

Rumpel

By

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Cast of Characters

<u>JANITOR</u> :	The clumsy, mischievous janitor. Accidentally stumbles his way onto the scene, carelessly incapacitates the narrator and feels obliged to assume the role.
<u>KING</u> :	King of the Kingdom. Obsessed with cheese!
<u>RUMPEL</u> :	A sticky little man who loves making deals.
<u>ADVISOR</u> :	The King's advisor. Continuously gets the blame for the King's poor decision making.
<u>CLEANER</u> :	Cleans the King's bog. Eventually becomes Queen and has a baby hippo.
<u>POLICE OFFICER</u> :	Police Officer who arrests Rumpel for his overdue parking tickets,
<u>REAL NARRATOR</u> :	The real narrator. Comes on and delivers prologue beautifully, but then slips and is incapacitated for the rest of the show, due to the careless Janitor.

The JANITOR enters with mop, bucket and wet floor sign. He is listening to music and dancing, he dances with the mop and goes to lean in for a kiss... He notices the audience and is shocked, Beat. He sprints behind the tree. The NARRATOR enters. He sits unnoticed.

PROLOGUE

REAL NARRATOR

In a strange and silly land was a tyrant King, who ruled the land with an iron fist. He loved to spend money on horses and soldiers and castles. The King wasn't good with his money! He became poorer and poorer and poorer, until one day, he had no money left! He was desperate for gold, and a strange man appeared to save him. The strange man decided to lend the King a vast sum of gold, which the King would pay back in ten years from then. Ten years soon passed, and the King had forgotten the deal he had made. The Strange man re-appeared and demanded he have his gold. The King begged and begged the strange man to release him of this deal, but the strange man said NO! The strange man was willing to release the King, but only if the King promised him his firstborn child, which the King greedily accepted. Years later, the King had a child and the man appeared again, demanding he have his baby. Again, the King begged him to release him of this deal. The little man grew tired of the King's empty promises and granted him a week to discover his name. If he could not, the baby would surely be his. The King ordered every soldier he had to search the land for the man's name. On the last day of the week, the house of the strange man was discovered. The man danced about his house, singing "Causing trouble is my aim, for Rumpelstiltskin is my name!". When the strange man returned for a final time, the King guessed correctly using the strange man's rhyme. Releasing the King from the deal he had made, the little man ran and started to fade, the strange man disappeared from the face of the earth, the King and his court rejoiced his child's birth.

The NARRATOR slips and falls, pages flying everywhere. He is incapacitated. The JANITOR peeks around the corner. The KING enters in character and then breaks it upon seeing the downed NARRATOR. He is a deer in headlights! The JANITOR comes out, shares a moment with the KING and then speaks.

JANITOR

Once upon a time, there was a King. He was an old, grumpy smelly King.. And he spent all his money on.. Cheese! Yes, cheese.

KING

This isn't how the story goes!

As the scene progresses someone tries to farcically remove the narrator offstage.

JANITOR

Shhhhh! Yes, he spent all his money on stinky cheese. Which is why he smelt! He spent so much money on the cheese that one day his trusted advisor told him he had absolutely no money left!

ADVISOR enters. The JANITOR helps try to move the body.

ADVISOR

My King. I'm afraid you've spent all of the Kingdoms money on cheese.

KING

Oh no! I can't believe I spent all the money on cheese. Why would I spend all my money on cheese?

ADVISOR

Without money, you won't be able to pay for your kingdom! You'll have to give it up and no longer be king.

KING

Oh spicy meatballs! What am I going to do?

Pause. All looks at the JANITOR who has finally managed to shift the body up, he realises and drops the body again.

JANITOR

The King was overcome with sadness. Come on a bit more sad than that... To make himself feel better and help him think the King got his servants to bring his massage chair and stool.

KING

Thinking chair!

ADVISOR kneels down, the KING sits.
Thinking stool!

CLEANER kneels down, the KING puts his feet up.
massage setting!

ADVISOR and CLEANER begin to shake.

