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The Crafty One

A Comedy in One Act



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THE CRAFTY ONE -
A COMEDY IN ONE ACT

written by

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Synopsis

Millie discovers Aunt Cassandra, who suffers from dementia, is also a witch who has placed a hex on her live-in boyfriend Edgar. Unfortunately, Cassandra cannot remember how to reverse it. Millie agrees to help and learns how to place a hex of her own creating unwanted results.

Cast of Characters

MILLIE	a young woman
CASSANDRA	Millie’s aunt, who is also a witch
EDGAR	Cassandra’s live-in boyfriend

Time

last Fall

Director Notes

SET

Scene 1 – A standard living room with a sofa and cushioned chair and coffee table. Props are a bowl, shoebox, and toss pillow.

SOUND: toad croak

Scene 2 – In the living room – a large (spell) book, vials, bottles, tray.

SOUND: toad croak

Scene 3 – In the living room - bag, bottle, shoebox, throw blanket.

SOUND: toad croak

Props

Bowl
Shoebox
Toss Pillow
Large (Spell) Book
Vials
Bottles
Tray
Bag

ACT I

Scene 1

Setting: A living room with a chair and sofa, a throw blanket across the top of the sofa, a toss pillow at each end. A coffee table in front of it. A door against at stage right.

At Rise: Lights up as MILLIE, a young woman wearing a sundress, enters holding a bowl.

MILLIE

Auntie? Auntie Cassandra? I know you're home. Edgar's car is out front.

(CASSANDRA, a middle-aged woman wearing a night robe, slippers, hair curlers, enters from stage left holding a shoebox, placing it on the coffee table, then sits looking anxiously into it.)

CASSANDRA

Oh, what to do? Please, don't look at me like that! This is all your fault! If you didn't demand milk in the scrambled egg mix I wouldn't have gotten so upset! Oh, my...

(SOUND: toad croak)

(MILLIE approaches concerned.)

MILLIE

Auntie...?

(CASSANDRA is surprised by MILLIE and quickly places a toss pillow over the shoebox.)

CASSANDRA

Millie! Well, what a nice surprise. How is my favorite niece?

MILLIE

Your only niece, Auntie.

CASSANDRA

Oh, um... how did you open the door?

MILLIE

Magic.

CASSANDRA

Magic? Oh, goodness.

MILLIE

I'm kidding, Auntie. I have a key because someone is beginning to forget things?

CASSANDRA

Of course. Who, sweetie?

(MILLIE places the bowl on the coffee table.)

MILLIE

Which seems to be progressing quickly. Mom asked me to drop off this bowl she borrowed. So, where's Edgar?

CASSANDRA

Edgar?

MILLIE

Really, Auntie? Your live-in boyfriend?

CASSANDRA

Oh, him.

MILLIE

There's another?

CASSANDRA

Another what?

MILLIE

Auntie! Where is Edgar?

CASSANDRA

In the shower?

MILLIE

Your asking me?

(CASSANDRA shakes her head confused.)

MILLIE

Is something wrong, Auntie? You're acting strange... er.

CASSANDRA

No, everything is peachy-keen.

MILLIE

Peachy-keen?

(SOUND: toad croak)

CASSANDRA

Edgar!

MILLIE

Edgar?

CASSANDRA

No! I meant, Oh, that Edgar! Always leaving trash everywhere!

MILLIE

Is there a toad in the shoebox?

CASSANDRA

There's nothing in the shoebox.

MILLIE

I heard a toad in the shoebox.

CASSANDRA

Shoebox, dear?

MILLIE

(taps on pillow)

The one under this toss pillow.

(CASSANDRA picks up the shoebox and steps toward the door.)

CASSANDRA

It should be in the trash.

(MILLIE steps to CASSANDRA.)

MILLIE

Give me the shoebox, Auntie.

CASSANDRA

It's just an empty shoebox!

(SOUND: toad croak)

(They look at each other then the shoebox.)

CASSANDRA

There. You see. Empty.

(CASSANDRA steps back to the sofa putting the shoebox on her lap, arms over it.)

MILLIE

Auntie, I'm not sure what is going on but I'm not leaving until you give me the shoebox or Edgar comes out and says hello.

CASSANDRA *(flustered)*

Oh, all right, dear. I cannot have you here for the rest of your young, annoying life.

(CASSANDRA opens the shoebox placing it on the coffee table.)

CASSANDRA

There. Shoebox and Edgar.

(MILLIE curiously peers into the shoebox.)

MILLIE *(sarcastically)*

Oh, look, Auntie! A cute little toad! Care to explain?

CASSANDRA

Um, well I...

MILLIE

That's it? Um, well I? Please tell your annoying niece why a toad is in the shoebox stupidly looking at me? And where is Edgar?

(calls out)

Edgar!

