery and shuts the door. BOBBY stays in the hall with his head pressed to the door, listening.)

ANNABELLE
Tiffany, now that we’re secret explorers. I have something I need to show you. Here.

(BOBBY drops to his knees to peer through the keyhole as ANNABELLE hands TIFFANY the green diary.)

TIFFANY
(reads the cover)
“My Diary.”

ANNABELLE
It’s Auntie Sarah’s. I found it this morning in the piano. She must have hid it there forty-five years ago. Look!

(BOBBY reacts in his hiding place. He lies on the floor and peeks under the door.)

TIFFANY
I’ll bet this book holds all of the clues to help us find Auntie Sarah. Have you read it?

ANNABELLE
No. I just found it. But on the very first page Auntie Sarah says she goes exploring at night!

TIFFANY
This is big. Very big.
(The front door to the big house slams and we hear NORA's voice offstage.)

NORA PALMER VO

Hi Mom, I’m home!

ANNABELLE

(panicked)
Nora's home from kindergarten.

MAMA

(From offstage)
Places, everyone!

(ANNABELLE and everyone runs downstairs to where they were at the beginning of the play. TIFFANY hides.

The door slams again and feet run in. NORA's voice is heard.)

NORA VO

Out of my way!

TIFFANY

(peeking her head out from her hiding place.)
That girl runs everywhere.

ANNABELLE

Shush!

(NORA’S face appears peering into the dollhouse, or a shadow covers the dollhouse.)

NORA VO

It's time for Kate’s dollies to play Rancher Family.

(NORA's image disappears.)

ANNABELLE

(whispers)
Oh no!

TIFFANY

(from her hiding place)
Rancher Family? What's that?

ANNABELLE

You don’t want to know.
NORA VO
Come on, you dollies! Ride ‘em, cowboy!

**MUSIC intro for SONG #5 RANCHER FAMILY HOEDOWN**

(DOLL family suddenly gallops on with cows and horses and a pig. They are wearing big cowboy hats and bandanas. Bobby joins them from upstairs in a cowboy hat. They move with their legs dancing but their upper torsos and heads in doll positions. They are “herded” by the unseen hand of NORA.)

ANNABELLE
Don’t let Nora see you!

(ANNABELLE tosses TIFFANY the green book, but BOBBY intercepts and TIFFANY dives for cover as NORA’S face reappears. The lights change.)

**SCENE 5: In the garden**

**SONG #5: RANCHER FAMILY HOEDOWN**
(During this choreographed number, TIFFANY gets the journal back from BOBBY who tries to take it from her. During the dance they are stealing the book from each other as TIFFANY tries to stay out of sight. At the end of the number, the Doll family is frozen in wacky positions.)

ANNABELLE
(whispers)
Bobby, give me the book.

BOBBY
No!

NORA VO
(like a square dance caller)
DO SI DO!
TIPPY TOE!
BOUNCY BOUNCY BOUNCY

NORA and ALL
WHOA!

NORA VO
WAVE AT YOUR NEIGHBOR
SLAP YOUR KNEE
TROT LIKE A HORSE
ANNABELLE

Give it me!!

NORA VO

ALL THE MEN LEFT.
ALL THE MEN RIGHT.

TIFFANY

(Tug of war)
I’ve got the book. Bob, don’t fight.

BOBBY

I want to read it.

ANNABELLE

No, you can’t

NORA VO

COME ON, DOLLIES! LET’S DANCE!

(ANNABELLE passes BOBBY and grabs book. Then she manages to pass it to TIFFANY who BOBBY tries to take it from TIFFANY. MAMA, PAPA, NANNY and UNCLE DOLL try to get them to stop talking and messing around.)

MAMA DOLL

Children, settle down.

PAPA DOLL

Bobby, stop it!

BOBBY

It’s not my fault!

ANNABELLE

Is to!

BOBBY

Is not!

UNCLE DOLL

Oh, dear. This is not good.

NANNY

Back to the nursery for you!

BOBBY

35
No!

TIFFANY

Got it!

*(TIFFANY takes book and reads it out of sight of NORA.)*

NORA

DO SI DO
TIPPY TOE
BOUNCY BOUNCY BOUNCY NO!

TROT LIKE A HORSE
ACT LIKE A PIG
MOO LIKE A COW
AND DANCE A JIG!

YEE HAW!
YEE HAW!
DANCE DOLLIES DANCE!!

KATE VO OFFSTAGE

Nora! You better not be in my room.

