

CHARACTERS:

- JOSEPHINE – Older sister of Henrietta. A child in act one, an adult in act two.
- HENRIETTA – Younger sister of Josephine. A child in act one, an adult in act two.
- DAISY VIOLET – Sister of Henrietta and Josephine. A monster.
- THE ADULT - Siri, Father, Teacher, Mother, Child Psychiatrist et al.  
In act two he is Albert, Henrietta's assistant.

ACT ONE

1.

An attic.  
Dust and raw sunlight.  
Stacks of boxes.  
Some spidery plants.

Two girls are playing checkers.

They are sisters.

They are HENRIETTA and JOSEPHINE.

They eat from a bag of potato chips.

They wear white dresses that are dirty with dust and charcoal and pencil shavings and hot glue and dried mud and potato chip crumbs and nail polish and exploded pens and melted candy and liquid eyeliner and acrylic paint.

King me.

JOSEPHINE

Again?

HENRIETTA

You have to look two steps ahead.

JOSEPHINE

Oh we forgot to water the plants!

HENRIETTA

(HENRIETTA gets up and goes to look at the plants.)

Oh. They're dead.

JOSEPHINE

Let's give them some water.

HENRIETTA

No they're completely dead.  
Let's get our dresses dirty.

(They pour the dirt from the dead plants all over their dresses.)

We shouldn't have done that. JOSEPHINE

It was fun! HENRIETTA

It was the wrong thing to do. JOSEPHINE

That's why I love it so much. Look at my dress! HENRIETTA

It's all dirty and so is mine. JOSEPHINE

I like it. HENRIETTA

The adults will yell at us. JOSEPHINE

I don't care. HENRIETTA

I'm going to blame it on you. JOSEPHINE

No. HENRIETTA

When they get home. JOSEPHINE

No! HENRIETTA

Unless you want to make a deal. JOSEPHINE

What deal. HENRIETTA

Cut out your eyeball. JOSEPHINE

HENRIETTA

No way.

JOSEPHINE

Eat seventeen spiders.

HENRIETTA

No.

JOSEPHINE

Oh well.

HENRIETTA

I'm going to tell the adults it was your idea.

JOSEPHINE

Yeah right.

HENRIETTA

You're older so it's your fault.

JOSEPHINE

I'm older so the adults will believe me.

HENRIETTA

I'll bite you!

JOSEPHINE

Let me think. We need someone else to blame.

HENRIETTA

Lady Medusa!

JOSEPHINE

Henry. No one would ever believe the cat made our dresses dirty.

HENRIETTA

I would believe it.

JOSEPHINE

The adults will not believe it.

No.

We need another sister.

HENRIETTA

Oh.

JOSEPHINE

A bad sister.  
A really horrible bad bad person sister.  
Someone you look at and you just KNOW it's her fault.  
Then we can blame her.

HENRIETTA

Okay, but  
How are we going to do that?

JOSEPHINE

Let me think.  
  
It should be simple enough. We just need the right spell.

HENRIETTA

We can find a spell on the internet!

JOSEPHINE

We'll ask Siri.

HENRIETTA

Siri knows everything.

(JOSEPHINE picks up a phone.)

JOSEPHINE

Siri. We need a spell to make a new sister.

VOICE OF SIRI (THE ADULT)

Finding. Spell.

(Siri makes some searching noises.  
JOSEPHINE looks at the phone.)

HENRIETTA

What does it say?

JOSEPHINE

Don't grab!

HENRIETTA

Let me see!

JOSEPHINE

LetGoLetGoLETGO

I'll read it.  
We need a cauldron.

HENRIETTA

A flower pot!!

(She dumps one of the dead plants onto the floor and puts the empty pot in front of JOSEPHINE.)

JOSEPHINE

Yeah I think that will work.  
Now we need some ingredients.  
First: a doll.

HENRIETTA

Benjamin Franklin?

JOSEPHINE

You don't mind?  
She's your favorite doll.

HENRIETTA

I've outgrown her.

JOSEPHINE

Okay.

HENRIETTA

Anyway. This is important.

(HENRIETTA goes to get her doll from the corner. It's an old, naked baby doll. It's missing a limb or an eye. It has a pink bow.

HENRIETTA whispers to it.)

Goodbye Benjamin Franklin. I'm very sorry but I have to sacrifice you for science now.

You were a good doll.

(She puts it into the flower pot.)

JOSEPHINE

Second: blood.

HENRIETTA

Blood?

JOSEPHINE

That's what it says.

HENRIETTA

Can't we do something else? Like saliva?

JOSEPHINE

I think that would work. That has DNA too.

HENRIETTA

Yeah.

(They each spit into the pot.  
Then they spit some more.)

JOSEPHINE

That's good.  
Hair of a beast.  
Maybe some fur from Lady Medusa?

HENRIETTA

I have some on my dress!

(She plucks some cat hair from her dress.)

