A Little Game

A short Play
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Characters:

1. Bob/Orge - Father
2. Mollie/Director - Mother
3. Will/Lion- Mollie and Bob’s Son – 5 years old
4. Linsey/Rose, the Lion’s human sister-Mollie and Bob’s daughter – 9 years old
5. Laura – Mollie’s mother – Visiting from out of town
6. Smiley-The family Dog

Playwright’s note: If desired, the acting company can design/come up with costumes for the Lion, Rose, Smiley and the Ogre.
Afternoon. Livingroom. Mollie is sleeping on the couch. The TV is on low volume and Linsey is watching Frozen 2. Will is playing with a tiny broom in the couch next to his sleeping mother. Bob walks in from upstairs whistling.

**Bob:** Linsey, are you watching Frozen again?

**Linsey:** Yes, Dad.

**Will:** *(To his father. Softly)* Ssshhh. *(Loudly)* Mom is sleeping!

**Bob:** Yeah?

**Will:** *(Softly)* Shshsh. Not too loud.

**Bob:** You are the one being too loud, buddy.

**Will:** No, I am not.

**Linsey:** Yes, you are!

**Bob:** *(To Linsey)* Sweetheart, don’t you think you watch Frozen a bit too much?

**Linsey:** Dad, you are always watching the news. Don’t you think you watch the news a bit too much?

**Bob:** Hm. *(Whistles. Getting a glass of water)* So, why don’t we all play a game together? Would you like that?

**Will:** YES!

**Mollie:** *(waking up with a startle)* What! What’s going on?

**Will:** Mom, we are all going to play a game!

**Mollie:** Dear Lawd! *(to Bob)* Honey, seriously?!

**Bob:** I think that would be super. *(Mollie gets up and begins to leave the room)* What?

**Mollie:** I was napping.

**Will:** Mom, you will nap after the game.

**Bob:** I think Will is right.
Linsey: No, Dad, he is not. I am still watching Frozen.

Bob: You can always watch Frozen after the game, sweetheart. May I? *(Getting the remote control from her. Rubs her nose and pauses the movie)* Come over here so that we can all decide on the game we want to play. Mollie, please come back.

Mollie: When was the last time I napped in peace? If it isn’t the TV, someone is whistling an annoying tune. *(In spite of himself, Bob whistles)* See!

Bob: Oh shi....sorry. Sorry everyone. No more whistling.

Mollie: And no more swearing! Play with the kids. I need to finish my nap.

Will: Mom, please!

Bob: Come on, honey. *(Whispering to her)* We haven't really done things together since/

Mollie: Yeah, since yesterday. We played scrabble, remember?

Bob: It will not take much time.

Mollie: *(Sighing)* I need to use the bathroom.

Bob: Thank you! What game are we playing?

Mollie: *(Shouting from the bathroom)* Are you kidding me?

Bob: Everything ok over there?

Mollie: *(Emerging from the bathroom)* This was the only roll of toilet paper left and someone thought it was brilliant to throw it in the toilet?

*Silence*

Will: Sorry, Mum.

Mollie: Don’t do it again Will, you hear?

Will: I am sorry, Mum.

Bob: Argh! It’s okay champ.
Linsey: May I continue watching my movie.

Bob: No, you may not, young lady. (To Mollie) I will get you a roll from upstairs.

Mollie: Can you imagine this is completely ruined!

Bob: I was going to queue up at the store again tomorrow anyway, so, it’s not the end of the world.

Will: Mom, I will not do it again.

Linsey: That’s what you always say and still ruin my stuff.

Mollie: If you need to get toilet paper from the cabin, ask for help, okay?

Will: Yes, Mom.

Bob: Here you go. Promise you will join us for the game afterwards.

Mollie: (Unenthusiastically) Sure.

Bob: Will, have you thought of the game you want to play?

Will: Uhm….let me think….you know what, Dad?

Bob: What?

Will: We should get grandma too!

Linsey: Dad! Do something! We are going to be here for-e.v.e.r!

Will: Dad, Smiley too should be in the game!

Linsey: Dad!