*(Music stops and dolls freeze in place.)*

NORA VO

Uh, oh. Kate!

KATE VO OFFSTAGE

Stay away from my Doll House!

*(Music goes to double time.)*

NORA VO

DO SI DO, TIPPY TOE
BOUNCY BOUNCY HORSIE WHOA!
PUNCH YOUR NEIGHBOR, KICK YOUR FRIEND

*(KATE’s VO comes on the final “shave and a haircut, two bits”)*

KATE VO

Norrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrra?

NORA VO

THE END!
I gotta skedaddle!

(Dolls all drop in place frozen.)

NORA VO (OFFSTAGE)

Bye, you dollies!

(DOLL family sits up dazed.)

MAMA

My word.

NANNY

That was a real corker.

UNCLE DOLL

Is it just me or does Rancher Family just get faster and faster every time?

PAPA

Nora’s getting older and so are we.

(While the DOLLS right themselves and remove hats and exit with farm animals, UNCLE DOLL goes into the parlor, TIFFANY pulls ANNABELLE to the garden bench, BOBBY eavesdrops.)

SCENE 6: In the garden

TIFFANY
Annabelle. Over here.

ANNABELLE
You were almost caught several times.

TIFFANY
Yeah, it was pretty hairy there for a sec.

ANNABELLE
I was terrified for you.

TIFFANY
Listen, I read some of Auntie Sarah’s diary and discovered a very big clue.

ANNABELLE
What? Tell me.
Auntie Sarah used to go to the attic.

With all those stairs? How did she do it?

I don’t know, but she was tracking something called *tegeneria duellica*.

I know what that is. It’s a spider.

What?

Actually it’s the scientific name for the Giant House Spider.

How do you know that?

Auntie Sarah told me. The *tegeneria duellica* is huge. It measures nearly four inches across and is sometimes called *T-Gigantica*, as in T-Rex.

Whoa dude! That’s awesome.

Now may I be in your club?

(ANNABELLE and TIFFANY change looks.)

He does seem to know a lot about what Auntie Sarah was chasing.

Yes, but…

Listen, we're the President and Vice President of SELMP. But every club needs a member–

—to run errands?
TIFFANY
—who can tell us all about the spiders Auntie Sarah was chasing.

ANNABELLE

*(shudders)*
I wish you’d stop talking about spiders. I’m terribly frightened of them.

TIFFANY

Why?

ANNABELLE
They crawl on your face when you can’t move. They weave white lace that sticks to your skin and clothes.

TIFFANY

Cool!

BOBBY

Totally!

*(TIFFANY high fives BOBBY for using modern language and agreeing with her. And she starts clapping.)*

*RHYTHM TRACKS FOR SONG #6: SPIDER CLAPPING SONG begins.*

BOBBY
And there are well over forty thousand different types of spiders.

ANNABELLE
Forty thousand? I may faint.

**SONG #6: THE SPIDER CLAPPING SONG**

*Bobby teases Annabelle and then does a clapping chant to a drum rhythm.*

BOBBY

THE ITSY BITSY SPIDER
WENT UP THE WATER SPOUT.

ANNABELLE

Ew!

BOBBY

DOWN CAME THE RAIN
AND WASHED THE SPIDER OUT.
ANNABELLE

Good.

BOBBY

OUT CAME THE SUN
AND DRIED UP ALL THE RAIN
AND THE ITSY BITSY SPIDER
WENT UP THE SPOUT AGAIN.

ANNABELLE

No!

(TIFFANY faces ANNABELLE, does clap routine with ANNABELLE while BOBBY claps the rhythm.)

TIFFANY

I WISH I WAS A SPIDER
A SPIDER HAS EIGHT LEGS
IT WEAVES A WEB OF FIBER
AND THEN IT LAYS ITS EGGS

(ANNABELLE faces BOBBY, does clap routine while TIFFANY claps the rhythm.)

BOBBY

A SPIDER’S WEB IS STICKY
TO CATCH A FLY OR TWO
IT’S STRONG AS STEEL AND LIGHT AS AIR
LOOK OUT! IT COULD CATCH YOU!

(ALL THREE face front with ANNABELLE in middle, clapping one and then the other.

ALL

ORB WEBS
TUNNEL WEBS
ICKY STICKY
FUNNEL WEBS
SHEET WEBS
TANGLE WEBS
LOOK OUT, THEY COULD CATCH YOU!

(ALL do knee clapping that moves from their knees and to others and crosses arms.)