JOSEPHINE

Put it in.

HENRIETTA

Then what?

JOSEPHINE

Now we each write down three things we want her to be.

HENRIETTA

I WANT HER TO BE AN AMAZON WARRIOR!

JOSEPHINE

No, write it on the paper.

Anyway that doesn't make sense.  
She can't be something from the past.

I want her to be – !  
HENRIETTA

Don't tell me!  
JOSEPHINE

Okay!  
HENRIETTA

Write it down.  
JOSEPHINE

Okay okay!  
HENRIETTA

Here.  
JOSEPHINE

(JOSEPHINE gives HENRIETTA some paper.  
They each write three things on scraps of paper.

They fold the paper and put it into the pot.

(JOSEPHINE looks at the phone.)

Okay now we have to light it on fire.

(She strikes a match and throws it into the pot.)

And we say these words. Here.

(She shows HENRIETTA the phone.

They read the words of the spell.)

Sisters are pretty,  
sisters are sweet,  
sisters are sugar and spice –  
HENRIETTA and JOSEPHINE

This is bullshit.  
JOSEPHINE

yeah.  
HENRIETTA



JOSEPHINE

Whoever wrote this spell is an irredeemable idiot.

HENRIETTA

Yeah.

JOSEPHINE

I don't want a nice sweet cinnamon sister.  
I want one I can blame things on.

HENRIETTA

I want a sister who fights with a sword!

JOSEPHINE

We can do better than this.

HENRIETTA

Yeah!

(JOSEPHINE puts away the phone.)

JOSEPHINE

Henry. Let's DIY this shit.

HENRIETTA

I want her to be really big and she's always breaking things.

JOSEPHINE

What we need is a radical departure.  
Sweat in the seams of our socks.

(JOSEPHINE takes off her socks and throws them into the pot.)

HENRIETTA

And some chips!

(HENRIETTA dumps the rest of the potato chips into the pot.)

JOSEPHINE

Withered plant corpse.

(JOSEPHINE throws in some dead leaves)

HENRIETTA

And some glue!

Goopy old eyeliner.  
JOSEPHINE

Lip gloss!  
Sharpies!  
Hot wheels!  
HENRIETTA

Decapitated Barbies.  
JOSEPHINE

Justin Bieber poster!  
HENRIETTA

Dead mouse.  
Motivational stickers.  
JOSEPHINE

Glow in the dark nerf bullets!  
HENRIETTA

(They throw it all in the pot)

Sisters are smelly  
Sisters are jerks  
Sisters keep cheating at checkers!  
HENRIETTA

JOSEPHINE  
Sisters are greedy gluttons who sneak in and eat all your halloween candy.

HENRIETTA  
Sisters spill hot glue on your arm and then you get a burn!

JOSEPHINE  
You were blocking my light.

HENRIETTA  
Sisters have pimples on their faces!  
SISTERS ARE SELFISH!

JOSEPHINE  
Sisters keep crashing your bike and breaking your headphones and losing your earrings cause they're stupid and have no brain in their ugly head.

HENRIETTA

I overheard you got a C- on your science test!

JOSEPHINE

You have a crush on Theo!

HENRIETTA

I'M THROWING IN ALL THE CHECKERS

JOSEPHINE

I'M THROWING IN YOUR BOOK BUT NOT BEFORE I RIP IT UP

HENRIETTA

AGHHHHH

(they fight.

the fire burns.

the spell starts to work.

there is a sound from the pot.

a strange sound.

they stop fighting.

they listen.)

JOSEPHINE

What's that.

HENRIETTA

I think it's working.

JOSEPHINE

I'm scared.

HENRIETTA

Don't be a baby.

(But HENRIETTA reaches for JOSEPHINE'S hand. They watch the pot.  
They wait.

A flash of light.

A scream.

The sound of a monster being born.

The dust clears.

HENRIETTA and JOSEPHINE stand looking at their creation.

It's a monster.

It's naked.

It looks vaguely like Benjamin Franklin.

(It sits blinking at them.)

Oh. Wow.

JOSEPHINE

She's beauuutiful.

HENRIETTA

She smells weird.

JOSEPHINE

She's just a baby!

HENRIETTA

We need to give her a blanket. She can't just sit here naked. Babies need blankets.

JOSEPHINE

(HENRIETTA finds a blanket and puts it on the monster.)

There.

HENRIETTA

I can't believe it worked.

JOSEPHINE

We have to give her a name.

HENRIETTA

I don't know.

JOSEPHINE

She needs a name!

HENRIETTA

JOSEPHINE

If we name her then we have to keep her.

HENRIETTA

Of course we have to keep her, she's our sister.

JOSEPHINE

I didn't think it was really going to work.

HENRIETTA

Let's name her something pretty.

JOSEPHINE

No.

HENRIETTA

Daisy!

JOSEPHINE

That's too pretty.

HENRIETTA

Violet!!