Bob: Will is right. Everyone should be involved. It will be so much fun, sweetheart, you will see.

Will: (Calling) Grandma! Grandma! Come over here. We are playing a game and you too are in it. Smiley (sounds of a happy dog) come here! We are playing a game! You too are in it!

Mollie: (Emerging from the bathroom) What game are we playing?
Will: I know.

Linsey: Which one? All your games are boring anyway.

Mollie: Linsey, be nice.

Linsey: It’s true.

Will: No, my games aren’t boring!

Linsey: Yes, they’re.

Bob: Will, what game should we play?

Will: Hide and Seek!

Linsey: See! I knew it. Boring!

Bob: Linsey, is there a game you would want to play? We could start with yours perhaps?

(Grandma enters)

Will: Grandma is here! (Smiley makes happy sounds)

Grandma: What’s the matter, Will? Oh, everyone is here. What’s the occasion?

Linsey: A boring game called Hide and Seek.

Grandma: Oh, that’s a fun game! But I know you too have super cool games.

Linsey: Thanks, grandma!

Grandma: You are very welcome.

Mollie: Okay. Can we start the game already? (To Bob) You’re the one who started this whole game thing. What game are we playing?

Bob: Hide and seek.

Linsey: Dad, that’s so boring.

Bob: Linsey, is there a game you would like to play?
Linsey: Yeah, something more competitive.

Bob: We’ll begin with hide and seek, after we’ll play a game of your choice. Is that okay, Linsey?

Linsey: I guess.

Will: Dad, we don’t have to play hide and seek.

Mollie: Why?

Will: It’s boring.

Grandma/Bob/Mollie: No, it’s not!

Linsey: Yes, it is.

Mollie: Linsey!

Will: It’s okay, we don’t have to play it. I know Linsey likes Spoons. We can play Spoons *(Smiley makes unhappy sounds)* Only thing is that Smiley won’t be able to play it.

Bob: Are you giving up hide and seek?

Will: I don’t want to make Linsey sad.

Mollie: Awww, that’s really thoughtful of you, Will. You really care about your sister’s feelings.

Bob: Linsey, is there a game you would like to play instead? It will have to include Smiley.

Linsey: It’s okay, we can play hide and seek. I won’t be sad.

Grandma: I like that you’re all being very kind to one another. That’s very good of you both.

Mollie: It’s always nice when you treat each other kindly.

Bob: Yes, it is important that we all treat one another with kindness. Will and Linsey you’re teaching us a very important lesson. Okay, so shall it be hide and seek first or spoons first?

Will: Or, we can have Grandma tell us a story!
Linsey: Yes! Or, we can act one of Grandma’s stories!

Will: Yes! We can act one of Grandma’s stories.

Mollie: Ho! Sounds like we need to polish our acting skills.

Bob: (softly) How did we change from game playing to acting?

Grandma: Is there a particular story you want us to act?

Will and Linsey: Yes!

Grandma: Which one?

Linsey: The Lion and the Ogre! Will: Princess in the Woods!

Mollie: Ha! Here we go again. Beat

Grandma: Okay, you have to agree on one.

Will: I like The Lion and the Ogre too.

Bob: Great. Grandma, we are all ears!

Linsey: But we are acting it.

Will: I will be the Lion

Linsey: I will be Rose, the Lion’s sister.

Will: Smiley will be the Dog that’s Lion’s best friend and that also looks after Rose.

Grandma: Who is going to be the Ogre?

Will and Linsey: Dad!

Bob: Huh?

Mollie: (Suppressing laughter) Looks like our casting directors have found you a befitting role.

Bob: (Whispering to Mollie) You are evil. (To the kids) What role does Mom play?
Will: Mom will watch the play.

Mollie: I love my son!

Linsey: Mom will be the director.

Mollie: Thank you, Princess! God, you gave me the best children, ever!

Bob: Of course. Do you even know the story?

Mollie: The Ogre isn’t allowed to talk until the director has granted him permission.

Bob: Linsey, why shouldn’t Mom be the Ogre?

Linsey: Because Mom’s voice is not so uh, uh, loud.

