

SCENE FIFTEEN: LABYRINTH

The two goblins and the abducted kids emerge through the hole in the wall and tumble onto the ground, as though falling from a great height. A bunch of urchin looking kids with bandanas run up to greet them. The goblins shed their disguises to reveal themselves as Nick and Anneka. Joachim and the abducted kids scramble up and face them.

JOACHIM: So. This is where you've been hiding. Bunch of lawless hooligans. Do you realise you will be severely punished for abducting us?

NICK: We're doing you a big favour. You don't realise what's happened to you. Magda has stolen your childhood! She's taking it away to keep herself looking young and beautiful!

JOACHIM: *(Very adult tone)* Don't be ridiculous!

MIRIAM: *(Also very adult tone)* Load of nonsense!

NICK: She's not what you think she is. She's really an ugly old hag! She's evil!

Gasp of shock from abducted children.

JOACHIM: How dare you insult our glorious monarch like that!

They all kneel and salute.

ALL ABDUCTED

KIDS: Hail Queen Magda o great and glorious one!

ANNEKA: Oh get a grip you lot.

MIRIAM: *(To Nick)* You're the evil one. You're that Evil Elf Boy! We've seen the posters! We're going to tell on you!

JOACHIM: Yes. As soon as we get out of here you will be arrested. You're an enemy of the state!

MIRIAM: The cactus of evil!

JOACHIM: I think you mean *axis* of evil Miriam. *(To Nick)* We know all about your traitorous legacy! Volpo told us! Your ancestors overthrew Her Majesty.

MIRIAM: Tried to twerp her they did.

JOACHIM: *(Sigh)* Usurp Miriam...

ANNEKA: You're stupid if you believe that! It's all lies! Propaganda!

JOACHIM: How dare you speak to me so disrespectfully! Do you know who I am?

NICK: We know who you were.

JOACHIM: *(Taps badges pompously)* I am law and order monitor for compound eleven, and I'll have you know that I am being considered for the post of Head of Youth Intelligence for the entire city!

NICK / ANNEKA / URCHINS: Eeeeeyooooooooooooo! *(Mocking laughter)*

JOACHIM: You'll never get away with this! I command you to release us immediately!

ANNEKA: You're not going anywhere. If you try and run away you'll get lost in the tunnels. You'll die of cold and starvation. Only we know how to get in and out of this place

Nick pulls a cloth off a huge pile of toys.

MIRIAM: What are those?

NICK: They're called toys...

JOACHIM: *(Suspiciously)* Where did you get them?

NICK: We made them. With stuff we scavenged from the marketplace.

JOACHIM: Stealing as well...

ANNEKA: No! Recycling! It was thrown away.

The new children go over to inspect them.

MIRIAM: What are we supposed to do with them?

NICK: Play with them.

JOACHIM: *(Tossing the toy down)* We've grown out of that sort of thing.

MIRIAM: *(Contemptuously)* Yes it's very childish.

NICK: Okay go Elvina!

MUSIC UP: Elvina bursts out of Nick's front and buzzes around the new children.

<SFX: TINKLING NOISE>

JOACHIM: What on earth is *that*?

ANNEKA: It's a fairy. Remember believing in those? Well here's a real one.

Elvina buzzes around the toys and then around the kids who appear to be reawakened by her antics. <SFX: TINKLING NOISES> Their faces light up and they begin to dance and romp with the toys. Joachim suddenly seems to recognise Nick. He hugs him.

JOACHIM: Hey Nick! It's great to see you again! This is magic! What's going on? Where are we? What happened? It seems like I've been asleep or something...

NICK: Joachim! You're back!

ANNEKA: You're our old friend again! We've missed you!

Miriam runs up to Anneka, who swings her round.

MIRIAM: This place is amazing! I want to stay here forever!

Nick strides across the stage and leaps on top of the large hulking shape covered in cobwebs and icicles.

NICK: We're not going to let her take our childhood away are we?

Chorus of "No's"

We're going to fight back and stop her in her tracks!

Cheers and cries of "Yess"

We'll beat her! Yes we will!

ALL: Yes we will!

Everyone cheers.

MIRIAM: Yessssss! We will fight the evil forces of tiramisu!

JOACHIM: *(Kindly)* I think you mean tyranny Miriam.

MIRIAM: Tyranny!

Cheers.

<SFX: SIRENS COMING FROM ABOVE>

The children all freeze and look up. LIGHTS DOWN.