

A SUPERBUNNY CHRISTMAS

Book and Lyrics by Michael MacKenzie Wills

Music by Alastair William King

Vocal Arrangements by C. Colby Sachs

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A SUPERBUNNY CHRISTMAS

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Based on the Award-Winning Children's Book:

Thumperino Superbunny and the Christmas Star Caper

By Amber L. Spradlin

SYNOPSIS: A Superbunny Christmas is not just about entertaining children with the story of a missing Christmas star and the mission to get it back, it also champions the value of pet adoption. The hero of this story, Thumperino Superbunny, himself an adopted New York City house rabbit, becomes an ambassador for pet rescue when he saves 101 of his fellow rabbits from an evil villain and finds them all a home for Christmas. It teaches children many positive lessons like over-coming physical challenges, determination, teamwork, and sensitivity to the needs of others.

Based on the book *Thumperino Superbunny and the Christmas Star Caper*, by Amber L. Spradlin, 2013 Winner of the Creative Child Magazine Book of the Year, the Pacific Book Award, and an Indie Excellence Award Finalist.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(1-2 females, 3-4 males, 0-4either, 0-20 extras)

THUMPERINO SUPERBUNNY (m) A super hero rabbit with many superpowers. He is small in stature but very boastful and proud, kind and gentle, fearless and sometimes shy. *(42 lines)*

MINNIEWHEAT/VERONICA (f) A renegade bunny. She is small in stature but has a big personality. The personality comes from the years she spent on the street where she developed her "street smarts".

Her favorite mode of transportation is a skateboard. She walks with a limp because she has a slight case of scoliosis.
(21 lines)

BERTIE BIGGS (m)..... Bertie Biggs is the owner of a pet store in Brooklyn where he has the pets working in his villainess sweatshop. (21 lines)

CHAMP (m/f) A Reindeer. (25 lines)

FRANZ (m)..... A Costume Designer. (17 lines)

BRAGG STORY (m/f) A News Anchorman. (5 lines)

OFFICER MIKE (m) A Policeman. (7 lines)

KATHY NIGHTINGALE (f) An Eye Witness. (2 lines)

THE BUNNIES (m/f) A Group of Sweatshop Bunnies.
(Non Speaking)

THE CAROLERS (m/f)..... A Group of 4 Christmas Carolers. (Non Speaking)

CAST DOUBLING

Each character can be played by a different actor (nine actors and a chorus) or you can cast it as it was originally performed with just four actors, Also, any number of performers can be added as part of the 101 rescued bunnies or a large Christmas chorus instead of a small group of carolers.

ACTOR #1: Thumperino Superbunny, Bunnies, Caroler

ACTOR #2: Bertie Biggs, Bunnies, Caroler

ACTOR #3: Minniewheat/Veronica, Kathy, Officer Mike, Bunnies, Caroler

ACTOR #4: Champ, Franz, Bragg Story, Bunnies, Caroler

DURATION: 50-60 Minutes

TIME: The Present

PLACE: New York City

PRODUCTION NOTES

SET: The set should be minimal. Hand props should also be kept to a minimum. Can be performed with projections or festival style with no set.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

THE PROLOGUE: CHRISTMAS TREE PLAZA

SCENE 1: A LIVING ROOM IN QUEENS, NY

SCENE 2: A BACK ROOM IN BROOKLYN, NY

SCENE 3: CHRISTMAS TREE PLAZA

SCENE 4: A BACK ROOM IN BROOKLYN, NY

SCENE 5: CHRISTMAS TREE PLAZA

SCENE 6: MUSIC HALL REINDEER STALLS

SCENE 7: MUSIC HALL COSTUME ROOM

SCENE 8: THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

SCENE 9: A LIVING ROOM IN QUEENS, NY

COSTUMES

THUMPERINO—A yellow terry cloth towel tied around his neck like a cape, a horizontal striped T-shirt, baggy shorts (cargo), and black high-top sneakers. He wears a cloth hat with long rabbit ears.

BRAGG STORY—A suit.

BERTIE BIGGS—A suit. His hair is slicked down and parted in the middle. He has a long thin handlebar moustache.

KATHY NIGHTINGALE—A scarf and glasses.

FRANZ—A very stylish costume designer.

CHAMP—A brown sweatshirt and pants, leather suspenders, and red sneakers. He wears a cloth hat with ears and antlers.

MINNIEWHEAT—Christmas Elf Costume: A red hoodie, green t-shirt, cargo shorts, and protective knee/elbow pads. She wears a cloth hat with short rabbit ears.

OFFICER MIKE—A police uniform, hat, badge, and radio.