Bob: And mine is?

Will: Yes. You also always say “Argh”, “Argh” and the Ogre says that too in the story.

Bob: Great.

Mollie: (Giddy with delight) GREAT! Let’s start. So, what role does Grandma play?

Linsey: She is the one narrating the story, of course.

Mollie: Of course! God, how did I get to have such smart kids!

Bob: Kids, I have an idea. We can start with hide and seek and then act the story afterwards.

Linsey and Will: NO!

Linsey: The story first, hide and seek later.


Bob: I don’t even know what I am supposed to say.

Linsey: You don’t have a lot to say. You only say/
Will: My sister, my sister Rose. It is me your brother, the Lion. Please push back the stone so that I can get in.

Linsey: But you have to speak with a rough voice.

Will: You also have to sing.

Linsey: We can teach you the song.

Will: But you have to sing it so badly.

Mollie: How does the song go?

Grandma: Let all of us learn the song together.

Linsey and Will: Yes!

(The acting group should come up with a melody)

Grandma, Linsey and Will: My little sister
My little sister, Rose
It’s me your brother, the Lion
Push the stone so that I can enter
I have been all over the fields
Hunting for you
Protecting the small animals from the bullies
My little sister, I am back

My little sister
My little sister, Rose
It’s me your brother, the Lion
Push the stone so that I can enter
I have roamed the earth
Looking for water for you to drink
Gathering meat for my best friend to eat
My little sister, I am back

Mollie: What a lovely song. Okay, let all of us sing it together. (They do)

Will: Dad, as the Ogre, you should sing really badly with a very rough voice.

Mollie: Thanks, Will. I’ve got myself an assistant director. Okay, take positions, let’s begin!
Grandma: Once upon a time, a long time ago, there lived a very powerful Lion, (*Will roars like a Lion*) and the Lion had a very beautiful sister, a human named Rose (*Linsey appears and curtsies*) and together, they had a Dog which protected Rose whenever the Lion would go on to hunt and he was also Lion’s best friend (*Smiley makes happy sounds*). The three used to move from place to place looking for food to eat and water to drink and Lion was always on the lookout to discipline the bullies that bothered the tiny animals which could not defend themselves/

Mollie: Okay, can we see the three of you move around the fields. (*The three appear. Lion is roaring, Smiley is making happy sounds and occasionally barking and Rose is happily humming a tune*)

Rose/Linsey: Let’s go this way. The sun is setting we must find a place to sleep (*The three disappear from the stage*)

Grandma: One day, they settled in a place which had a beautiful cave. The Lion immediately knew that, that was the safest place for his sister, Rose. They all explored the cave.

Lion/Will: (*Roars*) I think we should settle here. The place has plenty of food.

Smiley: (*Happily*) And lots of water to drink!

Rose/Linsey: See, there is even a huge rock we can use to cover the entrance of the cave.

Lion/Will: That’s right. Looks like one cannot open the rock from outside the cave.

Smiley: It appears not!

Rose/Linsey: That will protect us from any enemies.

Lion/Will: You will always be the one to open for me.

Rose/Linsey: How will I know that you are the one knocking? What if it is the enemy?

Smiley: Maybe, you can develop some coded language.

Lion and Rose: A coded language?

Smiley: Yes, like a song, maybe?

Lion/Will: Oh, my dear friend, you are so smart!
Grandma: And so, they started making up a song that would be their coded language. The song they came up with went like this;

Loin/Rose/Dog and Grandma:

My little sister
My little sister, Rose
It’s me your brother, the Lion
Push the stone so that I can enter
I have been all over the fields
Hunting for you
Protecting the small animals from the bullies
My little sister, I am back

My little sister
My little sister, Rose
It’s me your brother, the Lion
Push the stone so that I can enter
I have roamed the earth
Looking for water for you to drink
Gathering meat for our lovely dog to eat
My little sister, I am back

Grandma: Unfortunately, what they didn’t know was that an Ogre was in nearby bushes watching them, observing them and learning the song

Mollie: Cut. Ogre, can you make really scary sounds and walk across the stage and go back into hiding. Grandma, introduce the Ogre again.

