

BEEKLE

The Unimaginary Friend

by

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ACT 1

SCENE 1

("Opening Song")

CIRCUIT

(BEEKLE is laying on the shores of Imaginary Island, staring up at the stars. He's silent and wistful.

CIRCUIT, the Land-Fish imaginary joins him.)

Hey. Why are you all alone?

(lays down next to BEEKLE)

What's got you so down?

BEEKLE

(sighing)

I...(pausing) It's nothing.

CIRCUIT

(frowning)

C'mon. You know you can tell me anything, right?

BEEKLE

(nodding)

I don't want to be a burden--

CIRCUIT

(taken aback)

A burden? Don't be silly. You're my best friend! You can talk to me.

BEEKLE

(hopeful)

Really?

CIRCUIT

Of course.

BEEKLE

(hesitates, thinking)

Do you...do you think I'll ever be imagined?

CIRCUIT

(bursts out laughing)

BEEKLE

Hey, it's not funny!

CIRCUIT

Is *that* what you're worried about? Of course you'll be imagined! We all will.

BEEKLE

(exasperated)

But how do you know!? We've been here for ages! We've seen friend after friend get imagined but we're still here. Why were they so special? Why not us!?

CIRCUIT

(putting a comforting arm around

BEEKLE)

Hey, relax. These things take time! A child's imagination is a powerful thing. They create all sorts of ideas--

BEEKLE

If they have so many ideas, why aren't we one of them?

CIRCUIT

We gotta be patient.

BEEKLE

(pouting)

Being patient takes too long.

CIRCUIT

(chuckles)

Silly. Our turn is coming! The more you think about something the longer it feels like it takes. You have to let nature take its course.

("Our Time Will Come" - song about being patient because everyone has a friend that's out there, and waiting)

CIRCUIT

(wraps a comforting arm around BEEKLE'S shoulders)

So you see, there's someone out there for everyone, including you. Don't be sad. When it's time, you'll

know. And until then...you're stuck with me.

## ACT 1

### SCENE 2

(We're at the playground. There is a sandbox, a slide and a jungle gym. There are a handful of children playing but none pay any attention as ALICE, her MOTHER, and her FATHER arrive.)

ALICE

(skipping towards the sandbox, in a sing-song voice)

Time to play, time to play. Today will be the best day!

(ALICE settles into the sandbox to play, building sandcastles)

MOTHER

(to FATHER)

Think she'll make some friends today?

FATHER

Well, she's a friendly child. I don't see why not.

MOTHER

It's just, she's been so down lately. And I haven't seen her playing with any of the other children in the neighborhood--

FATHER

You worry too much. She's fine. She probably prefers playing on her own anyway.

(Glances at ALICE who's playing alone. She scoots closer to some of the other children hoping to be invited to play)

See? She's having fun making sandcastles. And I'm sure she has an imaginary friend keeping her company.

MOTHER

An imaginary friend!? So she's certifiable. Great.

FATHER

(wraps his arms around her with a  
laugh)

Would you calm down? Imaginary friends are normal.  
Plus, they've been found to have real social and  
developmental benefits for the child.

MOTHER

(skeptically)

Oh? How do you figure?

FATHER

Well, I was reading an article the other day and it  
said that children with imaginary friends grow up to  
be better problem solvers and have advanced social  
interaction skills. Besides, it's a rite of passage  
for any kid.

MOTHER

(unconvinced)

I still don't like it.

FATHER

Think about it.

("MY BEST FRIEND" - a song about the  
benefits of having an imaginary friend,  
remembering his own imaginary friend  
and the many adventures they had so  
they didn't feel so alone)  
(at the end of the song, ALICE runs  
over and wraps her arms around FATHER's  
waist. She buries her head)

Honey, what's wrong?

(ALICE shakes her head, refusing to  
answer. soft crying can be heard)

MOTHER

(bending down to stroke her hair)

Alice? Can you tell mommy what's going on?

ALICE

(mumbling)

I want to go home.

FATHER

What about your friends over there in the sandbox?

ALICE

(shaking her head)

I don't have any friends.

FATHER

I'm sure that's not true. Why don't we go over there together and see--

ALICE

(pushing away angrily)

I said I don't have friends! Nobody likes me!

(runs offstage)

MOTHER

Alice, wait!

(MOTHER and FATHER share a worried look, before hurrying after her)

ACT 1

SCENE 3

(Imaginary Island at night. The imaginary friends are getting ready to celebrate SPRINKLES' imagining. At the stroke of midnight he will disappear from Imaginary Island and reappear in the real world. It is the last time he will see his friends on the island until they too are imagined. There is a bonfire center stage and fireflies light up the night. SPRINKLES stands on a podium upstage center behind the bonfire. The other imaginaries are gathered around. The excitement is palpable. Music is playing and there's a hearty feast on tables setup stage left. Downstage right is a semi-secluded area with rocks and trees. The sandy beach leads down into the water.)

