

**Information for *The Three Wishes*
when performed as a play.**

Cast

Woodcutter	dressed in casual clothes and carrying an axe
Elf	dressed in elfin clothes
Wife	with blackened eyebrows, red cheeks and frown lines
Two Storytellers	each wearing a hat labelled Storyteller 1 / 2

Props (optional)

Axe	for woodcutter - made from painted card or balsa wood
Sausages	pantyhose tubes filled with cotton wool
Sticky tape	for attaching sausage to nose
Small table and plate	for sausages
Cloth	to cover sausages (tea towel or small tablecloth)



S 1

Once upon a time there was a poor Woodcutter and his Wife. They lived in a tumble-down cottage at the edge of a pine forest.

While the pile of bills was growing higher day by day, the money-jar was becoming emptier.

It wasn't long before the Wife said in a very cross voice ...

Wife	<p>I'm not at all happy, Husband. In fact, I'm very annoyed. We have only enough money for a few more days.</p> <p>Take your axe and chop down a large leafy tree today to sell for lumber, unless, of course, you want us both to starve to death.</p>
Wood cutter	<p>Of course not, Wife!</p> <p>Sometimes I think your sharp tongue will get us into all sorts of trouble.</p>
S 2	<p>The woodcutter and his wife were not to know how much trouble was in store because of this sharp tongue.</p>
S 1	<p>Let us see what happens next. This Wife was a grumpy woman 24/7, and today was no exception.</p>

Wife	<p>Here is a sandwich for your lunch, Husband. It's dry bread and mouldy cheese, but I can't make gourmet from last week's leftovers.</p> <p>Make sure you sharpen you axe or you'll take all day. And now, pray tell, what is your tree-chopping plan?</p>
Wood cutter	<p>Well, I noticed a fine spruce in amongst the ordinary pinewood trees the other day. I have never seen it before because spruce doesn't usually grow around here.</p>
Wife	<p>A spruce? You've always talked about finding a spruce. Maybe you'll be able to earn good money at last instead of putting us both in the poor house.</p>