PROPS

- ☐ (4) Dicken's style caroler masks
- ☐ Pitch pipe
- ☐ News Anchor's microphone
- ☐ Folding table with a band of cloth (represents the treadmill)
- ☐ Army of wooden stick bunny puppets
- ☐ Silver whistle
- ☐ Handmade Slingshot
- ☐ Top Hat
- ☐ Red Skate board
- ☐ Green bike helmet
- ☐ (2) carrot flavored bunny snacks "Munchy Crunchy Bunny Bites"
- ☐ Guitar
- ☐ Blue beach ball (represents the Christmas Star)
- ☐ Costume rack with extra costumes for the "Christmas Extravaganza"
- ☐ Handcuffs
- ☐ Paper and pencil
- ☐ String

MUSICAL NUMBERS

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| SONG #1 | <u>CHRISTMAS TV</u>
<i>ALL CAROLERS</i> |
| SONG #2 | <u>MAMA'S SONG</u>
<i>THUMPERINO</i> |
| SONG #3 | <u>SWEATSHOP</u>
<i>INSTRUMENTAL</i> |
| SONG #4 | <u>RUN, RUN BUNNY</u>
<i>ALL BUNNIES</i> |
| SONG #5 | <u>LET THIS BE A WARNING</u>
<i>BERTIE</i> |

- SONG #6** **CHRISTMAS PLAZA**
INSTRUMENTAL
- SONG #7** **STOLEN CHRISTMAS**
TWO CAROLERS
- SONG #8** **THE REAL REINDEER REEL**
CHAMP, THUMPERINO & ENSEMBLE
- SONG #9** **BROOKLYN**
INSTRUMENTAL
- SONG #10** **RUN, RUN BUNNY (INTERRUPTED REPRISE)**
BUNNIES
- SONG #11** **MONEY MAKES EVERYTHING RIGHT**
BERTIE, ENSEMBLE
- SONG #12** **BUNNIES IN THE SNOW**
ALL CAROLERS
- SONG #13** **PLAY OFF (Bunnies in the Snow)**
INSTRUMENTAL
- SONG #14** **MAMA'S SONG (REPRISE)**
THUMPERINO, ENSEMBLE
- SONG #15** **CHRISTMAS COSTUMES**
INSTRUMENTAL
- SONG #16** **LIAR!**
BERTIE, FRANZ
- SONG #17** **THE CHRISTMAS BOUNCE**
INSTRUMENTAL
- SONG #18** **A HOME FOR CHRISTMAS**
ALL CAROLERS
- SONG #19** **MY WISH FOR YOU**
THUMPERINO, MINNIEWHEAT
- SONG #20** **CHRISTMAS PLAZA**
INSTRUMENTAL
- SONG #21** **HAPPY BUNNY CHRISTMAS (FINALE)**
ALL CAROLERS

AUTHOR NOTES

In this story, Thumperino learns the strength of teamwork by helping his new friend Minnie Wheat, and as an adopted pet himself, he gets a chance to share the value of having a family and taking care of others. These two lessons are important for children to hear around the holiday season when everything seems to be consumption and consumerism so when Michael MacKenzie Wills asked me if he could create another Superbunny musical from my second book I jumped at the chance to have Thumperino Superbunny showing kids a good time and sharing a message through song and dance. I hope that doing the Reindeer Reel becomes a new holiday tradition!

—Amber L. Spradlin, Author

Thumperino Superbunny and the Christmas Star Caper

A *Superbunny Christmas* is based on a children's book called *Thumperino Superbunny and the Christmas Star Caper*. Now from the title, you might think this show it's about Christmas, but it isn't really about Christmas itself. It's about the spirit and joy of a shared human experience that comes around once a year. We would all love to maintain and hold onto that feeling every day of the year so this musical makes an attempt to suggest a possible way of doing just that in a song near the end of the show called A Home for Christmas.

In this particular musical, Superbunny meets his future sidekick. She is a small female rabbit with scoliosis who's going by the nickname of Minnie Wheat. She doesn't use her given name because she doesn't want anyone to know her real identity. She is filled with shame because some very bad men are forcing her to participate in their crimes.

The villain in this story is the evil Bertie Biggs who owns a pet shop and has over 100 rabbits chained up in his basement as part of a labor camp that polishes the jewels he has forced Minnie Wheat to steal. In the New York production, 100 rabbits meant creating miniature puppets so several actors/puppeteers could hold 20 rabbits in each hand. In another production 100 rabbits could be achieved through shadow puppets being projected on a wall or scrim. Or an entire dance troupe could be utilized to create the 100

rabbits and perform an elaborate dance number. Or a chorus/choir could serve as the 100 rabbits. Several transitional songs were written for this show to describe major events that happen in the story, ala a Greek Chorus (in the script they are referred to as The Carolers). In the New York production, I had all the actors and characters participate in these numbers, but in your production a chorus/choir of any size could be used to perform these transition songs and be the 100 rabbits by putting on some rabbit ears. It is completely up to the creative team of each individual production.