BOBBY

A SPIDER USES SPINNERETS
TO SPIN ITS SPIDER SILK
THE SILK IS STRONG LIKE CLIMBING ROPE
ALTHOUGH IT'S MADE OF MILK.

ANNABELLE

That's it!

TIFFANY

I WISH I WAS A SPIDER—

(TIFFANY and BOBBY continue the song but ANNABELLE stops them.)

ANNABELLE

That's it, I tell you.

TIFFANY/BOBBY

What?

ANNABELLE

That's how Auntie Sarah climbed the stairs.

TIFFANY

What? On a spider?

ANNABELLE

No, she used rope, like the spiders use their thread.

BOBBY

Amazing!

(They examine the diary.)

TIFFANY

(reads)

Listen to this: “Tonight’s a full moon.”

AUNTIE SARAH VO

The time to see the spiders best. I’m going to the attic.

ALL THREE

The attic!

BOBBY

It’s way up at the top of the house.

(A beam of moonlight appears on the floor with magical musical accompaniment.)
TIFFANY
(In a hushed voice)
Look! Annabelle! The moon. It’s full.

ANNABELLE
(Nods)
Just like the night Auntie Sarah disappeared.

SFX Clock chime
TIFFANY
That’s a sign. Don’t you see?

ANNABELLE
We’ve got to find Auntie Sarah.

TIFFANY
We’ll go to the attic tonight.

ANNABELLE
But how will we find it.

TIFFANY
(Turns book over)
This is a map.

ANNABELLE
And these are instructions.

TIFFANY
Dude, we have to go.

ANNABELLE
I had better tell Mama and Papa what we plan to do.

TIFFANY
If you do, they’ll try to stop us.

ANNABELLE
Well, we ought to tell someone.

BOBBY
I want to come!

ANNABELLE
Bobby! You’re too young.
BOBBY
Am not!

ANNABELLE
I don't want to put you in danger.

BOBBY
You’re putting yourself in danger.

ANNABELLE
I'm really sorry, Bobby, but you can't come.

BOBBY
You're just being mean.

(BOBBY runs offstage.)

TIFFANY
Sorry, Bob!

(to ANNABELLE)
I've got Funcraft Family backpacks and jump ropes at my place. Come with me.

ANNABELLE
I have someone I need to talk to first.

TIFFANY
Cool. I’ll come back with the supplies after Nora and Kate go to bed. Later.

MUSIC transition: “Never Do That” theme.

(TIFFANY runs off; ANNABELLE knocks on door of the parlor.)

SCENE 7: In the parlor/garden

ANNABELLE
Uncle Doll? Could I speak to you a moment?

UNCLE
Of course, my dear. You are always welcome.

ANNABELLE
I’d like to talk to you about Auntie Sarah and the night she disappeared.

UNCLE
That was a dreadful time. Dreadful! Poor dear Auntie Sarah.
ANNABELLE
Uncle Doll, why didn’t you go search for Auntie Sarah?

UNCLE DOLL
We did. Believe me, we did but… Do you remember what happened after Auntie Sarah disappeared?

ANNABELLE
Not quite.

UNCLE DOLL
Back then there was a cat named Patches. Well, Patches caught Papa and broke his leg. Snapped it like a twig. A twig!

ANNABELLE
I do remember that. It was dreadful.

UNCLE DOLL
And since we had no idea where Auntie Sarah might be in this enormous house, we had to stop looking—it was too dangerous. Papa’s experience was so frightening that none of us, not even me, could summon the courage to leave the Doll House again.

ANNABELLE
Poor Uncle Doll.

UNCLE DOLL
I’m a coward. An absolute coward.

ANNABELLE
You aren't a coward. You just didn't know where to look.

What do you mean?

UNCLE DOLL
Uncle Doll, I know where Auntie Sarah is.

How could you possibly know?

ANNABELLE
I found her diary.

She left a diary?
ANNABELLE
Yes! And tonight Tiffany Funcraft and I are going to go find her.

UNCLE DOLL
What? No! Your parents would forbid it.

ANNABELLE
That’s why I’m telling you. I want you to know where I am in case I don’t return.

UNCLE DOLL
This is terrible. Terrible.

ANNABELLE
I'll be in the attic.

UNCLE DOLL
The attic! It's too dangerous. The cat! The humans!

ANNABELLE
Uncle Doll, please don’t distress yourself. I’ll be very careful.

UNCLE DOLL
You are just like your Auntie Sarah. Just like her!

ANNABELLE
I take that as a compliment.

