

**LUTKE IZ DAVNINE
IVANE BRLIĆ-MAŽURANIĆ**



Međunarodni centar za usluge u kulturi
Zagreb, 1994.

**I. B. M.
AMONG THE PUPPETS**



I.K.S.
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ŠUMA STRIBOROVA
STRIBOR'S FOREST

Vojmil Rabadan

ŠUMA STRIBOROVA

BAJKA U 3 SLIKE

(PO ISTOIMENOJ PRIČI IVANE BRLIĆ-MAŽURANIĆ)

STRIBOR'S FOREST

A FAIRY TALE IN THREE ACTS

(BASED ON STORY OF THE SAME NAME BY IVANA
BRLIĆ-MAŽURANIĆ)

DRAMATISED BY VOJMIL RABADAN

Autorsko pravo (c) Dubravka Rabadan

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Likovi: STRIBOR
MAJKA
SIN
SNAHA
DJEVOJČICA
MALIK TINTILINIĆ
DUŠIĆI

Događa se u šumi Striborovoj i u kućici Majčinoj.

CHARACTERS:

STRIBOR
MOTHER
SON
DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
MAIDEN
TINY TINTILINICH
HEARTH SPRITES

The action takes place in STRIBOR's forest and in MOTHER's cottage.

PRVA SLIKA

ŠUMA U SNIJEGU

DJEVOJČICA: Hladni vjetri šumu biju,
Led i zimu nose,
Moje krpe slabo griju,
Zebu noge bose.

Nemam majke, nemam kuće,
Tuža sam i sama,
Kud ću, led kad stisne ljuće
I kad padne tama?

... i plačući drva.

... i dojure, na njima bogata Gospođica.

GOSPOĐICA: Oho! Tko si ti, odrpana bijedo?

DJEVOJČICA: Siromašna djevojčica bez doma i roda. Lutam
od nemila do nedraga, gola i bosa, jedna i gladna!

GOSPOĐICA: A što radiš ovdje?

DJEVOJČICA: Sabirem otpale grane, da ih prodam za koranicu
kruha...

GOSPOĐICA: Oho! A znaš li ti čija je to šuma?

DJEVOJČICA: Ne znam, svijetla gospođice!

GOSPOĐICA: Onda znaj da je ta šuma moja, i nitko u njoj ne
smije uzeti ni jednog jedinog listića ako ja to ne
dopustim!

SCENE 1.

A SNOW-BOUND FOREST

MAIDEN: Cold winds beat the forest,
bringing ice and frost,
My clothes barely warm me,
My feet pay the cost.

With no mother, nor home,
I'm so sad, if only,
I knew where I was going
Wouldn't feel so lonely.

*In tears, she collects kindling. A sleigh dashes up to her, bearing the grand
Her Ladyship.*

HER LADYSHIP: Aha! Who might you be, you miserable thing?

MAIDEN: A poor girl with no home and no family. I am wander-
ing around from place to place, ragged and barefoot,
miserable and hungry!

HER LADYSHIP: And what do you think you are doing here?

MAIDEN: Collecting fallen branches, so I can sell them for a
crust of bread ...

HER LADYSHIP: Aha! And do you know who owns this forest?

MAIDEN: I do not, fair lady!

HER LADYSHIP: Then let me tell you that this forest is mine,
and no-one can take so much as a single leaf, unless I say
so!

MAIDEN: I really didn't know that. Forgive me and allow me to
take only some dry twigs from your forest. Only those that
have fallen from the trees.

DJEVOJČICA: Ja to doista nisam znala. Oprostite i dopustite mi da iz vaše šume uzmem malo suhog granja. Samo ono što je otpalo sa stabla.

GOSPOĐICA: A što ćeš mi platiti za to?

DJEVOJČICA: Što mogu da vam platim ja siročče, kad nigdje ničeg nemam?

GOSPOĐICA: Onda ostavi granje i gubi se iz moje šume! Šuma je moja, pa je i otpalo granje moje, a ja ti ga besplatno ne dam!

DJEVOJČICA: Smilujte se, svijetla gospođice! Vas čeka ras-košan i ugrijan dvor, a ja nemam ni slamnata krova da se zaklonim kad padne noć. Poklonite mi to granje da naložim sebi vatricu! Vaša je šuma golema, neće se ni opaziti ako dvije grančice iznesem!

GOSPOĐICA: Ne, ne, i stoput ne! Istina je da je moja šuma golema, ali je i golem broj siromaha na svijetu. Kad bi svaki uzeo iz moje šume jednu grančicu, ja bih postala siromah! Ostavi granje i odlazi ili ću te svojim saonicama pregaziti! Kočijašu, tjeraj!

Zagrmi.

Stribor se pojavi.

STRIBOR (*mahne rukom, saonice se prevnu*):
Okrutnice, stani! Tvoju škrtost, zloću
Odavno ja gledam, sad te kaznit hoću!
Ja sam Stribor, moćni duh, što šumama vlada.
Tebe i tu šumu začarat ću sada!
Ti ćeš postat zmija, šumom ćeš se vući,
Dok te neka dobra duša ne odnese kući!
A tu šumu neka zima zauvijek opkoli,
Dok ne dođe netko koji više voli
Tuđu sreću nego svoju!

Gospodica se pretvori u zmiju i otpuzi.

Stribor se okrene Djevojčici.

HER LADYSHIP: And what will you pay me?

MAIDEN: What could a poor girl like me possibly pay you, when I have nothing to pay with?

HER LADYSHIP: Then put down those branches and be gone from my forest! The forest is mine, so the fallen branches are mine too, and I won't give them to you for free!

MAIDEN: Have pity, fair Lady! Your fine, warm castle awaits you, and I don't have as much as a straw roof to shelter me when night comes. Give the branches to me so that I can make a fire! Your forest is so huge, you will not even notice if I take out a couple of branches!

HER LADYSHIP: No, no, a thousand times no! True enough, my forest is huge, but there is a huge number of paupers in the world. If each of them were to take one branch from my forest, I would become poor too! Leave the branches and go, or I'll run you down with my sleigh. Coachman, drive on!

It starts to thunder. STRIBOR appears.

STRIBOR (*He waves his hand, and the sleigh overturns.*):

Stop, base creature! Miserly soul!
I've been watching you.
So heartless and so evil,
Now punishment is due.
I am Stribor, the Spirit King,
These forests know my rule.
A spell on you and the forest,
Too long you've been so cruel.
A snake you'll be, a crawling thing,
'less someone takes you under his wing.
Winter will reign throughout these woods
Until someone kind comes along,
Who cares for the welfare of others
More than for her own.

HER LADYSHIP changes into a snake and slithers away. STRIBOR turns towards the GIRL.

A ti dijete drago,
Uzmi granje, vrijedit će ti više no sve blago!

ane.

VOJČICA: Šuma je opet ledena i pusta ... Stribora je nestalo ... Možda nije ni bio tu, možda sam ja sve to sanjala ... Uh, kako me zima štira kroz poderanu košuljicu. Naložit ću vatru ovim suhim granjem, da se malo ugrijem!

še vatru.

om je plamen liznuo, iskoče iz vatre crveni Dušići i zaigraju kolo oko vojčice i ognja.

ŠIĆI: Mi smo družba malena,
Djeca vatre, plamena!
Gdjeno oganj gori,
Tu se Dušić stvori!
Hitri smo ko iskrice,
Naše žarke sestrice!
Okolo vatre hitimo,
Dobre ljude štitimo!

EVOJČICA: Tko ste vi, mali ljudi?

LIK TINTILINIĆ: Mi smo dobri Dušići ... Kupimo se oko vatre i pomažemo dobrim ljudima ... A ja sam Malik Tintilinić, najmanji od sve braće ...

ONI DUŠIĆI: ... i najpametniji ...

UGI DUŠIĆI: ... i najveseliji ...

Ha, ha, ha

Hi, hi, hi!

EVOJČICA: Dragi Dušići, kad ste tako dobri i pametni, izvedite me iz ove šume i nađite mi neko nočište!

TINTILINIĆ: Idi uvijek ravno ovom stazicom! Ona će te dovesti do kolibice! Pokucaj na vrata, uđi i ponudi na prodaju to suho granje koje ti je moćni Stribor poklonio!

Tko od tebe uzme luči,
Sreću nać će svojoj kući,

And you, sweet child, take branches full measure,
They'll be more to you than any treasure!

STRIBOR disappears.

MAIDEN: The forest is cold again, and empty... Stribor has disappeared... Perhaps he was never here, perhaps it was all a dream. Oh, how the cold pinches at me through this tattered shirt. I'll set a fire with these dry branches to warm myself a little!

She lights the fire.

As soon as the first licks of flame rise, the red HEARTH SPRITES leap from the fire and dance in a circle around the GIRL and the fire.

SPRITES: A tiny happy band we are,
Hiding there beneath the char,
When the flames start to burn,
Hearth Sprites, it's your turn!
We're swift as shining sparks,
Glowing sisters in our larks.
Round the fire dash and leap,
Honest people in our keep.

MAIDEN: Who are you, little people?

TINY TINTILINICH: We are Hearth Sprites... We gather around the fire and help good people... And I am Tiny Tintilinch, the smallest of all the brethren...

SPRITE I: ... and the cleverest ...

SPRITE II: ... and the merriest ...

Ha, ha, ha,

Hi, hi, hi!

MAIDEN: My dear Sprites, since you are so good and wise, lead me from this forest and find a place for me to spend the night!

Gdje ti svoj zapališ krijes,
Naš će odmah početi ples!

Još jednom zaplešu i zapjevaju.

Onda svega nestane.

DJEVOJČICA: Opet je svega nestalo! Idem stazicom, pa što sreća dade!

Ode.

ZMIJA: Ogavna odrpanka! Ona je kriva da me Stribor u Zmiju pretvorio! Uh, al bih je bila ujela da je ognjeni Dušići nisu čuvali ... Sad se moram mučiti kao zmija dok me netko kući ne ponese! Jao meni, nitko neće biti tako lud da Zmiju kući nosi! Teško ću se ja ove čarolije riješiti!

Psiče i ode.

Stanka.

Dolaze Majka i Sin.

MAJKA: Evo nas na poznatoj čistini, sine dragi! Ti obori sjekirom koje stabalce, a ja ću sabirati suho granje, da ogrjeva za kuću smognemo!

SIN: Ne muči se, majko! Ja ću sam drva cijepati, a ti se odmaraj! Dugo smo snijeg gazili, mora da si sustala!

MAJKA: Jest, malko sam umorna, ali nije teško sabirati granje, pomoći ću ti!

SIN: Ne, ne, majko! Ti si stara i slaba, neću da se mučiš! Sjedni na panj i odmaraj se!

MAJKA: Hvala ti, jedini moj, što tako voliš i paziš svoju staru majku!

SIN: Kako te ne bih volio, kad si ti najzlatnija majčica na svijetu! Koliko si se mučila dok si se za mene malenog brinula da me hraniš i odgajaš! Sada sam velik i jak, pa je moja najveća sreća da se ja za tebe brinem!

TINTILINICH: Just go straight along this path! It will lead you to a small cottage! Knock at the door, go in and offer to sell the branches, which the mighty Stribor gave you.

Whoever takes your magic twigs,
Will soon be joining in our jigs,
Your little fire will light the home,
With joy as sweet as honeycomb.

*The SPRITES start to dance and sing again.
Then everything disappears.*

MAIDEN: Everything has gone again! I'll take the path and see what fortune brings!

She departs

SNAKE: Disgusting creature! It's her fault that Stribor turned me into a snake! Ah, but I would have bitten her if the Sprites had not guarded her... Now I have to slither as a snake, until someone takes me home! Woe is me, who would be so foolish as to take a snake home! This spell will be hard to cast off!

She hisses and leaves.

A pause.

MOTHER and SON arrive.

MOTHER: We know this clearing, my dear boy! You chop down a tree with your axe, and I will collect some dry branches so we have wood for the cottage!

SON: Don't strain yourself, Mother! I will chop the wood myself while you rest! We have tramped through the snow for so long, you must be exhausted!

MOTHER: Yes, I am a little tired, but it's not hard to collect twigs. I'll help you.

SON: No, no, Mother! You are old and weak, I don't want you to strain yourself! Sit on a tree-stump and rest!

JKA: Blago meni dok si takav, sine! Dobro, ti radi, a ja ću tamo dolje vatricu ukresati, da ti nekoliko toplih krumpira ispečem!

N: To možeš, majčice! Ja sam uvijek gladan!

JKA: Neka, sine! Tko voli da radi, na sm'je trpit gladi!

N: A lijenčina što dangubi, na večeru pravo gubi!

rati u smijehu Majku.

MIJA: Ovaj je momak dobar! Pokušat ću njega prevariti da me kući nosi! (*Momak se vraća.*) Zdravo, lijepo momče! Ako si dobar, kako si krasan, pomoz mi!

N: Gle, lijepo li gujice! Blista kao srebro i govori kao čovjek! Rado bih je kući ponio! (*Zmiji.*) Kakvu pomoć od mene tražiš, zmijice srebrna?

MIJA: Ja ti nisam obična zmija ... U šumi je užasna studen, smrznut ću se! Ponesi me kući, da se vatre nagrijem!

N: To sam i sam htio! Dođi, ponijet ću te kući!

MIJA (za se): Ha, ha, ha, našla sam budalu koja će me osloboditi, a sebe upropastiti! Stribore, ja sam spašena! Ha, ha, ha!

etvori se u djevojku.

N: Prekrasna djevojka! Otkud se najednom stvorila!

MIJA: Ja sam tvoja zmijica koju si htio kući nositi ... rekla sam ti da nisam obična guja ... No, što stojiš? Zar ti se ovakva ne sviđam? Hoćeš li da opet postanem zmija?

N: O ne, ne, ovako si tisuću puta ljepša!

MIJA: Hoćeš li me i ovakvu kući povesti?

N: Hoću, hoću, samo ako ti hoćeš da dođeš u našu skromnu sirotinjsku kolibicu!

MIJA: Zato sam i izašla preda te! Ja sam šumska vila! Mnogi su kraljevići i vitezovi prosili moju ruku, a ja sam baš tebe odabrala!

Majka se vraća.

MOTHER: Thank you, my dear, for your love and care of your old mother!

SON: How could I not love you, when you are the sweetest mother in the world! How hard you worked to care for me when I was small, to feed me and raise me! Now I am big and strong, and nothing makes me happier than to care for you!

MOTHER: How blessed I am, with such a son! Alright, you work, and I will light a fire down there and roast you a few potatoes!

SON: That you can do, Mother! I am always hungry!

MOTHER: Let it be so, son! The labourer is worthy of his hire!

SON: And he who wastes the day, gets no dinner for his pay!

He laughs as he sees his mother on her way.

SNAKE: This is a good lad! I shall try to trick him so he takes me home! (*The boy comes back.*) Greetings, young man! If you are as good as you are handsome, help me!

SON: Look! What a beautiful serpent! Shining like silver and talking like a lady! I would like to take it home! (*To the snake.*) What help do you seek from me, little silver snake?

SNAKE: I am not an ordinary snake... It is terribly cold in the forest and I shall freeze! Take me home so that I can bask by your warm fire!

SON: That's just what I wanted to do! Come, I shall take you home with me!

SNAKE (To herself): Ha, ha, ha, I have found a fool who will set me free, and ruin himself! Stribor, I am saved! Ha, ha, ha!

The SNAKE turns into a Young Woman.

SON: Beautiful lady! Where did you come from all of a sudden?

SNAKE: I am your little snake, the one you wanted to take home... I told you I was not just an ordinary serpent... Well, what are you standing there for? Don't you like me like this? Do you want me to become a snake again?

SON: Oh no, no, you are a thousand times more beautiful like this!

MAJKA: Sine, krumpiri su pečeni, dođi da založiš! O, tko je ta strana djevojka?

SIN: Moja nevjesta, majko!

MAJKA: Tvoja nevjesta? A gdje si je našao?

SIN: Ovdje u šumi. Ona je mene našla i odabrala me za svog viteza! Sad ću je kući povesti!