Grandma: Unfortunately, what they didn’t know was that an Ogre was in nearby bushes watching them, observing them and learning the song. (Ogre makes scary sounds, crosses the stage and disappears) When Rose and the Dog entered the cave and closed it, the Lion went on to look for their supper and no sooner had Lion left than the Ogre appeared and stood at the mouth of the cave and began to sing;

Ogre: (Singing in a very rough voice) My little sister
My little sister, Rose
It’s me your brother, the Lion
Push the stone so that I can enter
I have been all over the fields
Hunting for you
Protecting the small animals from the bullies
My little sister, I am back
My little sister
My little sister, Rose
It’s me your brother, the Lion
Push the stone so that I can enter
I have roamed the earth
Looking for water for you to drink
Gathering meat for our lovely dog to eat
My little sister, I am back

Grandma: Inside the cave, Rose and the Dog listened, wondering what had happened to the Lion’s voice. Had he gotten a bad cold perhaps? Rose moved to push the stone but the Dog was against it.

Rose/Linsey: **(Underneath the singing)** What could have happened to my brother’s voice?

Smiley: I wonder. He always has such a beautiful voice **(imitates how Lion sings)** I am always envious of his voice. Such a rich baritone.

Rose/Linsey: Maybe, he ate something that made his voice sound so bad like that. Should I open?

Smiley: I have two minds to it. If we refuse to open, the enemy might attack him. We will never forgive ourselves, now, will we? On the other hand, what if it is not Lion?

Rose/Linsey: But where could whoever it is have known about the song?

Smiley: Yeah, you are right. Oh, but what if we are wrong?

Ogre: My sister, my sister Rose. It is me your brother, the Lion. Please push back the stone so that I can get in. Something is chasing me.

Rose/Linsey: Okay, we have to make a decision. Are we opening, are we not?

Smiley: We....we....oh my heart! Why am I scared? Okay, we are opening.....wait! Maybe not.

Rose/Linsey: So, we are not opening.

Smiley: Is that what I said? Okay, forget what I said previously. Of course, we are opening! It’s only the three of us who know about the song.

**(Rose/Linsey pushes the stone)**
Grandma: As soon as Rose pushed the stone away, the shadow of the Ogre blinded them, he squeezed himself into the mouth of the cave and with his long, sharp claws, he reached out to Rose and started pulling her out of the cave, the Dog barked and bit the Ogre but the Ogre could not let go. He started pulling Rose out with one foot while using the other to snatch the Dog. (*Rose and the Dog start screaming*) In that moment, Lion appeared. (*Lion appears. Roars*) and started fighting the Ogre. Lion dug deep into the Ogre’s neck and the Ogre screamed in pain (*Ogre screams in pain*) and he let go of Rose and the Dog. Lion took another swing at the Ogre and smacked him across the face. The Ogre let out another painful scream (*Ogre screams*). The Lion said;

Lion/Will: You will learn to leave my sister and my Dog alone. Next time I will squash, squash you. Now, get out of here and don’t dare come back or try to bully other creatures in this area. We don’t entertain bullies here.

Ogre: I am sorry. I am so sorry. I will be a better neighbor next time.

Lion/Will: You had better be.

Grandma: And the Ogre limped away and disappeared in the bush. The Lion, Rose and the Dog retreated safely into the cave and had their dinner in peace. After witnessing all that, I also made my way here to come and tell you the story.

Will/Linsey/Smiley/Grandma: The End! (*Everyone claps*)

Will: Grandma, you have the best stories ever!

Grandma: Thank you, Will.

Linsey: I will miss you when you go back to your home.

Grandma: I will miss you too, Linsey.

Will: Do you have to go back to your home, Grandma? Maybe, when the planes start flying again to your city, we can all fly with you.

Grandma: Maybe. But remember, you will also be returning to school and reuniting with your friends.

Mollie: Thank you, everyone. You all did well! (*To Bob*) See, that wasn’t too bad!

Bob: Thank you. Everyone, it is now hide and seek! Go! (*Everyone runs off to go hide*)

THE END