While musicals are divided into many scenes and locations, I see this piece unfolding with great fluidity. Even when moving from location to location the action never stops. The transitions are seamless which is why I think it plays best on a near-empty stage or a non-representational set. Everything can be created with lighting.

There is a Christmas fantasy feel to this show. In every production I personally directed of this show I used four actors and four puppets to play the major characters, 100 miniature puppets to play the workers, and a large solid blue beach ball to represent the stolen Christmas star. When the Christmas star (beach ball) is accidentally kicked into the audience and the entire cast jumps off the stage chasing it as the audience bounces to from person to person, it is a very exciting moment indeed.

I offer these thoughts only as noted from my personal experience. I am always genuinely excited to see and learn from how others interpret and stage their own production of this show.

—Michael MacKenzie Wills, Book & Lyrics/Director
A Superbunny Christmas

PREMIERE PRODUCTION

Performances Produced by Rabbit Hole Theatrics, Inc. at The Actors Fund
Arts Center, Brooklyn, NY - December 2014

Directed by Michael MacKenzie Wills

Music Direction by C. Colby Sachs

Choreography by J. Joseph Burke

BRAGG STORY, FRANZ, CHAMP, CAROLERCalum Fleming

THUMPERINO SUPERBUNNY, CAROLERJustin Galletto

KATHY NIGHTINGALE, MINNIEWHEAT,

OFFICER MIKE, CAROLERKarlene Grinberg

BERTIE BIGGS, CAROLERAdelmo Guidarelli

PROLOGUE

SETTING: *CHRISTMAS TREE PLAZA*

AT START: *The ensemble enters dressed as DICKENS CAROLERS.
The lead singer blows a pitch pipe.*

SONG #1: CHRISTMAS TV
ALL CAROLERS

ALL:

MAKE MINE IN BLACK AND WHITE

SOLO FEMALE:

I WANT MINE IN COLOR

ALL:

BY THE FIRE LATE AT NIGHT

SOLO FEMALE:

SNUGGLING WITH MY FELLER

ALL:

VINTAGE DECORATIONS

SOLO FEMALE:

BUT I LIKE MODERN STYLE

ALL:

TO HEAR THE CHILDREN LAUGHING

SOLO FEMALE:

PRESENTS MAKES ME SMILE

ALL:

SHOW ME CITY SIDEWALKS,

SOLO FEMALE:

A COUNTRYSIDE FOR ME.

ALL:

WARM AND FUZZY FAM'LY TALKS.

SOLO FEMALE:

UHG... MUST BE CHRISTMAS TV!

ALL:

IT'S CHRISTMAS,
IT'S CHRISTMAS,
FOR YOU AND FOR ME.

IT'S CHRISTMAS,
IT'S CHRISTMAS,
IT'S CHRISTMAS TV.

BASS:

THAT ROTTEN OLD MAN WHO FILLS PEOPLE WITH FEAR.

SOLO FEMALE:

A SWEET LITTLE MOPPET WILL FILL HIM WITH CHEER.

ALL:

A SWEET LITTLE MOPPET WILL FILL HIM WITH CHEER.

YOU HEAR A BELL CHIMING THOSE FIVE GOLDEN RINGS
AND WITH EV'RYONE AN ANGEL GET ITS WINGS.
AND WITH EV'RYONE AN ANGEL GET ITS WINGS.

IT'S CHRISTMAS,
IT'S CHRISTMAS,
FOR YOU AND FOR ME.

IT'S CHRISTMAS,
IT'S CHRISTMAS,
IT'S CHRISTMAS TV.

BARITONE:

A LAST-MINUTE DASH TO GET TO THE TOY STORE

TENOR:

IS FILLED WITH HIJINKS THAT ENDS IN A TOY WAR.

ALL:

IT'S FILLED WITH HIJINKS THAT ENDS IN A TOY WAR.

YOU GO TO SEE SANTA AND LEAVE WITH A POUT,
FOR HE SAYS "YOU'RE GONNA SHOOT YOUR EYE OUT!"
FOR HE SAYS "YOU'RE GONNA SHOOT YOUR EYE OUT!"

IT'S CHRISTMAS,
IT'S CHRISTMAS,
FOR YOU AND FOR ME.

