

The Odd Family

by Mahoganny

Cast:

Chryssa – 6th grader, no powers, one of 3 siblings

Bessie – 5th grader, magical fire power, one of 3 siblings

Roland – 5th grader, magical fire power, one of 3 siblings

Mom (Susan) – magical fire power

Dad (Jeff) – no powers

Linda – kids' lawyer, no nonsense

Maggie – parents' lawyer, scaredy cat

Judge Riecelle - knows the family

Scene 1

(We open on Bessie and Chryssa's bedroom. Chryssa is seated at her desk writing in her diary. Bessie is on the floor playing with her dolls.)

Chryssa:

Can you quiet down a little bit? I'm trying to write.

Bessie:

Well, maybe you should write somewhere else.

Chryssa:

Well, you're too old for dolls!

Bessie:

(Bessie gets angry and stands up, opening her robe into a large flame monster)

GET OOOUUUUUTTT!!!

(Mom enters the room)

Mom:

Chryssa, you know not to say things to make her angry.

Chryssa:

Sorry, Mom.

Mom:

(Goes over to Bessie)

Come on, let's go get some ice cream.

(Mom and Bessie leave)

Chryssa:

(Writing in diary)

I wish I could go to my Dad's cuz he's the only one who understands me.

(Chryssa, pulls out cellphone and calls Dad. Dad enters downstage left)

Dad:

Hey!

Chryssa:

(on phone with her Dad)

Hey, Dad, things are not going well, can you pick me up?

Dad:

Wait, don't you wanna stay at your mom's?

Chryssa:

No, things are just too complicated.

Dad:

Is it Bessie?

Chryssa:

Yup.

Dad:

Oh ok, I'll get you right after I go to the grocery store.

Chryssa:

Ok, thanks, Dad. I'll get ready.

(They hang up. Dad exits. Chryssa starts packing a bag. Mom reenters with Bessie.)

Mom & Bessie:

What are you doing, Chryssa?

Chryssa:

I'm packing. I'm going to Dad's.

Bessie:

OK, can you stay there from now on?

Chryssa:

I wish I could, but Mom won't give him full custody!

Mom:

Why are you going there exactly?

Chryssa:

You wouldn't understand.

Mom:

Um, that's not happening. You're staying with me.

Chryssa:

Well, you two have to shared custody, you can't just keep me forever.

Mom:

No, you are not going there.

Chryssa:

It's too late. I called Dad. He's on his way.

Bessie:

(Bessie is playing with dolls again)

Can you quiet down a little bit? Just because you guys are talking doesn't mean I'm not doing something.

Chryssa:

You don't need to play with dolls. I need to talk to Mom.

(Dad rings the doorbell. Chryssa runs to the door with her bag and her mom chases after her. Mom stops Chryssa. Dad is standing at the door)

Mom:

You're not going to your Dad's. It's my week.

Chryssa:

It'll be your week when you treat me with the same respect as Bessie and Roland.

(Roland enters with his comic book)

Roland:

What's going on?

Mom:

Nothing, go to your room, Roland!

(As Mom watches Roland, Chryssa leaves)

Bessie:

I'm gonna miss you, Chryssa! JK

Dad:

Bessie, quit it. I'll see you next week.

(Chryssa and Dad exit)

Scene 2

(Dad's house. Chryssa and Dad enter with groceries in the kitchen)

Dad:

What happened with you and your mom?

Chryssa:

Mom is mean to me. I don't wanna go back. Can you try to get full custody of just me?

Dad:

What about your brother and sister?

Chryssa:

Well, they're loved. Mom doesn't treat me with the same respect as Bessie and Roland. I want to be respected.

Dad:

Well, you know that your mom loves you. I'll see what I can do and talk to your mom.

Chryssa:

Thanks Dad. I knew you're the one who would understand.

(They hug)

Scene 3

(Chryssa and Dad are eating breakfast when the doorbell rings.)

Chryssa:

I'll get it.

(She goes to the door)

Dad!

Dad:

(Dad comes to the door)

I didn't know everyone was coming. Come in. Sit down.

(Roland, Bessie, and Mom enter and sit down)

Dad:

I think I should take full custody of Chryssa and you should take Bessie and Roland until things cool off.

