

YOUNG ADULT

Stop jumping on the bed and lie down. It's late, and that's not how the story goes.

CHILD stops.

CHILD

Why not?

YOUNG ADULT

Because it has a moral—to not be greedy.

CHILD

Yeah, I mean, I guess I kind of see that. But life isn't always happy, simple endings.

YOUNG ADULT

This isn't life, it's...

CHILD

(interrupting, excitement growing again)

What about the evil queen?

As CHILD continues, ACTOR 2 enters regally, placing a toy crown on their head. She acts out what CHILD and YOUNG ADULT say.

Do you think she grew a poison apple orchard?

YOUNG ADULT

No. We are not creating death orchards at bedtime. Besides, wasn't she struck by lightning and crushed by a boulder?

CHILD

Yeah, and then eaten by vultures. But she's magical, so she probably returned from the dead.

YOUNG ADULT

If that were the case, which it's not, then she'd use the apples to make applesauce for all the babies in the village. The End. Go to bed.

CHILD

She fed applesauce from poison apples to every baby in the village?! That is horrifying! *(She smiles.)* Tell me more.

YOUNG ADULT

No! Oh my God, no! The apples weren't poison, and her intentions were good.

CHILD

Lame.

YOUNG ADULT

It's not lame to create stories with good.

*ACTOR 2 exits stage the same side
as entered.*

CHILD

But it's deceitful. Saints aren't flawless. And even serial killers seem to have redeeming qualities. That's how they get away with it!

YOUNG ADULT

It's a fairy tale.

CHILD

(ignoring YOUNG ADULT)

Speaking of deceit, "Fairy Tales" is a misnomer—hardly any even include a fairy!

YOUNG ADULT

You're exhausting.

*ACTOR 1 flitters onstage wearing **fairy wings** and using the baton as a wand.
ACTOR 1 acts out what CHILD says.*

CHILD

(practically talking over YOUNG ADULT, ignoring her)

Tinkerbell's pretty much the only fairy we've got, and she's poorly developed. You're telling me she just suddenly wholeheartedly accepts Wendy even though she was so jealous from her love for Peter that she was willing to kill? No way. Not Tink. That chick had fire and spirit!

*CHILD stands on the bed,
becoming more animated.
ACTOR 2 crawls on stage as **a dog**.*