ALL

(chanting)

Speech! Speech!

SPRINKLES

(waving for them to be silent)

Alright. Alright!

(he waits for the imaginaries to quiet down)

I'll say a *few* words.

(cheers erupt)

SPRINKLES

(laughing, waving for silence again)

My friends!

(imaginaries quiet down)

This is the moment we all wait for. We pray for it, we beg for it. We eat, sleep, and dream it. *Our imagining.*

(a reverential silence settles over the crowd)

That moment when a special boy or girl creates us in their mind, inviting us to be by their side during the most important years of their life. They bring us to the real world. They give us love, they give us purpose, and they give us a name. Friends, I have been named Sprinkles.

PIXEL

(interrupting)

Three cheers for Sprinkles!

ALL

Hip hip hooray! Hip hip hooray! Hip hip Hooray!

SPRINKLES

(waving for their attention yet again)

Imaginaries, friends! This is not goodbye. This is 'see you soon'. Each and every one of you will have your time.

(looks at BEEKLE)

And when that time comes, I look forward to our reunion. Now, let the celebration begin!

(the imaginaries cheer. SQUINTY begins singing 'For He's a Jolly Good Fellow' and the other imaginaries follow. There are handshakes, hugs and laughter all around. BEEKLE slips away, and while the rest celebrate he settles in against the rocks to watch the tide)

BEEKLE

(to himself)

(Sadly) I'm happy for him. Really. It's just...

(jumps up and starts pacing)

Why not me! I've been waiting and waiting for what feels like forever! If it worked the other way around,



where we imagined them, I'd already have a friend! All I think about, day and night, is the little boy or girl who I can finally call my own. But I never get imagined!

(plops down exasperated)

I know I would be a great friend.

(begins singing "My Day is Coming" or "Tomorrow's the/My Day" - talks about his personality, the fun they'll have together, all the adventures and trouble they'll get into. The clock strikes midnight, interrupting his song)

SPRINKLES

Friends! It's time!

(climbs onto the stage as a beam of light descends upon him. He looks up to the sky as he begins to shimmer. As if being teleported he rises slowly into the sky. Below him, the imaginaries cheer and wave. BEEKLE rushes forth to observe from the back of the crowd.)

Don't be discouraged! Your time will come!

(slowly he disappears)

BEEKLE

(Finishes "Tomorrow is the Day" with renewed confidence that his time is just around the corner. He ends with a joyful goodbye and well-wishes to SPRINKLES)

ACT 1

SCENE 4

(ALICE is back at the playground, playing in the sandbox. She is alone, but you can hear the sounds of laughter and playing in the background. Her play isn't very active but she keeps herself engaged. MOTHER and FATHER are on the sidelines at a picnic table. They talk quietly but keep a watchful eye on her. JANICE enters and walks to the edge of the sandbox. She doesn't go in.)

JANICE

Hi.

(ALICE doesn't respond. JANICE tries again)

Hello.

(ALICE still doesn't respond. JANICE climbs into the sandbox and stomps over to ALICE. She waves a hand in her face as she speaks)

HELLO.

ALICE

(startled, she looks up warily)

Are you talking to me?

JANICE

(with an exasperated sigh)

Of course I'm talking to you! Do you see anyone else

around here?

ALICE

(looks around)

No, I guess not.

JANICE

Didn't think so.

(plops down into the sand across from  
ALICE)

Whatcha making?

ALICE

(tentatively)

A sandcastle.

JANICE

Oh.

(bored)

That's cool, I guess. *I* like making treehouses.

ALICE

(awed)

You can make a treehouse out of sand?

JANICE

(swelling with pride)

I can make anything I want with Sprinkles' help.

ALICE

(confused)

Who's Sprinkles?

JANICE

He's my imaginary pet cat. He can talk and we have lots of fun together. Wanna meet him? Maybe he'll let you build something with us.

ALICE

(excited)

Oh, yes please!

JANICE

Huh?

(cupping an ear as if listening to a  
whisper)

Oh, okay. (To ALICE) Sprinkles wants to know where

your imaginary friend is.

ALICE

(frowning)

I--I don't have one.

JANICE

Oh, that's too bad.

ALICE

(hurriedly)

But I can still help build a sand treehouse--

JANICE

(interrupting apologetically)

Sorry. We only play with other kids who have imaginary friends.

(skips away)

ALICE

(jumping up)

I got it!

JANICE

(pauses to look back at ALICE)

Huh?

ALICE

(excitedly)

If I can imagine a friend, we can play together right?

JANICE

Well, I guess so...

ALICE

(satisfied)

Okay! Let me see...He'll be--

(begins singing "My New Friend" but it doesn't work. ALICE gets frustrated)

JANICE

This is boring. We're gonna go play somewhere else.