(Roland is reading his comic book and doesn't even notice)

Mom:

I don't think that's a good idea.

Chryssa:

Well, I think it's a good idea. I thought of the idea.

Mom:

Chryssa, why?

Chryssa:

I want respect!

Mom:

Why don't you feel respected by me?

Chryssa:

Well, you give Bessie and Roland everything. It's like I'm the only one who gets in trouble.

Bessie:

I would be glad if Chryssa went to Dad's because I could have my own room.

Mom:

Bessie, not helping.

Dad:

I've decided and I am going to go to take full custody of her whether you like it or not. She's gonna be living with me!

Mom:

I need to protect her because she doesn't have powers. And you don't have powers either!

Chryssa:

I don't want your protection!

Bessie:

Well, you need it. You don't have any powers.

Dad:

Roland, Bessie, why don't you go to your rooms?

Roland & Bessie:

Ok

(Bessie and Roland exit)

Dad:

Chryssa and I are meeting with the lawyers today.

Mom:

Well, then I am also going to the lawyers to let them know I never agreed to this. If you are gonna take full custody of Chryssa, it's gonna be a fight.

Chryssa:

Well what if I don't want to live with you. And what if we just acknowledge what I want.

Mom:

Chryssa, just because you don't like me, doesn't mean I'm not your Mom.

Chryssa:

Well I do like you, it's just that I know you like Bessie and Roland more than me.

Mom:

Ok, fine. I'll see you at court.

Dad:

Um, if Chryssa is going to come with me, I might as well take Bessie and Roland.

Chryssa:

Bessie?! seriously?!

Dad:

She's your sister.

Chryssa:

She has a mom that loves her.

Mom:

You should stop acting like Cinderella, when you're basically the stepsister and Bessie is Cinderella.

Chryssa:

I think that Bessie doesn't do anything but sit down on the bed and play with dolls and watch me get in trouble. And I'm the one who cleans up after everybody and does all the chores. Also, when we go to court I'm gonna tell the judge I DON'T want to live with you.

Dad:

Let's save this energy for the courtroom.

Mom:

Roland, Bessie we're leaving.

(Bessie and Roland come out)

Bessie:

We were listening to the whole thing. I hope you don't live with us anymore.

Chryssa:

Get out and don't ever come back again.

(Bessie fires up)

Mom:

Chryssa, see what you did?!

(Mom grabs Bessie and Roland and drags them out of the house)

Chryssa:

What if Mom gets me?

Dad:

We won't let that happen. We'll practice our speech with the lawyers.

Scene 4

(Open to a courtroom. Dad, Mom, Chryssa, Roland, and Bessie are there. Along with two lawyers, Linda and Maggie. Mom and Dad are sitting with Maggie and the kids are sitting with Linda.)

Bessie:

(whispering to each other at the table)

Ugh, I'm so not living with you, Chryssa.

Chryssa:

(rolls her eyes)

I feel the same way, trust me. Roland, who do you want to live with?

Roland:

I don't know. I can't decide. I still need to think about that.

Bessie:

Well, if you live with Dad too, then I get your room. It can be my playroom.

Linda:

(pointed)

Quiet kids, you know better than that.

Bessie:

You know better than to tell us what to do, Linda.

Chryssa:

Bessie, stop it. You're going to get us in trouble with your runny mouth.

Bessie:

You don't tell me what to do either!

(Mom and Dad are looking over papers and talking with Maggie. Roland is reading his comic book. Judge Riecelle enters. Everyone stands except Roland. Linda grabs his comic book and throws it beyond them. Judge Riecelle seats himself.)

Judge Riecelle:

I'm Judge Riecelle, please be seated. I wasn't expecting to see you here so soon! *(glancing at the parents)* Let's begin with the kids, Chryssa?

Chryssa:

(stands)

Judge R, I want to live with my dad, because my mom doesn't treat me with the same respect as Bessie and Roland.

Bessie:

Listen Judge Riecelle, or whatever, I wanna live with them my mom and I want your hammer and I wanna bang it on the table!

Judge Riecelle:

Young lady, watch your mouth. This is my courtroom.

Bessie:

I don't care if this is your courtroom, cuz this is my mouth!

