

CANDY WORLD

By Megan Orr

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CANDY WORLD

A One Act Comedy

By Megan Orr

SYNOPSIS: A group of kids playing a video game unleash a host of candy characters who claim their world is being taken over by the evil Candy Queen. The kids try to help the candy characters until it becomes clear that it's the human world the candy characters are after!

DURATION: 50 minutes

TIME: Modern-day; post-holiday

SETTING: Abby and AJ's house; Candy World; Rock Candy Salt Mines

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(7 females, 1 male, 7 either; optional extras)

ABBY (f)	13 years old; the bossy one of the group. <i>(135 lines)</i>
AJ (m/f).....	Abby's 8-year-old annoying little brother/sister with a serious sweet tooth. <i>(87 lines)</i>
OLIVE (f).....	13 years old; the peacemaker. <i>(40 lines)</i>
MAKENNA (f).....	13 years old; the logical one. <i>(43 lines)</i>
GABBY GUMDROP (f).....	chatterbox; has a hard time keeping a secret. <i>(40 lines)</i>
RED (m/f).....	a hot head with a spicy temper. <i>(90 lines)</i>
LOLLY (f)	sweet but a little bit of a dum-dum. <i>(27 lines)</i>
DAFFY TAFFY (m/f).....	a wise guy; speaks with a Daffy Duck lisp, optional. <i>(43 lines)</i>
CHARLIE TRUFFLE (m/f).....	quieter, a little gloomy; the serious one of the group. <i>(44 lines)</i>

- CANDY QUEEN (f)..... sugar and spice and everything nice; a sweet voice. *(28 lines)*
- JELLY BELLY 1 (m/f)..... an outspoken orange jelly bean. *(3 lines)*
- JELLY BELLY 2 (m/f)..... a cowardly yellow jelly bean. *(5 lines)*
- JELLY BELLY 3 (m) a shy green jelly bean. *(1 line)*
- JELLY BELLY 4 (f)..... a sweet pink jelly bean. *(1 line)*
- STICKY THE
MARSHMALLOW GUARD (m/f) the world's sweetest but slowest bodyguard; speaks in an extremely slow, deep voice; moves in slow motion. *(11 lines)*

EXTRAS:

ADDITIONAL JELLY BELLYS for Scenes 4-5, *optional*

COSTUMES

- ABBY – jeans and a T-shirt; sneakers.
- AJ – jeans and a T-shirt; sneakers.
- OLIVE – jeans and a T-shirt; sneakers.
- MAKENNA – jeans and a T-shirt; sneakers.
- GABBY GUMDROP – hair in high pigtails with bright bows or curly ribbons; rainbow-striped T-shirt; white tennis skirt over colorful leggings; white sneakers; rainbow leg warmers and arm warmers, optional.
- RED – spray-dyed red hair or red wig; red short or long-sleeved T-shirt, khaki cargo shorts, red-and-white striped knee socks, and white tennis shoes; white suspenders, optional.
- LOLLY – rainbow tie-dyed long dress or rainbow tie-dyed T-shirt and brightly colored leggings; headband or ponytail holder with long, colorful ribbons or lollipops.
- DAFFY TAFFY – T-shirt or jacket covered in Laffy Taffy wrappers (can be replicated out of waxed paper); khaki pants and tennis shoes.
- CHARLIE TRUFFLE – brown T-shirt with khaki or brown pants; brown mop cap or brown knit cap with a pink swirl on top; dark shoes.
- CANDY QUEEN – a pink sparkly princess ball gown with dress shoes.
- JELLY BELLY 1 – an orange T-shirt and jeans; white sneakers.

JELLY BELLY 2 – a yellow T-shirt and jeans; white sneakers.

JELLY BELLY 3 – a green T-shirt and jeans; white sneakers.

JELLY BELLY 4 – a pink T-shirt and jeans; white sneakers.

STICKY THE MARSHMALLOW GUARD – a Buckingham Palace guard costume or toy soldier costume; white face paint; tall, furry hat, optional.

SET

All scenes can occur with or without a backdrop. Instead, a few key props are used to suggest the set. Suggestions for each have been included below:

SCENE 1: Abby and AJ's Living Room, a sofa at center stage with a coffee table in front of it.

SCENE 2: Candy World, a candy wonderland: pink cotton candy drifts, lollipops and gumdrops, the works.

SCENES 3-4: Candy World Rock Candy Salt Mines, peppermints line and embed the edge of the stage. A wagon repurposed as a minecart at upstage right and a few pickaxes stick out at random.

SCENE 5: Candy World, a candy wonderland: pink cotton candy drifts, lollipops and gumdrops, the works.

SCENE 6: Abby and AJ's Living Room, a sofa at center stage with a coffee table in front of it.