ALL:

IT'S CHRISTMAS,
IT'S CHRISTMAS,
IT'S CHRISTMAS TV.

BASS and SOPRANO:

IRRELEVANT SILVER-HAIRED GRANNY WITH NURSE,

TENOR and BARITONE:

HER SASSY ONE-LINERS TEACH "FAMILY COMES FIRST!"

ALL:

HER SASSY ONE-LINERS TEACH "FAMILY COMES FIRST!"

SOPRANO and BASS:

HE'S MEAN AND HE'S GREEN AND HE—

ALL:

—STEALS CHRISTMAS DAY

TENOR and BARITONE:

HIS HEART GROWS THREE SIZES THEN HE'S SHOWN THE WAY.
HIS HEART GROWS THREE SIZES THEN HE'S SHOWN THE WAY.

IT'S CHRISTMAS,
IT'S CHRISTMAS,
FOR YOU AND FOR ME.

IT'S CHRISTMAS,
IT'S CHRISTMAS,
IT'S CHRISTMAS TV.

SCENE 1

SETTING: A LIVING ROOM IN QUEENS

AT START: THUMPERINO is lounging on the living room floor. He is wearing a yellow terry cloth towel tied around his neck like a cape, a horizontal striped T-shirt, baggy shorts, and high-top sneakers. He sits up.

THUMPERINO: Hi everybody, my name is Thumperino Superbunny and I just love this time of year and all the holiday movies they play on TV. You know what, they all have happy endings - and I love happy endings. They bring back memories of when I was a little bunny growing up in Rolling Hills, Connecticut...

SONG #2: MAMA'S SONG

THUMPERINO

THUMPERINO:

SNOWY BALES OF HAY,
CARROTS GLEAMING WITH DEW,
SHINNY APPLES SLICED IN A BOWL

MAMA WORKED ALL DAY,
WHILE WE JUST PLAYED, AND THEN...
WE WOULD RUN DOWN THE HOLE.

AND SHE'D TUCK US IN,
SWEETLY WHISPER GOOD-NIGHT.
AND THE SONG SHE'D SING ALWAYS SAID:
"IT IS CHRISTMAS,
LET SUGAR PLUMS DANCE IN YOUR HEAD.
IT IS CHRISTMAS,
SWEET DREAMS LYING SAFE IN YOUR BED."

AND HER LOVING SONG,
MAKES ME KINDA LONG
THAT SOMEONE WAS HERE
TO WARM MY BED.

I WOULD TUCK HER IN,
SWEETLY WHISPER GOOD-NIGHT.
AND I'D SING OF OUR DAYS AHEAD.
IT IS CHRISTMAS,
AND THERE'S SO MANY THINGS TO BE SAID.
IT IS CHRISTMAS,
SWEET DREAMS LYING SAFE IN YOUR BED.

SINGING MAMA'S SONG,
KIND OF MAKES ME LONG
THAT SOMEONE WAS HERE
WARMING MY BED.

THUMPERINO: I'm a big city bunny now and I live in Queens, New York with the Red-Haired Lady and the Singing Man. It seems like they adopted me a lifetime ago. They don't know that I have superpowers. I must keep my vigilante life-style a secret in order to protect them from the pitfalls of a hero's life. It's a tough job, but with super-powers, I have a duty to make the world a better place...

THUMPERINO is interrupted by BRAGG STORY, a news anchorman, who appears on TV with a Special News Report. He is wearing a suit and holding a microphone.

BRAGG: FLASH! This is anchorman Bragg Story interrupting your holiday movie with a Special Report coming to you live from Christmas Tree Plaza:

Earlier this evening, chaos ensued when all the lights suddenly went out here at Christmas Tree Plaza. When the emergency lighting finally came on, it was revealed that the blue crystal star atop the tree had been stolen. This very special star cannot be replaced. It is made from a rare crystal that comes from deep beneath the snow at the North Pole. It was hand carved from the largest individual blue crystal ever discovered.

The star is the center of tradition for our Christmas celebration here in New York. Millions of children come every year to see the glimmering star amidst the Christmas wonderland display. But now, with the star missing, joy has been sucked out of the holiday season.

KATHY NIGHTINGALE enters and walks in front of BRAGG.

BRAGG: Excuse me ma'am, Bragg Story, Channel 8 News. Were you here when the lights went out?

KATHY: *(New York accent.)* I most certainly was.

BRAGG: Did you see anything.

KATHY: I most certainly did. (*Speaks into BRAGG's microphone.*) I saw one of Santa's elves climb up into the tree just before all the lights went out. He scampered right up the tree. I'm sure he had something to do with it. And then, and you're not goin' to believe this one Bragg, it started raining gumdrops. They was flyin' all over da place. It was unbelievable. Unbelievable I tell ya. I just couldn't believe it.

