

THE TALE OF THREE TREES

Musical created by Dave Clark & Jayme Thompson

CHARACTERS:

Annabelle

Bud

Dreamer Tree

Fruity

Gabriel(le)

Happy Tree

Stump

Voice in the Distance

Woodsworth

Woody

Mary

Joseph

Toy Soldiers

Roman Soldiers

ACT I

Music starts.

Lights come up slowly to represent the sunrise. Some trees are lying down; others are bent over; all act as if asleep. As the music brightens, TREES slowly begin to wake and stretch in slow motion. When the strings begin in measure 24, all TREES should be standing in place around the stage.)

Song: Every Tree in the Forest

Ev'ry tree in the forest is telling a story, inviting the whole world to hear.

Through summer and winter they tell of the glory of seasons and changes and years.

They play in the sun; they dance in the rain, Each one so diff'rent yet each one the same.

Ev'ry tree in the forest is part of the chorus. Listen and you will hear.

During dialog, everyone except HAPPY TREE, STUMP AND DREAMER TREE go to risers.

Happy Tree: I just love living in the forest. What a great day to be a tree!

Stump: Yeah, like you have any choice. We've kind of got roots here.

Happy Tree: I don't mean to be sappy, but I really love living in the forest.

Dreamer Tree: I like it here, but I want to branch out, you know, see the world. I have big dreams.

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They play in the sun; they dance in the rain, Each one so diff'rent yet each one the same.

Ev'ry tree in the forest is part of the chorus. Listen and you will hear.

Stump: Just what we need – a tree with a dream. Next you'll be saying you want to leaf.

Dreamer Tree: I just want to do something new – you know what I mean?

Stump: Nope, I'm *stumped*.

Dreamer Tree: (*sighs*) Sometimes you really *can't see past the forest for the trees*

Ev'ry tree in the forest is telling a story, inviting the whole world to hear.

Through summer and winter they tell of the glory of seasons and changes and years.

They play in the sun; they dance in the rain, Each one so diff'rent yet each one the same.

Ev'ry tree in the forest is part of the chorus. Listen and you will hear.

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Woodsworth: A wiser tree than me once said,
Keep thy dreams and hopes well fed.
You need not fear the new pursuits
If you grow from your own roots.

Stump: Oh, Woodsworth, lighten up.

Music starts

Stump: You drive me *up a tree* when you talk like that.

Happy Tree: Well, he did get one thing right. It's great to be a tree!

Song: Who Wouldn't Want to Be Me?

(Choir remains on risers. Four TOY SOLDIERS on stage left and four TOY SOLDIERS on stage right begin to march towards each with stiff arms and legs, right arms and legs first.

See movements for details)

What in the world don't we have in the forest? I can't imagine why you would ever want to leave.

Life in the city would probably bore us. Who wouldn't want to be me?

Nothing to do, not a reason to worry, I whistle with the wind, and I dance with the breeze.

No place to go, so I'm never in a hurry, Who wouldn't want to be me?

We can stand up tall. We can spring. We can fall. Together we can weather anything at all.

Life is so beautiful here in the forest. Don't know how lucky a tree could be.

The squirrels and the bugs and the birds all adore us. Who wouldn't want to be me?

(TOY SOLDIER march)

Nothing to do, not a reason to worry, I whistle with the wind, and I dance with the breeze.

No place to go, so I'm never in a hurry, Who wouldn't want to be me?

We can stand up tall. We can spring. We can fall. Together we can weather anything at all.

Life is so beautiful here in the forest. Don't know how lucky a tree could be.

The squirrels and the bugs and the birds all adore us. Who wouldn't want to be me?

So the only thing that I really am sure of is: Who wouldn't want to be, Who wouldn't want to be me?

Stump: So Annabelle . . . what's on your mind? Are you gonna be a stick in the mud or you wanna share it with the class?

Annabelle: Oh, well . . . I was just thinking. . .

Stump: Oh go ahead. Bark it out. Or are you afraid we'll all turn green with envy?