UNCLE DOLL
But how on earth will you even find the attic?

ANNABELLE
Auntie Sarah left detailed instructions. They're all here, in her diary.

(Gives UNCLE DOLL the diary and starts to exit, stops and turns back with a twinkle in her eye.)

Be sure to look at page eight!

(ANNABELLE heads for the garden.

UNCLE DOLL opens diary and begins reading to himself.)

UNCLE DOLL
June 23, 1969.

(sings)
WALTZ ME AROUND AGAIN, WILLIE,
ROUND AND ROUND AND ROUND.
WALTZ ME AROUND AGAIN...

(shuts the book with a decisive snap)

Annabelle! Wait for me!

**SONG #7: UP! UP! INTO THE NIGHT**

UNCLE

I FEEL BRAVE, I FEEL PROUD
I WANT TO SHOUT “I’M GOING!” OUT LOUD.
I’VE BEEN A COWARD FOR SO VERY LONG
I FEEL LIKE SINGING!

(Points his walking stick)

UP. UP, INTO THE NIGHT
THE MOON IS OUR GUIDE
IF WE FOLLOW THE LIGHT.
UP, UP, THE TIME IS JUST RIGHT.
WE’LL FIND AUNTIE SARAH TONIGHT

TIFFANY

Whoa, Uncle Doll!

You’re coming too?

UNCLE DOLL

If you girls have the courage to find Auntie Sarah, so do I. First we need to get to the attic stairs.

We’ll take my car. Hop in!

UNCLE

Whee!

TIFFANY

I CAN DRIVE!

UNCLE DOLL

THIS IS FUN!

ANNABELLE

WE’VE GOT A JOB THAT HAS TO BE DONE.

*SFX: Meow!*
UNCLE DOLL
LOOK OUT FOR THE CAT!

TIFFANY
HOLD ON TO YOUR HAT.

ANNABELLE
LET’S GET GOING!

ALL
UP, UP,
TO THE TOP OF THE HOUSE.

ANNABELLE
LOOK AT THE LION
WHO ONCE WAS A MOUSE.

ALL
UP, UP!

UNCLE
WE MUST FIND MY SPOUSE.

ALL
LET’S GO TO THE TOP OF HOUSE!

ALL
UP, UP, INTO THE NIGHT!
THE MOON IS OUR GUIDE
IF WE FOLLOW THE LIGHT.
UP, UP, THE TIME IS JUST RIGHT,
WE’LL FIND AUNTIE SARAH—

UNCLE
LET’S FIND AUNTIE SARAH!

ALL
WE’LL FIND AUNTIE SARAH TONIGHT!

(Car exits offstage. BOBBY runs down from the nursery. He’s wearing the cowboy hat and carrying the lasso and other props.)

BOBBY
Hey! Wait for me! Now where did they go? My word, it’s awfully dark out here.

SFX: Gong
What was that?

*SFX: Door creaking.*

And that?

*SFX: Big door slam.*

And that?

*SFX: Cat meow.*

The Captain! Help!

*(Bobby runs off, screaming.)*

**Music vamp begins for SONG #8: SPIDERS EVERYWHERE.**

*(ANNABELLE leads TIFFANY, UNCLE onstage onto the final step of the attic stairs. They're roped together like mountain climbers.)*

 TIFFANY

Woo, froggies! This place is creepy.

ANNABELLE

These webs are bigger than I ever imagined.

UNCLE DOLL

Auntie Sarah! Are you here?

TIFFANY

If the webs are this big, how big are the spiders?

UNCLE DOLL

Please stop talking about spiders.

TIFFANY

I can't help it. This place must be crawling with them.

**SONG #8: SPIDERS EVERYWHERE!**

 SPIDER

OOH DOOBIE DOO DOO WAH,

OOH DOOBIE DOO DOO WAH!
(UNCLE DOLL, ANNABELLE and TIFFANY clutch each other in alarm.)

UNCLE DOLL

(gasps)

Did you hear that?

SPIDER

OOH DOOBIE DOO DOO WAH,
DOO WAH DOO DAH BE DOOBIE DAH!

TIFFANY

WHAT'S THAT LOOMING IN THE GLOOM?
I FEEL SOMETHING IN THE ROOM.

ANNABELLE

SOMETHING LURKING OUT OF SIGHT

UNCLE DOLL

WITH FUZZY LEGS AND A NASTY BITE!