BRAGG ushers her along and turns back to the camera.

BRAGG: Thank you madam for that most unique account of the events from this evening. The Police are questioning witnesses, but so far they have no leads.

Now if I can just get one's attention for an interview—There's one, Officer Mike! Officer Mike, can I have a few words?

BRAGG exits in pursuit of OFFICER MIKE. THUMPERINO turns off the television.

THUMPERINO: I must come up with a plan to solve this Christmas star caper. To do so, I will have to investigate the scene of the crime in person. Hock speed away! (*Leaps into the air and flies off.*)

SONG #3: SWEATSHOP!

INSTRUMENTAL

SCENE 2

SETTING: *A BACK ROOM IN BROOKLYN*

AT START: *A bunny sweatshop behind Bertie's Bunny Boutique. Several bunnies are slaving away at their task. They are strapped together like dogs pulling a sled. The bunnies are running as fast as they can on a treadmill-like device.*

SONG #4: RUN, RUN BUNNY**ALL BUNNIES****ALL BUNNIES:**

RUN BUN,
RUN BUN,
THE CRYSTAL NEEDS TO SHINE.

RUN BUN,
RUN BUN
YOU GOTTA TOW THE LINE.

(Spoken.) Make it hop!

YOU GOTTA RUN FASTER
THAN A HOPPED-UP CADILLAC CAR.
RUN BUNNY, RUN RUN BUNNY.

YOU CAN RUN ALL DAY BUT YOU'RE NEVER EVER GONNA GO FAR.
RUN, BUNNY, RUN, RUN BUNNY.

IF YOU GET OUTTA HERE
YOU CAN LEARN TO PLAY THE GUITAR.
RUN BUNNY, RUN, RUN BUNNY.

RUN BUNNY, RUN, RUN BUNNY.
RUN BUNNY, RUN, RUN BUNNY.

GOTTA KEEP UP THE PACE,
'CAUSE YOU NEVER WANT TO FALL BEHIND.
RUN BUNNY, RUN, RUN BUNNY.

WE'LL POLISH THIS CRYSTAL
'TIL THE SHINE MAKES EVERYONE BLIND.
RUN, BUNNY, RUN, RUN BUNNY.

PLEASE SOMEONE SEND A HERO TO HELP US GET OUT OF THIS BIND.
RUN BUNNY, RUN, RUN BUNNY.

RUN BUNNY, RUN, RUN BUNNY.
RUN BUNNY, RUN, RUN BUNNY.

SOMEDAY YOU'LL ESCAPE AND GET OFF OF THIS MERRY-GO-ROUND.
RUN BUNNY, RUN, RUN BUNNY.

ALL BUNNIES:

THE STORIES YOU WILL TELL
WILL MAKE YOU FAMOUS AND RENOWN.
RUN BUNNY, RUN, RUN BUNNY.

GOTTA KEEP ON RUNNIN' NEVER LET THAT BERTIE BREAK YOU DOWN.

GOTTA KEEP ON A-RUNNIN'
LIKE YOU'RE A-RUNNIN' SON-OF-A-BUN!
OH YEAH!

BERTIE BIGGS enters. BERTIE is a short fat man wearing a grey sharkskin suit. His hair is slicked down and parted in the middle. He has a long thin handlebar moustache and a permanent sneer.

BERTIE: Enough!

BUNNIES stop – exhausted. BERTIE unhooks them from the treadmill and leads them off for a break. As the BUNNIES exit, FRANZ enters. FRANZ is the costume designer for the big Christmas Extravaganza at the New York Music Hall. He is a tall, thin, very stylish man.

FRANZ: Bertie!

BERTIE: Franz? What are you doing here?

FRANZ: Oh, maybe I've come to pick up the new reindeer harnesses for the Christmas Extravaganza at the New York Music Hall - as if you didn't know.

BERTIE: I told you I need more time to break apart the Christmas star.

FRANZ: And I told you I needed the harnesses by Friday.

BERTIE: I am an artist. My work is very precise. I must hand carve each jewel.

FRANZ: Our agreement was that you would deliver one thousand jewels per harness. I don't care how you do it, just deliver them on time.

BERTIE: Maybe more money would motivate me to meet your misguided deadline – Or maybe, the star might go missing.

FRANZ: Don't threaten me, Bertie. The New York Music Hall has already paid you an increase in your original fee and extended your deadline. I'm not going to take the heat for your tardiness any longer. This production is going to be my crowning glory! If I get fired because of you, I will go to the police and tell them everything about you and your illegal bunny sweatshop out here in Brooklyn.

