

# The Hair-Raising Case of Rapunzel's Green Tresses

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with contributions from Jack Pechutz



## An interactive mystery game for kids (approx 13-16 years old)

Here's how to organize the investigation:

1.) Assign the roles on pages 11 through 22 to 12 kids (7 girls and 5 boys). The others become crew members who are eager to solve the case and save the show.

No memorization is required because the individual suspects have notes with the answers to the questions that they will be asked. Everyone is involved in solving the crime since no one knows the correct solution.

2.) Read "A Promising Play Gone Green" on page 2 out loud to everyone.

3.) Read "The Rules of the Game" on page 4 out loud to everyone.

4.) Make enough copies of the Rapunzel "Playbill" on page 3 and copies of pages 7-9 to give to each kid. Page 2 provides information about what happened today when Rapunzel's hair was dyed green. The suspects and the investigating crew members can use pages 7-9 to make notes. Page 10 must be filled in with the correct answers. If you want to, you can staple these pages to pieces of cardboard to make "clipboards" for everyone.

5.) Tell the kids to talk with each other to find out what everyone else knows about the case. If you want to, you can organize this, or you can simply let everyone gather information as they please.

6.) When time is up (you can decide how much time to give), gather everyone together and ask them, one at a time, to answer the first three questions.

7.) Read the solution to the case on pages . The investigator who gave the best answer is the "Super Sleuth." You may want to award a prize for this honor.



### A Promising Play Gone Green

For years the theater lay vacant and neglected. Until Harry D. Rector arrived with a vision, determination, and enough cash to turn the crumbling brick building into a fancy fairy tale theater. He wrote a script, held auditions, and signed on promising actors—actors who were none other than eager townspeople caught up in his star-struck plan. Yes, Harry D. promised to make them all shining stars.

With the grand opening night of "Rapunzel" fast approaching, his predictions seemed to be coming true. Playbills were circulating like wind, and all anyone could talk about was the show. "Have you heard? Prince Charming is going to climb *real hair!*"

No one has ever attempted such a feat before. Tickets are sold out; actors are reciting lines day and night; and, best of all, a big producer is in town. Rumor has it that if he likes what he sees, he may sign on the actors and take the show on a cross country tour, ultimate destination Hollywood.

But now he may not see anything. The play—or, more precisely (but just as devastatingly), the star—has been sabotaged on opening day. Rapunzel, played by Jeanie Us, has had her long, lustrous, golden waves of hair dyed a slimy, gross green. No prince would want to touch such hair, let alone climb it.


And no audience will want to see it. How can the show go on when no golden hair dye can be found powerful enough to cover the green? An understudy isn't an option. No one, not even her twin sister Jill, has hair as long as Jeanie's.


Everyone involved in the production is gathered at Trendy Tresses Hair Salon, trying to decide what to do. Only careful questioning by cast and crew can uncover the truth as to whom the culprit of this dastardly dye job is. If, as is feared, the show must be canceled, the culprit must be made to announce it to the disappointed crowd—and suffer the consequences of a colossal bombardment of rotten tomatoes.


We'd tell all you investigating cast and crew members to "break a leg," but ...


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 **Notes about Jeanie Us**

 **Notes about Jill Us**

 **Notes about Cob Webb**

 **Notes about Ruby Lips**



## Jeanie Us Starring as *Rapunzel*

You are a suspect. Always tell the truth when people ask you questions.

**Who are you?** I'm the actress who's supposed to play Rapunzel because I have—I mean I *had*—*such* long golden hair—before some twisted, jealous person turned it a repulsive green. My twin sister, Jill, has long hair too, but not as long as mine, and it's Brown. I used to wear thick glasses and read all the time. My nickname was "Genius," go figure.

Even though I suffered from incredible stage fright, Jill made me come with her when she tried out for the Rapunzel role (we like to stick together), but lo and behold—Harry D. Rector gave the part to me! I feel like I've gone through a real fairy tale transformation. Since getting this role, I've developed loads of confidence, I've become brave enough to wear contacts, and I even have a boyfriend, Sid Lines.

**How did you become involved in this play?** Like I said, it was all Jill. She's at my side so much you'd think we were Siamese twins. Since she doesn't have a role in this play, it's hard for us to stay apart for so long. But that's just one of the sacrifices a star must make.

**Do you want this play to be successful?** Definitely. I can't go back to being merely a genius. I want to go on tour and travel, see all the places I've only read about. Seeing my name in lights would be pretty cool, too.

**Do you think Jeanie Us should be playing Rapunzel?** At the risk of sounding full of myself, I have to say yes.

**Why or why not?** Well, being chosen by Harry D. Rector pretty much says it all. He's professional and prestigious—a real *someone*. You can't doubt him. He says I'll "revolutionize" this role. I admit I still sometimes get a little nervous, and having the prince really climb up my hair can be a pain. It gives me awful headaches if it's not done just right, and Rich M. Charmin is not always as careful as he could be.

**Where were you today?** I spent all morning at home rehearsing with Jill. I took a break for lunch and that's when Jill mentioned my hair wasn't looking too golden. I'd heard from Ruby Lips—Charmin's girlfriend (she's always hanging around offstage)—that Trendy Tresses carries a strong line of beauty products. That's what I wanted: something so strong that anyone who saw my hair would take notice and always remember the golden locks of Rapunzel. It would be like my trademark. Famous actresses have those, you know—Harry D. told me so.

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