

*Marta Guśniowska*

***Snake...***

Original title: *Wąż...*

Translated by Dotty Kultys

Characters:

***Snake***

as well as:

***Narrator***

***Hamster***

***Gecko***

***Tooth Fairy***

***Magician***

***Rabbit***

***Spider***

***Predator Bird***

With a guest appearance by:

***God...***

## Scene 1

*The Narrator appears.*

### **NARRATOR**

There once was a rather angry Snake...  
And angry not without reason!  
For every time, instead of cake,  
He'd get socks for his birthday season.

And if that wasn't just quite enough  
To make him feel the lack of love,  
When his name day came, oh, this is tough!  
He'd always get a pair of gloves.

### **SNAKE**

*(Gliding carelessly along the stage.)* No comment... *(Glides further along.)*

### **NARRATOR**

Now try them on! Try to wear the lot!  
Poor fellow, he looked so sorry...  
So I just had this amazing thought  
That I shall reveal his story.

### **SNAKE**

Hold your horses! No one confirmed this with me...

### **NARRATOR**

Well, that's because... it was supposed to be a surprise...

### **SNAKE**

I had a surprise once: when I realised the lack of limbs. Thank you very much.

### **NARRATOR**

But this is a nice surprise! I'll narrate you very prettily! In my tale you'll be much more charming...

### **SNAKE**

Don't want to...

### **NARRATOR**

More intelligent...

### **SNAKE**

Don't want to...

### **NARRATOR**

More laid back...

**SNAKE**

Don't want to...

**NARRATOR**

And thinner...

**SNAKE**

Don't wan... you what?! You said thinner?!

**NARRATOR**

Come on – everybody wants to be thinner...

**SNAKE**

But thinner how?! Thinner where?! I'm a snake! I'm thin by nature!

**NARRATOR**

Well, you know... one could find a bit of fat here or there...

**SNAKE**

*(Calmly)* That's not fat...

**NARRATOR**

*(Mockingly)* Sure, suuuure...

**SNAKE**

That's not fat. That's your Hamster.

**NARRATOR**

What?!!! Crispy?! *(To Snake's stomach)* Crispy?! Is that you?!!!

**HAMSTER'S VOICE**

Me!

**NARRATOR**

But... what are you doing in there?!!!

**HAMSTER'S VOICE**

Not much...

**NARRATOR**

But... but how?!!! *(To Snake)* You let him out right now!!!

**SNAKE**

Sorry – consumed goods cannot be returned.

**NARRATOR**

But it's Crispers!!!

**SNAKE**

I don't look at labels. It was lying there, so I ate it.

**NARRATOR**

But Crispers?!!! (*To Snake's stomach*) Crispers!!! Crispers!!! Can you hear Master?! Don't go towards the light! Whatever happens — don't go towards the light!

**HAMSTER'S VOICE**

But there is no light here! I can't see a bloo...

**NARRATOR**

No! Alright, Crispers! Change of plans! Go towards the light!

**HAMSTER'S VOICE**

What light?

**NARRATOR**

This light!

*He grabs Snake and forces his jaws apart.*

**SNAKE**

(*Muffled*) Hey! You can't do that!

**NARRATOR**

(*Struggling with Snake*) Oh yes I can! Do you see the light, Crispers?!

**HAMSTER'S VOICE**

I do!

**NARRATOR**

Then come here! Come to Master! Come on! Come on! He's coming! He's coming! I can see the head!

**SNAKE**

I'm gonna throw up...

**NARRATOR**

Save it! He can come out himself... There he is! There's my Crispers! (*Hamster appears.*) So tiny! So lovely! (*Looks on with disgust at the soaking wet Crispers.*) And so disgusting...

**HAMSTER**

(*Soaking and infuriated*) You don't say...

**SNAKE**

(*To Hamster*) By the way — everything alright with the stomach? No ulcers? Because sometimes I get this horrible heartburn...

**HAMSTER**

You're joking, right?!!! You devoured me! And now I'm supposed to be your gastroscopist?!!!

*(Exits.)*

**SNAKE**

And I'm the one who's infuriated...

**NARRATOR**

*(To the audience)*

I've changed my mind now and I shall not

Take part in this reptile's narration.

He costs me characters in this plot!

Revolting abomination!

**SNAKE**

Hold on, hold on! You promised you would narrate me...

**NARRATOR**

But you didn't want me to.

**SNAKE**

But now I do.

**NARRATOR**

But now I don't.

**SNAKE**

But I insist...

**NARRATOR**

And I do not acquiesce...

**SNAKE**

Or I'll eat Crispers...

**NARRATOR**

Crispers! You stay away from Crispers! I'll hide him in a safe place... Where you will never, ever find him!

**SNAKE**

In the jar on top of the cupboard?

**NARRATOR**

Darn... Fine. I'll narrate you ... But it'll be short, and no punchline!

**SNAKE**

With a punchline.

