

The Tempest

Episode 7

NARRATOR

Down in the jungle King Alonso and the courtiers have given up hope of finding Ferdinand. Most of them are moping. Antonio and Sebastian are plotting murder - again - big surprise. Prospero walks, invisible, among them, then nods to Ariel. Immediately wild animals roar and crash through the trees. The courtiers panic and run about. More terrible noises...then silence.

Before they have time to recover, Prospero clicks his fingers - and a massive banquet appears, tables piled high with everyone's favourite food. The starving courtiers rush to the tables - but then whoosh! - Ariel appears like a terrible monster and flies all around them.

Then he waves his giant wings over the meal - and it disappears. 'Oh dear, I am enjoying this,' says Prospero, as the courtiers run everywhere shrieking in terror.

Finally Ariel floats above Alonso, Antonio and Sebastian - and tells them they are being punished by the gods for all the terrible things they've done. In horror the three of them run off into the jungle.

'Very nicely done,' says Prospero. 'Who's next?'

'The drunks,' says Ariel.

And with a whizz the magician and his assistant disappear...only to reappear by the cave. Just in time to catch Caliban, Trinculo and Stephano. Their nicking Prospero's spare magician's clothes and heading off with big sticks to kill him.

'Do your stuff Ariel,' says Prospero. So Ariel conjures up a pack of demon dogs and chases *them* away into the jungle too.

Alone now, Prospero sits and shakes his head. 'Human beings. Leave them alone on an island for a day and look what they get up to,' he thinks. But should he punish them - or have they learnt their lesson? Is it time to forget all this magician nonsense? Is it time to forgive and forget?

Prospero looks far out to sea and ponders these questions. But the answer doesn't lie out at sea...it lies within himself.

