

SPOTLIGHT'S

HAPPILY

EVER

AFTER

THE FAIRYTALE CHRONICLES

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SCENE ONE – AN INTRODUCTION

Priscilla, Twinkles, Purity

❖ BACKGROUND 1a – THE PALACE

≡ CURTAIN OPEN

♪ CUE – FAIRY ENTRANCE

{ENTER TWINKLES & PURITY}

TWINKLES: Oh, hello everyone. *(pause)*. I said, helloooo!

PURITY: Ooh, they're simply adorable. *(looks worried)*
Her mistress will be most displeased.

TWINKLES: *(nods)*. Anyway, while we're here, allow me to introduce myself. I'm Twinkles and I'm a fairy in these parts. *(points to wings)* And this is my sister, Purity.

PURITY: Hellooo! *(waves to audience)* We work in the palace you know. For Princess Priscella no less *(nodding)*. We're VERY important.

TWINKLES: We are?

PURITY: *(Nods)* Yes!

TWINKLES: Oh. I suppose we are. *(To audience)* Hey, can you keep a secret? *(wait)* You can? *(wait)* Oh that's good. Well, just to fill you in, and I shouldn't really tell you this, but the princess isn't terribly nice.

PURITY: Actually, thinking about it, I don't think I've ever really seen her smile.

TWINKLES: No, laughing and smiling is forbidden in this part of the palace, unfortunately. She's really not a happy bunny.

Oh, and she doesn't really like people, so I wouldn't go upsetting her if I was you.

PURITY: Definitely not. *(to Twinkles)* Hey wait, I've got an idea. *(to audience)* Would you like to do something for us? *(wait)*. Would you? *(wait)* Great!

Well, every time you see her, it would be really funny, to us at least, if you could give her the biggest BOOOOOOOO you have ever heard. Like this..

TWINKLES: (*interrupts*) Booooooooooo!

PURITY: Umm, yes, like that! Could you do that for me? (*wait*). Super! And even better, if you have a magic wand like us or a sword, wave it around. She'll really dislike that!

TWINKLES: I know, let's give it a quick practice, before she gets back. I'll be the princess. One moment. (*moves to side of stage*).

PURITY: (*to audience*) Are you ready? (*wait*) Wonderful.

TWINKLES: (*acts silly mocking the princess*). Look, I'm an evil princess and I don't like stuff.

PURITY: (*to audience, gees them up*) Boooooooooo!

TWINKLES: Oh, she'll have kittens!

PURITY: (*to audience*) She doesn't like kittens.

TWINKLES: Oh, I think I hear her coming. Quick, look busy.

PURITY & TWINKLES: (*both pretend to clean using their wands*)

🎵 CUE – PRISCILLA ENTRANCE

{ENTER PRISCILLA}

PURITY & TWINKLES: (*both interact with audience for boo*)

PRISCILLA: (*looks at audience*) Well, well. Did someone forget to say bingo was cancelled? (*to Purity*) What are all these miserable humans doing here?

PURITY: They're surely here to see you, your highness.

PRISCILLA: I see. Interesting. Well, we don't have time to be entertaining peasants. I actually have some rather amazing news.

TWINKLES: Really your highness? Oh, do tell.

PRISCILLA: Well, do you remember the wonderfully happy dream I had the other night? The one that ALMOST made me crack a smile.

PURITY: Oh yes mistress. You mean the one where you were squashing creepy crawly bugs with your sceptre?

PRISCILLA: NO, the other one. The one where I am ruler of the entire kingdom and everyone is bowing down to me. And they are miserable. It was glorious.

TWINKLES: Oh, that one.

PRISCILLA: Well, last night a little birdy told me that my dream is about to come true.

PURITY: It is? How so?

PRISCILLA: Well, my hideously winged servant, it just so happens that father dearest is about to abdicate his throne. And about time too, might I add!

TWINKLES: Really? That's amazing.

PRISCILLA: You have no idea what that means, do you?

TWINKLES & PURITY: *(together glumly)* No, your highness.

PRISCILLA: Well, you uneducated oafs, it means that my father, King William, is about to hand over the throne to the next in line. And you both know who that is, don't you?

TWINKLES & PURITY: *(look all excited nodding)* No.

PRISCILLA: It's me, you fools. Do I have to explain everything? I am about to become ruler to all of Clactonia. *(to audience)* All of these halfwits will finally be under my control.