LIGHTS

Standard indoor and outdoor lighting can be used when appropriate. Lights fade and rise between scenes. When characters are transported to and from Candy World, flashing lights before stage lights fall is optional. Green and yellow “video game lights” on AJ’s face at the end, optional.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Depending on the production dates of your play, “Halloween candy” can easily be substituted with the words “Christmas candy” or “Easter candy.”

All sound effects and background music can be found on YouTube. Opening and transition background music was selected from the Mario Kart soundtrack: “Sweet Sweet Canyon,” “Coconut Mall,” “Rainbow Road.” For the crown search, we used “Wario’s Gold Mine” as background music.

For the Candy World set, we created easily portable cotton candy drifts by hot gluing batting to upside-down white paper ream boxes and lids. Then we hot glued candy created out of paper, foil, styrofoam, and cellophane.

In Scene 3, the Candy Queen and Jelly Bellys can pantomime being tied up by holding their hands behind their backs to make it easier for them to later be “released.”

In Scene 5, the DMV (Department of Motor Vehicles) is stated in the dialog. Directors are allowed to update to BMV (Bureau of Motor Vehicles) if it suits their audiences better.

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PROPS**SCENE 1:**

- clipboard
- popcorn
- box of hot cocoa
- 3 pillows
- brightly colored video game box
- Halloween candy bucket (AJ)
- backpacks or overnight duffel bags (MAKENNA, OLIVE)
- cell phone (MAKENNA)
- two video game controllers
- TV remote
- colorful crossbody satchel filled with lollipops (LOLLY)

SCENE 2:

- lollipop (GABBY)
- sacks of candy (GABBY, LOLLY)
- handful of candy (AJ)
- Kit Kat (GABBY)
- pixie sticks (LOLLY)
- peanut butter cups (RED)

SCENE 3:

- chair and rope (CANDY QUEEN)
- lollipops (DAFFY)
- colorful crossbody satchel filled with lollipops (LOLLY)
- black or red nunchuks (ABBY)

SCENE 4:

- mine cart made out of a wagon
- pickaxes
- colorful crossbody satchel filled with lollipops (LOLLY)
- 5 candy crowns
- copy of The Candy Times newspaper (JELLY BELLY 2)
- ring box and candy engagement ring (JELLY BELLY 3)
- flower petals (JELLY BELLY 1)

SCENE 5:

- two video game controllers
- candy crown (CANDY QUEEN)

SCENE 6:

- two video game controllers
- cell phone on the coffee table

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SCENE 1**ABBY AND AJ'S LIVING ROOM**

AT START: *SOUND FX: Transition music. Lights rise. A sofa sits at center stage with a coffee table in front of it. ABBY stands left of the coffee table and couch, clipboard in hand, surveying their contents.*

ABBY: Popcorn? Check. Hot cocoa? Check. Pillows? Check, check, and check. And most important of all? The *piece de resistance*? (*Holds up a video game box.*) Candy World! "The sweetest game on the planet"!

AJ enters from upstage left just in time to hear "Candy World." He/she is carrying a Halloween bucket filled with candy.

AJ: Candy World? I love Candy World! Can I play??

ABBY: No, AJ! How many times do I have to tell you? This is my sleepover tonight! You need to leave us alone.

AJ: Aw, come on, Abby! That's not fair. Mom and Dad bought that game for both of us!

ABBY: And you can play it all you want. Tomorrow. After my friends go home.

AJ: Why? Because you don't want me hanging around your friends? It's almost like you're embarrassed to be seen with me!

ABBY: You're my little brother/sister, AJ. Of course I'm embarrassed to be seen with you.

AJ: That hurts. That really hurts. (*A beat.*) Good thing I have this big bucket of candy to cheer me up!

ABBY: AJ—

AJ: And don't even ask me to share any of it with you.

ABBY: You've been walking around with that bucket all day. Don't you think you've had enough candy?

AJ: (*A beat.*) I don't understand the question.

ABBY: Whatever. Rot your teeth. I don't care. Just make sure you leave us alone tonight.

SOUND FX: Doorbell. Both ABBY and AJ whirl around toward stage right.

AJ: Doorbell!

AJ tries to make a mad dash toward stage right but ABBY pulls AJ back, spilling some of the candy, and pushes past AJ, boxing him/her out.

AJ: Hey! My candy!

ABBY: My friends. My sleepover. Get lost.

ABBY exits stage right while AJ gets down on his/her hands and knees, picking up the fallen pieces of candy and grumbling.

AJ: Older sisters are the worst. The pits. The... cherry pits. Ooh! Cherries!

AJ sits cross-legged on the floor and digs through the candy bucket until he/she finds a piece, unwraps it, and pops it into his/her mouth.