Judge Riecelle:

Maybe you could learn some respect.

Bessie:

Maybe you could learn some better judgin' cuz you've been at this a long time.

Judge Riecelle:

Please, wait outside.

(Bessie throws her arms up and becomes the fire monster)

Bessie:

You wait outside!!!!!!

Judge Riecelle:

You're living with your mom. Chryssa, you're living with your dad. I don't even care anymore.

(Judge Riecelle stands up and runs out of the room screaming)

Linda:

Get away from me, you fire flame ball.

(Mom stands up and throws her arms up and becomes a fire monster too)

Mom:

Don't talk to my daughter like that!

Chryssa:

Don't worry, Ms. Linda, I'm totally normal.

Roland:

(Stands up and becomes a fire monster)

What about me? Where am I supposed to live?

Linda:

Chryssa, come on. We're leaving here. *(to Dad)* You can take full custody of Chryssa, so you can take her home. Maggie take care of the fire balls.

(Linda leaves)

Maggie:

(to Roland) Roland, you're staying with your mom. I'm late for another hearing. Bye.

(Maggie leaves)

Dad:

Susan, how am I supposed to trust you with any kids if you can't control your emotions?

Mom:

Well, you barely have the kids, so I don't think you should be talking right now, Jeff.

Dad:

That's because you never let me take the kids. Otherwise I would.

Mom:

Are you calling me a liar?

Dad:

I'm just saying that you always change the plans and you never let Chryssa go to my house.

Mom:

That's because I take care of them better.

Dad:

If you take care of them better why is Chryssa always sad? You heard the judge. Chryssa and I are leaving.

(Chryssa and Dad go to leave)

Mom:

Chryssa is just jealous of Bessie and Roland.

(Blackout)

Scene 5

(Dad's kitchen. Chryssa and Dad sitting at the table.)

Dad:

I'm so glad you're here but I'm worried about Bessie and Roland.

Chryssa:

They'll be fine. They have Mom.

Dad:

That's why I'm worried.

Chryssa:

Trust me, they're fine. Don't worry, mom loves them and treats them nicely. She never uses fire on them.

Dad:

We need to get things under control. This family is broken up and we have to find a way to bring it back together.

Chryssa:

We're fine the way we are right now.

Dad:

No, we're not and we have to find a way to make things right. We are going over to their house today.

Chryssa:

Why did you guys divorce in the first place?

Dad:

Ugh, it's a long story.

Chryssa:

I'm here to listen.

Dad:

Your mom and I just weren't a good fit for each other. We would just fight about little things all the time. Like you and Bessie. That doesn't mean we don't care about each other. Plus you know what happens when they get mad.

Chryssa:

Well, I don't have to see them turn into fire if I am away from them.

Dad:

Is it all of them that turn into fire or mostly Bessie?

Chryssa:

Bessie

Dad:

That's because Bessie is a kid, like you. And still learning to control her powers and emotions. Your mom had a lot of time to work on that.

Chryssa:

We'll go over there.

Dad:

Alright, let's go.

Scene 6

(Bessie and Chryssa's bedroom. Mom, Dad, and Chryssa are there.)

Mom:

We're having a family meeting. Everyone, come to Bessie and Chryssa's room. Bessie, Roland, that means you.

(Bessie and Roland join the meeting)

Bessie:

Why's Chryssa here?

Dad:

Because we want to say sorry.

Chryssa:

Not me, HE wants to say sorry.

Dad:

No, the only reason we are here is to fix this family. We should all figure out how we can be a great big family again.

Roland:

I'm fine with that.

Bessie:

I'm not fine with that. I had my whole room all to myself. And now you want me to share AGAIN?!

Mom:

Yes, but for now, Bessie and Roland are sharing a room and Chryssa gets Roland's room.

Bessie:

But all Roland does is leave his comic books on the floor.

Roland:

All you do is leave your dolls on the floor, that you're too old for.

Mom:

You two need to share a room until you learn to control your fire.

Bessie & Roland:

Uh ok.

Bessie:

Dad, can you put an extra wall in?

Dad:

I guess so.

Chryssa:

Dad, does that mean you're coming back too.

Mom:

Yes, we're all going to work on this as one family.

(Blackout.)

End of play.