Yes, what I need to do is come up with an idea that will raise the 1 millions worth in gold.. Hmm.. I think I've got it! You can come up with an idea to raise the one millions worth in gold. Yes! If not I will banish you from the kingdom! Oh, aren't I a genius! Well, now that I've sorted that mess, I think I'll go treat myself to a cheeky slice of brie!

KING exits.

ADVISOR
He's done it again.

CLEANER
I hate it when he does that!

ADVISOR
Me too.

CLEANER
Why am I always the footstool?

KING
(Offstage) Scrubber!! I need you to sponge my back again, I've got loads of cheese stuck in my back hair!

CLEANER
shivers Well that's me...

CLEANER exits.

JANITOR
-And with that his advisor was terrified. So scared they curled up into a little ball and cried for their mum.

ADVISOR
Mummy! I want my Mummy!

JANITOR
But suddenly, the advisor had a great idea.

ADVISOR
I have a great idea!

JANITOR
Yes.. Like I said, the advisor had a great idea..

ADVISOR
I have a great idea!

JANITOR
Hmmm. Well anyway, he had the idea to recruit the cleaner to-

ADVISOR
I have a great id-

JANITOR
SHUT UP! The advisor was quiet, he didn't speak anymore! Okay? Okay. So as I was saying, the advisor used the cleaner to earn back the King's money.

ADVISOR

Toilet scrubber!

CLEANER

My name isn't Toilet scrubber!

ADVISOR

Yeah yeah, whatever. I have a job for you toilet scrubber. You need to run a little errand for our lovely King!

CLEANER

I'll go get the toilet plunger...

ADVISOR

No no! There's no need for that. No, I need your specific expertise to retrieve something very important for the king...

CLEANER

What?

ADVISOR

One millions worth in gold.

CLEANER

I thought that was your job?

ADVISOR

No no, it was my job to get someone to do that job.

CLEANER

Oh I see.. So where would I be finding that?

ADVISOR

Ahh now that's your job, isn't it? My job is just to tell you your job, not tell you how to do it.

CLEANER

I don't know how cleaning toilets qualifies me to find one million in gold..

ADVISOR

Don't be so hard on yourself! Who else would be more qualified than you?

CLEANER

I don't know, maybe the One million gold findy person.

ADVISOR

Well then, you've just been promoted! You're the new one million gold findy person (and toilet scrubber) so no one is more qualified than you! Good luck! Oh and one more thing, you have a week to do it or else you will be permanently banished from the kingdom, okay thank you, bye-bye now!

ADVISOR leaves.

CLEANER

Well at least I don't have to unblock anymore
toilets.

ADVISOR pops head round the corner.

ADVISOR

Oh and one more thing, the King's chambers need a
good unblocking if you catch my drift.

JANITOR

So the cleaner set out on their task to find the
gold. They looked high.. That's not very high. Come
on you call that high! This is more high.

*The JANITOR takes the stage and stands on the
NARRATOR, looking highly. The CLEANER copies.*
See! That's more like it! The cleaner looked about
but with no luck. There was not a single scrap of
gold in the entire kingdom.. Only cheese. So after a
week the advisor and the cleaner were brought before
the king. "Where is my gold?" he said. "Umm we looked
high and low but we couldn't find any!". The king was
furious! So furious he shook and turned bright red.
The servants cowered in fear and hugged each other
for reassurance.

They're reluctant.

Just do it! The King banished them both! But the
advisor said "Hey, you shouldn't banish me you should
banish the official one million gold findy person"
"We have one of them?" "Yeah it's toilet scrubber
over here!" "I can't banish them, who'll unclog the
bog?". "Well it looks like you can't banish anyone
then" "Ahh fooie, I love a good banishing. Well
you're demoted at least for doing a bad job, now
you're just the cleaner again" "Fine with me" And the
cleaner ran off. Just as he did so the timer went off
to show that the King had completely ran out of any
money!

ADVISOR exits.

ADVISOR

BING BONG BING BONG! BING BONG BING BONG!