(skips away)

ALICE

(calling after her)

Come back! Please! I just want to be your friend!  
(Whispering) Please.

(watches her disappear offstage. bursts  
into tears. yells after her)

Fine! I didn't want to play with you anyway!  
(runs past her parents offstage)

MOTHER & FATHER  
(exchanging a worried look)

Not again.  
(hurrying after her)

ACT 1

SCENE 5

(Back on Imaginary Island. Night. The imaginaries are getting ready to celebrate CIRCUIT's imagining. At the stroke of midnight he will disappear from Imaginary Island and reappear in the real world. There is a bonfire center stage and fireflies light up the night. CIRCUIT stands in front of the podium upstage center behind the bonfire. The other imaginaries are dancing around him in a circle. The excitement is palpable. Music is playing and there's a hearty feast on tables setup stage left. Downstage right is a semi-secluded area with rocks and trees. The sandy beach leads down into the water. BEEKLE is more down than usual as this time his best friend is leaving)

CIRCUIT

The time has come the Walrus said, to talk of many things!

ALL

Of shoes and ships and sealing wax. Of cabbages and kings!

CIRCUIT

And though it's time to say goodbye, travel to places

new.

ALL

A part of us you'll always be, a part of us is you!  
(they fall all over him with big hugs,  
ruffled head, wet kisses, etc.)

CIRCUIT

(embarrassed)

Aw, c'mon you guys!

SQUINTY

(grabbing him by the arm and pulling  
him towards the stage)

You know the drill!

PIXEL

Speech! Speech!

YYY

Yeah, say a few words!

CIRCUIT

(groaning)

You know how I feel about public speaking.

BEEKLE

(joking)

Only because you have trouble stringing two words  
together!

CIRCUIT

(rolling eyes)

Ha! Well, I'd rather have a tricky tongue than a voice  
like a dying squirrel!

(the imaginaries laugh)

BEEKLE

(protesting)

Hey! My voice isn't *that* bad!

(the imaginaries disagree)

See watch--

(starts singing horribly off key. the  
imaginaries hurry to silence him)

CIRCUIT

Alright, Alright! Short and sweet, then.

(sits on the edge of the stage waiting  
for silence)

It's been a ride, hasn't it? We've seen many friends  
imagined over the years, and now it's my turn.

(looks at each and every one of them)

I want to thank you all for being some of the best  
friends an Imaginary could have, and I look forward to  
seeing you on the flip-side. But enough of that. It's  
time to eat, drink and be merry. Let's get this party  
started!

(the Imaginaries cheer and there's more  
well wishing. CIRCUIT climbs off the  
stage and amidst the well-wishing wraps  
an arm around BEEKLE's shoulders)

Let's talk.

(he leads him away and they have a seat  
against the rocks by the beach. They  
spend some time sitting quietly just  
enjoying each other's company)

BEEKLE

I'm gonna miss you.

CIRCUIT

Yeah, me too.

BEEKLE

Who's gonna go treasure hunting with me now? We never  
did find that box we buried.

CIRCUIT

You mean the box you buried - then forgot where you  
put it!

BEEKLE

(sheepishly)

I remembered where I put it. It just wasn't there when  
I went back. Not my fault someone dug it up.

CIRCUIT

Yeah, '*someone*'.

(laughs)

That's okay. I'm sure you'll find it after I'm gone.  
It'll be a reminder of all the fun times we had  
together.

(a sad but companionable silence)



descends. in the distance you can hear  
a clock begin to strike midnight)

BEEKLE

(jumping up anxiously)

It's too soon!

CIRCUIT

Hey, you'll be fine. I might be going to the real  
world, but I won't forget you. We're best friends,  
that'll never change. And when it's your turn to be  
imagined, I'll be right there waiting for you.

(grabs BEEKLE in a big hug)

BEEKLE

Promise?

CIRCUIT

Pinky promise.

(jogs to the podium where everyone is  
crowded around. BEEKLE pushes to the  
front)

This is it!

(stands at the center of the podium. A  
beam of light shines down on him and he  
stares up at the sky)

Beam me up!

(He begins to shimmer as he is  
transported up the shaft of light, eyes  
still focused on the sky)

BEEKLE

Your name!

CIRCUIT

(looking down)

What?

BEEKLE

Tell us your name!

CIRCUIT

(fading away)

Circuit! It's Circuit!

(circuit disappears into the sky and  
the Imaginaries look around with a

satisfied air, happy another one of them has been imagined. There are murmurs all around of 'our time is coming' as the party resumes.)

BEEKLE

(standing alone, still looking up where CIRCUIT disappeared)

I'm done waiting.

(straightening his shoulders with resolve)

It's time to take matters into my own hands!

(sings "My Own Way" - taking charge and going on an adventure to find his friend. Decides to set sail at first light but won't tell his friends. It'll be too hard to say goodbye and he doesn't want them to make him doubt his decision)