**NARRATOR**

But no songs.

**SNAKE**

But the Hamster comes with me...

**NARRATOR**

No way! Crispers stays with me!

**SNAKE**

He comes with me. He'll be my hostage. So that you tell my tale nicely.

**NARRATOR**

But I can't do this to him!

*Crispers enters.*

**CRISPERS**

Do what?

**NARRATOR**

No, no... Nothing... *(They both look at him for a moment in silence — Crispers begins to feel less and less confident.)*

**CRISPERS**

Well, whaaaat?

**NARRATOR**

Nothing, noooooothing... Noooooothing... You wouldn't by any chance want to... go for a walk?

**CRISPERS**

I just did... In my wheel...

**NARRATOR**

But I mean... go for a walk seriously... Not in circles...

**CRISPERS**

And in circles is not seriously?!

**NARRATOR**

Well, have you arrived anywhere?

**CRISPERS**

Yes, at a conclusion... That wet paws are slippery paws...

**NARRATOR**

Aaah... and wouldn't you want to go for... a real walk... *(Muffled)* with Snake...

**CRISPERS**

With you what?

**NARRATOR**

*(Muffled, turning his head away)* With Snake...

**CRISPERS**

With what, what?

**NARRATOR**

With Snake! Jeez – with Snake! Big deal! It's for your own good...

**CRISPERS**

What?!!! But he's devoured me once already!!!

**NARRATOR**

And he knows that you don't taste that good! Besides – as Heraclitus used to say – no man ever steps in the same digestive system twice. So what do you say? You'll get a treat to go... *(He searches for a treat in his pockets – standing in such a way, that for a moment Crispers is not visible. When he shifts position, Crispers will be gone...)* A muesli bar! I'm sure I've got it here somewhere... In my pocket... I must have... put it somewhere... *(He realises that Crispers is gone.)* Crispers? Crispers?!!! Where are you?!!! Crispers!!! Crisp... oh no! You gobbled him again?!!! Spit Crispers out!!!

**SNAKE**

But I didn't eat him!!!

**NARRATOR**

Spit him out at once!!! *(Grapples with Snake and strangles him.)* Crispers!!! Crispers!!!

**SNAKE**

*(Suffocating, barely able to speak)* I didn't eat him!!!

**NARRATOR**

Crispeeeeeeers!!!

*Crispers enters – eating a muesli bar.*

**CRISPERS**

What's up? Who did he eat this time?

**NARRATOR**

You!!! But don't you worry, Crispers!!! Master will save you again! I'll rip this horrible, scaly, slimy... *(Realises he is talking to Crispers.)* Crispers?

**CRISPERS**

Yeah.



**NARRATOR**

*(Feeling a bit silly, as he is still holding Snake by the throat.)* Aaaaand... what are you doing here?

**CRISPERS**

Eating a muesli bar... You said I could...

**NARRATOR**

So... that means you're not in there... inside?

**CRISPERS**

Uh-uh...

**NARRATOR**

Ooops... *(To Snake.)* Then... sorry...

**SNAKE**

*(Enraged, barely able to speak.)* Now you are definitely telling my story...

**NARRATOR**

*(Recites.)*  
And so our dear beloved Snake  
Took Hamster and went for a ramble!  
And I keep thinking that it's a mistake,  
That it's too much of a gamble...  
*(not in rhyme anymore)*  
Leaving the Hamster alone, I mean...

**Scene 2**

*Hamster and Snake are wandering.*

**HAMSTER**

And where are we going exactly?

**SNAKE**

Wherever.

**HAMSTER**

Aaah... And is that far?

**SNAKE**

Don't know. Never been there...

**HAMSTER**

Aaah... And how do we know that we're there?

**SNAKE**

Don't know. Worst-case scenario is we go around the globe and get back home for supper...

**HAMSTER**

Aaah... And I'm the one who walks aimlessly in a wheel, right? And this is what exactly?

*Out of nowhere, Gecko appears!*

**GECKO**

Hands up!!!

*Hamster obeys. Snake — surprisingly — doesn't...*

**HAMSTER**

Aaaa!

**GECKO**

*(To Snake.)* And you? *(Snake glares at him, annoyed — Gecko realises the situation.)* Oh, yes... Do not move! This is a holdup! What have you got to eat?

**HAMSTER**

I have a muesli bar...

**SNAKE**

And I have a Hamster...

**HAMSTER**

*(Offended.)* Heeey!

**GECKO**

Whatever! I shall take it...

**HAMSTER**

Me?!!!

**GECKO**

The muesli bar. Now, I shall disappear! You will count to one hundred before making a move! One...

**HAMSTER**

Two!

**SNAKE**

Three...

**GECKO**

*F...* *(Falls off the stone he was standing on — his leg gets caught in something, he hangs there and shouts.)* Oh, crikey! Owowowowow! Heeeelp! Help me! Release me!

**SNAKE**

Five...