ADVISOR enters.

Your majesty, the timers just gone off.

KING

The timer?

ADVISOR

The timer.

KING

The timer?

ADVISOR

Yes, the timer.

KING

The actual timer?

ADVISOR

We don't have many timers!

KING

What are we to do?

JANITOR

Suddenly, a strange man appeared! He began to dance a fantastical Irish jig. I said fantastical. No, an Irish jig. Fantastical! Fantastical! Fantastical! Fantastical! Oh, whatever, let's just move on. He approached the desperate King.

RUMPEL

Rumours spread of your financial demise, so here I am, a pleasant surprise!

KING

What! Who are you?

RUMPEL

I am the one who can save you, your majesty.

KING

You mean you can grant me anything I need? Anything I wish for?

RUMPEL

That.. is correct!

KING

My supplies are running desperately low. This Kingdom is in desperate need.. of.. cheese!!

ADVISOR

No!!

KING

What is it now, toots?

ADVISOR

You don't need any more cheese! That's what got you in this mess in the first place.

KING

What? Are you sure?

ADVISOR

Yes! It's gold you desperately need your majesty.

KING

Oh yes. Well, strange man, you heard my ugly advisor.
It's gold that I need.

ADVISOR

One million's worth in gold, to be precise.

RUMPEL

One million's worth in gold? Is that all? I can grant
you this wish, but for a price!

KING

A price? Forget it, I have hardly any cheese left and
have nout all money. Toots, see this charlatan out.

ADVISOR

For what price?

RUMPEL

The deal of a lifetime!

*The strange man steps forward and unravels an
extremely long scroll.*

I will conjure one million's worth of gold with just
a click of my fingers. But come ten years time, I
shall return, expecting the vast sum of two billion's
worth of gold! If you cannot raise the funds
required, you can expect to lose the Kingdom you love
so dearly.

ADVISOR

Hang on your majesty..

RUMPEL

Do we have a deal, your majesty?

KING

I'll take it!

The KING signs the contract.

ADVISOR

No!!

KING

What is it now, toots!?

ADVISOR

That's over 100,000% interest. You can't pay that
back!

KING

So? He's not going to remember. Look at him! He'll
have forgotten by the morning. You're not going to

KING
actually remember this deal, are you strange little man?

RUMPEL
Of course not!

KING
See! Don't be such a drama Queen, toots.

JANITOR
And with a click of his fingers and a little irish jig, the strange man conjured up the gold before the King's very eyes.

JANITOR prompts RUMPEL.
And then, he magically disappeared! Nine years and three-hundred and sixty four days later, the ten year timer clock was still ticking..

KING enters eating cheese. ADVISOR enters.

ADVISOR
Your majesty.

KING
What is it, toots?

ADVISOR
The timer clock is ticking! It's almost been ten years since you made that deal with the strange man.

KING
Deal? What deal?

ADVISOR
You signed a deal, you borrowed one million pounds worth of gold and come tomorrow, you will owe that same man two billions worth in gold!

KING
I don't think so! After all, that's the kind of deal you'd expect to remember making.

CLEANER
BING BONG BING BONG! BING BONG BING BONG!

KING
What was that?

ADVISOR
That was the ten year timer, your kingliness.

RUMPEL magically appears.

JANITOR

The strange deal man who liked making deals,
magically appeared and said a strange rhyme.

RUMPEL

10 years ago I made a deal with you and I have come
for my money.

KING

Oh yes. The money. Let me just go and get it..

ADVISOR

We don't have the money.

KING

Toots!

RUMPEL

You don't have my money? Is this true?

KING

No..

Pause.

RUMPEL

Ah well, not to worry.

KING

What?

ADVISOR

Really?

RUMPEL

Yes, not to worry.

KING

You see! I told you he wouldn't mind. Mr Deal man is
a kind natured being.

RUMPEL

Yes, it's not a problem. I'll simply take your
kingdom instead!

KING

What?