BERTIE: You wouldn't dare.

FRANZ: Don't push your luck, Bertie. You will deliver the jeweled harnesses on Friday or else. (*Exits.*)

BERTIE: No one talks to Bertie Biggs that way!

SONG #5: LET THIS BE A WARNING

BERTIE

BERTIE:

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU SAY,
YOU CAN TALK AND TALK AND TALK ALL DAY,
BUT DON'T YOU EVER, EVER, EVER
TALK TO ME THAT WAY!

YOU LURED ME IN WITH YOUR LITTLE SCHEME
BUT NOW YOU MAKE ME WANT TO SCREAM.
THE GRACIOUS STYLE THAT YOU ONCE HAD
HAS ALL TURNED SOUR AND GONE BAD.

HOW DARE YOU THREATEN ME LIKE THAT.
IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL I'LL GET A BAT
AND STRIKE YOU WHERE YOU WEAR YOUR HAT.
LET THIS BE A WARNING.

I WONDER IF YOU REALLY KNOW
HOW BAD IT'D BE IF IT CAME TO BLOWS.
FOR I DON'T HAVE TO REALLY TRY
TO SEE YOU THERE WITH A BLACK EYE.

HOW DARE YOU THREATEN ME LIKE THAT.
IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL I'LL GET A BAT
AND STRIKE YOU WHERE YOU WEAR YOUR HAT.
LET THIS BE A WARNING.

DON'T YOU EVER TALK TO BERTIE
WITH DEMANDS OF HOW IT SHOULD BE.
JUST CROSS ME ONCE AND YOU WILL SEE
YOUR NAME ERASED FROM THE MARQUEE!

BERTIE:

HOW DARE YOU THREATEN ME LIKE THAT.
IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL I'LL GET A BAT
AND STRIKE YOU WHERE YOU WEAR YOUR HAT.
LET THIS BE A WARNING.
LET THIS BE A WARNING.
LET THIS BE A WARNING!

BERTIE blows a silver whistle that he has hanging around his neck.

BERTIE: (*Spoken.*) Back to work rabbits! We've got a quota!

SONG #6: CHRISTMAS PLAZA

INSTRUMENTAL

SCENE 3

SETTING: *CHRISTMAS TREE PLAZA*

AT START: *Two CAROLERS enter.*

SONG #7: STOLEN CHRISTMAS

TWO CAROLERS

BARITONE:

THE LIGHTS ON THE TREE ARE NOT GLOWING.

SOPRANO:

THE SNOW IS NOT WHITE, AND NOTHING SHINES BRIGHT.

BARITONE:

THE POINSETTIAS HAVE JUST STOPPED GROWING.

SOPRANO:

I SAW THE GRINCH, HE DID A HAPPY SPIN.

BOTH:

AND THERE'S THIS HEAVY FEELING OF DOOM,
THAT'S CAUSING GREAT FEAR.
WE GOT US A STOLEN CHRISTMAS, RIGHT HERE.

BARITONE:

THE ICE RINK HAS JUST STARTED MELTING.

SOPRANO:

MY STOCKINGS ARE WET. I'M GETTING UPSET.

BARITONE:

THE CAROLERS STOPPED ALL THEIR BELTING.

SOPRANO:

THE CAROLS JUST DIED. I'M EMPTY INSIDE.

BOTH:

WE NEED SOMEONE WHO IS A HERO,
TO BRING BACK GOOD CHEER.
WE GOT US A STOLEN CHRISTMAS, RIGHT HERE.

BARITONE:

THE YULE LOG IS NOTHING BUT ASHES.

SOPRANO:

IT'S COLD AS A TOMB. THERE'S NOTHING BUT GLOOM.

BARITONE:

SANTA IS MOVING LIKE MOLASSES.

SOPRANO:

I THINK HE IS DONE. HE'S NOT GONNA COME.

BOTH:

ACQUAINTANCE HAVE ALL BEEN FORGOTTEN 'CAUSE NO ONE IS HERE!
WE GOT US A STOLEN CHRISTMAS RIGHT HERE! ...OH DEAR

CAROLERS exit. THUMPERINO enters and looks at the giant Christmas tree in the plaza.

THUMPERINO: Wow. I've never seen such a big Christmas tree. If only the lights were on and the star wasn't missing— (*Spots a homemade slingshot on a tree branch.*) I wonder what that is? It looks like a giant rubber band. (*Crosses and picks it up.*) It's a homemade slingshot. There's a green gumdrop frozen to the band. No wonder people thought they saw gumdrops flying through the air. (*Looks more closely at the slingshot and reads.*) Bertie's Bunny Boutique, Brooklyn – This must be a clue.

