



**Tracy Wells**

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**BIG DOG PUBLISHING**

**P.O. Box 1401**

**Rapid City, SD 57709**

*For Mrs. Nora VanDeWinkle and her second-grade class.*

*Your wonderful imaginations, ideas, and enthusiasm  
made this play possible.*

A Recipe for Disaster

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**A Recipe for Disaster** was first performed in 2019 as part of “March is Reading Month” by Nora VanDeWinkle’s second-grade class, Beck Centennial Elementary School, Macomb, Michigan.

Ava Bahri  
Dominik Bojaj  
Carter Bombard  
Brogan Cain  
Jonah Catherwood  
Lindsey Cohut  
Nik Gojcaj  
Keira Grimes  
Aubrey Guigar  
Lincoln Hunter  
Nadia Islamovic  
Alexis Kovak  
Maddie Mittleman  
Dylan Muirhead  
Ryann Pier  
Jaewon Schmidt  
Mateo Shalcaj  
Elli Trajkovski  
Domenico Trippichio  
Niko Vlassopoulos  
Natalie Wells

## A Recipe for Disaster

**CHILDREN’S COMEDY.** When Jana enters her basement science lab, she becomes “Dr. Noodles, scientist extraordinaire”! But just as Dr. Noodles is on the verge of a scientific breakthrough, her siblings—Maddie, Carter, and Ellie—accidentally spill a purple liquid in the lab, transforming Dr. Noodles into a hungry monster. But that’s not all! The potion also turns a cheese sandwich, a rubber chicken, a baby doll, a worm, a container of slime, and a Bigfoot statue into walking, talking creatures! As Maddie, Carter, and Ellie race to find an antidote to return everything back to normal before Mom gets home, a nosy neighbor and two detectives arrive to investigate the ruckus. Monstrously mindboggling, this children’s comedy is perfect for elementary students and is easy to stage.

**Performance Time:** Approximately 30 minutes.

## Characters

(2 M, 7 F, 11 flexible)

(With doubling: 2 M, 6 F, 9 flexible)

**NOTE:** All roles may be either male for female. For flexible roles, change the script accordingly.

**JANA/MONSTER (aka “Dr. Noodles”):** Dreams of becoming a scientist and is accidentally transformed into a monster; wears a white lab coat; as Monster wears a monster costume with a lab coat; flexible.

**MOM:** Jana’s mom; female.

**MADDIE:** Jana’s older sister, who always saves the day; female.

**CARTER:** Jana’s mischievous little brother; male.

**ELLIE:** Jana’s younger sister who carries around a baby doll; female.

**BOB/BOBBI 1, 2, 3:** Maddie’s classmates who love science; wear white lab coats; flexible.

**GRANDPA:** Jana’s grandpa who is babysitting while Mom runs errands; wears slacks, a dress shirt, and a cardigan sweater; male.

**BIGFOOT:** A bigfoot statue that comes to life; wears brown and can be covered in hair; flexible.

**MR./MRS. CHEESE:** A cheese sandwich that comes to life; dressed in orange clothing and can wear an optional cheese head hat; flexible.

**Q:** Jana’s scientific notes that have come to life; asks questions; wears a white shirt with a black letter “Q” on it; flexible.

**A:** Jana’s scientific notes that have come to life; answers questions; wears a white shirt with a black letter “A” on it; flexible.

**BOOKWORM:** A talking worm who loves to read; wears a worm costume with a blazer and spectacles; flexible.

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**SALLY SLIME:** Slime that has come to life and hates being slimy; wears all-green clothing; talks like a "Valley Girl"; female.

**BABY BABY:** Ellie's baby doll who comes to life; wears a onesie and has pigtails and a pacifier; female.

**CHUCK CLUCK:** An annoying chicken; wears a chicken costume; flexible.

**MS. SMITH:** Nosy neighbor; female.

**AGENT GIGI:** Detective; wears a trench coat; flexible.

**AGENT H:** Detective; wears a trench coat; flexible.

## options for Doubling

**MOM/MS. SMITH** (female)

**BOB 1/AGENT GIGI** (flexible)

**BOB 2/AGENT H** (flexible)

## Setting

A basement science lab.

## Set

At CS is a lab table with assorted lab materials/equipment and beakers full of brightly colored liquids on it. A pile of books is on one end of the table. A rubber chicken and a container of green slime are on the other end. Please note that actors will be seated behind the table until their character comes to life, so make sure the table has a covering that obscures the actors from the audience. Additionally, make sure the table is long enough for the actors to fit behind or place the table near the curtain for easier entrances and exits.



## Props

Clipboard  
Pen  
Beaker filled with red colored water  
Notebook  
Empty beaker  
Beaker filled with blue colored water  
Stir sticks  
Plate with a cheese sandwich and apple on it  
Baby doll  
Rubber chicken or stuffed chicken  
Container of green slime  
Bigfoot statue or doll  
Spectacles, for Bookworm  
Chemistry book  
Cell phone, for Maddie  
Beaker with yellow colored water  
Beaker with blue colored water  
2 Badges, for Agents  
Blanket  
Cane, for Grandpa  
Pipette or eyedropper

## Special Effect

Flashing light (for when objects and characters come to life)

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“I’ve always found  
that when I’m in search  
of an answer,  
I can usually find it  
in a book.”