MAJKA: A znaš li barem tko je ona i otkuda je došla?

ZMIJA: Prestani s tvojim glupim pitanjima, stara! Tvoj sin nije malen balavac, već odrastao momak kome tvoji savjeti ne trebaju! (*Sinu.*) Reci joj neka nas ostavi na miru! Zar ti nisi u svojoj kući gospodar?

SIN: Jesam, jesam, kako ne bih bio! Sad ćeš odmah vidjeti! Majko, ostavi nas na miru! Ja hoću da vodim ovu krasoticu kući i vodit ću je! Sad nemam volje da cijepam drva! Ti sakupi suha granja i donesi ga na leđima kući! Ali mnogo drva uprti, jer neću da se moja nevjesta smrzava! I upamti: ja sam u kući gospodar, stara!

Ode sa Zmijom.

MAJKA: O sine, sine, kako si se najednom promijenio! Začarala te nepoznata djevojka, koja mora da je vještica il' neki zloduh, što hoće da te upropasti! Jao meni, kako da te njene čarolije spasim?

Ode sabirući suho granje.

STRIBOR (*pojavi se*):

Lukava je zmija momka prevarila,
U ljepotu - djevojku sad se pretvorila,
Al joj zmijski jezik u ustima osta,
Po njemu će Majka poznat opakoga gosta!
Izvan ove šume Stribor nema moći:
Sad mladiću može tek Majka pomoći!

ZASTOR

SNAKE: Will you take me home like this too?

SON: I shall, I shall, if you will only come to our humble cottage

SNAKE: That's why I came before you like this! I am a forest fairy! Many princes and knights have asked for my hand but I have chosen you!

MOTHER returns.

MOTHER: My son, the potatoes are ready. Come and eat! Oh who is this strange girl?

SON: My bride, Mother!

MOTHER: Your bride! And where did you find her?

SON: Here in the forest. She found me and chose me for her knight! Now I shall take her home!

MOTHER: Do you at least know who she is, and where she came from?

SNAKE: Stop asking these stupid questions, Old Woman! Your son is not a little boy but a grown man who doesn't need your advice! (*To SON.*) Tell her, let her leave us alone! Aren't you the master in your house?

SON: Of course I am! How could it be otherwise! Now you'll see Mother, leave us in peace! I want to take this beauty home... and I shall! I don't feel like chopping wood now! You collect some dry branches and bring them home on your back! But make sure there's plenty of wood, because I don't want my bride to freeze! And remember, old woman: I am the master of the house.

SON leaves with the SNAKE.

MOTHER: Oh, my son, my son, how you have changed all of a sudden! You have been enchanted by a strange girl who must be either a witch or an evil spirit, who wants to ruin you! Woe is me, how can I save you from her spell?

MOTHER goes on her way, collecting dry twigs.

STRIBOR appears.

DRUGA SLIKA
KOLIBICA MAJKE I SINA

snaha dolaze pjevajući.

ma još izvana.

Što me briga da je zima,
Kad mi draga bundu ima!
Neka vjetar puše, vije,
Mene bunda toplo grije!
Ha, ha, ha!

su.

Đ: Evo, draga, to je moja kućica! Dosad moja, a odsada i
tvoja i moja!

AHA: Zaboravio si da imaš majku! Da je kuća njezina, a ne
tvoja!

Đ: Već sam ti putem rekao da sam ja gospodar i kuće i sve-
ga što imamo!

AHA: Tu je hladno! Zašto ne gori vatra na ognjištu!?

Đ: Ostali smo bez drva. Zato smo i pošli u šumu ja i majka.

AHA: Gdje je stara?

Đ: Zaostala je! Mi smo išli brzo, pjevajući, a ona teško ide,
jer mora drva vući!

ujeh.

STRIBOR: The naïve lad's cheated by her wily spell,
The Snake's done her magic and looks like a belle.
But her snake tongue's forked like no other,
She may fool him, but not his Mother!
Only this forest feels Stribor's might,
But his Mother can save him from his plight!

CURTAIN

SCENE 2.

THE MOTHER AND SON'S SMALL COTTAGE

*The SON and the DAUGHTER-IN-LAW arrive singing.
Their song can be heard from outside the cabin.*

What do I care if its winter!
My dear love has fur to warm her.
Let the wind blow cold or freezing,
With this coat there'll be no sneezing!
Ha, ha, ha!

They come into the cottage.

SON: There you are, my darling, this is my little house. Mine until
now, and from now yours and mine!

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW: You forgot that you have a mother!
That it's her house, and not yours!

SON: I already told you on the way here that I am master of the
house, and of everything we have!

SNAHA (*ogledava se*): Ovo je, čini se, kuhinja! Imaš li još kakvu prostoriju?

SIN: Kako ne! (*Otvora vrata.*) Imamo veliku sobu! Evo, tu je!

SNAHA: A tko spava na ta dva kreveta?

SIN: Majka i ja!

SNAHA: Sad ću ja spavati na majčinu krevetu! Stara mora napolje iz sobe!

SIN: Dobro, premjestit ćemo je u kuhinju, samo ti budi vesela i zadovoljna!

Ulazi Majka s drvima na leđima.

SNAHA: Gdje si tako dugo, stara? Šećeš s noge na nogu, a mi se tu smrzavamo bez vatre!

MAJKA: Teško je breme, a ja stara i slaba. Jedva sam se do kuće dovukla. Sine, pomози mi da drva na zemlju spustim!

Sin pođe Majci.

SNAHA (*zadrži ga*): Ostavi! Nije to tvoja briga! (*Majci.*) Radi sama svoj posao! On je gospodar u kući, ne mora slušati tvoje zapovijedi! (*Sinu tiho.*) Reci joj da je soba odsada moja!

SIN (*malo nesigurno*): Majko ... moja nevjesta veli da u sobi nema za te mjesto!

MAJKA: Dobro, sine, prenesi moj krevet ovamo!

SNAHA: Kako ne! Tvoj krevet meni treba! (*Sinu tiho.*) Reci joj nek sebi prostre kakvu vreću na podu kraj ognjišta!

SIN: Krevet ti ne možemo dati, majko! Prostri sebi kraj ognjišta gunj! (*Ode u sobu.*)

SNAHA: Kakav gunj! Staru vreću prostri, bit će za tebe dovoljna! (*Sjedne.*) Klekni i čizme mi skini! (*Majka klekne i izuva je.*) A sad naloži vatru i priredi večeru, dobru i obilnu večeru! Nisam došla ovamo da postim!

Ode sa Sinom u sobu.

MAJKA (*još uvijek pod bremenom*): Jadna Majko, što si dočekala!

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW: It's cold in here. Why isn't the hearth fire burning!?

SON: We had no more wood. That's why we went into the forest, my mother and I.

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW: And where is the old woman?

SON: She lagged behind! We walked quickly, singing, but she walks slowly because she has to drag the wood!

They laugh.

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW (*Looking about.*): This seems to be the kitchen! Do you have any more rooms?

SON: Of course! (*He opens a door.*) We have a larger room! It's in here!

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW: And who sleeps on those two beds?

SON: Mother and I!

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW: From now on, I'll sleep in your mother's bed! The old woman has to get out of this room!

SON: Alright, we'll move her into the kitchen - just as long as you are pleased and happy!

MOTHER comes in with the fire-wood on her back.

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW: Where have you been so long, Old Woman? You dawdle along and we are freezing here without a fire.

MOTHER: It's a heavy burden, and I am old and weak. I hardly managed to drag it home. My son, help me to put this load of wood down on the floor!

The SON goes towards his MOTHER.

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW (*Holding him back.*): Leave her! It's not your concern! (*To MOTHER.*) Do your work yourself! He is master of the house, he doesn't have to obey your orders! (*Quietly to the SON.*) Tell her, that the room is mine from now on!

SON (*With some hesitation.*): Mother... my bride says there is no place for you in the room!

Još jutros bio je moj sin najbolje dijete na svijetu, a sad ga je ta neznanka učinila zlim i bezdušnim! Jao meni, kako ću ta drva s leđa skinuti?!

VOJČICA S LUČIMA (*pojavi se na vratima*): Ja ću ti breme prihvatiti, bakice!

KA: Hvala ti, dušice, živa i zdrava bila! Tko si i kud ćeš po toj strašnoj zimi, a samo je poderana košuljica na tebi!

VOJČICA: Siroče sam, nemam svoga doma. Prodajem luči. Kupi ih, bako, da zaradim koji groš!

JKA: Nemam, dušo, novaca. Ništa ti ne smijem dati, jer nisam više gospodarica u svojoj kući!

VOJČICA: Onda ću ti ja pokloniti luči, da imaš čime vatru naložiti ... Evo, uzmi koliko ti treba!

JKA: Hvala ti, dijete, a ja ću tebe ovom maramom ogrnuti, da mi se slabašna ne smrzneš ... (*Omota je svojom maramom.*)

VOJČICA: Hvala, bako, sad ću lakše dalje, kad mi je toplije!

JKA: Sretno pošla, mila moja, i bolju kuću našla, gdje mlađi starije poštuju i pazе! (*Isprati je na vrata.*) Sad moram brže vatru naložiti! Potpalit ću lučima male sirotice. Suhe su, i začas će planuti ...

*i vatru.
šići iskoče.*

JKA: Oh, tko ste vi, crveni čovuljci?

JŠIĆI: Mi smo družba malena,
Djeca vatre, plamena!
Gdjeno oganj gori,
Tu se Dušić stvoril!
Hitri smo ko iskrice,
Naše žarke sestrice!
Okolo vatre hitimo,
Dobre ljude štitimo!

(*Govore.*) Mi smo dobri Dušići ... Kupimo se oko vatre i pomažemo ljudima ...

MOTHER: Alright, my son, bring my bed in here.

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW: Not so quickly! I need your bed!
(*Quietly to the SON.*) Tell her she can spread a sack on the floor beside the fire!

SON: We cannot let you have the bed, Mother! Spread yourself a blanket beside the fire! (*He goes into the other room.*)

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW: What do you mean, a blanket! You can use an old sack. That will be good enough for you!
(*DAUGHTER-IN-LAW sits down.*) Kneel here and take off my boots! (*MOTHER kneels and pulls off the boots.*) And now make a fire and get dinner ready, a good hearty dinner! I didn't come here to be hungry!

She follows SON into the other room.

MOTHER (*Still with the load on her back.*): Poor Mother, what you have lived to see! Only this morning my son was the best child in the world, but now that stranger has made him wicked and heartless! Woe is me, how will I take this load from my back!

MAIDEN (*Appearing at the door.*): I will take your load, grandmother!

MOTHER: Thank you, my dear! May you be cheery and well. Who are you and where are you bound for in this terrible cold, with only a torn shirt to cover you!

MAIDEN: I am an orphan, with no home of my own. I sell kindling. Buy some, grandmother, so that I earn a few cents!

MOTHER: I have no money, my dear. And I dare not give you anything as I am no longer mistress in my own house!

MAIDEN: Then I will give you something, take some twigs to light your fire... Here, take as much as you need!

MOTHER: Thank you, child, and you seem so weak that I will wrap this shawl about you so that you don't freeze (*She wraps her shawl around the girl.*)

MAIDEN: Thank you, grandmother, I will go more easily on my way now that I'm warmer!

MOTHER: Good fortune, my sweet, and may a better home keep you from the cold, where they respect and care for the old!

TINTILINIĆ: Ja sam Malik Tintilinić, koji od sve braće
Najveći je mudrac i najviše skače!
Svud se skićem, u kuće ulazim,
Odsad, Majko, ja na tebe pazim!
Mi ćemo ti poso svršit, ne tuguj, ne plači,
Već u kolu s nama i ti skači!

Sve plešući veselo obave sav posao: drva nacijepaju, kuhinju počiste, večeru prirede.

MAJKA: Ah, Dušići moji mili,
Tužnu ste me utješili!
Sreća vas je amo zvala,
Od srca vam, djeco, hvala!

TINTILINIĆ: Sav je poso svršen! Majko, ruku pruži,
Pa zapleši s nama, kud nam kolo kruži!
Po ognjištu,
Po dvorištu,
Na stolicu
I policu,
Skok na klupu!

Lup po ćupu!
Brzo, brže, skači, pleši,
Nek se majci srce tješi!

MAJKA: I ja s vama plešem ko curica
I smijem se slatko ko grlica!
Svaka tuga mora s vama proći!
(Smijeh Snahe u sobi.)

Jao, bjež'te, sad će Snaha doći!

TINTILINIĆ: Ja znam, majko, tko je tvoja snaha!
Neka dođe, dat ćemo joj straha!

Svi se posakriju.

SNAHA *(ulazi sama)*: Kakva je to galama bila ovdje, nesrećo
stara?

MAJKA *(mimo)*: Večera ti je skuhana, snaho!

SNAHA *(za se)*: Baš fino miriše jelo, al neću staru pohvaliti!

(MOTHER sees her to the door.) Now I must quickly set a fire!
I'll light it with the kindling the sweet orphan gave me. The
twigs are dry and will catch alight in a second...

MOTHER lights the fire.
The SPRITES leap out.

MOTHER: Oh, who are you, you tiny red people?

SPRITES: A tiny happy band we are,
Hiding there beneath the char,
When the flames start to burn,
Hearth Sprites, it's your turn!
We're swift as shining sparks,
Glowing sisters in our larks.
Round the fire dash and leap,
Honest people in our keep!

(Speaking.) We are the good Fire Sprites... We gather
around the flame and help good people...

TINTILINICH: I am Tiny Tintilinić, my brothers say I'm best,
First in leaping, first in wit, I always pass the test.
You will find me everywhere,
Up on the shelf, beneath your chair,
We will get your chores done, no more tears and woe,
Join in our dance! Let's go.

*They all dance merrily and do everything that has to be done: they chop the
wood, clean the kitchen, and prepare dinner.*

MOTHER: My thanks, little Sprites,
My sadness has flown!
Good fortune has brought you,
I'm no longer alone.

TINTILINICH: All the work's behind us!
Mother, take this chance,
Follow where we lead you, you'll enjoy this dance.
Across the hearth,
And down the path,

(Majci.) Čini mi se da ti je jelo zagorjelo. Gadno smrdi!
Zašto nisi pazila? Misliš li da ću ja zagoreno jesti?

JKA: Što govoriš, kćeri? Kakvo zagoreno jelo! Miriše da bi
ga i mrtav čovjek jeo!

AHA: Ne prepiri se sa mnom! Ako ja kažem da smrdi, onda
smrdi! Hoću da se umijem! Daj mi vode!

JKA: Evo, tu je umivaonik s vodom!

AHA (prevrne umivaonik): Ta voda nije svjež! Donesi mi s
vrha brda snijega da se umijem!

JKA: Ako želiš snijega, puno ga je dvorište i polje! Ne mo-
ram ići na brdo po snijeg!

AHA: Taj snijeg na polju nije čist! Meni treba čistog snijega
s vrha brda, i to odmah! (Viče u sobu.) Dođi ovamo, dragi!
Tvoja mati neće da mi donese snijega s brda da se
umijem!

N: Poslušaj je, majko! Ona je sad gospodar ovdje!

JKA: Zar ti želiš, sine, da ti majka u planini strada?

N: Želim, majko, da svaku želju moje nevjestice ispuniš!

AHA: Tako je, svaku moju želju, jesi li čula? Kad se vratiš
s brda, idi na smrznuto jezero, načini u ledu rupu, pa
mi na toj rupi uhvati šarana za večeru!

AJKA: Provalit će se led poda mnom, propast ću u jezero!

AHA: To je tvoja briga! (Vrišti.) Idi, slušaj me!

N: Ne srdi moje nevjestice, majko! Idi, slušaj je!

AJKA: Idem. I bolje je da poginem, kad ovako Majku mučite!

NTILINIĆ (izviri kraj Majke): Ne boj se, Majčice! Ti pođi u štalu
i sjedni na toplo sijeno, a mi ćemo ti snijeg s brda i
šarana iz jezera donijeti!

du on i Majka.