TIFFANY, UNCLE DOLL, ANNABELLE

SPIDERS, EVERYWHERE!
UNDER THE RUGS, BY THE STAIRS
DOWN FROM THE CEILING, ONE BY ONE,
WATCH YOUR BACK, ‘CAUSE HERE THEY COME!

(UNCLE DOLL and ANNABELLE and TIFFANY cling to each other, searching for that “thing” they think is lurking somewhere in the dark.).

UNCLE DOLL, ANNABELLE, TIFFANY

AUNTIE SARAH!

SPIDER

OOH DOOBIE DOO DOO WAH!

UNCLE DOLL, ANNABELLE, TIFFANY

OH WHERE ARE YOU?

SPIDER

OOH DOOBIE WAH DOO BAH
DOO WAH DOO BAH DEE DOOBIE DAH!

ANNABELLE

What is that?
UNCLE DOLL
I don’t want to know! Auntie Sarah, please answer!

TIFFANY
SOMETHING’S MOVING!

ANNABELLE
TELL ME WHERE?

TIFFANY
IN THE CORNER, SEE IT THERE?

UNCLE
MAYBE WE SHOULD SLIP AWAY
AND COME AGAIN ANOTHER DAY?

ANNABELLE
No, Uncle Doll! We have to keep looking.

UNCLE DOLL, TIFFANY, ANNABELLE
SPIDERS, EVERYWHERE!
UNDER THE RUGS, BEHIND THE STAIRS,
DOWN FROM THE CEILING, ONE BY ONE,
WATCH YOUR BACK ‘CAUSE HERE THEY COME!

AUNTIE SARAH!

SPIDER
OOH DOOBIE DOO DOO WAH

ANNABELLE, TIFFANY, UNCLE DOLL
OH, WHERE ARE YOU?

SPIDER
OOH DOOBIE DAH DOO WAH,
DOO DAH DOO WAH BE DOOBIE DAH!

(AUNTIE SARAH is buried under a pile of clothes with a web stretched across the clothes. The hem of her dress is peeking out from below the web. In the Hope production, she is sitting in the armchair that must be disguised to be a little person size item.)

ANNABELLE
SEE THAT WEB?

TIFFANY
OVER THERE?
UNCLE DOLL
SOMETHING'S CAUGHT INSIDE ITS LAIR

ANNABELLE
THAT'S HER DRESS AND THAT'S HER LACE!

UNCLE DOLL
THE SPIDER'S WEB IS ON HER FACE!

ANNABELLE
SOMEONE GRAB IT!

TIFFANY
I CAN'T TOUCH IT, IT'S TOO STICKY!

I CAN'T BEAR IT!

UNCLE DOLL

BUT WE HAVE TO!

ANNABELLE

I DON'T WANT TO!

TIFFANY

ANNABELLE
Stop! Let me do it.

(ANNABELLE pulls clothing/spider web off AUNTIE SARAH as music ends.)

ANNABELLE, UNCLE DOLL

Oh, no!

TIFFANY

Is that your aunt?

ANNABELLE

Yes. Trapped forever in Permanent Doll State.

UNCLE DOLL

Auntie Sarah. My dear Auntie Sarah.
ANNABELLE

Uncle Doll, what should we do?

UNCLE DOLL

We can’t just leave her here covered in cobwebs. Please, help me get them off her.

(UNCLE DOLL moves towards AUNTIE SARAH. The SPIDER leaps between them to guard AUNTIE SARAH.)

SPIDER

Ahhh!

(They are terrified.)

TIFFANY, UNCLE DOLL, ANNABELLE

Ahhh!

(The SPIDER is equally terrified and screams with them.)

ALL and SPIDER

AHHHHHHH!

(They all run willy-nilly, ending up cowering in separate corners.)

AUNTIE SARAH

Oh, for goodness sake, calm down. It's just a spider.

UNCLE DOLL

Auntie Sarah? Is it you?

AUNTIE SARAH

I think so, my dear. A bit worse for wear, but it's me, all right. Now, could you please help me get out of here? My dress is caught in this mousetrap.

UNCLE DOLL

You're alive!

ANNABELLE

You're really alive!

TIFFANY

Hooray!
(THEY run to AUNTIE SARAH, but the SPIDER blocks their way.)

ANNABELLE
Look out! The spider!

AUNTIE SARAH
(in a firm, authoritative voice)
Tegenaria—sit!
(The SPIDER sits.)

AUNTIE SARAH
Good girl. Now rub her tummy.

UNCLE DOLL
I beg your pardon?

AUNTIE SARAH
Rub her tummy.