—Bookworm

## A Recipe for Disaster

*(AT RISE: Jana's basement science lab. Jana enters and dons her white lab coat.)*

JANA: Time to get to work on my latest experiment. *(Picks up a beaker filled with red liquid, looks at it, picks up a notebook with her other hand and looks at it.)* It looks like I'll need a dash of this. *(Puts down her notebook and pours red liquid into an empty beaker. She puts down the empty beaker and picks up another beaker filled with blue liquid. She picks up the notebook with her other hand and looks at it.)* And a few drops of this. *(Puts down the notebook and pours the blue liquid into the red liquid.)* I'll just give it a little stir. *(Picks up the stir stick and stirs the liquid until it becomes purple.)* Aha! It worked!

*(Mom enters.)*

MOM: What worked?

JANA: Oh, just the latest experiment I've been working on.

MOM: That's great, Jana! I'm so proud of you!

JANA: Thanks, Mom. But remember...when I'm in my lab, I'm not Jana. I'm Dr. Noodles!

MOM: *(Chuckles.)* That's right. I forgot. Now, Dr. Noodles, you keep working on your experiments while I run a few errands. Grandpa is in charge while I'm gone.

JANA: Where is Grandpa?

MOM: He's upstairs sleeping in his chair.

JANA/MOM: As usual! *(Laugh.)*

MOM: All right, be good while I'm gone. Don't get into any trouble.

JANA: How can I possibly get into trouble down here in my lab?

MOM: Good question. Let's not find out. *(Starts to exit.)* See you in a little while.

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JANA: Bye, Mom. *(Mom exits. To herself.)* Now, where was I?

*(Jana looks down at her notes. Maddie enters, carrying a plate with a cheese sandwich and an apple on it. Full of energy, Carter enters close behind Maddie. Holding a baby doll, Ellie enters.)*

MADDIE: Hey, Jana, I brought you some lunch.

JANA: *(Without looking up from her notes.)* Thanks, Maddie, but down here I'm Dr. Noodles.

MADDIE: Right.

CARTER: Hey, Dr. Noodles, what's this? *(Picks up a rubber chicken.)*

JANA: *(Looks up.)* Carter! Leave that alone! I need that for my experiment. *(Takes the rubber chicken away from Carter. To Maddie.)* Did you have to bring him down here, too?

MADDIE: Sorry, he followed me.

CARTER: That's what little brothers do. We follow our big sisters around the house... *(Picks up a container of slime.)* ...and play with our big sister's cool science stuff. *(Dips his finger into the slime.)*

ELLIE: Ew, gross.

CARTER: And gross out our little sisters! *(Holds out his slimy finger and chases Ellie around.)* I'm going to get you, Ellie!

ELLIE: *(Shouts.)* Maddie! Jana! Make him stop!

JANA: Carter, stop it! You're going to break something.

*(Ellie hides behind the Bigfoot statue.)*

ELLIE: Bigfoot will protect me.

CARTER: Bigfoot's not real.

ELLIE: Right now I wish he was. Then he'd stop you and your slimy finger.

*(Jana crosses to Carter and takes the container of slime from him.)*

JANA: This is why you two aren't allowed down here. Now, Maddie, can you please get them out of here?  
CARTER/ELLIE: *(Crossing their arms.)* Not fair!  
MADDIE: Come on, guys, let's go.

*(Maddie approaches Carter and Ellie. Carter and Ellie back up, inching closer to the table.)*

CARTER: Watch out, Ellie. She's coming to get us.  
ELLIE: *(Holding up doll.)* Baby Baby will protect us!  
MADDIE: Don't be silly. Jana has asked us to leave, and we need to respect her wishes.  
CARTER: We won't go quietly! *(At the table, he picks up the beaker of purple liquid.)* If we're going, this stuff is coming with us!  
JANA: *(Nervously.)* Stop, Carter! That potion is only in the experimental stages. There's no telling what it will do.  
CARTER: Then you'd better not come any closer.  
JANA: *(Inching toward Carter.)* Just give me the potion, Carter.  
CARTER: *(Holding the beaker over his head.)* Not until you say we can stay down here.

*(Ellie picks up the apple from the plate.)*

ELLIE: *(Looking at the apple closely.)* Why is there a hole in this apple?  
JANA: *(Holding out her hand.)* Give it to me.  
CARTER: No!  
ELLIE: *(Looking closely at the apple.)* I think something's wiggling around in there.  
JANA: I said, give it to me!  
ELLIE: Ew! It's a worm!

*(Ellie drops the apple and knocks the sandwich plate to the ground. Jana reaches out to grab the potion, knocking it out of Carter's hand.)*

*Some of the liquid spills on the cheese sandwich, the apple, the scientific notes, and on Jana.)*

JANA: It burns! *(Falls to the floor behind the table.)*

MADDIE: Jana, are you okay?