NAHA: Dragi, umoran si, idi u sobu da otpočineš!

N: U sobi je hladno! Ja bih radije sjedio s tobom uz vatru!

NAHA (oštro): Idi u sobu, kad ti govorim! Ja sam tu gospodar,
moraš me i ti slušati!

N: Dobro, dobro, dušice, slušam te, idem, samo se nemoj
srditi! (Otrči u sobu.)

NAHA: Ovo jelo previše dobro miriše, neću da ga s njime

On the chair,
Up in the air,
On the stool,
Play the fool,
All together, leap apart,
Joy to lighten Mother's heart!

MOTHER: This jig reminds me of a time long past,
When my heart was young and my feet were fast.
No place for sadness while you are here!

(The sound of DAUGHTER-IN-LAW's laughter from the next room.)

But go now, for the Bride draws near!

TINTILINICH: I know, Mother, who he's taken for wife!
Let her come, she's in for strife!

All the SPRITES hide

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW (She comes in alone.): What is that racket
in here, you miserable old thing?

MOTHER (Calmly.): Your dinner is prepared, daughter-in-law!
DAUGHTER-IN-LAW (To herself.): It does smell good, but I
won't praise the old woman! (To MOTHER.) That food must
be burnt. It smells awful! Why weren't you more careful?
Do you expect me to eat burnt food?

MOTHER: What are you saying, daughter! Nothing has burnt!
It smells so delicious that a ghost would be tempted!

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW: Don't argue with me! If I say it smells
awful, then it smells awful! I want to wash! Give me
water!

MOTHER: Here. Here is the washbasin.

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW (Overturning the washbasin.): That water
is not fresh. Bring me snow from the top of the mountain
so that I can wash!

MOTHER: If you want snow, the yard and fields are full of it! I
don't have to go up the mountain for snow!

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW: That snow in the fields is not fresh! I
need clean snow from the top of the mountain, and I need
it now! (Shouting towards the next room.) Come in here,

dijelim, sve ću sama pojesti! Najprije da vrata zaključam, da se ne bi stara vratila!

Krene prema vratima.

Jedan Dušić uhvati je otraga za suknju i ne da joj dalje.

Što je to? Suknja mi je o neki čavao zapela!

Obazre se: taj Dušić nestane, drugi je iza leđa uhvati. I tako dalje.

Sad sam opet tu zapela ... Uh, ova je kuća puna čavala!
... Neka, ne moram zatvoriti vrata ... Idem jesti!

Dok dođe do ognjišta, Dušići je opet love i sprdaju se njom. Kad se nagnula na lonac, iz lonca sukne plamen i opali je.

Jao, jao, plamen mi je lice opržio ... Ništa ne vidim... U pomoć, dragi, u pomoć! *(Otrči u sobu.)*

Dušići se pokažu smijući se.

Otvore vrata i uvode Majku.

Dovuku čabar.

TINTILINIĆ: Eto, Majko! Tu je šaran i pun čabar snijega,
Baš kako je željela, sa najvišeg brijega!

SNAHA *(uleti)*: Sve je to ona stara vještica zlobno udesila da mi napakosti! *(Ugleda čabar.)* Oho, što je to?

MAJKA: Snijeg s vrha brda i šaran iz smrznutog jezera, sve kako si željela!

SNAHA: Ne vjerujem ja tebi, stara! Da ponjušim je li šaran svjež!

Nagne se nad čabar.

Dušići skoče i tisnu joj glavu dolje.

Ona vrisne, uspravi se, a na nosu joj visi šaran i praćaka se.

darling! You mother does not want to bring me snow from the mountain so I can wash!

SON: Do as she asks, Mother! She is mistress here now!

MOTHER: My son, surely you don't want your mother to perish up there?

SON: What I want, Mother, is for you to fulfil my bride's every wish!

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW: That's it! My every wish, did you hear? When you come back from the mountain go down to the lake, make a hole in the ice, and fish out a carp for my dinner!

MOTHER: But the ice will give way beneath me, and I will fall into the lake!

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW: It's not my concern! *(Screaming.)* Go now, do as I say!

SON: Do not make my bride angry, Mother! Go now, do as she says!

MOTHER: I'm going. It would be better for me to perish when you torment your mother so!

TINTILINICH *(Peeping out from behind MOTHER.)*: Do not fear, Mother! Go to the stable and sit in the warm hay, and we will bring you snow from the mountain top and a carp from the lake!

MOTHER and the SPRITES go out.

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW: Dear one, you are tired. Go into the room and rest!

SON: But it's cold in there! I would much rather sit here with you beside the fire.

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW *(Sharply.)*: Go into the room, when I tell you! I am mistress here, you have to listen to me too!

SON: Alright, alright, dear heart, I'm going, just don't be angry! *(He runs into the next room.)*

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW: This food smells delicious, I won't share it with him, I'll eat it all myself! But I'll lock the door first, in case the old woman comes back!

She goes towards the door.

- Jao meni, joj, joj, joj,
Pojest će mi nosić moj ...
- Pomozi, dragi, joj, joj, joj! ...

'juri u sobu.

tar fijuk vjetra.

NTILINIĆ: Majčice, čuješ li vjetar? Mi sad moramo nestati, jer nas gospodar Stribor zove... Ali sutra ćemo opet doći ...

AJKA: Dodite, mili moji, propast ću bez vas! Sve se bojim da je moja snaha vještica!

NTILINIĆ: Pa i jest. Ona ti je ukleta šumska guja, ima i sad zmijski jezik u ustima, zato tako psuje i grdi!

AJKA: Kako bih mogla sinu dokazati da je to zmija?

NTILINIĆ: Nije toteško! Braćo, nađite kavez s mladim svrakama! (*Dušići odlete.*) Svaka zmija rado jede svračiče. Kad ih tvoja snaha ugleda, polakomit će se, isplazit će jezik da ih ujede, pa će tvoj sin vidjeti da je to zmijski jezik! (*Dušići donesu kavez sa svračićima.*) Eto, kavez je tu! (*Vjetar zviždi.*) Stribor nas opet zove! Zbogom, bako, dobra ti sreća!

testanu.

NAHA (*dojuri bijesno sa Sinom*): Sad ćeš mi, stara nesrećo, za sve platiti!

MAJKA: Stani, snaho, da vidiš što te čeka tu!

NAHA: Svračići! Moje namilije jelo! Jao, ne mogu otvoriti kavez! Ali dohvatit ću ja njih kroz žice!

Isplazi šiljast jezik zmijski.

SIN: Jao, nevo, što ti je to u ustima?

MAJKA: Zmijski jezik, sine! Sad si na svoje oči vidio koga u kući hraniš! Otpremi tu zmiju otkud si je doveo!

SNAHA: Ne vjeruj joj, dragi, ja sam dobra šumska vila koja ti sreću nosi, a ona je vještica koja me svojim čarolijama

One of the Sprites grabs at the back of her skirt and stops her from moving forward.

What's happening? My skirt must have caught on a nail!

She turns around: the Sprite disappears, and another one grabs her from behind. And so on.

Now I've caught my skirt again ... This house must be full of nails! ... It doesn't matter, I don't have to lock the door ... I'll eat now!

When DAUGHTER-IN-LAW comes over to the fireplace, the Sprites again catch hold of her and tease her. When she leans over the pot, flame rises from the pot and scorches her.

Ohh, Ohh, the flame burnt my face... I can't see a thing... Help, darling, help! (*She runs into the next room.*)

Laughing, the SPRITES show themselves. They open the door and lead MOTHER in. They drag in a wooden pail.

TINTILINICH: Here, Mama! Here is the fish and a pail-full of snow,

From the peak as she ordered, where you couldn't go!
DAUGHTER-IN-LAW (*Rushing back into the kitchen.*): That old witch arranged all this to spite me.

MOTHER: Snow from the mountain-top and a carp from the frozen lake, everything just as you ordered it!

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW: I don't trust you, old woman! Let me smell it! Is the carp fresh?!

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW bends over the wooden pail. The SPRITES jump up and push her head down. She screams, straightens up, and the struggling carp hanging from her nose.

Oh woe, oh woe, oh woe is me,
He'll eat my little nose...
Help, darling, oh, oh, oh! ...

progoni! Pitaj je otkuda joj ti svračići! Otjeraj je iz kuće!
Otjeraj je, jesi li čuo?

SIN: I ja vidim da je vještica! Nosi mi se iz kuće, stara, nisi mi
više majka nit ja tebi sin! Odlazi!

SNAHA: Odlazi!

Odu u sobu.

MAJKA: Sve uzalud, sasvim ga je začarala ... Ništa ne vidi i ne
razumije ... Idem iz kuće kud bilo, samo da zmiju ne
gledam ... Ništa neću ponijeti, samo malo luči koje mi
je ona Djevojčica poklonila, da negdje u šumi vatru
naložim ...

Uzme luči i izađe.

Sin i Snaha izvire iz sobe.

SNAHA: Je li otišla? Čini se da jest ... Konačno smo se stare
nesreće riješili!

Vatra utrne.

Prozori se otvaraju i lupaju.

Kruh sa stola nestane.

SIN: Što je to? Vatra se najednom utrnula, kruha je sa stola ne-
stalo, prozori se sami otvaraju ...

SNAHA: To nas stara vještica još progoni svojim čarolijama...
Ne brini se za to, hajdemo u sobu!

SIN: Idi ti sama u sobu, ja ću odmah doći ...

SNAHA: Pa dobro, kako ti drago! (*Ode u sobu.*)

DJEVOJČICA (*nađe na otvorena vrata*): Smiluj se, dobri čovječe,
daj mi da prenoćim pod tvojim krovom! U blizini nema
druge kuće, a napolju je zima da drveću od nje granje
puca!

SIN: Ne smijem te primiti ... Nisam ja ovdje gospodar ...

DJEVOJČICA: Tjeraš mene kao što si majku za volju uklete

*She runs into the next room.
A sharp gusting of wind is heard.*

TINTILINICH: Mother, do you hear the wind? We must go
now. Stribor, our master, is calling us... But we will come
again tomorrow...

MOTHER: Do come, my dears, I will be lost without you! I am
so afraid that my daughter-in-law is a witch!

TINTILINICH: So she is! She is a cursed forest serpent, and
even now she has a snake's tongue in her mouth. That's
why she curses and scolds so much!

MOTHER: How could I prove that to my son: how could I prove
that she is a snake?

TINTILINICH: That won't be hard! Brothers! Find a cage of
young magpies. (*The SPRITES fly away.*) All snakes love to
eat young magpies. When your daughter-in-law sees
them, she will become greedy, put out her tongue to hiss
at them, and your son will see that it's the tongue of a snake!
(*The SPRITES return with a cage of young magpies.*) You see, the
cage is here! (*The wind whistles.*) Stribor is calling us again!
Farewell, grandmother, and good luck to you!

The SPRITES disappear.

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW (*Rushing in angrily, accompanied by SON.*):
Now, you old misery, you'll pay me for everything!

MOTHER: Wait a moment, daughter-in-law! Just look what's
waiting for you here!

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW: Young magpies! My favourite food!
Oh, I can't open the cage. But I shall grab them through
the wires!

She pokes out her pointed serpent's tongue.

SON: Oh, my bride, what is that in your mouth?

MOTHER: A serpent's tongue, my son! Now you have seen with
your own eyes, whom you are sharing your table with.
Send that snake away, back to where she came from.

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW: Don't believe her, darling. I am a good

zmije otjerao. Zato vatra neće da ti gori, a kruh neće da te hrani.

: Što mogu, kad moja Neva tako hoće ...

AHA (*viče iz sobe*): Gdje si? Što radiš? S kime to govoriš?

: Jao, evo je, bježi, molim te, jer će biti zla!

VOJČICA: Idem, idem, ali upamti: nema većeg zločina nego majku svoju ne poštivati! (*Ode.*)

AHA (*uleti*): Što je opet bilo? S kime si sad govorio?

: Ni s kim, draga ... Tu nije bilo nikoga ... Sam sam sa sobom govorio ... Znaš, mila moja, možda ipak nije lijepo što smo sirotu staru otjerali iz kuće ... Smrznut će se u šumi!

AHA: Nek se smrzne! To sam ja i htjela! Zaslužila je tu kaznu, kad se usudila reći da sam ja zmija, ha, ha, ha!

ZASTOR

forest fairy, who brings you good luck; she is the witch who is hounding me with her spells! Ask her where she got those magpies! Drive her out of this house! Drive her away, did you hear?

SON: I too can see she is a witch! Get out of my house, you hag! You are no longer my mother nor I your son! Get out!

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW: Get out!

They go together into the next room.

MOTHER: It was all for nothing, she has completely bewitched him ... He sees nothing and understands nothing... I shall leave this house and go just anywhere, just so I don't have to look at that serpent. I shall take nothing with me except some kindling which that girl gave me, so that I can light a fire somewhere in the forest ...

MOTHER takes some kindling and departs.

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW and SON peer out of the next room.

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW: Has she gone? It look like it... Finally we have got rid of the old misery!

Suddenly the fire goes out.

The windows fly open and start flapping.

The bread disappears from the table.

SON: What is happening? The fire suddenly went out, the bread's disappeared from the table, the windows are opening themselves...

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW: That's the old witch still after us with her spells... Don't worry about it, let's go into the other room!

SON: You go yourself, I will be there in a minute...

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW: Alright, as you like! (*She goes into the room.*)

MAIDEN (*Coming in at the open door.*): Have mercy, good man, allow me to spend the night under your roof! There are no other houses nearby, and it is so cold that the branches on the trees are cracking!

TREĆA SLIKA
ŠUMA KAO U PRVOJ SLICI

MAJKA (*posrće po snijegu*) :

Idem, idem, ne znam sama kuda ...
Posrću mi stare noge od zime i truda ...
Al više od svega bol me muči, jao,
Što je dobri sin moj sada tako zao!
Ah, ne mogu dalje ... Nemam više snage ...
Zapalit ću luči djevojčice drage ...

Sjedne i ukreše vatru.

Odmah se pojave Dušići i zapjevaju svoju pjesmu, plešući uokrug oko Majke i plamena.

DUŠIĆI: Mi smo družba malena,
Djeca vatre, plamena!
Gdjeno oganj gori,
Tu se Dušić stvori!
Hitri smo ko iskrice,
Naše žarke sestrice!
Okolo vatre hitimo,
Dobre ljude štitimo!

MAJKA (*ganuta*) : Dušići moji dragi, niste me zaboravili! Niste me ostavili samu na putu!

TINTILINIĆ: Ne čudi se, majko! Koga mi jednom zavolimo,

SON: I cannot take you in... I am not master here...

MAIDEN: You are driving me from your door the way you did your mother... for the love of a cursed serpent. That is why your fire does not burn, and the bread refuses to nourish you.

SON: What can I do... when my Bride wants it that way...

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW (*Shouting from the next room.*) : Where are you? What are you doing? Who are you talking to?

SON: Goodness, here she is! Go, please, or there will be trouble!

MAIDEN: I'm going, I'm going, but remember: there is no crime worse than not respecting your own mother! (*She leaves.*)

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW (*Rushing in.*) : What's happening now? Who were you talking to?

SON: With no-one, darling... There was nobody here... I was talking to myself... You know, my dear one, perhaps it's not right that we threw the poor old thing out of the house... She'll freeze in the forest!

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW: Let her freeze! I hope she does freeze! She deserves it, when she dares to say that I am a snake, ha, ha, ha!

CURTAIN

SCENE 3.

THE FOREST - AS IN SCENE 1.

MOTHER (*Stumbling through the snow.*) :

Wandering, wandering, don't know where ...
My strength ebbs in this cold air ...
But it pains me most that I have seen,
My gentle son become so mean!
My will is gone... I have to rest ...
That lass's kindling will help me best.

tôga više ne ostavljamo, ako nas sam svojom zloćom ne otjera!

AJKA: Ah, mili moji, zloća je mene u svijet otjerala ... Stid me je i reći da me sin iz kuće prognao ...

TINTILINIĆ: Znamo mi sve, Majko, ako i nismo bili tamo kad se to dogodilo. Zato ćemo te sad odvesti do Stribora, starješine našega.