TWINKLES: Umm, your highness. Sorry to interrupt, but isn't your sister Cinderella the next in line to the throne?

PRISCILLA: Well, yes she is, but as you know she "mysteriously" vanished years ago. How very tragic. Fortunately I know for a fact that she's not coming back any time soon.

PURITY: Oh mistress.. I hesitate to ask, but how do you know that? Please tell me you had nothing to do with her disappearance.

PRISCILLA: Of course I did. The doddering old fool was never going to let me rule the kingdom. It was always going to be her. It was always Cinderella this, and Cinderella that.. Cinderella would never superglue wings to the dog and call it a dragon.. Cinderella would never put eyeballs in the pickled onion jar.

TWINKLES: *(exchanging glances with Purity)* Oh, that's...

PURITY: Terrible. What did you do to her?

PRISCILLA: Let's just say I sent her to a place far worse than your tiny brains could ever imagine. A place that no one in their right mind would ever want to live.

TWINKLES: The fire fields of Flamekeep?

PURITY: The haunted forest of Evershade?

PRISCILLA: No, worse. Frintonia on Sea.

TWINKLES & PURITY: *(step back and gasp)*

PRISCILLA: "Inside" the gates.

TWINKLES & PURITY: *(bigger gasp)*

PURITY: But.. isn't Frintonia quite near? Couldn't she just find her way back?

PRISCILLA: Of course not. I had my old friend Rumplestiltskin place a curse on her. She no longer has any memory of her life here, and even if she did, no one would recognise her. Not even me.

TWINKLES: Oh mistress. I can't believe you would do such a thing.

PRISCILLA: Well, believe it. And better still, it only cost me a few of Snow White's dwarfs. Rumplestiltskin wanted children, I wanted her gone. Everyone's happy. Who said magic comes at a price?

TWINKLES: This just goes from bad to worse. How did you persuade Show White to give the dwarfs to you? Everyone knows she loves those dwarfs.

PRISCILLA: Well, you'd think so, but apparently not these ones, so now she only has seven. Like I said, everyone's happy.

PURITY: Oh your highness, how could you? I'm.. lost for words.

PRISCILLA: As you should be. Anyway.. not a word to my father when you see him. He hasn't a clue about any of this.

And the same goes for you lot too (*to audience*). One word and I'll squash you like the bugs in my other dream. Oh, you're going to love having me as your queen!
(*laughs*)

≡ CURTAIN CLOSE

SCENE TWO – MEETING CINDERS

Cinders, Griselda, Mildred

❖ BACKGROUND 2a – CINDERS HOUSE

≡ CURTAIN OPEN

{CINDERS ON STAGE}

CINDERS: (*talking to mouse*) Oh Squeak, why do I feel like this? I have you to keep me company, a roof over my head, and a loving family, but I just have this feeling that I am destined for something greater. I just don't belong here.

At night I dream of sailing off into the sunset, to a land of castles, beautiful dresses, and with a handsome prince waltzing me around a ballroom. Is this really all there is to life?

Oh what am I doing? You're just a little mouse. You can't answer me. But don't you worry, I'll take good care of you. You're my best friend here.

{ENTER GRISELDA & MILDRED}

CINDERS: (*throws mouse over shoulder*)

MILDRED: CINDERSSSSSSS!!!! Have you finished my washing yet?

CINDERS: Almost done.

GRISELDA: And what about mine?

CINDERS: I'm doing it at the same time.

GRISELDA: WHAT? You know you don't wash my dress with hers. The colours could run.

CINDERS: But they're both the same colour.

MILDRED: Don't argue with me, you horrible little oik. I'll be taking the cost of a new dress out of your pay.

CINDERS: But you don't pay me.

MILDRED: Then you'll be doing extra chores until I forgive you for what you have done.

GRISELDA: Forgive her? When was the last time you forgave anyone?

MILDRED: (*thinking*) Hmm, let's see. Well.. there was that time.. Oh yes, I remember now... NEVER! Now get back to work!

CINDERS: But after the washing I've done everything you asked me to.

GRISELDA: Really? Have you cleaned the carpets?

CINDERS: Yes, they're as good as new. Both sides, exactly as you asked.

GRISELDA: Washed the dishes?

CINDERS: Clean as a whistle.

MILDRED: Hmmm. Have you swept the floor?

CINDERS: Dust free.

MILDRED: I see. Polished the silverware?

CINDERS: You could use it as a mirror.