JOSEPHINE

She's supposed to be terrible, horrible, so we can blame things on her. A horrible monster. A beast.

HENRIETTA

Look she's trying to say something. So cute!

(DAISY VIOLET burps loudly.)

DAISY VIOLET

King me and king me and hungrily

HENRIETTA

You're our amazon king!

JOSEPHINE

The amazons didn't HAVE kings!

HENRIETTA

Well she's the first!!

JOSEPHINE

That doesn't even make any sense.

HENRIETTA

Stop being so bossy!

DAISY VIOLET

Hungrily

HENRIETTA

Daisy Violet the King of the Amazons!

JOSEPHINE

What's she doing?

What's she doing?

DAISY VIOLET

Hungrily

(DAISY VIOLET picks up the checkerboard and eats it.)

JOSEPHINE

Hey. Hey! My checkerboard!

(DAISY VIOLET chomps happily.

Lights.)

2.

The attic.

JOSEPHINE sits on a box.

HENRIETTA points to a blackboard with some crude drawings on it.

DAISY VIOLET sits on the floor, blinking.  
Now she is also wearing a white dress.

HENRIETTA points to a drawing of a cat.

HENRIETTA

Cat.

Say it.

Say it!

DAISY VIOLET

King me and king me and king me and hungrily

HENRIETTA

Cat.

Cah

Aaah

Tuh

Cat.

DAISY VIOLET

Hungrily hungrily

JOSEPHINE

We have to feed her.

HENRIETTA

Not until she's learned something!

DAISY VIOLET

hungrily hungrily king me and hungrily

JOSEPHINE

She's hungry.

HENRIETTA

You get her some food then. I'm trying to educate her.

JOSEPHINE

Fine.

(JOSEPHINE exits.)

DAISY VIOLET

educate hungrily flowers and checkerboard

HENRIETTA

Cat.

DAISY VIOLET

checkerboard

HENRIETTA

cat.

DAISY VIOLET

checkerboard.

HENRIETTA

let's try another one.

(She points to a drawing of a house.)

house.

HOUSE.

DAISY VIOLET

hungrily?

HENRIETTA

HOUSE!!

SAY HOUSE!

DAISY VIOLET

flowerpot

HENRIETTA

I thought you would be smart.

I had high expectations.

You're letting me down, King Daisy Violet.

How can we introduce you to the adults if you insist on speaking so strangely?



DAISY VIOLET

hungrily hungrily HUNGRILY

(DAISY VIOLET eats one of the dead plants.  
She gets dirt all over her mouth. Dirt everywhere.)

HENRIETTA

okay. eat it. that's fine. we'll take a little snack break.

(A meowing offstage.)

Oh it's Lady Medusa! Maybe if you see her you'll understand.

(Meow. Meow.)

Come here, Lady Medusa! Come in here!

(Meow.

Suddenly DAISY VIOLET stands up and rushes out the door.)

Where are you going?

(A shriek.

Horrible violent sounds.

DAISY VIOLET comes back in, chomping gleefully.)

DAISY VIOLET

Cat and then hungrily cat and then hungrily

(DAISY VIOLET pulls some fur from her mouth, along with a couple of  
vertebrae.)

HENRIETTA

AAAH! You ATE Lady Medusa?

DAISY VIOLET

Lady Medusa and hungrily hungrily

HENRIETTA

Nono no no you horrible terrible

(HENRIETTA hits DAISY VIOLET.

JOSEPHINE enters with a plate of cheese and crackers.)

JOSEPHINE

What are you doing!

(DAISY VIOLET punches HENRIETTA, who falls.)

Stop stop stop

HENRIETTA

She ate Lady Medusa!

JOSEPHINE

Oh no no

HENRIETTA

She killed her!

JOSEPHINE

Daisy!

DAISY VIOLET

horrible terrible

JOSEPHINE

Henry you shouldn't have hit her. Say sorry.

HENRIETTA

She hit me too!

JOSEPHINE

Daisy Violet. You're supposed to be on our side. Against the adults.

And we'll be on your side.

We all have to forgive each other.

HENRIETTA

SHE ATE OUR CAT

JOSEPHINE

I heard you.

But.

HENRIETTA

ATE OUR CAT!

JOSEPHINE

She was hungry.  
Now we know.  
She needs to eat a lot.  
She's growing I guess.

DAISY VIOLET

Violet hungrily

JOSEPHINE

But you can't eat cats. NO Eating Cats.

DAISY VIOLET

Violet hungrily never a cat or the horrible terrible

JOSEPHINE

That's right. Eat some cheese and crackers.

(DAISY VIOLET eats the cheese and crackers, and the plate too.)

DAISY VIOLET

plateful of crackers and cheese and the hungrily

JOSEPHINE

See?  
She's learning

HENRIETTA

She's a barbarian.  
She's a monster.

JOSEPHINE

She's perfect.