Mudar je naš Stribor, dobro srce imade
I nevolji svakoj vazda lijeka znade!

opne se na glogov tm, zvizne u prste.

vojuri jelen, kome na svakom parošćiću blista zvjezdica.

a njim juri dvanaest vjeverica, a u svake dva oka kao dva draga kamena.

Sjedni, Majko, jelenu na pleća,
Pa hajdemo Striboru, gdje te čeka sreća!

Majka sjedne na jelena.

Dušići zajaše vjeverice i zapjevaju.

DUŠIĆI: Po planini,
Po dolini,
Kroz šumarke,
Jame, jarke,
Skok po trnu
I po grmu,
Juri, leti, put ne griješi,
Da nam Stribor Majku tješi!

Čitava povorka odjuri kao vihor.

Sin i snaha dolaze.

SNAHA (*sva usopljena, vuče Sina za sobom*) : Brže, brže, mlitavče
i kukavice! Pobjeći će nam stara nesreća!

SIN: Ali zašto hoćeš da trčimo za majkom? Otjerao sam je iz

She sits down and lights a fire.

The SPRITES immediately appear and sing their song, dancing in a circle around MOTHER and the fire.

SPRITES: A tiny happy band we are,
Hiding there beneath the char,
When the flames start to burn,
Hearth Sprites, it's your turn!
We're swift as shining sparks,
Glowing sisters in our larks.
Round the fire dash and leap,
Honest people in our keep.

MOTHER (*Moved.*) : My dear little Sprites, you haven't forgotten me! You have not left me alone on my sad journey.

TINTILINICH: Don't be surprised, Mother! When we grow to love someone we never abandon them, unless they drive us away with their wickedness!

MOTHER: But, my dears, it was wickedness which drove me out into the world. I am ashamed to say it, but my son threw me out of the house...

TINTILINICH: We know all about it, Mother, although we were not there when it happened. That's why we have come to take you to Stribor, our master.

Our Stribor is wise and his heart is good,
He'll know a cure if anyone would!

TINTILINICH climbs up onto a hawthorn bush, and whistles through his fingers.

A deer with a bright star on each of the points of its antlers gallops up. The deer is followed by twelve scurrying squirrels, each with eyes like two precious stones.

TINTILINICH: Mount up, Mother, on the back of the deer,
We're off to see Stribor, good fortune is near!

MOTHER sits on the deer's back.

The SPRITES mount onto the backs of the squirrels and start singing.

kuće kako si htjela, zašto da je još i u šumu progonimo?
SNAHA: Znam ja zašto to radim! A ti, budalo, šuti i slušaj me!
(*Za se.*) Moram spriječiti da stara dođe do Stribora, inače
sam propala! (*Sinu.*) Hajde, miči se, ne vuci se kao puž!
Brže, brže, pobjeć će nam stara!

Povuče ga u šumu.

Povorka s Majkom opet projuri kroz šumu pjevajući.

Zatim naiđu opet Sin i Snaha.

SIN: Nemoj tako žuriti, ne mogu da te stignem! Nisam zec da
trčim ko strijela!

SNAHA: Rekoh ti, ne zadržavaj me, il će biti zla! Moram stići
staru! Hajde, naprijed, naprijed!

Odvuče ga.

Opet projuri jelen s Dušićima.

Opet se dovuku Sin i Snaha.

SIN: E, sad ne idem ni koraka dalje! Znoj curi s mene ko na
ljetnom suncu, duša mi je na jezik izašla! Ne idem dalje,
pa gotovo!

SNAHA: Ne prkosi mi, jadniče! Ne znaš ti tko sam ja! Pretvorit
ću te u podzemnog crva, ako odmah ne potrčiš naprijed!
Jesi li čuo? Leti, leti!

Odvuče ga.

Jelen i Dušići stignu do velikog duba usred šume.

TINTILINIĆ: Evo nas, majko, stigli smo do Striborova dvora!
MAJKA (*sjaše s jelena*): Ja nigdje ništa ne vidim. Samo drveće
i grmlje!

TINTILINIĆ: Vidjet ćeš ti još svašta, Majko! Samo se malo strpi!

Svi Dušići udare u piskutav smijeh. Oni to uopće neprestano rade.

SPRITES: Up the mountain,
'Cross the glen,
Through the valleys,
Caves and gullies,
Leap on buckthorns,
Spin on acorns.
Hurry, fly, don't lose your way,
Our Stribor helps Mama this day.

*The whole procession rushes off like the wind.
SON and DAUGHTER-IN-LAW arrive.*

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW (*All out of breath, dragging the SON along
behind her.*): Hurry, hurry, you weakling! Coward! The old
hag will get away from us!

SON: But why do you want us to race after Mother? I drove her
from the house, just as you wanted, why are we chasing her
through the forest?

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW: I know why! And you, you idiot, stop
babbling and do as I say! (*To herself.*) I must stop the old
woman from reaching Stribor, or else I am done for! (*To
the SON.*) Come on, move yourself, don't drag along like a
snail! Hurry, hurry, the old woman will get away from us!

*She pulls him into the forest.
The procession and MOTHER are seen dashing through the forest, singing.
Then SON and DAUGHTER-IN-LAW also appear.*

SON: Slow down a bit, I can't keep up with you! I am not a rabbit
who rushes along like an arrow!

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW: I told you, don't hold me back, or there
will be trouble! I have to catch up with the Old Woman!
Come on, forward, forward!

*She pulls him along.
The deer and the SPRITES hurry past again.
Dragging themselves along, SON and DAUGHTER-IN-LAW appear.*

SON: That's it, I'm not going a step further! I am sweating as

UŠIĆI: Dobri duše, Stribor-care,
Slušaj tvoje družbe glas!
Gledaj muke majke stare,
Nađi njenom jadu spas!

rast se otvori.

tribor izlazi.

TRIBOR: Što želite, družbo moja mila?
TINTILINIĆ: Vodimo ti ovu Majku, jer je uvijek bila
Plemenita i svom sinu najbrižnija mati,
Sad od snahe-guje stradava i pati!
TRIBOR: Sve to znam! U miru hajte ... Umiri se, Mati! ... Gle-
daj!

fahne štapom.

*šuma se razdvoji: pojavi se krasno malo selo, puno sunca i vesela naroda,
to se uz gusle i ciku vrza po sajmu.*

MAJKA: Krasno selo!
STRIBOR: Moraš ga poznati!
MAJKA: Ah, pa to je moje selo, gdje sam bila dijete!
Iste kuće, bašče, sokak ... eno k meni lete
Drugarice iz djetinjstva, sve su opet mlade!
Kako je to moguće?
STRIBOR: Stribor čari znade
Što će i tebi mladost vratit sada!
Pogledaj se!

*Veliko čarobno ogledalo stvori se pred Majkom, koja se najednom
pretvorila u krasnu djevojku.*

MAJKA: Bože! Doista sam mlada!
STRIBOR: Jest i vječno bit ćeš mlada u mom carstvu, Mati,
U to kolo veselo i ti se uhvati!

Majka se uhvati u kolo s djevojkama.

though the summer sun were burning down, my soul is
ready to leave me! I am going no further, and that is final!
DAUGHTER-IN-LAW: Don't try to defy me, you wretch! You
don't know who I am! I will turn you into an earth-worm
if you don't keep going! Do you hear me! Run, run!

She drags him along.

The Deer and the SPRITES reach a large oak in the forest.

TINTILINICH: Here we are, Mother, we have reached Stribor's
court!

MOTHER (*Getting down from the Deer's back.*): I can't see anything
anywhere. Just trees and bushes.

TINTILINICH: You will see all sorts of things soon, Mother!
Just be patient for a while!

*All the SPRITES burst into squeaky laughter. They seem to be doing that all
the time.*

SPRITES: Our Good Stribor - Spirit King!
Before you now this plea we bring.
Mother's troubles call to Thee,
Find a way to set her free!

The oak tree opens.

STRIBOR comes out.

STRIBOR: What is it you want, my dear friends?

TINTILINICH: Mother we bring here before you, 'cause she
always been

The best of the mothers that we have known.

Now his Snake-Bride torments her and Mother's alone.

STRIBOR: I know all that! Peace now... Calm yourself, Mother!...
Look!

He waves his staff.

*The forest opens: a lovely little village appears, full of sun and cheerful
people, who are wandering around a fair to the sound of music and merry-
making.*

Sin i Snaha dovuku se postrance.

SNAHA: Prekasno smo stigli ... Stara je već našla Stribora ...
Ali ne ću još da gubim nadu! Počekat ću za grmom,
možda ta sreća neće dugo trajati! Dođi sa mnom,
kukavice!

Odvuče sina u šumu.

Majka najednom prekine kolo i istupi iz njega.

STRIBOR: Što ne plešeš, draga? Zar se ne veseliš?

MAJKA: Ne, u srcu nosim bol ...

STRIBOR: Zar još nešto želiš?

MAJKA: Ne ljuti se: sve je to divno kao bajka,
Al za sinom čeznem ...

STRIBOR: On je zao, nezahvalan ...

MAJKA: Znam, al svaka majka
I zločesto dijete voli možda još i više
Nego dobro, jer ga žali ...

STRIBOR: Zar te ne baciše
Iz tvog doma sin i snaha? Kao divlja hajka
Kroz šumu te i sad gone?

MAJKA: Znam, al ipak majka
Ne može zamržit sina ni zaboraviti ...
Bez njega ti, Stribore, neću sretna biti ...
Pusti me da odem ...

STRIBOR: Kući ako se vratiš,
Ostarit ćeš opet, morat ćeš da patiš,
Snaha će te mučit ...

MAJKA: Rado trpjet sve ću,
Da pomognem sinu ... Ja njegovu sreću
Više volim nego svoju ...

Zagrm.

SNAHA (*koja je već prije izvirivala prateći, što se zbiva, doleti sad i navali
na Majku, pružajući otrovni jezik*):

MOTHER: What a beautiful village!

STRIBOR: You surely recognise it!

MOTHER: Oh, it is my village, the place where I grew up! The
same houses, gardens, and paths ...

Look, who's running down the lane,
The friends of my childhood, all young again!

How is that possible?

STRIBOR: Stribor knows spells by the score,
Your youth returns from days of yore!
Look at yourself!

*A large enchanted mirror appears in front of MOTHER, who has suddenly
turned into a beautiful young girl.*

MOTHER: My Goodness! I really am young again!

STRIBOR: Yes, you are, and you always will be in my empire,
Mother. Join hands with the merry dancers now!

MOTHER joins the other girls in their dance.

SON and DAUGHTER-IN-LAW creep up at the side.

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW: We are too late... The Old Woman has
already found Stribor... But I won't give up hope yet! I will
wait behind this bush, perhaps this happiness won't last
long. Follow me, you coward!

She pulls him back into the forest.

Suddenly MOTHER stops, leaving the circle of dancers.

STRIBOR: Why don't you dance, sweet soul! Are you not
merry?

MOTHER: No, there is sorrow in my heart ...

STRIBOR: Is there something else you wish for?

MOTHER: Please don't be angry: this is all as wonderful as in
a fairy tale, but I yearn for my son...

STRIBOR: He is wicked and ungrateful...

MOTHER: Yes, I know, but every mother loves her naughty
child, perhaps even more than the good one, as she sorrows
for him...

Ujest ću te stara!

Ja ti sina ne dam!

STRIBOR: U kraj, Zmijo! Nestalo je čara

I prokletstva šume Striborove.

Sin je spašen žrtvom majčice njegove ...

Budi opet zmija! Krij se, gdje tm raste i drača,

A u šumu Striborovu proljeće se vraća!

inaha vrisne kao siktanje zmije i pretvori se opet u guju.

štribora, sela i zimске šume nestane.

Zelena šuma i cvijeće bljesnu u suncu.

SIN (*dotrči i padne na koljena pred Majku, koja je opet postala starica*):

Majčice mila, možeš li mi oprostiti što sam ti skrivio?

MAJKA: Stribor ti je oprostio, a majka ti nije ni zamjerila bila

... Hajdemo kući, sine, kao da se ništa nije dogodilo ...

TINTILINIĆ: Stani, majko, nešto jeca kraj onih stabala,

Bit će netko stradao ...

MAJKA (*potrči onamo sa Sinom i podignu iz trave onesviještenu Dje-*

vojčicu koja je prodavala luči):

Djevojčica mala,

Što mi luči donijela ... Što je s tobom, mila?

DJEVOJČICA: Lutala sam šumom bijedna, put sam izgubila ...

Smrzoh se u snijegu ...

SIN: Dođi s nama kući!

MAJKA: Dođi! S tobom će u naš dom prava sreća ući!

TINTILINIĆ: Mi ćemo vam od zla čuvat kuću i kućište

I dolazit često na vaše ognjište!

Zaplešu oko sretne trojke, prateći ih kući i pjevajući.

Mi smo družba malena,

Djeca vatre, plamena!

Gdjeno vatra gori,

Tu se Dušić stvori!

Hitri smo ko iskrice,

Naše žarke sestrice!

STRIBOR: Did they not throw you out of your home, your son and daughter-in-law? Even now they are chasing you through the forest like a wild hunting party.

MOTHER: I know, but a mother cannot not feel hatred for her son, nor forget him. Without him, Stribor, I could never be happy... Let me go now...

STRIBOR: If you return home, you will again grow old, and have to suffer. Your daughter-in-law will torment you again...

MOTHER: I would put up with anything to help my son. I care more for his happiness than for my own...

Thunder.

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW (*Who has already been peeking out, following what has been happening, rushes up now and attacks MOTHER, hissing at her with her forked tongue.*):

I shall bite you, Old Woman!

You shall never have your son back!

STRIBOR: Step aside, Serpent! The spell is no more

Nor the curse on the forest of Mighty Stribor.

This Mother's love has saved the boy!

Be a snake again! Hide in thorns by that burn,

To Stribor's Forest let Spring return!

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW shrieks with a hissing sound and turns back into a snake.

STRIBOR, the village and the winter forest disappear.

The green forest and the flowers glisten in the sunlight.

SON (*Runs over to his MOTHER and falls at her feet. She is an old woman once again.*): Mother dearest, can you forgive me for all the wrong I have done you?

MOTHER: Stribor forgave you, and your mother has nothing to forgive... Let us go home, my son, as though nothing happened...

TINTILINIĆ: Stop a moment, Mother, there's a sound of sobbing beside that tree... as though someone is hurt...

MOTHER (*Runs over to the tree together with her son and raises the body*

Oko vatre hitimo,
Dobre ljude štimito!

ZASTOR

K R A J

of the unconscious MAIDEN in her arms.) : Sweet lass, who brought me the kindling... What has happened to you?
MAIDEN: I was wandering through the forest, and lost my way...
I was freezing in the snow...

SON: Come home with us!

MOTHER: Come! With you, true happiness will come into our home!

TINTILINICH: We'll join you on that happy path,
And always guard your home and hearth!

The SPRITES dance about the happy trio, seeing them home with their song.

SPRITES: A tiny happy band we are,
Hiding there beneath the char,
When the flames start to burn
Hearth Sprites, it's your turn!
We're swift as shining sparks,
Glowing sisters in our larks,
'Round the fire dash and leap
With honest people in our keep!

CURTAIN

THE END

Milan Čečuk

RIBAR PALUNKO I NJEGOVA ŽENA

SCENSKA BAJKA ZA MALU I VELIKU PUBLIKU

(PO ISTOIMENOJ PRIČI IVANE BRILIĆ-MAŽURANIĆ)

PALUNKO THE FISHERMAN AND HIS WIFE

A fairy tale for the stage - for young and old. Based on
IVANA BRILIĆ-MAŽURANIĆ's story of the same name.