Woodsworth: Happy is the tree,
and happy he alone
Who can call today his own.
The tree who's secure enough to say,
Tomorrow, do your worst, for I have lived today.

Stump: There he goes again, trying to spruce things up. Right, Annabelle?

(Music starts)

Annabelle: No, I know what he means. It's okay to have a dream. You know. . . something you're willing to risk life and limb for.

Song: I Have a Dream

*Solo (Annabelle): I have a dream that I've kept deep inside,
That someday I'll leave all this forest behind.
I can't wait to see where the journey will lead.
I have a dream. I have a dream.
I have a dream that someday I will hold
Treasures that sparkle like diamonds and gold,
And I'd have more riches than you've ever seen.
I have a dream. I have a dream*

Sometimes I wish upon a star. Sometimes the waiting seems so hard.
Sometimes I wonder if maybe it could be I'm reaching way too far.

*Solo (Annabelle): I have a dream that I'm longing to see,
If there's a place for somebody like me.
I'd be the luckiest tree in the world
If only I knew, someday my dream would come true.*

Happy Tree: Oh Annabelle, that's so exciting. What a wonderful dream. I believe that someday you *will* hold great and valuable treasure.

Stump: *(mimicking Happy Tree)* Oh Annabelle, that's so exciting. . . blah, blah blah blah blah! How about you, Bud? Surely a macho tree like you has a better dream than that.

Bud: Well as a matter of fact, I do.

*Solo (Bud): I have a dream that I'll sail on the sea.
The mightiest ship on the ocean I'd be
Worthy to carry a powerful king.
I have a dream, I have a dream.*

Stump: So whatever happened to *blooming where you're planted*? Is it just me, or does everyone with a dream just want out of this *neck of the woods*? Doesn't anyone want to *stick* around?

Gabrielle: I have the grandest dream of all. I just want to stay here in the forest forever. What could be better than standing on this hill and pointing people toward God?

*Solo (Gabrielle): I have a dream that I'll grow up so high
That when people pass they will look to the sky,
And realize there's something that's greater than me.
I have a dream, I have a dream.*

Sometimes I wish upon a star. Sometimes the waiting seems so hard.
Sometimes I wonder if maybe it could be I'm reaching way too far.

I have a dream that I'm longing to see if there's a place for somebody like me.
I'd be the luckiest tree in the world,
Solo (Gabrielle): If only I knew
If only I knew, someday my dream would come true.

Gabrielle: Shh, shhh. . . the woodcutter is coming! The woodcutter is coming!

(All TREES stiffen up)

Woody: *(sings)* If you're happy and you know it, hug a tree . . .

(WOODY softly kicks a TREE on the two beats after the line. TREES flinch. WOODY is startled to see this. The TREES giggle at him)

Woody: (sings) If you're happy and you know it, hug a tree. . .

(WOODY kicks again softly on the two beats and see the TREE flinch. The TREES giggle louder.)

Woody: Wow. Imagine this. After all these years I've been in the forest, and I never knew that you trees could talk?

(Music starts)

Woody: Why, why you . . . (points to a TREE) I've been watching you since you were just a little twig.

Gabrielle: Well, we were afraid of you.

Woody: Afraid of me? Why would you be afraid of me? (He motions toward them with axe, laughing as if he's coming after them. TREES back up as if they're scared)

Stump: I was afraid you had an axe to grind.

Woody: No, no, no you've got me all wrong. Let me tell you a little bit about myself.

Song: How Much Wood Would a Woodcutter Cut If a Woodcutter Could Cut Wood?

(TREES are on risers, facing backwards. They should slip on a pair of dark sunglasses.

OPTIONAL: Three kids can act as WOODY'S POSSE. They should be dressed in flannel shirts like his, with sunglasses. All simply mimic what WOODY does)

(WOODY should slip on sunglasses as he begins to rap)

(Every time the trees "answer" WOODY, they should turn to the left and say their line & then turn back around)

Solo (Woody): My name is Woody and I cut down trees. Big ones, small ones, anything with leaves.

A maple tree, an oak tree, any tree at all, The bigger they are the harder they fall.