**HAMSTER**

Six...

**GECKO**

Oh, come on! I am dangling here!

**SNAKE**

Seeeeven...

**GECKO**

*(Angry.)* Seriously...

*Blackout — lights up again... Gecko is still dangling, annoyed. Snake and Hamster still counting away...*

**HAMSTER**

Ninety-seven...

**GECKO**

*(Even angrier, but not flapping about anymore — just hanging with his legs in the air and delicately swinging).* You have got to be kidding me...

**SNAKE**

Ninety-eight...

**HAMSTER**

Ninety-nine...

**SNAKE**

...and one hundred. So now we can move.

*They walk towards the off-stage.*

**GECKO**

Move where?!!!

**HAMSTER**

Forwards.

*They carry on walking.*

**GECKO**

What about me?! Help me!!!

**SNAKE**

I don't know...

**GECKO**

Fine, I shall pay! I have a muesli bar!

**HAMSTER**

That's my muesli bar!

**GECKO**

No, it is mine! I stole it fair and square! So, what do you say? Will you help?

**SNAKE**

Uh-uh...

**GECKO**

But I could help you! (*Mysteriously*) I know where to find what you are searching for...

**HAMSTER**

Really? That's great! (*Interested*) And what are we looking for?

**GECKO**

Ummm... Hmm...well... I shall tell you after you release me!

**HAMSTER**

Fine! We'll take matters into our own hands! (*Snake glares.*) I mean... I'll take matters into... Whatever... (*He tries to untie Gecko.*) Umm, a shift here, a pull there... Aah, that line of thought got a bit out of hand... (*Snake glares.*) Oops... That was a bit awkward... I'm silent now...

**GECKO**

(*Under his nose*) Haaaandssss...

**HAMSTER**

What?

**GECKO**

Nothing, nothing... And you, are you not a rodent by any chance?

**HAMSTER**

I am...

**GECKO**

So perhaps you could bite through this rope?

**HAMSTER**

One can do that? Wait a moment... I'm biting! I'm biting! I'm biting, I'm bi ... (*He bites through the rope.*) Oh dear... I broke it! No wait... It's all good! (*To Gecko.*) And now... tell us what we're looking for.

**GECKO**

Limbs.

**HAMSTER**

You what?

**GECKO**

Limbs. Legs... hands... and whatever else... For Snake. But do not worry. I know how to solve this... We shall attack someone and steal their limbs!

**SNAKE**

And then what? Do I just carry them under my armpits?!

**HAMSTER**

You have armpits?!

**GECKO**

I admit — perhaps not the best of ideas... But I have a better one! An infallible one! Here is what we shall do... (*Leans over conspiratorially towards Hamster — Snake watches from a distance, Hamster comes closer to listen, but Gecko is silent and looks around — after a moment, he speaks, but not conspiratorially and not to Hamster anymore*). Excuse me, but in case anybody does not know this yet, after the words 'Here is what we shall do'... there usually comes a blackout... You know, not to spoil it for the spectator...

**HAMSTER**

We have spectators?!?! (*He runs to the edge of the stage and stares at the audience — he can't see of course, due to the lights shining straight at him... But he continues running along the edge, extremely excited — perhaps he shouts a 'Helloooo!', an 'Anybody there?' or a 'Hiiii!' from time to time.*)

**GECKO**

Hello! Mr Narrator!

*Lights on the sleeping Narrator.*

**NARRATOR**

What, what, what? (*Looks around.*) Where's Crispers?!?!

**SNAKE**

*(Terrified he might get blamed again.)* Downstage!!! Downstage!!!

**NARRATOR**

Oh, yes... So, what's the problem?

**GECKO**

I said 'Here is what we shall do...' and it did not go dark...

**NARRATOR**

Oh... And?

**GECKO**

And I thought that you... might have some sort of executive power here, perhaps...

**NARRATOR**

Oh, that's what it's all about — here you go.

*Takes out a gun and shoots at the light — lights go down — Crispers screams.*

**VOICE OF CRISPERS**

Aaaah!!!

**VOICE OF NARRATOR**

Crispers?!!!

**Scene 3**

**NARRATOR**

Maybe four minutes of interim?  
Indisputably less than nine...  
Crispers? Uninjured. Snake? He's still slim.  
So everything seems to be fine...

**GECKO**

'Fine'? How is it 'fine'? And the Fairy Hut? There was supposed to be a Fairy...

**NARRATOR**

Ah, yes... *(He builds a hut, reveals the hut — or simply makes the hut appear.)* The Fairy Hut.

**SNAKE**

You've got to be joking... A Fairy?!!!

**GECKO**

*(Mysteriously)* But she is not a normal Fairy...

*(The doors to the hut open.)*

**FAIRY**

Who're you calling abnormal?!!!

**HAMSTER**

Aaah!!!

**FAIRY**

*(Delighted)* A Hamsteeer...

