

NATE THE GREAT

by

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Dramatis Personae

(To be done by 5 actors doubling MOM/FANG AND HARRY/HEXES)

NATE

ANNIE

MOM

HARRY

ROSAMOND

FANG

THE HEXES

Songs

I, NATE THE GREAT

A NOTE

ART MATTERS

THE FANG TANGO

MONSTER

THE HEXES

THE EMPTY GRIDDLE

YOU CAN DO IT

PANCAKES

SUPER HEX

COLORS

FINALE

Scene 1: Nate's House**ENSEMBLE**

OOH, OOH

NATE

Hello! I, Nate the Great, detective, will now tell you about my last case. It was the most challenging case of my career. It started one morning not long after Mom had called me down for breakfast. It was going to be my kind of breakfast. And my kind of breakfasts is pancakes, juice, pancakes, milk, and pancakes. I like pancakes. A lot. I will very likely sing a song about them later. My feelings about pancakes cannot be expressed with the spoken word. I may need to sing to fully express my feelings. You'll find that this happens a lot in a musical. And pancakes are just that good. So, I may sing about that later. But not right now. Now you need to see how the case began.

GIVE ME A GOOD MYSTERY
A RIDDLE TO BE CRACKED
AND YOU CAN BET I'LL SOLVE IT
IT SIMPLY IS A FACT.

NATE & ENSEMBLE

KEEP AN OPEN EYE
AND YOU WILL SEE IT'S TRUE
EV'RY MYSTERY HAS A WHY,
EACH WHODUNIT HAS A WHO.

NATE

AND I, NATE THE GREAT WILL NOT GIVE UP THE CHASE
I, NATE THE GREAT WILL ALWAYS SOLVE THE CASE
HOWEVER LONG THE PLAN TAKES,
SO LONG AS I HAVE PANCAKES,
I WILL NEVER GROW TIRED OR BORED

NATE & ENSEMBLE

'TIL ORDER IS RESTORED!

MOM

Nate! Breakfast! I made Pancakes!

NATE

Pancakes! Yes!

(NATE arrives in the Kitchen)

MOM

Good Morning, Honey! Working on any cases today?

NATE

Nothing yet. And I've been awake for ten minutes! Ten!

I, NATE THE GREAT WILL NOT GIVE UP THE CHASE
 I, NATE THE GREAT WILL ALWAYS SOLVE THE CASE
 BUT UNTIL I GET A MISSION,
 OR AM PUT IN A POSITION
 TO PROVE THAT I AM TRULY NATE THE GREAT,
 I SADLY HAVE TO WAIT.

MOM

Well. I'm off to visit your Grandmother so, if you go anywhere, be sure to leave me a note.

NATE

I always do.

MOM

And if it rains, wear galoshes.

NATE

I always do.

(MOM exits just as the phone rings)

NATE

(to the audience) I hoped the call would be a case to look for lost diamonds or pearls or a million dollars. It was my friend Annie. My good friend, Annie. Not my girlfriend Annie. Although she is a girl and a friend, there is a very clear space between those words. In any case, Annie does not have diamonds or pearls or a million dollars.

(ANNIE appears in a special light. Or on a different level. A different physical level, like a platform that is elevated. To show that she isn't in their kitchen. She's not on a different emotional or intellectual level. They are evenly matched as friends. Really, just place her on stage wherever you want.)

ANNIE

HELLO NATE

NATE

HELLO ANNIE

ANNIE

I AM CALLING WITH A CASE!

NATE

A CASE! A CASE! THEN YOU'VE COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE

ANNIE

SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT, OF THE GREATEST WORTH TO ME

IS MISSING, LOST OR STOLEN, IT'S A PROBLEM DON'T YOU SEE?

NATE

WHAT IS IT? WHAT IS IT?

ANNIE

A PICTURE

NATE

A PICTURE?

ANNIE

A PICTURE!

NATE

LIKE A PHOTOGRAPH? OR A WORK OF ART OF SOME KIND?