Written for the puppet theatre by:
MILAN ČEČUK

Autorsko pravo (c) Branislava Cesarec-Čečuk

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RIBAR PALUNKO I NJEGOVA ŽENA

PALUNKO THE FISHERMAN AND HIS WIFE

Osobe u predigri i međuigramama:

ZORA-DJEVOJKA
PALUNKO
SIROTADJEVOJKA, kasnije ŽENA PALUNKOVA
KOŠUTA
GALEB-PTICA

Osobe u igri:

PALUNKO
ŽENA PALUNKOVA
VLATKO, njihov sinak
GALEB-PTICA
MORSKE DJEVICE
MORSKI KRALJ
ZMIJA ORIJAŠKA, majka sviju zmija
PTICA ORIJAŠKA, majka sviju ptica
ZLATNA PČELA, majka sviju pčela
ZORA-DJEVOJKA
i još svirci-morski konjici

adnja se zbiva u doba koštanih udica.

CHARACTERS IN THE PROLOGUE AND INTERLUDES:
DAWN-MAIDEN
PALUNKO
PAUPER-GIRL, later PALUNKO'S WIFE
ROE
SEAGULL-BIRD

CHARACTERS IN THE PLAY:
PALUNKO'S WIFE
VLATKO, their infant son
SEA MAIDENS
SEA KING
GIANT SNAKE, the Mother of all Snakes
GIANT BIRD, the Mother of all Birds
GOLDEN BEE, the Mother of all Bees
DAWN-MAIDEN
and the Musicians - the Sea Horses

The action takes place in the times when bone fishing hooks were still being used.

PREDIGRA

Praskozorje na pučini morskoj. Na sitnim jutarnjim valima niže se čun i u njem ribar Palunko.

GLAS DVOJNICA: Čudo ludo Palunko
morem plovi,
ribice ne lovi ...

PALUNKO (*u čunu sam sa sobom govori*): Morem plovi ... ribice ne lovi ... I neću ih loviti dok sreću svoju ne ulovim. Tolika su bogatstva na ovome svijetu, a ja se u pustoj sirotinji kinjim. Što i ja bogat gavan ne postanem te da u slasti i lasti, u zlatu i raskoši poživim! (*zaziva*) Sini, sini, zorice, kaži put do srećice!

Izdigne se iz mora srebrn čun, na njem zlatna vesla a u čunu, kao kraljevna jasna, stoji Zora-djevojka.

ZORA-DJEVOJKA: Ribaru Palunko, tri si dana čuvao život mojim ribicama, a sad reci što želiš da ti dobro učinim?
PALUNKO: Pomozi mi da izađem iz ove bijede i pustoga života, blijeda Zoro-djevojko! Eto, po vas dan se prebijam uz ovaj pusti morski kraj. Što danju riba nahvatam, to uvečer pojedem, te za mene nikakve radosti na ovome svijetu nema.

ZORA-DJEVOJKA: Idi kući, naći ćeš što ti treba. Sreću ćeš svoju naći!

PROLOGUE

Daybreak out on the open sea. A boat is rocking on the waves. Palunko Fisherman is sitting in the boat.

THE VOICE OF THE SHEPHERD'S FLUTE:

Wondrous strange Palunko

Sails the sea,

But catches no fish ...

PALUNKO (*talking to himself in the boat*): Sails the sea ... but catch no fish ... And I won't fish for them until I catch happiness. There are so many riches in this world, and wallow in futile poverty. Why can't I become a rich man and live a life of ease surrounded by gold and luxury! (*Calling out*) Shine, shine, Sweet Dawn, show the way happiness!

A silver boat with golden oars lifts out of the sea; in the boat like a shin. princess stands the DAWN-MAIDEN.

DAWN-MAIDEN: Palunko the Fisherman, for three days you have spared the lives of my little fish, and now tell me what good thing can I do for you?

PALUNKO: Help me to get out of this impoverished and empty life, pale Dawn-Maiden! Look, I spend the entire day this endless sea. The fish I catch during the day, I eat in the evening, and this world holds no joy for me.

DAWN-MAIDEN: Go home, you will find what it is you need. You will find your happiness!

The vision disappears.

Prizora nastane.

GLAS DVOJNICA: Čudo ludo Palunko
sreću gleda,
a ne vidi ...

*Pokaže se ribarska koliba na žalu morskome. Palunko do kraja doplovio,
iz čuna iskočio i kolibi se uputio, a tamo ga pred vratima čeka SIROTA
DJEVOJKA.*

PALUNKO: Dobro jutro, neznana djevojko! Tko si, zašto si
poranila i koga pred mojom kolibom čekaš?

DJEVOJKA: Sirota sam djevojka, mati mi umrla, nikoga na
svijetu nemam, te sam ovdje tebe čekala, čekala i
dočekala, ne bi li me za ženu svoju uzeo ...

PALUNKO: Za svoju ženu da te uzmem? A da ti nisi sreća što
mi ju je Zora-djevojka obećala? Ako jesi, pokaži što mi
donosiš. Pokaži zlato i drago kamenje!

DJEVOJKA: Išteš od mene što nemam. Rekoh ti, Palunko, si-
rota sam bez i'toga i i'čega na tom svijetu. Uzmeš li me
za ženu, dobra ću ti biti, u svemu ugoditi i lijepim ti
pričama vrijeme kratiti.

PALUNKO: Tvoje će mi priče slabo pomoći u mojoj bijedi.
Vidim ja, prevari me Zora-djevojka. Ti si još i bjednija
od mene. Ali tko zna, možda mi ipak neku sreću
donosiš. Stoga uđi u ovu moju sirotinju! *(Djevojka uđe u
kolibu a za njom Palunko. Prostor pred kolibom ostane pust. U
tišini opet se začuje glas dvojnica.)*

GLAS DVOJNICA: Čudo ludo Palunko
sreću sluša,
a ne čuje,
sreću nađe,
a traži je ...

GALEB-PTICA *(doleti)*: Umuknite, tanane dvojnice, grlo tan-
ko obuzdajte, rugalice! Srce je ribarsko želja prepuno
... I rugom da ga probodeš, shvatiti ga nećeš.

GLAS DVOJNICA: Galeb-ptico
mudra oka,

THE VOICE OF THE SHEPHERD'S FLUTE:

Wondrous strange Palunko
Looks at happiness
But can't see it ...

*A fisherman's cabin can be seen on the beach. PALUNKO has sailed to the
shore, jumped out of the boat and gone towards the cabin, where PAUPER-
GIRL is waiting for him before the door.*

PALUNKO: Good morning, stranger! Who are you, why are you
up so early and whom are you waiting for in front of my
cabin?

PAUPER-GIRL: I am a poor girl, my mother is dead, I have
no-one in all the world, and I have been waiting here for
you, waiting for you to take me for your wife ...

PALUNKO: To take you for my wife? Are you perhaps the hap-
piness which the Dawn-Maiden promised me? If you are,
show me what you have brought with you! Show me the
gold and the precious stones!

PAUPER-GIRL: You are asking for what I do not have to give.
I told you, Palunko, I am an orphan without anyone or
anything in this world. If you take me for your wife, I will
be good to you and make you very happy, and tell you
stories to make the time pass.

PALUNKO: Your stories won't help me much in my poverty. I
see that the Dawn-Maiden has cheated me. You are even
poorer than I am. But who knows? Maybe you will bring
me happiness of some sort. So join me in my misery! *(The
girl goes into the cabin and PALUNKO follows her. The area in front
of the cabin is empty. The VOICE of the SHEPHERD'S HARP is
heard again in the silence.)*

SHEPHERD'S HARP: Wondrous strange Palunko

Listens to happiness,
But can't hear it,
Finds happiness,
Still looks for it ...

SEAGULL-BIRD *(flying up)*: Hush your high-pitched, mocking
voice, Harp! The fisherman's heart is crammed with

kaži nama
sa visoka:
zašto traži
što već nađe?

GALEB-PTICA: Kazat ću vam ... Dan za danom prolazio, prošla godina, prošle dvije. Većim se i sinak rodio - nazvali ga Vlatkom malim. Al' ono u stvari jednako ostalo: Palunko ribu hvata, a žena se obdan po planini za lobodom prebija, uvečer večeru vari, te za večerom dijete nuna i Palunku priče priča. Priča ona o gavanima i carskim dvorima, o zmajevima što blago čuvaju i o kraljevni što u vrtu biser sije a alem žanje. Sve ljepše ona priča, a sve teže Palunko svoju sreću čeka. A kad se žena jedne večeri raspripovijedala o golemu bogatstvu i raskoši Morskoga Kralja, dozlogrdjelo Palunku, te on gnjevan skoči, ščepa ženu za ruku i kaže joj da ga sutra na uranku vodi do dvora Kralja Morskoga. I tako se priča sama od sebe splela i stala raspletati ...

Dok GALEB-PTICA kazuje svoju priču, šum i zapljuskivanje morskih valova označuju protjecanje vremena kao jedva čujna zvučna kulisa. Danja se svjetlost postupno gasi dok ne prijede u suton. Pri posljednjim riječima GALEB-PTICE sa svih strana doljeću galebovi te sav prostor ispune svojim kliktajima. Onda naglo utihnū i nestanu. Suton se pretvorio u gluhu noć. Noćna tišina traje samo koji tren, a tada danja svjetlost ponovno zasine.

wishes ... And if you pierce it with ridicule, you won't understand him.

SHEPHERD'S HARP: Seagull-bird,

Wise of eye,

Tell us all

From on high:

Why's he searching

For what's found?

SEAGULL-BIRD: I shall tell you... The days passed, a year passed, and two years. A son was born to them - they called him Little Vlatko. But everything really remained the same: Palunko caught fish and his wife roamed across the mountain looking for saltbush, she cooked dinner, and as they ate she rocked the baby in its cradle and told Palunko stories. She told him of rich misers and imperial courts, of dragons which guarded treasures and of a princess who sowed pearls in her garden and reaped precious stones. Her stories grew more and more wonderful, and Palunko found it harder and harder to wait for his happiness. And one evening when his wife was spinning the tale of the huge riches and great luxury of the Sea King, it was just too much for Palunko. He leaped up angrily, grabbed his wife by the hand, and ordered her to take him to the court of the Sea King first thing in the morning ... so that the tale itself was spun and began to unspin ...

While SEAGULL-BIRD tells its story, the sound of the pounding of the waves of the sea indicates the passing of time as a barely audible background. The light of day gradually fades until it passes into dusk. At the SEAGULL-BIRD's last words, flocks of seagulls fly up from all sides and fill the area with their shrieks. Then they suddenly fall quiet and disappear. Dusk has transformed into deep night. The silence of night lasts only a few moments, and then the daylight shines again.

ACT 1.

PALUNKO's cabin in the morning light. Now its interior can also be seen. Still asleep, PALUNKO's WIFE is leaning on the cradle, and it seems that even in sleep she watches over her child in its crib. The light has woken PALUNKO and he gets up suddenly from his bed and approaches his WIFE.

SCENE I.

PALUNKO (*waking his WIFE*): Woman, get up, get ready for your journey! It is dawn!

WIFE (*awakening*): Haven't you got over last night's craziness?

PALUNKO: Don't ask questions, just be on your way! It's a long journey to the Sea King's court.

WIFE: You really want me to take you to his court? Don't you know that only fairies and goblins know such ways?

PALUNKO: But you are a nymph woman! I have known that for ages, but you have been hiding it from me the way a snake hides her legs.

WIFE: I have been hiding nothing, but you have concocted everything in your own head. I should not have told you so many stories. Those tales have turned your head and you don't know what you are saying.

PALUNKO: I know very well what I am saying. You are a sea nymph sent to me by the Dawn-Maiden to bring me happiness and to save me from poverty. But you have a hard and malicious heart so you keep happiness far from me ...

WIFE: Come to your senses, Palunko! I am no fairy nor sea nymph, but your wife and the mother of our child, Little Vlatko!

PALUNKO: Whether you are a fairy or not, get off on your journey and search for the Sea King's court, as I have had enough of this life of poverty! If you don't heed me, my door is closed to you! Go back where you came from.

WIFE: Alright then! I shall obey your madness and search for the

PRVA SLIKA

Palunkova koliba u jutarnjoj svjetlosti. Sada se vidi i njena unutrašnjost. Palunkova žena, naslonjena na kolijevku, još spava te se čini da tako i u snu bdi nad svojim čedom u kolijevci. Palunka je svjetlost probudila, te on naglo ustaje sa svoga ležaja i prilazi ženi.

prizor

PALUNKO (*budi ženu*): Ženo, ustaj, na put se spremaj! Svanulo je!

ŽENA (*probudi se*): Zar te sinoćnja ludost još nije minula?

PALUNKO: Ništa ne pitaj, već se namah u put uputi! Daleko je do Kralja Morskoga.

ŽENA: Zaista li hoćeš da te do njegovih dvora vodim? Nije li ti na um palo da takve pute samo vile i vilenjaci poznaju?

PALUNKO: Pa ti i jesi žena vilinska! Znam ja to odavna, samo što ti to kriješ od mene kao zmija noge.

ŽENA: Ništa ja od tebe ne krijem, nego si ti tako u glavu svoju upiljio. Nisam ti smjela tolike priče pričati. Te su ti priče pamet zaludile pa ne znaš što govoriš.

PALUNKO: Znam ja dobro što govorim. Ti si vila pomorkinja koju mi je Zora-djevojka poslala da mi sreću donese, da me iz bijede izbavi. Ali si srca tvrda i pakosna pa me od sreće daleko držiš ...

ŽENA: Opameti se, Palunko! Niti sam vila niti žena vilinska, već tvoja i majka čedo našem, Vlatku malome!

PALUNKO: Bila ti ili ne bila žena vilinska, na put se spremi, dvore kralja Morskoga potraži, jer mi je ova bijeda pusta već dotužila! Ako li me nećeš poslušati, vrata su ti moja otvorena! Vрати se odakle si i došla.

ŽENA: Pa dobro! Poslušat ću tvoju ludost, tražit ću puta do Kralja Morskoga. Ali, tko će se onda za te brinuti, tko će mi čedo paziti?

PALUNKO: Za me se ti ne brini, a čedo na put ponesi! Uza te će mu najbolje biti.

ŽENA: Na tvoju će dušu pasti ako li mu se putem što dogodi. *(Baci se mužu pod noge i zaklinje ga.)* Palunko, dobri moj Palunko, promisli još jednom u kakvu nas nevolju šalješ - mene, ženu svoju, i sinka svoga jedinoga!

PALUNKO: Dobro sam o svemu promislio i znadem što nam je činiti. Sreća se ne nalazi pod uzglavljem, već je valja daleko od uzglavlja tražiti.

ŽENA: Ostat ćeš sam u pustome domu, bez ikoga svoga da ti milu riječ kaže.

PALUNKO: Govoriš tako kao da se u smrt spremaš. Luda ženo, ne rastajemo se zauvijek, već samo dokle put do kralja Morskoga ne nađemo.

ŽENA *(načas obrađovana)*: I ti li ćeš se nama u put uputiti?

PALUNKO: Hoću, ali ne vama! Ludost bi bila da na istoj strani put do morskih dvora tražimo. Ti se s djetetom uputi morskim žalom na desnu stranu, a ja ću na lijevu. Netko će od nas valjda naći ono što tražimo ... Probudi sada dijete da više ne dangubimo!

ŽENA: Neću ga buditi, nego ću ga ovako uspavana u naručju ponijeti. Kad se probudi, mislit će da sam ga u šetnju izvela. *(Uzme dijete iz kolijevke. Sve troje izidu iz kolibe.)* Zbogom, Palunko! Ako zlo činiš, nisi zlo mislio. *(Odlazi.)*

PALUNKO *(pode za njom)*: Stani, čekaj da još jednom čedo pomilujem!

ŽENA *(opet u njoj zatinja nada)*: Da se nisi predomislio?

PALUNKO: Nisam i neću se. Vjeruj mi, ženo, tako je za sve nas najbolje! Što li će nam život u pustoj sirotinji!? Naći

way to the Sea King's court. But who will take care of and who will look after my child?

PALUNKO: Don't worry your head about me, and, as for child, take it with you! He will be better off with you than on this journey. *(She throws herself down at her husband's feet and begs him.)* Palunko, my good Palunko, think once before you send us out into such misfortune - me, wife, and your only son!

