

# **THE WOLVES OF WILLOUGHBY CHASE**

Script and Music by **JOHN MILLS**

Additional Script Consultancy from **ADAM ELMS**

A Musical Inspired by **JOAN AIKEN**'s Book of the Same Name

## **1) What is 'The Wolves Of Willoughby Chase' All About?**

Exploring the themes of friendship, treachery, sadness and triumph, 'The Wolves Of Willoughby Chase' is an roller-coaster adventure for all the family. Involving howling wolves, adventurous train journeys, an evil governess - all the ingredients required for an engaging tale full of twists and turns. Set in a time long ago when wolves roamed the lands freely, it is centred around the lives of two girls, Bonnie and Sylvia who, with the help of a goose-herder named Simon, bring justice to an endeavour full of conspiracy and danger. The engaging songs propel the story forwards with memorable tunes and catchy arrangements. 'The Wolves Of Willoughby Chase' is an crowd-pleasing entertainment for the whole family to enjoy.

## **2) Characters**

There are 15 named characters:

Bonnie Green	A tempestuous heroine
Sylvia Green	Bonnie's cousin – an orphan, polite and sensitive
Mr Grimshaw	Miss Slighcarp's accomplice and forger
Miss Slighcarp	Bonnie's evil governess. Thin as a rake!
Mr Gripe	Sir Willoughby's lawyer from London
Mrs Brisket	School principal and monster, friend of Miss Slighcarp, fat as a pumpkin!
Aunt Jane	Sir Willoughby's ailing sister and Sylvia's guardian
Sir Willoughby	Bonnie's wealthy father, owner of Willoughby Chase
Lady Green	Bonnie's frail mother
Pattern	Bonnie's bustling maid. Fussy with plenty of curtsying
James	The Willoughby's handyman
Dr Morne	A forgetful doctor
Simon	A farmer's son and goose-herder.
Constable Cardigan	Policeman. A-ha!
Train Guard	
Orphan Jenny	
Orphan Hattie	
Orphan Penny	
Orphan Lizzie	

Company of wolves, train passengers, orphans, geese, farmers and animals for Smithfield Market.

### 3) Synopsis

*The Wolves Of Willoughby Chase* is set in the past when the last Wolves roamed wild in remote parts of England. A young girl, Sylvia Green, travels to Willoughby Manor, the grand home of her spirited cousin Bonnie Green. The song *Another New Adventure* describes the anticipation of something new, and the danger of wolves. Sylvia is befriended by the sinister Mr Grimshaw, who feigns illness and is taken to Willoughby Manor to recover. Little do Sylvia and Bonnie realise this is part of an elaborate plot to swindle them out of their rightful inheritance.

Bonnie's mother is unwell and needs to recuperate in the Canary islands, so Bonnie and Sylvia are left in the charge of Miss Slighcarp, their newly-arrived guardian. She is very unpleasant towards them but they look after each other and sing *Another Friend Like You*. Bonnie and Sylvia go skating onto the Chase and become frightened by the wolves. They take cover with Simon who lives alone with his geese. He shoots at the wolves who flee and the girls to get home safely. They see Miss Slighcarp and Mr Grimshaw tampering with Sir Willoughby's papers.

Miss Slighcarp locks Bonnie in a cupboard and dismisses most of the staff. Miss Slighcarp is plotting with Grimshaw to forge Bonnie's father's will naming her as the sole beneficiary of the Willoughby Manor estate. News arrives that Bonnie's parents have perished at sea and Miss Slighcarp sends them to a boarding school run by Mrs Brisket, a long-standing friend.

Both Miss Slighcarp and Mrs Brisket are triumphant in their joint quest of making life miserable for all the orphans and sing *A Nip Of The Strap*. Bonnie and Sylvia are badly treated and hear of the other orphans' dreams and memories in *A Sunny Sunday Afternoon*. The girls make plans to escape.

To their rescue comes Simon who is *Dancing the Geese To Smithfield Market*. The girls join him on the way to market being careful to avoid any wolves. At Brighton they see Mr Grimshaw who is trapped into confessing his part in forging the will. Plans are made to deal with Miss Slighcarp back at Willoughby Manor.

