

Gretel

Oh, if you please, ma'am, we - that is - we didn't -- I mean...

Hansel

What my sister means is that we're kind of hungry because yesterday we got lost --

Witch
(*chuckling*)

Lost? What a *lovely* word!

Hansel

But we're on our way home now, so thanks for the nibble --

Witch

Oh, don't rush off! Have another. Have lots of nibbles! I know what it's like to be hungry... nasty feeling!

Gretel

I don't know how you could *ever* be hungry when your house is made of such delicious things.

Witch

Well, it all depends on your taste . . . is that your cat?

Hansel

Yes, that's Snowball.

Witch

Oh, how delicious -- I mean how adorable -- come here, Kitty.
Cat meows sharply, spits and bounds- out of sight.

Gretel

Snowball! Goodness -- look at her racing away! What a strange way to behave. She's usually friendly with strangers.

Hansel
(pointing at the oven)

What's that?

Witch

That's an oven. Would you like to see how it works?

Gretel

We haven't got time now. I have to catch Snowball and we should be getting along.

Hansel

Yes, we'd better go.

Witch

Oh, but you can't go.

Hansel
(exchanging a look with Gretel)

What do you mean "we can't"?

Witch

Well, just try...

They both to move but seem rooted to the spot

Gretel
(terrified)

Hansel -- I can't move

Hansel

Neither can I!

Gretel

I feel as if my feet are nailed to the ground!

Hansel

Gretel! We're bewitched!

Gretel

She's a witch -- that's why Snowball was so scared!

During the above lines, the witch has been moving in a circle making magical gestures.

Witch

There we arc. The magic circle is complete. Now you may frisk about again --but don't exercise too much. I want my dinner to be plump and juicy.

Hansel

Your dinner!

Gretel

Hansel -- quick -- ran!

She starts to dart off--then stops with a scream.

Gretel

Oh! -- There's an invisible wall all around us! I can feel it but I can't see it!

Witch