GRISELDA: Well aren't you just little miss efficient. So have you bathed our cats?

CINDERS: You don't have any cats.

GRISELDA: Well, we will just have to find some for you to wash. And while we go find them, sweep the floor again.

MILDRED: Yes, and fast. I can feel my allergies flaring up. You must have missed a speck of dust somewhere. FIND IT! You wouldn't want me to be sneezing, would you?!

CINDERS: Oh no, not at all.

GRISELDA: Correct answer. Oh, and when you're done, come find us so we can give you some more to do.

CINDERS: (*sadly*) Okay.

MILDRED: Cinders, lose the attitude. If I didn't know better I might think you don't enjoy doing your chores. You are going to have to stop being so selfish.

GRISELDA: My thoughts exactly. Sometimes, you're nothing more than a spoiled, lazy layabout. *(both nod)* Anyway, if you need us, we'll be in the VIP spa room having a hot emerald massage.

{EXIT GRISELDA & MILDRED}

CINDERS: It's okay Squeak, it's safe to come out now. My cruel sisters have gone.

(Wait for someone to throw the mouse back on stage, pick it up and act completely normal)

Oh there you are, you silly mouse. There was no need to be afraid. I'll protect you.

🎵 CUE – HOW FAR I'LL GO

CINDERS: *(over song intro)* You know, one day I will have an adventure and follow my dream. One day I'm going to know what lies beyond the gates of Frintonia.

☰ CURTAIN CLOSE

SCENE THREE – KING BILL

Priscilla, Twinkles, Purity, King William

❖ BACKGROUND 3a – THE PALACE

≡ CURTAIN OPEN

♪ CUE – FAIRY ENTRANCE

{ENTER TWINKLES & PURITY}

TWINKLES: Oh, hello again. *(pause)*. I said, helloooo!

PURITY: Ooh, they're really getting the hang of this.

TWINKLES: *(nods excitedly)* They are. *(to audience)* Hey, can you believe what the princess did to her sister?
(wait)

PURITY: I certainly can't. Imagine how scared Cinders must be, all alone, with no memory of the people that loved her.

TWINKLES: Oh I do hope she's okay.

PURITY: Me too. *(thinks)* You know something, Twinkles.. I think we should tell King William.

TWINKLES: What, are you nuts? The princess will have our heads.

PURITY: Maybe so, but imagine if what she said is true and she's in charge of this place. It's bad enough she bosses US around, but imagine having power over all of Clactonia.

TWINKLES: You have a point. *(to audience)* You wouldn't like that would you? *(wait)*

PURITY: Okay, that settles it. I'm in. Let's tell King William.

🎵 CUE – BAD FANFARE

{ENTER KING WILLIAM}

KING WILLIAM: Did somebody mention my name? (*look to audience and motion*) No please, don't get up.

TWINKLES: (*bowing*) Oh, King William. We're so glad you're here.

KING WILLIAM: Now now fairies, what have I told you? King William just seems so grand and formal. I'd much prefer it if you were all to simply call me.. (*to audience*) BILL.

PURITY: If it's all the same to you, your majesty, I'd rather not.

KING WILLIAM: Oh. Suit yourself. Either way, King William is a little much. We're all friends here.

And as I like to say around the palace, "Don't think of me as your boss. Simply think of me as a powerful friend who can throw you in a dungeon and chop off your head."

PURITY: Riggght. Anyway, sire, could we speak to you about something very important? Two things actually.

KING WILLIAM: Of course! My door is always open. (*motions as though opening a door and points to it*)

PURITY: (*looks confused and goes through imaginary door*) Okay.. Well, I don't know how to put this, so I'm just going to have to say it. Firstly, Cinderella's disappearance was no accident.

KING WILLIAM: (*pauses in thought*) Hmm.

TWINKLES: Her sister was behind it. She told us as much, but she said we had to keep it secret.

KING WILLIAM: Oh I like a good secret. I can totally keep secrets you know. (*pause*) It's the people I tell them to afterwards that are the problem.

PURITY: Sire, this is serious. Princess Priscilla may know where Cinderella is.

KING WILLIAM: Oh fairies. Priscilla just likes to pretend she's still around. It helps her deal with it. She just misses her, that's all.

PURITY: Sorry to disagree sire, but I don't think that's it at all.

KING WILLIAM: All you need to know is that my two girls were as close as sisters could be. They always got on.

TWINKLES: They were?