Upon their return to the Manor they discover that Miss Slighcarp and Mrs Brisket have turned Willoughby Manor into a school. Bonnie and Sylvia return to Miss Slighcarp's and are about to be punished again when Sir Willoughby and Lady Green return. After hearing Bonnie and Sylvia's story, Slighcarp and Brisket are locked in the strongroom. Somehow Miss Slighcarp and Mrs Brisket escape, and rush off into the dark night towards The Chase. They soon get tired and very lost and ... come to a savage ending by being torn apart by *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase*.

### 4) Music

MP3 backing tracks are available, both with and without guide vocals. A compilation of extracts from '*The Wolves Of Willoughby Chase*' can be found on our website at <https://earwormmusicals.com>

5) Scenes and Musical Numbers

ACT 1

<u>Scene 1</u>	<u>On Willoughby Chase</u>	
	<b>#01 The Wolves Of Willoughby Chase</b>	<b>1'52"</b>
	<i>Wolves</i>	
<u>Scene 2</u>	<u>Willoughby Manor, Sir Willoughby's Study</u>	
<u>Scene 3</u>	<u>Aunt Jane's Lodgings, London</u>	
<u>Scene 4</u>	<u>Willoughby Manor, Sir Willoughby's Study</u>	
<u>Scene 5</u>	<u>Brighton Station Platform</u>	
	<b>#02 Another New Adventure</b>	<b>2'25"</b>
	<i>Sylvia, Mr Grimshaw, Train Guard and Passengers</i>	
	<b>#03 Another New Adventure – Reprise</b>	<b>0'53"</b>
	<i>Sylvia, Mr Grimshaw, Train Guard and Passengers</i>	
<u>Scene 6</u>	<u>Willoughby Manor, Bonnie's Bedroom</u>	
	<b>#04 Another Friend Like You</b>	<b>2'19"</b>
	<i>Sylvia and Bonnie</i>	
<u>Scene 7</u>	<u>Willoughby Manor, Sir Willoughby's Study</u>	
	<b>#05 We're The Wolves!</b>	<b>0'30"</b>
	<i>Miss Slighcarp &amp; Mr Grimshaw</i>	
<u>Scene 8</u>	<u>On Willoughby Chase</u>	
	<b>#06 The Wolves Of Willoughby Chase – First Reprise</b>	<b>0'30"</b>
	<i>Wolves</i>	
<u>Scene 9</u>	<u>Willoughby Manor, Sir Willoughby's Study</u>	
	<b>#07 Painful Wolves!</b>	<b>0'30"</b>

ACT 2

<u>Scene 1</u>	<u>Mrs Brisket's Boarding School</u>	
	<b>#07 Painful Wolves!</b>	<b>0'30"</b>
	<b>#08 A Nip Of The Strap</b>	<b>2'36"</b>
	<i>Miss Slighcarp, Mrs Brisket, Bonnie, Sylvia &amp; Orphans</i>	
<u>Scene 2</u>	<u>Mrs Brisket's Boarding School, Dormitory</u>	
	<b>#09 Like A Sunny Sunday Afternoon</b>	<b>3'19"</b>
	<i>Bonnie, Sylvia and Orphans</i>	
<u>Scene 3</u>	<u>Willoughby Manor Main Gates</u>	
<u>Scene 4</u>	<u>Mrs Brisket's Boarding School, Dormitory</u>	
<u>Scene 5</u>	<u>Smithfield Market</u>	
	<b>#10 Dancin' To Smithfield Market</b>	<b>3'07"</b>
	<i>Simon, Farmers and Animals</i>	
<u>Scene 6</u>	<u>A-La 'Keystone Kops'</u>	
	<b>#11 London Adventures (Instrumental)</b>	<b>0'30"</b>

**#12 Another New Adventure – Second Reprise 0’30”**

*Simon, Aunt Jane, Bonnie, Sylvia, Constable Cardigan, Mr Gripe,  
Train Guard*

Scene 7 Willoughby Manor, Sir Willoughby’s Study

**#13 Another Friend Like You – Reprise 1’04”**

*Bonnie and Sylvia*

Scene 8 On Willoughby Chase

**#14 The Wolves Of Willoughby Chase – Final Reprise 0’31”**

*Wolves*

**6) Notes For The Director**

This musical needs to bounce along at a lick! The Wolves are a fearsome presence throughout. The audience must feel the pain of loss and the joy of triumph. The scenes move from bleak winter moorland, through blackened industrial towns to vibrant countryside. Contrast depths of despair with the comical moments of dancing animals, grotesque characters and ‘Keystone Kops’ at their most ridiculous. Above all, the cast should be having as much fun as the audiences. Enjoy!