I'm the biggest, baddest lumberjack in town, and I've never seen a forest that I couldn't bring down.

I can make a willow weep, I can make a cedar pine.

I'm as handy with a hatchet as anyone you'll find.

Woody: How much wood would a woodcutter cut if a woodcutter could cut wood?

Huh?

How much wood would a woodcutter cut if a woodcutter could cut wood?

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*Woody: I keep a daily log, oh the stories I could tell
Of trees I've discovered and the promise that they've held.
There's black oak, sassafrass, juniper, and birch, mulberry, sycamore, Douglas fir.
I take 'em ev'ry color; I take 'em ev'ry size,
But late at night I wonder when I close my eyes.*

Woody: How much wood would a woodcutter cut if a woodcutter could cut wood?

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Huh

*(Woody): My name is Woody and I cut down trees. Big ones, small ones, anything with leaves.
A maple tree, an oak tree, any tree at all, The bigger they are the harder they fall.*

Stump: So, who are you going to take today? May I recommend the fruit tree over there.

Fruity: No, not me. I've always hope to live to a ripe old age.

Woody: Well, you know, I've kind of had my eye one one way up there.

Voice: *(in the distance, yelling)* No, not me! I'm over the hill.

Woody: You, there. What a treasure. I think you'll be perfect. *(heads towards ANNABELLE)*

Annabelle: *(gasps)* A treasure? Me?

Woody: Yes. . . and you. *(motioning toward BUD)* You look like a strong tree.

Bud: I am. . . I am. I've always thought I had what it takes to be a mighty boat.

(Music “I Have a Dream Underscore” starts)

Woody: And so you shall. Let’s see . . . I need one more. *(looks at GABRIELLE)* You’ll do just fine.

(ANNABELLE & BUD look excited. GABRIELLE hangs her head sadly.)

(Lights go black quickly as WOODY raises his axe)

ACT II

(Spot comes up on WOODY (still in costume) sitting at edge of stage. All three sets (stable, shipyard, and carpenter’s shop) are in place. Bring lights up on each set as WOODY mentions it)

Woody/Narrator: Many years went by. Things didn’t turn out quite like trees had imagined.

(Woodcutters’ underscore music starts)

(Lights up on ANNABELLE kneeling at the manger, her arms encircling the top of the manger)

Woody/Narrator: Annabelle ended up in an old barn. I have to tell you, holding feed for animals is a long, long way from holding riches.

(Lights up on BUD standing in a ship in the shipyard at stage left)

Woody/Narrator: And Bud. . . when he found himself in a shipyard, he must have thought his dreams had all come true. But he didn’t become a mighty ship. Instead, he became a simple boat that would be never be used for more than carrying fishermen out to sea. It seemed he would never sail with powerful men the way he had dreamed.

(Lights up on GABRIELLE sitting on a bench looking dejected and sad)

Woody/Narrator: And Gabrielle. . . poor Gabrielle. I realize now that she never wanted to leave the forest. She only dreamed of growing taller and taller – pointing to heaven. Now she waits alone in the dark forgotten corner of the lumberyard.

All three trees had failed to realize that no matter how big we dream, God sees an even bigger picture. The hardest part for all of us is the waiting.

(Music starts)

Woody/Narrator: You know, it's almost like . . . when you can't see the forest for the trees.

Song: When You Can't See the Forest for the Trees

*Solo: When you feel like the stars have stopped shining, and the sun just can't reach where you are,
And when you're feeling afraid and forgotten, aike you're left all alone in the dark,
It's so easy to say there's a God up in heaven, but sometimes he's so hard to see.
But yet I have found, if we just learn to trust him, He's got everything we could need.*

If we had God's eyes and could see to forever, we'd never have to struggle to believe.
We'd understand why and in all of our questions. We'd know what the answers would be.
But we have faith enough to know, God is always in control
When we can't see the forest for the trees.