ANNABELLE
(whispers)
Tiffany, you do it. You like spiders.

TIFFANY
You're closest.

AUNTIE SARAH
It's alright, my darlings. Tegenaria is my friend. She keeps close watch over me.

(ANNABELLE closes eyes and reaches out and rubs the SPIDER's tummy. The SPIDER kicks her legs, wiggles and giggles with happiness like a dog.)

TIFFANY
She likes it!

(The girls gather around the SPIDER while UNCLE DOLL starts to pull away the cobwebs from AUNTIE SARAH.)

UNCLE DOLL
Auntie Sarah, it’s you. It’s really you.

AUNTIE SARAH
Yes. I feel a bit like a frog who has been hibernating at the bottom of a pond, but it's me.

UNCLE DOLL
I missed you so. Why ever did you leave?
AUNTIE SARAH
I was on a glorious adventure following one of Tegenaria Duellica’s relatives. I climbed to the attic one moonlit night and there she was, in all her glory! I was inches from saying hello when suddenly the attic door flew open.

ANNABELLE
What did you do?

AUNTIE SARAH
I ran, of course.

TIFFANY
Of course.

AUNTIE SARAH
Someone was putting away boxes and piles of clothes. I tried to hide in this corner, when all at once I heard a snap! My dress was caught and I was trapped.

ANNABELLE
But couldn’t you wiggle out of your dress?

AUNTIE
I tried and tried, but I’m sewn into it. And my sleeve is caught, too. See?

ANNABELLE
That’s just awful.

TIFFANY
No kidding. Forty-five years in a mousetrap? Whoa.

AUNTIE SARAH
(surprised)
Did you say forty-five years?

TIFFANY
That's big time Missing in Action.

AUNTIE SARAH
And who, may I ask, are you?

TIFFANY
I’m Tiffany Funcraft. Nora’s doll.

AUNTIE SARAH
Who on earth is Nora?
ANNABELLE
Kate’s sister.

UNCLE DOLL
Kate is Annie’s daughter and Katherine’s granddaughter.

AUNTIE SARAH
Katherine a grandmother? She was just a little girl when I went away.

ANNABELLE
Auntie Sarah, we have a lot of catching up to do.

*(BOBBY runs in, howling as if being pursued.)*

BOBBY
Help! He’s after me.

ALL
Bobby!

BOBBY
Who’s after you?

UNCLE DOLL
The Captain!

BOBBY
Who?

UNCLE DOLL
He’s the family cat, and loves nothing more than chasing and catching us in his big sharp claws.

AUNTIE SARAH
This is not good. Not good at all.

ANNABELLE
Bobby, what have you done?

BOBBY
I’m sorry. I’m so sorry. I wanted to help. Please don’t be mad.
ANNABELLE
I’m not mad, I’m frightened.

TIFFANY
Where’s the cat now?

BOBBY
He was right behind me. But I think I lost him at the stairs.

AUNTIE SARAH
The stairs? Quickly, help me out of this trap. If you can lift that iron bar we can release my skirt and sleeve.

UNCLE DOLL
Bobby, grab the end of this rope. Girls, pull the skirt away.

AUNTIE SARAH
And when I’m free, we’ll run for the drainpipe on the other side of the attic.

BOBBY
The bar’s too heavy.

TIFFANY
The sleeve is tearing.

UNCLE DOLL
Tie the knot tight. We can do it, Bobby.

AUNTIE SARAH
Don’t worry about the sleeve. Concentrate on the skirt.

ANNABELLE
I’m trying, I’m trying.

SFX: BIG ANGRY CAT MEOW

(ALL freeze, slowly turn and look in direction of the cat.)

AUNTIE SARAH
(in a low, calm voice)

Nobody move.

SONG #9: ONE CHANCE

AUNTIE SARAH
LISTEN CLOSELY, UNCLE, TAKE THE CHILDREN
AND LEAD THEM QUICKLY TO THE DRAINPIPE NOW.

UNCLE DOLL
AND LEAVE YOU HERE ALONE TO FACE THE DARKNESS?

AUNTIE SARAH
IT DOESN'T MATTER NOW.
THIS IS OUR—

ONE CHANCE
TO SAVE THE CHILDREN, YOUR
ONE CHANCE TO GET AWAY

UNCLE DOLL
NO CHANCE I'D EVER LEAVE YOU,
I'M STAYING, COME WHAT MAY.