AJ: Mmmmmmmmmmm!

ABBY enters stage right followed by OLIVE and MAKENNA, who are wearing backpacks or carrying overnight duffel bags.

OLIVE: Hi, AJ.

AJ: Hi, Olive! Hi, Makenna! *(Holding up the bucket.)* Want some candy?

ABBY: Pay no attention to the oompa-loompa with the bucket. He/she was just leaving.

AJ: No, I wasn't.

ABBY, OLIVE, and MAKENNA cross to the sofa. OLIVE and MAKENNA drop their bags and all three collapse onto the sofa. MAKENNA sets her cell phone on the coffee table.

MAKENNA: Don't worry about it, Abby. He's/she's not nearly as annoying as my younger brother.

ABBY: Does your younger brother suck down candy like a garbage disposal?

MAKENNA: Well, no...

AJ: Garbage disposal? Who would throw candy down a garbage disposal??

ABBY: Correction. You are the garbage disposal.

OLIVE: (*Clearing her throat.*) So, Abby, you said you got a new game?

ABBY: Oh. Yeah! Have you guys heard of Candy World?

MAKENNA: Candy World?! "The sweetest game on the planet"?! You got it??

ABBY: Yes! Wanna play?

ABBY hands controllers to MAKENNA and OLIVE. AJ rushes to the sofa with the candy bucket.

AJ: YES!

ABBY: I wasn't talking to you.

AJ: So? You never talk to me. I'm used to it.

OLIVE stands.

OLIVE: I don't mind sitting out if AJ wants to play first.

AJ: (*To ABBY.*) See? (*To OLIVE.*) You? I like you. You get a piece of candy.

AJ hands a piece of candy from the bucket to OLIVE and grabs the video game controller from her hand. AJ slides over, trading places with OLIVE and taking OLIVE'S position in front of the couch.

OLIVE: Um, okay. Thank you?

AJ: Now... who am I going to battle first?

ABBY jumps to her feet.

ABBY: Give me that controller!

AJ: No. She said I could have it.

ABBY: You're not even supposed to be here! If you don't hand over that controller right now, I'm telling Mom just how much candy you've been eating.

AJ: You wouldn't!

ABBY: Wanna bet?

AJ: (*Sulking.*) No.

AJ hands the controller to ABBY, flops down sullenly onto the stage right end of the sofa next to OLIVE and begins stuffing candy into his/her mouth. ABBY picks up a TV remote from the coffee table, points it at the audience, pretending to turn on a screen.

ABBY: (*To AJ.*) There now. That wasn't so hard, was it?

AJ: I hope you get smushed by the Taffy Troll.

ABBY: Please. The Taffy Troll is level one.

OLIVE: (*Watching AJ in concern.*) You are eating an awful lot of candy, AJ. Maybe you should slow down a bit.

AJ: Why?

OLIVE: Well, because eating too much candy isn't good for you.

AJ: You're kidding, right?

OLIVE: No, I'm not. Haven't you learned about the five major food groups?

AJ jumps to his feet and walks downstage, talking aloud.

AJ: Of course! I'll tell you about the five major food groups. There's chocolate, white chocolate, cookie crunch, peanut butter, and fruit flavor.

MAKENNA: (*To ABBY.*) At least he/she got one out of five. Sort of.

AJ: Oh, and marshmallow. And creamy caramel. Huh. I guess there are seven major food groups!

AJ returns to his spot on the couch.

ABBY: (*To AJ.*) You are so never gonna pass second grade health.

OLIVE: Seriously, though, AJ. You do realize what too much candy can do to your body, right?

AJ: Yeah! Give me the world's most incredible sugar buzz. Watch!

AJ begins shoveling candy into his/her mouth.

OLIVE: Um, Abby? You might want to do something about your brother/sister.

ABBY: Nah. He/She does this all the time. And after the sugar buzz comes the sugar crash, so we can finally get some peace and quiet. Besides, I'm about to stomp this Taffy Troll.

MAKENNA: Not if I stomp him first!

ABBY: Die, troll! Die!

SOUND FX: Video game portal. Stage lights begin to flicker, optional, and then go out entirely.

ABBY: Hey! Who shut off the lights?!

During the blackout, LOLLY, RED, DAFFY, and CHARLIE hide behind the sofa. ABBY, MAKENNA, and OLIVE stand. Lights rise. GABBY stands next to the stage right side of the sofa with her hands behind her back studying AJ, who is still digging through the candy bucket. OLIVE is the only one to notice GABBY immediately. Her eyes widen.

ABBY: *(Gesturing at the audience.)* Aw, man! I was just about to make mincemeat out of that Taffy Troll!