RUMPEL

You signed the contract that stated if you failed to
pay me my two billions worth of gold by the end of
the ten years, your Kingdom would be forfeit and
therefore be mine! You should have read the fine
print.

KING

The fine print? Toots?

ADVISOR

To be fair your majesty, you should have read the fine print.

KING

No!! Please, Mr Deal man, I need to be exempt from this deal. The kingdom is my world! I cannot live without it. I'll do anything!

RUMPEL

Anything?

KING

Anything!

RUMPEL

You're willing to do anything?

KING

Anything!

ADVISOR

I think he'll do anything.

KING

Yes, that's quite enough, toots.

RUMPEL

Alright, I'm willing to cancel our deal. But first, you must promise me this. On the birth of your first born child, you must hand over the baby to me.

KING

You want a baby? Why would you want a baby? All they do is poop and sleep and poop and eat and cry and eat and poop!

RUMPEL

Long have I wanted a child of my own. But unfortunately for me, nobody likes me. I'll never have children! But if you sign this new deal, that could all change..

ADVISOR

Your majesty, I might advise you that's a pretty big thing to commit to-

KING

Nonsense! You wrongly advised me on the last deal, why should I listen to you now?

ADVISOR

I advised you not to sign it-

KING

Nonsense! I'll sign it.

JANITOR

And with that, the deal was made. Soon after, the King completely forgot and went about his usual kingly business.

KING

What are you doing in my toilet?

CLEANER

I'm just cleaning it your kingliness.

KING

Wow! What a wonderful job you've done there! I could eat my dinner off of this toilet. I'm impressed with your good work. What's your name?

CLEANER

Doris. My friends just call me Doris.

KING

Well Doris, how would you like to become my wife?

CLEANER

Erm..

KING

What is it? Don't you know who I am?

CLEANER

Yes, that's the problem.

KING

What did you say?

CLEANER

Why do you want to marry me? I'm just a cleaner. Any you're-

KING

A King?

CLEANER

I was going to say stinky, smelly, disgusting, ugly..

KING

Silence! Do you want to marry me or not?

Pause.

CLEANER

Yeah, why not.

JANITOR

The King and the toilet cleaner got married, and sealed their marriage with a passionate and loving kiss.

KING and CLEANER awkwardly peck.

A baby suddenly appears.

CLEANER

A Baby! A beautiful baby.. hippo?

KING

This is the second happiest day of my life! The first being the day I won the grand prize at the annual cheese convention.

ADVISOR

BING BONG BING BONG! BING BONG BING BONG! BING BONG BING BONG! BING BONG BING BONG!

JANITOR

Now the King had himself a child, it was time for the return of the strange man. The strange deal man magically re-appeared, returning to take the baby he was owed.

RUMPEL

I have magically returned to take the baby I am owed!

CLEANER

What does he mean?

KING

Oh no! He's magically returned to take the baby he was owed! Toots!!

ADVISOR enters.

ADVISOR

Yes, your kingliness?

KING

How could you let me make such a deal?

ADVISOR

I told you not to make this deal!

KING

Nonsense!

JANITOR

As punishment for wrongly advising the King, the King ordered his advisor to.. run laps around the castle until this mess was sorted out!

ADVISOR

Might I advise you your kingliness, that's a harsh punishment for such a crime.

KING

Nonsense! Go on, run!

ADVISOR jogs off and leaves. The KING forgets RUMPEL is in the room.

KING

Oh! You're still here.

RUMPEL

I'm waiting for my baby..

KING

Baby?

CLEANER

Yes baby. Our baby that you sold!

KING

Oh yes, sorry I forgot about that.

CLEANER

Look here Mr Deal man, the king may have offered you his firstborn but I did not! Please don't take my baby away, I will do anything.

RUMPEL

Anything?

CLEANER

Anything!

RUMPEL

Anything?

CLEANER

Anything!

KING

I think she'll do anything.

RUMPEL

Hmm.

JANITOR

The Deal Man had what he needed but he just loved making deals so so much, he couldn't help but make just one more! The thought of another deal made him break into song!