Suddenly, THUMPERINO hears the clip-clop of hooves coming towards him. It is CHAMP, a very majestic and proud looking reindeer who is in the Christmas Extravaganza. He is on a break from rehearsing the show and carrying a top hat. THUMPERINO puts the slingshot in his pocket. CHAMP enters.

CHAMP: Hello, wee man. You got the wrong holiday. Bunnies are in the Easter show.

THUMPERINO is speechless.

CHAMP: What's the matter, pal? Never met a reindeer before?

THUMPERINO: (*Finding the words.*) No, sir.

CHAMP: My name is Champ. I'm the head reindeer around here. What's your name, wee man?

THUMPERINO: Thumperino Superbunny.

CHAMP: Why the long face.

THUMPERINO: I'm here trying to find clues to solve the Christmas star caper.

CHAMP: It's mighty sad that someone would steal the Christmas star. It's made everything around here pretty glum. I know what will cheer you up. I'll pull a rabbit out of a hat. You'll like that 'cause you're a rabbit.

CHAMP takes a top hat and waves his hoof over it.

CHAMP: Abracadabra.

CHAMP reaches into the hat and pulls out a very small object that we cannot see.

CHAMP: Awwwww, it's not a rabbit... It's a hair.

THUMPERINO: Ummm... I need to solve this caper before Christmas day or Christmas will be ruined for millions of children—Have you heard or seen anything suspicious around here, Mr. Champ?

CHAMP: Not really. The other reindeer and I have been rehearsing a new dance number called The Real Reindeer Reel so we haven't had much time for anything. If we're not rehearsing we're in costume fittings -- speaking of that, our new costumes haven't arrived yet. It's just one thing after another with showbiz, ya know?

THUMPERINO: Not really. Being a crime fighter, I try to stay out of the spotlight as much as I can.

CHAMP: Hey, why don't you and I try to cheer things up around here.

THUMPERINO: How?

CHAMP: Let's do The Real Reindeer Reel.

THUMPERINO: Oh, I don't know...

CHAMP: Sure, I'll teach it to you.

SONG #8: THE REAL REINDEER REEL

CHAMP, THUMPERINO, & ENSEMBLE

CHAMP:

HERE'S A NEW DANCE THAT YOU OUGHTA KNOW.

THUMPERINO:

IS IT THE ONE THAT YOU DO IN THE SHOW?

CHAMP:

YES, AND I PROMISE THAT I WILL GO SLOW.

THUMPERINO:

OKAY THEN LET'S DO IT!

CHAMP:

...READY SET GO!

CHECK TO SEE YOUR HARNESS IS ON TIGHT.

LIFT YOUR HOOF UP AND STEP TWICE TO THE RIGHT.

PROMENADE AROUND THE ROOM IN THE SPOTLIGHT,

IF YOU DO IT RIGHT YOU WILL BE QUITE A SIGHT.

TILT YOUR HEAD FORWARD, LOWER YOUR CHIN.

BEND IT TO THE LEFT AND BRING IT BACK AGAIN.

ROLL YOUR HEAD AROUND, THEN TOSS IT BACK

AND THAT'S WHAT'S KNOWN AS SHAKIN' YOUR RACK.

CHAMP: *(Spoken.)* Got that wee man? Now you try it. *(Steps back and watches encouragingly.)*

THUMPERINO:

CHECK TO SEE YOUR HARNESS IS ON TIGHT?

CHAMP: *(Spoken.)* That's it.

THUMPERINO:

LIFT YOUR HOOF UP AND STEP TWICE TO THE RIGHT?

CHAMP: *(Spoken.)* You got it.

THUMPERINO:

PROMENADE AROUND THE ROOM IN THE SPOTLIGHT?

CHAMP: *(Spoken.)* Go boy go.

THUMPERINO:

IF YOU DO IT RIGHT YOU WILL BE QUITE A SIGHT!

CHAMP joins in.

THUMPERINO and CHAMP:

TILT YOUR HEAD FORWARD, LOWER YOUR CHIN.

BEND IT TO THE LEFT AND BRING IT BACK AGAIN.

ROLL YOUR HEAD AROUND, THEN TOSS IT BACK

AND THAT'S WHAT'S KNOWN AS SHAKIN' YOUR RACK

CHAMP: *(Spoken.)* You got it. Together now.

THUMPERINO and CHAMP:

CHECK

LIFT

PROMENADE

CHAMP: *(Spoken.)* Ain't we a sight!