MAKENNA: Mincemeat? No way! I all but had him!

OLIVE: *(To ABBY and MAKENNA.)* Uh, guys?

ABBY: *(To MAKENNA.)* Oh, sure. And how were you going to get rid of him? With that puny peppermint sword of yours?

OLIVE: Guys?

MAKENNA: *(To ABBY.)* It's better than those licorice nunchuks you were using!

OLIVE: Guys!

ABBY and MAKENNA quietly continue arguing. AJ looks up from his/her bucket directly at GABBY and jumps to his/her feet.

AJ: Hey! I know you! You're... you're... !

GABBY: Hi! I'm Gabby Gumdrop!

AJ jumps up from the sofa, still clutching the candy bucket. ABBY and MAKENNA finally look over at them.

AJ: *(Pointing at GABBY.)* It's Gabby Gumdrop!

MAKENNA: Wait a minute. Gabby Gumdrop? As in...

ABBY picks up the video game box and looks at it in amazement.

ABBY: The character from Candy World??

GABBY: Hi!

AJ: Ahhhh! This is the best day ever!!!

OLIVE: *(To GABBY.)* You might want to step back. He/She may try to eat you.

AJ: Eat her? No way! She's a character in my most favorite video game of all time! And she's here! She's really here! *(To GABBY.)* You are really here, right? This isn't just some beautiful dream?

ABBY: Or a sugar hallucination?

GABBY: Hmmm. Let me check.

GABBY pokes her own arm and pats her legs and torso experimentally.

GABBY: Nope. It's really me!

MAKENNA: But... how? You're a character in a video game. You're not real.

AJ: *(To MAKENNA.)* Hey, hey! Easy! You're going to hurt her feelings. And then she might disappear. *(To GABBY, worshipfully.)* Don't worry. I believe in you.

ABBY pulls AJ behind her.

ABBY: Cool it, AJ. This isn't some Peter Pan / Tinkerbelle nonsense. This is a stranger in our house! *(To GABBY.)* Now. Who are you?

GABBY: I'm Gabby Gumdrop!

ABBY: Yeah, yeah, we know. But who are you really?

GABBY: I'm Gabby Gumdrop!

MAKENNA: Is it just me, or does she seem to have gumdrops for brains?

ABBY: Fine. We'll come back to that question. How did you get in here?

GABBY looks around in confusion.

GABBY: I'm not sure. But I suppose someone must have been eating a whole bunch of yummy, delicious candy. That's the only way you could have brought us here.

AJ: Hey! That's me! I was eating a whole bunch of yummy, delicious candy!

ABBY: Wait a minute. Did you say, "us"? What do you mean, "us"??

GABBY: Oops.

RED storms out from behind the sofa, followed by LOLLY and DAFFY. They move to downstage right. ABBY, MAKENNA, and OLIVE react in shock. AJ is surprised but ecstatic. GABBY timidly joins RED at downstage right.

RED: (*Raging.*) Great! That's just great!

AJ: Look! More candy characters! We're outnumbered!

MAKENNA: (*To ABBY.*) So... he's/she's going to fail second grade health and second grade math?

ABBY: I don't want to talk about it.

RED: I give you one very simple job to do, Gabby. One! What was it?

GABBY: Figure out where we are without giving the rest of us away?

RED: Figure out where we are without giving the rest of us away! And what do you do?!

GABBY: (*Hanging her head.*) Give the rest of us away.

RED: You give the rest of us away!

GABBY: I'm really sorry, Red! I didn't mean to—

RED: Nope. You brought this on yourself this time. Lolly?

LOLLY is staring out into the audience obliviously, twirling her hair around her finger.

RED: Lolly!

DAFFY: (*Elbowing LOLLY.*) Hey. Blowpop. He's/she's talking to you.

LOLLY: Huh? Oh! (*To RED.*) Ya huh?

RED: (*Ominously.*) Get... the stopper.

LOLLY: Stop her? Okay. (*A beat; LOLLY looks back at ABBY, MAKENNA, and OLIVE.*) Uh... which “her”?

RED: No! Not “stop her”! The stopper! Get the stopper!

LOLLY: Oh! You mean, that piece of candy we shove into people’s mouths whenever they won’t stop talk—

RED: LOLLY!

LOLLY: On it. Right away, Red.

LOLLY reaches into her colorful crossbody satchel and pulls out a piece of candy: a candy pacifier, a lollipop, or anything on a stick that can be sucked. She crosses to GABBY.

GABBY: Aw, come on, guys! Really? Again??

LOLLY: Sorry, Gabby. You heard him/her.

GABBY: Awwwww.

LOLLY shoves the candy into GABBY’s mouth.