**HAMSTER**

Don't eat me! Don't!

**FAIRY**

Don't be scared... I'm the Good Fairy. And more specifically — I'm the Tooth Fairy. *(Suddenly becomes strangely energetic.)* Hold on, hold on... Have you brought me... teeth?!!! Have you?!!! Tell me you have!!! Tell me!!! Tell me, tell me!!!

**SNAKE**

No...

**FAIRY**

No?!

**HAMSTER**

Unless you count those inside our mouths...

**FAIRY**

So why the Great Molar did you come here?

**GECKO**

Because Snake has a small request... He would like some legs...

**FAIRY**

And where would I get him those legs? Especially for free...?

**GECKO**

Oh no, no, no! Snake 'has' the means to pay! Come on, say 'Aaah! Aaah! Aaah!'

*Snake glares at him.*

**HAMSTER**

*(Encouragingly)* Aaah!

**GECKO**

I assure you he does... So what is it going to be? Will you sort out those little legs?

**FAIRY**

I don't know... Wouldn't he prefer a bike? *(She glances at Snake — Snake glares again.)* Ah, yes... silly idea... Let's check my delivery catalogue then... *(Checks.)* What have we got here, what have we got here... Oh! Roller skates! For the price of one milk tooth! No? Let's move on then... Ball... Skipping rope... also just one milk tooth... 'Young Dentist' Set... Dolls, Teddies, Cars... TV set...

**HAMSTER**

TV set?! You can get a TV set?!!!

**FAIRY**

Uh-huh. But that's for an entire jaw... Oh! I've got it! Legs! One — for only two teeth!

**SNAKE**

What?!!! (*He opens his jaws and it becomes obvious that he only has four teeth.*)

**FAIRY**

Ooooh... That's just enough... for two...

**SNAKE**

What just enough?! How just enough?! And what will I look like after?

**FAIRY**

You'll look great! As long as you don't open your mouth... So? Would you like me to wrap them up?

**GECKO**

We shall carry them in our hands. Ah, right — hands would be good too...

**FAIRY**

Well, we've got a discount on hands actually! Two for the price of one. Hand cream added for free...

**GECKO**

We shall take that!

**SNAKE**

What?! Where?! We're not taking anything!

**HAMSTER**

But you've always dreamed about having such adorable limbs...

**SNAKE**

But not for the price of all my teeth!

**HAMSTER**

That's right! (*To the Fairy.*) An entire jaw was supposed to get us a TV set...

**FAIRY**

Have you made up your minds, or not?

**SNAKE**

Not!

**FAIRY**

Fine! (*Shuts the door.*)

*The boys are left alone.*



**GECKO**

No, I am sorry, but if you keep being so picky, then even I will not be able to get you those legs... But do not you worry! I have a new plan! Here is what we shall do...

*Slow blackout...*

**SNAKE**

Oh no, no, no! Stop those lights! No new plans — I didn't sign up for a trip with a mentally unstable lizard! You, Narrator — you cut this Gecko out of the tale.

**GECKO**

What?!!!

**SNAKE**

I was supposed to ramble with Hamster! Not the entire zoo!

**GECKO**

But I am helpful! I have plenty of ideas and plans and everything! Do not throw me out of the tale... Pleeease... (*Sadly.*) This is so important to me... sniff... so personal... sniff... because I... I... I used to be a snake once too...

**NARRATOR and HAMSTER**

Really?!!!

**SNAKE**

(*Resignedly.*) You're kidding...

**GECKO**

Yes. I finally said it. I used to be a snake... Of course, later I have received my limbs, in recognition of my merit. But for many years before that... I used to be a slimy, legless, armless and passionless... snake... Go on, imagine me without legs. What do you see? A snake?

**NARRATOR**

A Snake...

**HAMSTER**

Just like the genuine one!

**GECKO**

So you now understand why my attitude towards this tale is highly sentimental...

**SNAKE**

Reeaally? And how did you receive those legs again?

**GECKO**

Ummm... (*Looks around.*) Well... I... umm... hmmm...

*Narrator pulls out a board with the word 'Magic'.*

**GECKO**

Maggi!

**SNAKE and NARRATOR**

What?!

**GECKO**

Maggi! I took a bath in this extraordinary seasoning sauce and my legs just sprouted out off their own accord!

**NARRATOR**

*(In a theatrical whisper — and if Snake looks at him, he pretends it's not him.)* Magic!  
Magic!

**GECKO**

Oh yes... *(To Snake.)* A Magi...cian gave me that bath... in that seasoning sauce...

**NARRATOR**

A Magician conjured up your limbs!

**GECKO**

Really?! *(Examines himself.)*

**SNAKE**

*(Resigned.)* This is some kind of tommyrot...

**HAMSTER**

So maybe he'll conjure for Snake too!

**GECKO**

Exactly! Let us go see the Magician!

**HAMSTER**

To the Magician!

