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IF ONLY THE LONELY WERE HOME

by Finegan Kruckemeyer

EXTRACT

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If Only The Lonely Were Home
A play for 3-7 year olds, about the things we love

Written by
Finegan Kruckemeyer

Commissioned by
Tutti Frutti Productions

First performed at the
York Theatre Royal, England in 2009

First directed by
Wendy Harris

Original Production

The first performance of *If Only The Lonely Were Home* took place at the York Theatre Royal, England, in April 2009 in a production by Tutti Frutti Productions. The cast was as follows:

PENNY	Megan Brooks
THE LONELY	Jason James

The play was directed by Wendy Harris, composed by Ivan Stott, designed by Alison Heffernan, and choreographed by Joanne Moven. All artists were involved in the initial creative development.

Productions Since

2009 English national tour

Scene One.

The Lonely sits knitting. As he brings one needle up and over the other, Penny draws the bow of her violin up in the same fashion. She builds the mimicking until he is knitting quickly and her playing is tuneful. She stops.

PENNY: Look at that boy...

He's very bad at knitting, isn't he? Do you know why he's so bad at it?
Because he doesn't even know who he's making that jumper for.

That boy, his name is The Lonely.

The Lonely pushes his ball of wool across the stage. He rises and begins manoeuvring it so that it forms a shoreline. As things are named, they are created.

PENNY: Once upon a time, right in this place, there was... Ah: a beach.

With a hill beside it. And some sheep. Four sheep... (Ba, ba, ba, ba)

And the wind blowing around them – the wind sounds like this.

The violin is played.

PENNY: And then one day, far away, out at sea, the sheep saw a speck.

And it got bigger and bigger.

Ah: a boat. It was called the *HMS Kiss and Tell*. And in the boat was...

Ah: a man. He was called Roger.

We see him reach the beach and haul the boat ashore.

LONELY: 'Perfect'.

PENNY: Said Roger.

LONELY: 'I will live here'.

PENNY: Said Roger. But he looked around, and there were no houses to live in.
There were no trees to make houses with. There was only...

Ah: the boat.

We see the boat chopped and recreated into a house.

LONELY: 'Perfect'.

PENNY: Said Roger.

He sits in it proudly.

PENNY: But then when he looked out of the window, the man realised that he wanted some friends to live there too. So he decided...

LONELY: 'Ah: a letter'.

He writes.

LONELY: 'Dear friends, I have found a nice beach.
And a nice hill. And four sheep'... (Ba, ba, ba, ba)
'Come and make a town with me, and we can play together. Roger'.

PENNY: And he waited.

Waiting scene.

PENNY: Until one day...

Lots of boats appear at the village.

PENNY: And everything happened quickly after that. The friends built more houses...

And a town hall...

And a rugby ground...

And a jetty...

And they gave the town the name of a famous pirate, just because it felt right.

And the people fell in love, and had some children. And the children grew up.
And they had some children. And they grew up.
And they had some children.

Until one day there were lots of people in the town, on the hill, by the beach,
with the famous pirate's name.

And in that lots of people, there were two people, a girl, and a boy.

PENNY: The girl is good at playing the violin. My name is Penny.

LONELY: The boy doesn't really have anything he's good at.

PENNY: His name is The Lonely.

LONELY: The Lonely and Penny are in the same class.

PENNY: But they have never talked. Every time he comes up to say hello...

LONELY: ...He forgets how to make that word:

Hail – harrrrrrr – hehehehe – He... No.

PENNY: Penny sees The Lonely walk to school every day. She would like to walk with him, but he always looks like he is thinking about something else, that is not her.

LONELY: The Lonely always thinks about her when he walks to school. It makes him feel like this...

An evocative movement sequence.

PENNY: Penny and The Lonely like all the same things.

We see the movement become a montage of mirrored actions.

LONELY: They just don't know it. Because Penny lives in the middle of town, here...

One of mum's maps is used to express the location.

PENNY: ...and The Lonely lives on the edge of town, all the way out here.

LONELY: And it feels like a very long way in between...

Penny measures it with her fingers.

PENNY: ...Even though it's really not.

They look at each other across the stage.

Scene Two.

LONELY: Penny Ericson lives with her mother...

MOTHER: Hello.