THUMPERINO and CHAMP:

TILT

BEND

ROLL

AND THAT'S WHAT'S KNOWN AS SHAKIN' YOUR RACK.

CHAMP: (*Spoken.*) Now everybody – Join us! You must know it by now. Stand up!

THUMPERINO and CHAMP:

CHECK TO SEE YOUR HARNESS IS ON TIGHT.
LIFT YOUR HOOF UP AND STEP TWICE TO THE RIGHT.
PROMENADE AROUND THE ROOM IN THE SPOTLIGHT,
IF YOU DO IT RIGHT YOU'LL BE QUITE A SIGHT.

TILT YOUR HEAD FORWARD, LOWER YOUR CHIN.
BEND IT TO THE LEFT AND BRING IT BACK AGAIN.
ROLL YOUR HEAD AROUND, THEN TOSS IT BACK
AND THAT'S WHAT'S KNOWN AS SHAKIN' YOUR RACK.

AND THAT'S WHAT'S KNOWN AS SHAKIN' YOUR RACK.

CHAMP: Who wants to do it one more time? (*AUDIENCE reacts.*) Well then, let's go for it. Hit it [insert piano players name].

THUMPERINO and CHAMP:

CHECK TO SEE YOUR HARNESS IS ON TIGHT.
LIFT YOUR HOOF UP AND STEP TWICE TO THE RIGHT.
PROMENADE AROUND THE ROOM IN THE SPOTLIGHT,
IF YOU DO IT RIGHT YOU'LL BE QUITE A SIGHT.

TILT YOUR HEAD FORWARD, LOWER YOUR CHIN.
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ROLL YOUR HEAD AROUND, THEN TOSS IT BACK
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AND THAT'S WHAT'S KNOWN AS SHAKIN' YOUR RACK.

CHAMP: Well, Thumpy my little bunny friend, I'd better get back to the theater. Break time is over. If I can help you in any way, come and see me. I'll do whatever I can. (*Exits singing.*)

AND THAT'S WHAT'S KNOWN AS SHAKIN' YOUR RACK

THUMPERINO: Bringing the star back to Christmas Tree Plaza is the only way to revive the holiday spirit. I have to solve this Christmas star caper... (*Sees something moving by the Christmas tree's base.*) What was that?

MINNIEWHEAT is sneaking around the tree.

THUMPERINO: Who goes there? Come out, there is nothing to be afraid of. It is I, Thumperino Superbunny!

MINNIEWHEAT enters holding a skate board. She walks with a limp. She is wearing a red hoodie, green t-shirt, cargo shorts, and protective pads as she comes out from behind the gold-painted wood of the tree's base. She carries a green bike helmet.

THUMPERINO: Are you one of Santa's elves in the Christmas Extravaganza? You look hurt? Did you get injured when the star was stolen?

MINNIEWHEAT quickly jumps on her skateboard and heads straight towards THUMPERINO. She whizzes past him and knocks him to the ground. She drops her helmet during this action. THUMPERINO stands up and starts to follow but stops short.

THUMPERINO: Did you see that? She grabbed the bumper of the 427 Express Bus to Brooklyn. It was just, Wooosh!, and she was gone. *(Looks down.)* What's this? *(Picks up the green bike helmet that MINNIEWHEAT dropped.)* This is that elf's bike helmet! —It's not safe to be skateboarding without a helmet. *(Shakes the helmet. Two orange bits drop to the floor.)* Those look like Munchy Crunchy Bunny Bites. *(Aside.)* One of my favorite treats. *(Picks one up and sniffs it.)* Hummmmm. *(Bites it.)* It is a Munchy Crunchy Bunny Bite! I wonder if this slingshot belongs to her, too? *(Pulls out the slingshot and examines it again. He pulls on the rubber band and aims up.)* I bet this is how she shot out all the lights - With gumdrops! But she was too small to have stolen the Christmas Star all by herself. She must have a partner in crime. *(Reads what's written on the slingshot again.)* Bertie's Bunny Boutique... BROOKLYN! This is from a shop in Brooklyn and the bus that the elf grabbed onto was headed to Brooklyn. I have to go to Bertie's Bunny Boutique and investigate. The cover of darkness will protect me from view as I fly off to Brooklyn to unravel this caper. Hock speed away! *(Leaps into the air and flies off.)*

Thank you for reading this free excerpt from:

A SUPERBUNNY CHRISTMAS

Book and Lyrics by Michael MacKenzie Wills

Music by Alastair William King

Vocal Arrangements by C. Colby Sachs

Based on the book

"Thumperino Superbunny and the Christmas Star Caper"

by Amber L. Spradlin

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