*They exit.*

**NARRATOR**

And they all went...

**SNAKE**

I'm not going.

**NARRATOR**

They all! Including Snake — went to see the Magician...

*The Snake glares at the Narrator ominously, but then exits, disgruntled.*

## Scene 4

### NARRATOR

Then, as they're walking, what do they see?  
The tent of a famous Magician!  
What was inside it? What could it be?  
Some tricks or an apparition?

So in they all ventured, all as one:  
Their faces bright-eyed and merry!  
Wait, one exception... Not all had fun...  
There was Snake, who remained contrary...

*Hamster, Gecko and Snake become the audience... It would be good if they actually sat among the spectators... Perhaps they get an extra row of seats during the Narrator's ditty? Or perhaps they just sit downstage, with their backs to the audience — thus creating the first row...*

### GECKO

*(Pulls out a bag of peanuts.)* Peanut?

### HAMSTER

Don't mind if I do!

### GECKO

Grab a whole handful! Snake? A handful? Umm, never mind... Let us watch!

### MAGICIAN

Ladies and gentlemen, ladies and gents!  
What will you see here?! This evening's events!  
Watch them until all your eyeballs pop out!  
And when you see them, for more you will shout!

*He pulls out a bunch of flowers from under his coat.*

### GECKO

Brilliant! Brilliant! *(Claps loudly.)*

### MAGICIAN

Hundreds of tricks, there is magic galore!  
Watch my hand move, think you know what's in store?  
Eyes are much slower than my dainty hand —  
You'll see it move but you won't understand!

*Pulls some things out again... Everybody claps — Gecko being the loudest.*

### MAGICIAN

Now for the pigeon — this will cause a stir!  
All this for you, madam... and for you, sir!

*A pigeon flies out — not a real one, of course... The best way to do it is by using a puppeteer. Dressed in black, he could move close to the Magician, pull out the pigeon from underneath the Magician's coat — and then animate the pigeon's flight offstage... I like it already.*

**GECKO**

Bravo! Bravo! (*To Snake.*) Stop being so stuck-up, Snake! Come on, applaud!

**SNAKE**

With what?!!!

**GECKO**

Oh, yes... I almost completely forgot what we have come here for...

**HAMSTER**

How could you?! (*He realises he has forgotten it himself.*) And what have we come here for?

**GECKO**

For the legs! And the arms!

*Waves his arms about — the Magician notices it. Just as he was looking for a volunteer from the audience.*

**MAGICIAN**

I see a volunteer! Well done!

**GECKO**

Eh?!

**MAGICIAN**

(*Picks Gecko up from the audience.*) Please, please... what's your name?

**GECKO**

(*Abashed, perhaps to the microphone.*) Ummm... Gecko?

**MAGICIAN**

Welcome, Gecko! (*He puts Gecko inside a box.*) In a moment, I will make you... disappear!

**GECKO**

Forever?!!!

**MAGICIAN**

For a short while... We close the lid of the box...

*Gecko opens the box again, he wants to get out.*

**MAGICIAN**

No, no, no! There's nothing to be afraid of!

*He puts him back in the box — Gecko sticks his head out.*

**GECKO**

If I do not come back, tell my Grandma that I love her!

*The Magician closes the lid — Gecko sticks his head out again.*

**GECKO**

And that it was I who ate the entire pudding!

*The Magician closes the lid and sits on the box this time.*

**MAGICIAN**

So... And now...

Hocus-pocus, hocus-pocus...

Gecko's more than out of focus!

*He opens the box — there's no one there — the audience applaud.*

**HAMSTER**

Aaah!!! We lost him!!! *(To Snake.)* Have you got his Grandma's number?

**MAGICIAN**

And now for my most famous number... A top hat! Inside it I put a ball... *(He does so.)* And pull out a handkerchief! *(He does do.)* I put in a handkerchief... *(As above.)* And pull out... A Rabbit!

**SNAKE**

Put in a Rabbit and pull out a pâté?

**MAGICIAN**

Voilà! *(He shows the Rabbit to everyone.)* Thank you ladies and gentlemen! Thank you! That's all for today! Thank you!

*Applause... and the programme is over. You have to make it obvious it's over, even though the real audience remains... Perhaps lower a very thin curtain — a transparent one? Through it we see the Magician, as he's putting his things away and splitting the takings with Rabbit... Suddenly, he notices that Snake and Hamster have remained in the audience.*

**MAGICIAN**

What are you still doing here? It's over! Goodbye!

**HAMSTER**

But we're waiting for... our friend...

**MAGICIAN**

What? Oh, yes! *(To Rabbit.)* Go get that Gecko, won't you? *(Rabbit exits — the Magician looks at our heroes.)* Well? Did you like it?

**HAMSTER**

Sure!

**MAGICIAN**

*(To Snake, offended.)* Although not everybody clapped...