RUMPEL

Now don't try to kid me queenie

RUMPEL

I made a deal with you.

What I need, is that baby, to make my dreams come true.

But I'll make you a deal queenie

That's just what I do.

One week you'll gain, to guess my name, or I'll have baby Sue!

Ohhh, Whoopty doo.

I made deals with you you you

For a lot of gold, that babies sold, and your ki-i-ingdom too.

Oooh, Scooby Doo.

I bet you're wun'drin who who who

You'll never know, I've got to go and poo-ooo-ooo-oo-oooh

Bye.

RUMPLE exits.

CLEANER

Oh no! What are we going to do! I don't want to lose baby Sue.

The CLEANER cries.

KING

Oh no... Don't... Don't cry... Look, don't you worry sweet cheeks. I got us into this mess, and I will get us out! I promise you I will find out his name!

CLEANER

Really? You won't forget this time?

KING

No of course not! How could I possibly forget something as important as this?!

JANITOR

The week went by quickly. All of a sudden it was the day of the Deal Man's return!

*The KING is sat on the ADVISOR watching telly.
CLEANER enters.*

CLEANER

It is the day of his return! What is the Deal Man's name hubby?

Beat.

KING

Hmm?

CLEANER

The deal man. You were supposed to find out his name so he doesn't take our baby!

KING

Baby?!

ADVISOR

BING BONG BING BONG! BING BONG BING BONG!

JANITOR

-And with the bings and the bongs the sticky deal man returned, demanding the baby!

RUMPEL

I demand the baby!

CLEANER

Oh no! Please King, please don't let him do this.

JANITOR

The King felt so awful for forgetting his baby he offered his wife his finest brie- And suddenly he had an amazing thought!

KING

I have a brie-liant thought! We should phone the police!

JANITOR

The King speeddialed the coppers!

KING

Hello? I need a POLICE OFFICER at number 1. Where? Just number 1, hurry.

JANITOR

And that snappy, the doorbell rang.

ADVISOR

DING DONG DING DONG. DING DONG DING DONG.

POLICE OFFICER enters.

POLICE OFFICER

Ello ello ello... What's going on here then?

CLEANER

This man is trying to steal my baby!

POLICE OFFICER

Baby stealing! That's a crime, you're coming with me-

RUMPEL

No no no officer. I'm not stealing the baby I bought it fair and square! Here is the contract.

POLICE OFFICER

Oh, I'm afraid that contract is legally binding. There's nothing I can do here! I'm sorry Miss.

RUMPEL

Mwuhahaha! The baby is mine teehee teehee! Now to get in my pink mini-cooper and head back home with my new baby!

POLICE OFFICER

What did you just say? Oh cheesy crackers! I knew I recognised you! You've got 6 unpaid parking tickets. You're coming to the station with me.

RUMPEL

Wait what?

KING

Is he going to prison?

POLICE OFFICER

You bet he is. He'll be behind bars for 42 years.

RUMPEL

That's alright, so long as I have my baby.

POLICE OFFICER

No babies in prison.

RUMPEL

NOOOOOOOOOO!!! Can't we make some sort of deal?

POLICE OFFICER

Sorry, you've made the last deal you'll ever make!

POLICE OFFICER drags RUMPEL off.

JANITOR

And so even though the King and his wife could not crack the name of the strange man, he was locked up for many years to come, no thanks to the completely faultless criminal justice system of the United Kingdom. The King and his wife raised their baby hippo and lived very happily ever after. The End.

POLICE OFFICER

You've served forty two years in prison.

RUMPEL

Yes.. And even though I've been in prison for forty two years, as he is yet to figure out my name, the deal still stands with the King. That baby hippo is still rightfully mine!

POLICE OFFICER

You're free to go Mr... Rumpelstiltskin.

KING

Ah-ah! Flumpypigskin is your name! No baby for you!

POLICE OFFICER

It's Rumpelstiltskin.

KING

Rumpelstiltskin! That's your name! No baby for you!

RUMPEL

You've.. guessed my name.. NO!!!