KING WILLIAM: Of course. As young children, they'd play together and Priscilla would pull the heads off Cinderella's favourite dolls. Oh how she'd laugh.

TWINKLES: Sire, I don't think...

KING WILLIAM: (*interrupts*) And then as teens, Priscilla would steal Cinderella's boyfriends, just so she didn't have to deal with messy break ups. So thoughtful.

TWINKLES: Your majesty...

KING WILLIAM: (*interrupts*) And even on the day Cinderella vanished, Priscilla arranged a lovely day out with a strange magic man and some little people.

PURITY: (*to Twinkles*) The dwarfs!!

KING WILLIAM: Fairy!! We can't say that word. It's just not very (*to audience*) P.C. (*wait for reaction*). Ooh tough crowd. (*to Purity*) Anyway, what was the other thing?

PURITY: Oh, yes. She also told us that you are about to.. accelerate? Oh no, that wasn't it.

TWINKLES: Leave the throne?!

KING WILLIAM: Oh, you mean abdicate.

TWINKLES: Yes, abdicate. Please say it isn't so, sire. Clactonia would fall apart without you.

KING WILLIAM: Oh. Well I don't know how she knows that, but I'm afraid it is true. It's about time the kingdom was ruled by someone younger and more vibrant, someone with fresh ideas that really understands today's generation.

PURITY: But sire, you're still young and vibrant.

KING WILLIAM: Well that's very kind of you to say, but even I know that's not the case. The other day I went to an antiques auction, and three people bid on me.

TWINKLES: Your majesty, I admire your humour, but please don't leave the throne and have Princess Priscilla take over. She would destroy the kingdom.

KING WILLIAM: You're absolutely right, she would.

TWINKLES: I'm what?

KING WILLIAM: You're right. She's far too reckless and immature to rule Clactonia. I have a much better idea.

PURITY: You do? What do you have in mind?

KING WILLIAM: Well, before I became king my uncle Nicholas - we'd just call him "Nick" - told me something that I've never forgotten. He said, William.. because that was my name back then.. there's no "I" in team, but there is an "I" in smile. Do you know what that means?

PURITY: No sire, what does it mean?

KING WILLIAM: I'm not sure, that's why I was asking you. But anyway, I've always thought it might mean that if you're not seeing the smiles on people's faces, you are doing something wrong.

And lately, I'm seeing less and less smiles around Clactonia.

PURITY: Oh, I think I get it now.

KING WILLIAM: I mean, just look around. (*to audience*) All those loyal subjects down there and they're sad. Where are all the smiles? That man looks as though he's paid to see a really well acted and popular TV police drama that ran for 25 years, and instead finds himself at a poorly written theatre show.

TWINKLES: Umm, sire.

KING WILLIAM: Oh, sorry. I lost myself there for a moment. My point is, we need the smiles to return and I'm wise enough to know that it's not going to be me that makes that happen.

TWINKLES: So, if your daughter isn't going to rule the kingdom, then who is?

KING WILLIAM: Not sure. I thought we'd hold some good old fashioned auditions. I'm sure we'll find someone that fits "the bill".

PURITY: So.. what are you looking for?

KING WILLIAM: Well, first of all, obviously they'll need to be selfless.

PURITY: Yes of course.

KING WILLIAM: And beautiful. Not only on the outside, but inside too.

TWINKLES: Oh, I like this person already.

KING WILLIAM: And they'll need a loyal following, to ensure the kingdom is kept safe and prosperous.

TWINKLES: You're very wise, my king.

KING WILLIAM: And they need to be young enough to lead our kingdom for many years to come. That's important.

PURITY: For sure.

KING WILLIAM: But most of all, they will need to restore those smiles. I can't stress that enough. Surely there must be someone out there that ticks all of those boxes. We just need to find them.

♪ CUE – PRISCILLA ENTRANCE

{ENTER PRISCILLA}

PRISCILLA: Why, hello father.

KING WILLIAM: Oh Priscilla, I was just explaining to the fairies..

PRISCILLA: Yes, I heard. In fact, I heard it all. (*to fairies*) I'll deal with you later.

KING WILLIAM: Now now, Priscilla, don't be upset.

PRISCILLA: Upset? Me? Oh no, father. I'll admit I was a little upset at first, but upon reflection, I think it's a great idea. The kingdom's happiness must come first.

TWINKLES & PURITY: (*together*) Whaaaaaaaaaaaa?