BOTH
ONE CHANCE TO DO THE RIGHT THING,

AUNTIE SARAH
WHEN I COUNT TO THREE

BOTH
ONE CHANCE

AUNTIE SARAH
FOR YOU TO SAVE THEM

UNCLE DOLL
ONE CHANCE TO SET YOU FREE

ANNABELLE
THERE'S JUST NO WAY WE CAN OUTRUN THE CAPTAIN

TIFFANY
DON'T I KNOW, IT'S JUST TOO FAR, FAR, FAR

ANNABELLE
UNLESS I PLAY A TRICK THAT LEADS THE CAPTAIN
AWAY FROM WHERE WE ARE.

TIFFANY
(alarmed as she realizes what ANNABELLE intends to do)

Annabelle?!
ANNABELLE
IT'S MY
ONE CHANCE
I HAVE TO TAKE IT
ONE CHANCE—THIS IS IT

TIFFANY
NO CHANCE
YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT
THAT CAT WILL SMASH YOU ALL TO BITS

BOTH
ONE CHANCE
TO MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE,
TO DO THE BEST THING FOR MY FRIEND

ONE CHANCE

ANNABELLE
I'M GLAD I MET YOU

TIFFANY
NO! THIS IS NOT THE END!

ALL
ONE CHANCE
TO MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE
ONE CHANCE
TO SAVE US ALL

ONE CHANCE!

BOBBY
THIS IS MY CHANCE!
I CAN HELP, I'M NOT TOO SMALL

ALL
ONE CHANCE
TO DO THE RIGHT THING

AUNTIE SARAH
WHEN YOU HEAR ME COUNT TO THREE

ALL
ONE CHANCE

58
ANNABELLE, UNCLE DOLL
THIS IS MY CHANCE

UNCLE DOLL
MY CHANCE TO SET YOU FREE

ANNABELLE
NOW IT'S ALL UP TO ME!

AUNTIE SARAH
One!

AUNTIE SARAH/ANNABELLE
Two!

ALL
Three!

(They spring into action. UNCLE DOLL frees AUNTIE SARAH, he and AUNTIE SARAH shepherd BOBBY and TIFFANY toward the drainpipe.

UNCLE DOLL
Got it!

(Meanwhile ANNABELLE picks up a crayon, struggles to carry it in the opposite direction from the others.)

ANNABELLE
Captain, over here!

AUNTIE SARAH UNCLE DOLL
Follow me! Bobby, give me your hand!

(The CAPTAIN yowls fiercely, TIFFANY turns and points in horror as Annabelle raises the crayon like a spear.)

TIFFANY
(screams)
Annabelle, no!

Music ends, BLACK OUT
TRANSITION MUSIC: theme from SAD THING into the theme from NEVER DO THAT

SCENE 10: In the garden in front of the Doll House MUSIC

(PAPA holds a telescope and is peering off towards NORA's room. MAMA enters.)

MAMA

Any sign of them?
PAPA

No. Nothing.
MAMA

I’m so worried.
PAPA

So am I, my dear.
MAMA

How could they take such a risk?
PAPA

Breaking all the rules!
MAMA

Leaving without a word.
PAPA

Yes.
MAMA

And Uncle Doll with them.

PAPA

We’ll have to have a serious talk with—Wait. Wait! Here they are!

(AUNTIE SARAH, UNCLE DOLL, TIFFANY, BOBBY race on out of breath. MAMA and PAPA greet AUNTIE SARAH with ecstatic hugs.)

MAMA

Auntie Sarah. My dear Auntie Sarah!
PAPA

Welcome home!
MAMA

At last!

AUNTIE SARAH

(looks around, concerned)

Where's Annabelle?

MAMA

Isn't she with you?

UNCLE DOLL

No, we took the drain pipe.

AUNTIE SARAH

And she took the stairs.

BOBBY

Oh, no. The Captain!

PAPA

What about the Captain?

(TIFFANY, BOBBY, UNCLE DOLL, AUNTIE SARAH exchange looks, wondering who's going to break it to MAMA and PAPA.)

UNCLE DOLL

We were in the attic—

BOBBY

And we found Auntie Sarah—

AUNTIE SARAH

Then Bobby came—

UNCLE DOLL

And Annabelle was so brave!

MAMA

(gets it, gasps)

No!

PAPA

(doesn't get it, more frustrated than ever)

What about the Captain?

ANNABELLE runs in from behind them.
ANNABELLE

*(triumphanty)*
The Captain has an enormous yellow crayon stuck in his nose!

ALL
Annabelle!