**HAMSTER**

That's why we're here! For some limbs. For Snake. You can conjure up anything, so appendages such as those are a piece of cake for you! So we'd like to ask...

**MAGICIAN**

For what?

*Gecko enters.*

**GECKO**

Amazing! I disappeared! Did you see? I disappeared!!!

**HAMSTER**

For those legs... And arms... Well? Should he go inside that top hat?

**MAGICIAN**

Where?! The top hat! He's to go inside nowhere! Have you gone insane?! How will I conjure up his legs?! I'm an illusionist! Not a wizard!

**GECKO**

Is that not the same?

**MAGICIAN**

No, it isn't! And now scram, or I'll set my... *(Looks around.)* Rabbit... on you!

**GECKO**

Leg it!

*Gecko and Hamster run away — Snake slowly slithers after them.*

*Outside.*

**SNAKE**

Did you have to shout 'Leg it!?' 'Leg it!?' Seriously?

**GECKO**

I have a plan!

**SNAKE**

Oh no...

**GECKO**

When I disappeared earlier, I ended up in a little storeroom. It was full of amazing things! That is where they put away all their magical objects! And you know what? Here is what we shall do... *(Looks at the light.)* Nothing? Again?

*Narrator enters.*

**NARRATOR**

Yes, nothing: I want to hear it too.

**GECKO**

Alright, fine... But I shall whisper into your ear! No spoilers for the spectators... *He whispers into the Narrator's ear.*

**NARRATOR**

Really? You want to sneak in and conjure up those legs yourself?

**GECKO**

*(Annoyed that the spectators now know.)* Heeey! Well, thank you...

**NARRATOR**

Ooops... *(Continues, this time without any emotions... professionally, like a Narrator should.)*

As soon as the moon began to rise,  
They sneaked in to rummage around —  
And saw some brilliant magic supplies!  
They couldn't believe what they found...

*A storeroom with a myriad of various magical contraptions... In it — Hamster and Snake.*

**SNAKE**

*(To Hamster.)* Oi! Where's Gecko?!

**GECKO**

*(Shouts somewhere from the side.)* I am the lookout!

**SNAKE**

Aha... So if anyone comes this way, give us a shout!

**GECKO**

They will hear me!

**SNAKE**

Then give us a wink.

**GECKO**

Alright.

**SNAKE**

Hamster — watch whether Gecko winks. And I'll rummage about a bit... Who knows? Maybe I really will find something that could...

*Rabbit emerges from the back.*

**RABBIT**

And what are you doing here?!

**SNAKE**

*(To Gecko.)* You were supposed to wink!!!

**GECKO**

I did! But Geckos do not have eyelids...

**SNAKE**

Brilliant...

**RABBIT**

You lookin' for somethin'? I can help you...

**SNAKE**

Really?

**RABBIT**

Sure... But you won't find anythin' interestin' here... It's all just tricks and gimmicks... The real magic lies somewhere else...

*He begins to sing — lights probably get dimmed, perhaps a microphone and such...*

**RABBIT**

*(Sings.)*

Lookin' for magic? What a mistake!  
I'm afraid your plan will fall through...  
Hamster or Gecko, or even Snake —  
Boy, do I have some news for you...

*(Sings to a different melody... perhaps...)*

The real magic is everywhere,  
In your tea, your mornings, your sky!  
Why are you looking? It's in the air!  
It's your life, as the days go by!

*(Still singing.)*



There's magic even in what we say!  
'I love you', 'I like you' — who knew?  
Let's look for this magic everyday,  
And each time let's find it anew!

*(Still...)*

There's magic even in what's inside,  
In you and in me, and in them...  
Go look for magic! Search far and wide —  
It's a rather unhidden gem!

**NARRATOR**

Whoa, whoa, whoa! *(To Snake.)* We said no songs... The deal is over! Crispers! We're going home...

**HAMSTER**

But I don't want to...

**NARRATOR**

What?!!!

**HAMSTER**

I want to help my friend Snake...

**SNAKE**

But... I wanted to eat you?!!! And I think... I actually have eaten you...

**HAMSTER**

That was before... Now we are friends.

**SNAKE**

*(Unable to understand the concept of friendship between a Snake and a Hamster.)* Really?

**HAMSTER**

Really. So I'm staying.

**GECKO**

And so am I! It is very important to me to make sure that my friend Snake finally receives the tail of his dreams!

**HAMSTER**

Legs...

**GECKO**

Let's? You mean, let us go...?

**HAMSTER**

Le-G-s! Snake wants legs!

**GECKO**

Ah, yes... So? Let us go?

**NARRATOR**

Fine... As you wish... I'm giving you a free hand... (*Exits.*)

**SNAKE**

(*Annoyed.*) He had to say 'hand', right? He absolutely had to?!!!

**Scene 5**

*Narrator's gone — so we don't know where they're going... But they're going... And going... And going...*

**GECKO**

It is a bit strange... Since Narrator has gone...