PALUNKO: I have given it all a lot of thought and I know we must do. Happiness doesn't wait for you under pillow. You have to look for it far from home.

WIFE: You'll be left here alone in an empty house, without one of your own to say a kind word to you.

PALUNKO: You are talking as though you are getting ready to die. Foolish woman, we are not separating for ever, but until we find the way to the Sea King.

WOMAN *(heartened for a moment)*: You are going on the journey with us?

PALUNKO: I'm going, but not with you. It would be foolish for us to search for the Court in the same place. You and your child will go along the beach on the right, and I will go on the left. Surely one of us will find what we are looking for ... Wake the child now so we don't waste any more time!

WIFE: I won't waken him, but will carry him in my arms as he is. When he wakes up he will think I have taken him for a walk. *(She picks up the infant from his cradle. All three go out of the cabin.)* Goodbye, Palunko! May you be free of your foolishness! If it's something wicked you are doing, you don't mean to. *(She leaves.)*

PALUNKO *(following after her)*: Stop, wait until I hug the child once again!

WIFE *(again she feels the glow of hope)*: Have you perhaps changed your mind?

PALUNKO: I have not and I will not. Believe me, Wife, the best for all of us! What sort of a life do we lead in a hopeless poverty!? We will find the way to the Sea King and we will find our happiness, and the three of us will li

ćemo puta do Kralja Morskoga, naći ćemo sreću našu, te ćemo svetloje u raskoši i bogatstvu poživjeti. (*Raznježio se te ih ljubi oboje, a onda se udalji.*) Čuvaj mi čedo! I čuvaj sebe na putu!

ŽENA: Čuvat ću ja čedo naše više nego sebe. A i ti na se pripazi! Što bismo jadni kad bismo bez tebe ostali ... (*Ode i ona, jecajući.*)

II. prizor

U pustome prostoru, usred tišine, oglase se tanano dvojnice.

GLAS DVOJNICA: Čudo ludo Palunko
u put se uputio,
sreću svoju tražio ...
Kaži, kaži, zorice,
gdje je put do srećice?

GLAS ZORE-DJEVOJKE: Daleki su puti njeni,
od očiju sakriveni ...

III. prizor

PALUNKO (*vraća se umoran i pokunjen*): Dvije sedmice dana tražio sam put do Kralja Morskoga, a nikako da ga nađem. A kako ćeš ga i naći kad ti nitko ne zna reći gdje i kako da ga tražiš. Dobro je žena moja govorila da je ludost što činim. Bolje bi bilo da sam je poslušao ... A možda i nije sve crno kako mi se sada pričinja. Možda je ona našla put do sreće naše, možda se već i domu vratila. (*Dode do vrata kolibe te malo osluškuje.*) Nitko se iznutra ne čuje. (*Ude u kolibu pa odmah zatim izide.*) Nema ih, još se nisu vratili. Ali zacijelo su već blizu, nadomak. U susret

luxury and wealth. (*He is moved and kisses both of them, and then moves away from them.*) Look after my child! And take care of yourself on the journey!

WIFE: I will take more care of our child than of myself. And you take care also! How miserable we would be if we were left without you ... (*She too leaves, sobbing.*)

SCENE 2.

The voice of the reedy SHEPHERD'S HARP is heard from out of the silence on the empty stage.

SHEPHERD'S HARP: Wondrous strange Palunko

Went on a journey,
To find happiness ...
Tell us, tell us, little dawn,
Where's the path to happiness?

DAWN-MAIDEN'S VOICE: Far distant is the way,
Hidden from our eyes ...

SCENE 3.

PALUNKO (*returning tired and dejected*): Two weeks I have been searching for the way to the Sea King's court, but I haven't managed to find it. And how could I when nobody knows where it is and how to look for it. My wife was right when she said I was being foolish. It would have been better if I had listened to her ... But maybe things are not as bad as they seem. Perhaps she has found the way to our happiness, and is already home. (*He comes to the door of the cabin and listens for a moment.*) I can't hear anyone inside. (*He goes into the cabin and then comes out again.*) They are not here, they are not back yet. But they must surely be close already, quite

ću im poći ... (Pođe i u tom trenutku ugleda ženu. I ona se vratila, ali bez djeteta.)

IV. prizor

PALUNKO (*potrčji prema ženi*): Što je? Govori! Jesi li našla put do Kralja Morskoga? Jesi li našla sreću našu?

ŽENA (*samo žalosno nijeće glavom*)

PALUNKO: Gdje je sinak naš, Vlatko mali? Što se slučajilo? Zašto šutiš?

ŽENA (*nijemim pokretom ruku hoće pokazati da je mali Vlatko nestao*)

PALUNKO: Ništa ne razumijem. Zašto mi rukama hoćeš reći ono što možeš svojim glasom? Da nisi možda onijemjela?

ŽENA (*potvrđuje glavom*)

PALUNKO: Kao da glavom potvrđuješ da jesi, da si onijemjela ... Ali to ne može biti, to ne mogu vjerovati! Ti samo hoćeš da nešto skriješ od mene i zato nećeš da govoriš

... Govori, luda ženol! Čuješ li, govori! (*Zgrabi je i stane tresti kako bi je nagnao da progovori, no ona samo nemoćno jeća.*)

V. prizor

GALEB-PTICA (*doleti do Palunka*): Pusti je, pusti nesretnicu! Zaista je onijemjela ... od pustoga jada i čemera. A imala je i zašto onijemjeti.

PALUNKO (*preneražen*): Nijema, odista nijema ... Galebe, pti-co bijela, kazuj od kakva jada, od kakva čemera?

GALEB-PTICA: Kako si je u put uputio, išla tako s djetetom, Vlatkom malim, išla za sedmicu, išla za dvije. Nigdje ne nalazila puta do Kralja Morskoga. Umorila se bila

nearby. I will go to meet them ... (*He starts out and sees his WIFE at that moment. She too has returned, but without the child.*)

SCENE 4.

PALUNKO (*running towards his WIFE*): What's happened? Did you find the way to the Sea King? Did you find our happiness?

WIFE (*She only shakes her head sadly.*)

PALUNKO: Where is our little son, our Little Vlatko? What is it? Why don't you say something?

WIFE (*With a mute movement of her hand, she tries to show that Little Vlatko has disappeared.*)

PALUNKO: I don't understand a thing. Why are you saying with your hands what you can say with your voice? Are you mute?

WIFE (*nodding her head in confirmation*)

PALUNKO: You seem to be saying that you can't speak ... But that cannot be, I can't believe it! You are only trying to hide something from me and you don't want to talk ... Speak, mad woman! Do you hear me? Speak! (*He grabs her and starts shaking to make her say something, but she only sobs helplessly.*)

SCENE 5.

SEAGULL-BIRD (*flying up to PALUNKO*): Let her be, let the unhappy woman be! She really has become mute ... from simple grief and misery. And she has had good reason.

PALUNKO (*dumbfounded*): Mute, really mute ... Seagull, white bird, tell me! What grief and misery?!

SEAGULL-BIRD: Just as you sent her on the journey, so did she go ... with the child, Little Vlatko. She travelled for a week, she travelled for two, but nowhere did she find the way to

jadnica te jednoga dana zaspala na kamenu uz more. Kad se probudila, a ono nestalo čeda, Vlatka nejačkoga. Koliko se uprepastila, ukočile joj se suze na srcu a od velike joj se žalosti riječ prekinula, te ona onijemjela ...

PALUNKO: Jao meni što sam učinio! (*Padne na koljena, te ljubi ženi ruke i skute, plačujući.*)

Žastor se polako spusti.

PRVA MEĐUIGRA

Palunko u svome čunu na morskoj pučini.

PALUNKO: Već tri dana na moru sjedim, tri dana postim, tri dana ribe ne hvatam, al' Zora-djevica moj čun i ne gleda, već ga svaki put mimoide kao da je galeb-ptica što se na valu odmara. Da nije kivna na me? Zvat ću je čim se opet pojavi, možda će se tada osvrnuti. (*Začuje se lagan, pjenušav šum a onda zapljusak, kao da veslo probija morsku površinu.*) Evo je! Već srebrni kljun njena čuna iz mora izranja. (*Pojavi se srebrni čun i u njem Zora-djevojka.*) Hej, Zoro-djevojko, Zoro-djevojko!!!

ZORA-DJEVOJKA (*prilazi mu se čunom*): Utišaj glas, Palunko, ribe ćeš mi probuditi. Svu su noć na vodi igre igrale, mjesecu se umiljavale, pa se zamorile i na dnu morskom pozaspale. Što još hoćeš od mene? Nisam li ti već sreću dala?

PALUNKO: Nesreću, a ne sreću, djevice uzorita!
ZORA-DJEVOJKA: Može biti, jer i najveća sreća nesrećom

the Sea King. The poor thing was tired and one day she fell asleep on a rock by the sea. When she woke up, the child was gone, poor helpless Little Vlatko. She was so shocked that her tears froze on her heart, her voice was cut off by grief too great to bear, and she became mute...

PALUNKO: Oh, what have I done! (*He falls to his knees, and, sobbing, he kisses his WIFE's hands and the hem of her skirt.*)

THE CURTAIN SLOWLY FALLS.

INTERLUDE 1.

PALUNKO in his boat out on the open sea.

PALUNKO: For three days now I have been at sea, fasting for three days, not catching fish for three days, but the Dawn-Maiden does not look at my little boat, but goes round it every time, like the Seagull-Bird resting on the wave. Perhaps she is angry with me? The next time she appears I shall call her and maybe she will then pay me some heed. (*A light, bubbly sound is heard followed by a splash, like the sound of an oar-breaking the surface of the sea.*) There she is! The silver bow of her boat is coming up out of the sea. (*The silver boat carrying the Dawn-Maiden appears.*) Hey, Dawn-Maiden, Daawwnn-Maaäiden!

DAWN-MAIDEN (*drawing near to him with her boat*): Stop shouting, Palunko, you will wake up my fish. All night long they played on the water, playing up to the moon, and now they are weary and are sleeping in the deep. What do you want from me? Haven't I already given you your happiness?

PALUNKO: Unhappiness, not happiness, Worthy Maiden!
DAWN-MAIDEN: It could be so, because the greatest happiness can turn to unhappiness for somebody who does not know how to care for it. And what troubles you now?

postaje u onog koji je ne zna čuvati. A kakva te nevolja sada tišti?

PALUNKO: Nestalo čeda Vlatka, žena onijemjela. Niti plače niti kuka, nego nijema po kući radi i mene dvori, a kuća tiha i pusta kao grob. Gori je ovo jad negoli prije što bijaše.

ZORA-DJEVOJKA: I sada hoćeš dati sinka nademi i ženi tvojoj živu riječ vratim?

PALUNKO: Htio bih ja i to, ne kažem da ne bih. Ali što će mi kad ću opet siromašak biti te jedva i sebe kroz bijedan život pronijeti, a kamoli još ženu i čedo svoje. Nego ti meni put do Kralja Morskoga kaži, da se nagledam i naužijem bogatstva njegova, te da i ja, ako se može, bogat velmoža postanem. Jer, kažu, s blagom se sve može.

ZORA-DJEVOJKA: Ako misliš da je to tvoja sreća, kazat ću ti put do Kralja Morskoga. Kada o mladome mjesecu stane dan svitati, ti sjedni u čun, čekaj vjetar i otiđi vjetrom prema istoku. Odnijet će te vjetar do otoka do Bujana, do kamena do Alatira. Do otoka na moru pliva kolo mlinsko a oko kola Morske djevice igre igraju. U val rone, po moru se gone, kose im se po valu rasteple, srebrne im peraje trepere a rumena usta im se smiju. Tome ćeš se kolu djevičanskom namoliti da te spusti do Kralja Morskoga.

PALUNKO: No kako li ću mu se namoliti?

ZORA-DJEVOJKA: Kada se čunom do kola dovežeš, veslo nad more uzdigni, da te morski jazi ne bi progutali, te ovako kolu mlinskom progovori: "Kolovrta navrta, ili do jaza mrtvoga, ili do Kralja Morskoga!" Kada to izgovoriš, želja će ti se ispuniti. No, još ti nešto moram kazati. Velikoga ćeš se dobra i raskoši nauživati u Kralja Morskoga, ali znaj: na zemlju ne možeš da se vratiš, jer su tri strahovite straže postavljene. Jedna valove diže, druga vjetar vije a treća munje križa.

PALUNKO: Ne znaš ti, Zoro-djevojko, što je bijeda na ovome svijetu. Neću se ja nikad više zemlje zaželjeti, gdje ostavljam pustu nevolju...

PALUNKO: Little Vlatko has disappeared and my wife cannot speak. She does not cry nor complain but works around the house and looks after me without a word, and our home is quiet and empty like the grave. This misery is worse that what went before.

DAWN-MAIDEN: And now you want me to find your little boy and to restore the power of speech to your wife?

PALUNKO: I would like that, I'm not saying I wouldn't. But what would be the use if I was to remain poor and barely be able to drag myself along through this miserable life, let alone my wife and child. But if you were to tell me the way to the Sea King I could see and enjoy his riches, and I too, if it were possible, could become a nobleman. They say you can do anything if you have a fortune.

DAWN-MAIDEN: If you think that would mean happiness for you, I will tell you the way to the Sea King. When the dawn starts to break after the new moon, sit in your boat, wait for a wind, and take it towards the East. The wind will blow you to the island of Buyan, to the rock of Alatir. A water mill floats beside the island and the Sea-Maidens dance around it. They dive into the waves, chase one another through the sea, their hair spreads out upon the waves, their silver fins quiver and their coral lips laugh. You will persuade that Maidens' Circle to take you down to the Sea King.

PALUNKO: But how will I persuade them?

DAWN-MAIDEN: When you reach the dancers with your little boat, lift your oar above the sea so that the sea whirlpools do not swallow you up, and say these words to the Maidens' Circle: "Whirligig awirling, either to the deadly abyss, or to the Sea King!" When you say that, your wish will be fulfilled. But, there is one thing more I must tell you. You will enjoy great wealth and luxury with the Sea King, but remember: you will not be able to return to land, as three terrible guards have been posted on the way. One lifts the waves, the second the wind, and the third crisscrosses the lightning.

PALUNKO: You don't know, Dawn-Maiden, what it's like to be

ZORA-DJEVOJKA: Ipak još jednom razmisli o svemu prije no što na put kreneš, da se kasnije ne pokazuješ! (Naglo nestane sa svojim čunom.)

Zastor.

DRUGA SLIKA

Dvori Kralja Morskoga. Prostrana dvorana kao poljana. Oko dvorane stoji more kao mramorni zidovi, nad dvoranom stoji more kao svod stakleni. Od kamena od Alatira plavo svjetlo kao plava mjesečina. Ovjesele se nad dvoranom grane od bisera, uzdigle se po dvorani stolovi od koralja a koraljno je i prijestolje kraljevsko. Gdje je sjena najdublja, zlati se zlatna kolijevka, po njoj bisemi praporci a u njoj mladi kralj - dijete nejačko, sinak Palunkov.

I. prizor

S visine, odakle se plavo svjetlo plavi, čuje se

PALUNKOV GLAS: Kolovrta navrta, ili do jaza mrtvoga, ili do Kralja Morskoga!

Cika Morskih djevice, šum kao da se more rasklopilo; malo zatim četiri Morske djevice Palunka dovode, ostave ga nasred dvorane pa obigravaju oko njega, mašući svojim ribljim repovima.

poor in this world. I shall never again wish for the world, where I am leaving only futile misery...

DAWN-MAIDEN: Still, think it all over again before you start on your journey, so you don't regret it later! (She and her silver boat suddenly disappear.)

CURTAIN

ACT 2.

The Sea-King's Court. A spacious hall as large as a field. The sea stands around the hall like walls of marble, and over it like an arch of glass. The Stone of Alatir emits a light like blue moonlight. Branches of pearls hang above the hall, coral tables are placed about it, there is also a throne of coral. Where the shadows are deepest, a golden cradle glows, with pearl bells hanging from it. A young king lies in the cradle - a helpless child, PALUNKO's little son.