*Solo: There are times when we wait and we wonder, and we question the sound of His call.
In the silence we learn how to listen, and we find He's been there through it all.
He's longing to lead us from where we are waitings. He wants us to reach out our hands.
And with every step we're a little bit closer, To all that the Father has planned.*

If we had God's eyes and could see to forever. We'd never have to struggle to believe.
We'd understand why and in all of our questions. We'd know what the answers would be.
But we have faith enough to know God is always in control
When we can't see the forest for the trees.

We have faith enough to know, God is always in control. When we can't see the forest for the trees.

(MARY & JOSEPH enter from stage left and place the baby Jesus in the manger)

Woody/Narrator: Just as the three trees had waited to see their dreams fulfilled, so down through history, mankind had waited with wonder to see how God's plan for salvation would be revealed.

(Let Me Live song underscore begins)

(Lights up on stable. ANNABELLE is kneeling at the manger, her arms encircling the top of the manger)

Woody/Narrator: "And she brought forth her firstborn Son and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."

Annabelle: That's when I knew my dream HAD come true. That night I held the greatest treasure of all.

Woody/Narrator: That Baby grew into a man. One day He found Himself in the middle of a storm aboard a small fishing vessel and He arose, and rebuked the wind and said unto the sea, "Peace, be still." And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.

(Lights up on BUD standing in the shipyard)

Bud: And I thought to myself, what a great and powerful man this is. Even the wind and water obey him. That was when I realized that God had chosen me to carry the greatest King of all.

(Lights up on GABRIELLE sitting on a bench in carpenter's shop. As WOODY/NARRATOR speaks, two ROMAN SOLDIERS come and take GABRIELLE to top, center of risers.)

Woody/Narrator: Not long after that, Jesus faced another storm, one that he chose not to silence. He was accused and called guilty. He was betrayed and beaten. Then soldiers took His clothes and led Him through the streets to a hill where they nailed Him . . . to a tree . . . a tree that dreamed of standing tall and pointing people to God.

(Music starts)

Song: Let Me Live to Serve You Lord

(GABRIELLE should stand throughout the entire song with arms outstretched portraying a cross.)

*Solo: Let me live to serve You, Lord, Trading all my dreams for Yours.
Help me each day to trust You more. Let me live to serve You, Lord.*

Let me live to serve You, Lord, Trading all my dreams for Yours.
Help me each day to trust You more. Let me live to serve You, Lord.
Let me live to serve You, Lord, Trading all my dreams for Yours.
Help me each day to trust You more. Let me live to serve You, Lord.

Looking back its so easy to see, All of the blessings You've given to me.
You've shown me that You are the Lord above all,
So keep me from praying a prayer, That's too small.

Let me live to serve You, Lord, Trading all my dreams for Yours.
Help me each day to trust You more. Let me live to serve You, Lord.
Let me live to serve You, Lord, Trading all my dreams for Yours.
Help me each day to trust You more. Let me live to serve You, Lord.

Solo: Let me live, to serve You, Lord.

Woodsworth: So what do we plant when plant the tree?

We plant a story for all to read,
Of the manger that grew from a tiny seed,
The boat on the see of Galille,
The cross that was raised at Calvary.
That's what we get when we plant the tree.

Stump: Blah, blah, blah. Enough with the poetry. Nobody even asked me about my dream. I wanted to go out on a limb and be a tree house.

Dreamer Tree: Let it go, Stump. You're not near as funny as you think you are.

Stump: Hey, take it up with the branch manager.

(Music starts)

Happy Tree: I think it's time we pack up his trunk and get him out of here.

Stump: Leaf me alone! Get it? "Leaf." Get it??

(HAPPY TREE & DREAMER TREE start to carry STUMP by the limbs to the edge of the stage)

Stump: Hey, we're not out of the woods yet!

Song: **Every Tree in the Forest (Reprise)**

Ev'ry tree in the forest is telling a story, inviting the whole world to hear.
Through summer and winter they tell of the glory of seasons and changes and years.
They play in the sun; they dance in the rain,
Each one so diff'rent yet each one the same.
Ev'ry tree in the forest is part of the chorus. Listen and you will hear.

Ev'ry tree in the forest is telling a story, inviting the whole world to hear.
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