PRISCILLA: In fact, it made me realise I haven't really been there for you lately. Why not let me organise this for you. You shouldn't be burdened with such trivial

things when you should be putting your feet up in your twilight years.

KING WILLIAM: Well, I wouldn't say I was in my twilight years, but..

PRISCILLA: Then it's settled. Leave the auditions to me. I'll find only the finest loyal subjects. You could say they'll be fit for a king (*under breath to audience*) or queen. (*to King, ushering him off*) Come on you, off you go. Chop chop.

KING WILLIAM: (*mumbling as he goes*) But... Oh, that's very..

{EXIT KING WILLIAM}

TWINKLES & PURITY: (*step back, frightened*)

PRISCILLA: You two. Stop quivering with fear. You can do that later. We've work to do.

PURITY: Yes your highness. What would you like us to do?

PRISCILLA: Well, as you know we need to show my father the most generous, talented and beautiful person in all of Clactonia. And fortunately I know just the person. In fact, she's here in this very room.

TWINKLES & PURITY: (*Look around and at each other, confused*)

PRISCILLA: It's me your morons.

TWINKLES: Oh, yes. Of course, your highness. (*pause*) Umm, mistress. Small point, but your father did say he wouldn't choose YOU to rule the kingdom.

PRISCILLA: Yes, I heard. But he would if he doesn't actually know it's me.

PURITY: I don't follow.

PRISCILLA: Oh come on. Try to keep up. A little magic here and there, a clever disguise, and Princess Priscilla of Clactonia will become (*motions as though doing magic*) "simple villager Priscilla".

TWINKLES: Great idea mistress, and best of all, that's already your name.

PRISCILLA: Hmm, quite. Anyway, we have no time to waste. I need a few things in place if this is to work. Call Boris for me, would you?

PURITY: Boris?

TWINKLES: What? Bungling Boris?

PURITY: Bungling Boris, your father's new announcer? Really?

PRISCILLA: Yes, that one. Why?

TWINKLES: Oh, it's nothing. Everyone likes Boris. I'll call him at once. (*rings bell on stage*)

{ENTER BORIS}

BORIS: Oh hello! You called m'lady?

PRISCILLA: Boris, I know you work for my father, but I have important business for you. I'll need you to bring someone to me.

BORIS: Me? Really? Oh thank you, m'lady. I won't let you down. (*starts to leave*)

PRISCILLA: BORIS! I didn't tell you who I want brought here.

BORIS: Oh, right. I knew that.

PRISCILLA: Fairies. What was that girl's name? You know, the one who has everlasting beauty because of her magic hair.

PURITY: Oh, you mean Rapunzel?

PRISCILLA: Yes, her. (*to Boris*) I will need you to bring her to me.

BORIS: Got it. No problem at all. (*starts to leave*). Ahhh, you can't catch me out a second time. I don't know where she lives!

PRISCILLA: I wasn't trying to catch you out, you strange little man. We will find her by using the magic mirror.

PURITY: Mistress, you can't. It's forbidden. Besides, only the king knows how to make the mirror speak.

PRISCILLA: That's what he thinks. It's easy. You just have to make up a silly rhyme. Just watch.

TWINKLES & PURITY: (*Step back, afraid*)

PRISCILLA: "Magic mirror do your duty. Show me the girl with the endless beauty."

❖ **BACKGROUND 3b – MIRROR SHOWS RAPUNZEL**

- MIRROR -

The mirror knows all and will now speak,
For it's Corona's Tower that you seek,
But there comes a warning that must be told,
If you find the one with the head of gold,
Her magic locks needs a heart that's pure,
And of this fact you must be sure,
But ignore the mirror's sage advice,
And for the beauty you seek, you will pay a price.

PRISCILLA: See? Simple. No harm done.

TWINKLES: But the mirror said..

PRISCILLA: (*interrupts*) Yes, I heard. She's in that tower in the woods of Corona. (*to Boris*) Boris, FIND IT! And bring her to me.

❖ **BACKGROUND 3c – THE PALACE**

BORIS: Already leaving m'lady. (*moves really slowly*)

PRISCILLA: Boris. Why are you walking like that?

BORIS: Yeah, about that. It's nothing really, but you could say my sense of direction isn't the greatest. I don't suppose you have a map of some description? It would really help.

PRISCILLA: A what?

TWINKLES: Don't worry, your highness, we'll handle this. You go and pamper yourself in the royal quarters.