SCENE I.

From somewhere above, near the source of the blue light, the sound of:

PALUNKO'S VOICE: Whirligig awhirling, either to the dead abyss, or to the Sea King!

The shrieks of the Sea Maidens, a sound as if the sea has parted; soon after four Sea Maidens lead in Palunko, leave him in the middle of the hall and dance around him, waving with their fishes' tails.

PALUNKO: Oh, wonder of wonders, a whole field of golden sand, with trees of pearl growing on it...

MAIDEN I: This is not a field but the royal hall!

PALUNKO: And where is the King?

MAIDEN II: There he is over there, sitting on the throne!

- PALUNKO:** E, čuda mi divnoga, čitava poljana od zlatnog pijeska, a na njoj stabla od bisera rastu ...
- PRVA DJEVIČA:** Nije ovo poljana, već dvorana kraljevska!
- PALUNKO:** A gdje je kralj?
- DRUGA DJEVIČA:** Eno ga tamo sjedi na prijestolju!
- Sve Djevice zakikću.*
- PALUNKO:** Prijestolje vidim, ali kralja ne vidim....
- ČETVRTA DJEVIČA:** Oči ti od zlatnoga odraza oslijepjele. Približi se, bolje pogledaj!
- PALUNKO** (*približi se prijestolju*): Svejednako ništa ne vidim. A kako i mogu kad na prijestolju nitko ne sjedi. Vidim ja da se vi meni podrugujete, curetine repate. Vodite me do Kralja Morskoga ili ću vas svekolike za repove uhvatiti i po pijesku zlatnome potezati.
- TREĆA DJEVIČA:** Uhvati nas ako možeš! (*Razbježe se.*)
- PALUNKO** (*zalijeće se, za njihove se repove maša, ali bez uspjeha - one samo kikću i smiju mu se; kad se umori, zastane*): Eh, tko bi vam na repove stao! Hitrije ste i od najhitrije jegulje. Nego, lijepo vas molim, Djevice uzorite, da se prestanete mnome šaliti i da me do Kralja Morskoga vodite! Nisam ja toliki put prevalio da bih s vama ovdje dangubio.
- DRUGA DJEVIČA:** A rad' čega li si došao u morske dvore?
- PALUNKO:** Da se ove raskoši silne naužijem te da i ja, ako je moguće, bogat velmoža postanem.
- TREĆA DJEVIČA:** U zao si čas došao, ribaru Palunke! Kralj naš ostario, onemoćao pa se od života oprostio ...
- ČETVRTA DJEVIČA:** Baš smo ga jutros u zlatni pijesak ukopale!
- PALUNKO:** A ja mislio da se on i ne može od života oprostiti. Što mi to namah niste kazale?
- PRVA DJEVIČA:** Htjele smo da nam ti kralj budeš.
- PALUNKO:** Ja da vam kralj budem? A je li teško kraljevati?
- DRUGA DJEVIČA:** Ništa lakše od toga!
- TREĆA DJEVIČA:** Na prijestolju sjediš, svemu zapovijedaš i svatko te sluša ...
- ČETVRTA DJEVIČA:** To ti je sav posao kraljevski!
- PALUNKO:** I can see the throne, but not the King...
- MAIDEN III:** Your eyes are blinded by the reflection of the gold... Come closer, take a better look!
- PALUNKO** (*nearing the throne*): I still can't see anything. And how could I, when no-one is sitting there. But I can see that you ladies with tails are making fun of me. Take me to the Sea King or I will catch hold of your tails and drag you along the golden sand.
- MAIDEN III:** Catch us if you can! (*They scatter.*)
- PALUNKO** (*He dashes about and grabs at their tails, but without success - they just giggle and laugh at him; when he gets tired, he pauses.*): Oh, who would manage to stand on your tails! You are swifter than the swiftest eel. But, I do beg you most kindly, Worthy Maidens, to stop jesting with me and to take me to the Sea King! I have not travelled such a long way to waste time here with you.
- MAIDEN II:** But why have you come to the Sea King's court?
- PALUNKO:** To take my fill of this luxury and, if it is possible, for me too to become a rich nobleman.
- MAIDEN III:** You have come at a bad time, Fisherman Palunke! Our king was old, he became weak and said farewell to life...
- MAIDEN IV:** We buried him in the golden sand just this morning!
- PALUNKO:** And I thought he could not depart from life. Why didn't you tell me right away!
- MAIDEN I:** We wanted you to be our King.
- PALUNKO:** To be your King? But is it difficult to be a king?
- MAIDEN II:** There is nothing easier!
- MAIDEN III:** You sit on the throne, give orders to everybody and everybody listens...
- MAIDEN IV:** That's all there is to being a king!
- PALUNKO:** And will all these sea courts, and all this luxury and wealth then be mine?
- MAIDEN I:** All you see, and all you don't...
- MAIDEN IV:** And what you don't see is a hundred times more wonderful than what you do.

PALUNKO: I onda će ovi dvori morski, sva ova raskoš i sve ovo bogatstvo moji biti?
PRVA DJEVICA: Sve što vidiš i što ne vidiš ...
ČETVRTA DJEVICA: A ono što ne vidiš stoput je raskošnije od ovoga što vidiš.
PALUNKO: Pa, kada je tako, a vi me, djevice, zakraljite! Dobar ću vam kralj biti. Ovakvoga niti ste imale niti ćete imati...

PRVA DJEVICA: Sjedni, Palunko, na prijestolje kraljevsko ...
DRUGA DJEVICA: ... da te krunom bisernom okrunimo i žezlo ti kraljevsko u ruke predamo! (*Palunko sjedne na prijestolje. Djevice ga krunom okruno i u ruku mu stave granu od koralja. Pri tome neprestano kikoću.*)

PALUNKO: Jesam li sada kralj?
PRVA DJEVICA: Od svih kraljeva najmoćniji!
TREĆA DJEVICA: Nikada ljepšega kralja nismo imale!
DRUGA DJEVICA: Nikada mudrijega!
PALUNKO: Poklonite mi se sve tri do crne zemljice, hoću reći do zlatnoga pijeska, e da bih znao da sam uistinu vaš kralj.

Sve mu se Djevice duboko klanjaju, gušeći kikoću.

PALUNKO: I ne kikoćite toliko, kikoćavice, nego se kroz dubine morske otisnite i svemu kraljevstvu objavite da novi kralj kraljuje, Palunko Prvi i Jedinii.
SVE DJEVICE: Na službu smo, kralju milostivi!
PRVA DJEVICA: Ima li veličanstvo vaše još kakvu želju, da je ispunimo u taj čas?

PALUNKO: Gladan gladnu želju ima, a ja sam na putu toliko ogladnio da gladniji ne mogu biti. Donesite mi najbiranijih kraljevskih jestvina i najbiranijih pića, te mi još i svirce pozovite da mi u svirale sviraju, srce da mi razigraju!

SVE DJEVICE: Kralju želja, nama zapovijed! (*Otplivaju i začas se vrate sa zlatnim pladnjevima a za njima udu i SVIRCI - MORSKI KONJICI.*)

PALUNKO: Well, if that's the way of things then you Maidens can make me your King! I will be a good King to you. You have never had such a King, nor will you ever have ...

MAIDEN I: Sit down, Palunko, on the throne of the kingdom ...
MAIDEN II: ... so that we can crown you with the pearl crown and place the royal scepter in your hand! (*PALUNKO sits on the throne. The MAIDENS place the crown on his head and a branch of coral into his hand. They giggle all the time they are doing so.*)

PALUNKO: Am I now the King?

MAIDEN I: The mightiest king of all!

MAIDEN III: We have never had a more handsome king!

MAIDEN II: Nor a wiser one!

PALUNKO: All three of you bow down to the black ground, I mean to the golden sand, so that I know that I really am your King.

All make deep curtsies, hiding their giggles.

PALUNKO: And don't titter so much, you gigglers, but go out into the depths of the sea and announce to the kingdom that a new king is now ruling, Palunko the First and Only.

ALL THE MAIDENS: At your service, Your Royal Majesty!

MAIDEN I: Does Your Majesty have any wishes, so that we can fulfil them in a trice?

PALUNKO: He who is hungry has hungry wishes, and I got so hungry on my journey that I could not be hungrier. Bring me the choicest royal food and the choicest drinks, and call me some musicians to make music so that my heart dances with joy!

ALL THE MAIDENS: The King's wish, our command! (*They swim off and quickly return carrying golden platters. They are followed by the Musicians - the SEA HORSES.*)

II. prizor

PALUNKO (*gleda sumnjičavo u pladnjeve, prebire kao da mu se ne da jesti što je preda nj izneseno*): Kakvo ste mi ovo jestivo donijele? Sve sama morska travurina i puževi morski. I sve prijesno - nekuhano i nevareno. To li da najmoćniji kralj jede i blaguje? (*Odbaci pladnjeve.*) Nešto mi bolje donesite, curetine repate!

PRVA DJEVICA: Ništa boljeg nema, gospodaru!

PALUNKO: Za kralja mora biti! Nisam se ja zato rodio da puževe žvačem. Lobode mi varene donesite, tri pladnja, tri hrpe goleme, da za tri dana glada ne osjetim!

DRUGA DJEVICA: Tu vam želiju, na žalost, ne možemo ispuniti, veličanstvo vaše!

TREĆA DJEVICA: U morskome kraljevstvu loboda ne raste. **PALUNKO**: Onda mi najbolje ribe nahvatajte i na vatri ispecite! **PRVA DJEVICA**: Samo je prijesnu pred vas možemo iznijeti, jer se u kraljevstvu vodenome vatra ne razgara.

PALUNKO: Pa što ću onda jadan i nevoljan? Od gladi ću skapat. Niu snu ne bih mogao pomisliti da ću kraljem biti, a od gladi skapavati. (*Djevice kikoću.*) Ne kikoćite, repatice! Zasvirajte, svirci-morski konjici, da na glad zaboravim!

Svirci zasviraju. Palunko ustane s prijestolja te zapleše.

SVE DJEVICE (*oko Palunka kolo zaigraju i rugalicu zapjevaju*):

Kolovrta navrta,
kralj Palunko
čudo ludo
ogladnio,
ožednio
poskoćio,
zaplesao,
glad zaboravio ...
Vrti se mrk
hitro kao zvrk ...

SCENE 2.

PALUNKO (*looking doubtfully at the platters, picking through the food as though loath to eat what has been placed before him*): What sort of food have you brought me? It's all sea-weed and sea snails. And it's all raw - not roasted nor boiled. Is this how the mightiest King dines? (*He pushes the platter away.*) Bring me something better, you tailed lasses!

MAIDEN I: There is nothing better, Sire!

PALUNKO: There must be for the King of the Sea! I wasn't born to chew snails. Bring me boiled saltbush, three platters full, three large piles of it so that I won't feel hungry for three days!

MAIDEN II: Unfortunately, we can't fulfil that wish for you, Majesty!

MAIDEN III: Saltbush does not grow in the Sea Kingdom.

PALUNKO: Then catch me some of the best fish and grill it for me over the fire!

MAIDEN I: We can only serve it raw, as fire will not light in the water kingdom.

PALUNKO: What will I do, so wretched and miserable? I will die of hunger. I could never have dreamt that I would be a king and perish of hunger. (*The Maidens giggle.*) Stop giggling! What's so funny? I am so miserable. Play now, Sea Horses, so that I forget my hunger! (*The Sea Horses-Musicians play. PALUNKO gets up from his throne and starts dancing.*)

MAIDENS (*dancing a jig in a circle around PALUNKO and singing their mocking song*):

Whirligig awirling,
King Palunko
Wondrous strange
Hungry,
Thirsty,
Hopping,
Dancing,
Hunger forgotten ...
Sullen but swinging
Like a top spinning ...

PALUNKO (*naljuti se i prestane plesati*): Ne rugajte se, proklete repatice! Ako ste me za kralja zakraljile, niste za svoje ruglo.

Djevice ga ne slušaju, već se i dalje vrtje oko njega, izrugujući mu se. Mladi se kralju zlatnoj kolijevci probudio, sjeo pa sve to gleda, ručicama pļjeska i veseli se. Ponavlja za Djevicama: "Vt se mlk hitlo kao zvlk."

PALUNKO (*čuvši i ugledavši mališana, približi mu se*): Gle, i ovaj mi se mališan u kolijevci izruguje ... Tako li se ovdje stariji poštuju?! (*Nadvije se nad dječarca tobože da mu priprijeti.*) Da si odmah umuknuo, derane! (*Dječarac se ne prestraši, nego nastavlja ponavljati rugalicu za Morskim djevicama, kojih je bučna objest sada postala još raspojasanija i objesnija.*)

III. prizor

Iznenada se pojavi Morski Kralj. Svirci prestanu svirati a Djevice se od straha utišaju, razbježe i posakrju među stablima koraljnim.

KRALJ: Kakva je ovo cika i kakav metež u mojim dvorima? (*svircima*) Tko vas je, svirci, pozvao amo da u svirale svirate?

JEDAN SVIRAC: Morske djevice, tvoje službenice, gospodaru...

PALUNKO (*zabezeknuto za sebe*): Kakva li je ovo nakaza s volujskom glavom?

KRALJ (*nastavljajući razgovor sa svircima, sjedne na prijestolje*): Mor-ske su vas djevice amo pozvale, kažeš? A tko ih je na to ovlastio?

PALUNKO: Ja, nakazo morska, ja, kralj Palunko Prvi i Jedini.

KRALJ: Gle, gle, netko se pokraj mene kraljem naziva ... A u kojem to kraljevstvu kraljuješ, čudni stvore?

PALUNKO: U ovome morskome, da u kojem! Silazi s moga prijestolja! Nije to mjesto za tebe, glavo volujska!

PALUNKO (*getting angry, he stops dancing*): Don't mock me, damned creatures! You crowned me as your King, not your object of ridicule!

The MAIDENS pay him no heed, and keep dancing around him, making fun of him. The Young King in the golden cradle is awake and sitting up, watching all these goings-on, clapping his hands and enjoying the game. He repeats after the MAIDENS: "Thullen but twinging like a top thpinning."

PALUNKO (*seeing and hearing the little boy, he goes over to him*): Look, and this little one in the cradle is also making fun of me ... Is that how grown-ups are respected here?! (*He bends over the child as though to threaten him.*) Hold your tongue, you cheeky boy! (*The child is not intimidated, but continues repeating the mocking song with the SEA MAIDENS, whose loud unruliness is becoming more and more untrolled.*)

SCENE 3.

Suddenly the SEA KING appears. The musicians stop playing and the SEA MAIDENS, their fear shocking them into silence, scatter and hide among the coral trees.

SEA KING: What's this shrieking and uproar in my court? (*to the musicians*) Who called you musicians here to play on your instruments?

SEA-HORSE I: The Sea Maidens, your handmaidens, Sire ...

PALUNKO (*shocked, to himself*): What monster is this with the head of an ox?

SEA-KING (*continuing his conversation with the Musicians, he sits on his throne*): You say the Sea-Maidens called you here? And who gave them permission to do so?

PALUNKO: I did, you sea monster, I, King Palunko the First and Only.

SEA-KING: Look at this now, someone calling himself king in addition to me ... And which kingdom do you rule, strange creature?

Hoće da ga zbaci s prijestolja, ali kralj je snažniji te ga odgurne.

KRALJ: Nisam dosad znao da uza me, Kralja Morskoga, ima još jedan kralj u mome kraljevstvu.

PALUNKO (ustraseno): Ti li si, dakle, Kralj Morski?! A one mi curetine repate rekoše da su te jutros u pijesak ukopale.

KRALJ: Šalile se s tobom, prijatelju. One veoma vole šalu zbijati, a ti ćeš, eto, zbog njihove šale glavu izgubiti ...

Kazujtko si i zašto si se do mojih dvora tajom dokrao?

PALUNKO (driteći): Siromašak sam ribar, Palunkom me nazivaju. I nisam se do tvojih dvora tajom dokrao, nego me Djevice morske za ruku vodile a Zora-djevica na put naputila.