ANNIE

A PHOTOGRAPH CAN BE A WORK OF ART BUT NEVER MIND --
YES, A PAINTING! MY FINEST, THE BEST I'VE EVER DRAWN
AND IT'S MISSING, LOST OR STOLEN, AND I DON'T KNOW WHERE IT'S GONE!

YOU'VE GOTTA SOLVE IT, PAL
YOU GOTTA HELP THIS GAL
AND END THIS FINE ART CRIME SPREE!
WILL YOU HELP ME NATE?
WILL YOU TAKE MY CASE?
WILL YOU FIND MY PAINTING FOR ME?

NATE

I'LL TAKE YOUR CASE!
I'VE FOUND MANY TYPES OF THINGS

(ACTRESS PLAYING) ROSAMOND

FROM LOST KAZOOS AND BOWLING SHOES

MOM

TO MISPLACED WEDDING RINGS.

(ACTOR PLAYING) HARRY

FROM MISSING BOOKS AND SLIPPERS TO A FAM'LY OF GOLDFISHES.

NATE

I EVEN FOUND SOME ACCIDENT'LLY THROWN OUT ANTIQUE DISHES

MOM, ROSAMOND, HARRY

HE FOUND A LOST IGUANA AND A MISSING ROLLER SKATE

NATE & ENSEMBLE

AND I WILL FIND YOUR PICTURE OR MY NAME'S NOT NATE THE GREAT!

ANNIE

Oh thank you, Nate. I knew you would help. When can you come over?

NATE

Well...I haven't had my pancakes yet but *(he looks longingly at his stack of pancakes)*...I can't delay. I will be over in five minutes. Stay right where you are. Don't touch anything. DON'T MOVE!

ANNIE

My foot itches.

NATE & ENSEMBLE

Scratch it.

(to the audience)

THIS PAINTING IS A MYSTERY
THIS MISSING WORK OF ART
AND IF I AM TO SOLVE IT
I MUST DIRECTLY START

THIS WILL BE A CINCH
I KNOW JUST WHAT TO DO
I'LL EXAMINE EVERY INCH
AND DISCOVER EVERY CLUE

AND I, NATE THE GREAT WILL NOT GIVE UP THE CHASE
I, NATE THE GREAT WILL ALWAYS SOLVE THE CASE.
AND SINCE THIS IS THE MAIN THING
I WILL FIND ANNIE'S PAINTING
'CUZ I'M THE GREATEST DETECTIVE IN TOWN.
I MUST NOT LET HER DOWN!

NATE

A case! Time to get ready! Detective hat: Check! Notebook for writing down clues and notes from interviews with witnesses and suspects: Check! Pencil to do the writing: Check!

NATE & ENSEMBLE

I, NATE THE GREAT
I, NATE THE GREAT

I AM THE GREATEST DETECTIVE IN TOWN
AND I WILL NOT LET YOU DOWN!

But first, a note:

A NOTE

NATE

DEAR MOM,
I HAVE A CASE TO SOLVE
AND SO I HAVE TO GO
I SWEAR I WONT BE GONE TOO LONG.
UNLESS I AM.
YOU NEVER KNOW.

SOMETIMES IN A TRICKY CASE IT IS REQUIRED
TO KEEP ON GOING EVEN THOUGH YOU MIGHT BE TIRED

PLEASE GIVE MY REGARDS TO GRANNY
BUT I MUST SOLVE THIS ONE FOR ANNIE
AND THE TIMING IS UNCANNY

I MUST GET THERE DIRECTLY
IF IM TO GATHER CLUES CORRECTLY
AND I DONT WANT YOU TO WORRY
BUT I REALLY NEED TO HURRY

I MUST FIND THE TRAIL WHILE IT IS HOT
AND IN AN HOUR
IT WILL NOT BE
AS THESE TRAILS THEY TEND TO COOL, SEE?
SO I WILL BE HOME WHEN I'M DONE
SIGNED YOUR LOVING SON,
NATE THE GREAT

Hmmm. Maybe too long.

DEAR MOM,
I WILL BE BACK.
I AM WEARING MY GALOSHES,
LOVE NATE THE GREAT.

Perfect!