AJ: (*Waving at them.*) Hey, if you all are just giving away candy, I’ll take some!

ABBY: (*To AJ.*) Haven’t you had enough already??

MAKENNA: Yeah. You’re not supposed to take candy from strangers.

AJ: But they’re not strangers! I know all these guys!

OLIVE: You do?

AJ: Sure! (*Pointing to RED.*) That’s Red. He’s/she’s a hothead with a spicy temper. And don’t get him/her mad. He’s/she’s been known to throw fireballs!

OLIVE: (*Fearfully.*) Fireballs?!

MAKENNA: (*To ABBY.*) Yeah. If that guy/girl throws fireballs in here, your mom is so going to ground you.

AJ: (*Pointing to LOLLY.*) And that one at the end? That’s Lolly. She’s a lollipop princess.

LOLLY: I am??

AJ: She lives in a castle made entirely from lollipops!

LOLLY: I do??

MAKENNA: Not the brightest crayon in the box, is she?

AJ: Yeah. I guess you could say she’s a bit of a dum dum.

DAFFY whirls to face AJ.

DAFFY: Hey! That's my joke!

MAKENNA: And who are you?

DAFFY: I'm Daffy.

MAKENNA: Daffy? You mean like the duck?

DAFFY: Do I look like a duck to you? Do you see a bill? Do you see any webbed feet?

AJ: That's Daffy Taffy. He/she might not be a duck, but he's/she's the character who's always quackin' jokes.

DAFFY: Oh, I see we've got a comedian in the house. Are you trying to steal my thunder?

AJ: Maybe just a little. Don't get so Thor about it.

DAFFY moves toward AJ as if about to start a fight. RED holds him/her back.

DAFFY: Listen here, funny man/girl—!

ABBY: All right, everybody. Pipe down. Before my mom hears us. AJ, stop annoying the candy characters. (*A beat.*) Words I never thought I'd say.

OLIVE: (*To AJ.*) Are you sure Daffy's not the one with a spicy temper?

ABBY: (*To RED.*) Now. I'm gonna need some answers.

CHARLIE comes out from behind the couch, rubbing his/her head as though suffering a head injury. CHARLIE crosses to GABBY, RED, DAFFY, and LOLLY at downstage right.

CHARLIE: You guys! You didn't wait for me! You promised to wait for me this time!

OLIVE: Hey, look! Another one!

MAKENNA: (*To ABBY.*) Now we're outnumbered. Looks like your brother/sister was right after all.

AJ: (*In awe.*) Charlie? Charlie Truffle?!

CHARLIE: Yeah?

AJ: No way! You are my ultimate favorite Candy World character!

AJ sets the Halloween candy bucket down on the couch and runs to CHARLIE.

ABBY: Wait a minute. Did he/she actually just put down the candy??

AJ and CHARLIE engage in a complicated handshake routine. When They finish, RED marches over to CHARLIE as ABBY marches over to AJ. RED pulls CHARLIE away from AJ as ABBY pulls AJ away from CHARLIE.

ABBY: Will somebody please tell me what is going on?! What are you all doing here??

RED: Excuse me?? Just exactly who are you? And who made you the boss?!

AJ: (*Whispering to MAKENNA.*) My bossy sister meets Red the hothead. This will not end well.

ABBY: My name is Abby. And this is my house!

AJ: Our house.

ABBY: Our house! So, unless you want me to call the police, you better start explaining right now!

GABBY quickly pulls the lollipop out of her mouth.

GABBY: We're here because of the evil Candy Queen!

RED: (*Warningly.*) Gabby...

GABBY quickly puts the lollipop back into her mouth.

ABBY: The... Candy Queen?

DAFFY: It's true. The evil Candy Queen is trying to take over Candy World.

LOLLY: We need your help!

OLIVE: Help? How can we help?

RED: Come to Candy World. Eat candy, get stronger, and help us fight the Candy Queen.

MAKENNA looks at the back of the video game box in her hand.

MAKENNA: That sounds just like the back of the video game box.

AJ: It is just like the back of the video game box! Let's go!

ABBY: Go? To Candy World? Have you lost your mind?? We can't go into a video game!

MAKENNA: If they were able to come here, who says we aren't able to go there?

ABBY: Are you guys seriously considering this?? What about our sleepover?

CHARLIE crosses to ABBY, pleading.

CHARLIE: Please, Abby. You have to help us. The Candy Queen destroyed my home.

AJ: Not your house made out of gingerbread?!

CHARLIE: Yes! And she took my family!

AJ: No! Not the chocolate truffles!

AJ dramatically turns and sobs into MAKENNA'S shoulder.

DAFFY: You know what they say. Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna—

RED: Daffy! Don't make me get out another stopper!