CASSANDRA

Say hello, Edgar.

(SOUND: toad croak)

MILLIE *(laughs)*

Oh, Auntie, you're a card!

CASSANDRA

Have you ever seen a toad with blue eyes?

(MILLIE looks closely then is bewildered.)

CASSANDRA

Twice if this is you, Edgar.

(SOUND: toad croaks twice)

MILLIE

No, no, no... that was a fluke.

(CASSANDRA stands with the shoebox.)

CASSANDRA

If you insist. A quick flush and it'll be the sewer systems problem.

(SOUND: several anxious croaks)

MILLIE

Can't you just let it go outside?

(CASSANDRA sits placing the shoebox on the coffee table.)

CASSANDRA

Oh, I couldn't do that to him, although sometimes I'd like to kick him to the curb.

MILLIE

You sound as if it actually is him.

(stands nervously)

Edgar! Come out! Please?

(SOUND: toad croak)

(MILLIE sits looking at CASSANDRA stunned.)

CASSANDRA

Magic.

MILLIE

Auntie, I was teasing about using magic to open the door. It's make-believe, not real.

CASSANDRA

It is very real, deary, but with my mind turning to oatmeal I forget hexes and potions.

MILLIE

Hexes? Potions? Why would you even know hexes, potions? Oh, god, does Mom know about this magic nonsense?

CASSANDRA

I've never told anyone, even your Mom. Can you imagine?

MILLIE

No, I cannot imagine! So, you're saying you turned Edgar into a toad... with a hex?

CASSANDRA

Yes, he kept pestered me to put milk in the scrambled egg mix knowing full well I do not like milk in my scrambled egg mix, so I placed a spell on him! Now, I can't remember how to remove it. It's like forgetting a password on your iPhone thingy.

MILLIE

Why doesn't my Mom know about all this?

CASSANDRA

Because I always felt I had something of my own, something no one else had. It was my secret and never told a soul, even my sister.

MILLIE

I thought sisters shared their secrets?

CASSANDRA

Somethings were just too special to share, deary, even with loved ones, like your Mom not telling me she had a new boyfriend. But I found out, and unknown to her, they were my first spell, well, first successful spell. It was a love spell... oh, it was glorious.

MILLIE

You put a love spell on my parents?

CASSANDRA

Yes, dear, and a successful one too, because, well, here you are!

MILLIE

Oh, my god, I'm a by-product of a spell?

CASSANDRA

That's why I never mentioned my activity to her. She'd be on me like green on celery. Maybe you could help me with Edgar, as my assistant.

MILLIE

Assistant toad keeper?

CASSANDRA

Sorcerer's assistant.

(MILLIE thinks then stands laughing.)

MILLIE

Oh, Auntie! Your sense of humor has not changed one bit! Edgar the toad! Sorcery!

CASSANDRA

Millie dear, your Auntie Cassandra is a witch.

MILLIE

Witch?

CASSANDRA

Witch.

(CASSANDRA twists her hand back and forth.)

(LIGHTS: off)

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Scene 3

Setting: the living room, one hour later

At Rise: Lights up. CASSANDRA enters with a bag.

CASSANDRA

Hello! I'm back! I had to go all the way to Alice's for Mugwort.

(looks around)

Hello? Millie, dear? Edgar? Edgar, darling...

(EDGAR enters wearing shirt and pants. They kiss.)

EDGAR

Boy, I was relieved when I popped back into my old self. Sore but everything's in place.

CASSANDRA

And Millie?

EDGAR

When I started sweet talking her she figured the spell must work and ran out the door.

CASSANDRA

Poor Millie. I didn't like doing that to her.

EDGAR

You were only doing what you're sister asked you to do, help Millie with a love spell.

CASSANDRA

Because I did for her and her boyfriend leading to their long, happy marriage. Millie had to cast this on her own.

CASSANDRA (CONT)

I just sort-of paved the way. I knew she'd be curious so I made it easy to find what she was looking for. She need a little shove in the right direction and who better than the crafty one of the family?

EDGAR

Beautifully too! Making me a toad, needing help with the hex, going out leaving us. The best was dog-earing the spell page so she'd find it. I can't wait to find out how all this worked out.

(SOUND: knock on the door)

CASSANDRA

You won't have to wait long. Come on in, sweetie!

(MILLIE enters holding a shoebox.)

MILLIE

Auntie... I, I did a spell...

CASSANDRA

And you came to share the good news with us?

(MILLIE nervously opens the shoebox.)

MILLIE

Say hello to Brian. The love of my life.

(SOUND: toad croaks)

(CASSANDRA and EDGAR stare in disbelieve at the shoebox then each other.)

CASSANDRA AND EDGAR

Oops...

(LIGHTS: down)

(FINAL CURTAIN)



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