KRALJ: Pa što si htio u mome kraljevstvu?

PALUNKO: Dati se poklonim, date za gostoprimstvo zamolim, pa da se bogatstva tvoga naužijem te i ja bogat velmoža postanem ako se tvojoj milosti sviđim.

KRALJ: Nisi mi se sviđio, Palunko, s kraja ribaru! U zao mi čas prijestolje htjede oteti. Stoga ću te u morske jaze baciti kako ti nikad više ne bi na um palo da se moje vlasti zaželiš.

PALUNKO (baci se preda nj na koljena): Smiluj se, gospodaru! Nije krivnja na meni. Morske me djevice zakraljile i tvojom krunom okrunile. Radi sa mnom što hoćeš, samo me u morske jaze ne bacaj!

VLATKO (iz kolijevke): Neka plese, neka jos malo plese! On plekласno znade plesati. Vlti se mlk, hitlo kao zvlk.

KRALJ: Hajde pleši, Palunko, kad ti mladi kralj zapovijeda.

PALUNKO: Ono li je mladi kralj? Eh, da sam to znao, namah bih mu se poklonio. (*Ide do kolijevke i duboko se klanja dječarcu.*) Zdrav bio, kralju mladi! U taj ću ti tren željicu ispuniti, samo da ti ručicu ljubnem. (*Ljubi ga u ruku pa ga gladi.*) Baš si lijep dječarac! Što kažem dječarac - momče, pravo momče, sto mi godina poživjelo! (*Malo se zamisli.*)

I čini mi se da sam te već mnogo puta vidio pa čak i tetošio. Kao da si bratacrođeni sinku mome nejačkome koji je iz naručja majčina netragom nestao. (*Vrati se kralju.*) Kralju gospodaru, ovo je pravo čudo. Tvoj je

PALUNKO: What do you mean which kingdom? This sea kingdom! This is no place for you, ox head!

PALUNKO attempts to push him off the throne, but the SEA KING is stronger and pushes him away.

SEA KING: I never knew until now that there was another king in my kingdom beside me, the Sea King.

PALUNKO (frightened now): So you are the Sea King?! Those lasses with the tails told me that they buried you in the sand this morning.

SEA KING: They were joking with you, my friend. They love making jokes, and you will lose your head because of them ... that's how it is. Tell me who are you and why have you come in secret to my court?

PALUNKO (trembling with fear): I am a poor fisherman, and they call me Palunko. And I didn't come in secret to your court, but was led here by the hand by the Sea Maidens and the Dawn-Maiden showed me the way.

SEA KING: And what was it you wanted in my kingdom?

PALUNKO: To bow to you, and to ask you for your hospitality, so that I could enjoy your wealth and also become a mighty nobleman if Your Grace were to take a liking to me.

SEA KING: I never did like you, Palunko, fisherman from the shore! You chose the wrong time to try to steal my kingdom. So I am going to throw you into the sea whirlpool and it will never again occur to you to desire after the powers that are mine.

PALUNKO (throwing himself down on his knees before the King): Have mercy, Sire! It is not my fault. The Sea Maidens named me king and crowned me with your crown. Do with me what you will, just don't throw me into the great whirlpool!

VLATKO (from his cradle): Let him dan'th, let him dan'th a little more! He'th a lovely dan'ther! Thullen but thwinging like a top thpinning.

SEA KING: Go on, Palunko, dance, as the Young King commands.

PALUNKO: That is the Young King? Ah, if I had known I would

sinak posve nalik na moga sinka Vlatka te bih gotovo pomislio ...

KRALJ (*prekine ga u rječju*): Što misliš, misli za sebe, pa i to tako da ni u snu ne prepoznaš svoju misao! A jezik svoj pregrizi akoti smeta! Jer, još ni prvu uvredu tvoju nisam zaboravio, a već drugu spremaš.

PALUNKO: Oprosti kralju, oči me prevarile!

KRALJ: Nemoj se više njima kao dosad služiti ako želiš život sačuvati! A sada zapleši, dati mladi kraljuvredu oprost!

VLATKO: Plesi, ples! Ti pleklasno pleses!

KRALJ: Svirci, zasvirajte!

Svirci zasviraju; Vlatko se veseli i neprekidno pona vija: "Vlti se mlk, hitlo kao zvlk."

KRALJ: Eh, Palunko, baš si momče lakonogo! Zaslužio si da ti život poštedim, pa da mi po vas dan sinka zabavljaš i luda njegova budeš. Evo ti grana od bisera kao prvi znak moje milosti kraljevske! (*Otkida jednu bisernu granu i daje je Palunku.*)

PALUNKO (*klekne da primi dar*): Hvala ti, dobri gospodar! Toliu tvoju milost nisam zaslužio ...

KRALJ: A jesi li se još čega zaželio?

PALUNKO: Baš kad me pitaš, reći ću ti. Poželjeh da mi je dobar pladanj varene lobode.

KRALJ: E, brate moj, draža je u nas loboda, draža nego biser i bisernjak, jer daleko od nas uspijeva. No i tu ću ti želju ispuniti. Poslat ću vilu prekomorkinju, donijet će ti iz kraja lobode. A ti se meni i mome sinu još tri puta na zlatnome pijesku prebaci! Svirci, ded opet zasvirajte!

Palunko ponovno zapleše. Doplivaju i Morske djevice te opet zapjevaju rugalicu obigravajući oko Palunka.

VLATKO (*za Djevicama pona vija*): Vlti se mlk hitlo za zvlk ...
Klasno, pleklasno!

Zastor se naglo spusti.

have bowed to him immediately. (*He goes over to the cradle and bows deeply to the boy.*) Good health, Young King! (*He kisses the infant's hand and pats his head.*) What a handsome little boy! What am I saying? Little boy? Young man, a real young man. May he live a hundred years! (*PALUNKO ponders for a moment.*) And I have the feeling that I have seen you many times and even held you. You could be the born brother of my infant son who disappeared without trace from his mother's arms. (*He returns to the King.*) Sire, this is a real miracle. Your little son looks so much like my son Vlatko that I could almost believe ...

SEA KING (*interrupting him*): Whatever you are thinking, keep it to yourself, so that you don't recognise your own thought even in a dream! And bite your tongue if it bothers you! Because I still haven't forgotten your first insult, and here you are preparing a second.

PALUNKO: Forgive me, Majesty, my eyes deceived me!

SEA KING: Don't let them serve you as they have to date, if you want to stay alive! And now, dance, so that the Young King forgives the insult!

VLATKO: Danth, danth! You're a lovely danther!

SEA KING: Musicians, play!

The SEA-HORSES start playing; VLATKO is happy and keeps repeating: "Thullen but thwing like a top thpinning."

SEA KING: Eh, Palunko, you really are light on your feet! You deserve that I spare your life, and that you entertain my boy the whole day and be his jester. Here's a branch of pearls as the first sign of my royal grace! (*He breaks off a branch of the pearl tree and gives it to PALUNKO.*)

PALUNKO (*kneeling to accept the gift*): Thank you, good master! I have done nothing to deserve such grace ...

SEA KING: And do you have some other wish?

PALUNKO: Well, just as long as you are asking ... I wish for a platter of boiled saltbush.

SEA KING: Ah, my brother, saltbush is very expensive here. more than pearl and mother-of-pearl, as it grows far from

our land. But I will grant you that wish too. I shall send the Overseas Fairy to bring you saltbush from your land. And you will do three more somersaults on the golden sand for me and for my son. Musicians, come on, play!

PALUNKO starts dancing again. The SEAMAIDENS swim up and again sing their mocking song, dancing around PALUNKO.

VLATKO (repeating after the SEAMAIDENS): Thullen but thwinging like a top thpinning ... Lovely, too lovely!

THE CURTAIN SUDDENLY FALLS.

INTERLUDE 2.

SEAGULL-BIRD (flying in front of the curtain): And so instead of becoming a wealthy nobleman, Palunko became servant and jester to the Young King. And while this was happening, Palunko's wife sat at home, alone and grieving ... She did not work nor tidy up, she did not cry nor complain, but slowly destroyed herself with misery and melancholy. Mute as she was, she could not speak to people, only to animals. What could she do, but go to her mother's grave to complain in her mute voice to her dead mother?

The curtain is raised slowly and the grave and PALUNKO's WIFE can be seen.

WIFE: Mother, help me! Misery and grief for my son and husband are destroying me. Mute like this, I can't ask anyone for advice, I can't follow Palunko across the sea when I am so weak from melancholy. Help me, Mother, help me!

A ROE comes out into the clearing.

DRUGA MEDUIGRA

GALEB-PTICA (doleti pred zastor): I tako Palunko umjesto vel-može luda i sluga mladoga kralja posta. A dok ovo tako bijaše, dotle žena Palunkova u kući samovala i tugovala ... Niti radi niti sprema, niti plače niti kuka, nego se ubija jadom i čemerom. I onako nijema ne može s ljudima govoriti, nego samo sa zvjerkama. Kud će, dakle, jadna nego na grob materin, da se mrtvoj majci nijemim svojim jezikom potuži.

Polako se digne zastor i vide se grob i žena Palunkova.

ŽENA: Majko, pomози! Jad i čemer me za sinkom i mužem ubijaju. Niti ovako nijema mogu u koga savjet da upitam, niti mogu morem poći za Palunkom kad sam od tuge preklonula. Pomози, majčice, pomози!

Pred nju izade košuta.

KOŠUTA: Zalud zazivaš, bijedna ženo Palunkova! Mrtva majka ne može ti pomoći. Ali ja ću ti dobar savjet dati. Nemoj da sjediš i da se ubijaš, nego ti svake večeri Palunku večeru spremaj a iza večere tanku kudjelju razrješuj! Ne dođe li Palunko, a ti u zoru uzmi njegovu večeru i mekanu kudjelju, i još ponesi tanke dvojnice, pa pođi u krš! Tamo u dvojnice sviraj! Zmije i zmijići će večeru izjesti a galebovi kudjeljom svoja gnijezda oblagati. Tako učini pa će dobro biti!

ŽENA: Hvala ti, košuto, na tome savjetu! Učinit ću sve kako me savjetuješ. Možda će zaista dobro biti ...

Prizora nestane; zastor se naglo spusti.

TREĆA SLIKA

U dvorima Kralja Morskoga.

I. prizor

MORSKI KRALJ (*drijema na prijestolju a oko prijestolja svirci pozaspali.*

Vlatko mali u kolijevci također sniva).

PALUNKO (*stao kraj kolijevke, netremice motri dječarca te govori za sebe*): Zgodan momčić ... Kao da i nije u morskome kraljevstvu svjetlo ugledao, nego na žalu morskome. Ta gdje bi on i mogao biti sinak Kralja Morskoga - u Kralja glava volujska, a u dječarca djetinjska! Što god ga dulje gledam, to više se prisjećam sinka svoga, Vlatka maloga ...

MORSKI KRALJ (*budi se*)

PALUNKO (*pritaji se uz kolijevku kao da i sam spava*)

MORSKI KRALJ (*zijevarajući*): Uh, dosadna li života! Po vas dan drijemam, a naspavati se ne mogu. Palunko, Palunko!

ROE: You call in vain, poor Wife of Palunco! Your dead mother cannot help you. But I will give you good counsel. Don't sit around doing nothing. Make dinner for Palunco every night and after dinner spin a fine hemp thread! If Palunco does not come, take his dinner and the soft hemp thread at dawn, and the reedy Harp too, and go out into the rocky karst. Play the harp there! The big snakes and baby snakes will come to eat the dinner, and the seagulls will take the hemp to line their nests. Do as I say and all will be well!

WIFE: Thank you for your advice, kind Roe. I will do everything as you have counselled me. Perhaps everything really will be well ...

The scene disappears; THE CURTAIN SUDDENLY FALLS.

ACT 3.

At the SEA KING's Court.

SCENE 1.

SEA KING (*The King is dozing on this throne surrounded by his sleeping musicians. LITTLE VLATKO is also snoozing in his cradle.*)

PALUNKO (*He is standing by the cradle not taking his eyes off the child. He speaks to himself*): A handsome little boy ... He looks as though he did not see the light of day in the sea kingdom, but on the shore. How could he be the son of the Sea King - the King has the head of an ox, and the boy the head of a child! The more I look at him, the more I am reminded of my son, Little Vlatko ...

SEA KING (*awakening*)

PALUNKO (tobože se iznenada probudi te pohita k prijestolju): Evo me, gospodar! Što mi zapovijeda tvoja milost?

MORSKI KRALJ: Pleši, Palunko, dosadno mi je! Poskoči, prebacuj se, vrijeme kratki! Svirci, zasvirajte! (Svirajte se probude te se odmah pripreme za svirku.)

VLATKO (takoder se probudi pa se uspravi u kolijevci): Svirajte, svirajte!

Svirci zasviraju, Palunko zapleše.

MORSKI KRALJ: Dosta, Palunko! Prestani! (Palunko se zaustavi.) Uvijek isto plešeš, ljudi ribaru. Dvaput nogama zatapkaš, dvaput se zavrtiš i dvaput pokloniš. Izmisli nešto drugo! To mi je već dojadilo.

VLATKO: Nesto dugo, nesto dugo!

PALUNKO: Ne znam što bi vaše milosti htjele ... Nije lako na zlatome pijesku ples plesati.

MORSKI KRALJ: Pokušaj jednom na rukama, a ne uvijek na nogama! Ded poskoči, obrni se, razveseli mladoga kralja!

VLATKO: Na lukama, na lukama! To će biti pleklasno, najpleklasnije!

Svirci još bučnije zasviraju.

PALUNKO (pleše na rukama)

MORSKI KRALJ (smijući se): Nije loše, Palunko. Scijenim, bolje plešeš negoli što ribu hvataš ... Baš si momče i lakonoga i lakoruko, ha, ha, ha ... (grohoće tako te sva dvorana odjekuje.)

VLATKO (pješeću ručicama): Pleklasno, najpleklasnije!

MORSKI KRALJ: Pleši, ljudi Palunko, još pleši!

PALUNKO (iznemogne te zastane): Ne mogu više, gospodar. Izmori me ovaj naopaki ples.

VLATKO: Jos! Hocu jos!

MORSKI KRALJ: Čuješ li ga, Palunko? Hoće još. Pleši kad mlađi kralj to želi!

PALUNKO (lying quietly near the cradle, as though asleep)
SEA KING (yawning): Oh, how boring life is! I doze all day and can never get enough sleep. Palunko, Palunko!

PALUNKO (Feigning that he has suddenly awakened, he dashes to the throne.): Here I am, Sire! What does Your Grace command?

SEA KING: Dance, Palunko, I am bored! Jump, do your somersaults, help the time pass! Musicians, play! (The SEA HORSES wake up and immediately prepare to play.)

VLATKO (He also wakes up and sits up in his cradle): Pway, pway!

The Musicians starts playing and PALUNKO starts dancing.

SEA KING: Enough, Palunko! Stop! (PALUNKO stops dancing.) Always the same dance, you crazy fisherman. You tap your feet twice, spin around twice and bow twice. Think of something new! Your dance is boring me.

VLATKO: Something new, something new!

PALUNKO: I don't know what Your Graces would like ... It's not easy to do a dance on golden sand.

SEA KING: Try on your hands, not just on your feet. Come on, jump, spin around, make the Young King happy!

VLATKO: On your hanths, your hanths! That will be lovely, just lovely!

The Sea Horse Musicians play even louder.

PALUNKO (dancing on his hands)

SEA KING (laughing): That's not too bad, Palunko. I think you dance better than you catch fish ... You're a fine fellow, light on your feet and light on your hands, ha, ha, ha ... (The SEA KING roars with laughter which echoes through the hall.)

VLATKO (clapping his hands): Lovely, just lovely!

SEA KING: Dance, crazy Palunko, keep dancing!

PALUNKO (exhausted, he falters): I can't any more, Sire. This upside-down dancing makes me very tired.

VLATKO: More! I want more!

SEA KING: Do you hear, Palunko? He wants more. Dance when the Young King wants you to!