DAFFY: Yes, sir/ma'am.

CHARLIE: Please, Abby. We need your help to stop her before she takes over the entire kingdom. Please?

CHARLIE stares at ABBY with big eyes, hands folded beneath his/her chin beseechingly.

ABBY: Stop giving me those puppy dog eyes. AJ does that whenever he/she wants something.

AJ: (To CHARLIE.) It's working! She's about to crumble like a cookie.

AJ also stares at ABBY with big eyes, hands folded beneath his/her chin beseechingly. ABBY looks from CHARLIE to AJ and back to CHARLIE in frustration.

LOLLY: Awwwww. They're so cute!

ABBY: (To LOLLY.) Don't let him/her fool you.

MAKENNA: Come on, Abby. When's the last time we had a chance for a real adventure like this? Let's do it! Let's go to Candy World and destroy the evil Candy Queen! For real this time.

AJ: (To MAKENNA.) All right! Now I like you!

ABBY: (To MAKENNA.) Are you seriously taking AJ's side??

MAKENNA: I seriously think it sounds like fun. Don't you? (*Teasingly.*) Or are you too afraid those licorice nunchuks got nothing on my peppermint sword?

ABBY: Whatever! My licorice nunchuks could take that Candy Queen down so fast, she wouldn't even know what hit her!

CHARLIE: Hooray! We're going to Candy World!

AJ: Yeah!! What he/she said!

CHARLIE and AJ begin their complicated handshake routine again, but this time ABBY interrupts, separating them.

ABBY: All right, all right, already.

ABBY turns to RED.

ABBY: Take us to Candy World.

RED: You got it, toots.

RED crosses to the coffee table and picks up the video game controllers. He/She hands one controller to ABBY and one controller to MAKENNA. Then RED picks up AJ's Halloween candy bucket and hands the bucket to AJ.

RED: Here you go, kid. Chow down.

AJ: You don't have to tell me twice!

AJ begins ripping open candy and shoving it into his/her mouth.

RED: Now everybody else, grab an arm and hold on!

OLIVE, RED, GABBY, DAFFY, and CHARLIE grab onto ABBY, MAKENNA, and AJ. CHARLIE cowers in fear. After a moment, LOLLY

looks around and realizes everyone is in position but her. She runs over to MAKENNA and grabs a hold of her left arm.

RED: This is gonna be a bumpy ride.

CHARLIE: I hate this part!

ABBY: Candy World, here we come!

AJ: Things I never thought I'd hear my sister say!

SOUND FX: Video game portal. Stage lights begin to flicker, optional, and then go out entirely. SOUND FX: Transition music. End of Scene.

SCENE 2

CANDY WORLD

***AT START:** SOUND FX: Video game portal. Lights rise. The entire stage is decorated in a candy wonderland. Pink cotton candy drifts, lollipops and gumdrops, the works. ABBY, MAKENNA, OLIVE, and AJ stand at center stage in the same position as the end of SCENE 1, looking around them and out at the audience in awe. CHARLIE is no longer on stage.*

As soon as the lights rise, RED, DAFFY, LOLLY, and GABBY, who are also at center stage in the same positions as the end of SCENE 1, spring into action. RED grabs the video game controllers from ABBY and MAKENNA, quickly pockets them, and crosses to downstage right.

ABBY: Whoa.

AJ: It's beautiful!

RED: *(Commandingly.)* Okay. First things first. We need candy. Lots of candy. Gabby, you run down to the chocolate forest.

GABBY removes the lollipop from her mouth.

GABBY: You got it, Red! *(Runs offstage left.)*

RED: Lolly, you head up to the jelly bean patch.

LOLLY is staring out into the audience obliviously, twirling her hair around her finger.

RED: Lolly!

DAFFY: Pssst! Hey, airhead. Talking to you again.

LOLLY: Huh? Oh! (*To RED.*) Ya huh?

RED: Jelly bean patch! On the double!!

LOLLY: Right! Sure thing, Red. (*Runs off upstage right.*)

RED: (*Sighing.*) I'm surrounded by dum dums. Charlie, you start digging up those peanut clusters.

RED turns back toward ABBY, AJ, MAKENNA, and OLIVE. RED looks around but CHARLIE is nowhere to be seen.

RED: Charlie? (*Sighing.*) Not again.

DAFFY: I'm telling you, Red. That kid just can't handle the video game vortex.

RED: Well, I'm sure he'll/she'll turn up eventually.

RED turns to ABBY, AJ, MAKENNA, and OLIVE.

RED: In the meantime, you four—

ABBY: Whoa, whoa, wait a minute. Who suddenly made you the boss?!

RED: (*Smirking.*) You're in my world now, sister. Now we play by my rules. Welcome to Candy World.