*(The exploring party run to hug ANNABELLE.)*

MAMA
This is all so confusing. Everyone disappeared.

PAPA
We didn't know where you'd gone.

MAMA
Or if someone had taken you.
*(to AUNTIE SARAH)*
Auntie Sarah, I thought you ran away on purpose.

AUNTIE SARAH
Pish tosh! I was on an expedition. Tracking spiders.

BOBBY
The tegenaria duellica.

AUNTIE SARAH
Well done, Bobby!

TIFFANY
Bob’s an expert.

UNCLE DOLL
And Annabelle’s a hero. She had the courage to go find Auntie Sarah.

BOBBY
And fight the cat!

ANNABELLE
We never would have had the courage to go looking for Auntie Sarah if it weren’t for Tiffany.

AUNTIE SARAH
My thanks to each and every one of you for not giving up on me. Oh my dears! It’s amazing how life can change in a moment.
SONG #10: WHEN A SAD THING BECOMES A GLAD THING

AUNTIE SARAH
WHEN IT LOOKED FOR A TIME THAT I HAD LOST MY CHANCES
WHEN IT LOOKED FOR A TIME THAT I WAS DOWN, DOWN, DOWN
THEN THE FOUR OF YOU CAME TO MY RESCUE
AND TURNED THINGS RIGHT AROUND.

WHEN A SAD THING BECOMES A GLAD THING
EVERYTHING IS RIGHT
THE STARS SHINE EVEN BRIGHTER TOO
IT'S LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE

ANNABELLE
WHEN A SAD THING BECOMES A GLAD THING
THE DARKNESS FADES AWAY
AND WITH A NEW DAY COMES THE DAWN

ALL
AND IT'S SUNSHINE FROM NOW ON

UNCLE DOLL
I USED TO WALK AROUND IN SUCH A CLOUD
OF SADNESS ALL AROUND
EYES DOWN AT THE GROUND
NOW I LOOK AROUND AND FEEL SO LIGHT

ALL
THE FUTURE LOOKS SO GOOD AND OH SO BRIGHT!

WHEN A SAD THING BECOMES A GLAD THING
LIFE IS LIKE A SONG
THAT MAKES YOU WANT TO SING ALONG
ITS ONLY GLAD THINGS FROM NOW ON

TIFFANY/ANNABELLE
OH-WAY-OH!

ALL
GLAD THINGS, GLAD THINGS FROM NOW ON

TIFFANY, ANNABELLE, BOBBY
OH-WAY-OH!

ALL
GLAD THINGS, GLAD THINGS FROM NOW ON!
SCENE 12: In the garden

ANNABELLE

It’s funny. We’ve lived at Wetherby Lane for over a hundred years and never had the kind
of excitement that we’ve had today. I think it all has to do with meeting Tiffany Funcraft.

Music intro begins.

TIFFANY

(steps up beside her, addressing house)

I’m her best friend.

Really?

TIFFANY

In the whole wide world.

SONG #11: WETHERBY LANE—FINALE

ANNABELLE

LOOK AT US,
WE’RE TOGETHER

TIFFANY

THE TWO OF US,

BOBBY

Three!

(TIFFANY and ANNABELLE smile, ruffling his hair)

TIFFANY

FRIENDS FOREVER,
NOW I’LL ALWAYS HAVE SOMEONE TO SHARE

ANNABELLE, TIFFANY

EACH BRAND NEW ADVENTURE

IN THE WORLD
WAITING OUT THERE,
EVERYWHERE,
IF WE JUST DARE
TO TAKE A CHANCE,
SEE ALL THERE IS TO SEE.
TIFFANY
One day we might even go to the basement.

BOBBY
Or the roof!

ALL THREE
Or—
(they gasp, then whisper)
—the garage!

ANNABELLE
Every day's a new adventure here at Twenty-six—

ALL
WHERE LIFE CAN BE ONE GREAT GAME
AND EV'RY DAY BRINGS CHANGES BOLD AND NEW

WE NEVER COMPLAIN OF LIFE
AT WETHERBY LANE,
IT'S SOMETIMES CHILLING, ALWAYS THRILLING!

(clap clap) TWENTY-SIX,
(clap clap) TWENTY-SIX
TWENTY-SIX WETHERBY LANE.

(clap clap) TWENTY-SIX,
(clap clap) TWENTY-SIX
TWENTY-SIX WETHERBY LANE.

OUR LIVES WILL NEVER EVER BE THE SAME!

CURTAIN