**Excerpt #5**

Characters: Toymaker, Potts, Truly, Childcatcher, Soldier,

Context: Inside the Toymakers shop in Vulgaria. Potts, Truly and children have to hide from the Childcatcher. All children are forbidden in Vulgaria. If caught, they are banished to the sewers underneath the Baron’s castle.

**TOYMAKER** Children are forbidden in Vulgaria**.**

**POTTS** What?

**TOYMAKER** The Suppression of Children Act, still in force.

**TRULY** But what about all these toys?

**TOYMAKER** They’re for the Baron. He likes toys. A lot…

*Potts peers out the door*

Get away from there! He might see you…

**POTTS** Who?

**TOYMAKER** The Child Catcher. He takes children and makes them…

disappear.

**POTTS** Which children?

**TOYMAKER** All of them…as many as he can lay his hands on. It’s all because of the Baroness. She loathes them.

**TRULY** Does she have any children of her own?

**TOYMAKER** The Baroness? Oh no, she’d rather die.

*The sound of fearful knocking at the door.*

*(From offstage)*

**CHILDCATCHER** There are children in here. I can smell them!

**TOYMAKER** It’s him. The child Catcher. Quick, down here.

**CHILDCATCHER** Children…!

*The Toymaker shows Jeremy and Jemima where to hide in a hole in the wall.*

**TOYMAKER** *(to the children)*Don’t come out till we tell you.

*(More knocking… TRULY and POTTS find a secret compartment in the wall and hide… Aloud to CHILD CATCHER and hanging up his coat.)*

Alright, I’m coming! I’ve been so busy, it’s half day closing.

*He unlocks the door. The CHILDCATCHER enters the shop.*

**CHILDCATCHER** Children, children. There’s a twitch in my nose. I can smell children.

**TOYMAKER** Children in a toyshop? Don’t be absurd.

**CHILDCATCHER** Absurd? My nose is never wrong.

*The CHILDCATCHER is sniffing for children.*

**TOYMAKER** You’ve no right to come in here! No right!

**CHILDCATCHER** No right. There are children in here. I can smell their blood and when I find them you will have made your last toy.

**SOLDIER** *Rushing in*

The Baron wants you back at the castle. The intruders have been located.

**CHILDCATCHER** What?

**SOLDIER** We have found the car…hidden in the bushes under the bridge. They can’t have got far.

**CHILDCATCHER** (*Releasing him)*

My nose must have been mistaken. There are no children here.