ABBY: (*Grumbling.*) I'm not your sister.

RED: As I was saying, we need to get you four ready for the big battle.

OLIVE: The big battle?!

RED: You're going to need to start eating candy. And I mean lots of candy.

RED squeezes OLIVE'S bicep skeptically.

AJ: You don't have to tell me twice!

AJ runs to downstage left, sits down cross-legged on the stage, and pretends to eat the candy set.

ABBY: Now hold on a minute. Explain to me how eating a bunch of candy is going to get us ready to fight the Candy Queen?

RED: Things work a little bit differently here than they do in your world. The more candy you eat, the stronger you get.

MAKENNA: He's/She's right. It's like that in the game, at least.

ABBY: Okay, so we eat a bunch of candy and then what? How do we fight the Candy Queen?

RED: Let's take it one step at a time, shall we? Let's focus on getting you bulked up.

AJ: If eating candy makes you stronger, I should be the Hulk by now!

GABBY and LOLLY return with sacks of candy and race to RED'S side.

RED: Right on time! *(Turning to ABBY, MAKENNA, and OLIVE.)* Okay, ladies, dig in!

GABBY and LOLLY cross to ABBY, MAKENNA, and OLIVE. ABBY, MAKENNA, and OLIVE reach into GABBY and LOLLY'S sacks and pull out handfuls of candy, which they begin to eat. CHARLIE enters from upstage right, rubbing his/her head as though suffering a head injury.

CHARLIE: You guys! Again?? You didn't wait for me!

DAFFY: Sorry, cupcake. Guess you better learn to keep up.

CHARLIE: I'm not a cupcake! I'm a truffle!

AJ: Hey, Charlie. Over here!

AJ waves CHARLIE over from downstage left. CHARLIE crosses to AJ, who holds out a handful of candy.

AJ: Have some candy!

CHARLIE: *(Quietly.)* No thanks. I'm not hungry.

CHARLIE sits cross-legged at downstage left next to AJ.

RED: *(To DAFFY.)* Maybe you better go check on things back in the village, Daffy. Make sure the Candy Queen hasn't struck again?

DAFFY: You got it, Red.

DAFFY runs off stage left. CHARLIE watches DAFFY go with a look of concern.

ABBY: (To RED.) So tell us more about this Candy Queen we're supposed to fight. Does she have any special powers or weapons?

RED: You don't know? You mean, you haven't gotten to Level 99 yet?

ABBY: Well... no. But I just got the game yesterday! Gimme a break!

GABBY hands a Kit Kat to ABBY.

GABBY: Here you go.

As ABBY takes the Kit Kat, LOLLY pats ABBY'S shoulder consolingly.

LOLLY: Don't worry about it. Red makes me feel like a dum dum sometimes too.

RED: The Candy Queen. What can I say about her?

GABBY: Ooh, I know! She's made out of sugar and spice and everything nice!

RED: That's true, but—

GABBY: She wears a marzipan dress and rock candy slippers!

RED: (Warningly.) Gabby—

GABBY: And the world's most beautiful crown of lollipops and gumdrops!

RED: GABBY!

GABBY: Yeah, Red?

RED: Zip it!

OLIVE: The Candy Queen doesn't sound so evil. She sounds beautiful.

AJ: And yummy!

RED: Oh, you would be sadly mistaken. She may look sweet, but the Candy Queen is truly evil. Rotten to the core. (To LOLLY.) Tell them, Lolly.

LOLLY: Tell them what? (A beat.) Oh! Right! The Candy Queen burned down all the lollipop fields!

GABBY: She poisoned the chocolate river, and all the Swedish fish died!

LOLLY: She cut down half the Fudgy Forest, and now the gummy bears have no place to live!

GABBY: She closed down all the candy schools, and now all the little Smarties are turning into a bunch of—!

RED: Okay, okay. I think they get the point.

MAKENNA: That's awful! And you really think there's something we can do to stop her?

RED: Yes. There is nothing more powerful in the world than a sugared-up child.

ABBY: Don't I know it!

From downstage left, AJ is sitting in a hunched position and suddenly begins to groan. OLIVE crosses to AJ, kneeling down in concern.

OLIVE: Guys? AJ doesn't look so good.

ABBY: How's that different from any other day? He/she never looks good.

AJ: I never thought I'd say this, but... I think I may have eaten too much candy.

RED: Too much? There's no such thing! Lolly, go give our friend another handful of pixie sticks.

LOLLY crosses to AJ at downstage left and hands him a huge handful of pixie sticks from her bag.

ABBY: (To RED.) You don't understand. AJ has been eating candy all day. He's/she's—

RED: Perfect! The more candy you all eat, the stronger you get! Here! Have some peanut butter cups! Some for you, some for you.