**HAMSTER**

Yeah... And he hasn't told the audience where we're going...

**GECKO**

Forget the audience — he has not told us!

**HAMSTER**

So what now?

**GECKO**

(*Through his teeth.*) We pretend that we know... Perhaps no one will ask us...

*Spider appears, lowering himself from above on his spider web.*

**SPIDER**

Where are you going?

**GECKO**

Did you really have to ask?!!!

**HAMSTER**

And give us such a fright?!

**SNAKE**

And have so many legs?!!!

**SPIDER**

(*Confused.*) No... Possibly... I don't know... (*To Snake.*) And these legs aren't as amazing as you'd think! They get tangled all the time... And trainers? Do you know how long it takes to tie the shoelaces on four pairs of shoes?! And that's nothing anyway! Because when I go to sleep, I wash all my feet before going to bed, and before I finish the eighth one, the first one is already smelly! And don't get me started on washing socks!!!

**SNAKE**

Enough already! I get it!

**SPIDER**

You'll get it when you have your own.

**SNAKE**

Well, that's the thing... I don't think I will have my own... We've seen the Tooth Fairy already, the Magician...

**GECKO**

And now we are going to see the Sorcerer, the Witch, the Easter Bunny, Santa Claus and Jack Frost. Maybe they will be more generous...

**SPIDER**

And did you ask God?

**EVERYONE**

Who?!!!

**SPIDER**

God.

**GECKO**

Is He some other sort of magician?

**SPIDER**

Yeah! Well, not exactly...

**HAMSTER**

So who is He?

**SPIDER**

He's the Creator.

**HAMSTER**

Of what?

**SPIDER**

Of everything.

**HAMSTER**

*(In great awe, greater than himself) Awesome...*

**SPIDER**

So if He's the one who created us... then He's the one who should deal with complaints...

**SNAKE**

And you know Him?

**SPIDER**

No.

**SNAKE**

So how do you know that He exists?

**SPIDER**

Because we exist.

**SNAKE**

So if we don't exist, then He won't exist?

**SPIDER**

No. But if He doesn't exist, then we won't exist.

**SNAKE**

Uh-huh... I don't get it.

**SPIDER**

And that's what it's all about!

*He goes up on his spider web.*

**SNAKE**

But wait! Can He really sort out those legs for me?!

*Spider comes down.*

**SPIDER**

*(Mysteriously) He can do eeeeeverything...*

**GECKO**

Reeeally? Can he do this?

*He performs a trick — maybe a backflip or a headstand, maybe licking his eyeball with his tongue or whatever you prefer — everybody watches Gecko with pity.*

**GECKO**

What?

**SNAKE**

So where does this God live?

**SPIDER**

In heaven.

**SNAKE**

Oh, that's high...

**SPIDER**

Yeeeeeah...

**SNAKE**

Aaaand... couldn't one sort of talk to Him from 'here'?

**SPIDER**

One could! It's called a 'Player'... No! A 'Prayer'... There are several simple ways to do it — according to your preference. You can, for instance, put your hands together and...

**SNAKE**

*(Unhappy — because, as we all remember, he doesn't have any hands...)* Ahem...

**SPIDER**

Aaah, of course... *(Has an idea.)* Well, you can also sit in the lotus position — you just need to cross your legs and...

**SNAKE**

Ahem...

**SPIDER**

Aaah, of course... So maybe you should just try and go to this heaven?

**SNAKE**

But how? It's really high...

**SPIDER**

Maybe someone could give you a lift? Wait a moment... *(Shouts.)* Harry! Got a moment? *(The Predator Bird flies over.)* My mate here wants to go to heaven...

**PREDATOR BIRD**

Then he needs to behave well — maybe they'll take him.

**SPIDER**

But he wants to go now. He's got a request. For God...

**PREDATOR BIRD**

Ah, that's a different story. Want me to lead him?

**SPIDER**

More like take him...

**PREDATOR BIRD**

What?!!! Such a huge Snake?! Do you realise how much that weighs?!!! I won't be able to lift him even three feet above the ground!!!

**SPIDER**

You'll get a Hamster.

**HAMSTER**

You what?!!!

**PREDATOR BIRD**

Seriously?!

**SPIDER**

*(To Hamster.)* Relax, they'll go and we'll hide you... *(To Predator Bird.)* Well? Can you do it?

**PREDATOR BIRD**

Sure! *(Picks Snake up with his talons, though it's not easy.)* Ugh... Aah... No, not like this... Maybe this way... Got him! Hold on, we're taking off like a rocket! *(He flaps his wings, but barely manages to lift off...)* Ugh... Crikey... Aah... Oooooooh...

*They fly away — veeeery slowly — with Spider, Hamster and Gecko watching.*

**GECKO**

Say hi to God from us!

**HAMSTER**

And don't forget what you wanted to ask for!

**GECKO**

And bring us a souvenir!