JANA: *(From behind the table, in a weakened voice.)* I told you...  
*(Monster stands up from behind the table and is wearing Jana's lab coat. Jana has been transformed into a monster. With a growl.)* My name is Dr. Noodles!

MADDIE/CARTER/ELLIE: *(Screams.)* Ahhhhhh!

MADDIE: *(To Carter and Ellie.)* What happened to Jana?

CARTER: She's a monster!

ELLIE: She's gross!

*(Monster slowly advances toward Maddie, Carter, and Ellie.)*

MONSTER: Dr. Noodles is hungry...

*(Maddie, Carter, and Ellie back away from the Monster.)*

CARTER: *(To Maddie.)* I think she's going to eat us!

MADDIE: Where is that cheese sandwich I made? Maybe she'll eat that.

*(Mr. Cheese stands up from behind the table.)*

MR. CHEESE: Don't let her eat me!

CARTER: *(To Ellie.)* Um, question: Did that huge piece of cheese just talk?

ELLIE: I think he did!

MR. CHEESE: *(To Carter, Ellie, and Maddie.)* I don't mean to sound *cheesy* or anything, but I would appreciate it if you didn't serve me to that monster for lunch.

MONSTER: *(Advancing.)* Dr. Noodles is hungry...

MADDIE: *(To Ellie and Carter.)* If we can't give the Monster Mr. Cheese, then maybe she'd like the apple. Ellie, where is that apple?

ELLIE: I threw it on the floor because it had a gross worm in it.

*(Bookworm stands up from behind the table and adjusts his spectacles.)*

BOOKWORM: *(Insulted.)* Who are you calling gross?

CARTER: *(Screams.)* Ah! It's a giant worm!

BOOKWORM: *(Correcting.)* I'm a giant *bookworm*, if you please. *(Picks up a book from the table.)* Bookworms are so much more sophisticated than regular worms, wouldn't you say?

MADDIE: Um, I guess so?

*(Bookworm crosses to the chair with his book.)*

BOOKWORM: We are avid readers and just can't take our noses out of a good book!

CARTER: I didn't think worms had noses.

BOOKWORM: We don't have eyes either, but that won't stop me from reading this book. *(Sits down and looks at the book cover. Reads title.)* "Common Principles of Chemistry." *(Opens book.)* Sounds like a fascinating read!

ELLIE: *(To Carter and Maddie.)* Is it okay that a giant worm is sitting over there? Should we call an exterminator or something?

BOOKWORM: Oh, don't mind me. I'll just be over here reading. I won't trouble you at all. *(Continues reading.)*

MONSTER: *(Advancing.)* Dr. Noodles is hungry...

CARTER: *(To Maddie and Ellie.)* What are we going to do?

*(Q and A stand up from behind the counter.)*



Q: Why do you ask such a question?

A: Because they don't know the answer.

MADDIE: *(To Ellie and Carter.)* Who are these two?

A: I am "A," for "answer." And this is "Q."

ELLIE: "Q"?

Q: What does "Q" stand for, you ask?

A: *(To Ellie, Maddie, and Carter.)* "Q" stands for "question."

We are the questions and answers from inside Jana's notebook. You can call us Q and A.

MADDIE: Okay, Q and A. Can you tell us how to fix this mess?

Q: What mess is it?

CARTER: Our sister Jana made a potion that turned her into a monster and brought that cheese sandwich to life. *(Points to Mr. Cheese.)*

ELLIE: *(To Q.)* And it made that worm... *(Points to Bookworm.)* ...grow huge and start talking.

BOOKWORM: And reading.

Q: *(To Carter, Ellie, and Maddie.)* So what is your question?

CARTER: How do we make everything go back to normal?

Q: Tell me, what is the potion your sister made?

MADDIE: I don't know. Can't you tell us? You come from her scientific notes.

A: But we are only her questions and answers. We aren't the recipe she used to create the potion.

MADDIE: Then answer this: What can counteract this potion?

A: The only thing that can counteract a potion is an antidote.

CARTER: An antidote?! How do we get one of those?

A: You need to find a scientist.

Q: Where do we find a scientist?

CARTER: Hey, I was going to ask that!

Q: Is that so?

*(Maddie takes out her cell phone and starts texting.)*

MADDIE: I don't know any scientists, but I do know some kids in my science class who might be able to help us. I'm texting them now.

MONSTER: (*Advancing.*) Dr. Noodles is hungry...

CARTER: Well, I hope they get here quick. We won't be able to fend off this monster for long!

(*Bob 1-3 enter.*)

BOB 1-3: Hi there. How can we help?

CARTER: Wow! That was fast!

ELLIE: (*To Maddie, indicating Bob 1-3.*) Who are these guys?

MADDIE: These are the Bobs.

ELLIE: The Bobs?

BOB 1: (*Waving.*) Hi, I'm Bob.

BOB 2: (*Waving.*) Hi, I'm Bob.

BOB 3: (*Waving.*) Hi, I'm Bob.

BOB 1-3: We're the Bobs!

MADDIE: (*To Carter and Ellie.*) The Bobs are in my science class, and they are amazing at science experiments.

**[END OF FREEVIEW]**