RED hands peanut butter cups to ABBY and MAKENNA. As RED tries to hand peanut butter cups to OLIVE, she puts up her hands defensively.

OLIVE: Oh, none for me, thanks. I have a peanut allergy.

RED: Nonsense! There's no such thing in Candy World! No allergies, no calories, nothing but a pure, sweet sugar rush. Here. Take the whole bag!

RED takes the candy bag from LOLLY and shoves the bag into OLIVE'S hands.

MAKENNA: (To RED.) Why are you acting so weird?

RED: Weird? I'm not acting weird.

MAKENNA: It's like you're trying to shove this candy down our throats.

RED: Shove candy down your throat? Whoever heard of such a ridiculous idea? It's candy! Everybody loves candy!

AJ groans again from downstage left.

OLIVE: Are you okay?

AJ: I think I'm gonna be sick.

OLIVE: Maybe you better lie down.

OLIVE and CHARLIE help AJ lie down at downstage left. RED looks on nervously.

RED: It's taking Daffy an awfully long time to check on the village. Maybe we should see what he's/she's up to.

LOLLY: Ooh, the village?? That's where all the bakeries and candy shops are! I'll do it, Red! I'll go check on the village! I mean, Daffy!

GABBY: Yeah! Me too!

RED: Do you really think I'm going to let you two Twizzlers go by yourselves? Not a chance.

RED turns to CHARLIE.

RED: Charlie, you keep an eye on our friends here. We'll be back soon. Come on, you two. Before you open your mouths again and hurt yourselves.

GABBY: Bye bye!

RED takes GABBY and LOLLY by an arm and drags them off, exiting upstage left. CHARLIE watches them go. As soon as they are off stage, CHARLIE whirls to face ABBY.

CHARLIE: Quick! We don't have much time!

ABBY: Time? What are you talking about?

CHARLIE helps AJ sit up.

CHARLIE: We have to get you all home. Now! Before they come back!

ABBY: What do you mean? I thought we were here to help you defeat the evil Candy Queen.

CHARLIE crosses to downstage center.

CHARLIE: No! That's just what Red wants you to think! The Candy Queen isn't evil; she's been kidnapped!

ABBY: Kidnapped?! By whom?

CHARLIE: All of them! Red, Daffy, Gabby, Lolly.

MAKENNA: Then why are we here?

CHARLIE: Because the candy characters are trying to take over your world!

ABBY, MAKENNA, and OLIVE: WHAT?!?

CHARLIE: They know if they can get you to eat enough candy, you'll get so sick you won't be able to fight back!

AJ: *(Groaning.)* I'll vouch for that.

CHARLIE: We've got to get you back home before that can happen. AJ, do you think you can stand up?

AJ: I don't know. Maybe if I eat just one more Snickers.

ABBY: Seriously, AJ?? As sick as all that candy has made you, you still want more??

AJ: What can I say? Sometimes you feel like a nut.

ABBY: And sometimes you are nuts. Come on.

ABBY crosses to AJ and helps him/her to his/her feet.

MAKENNA: *(To CHARLIE.)* What do we have to do? How do we get back home?

CHARLIE: Eating candy while playing the game got you here. So now you just have to stop eating candy—

AJ: Done! I am so done with candy.

ABBY: (*Scoffing.*) For today.

CHARLIE: And playing the game should take you home.

MAKENNA: Great! Hand me a controller.

CHARLIE: Controller?

ABBY, AJ, MAKENNA, OLIVE, and CHARLIE look around the ground at center stage.

OLIVE: The video game controllers! They're gone!

CHARLIE: Pistachios! Red must have taken them. I told you, he's/she's trying to trap you here!

MAKENNA: So what do we do?

CHARLIE: We've got to track down Red and get those controllers back without him/her knowing.

ABBY: All right! Level 2! Let's go to the Candy Village!

CHARLIE: Red's not at the Candy Village.

OLIVE: He's/she's not? Then where is he/she?

CHARLIE: Checking up on the Candy Queen to make sure she hasn't escaped.

ABBY: Escaped? From where?

CHARLIE: Where's the last place you would expect to find the Candy Queen?

OLIVE: Whole Foods?

MAKENNA: Weight Watchers?

CHARLIE: The rock candy salt mines!

ABBY: But... that's Level 1!

CHARLIE: Exactly. Let's go!

CHARLIE helps AJ off upstage left. MAKENNA and OLIVE follow.

ABBY: (*Sighing.*) I'm so never going to beat this stupid game.

ABBY follows MAKENNA and OLIVE. Lights fade. SOUND FX: Transition music. End of Scene.

***Thank you for reading this free excerpt from
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