**HAMSTER**

And don't fall!

*Snake slips out of grip and falls on the ground with a thud.*

**HAMSTER**

I did ask you...

**GECKO**

How was it?

**SNAKE**

It wasn't! I didn't get there, did I! I just bruised myself...

*Suddenly, God appears... Appearance — according to people's imaginations...*

**GOD**

So why force your way up there? I'm everywhere, aren't I?...

**SNAKE**

Go... Go... Go... God?!!!

**GOD**

Uh-huh.

**SNAKE**

So You look like 'this'?

**GOD**

No. But I had to assume some form, so you could see me. So what's it going to be, Snake? Let's go for a walk... Have a chat... *(Takes Snake aside.)* Apparently you've got a request for me... *(To everybody else, staring at them with gaping mouths.)* A request for me! Not to you! Go on then! Shoo, shoo... *(Observes the Predator Bird, circling above.)* And look after Crispers...

**HAMSTER**

He knows my name! God knows my name!

**SPIDER**

God knows all the names.

**GECKO**

Really?! So maybe he knows my name too! Because my name is not Gecko, right?

*Snake and God move to the foreground.*

**GOD**

So what is your request?

**SNAKE**

*(Unsure.)* Well, you know...

**GOD**

Of course I do know! But I want to hear it from you.

**SNAKE**

I'd like to have... legs. And arms! Like everybody else...

**GOD**

But why would you want to be like everybody else?

**SNAKE**

*(He doesn't know, answers with questions.)* Because... because ... because that's easier?

**GOD**

I wouldn't know. I'm one of a kind.

**SNAKE**

I thought that... perhaps then... I'd be... complete...

**GOD**

Complete? But you are complete! I created you like that! And — to be honest — I'm a bit offended that you don't like it...

**SNAKE**

But...

**GOD**

Each one of you I have created with love! And each one of you is in a way perfect...

**GECKO**

*(Who has been eavesdropping all this time)* Me too?!!!

**GOD**

No, not you. Because you are eavesdropping... *(He rips Gecko's tail off.)*

**GECKO and HAMSTER**

Aaaah!!!

*Hamster faints — Gecko runs around in circles.*

**GOD**

I was joking!

**GECKO**

My tail! My tail! My tail!!!

**GOD**

It will grow baaaack.

**GECKO**

Really? *(Nicely, trying to get what he wants.)* And could it by any chance grow back... fluffy? Like a fox's tail?

**GOD**

Another one... *(To Gecko.)* No, no it couldn't! You're all what I have made you. Beautiful... Lovely... The best of the best... And you're supposed to stay that way... And you're supposed to love each other — just the way I love you...



**GECKO**

He loves me!

**GOD**

*(He almost left, but comes back)* And one more thing! *(Smiles.)* You could get in touch a bit more often... *(Exits.)*

**GECKO**

Oh crikey...

**SNAKE**

No way...

**SPIDER**

Honest to God...

**HAMSTER**

*(Wakes up)* What, what, what? Did you get those legs in the end? Did you? You didn't?! Right, I'm going up to this heaven and...

**SNAKE**

Crispers... *(With a smile and a calmness that have never appeared on his face before.)* Maybe I didn't get those legs... but I got something much more precious...

*Goes to exit — the others follow.*

**HAMSTER**

What? What did you get? Come oooooon?! I slept through it...

**SNAKE**

What do you say? Want to go bask in the sun?

**GECKO**

Sure! And you know what, Snake? Legs are overrated, really... You get blisters on them... They sweat... And smell! And now? At least you save on the pumice...

*They exit.*

*Narrator appears.*

**NARRATOR**

Since then our dear beloved Snake  
Was happy as never before!  
He'd laugh and he'd sing, and jokes he would make,  
So much so that his throat would go sore...

He didn't want legs, he didn't want hands,  
He accepted the way he appeared.

His only wish and his future plans  
Were to simply remain full of cheer...

So this is the end of our tale of mirth,  
Though not loud, more like quiet whispers...  
But that's because Snake now knows his worth,  
And he knows that... (*Looks around.*) Stop! Where is Crispers?!!!

(*Looks around frantically.*)

Crispers?!!! Crispers?!!! Have you seen Crispers?!!!

**GECKO**

No...

**NARRATOR**

He kidnapped him! He definitely kidnapped and devoured him! (*Grabs the Predator Bird, who was calmly dosing off on a nearby tree branch.*) Give Crispers back!!! Give him back, you hear!!!

**PREDATOR BIRD**

But I haven't got Crispers!!!

**NARRATOR**

Crispers!!! Crispers!!! Are you there?!!! Don't worry!!! Master will get you out of there!!!

**PREDATOR BIRD**

What?!!!

**NARRATOR**

Crispers!!! Crispeeeers!!!

*Offstage, Hamster, Gecko and Snake observe this and laugh.*

**HAMSTER**

I'll never get bored of this... Ever...

THE END

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