PRISCILLA: Hmmm. Very well. (*to Boris*) Bring her to me by sunset tomorrow. And do not fail me.

{EXIT PRISCILLA}

BORIS: Scary lady and for some reason her makeup makes me fancy a happy meal. So anyway, the map?

TWINKLES: Oh Boris, nobody uses maps any more. They use these. (*gives him i-Scroll*).

PURITY: It's called an i-Scroll, and it'll help you find your way from door to door without getting lost. Trust me, these things do everything. All the kids have them.

TWINKLES: Oh, and you'll also find copies of the royal announcements on there too. If you learn them by heart the king will be most impressed.

BORIS: I'll do that. Thank you so much. You know, I had a feeling this week was going to be different. I'm really not very good at holding down jobs.

PURITY: Oh I'm sure it can't be that bad. What was your last job?

BORIS: Well, until last week I worked as a stage designer in the palace theatre. But they fired me and said I was too lazy.

TWINKLES: Oh that's just uncalled for, what happened?

BORIS: Not much really. (*to audience*) I left without making a scene. (*wait*) Well, I suppose I should be going. I'll see you in a few days?

PURITY: Errm, tomorrow at sunset?

BORIS: Oh that was it. Silly me. And thanks for the thingamabob. It'll be great. My last boss told me that me and technology go together like mouth ulcers and salt and vinegar crisps, so I'm sure I'll be just fine.

≡ CURTAIN CLOSE

SCENE FOUR – MEETING RAPUNZEL

Rapunzel, Boris, Boris Jr, Mother Gothel, Pascal

❖ BACKGROUND 4a – RAPUNZEL’S TOWER

≡ CURTAIN OPEN

{Rapunzel and Pascal on stage}

PASCAL: (*hands Rapunzel present*)

RAPUNZEL: Oh Pascal. What’s this? You remembered my birthday? Oh I do love surprises. What could it possibly be?

PASCAL: It’s a brush.

RAPUNZEL: (*sighs*) Yet another year older, and still I can’t go outside. Why does Mother Gothel protect me like this? Each year, on this very day..

PASCAL: Are you going to talk about the lights?

RAPUNZEL: Umm, no.

PASCAL: Cos’ I really don’t want to hear about the lights.

RAPUNZEL: And you won’t. I was simply going to say, each year on this very day, the sky at night is filled with such beauty.

PASCAL: Oh, here it comes.

RAPUNZEL: Floating lights of all shapes and sizes.

PASCAL: Uh huh.

{ENTER MOTHER GOTHEL via side door}

RAPUNZEL: I don’t know why, but I can’t help but feel those lights are meant for me. Maybe this will be the birthday she finally lets me see what they are. Not just from a window, but in person.

PASCAL: Then you should probably ask her. She's down there. (*looks down off stage*)

RAPUNZEL: Great. You know, I could really do without the whole "Rapunzel, let down your hair" nonsense today.

MOTHER GOTHEL: Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your hair.

RAPUNZEL: NO! Take the stairs. (*sniggers*)

MOTHER GOTHEL: Excuse me?

RAPUNZEL: Errm, I've.. just washed it. You might slip! (*laughs quietly with Pascal*)

MOTHER GOTHEL: Rapunzel, come on. You said that yesterday. And the day before. Just let down your hair. I want to come up.

RAPUNZEL: No. Have you any idea what it's like dealing with 70 feet of hair every morning? Murder! That's what it's like. And don't even get me started on washing the conditioner out.

MOTHER GOTHEL: Fine. I'll take the stairs. Young lady, you have really developed something of an attitude since you hit your teens.

RAPUNZEL: Okayyyy. See you soon. Love you. Oh Pascal, I do feel bad making her walk up so many stairs. I don't like being mean. Sometimes I wish I could just disappear.

PASCAL: Yeah, that makes two of us.

RAPUNZEL: But you can, and you do. You're a chameleon, silly.

PASCAL: I know, I know. I was just trying to lighten the mood.

RAPUNZEL: And you did, Pascal. Thank you. You always cheer me up.

PASCAL: Well of course I do. I've got funny in my genes. In fact, my father made a living from it. He was a stand up chameleon.

RAPUNZEL: Oh you are funny, Pascal. (*pause*) You know, I haven't really heard you talk much about your father. I bet he's far nicer than old Mother Gothel.

PASCAL: I wouldn't know, he's disappeared and I can't find him.

RAPUNZEL: Oh Pascal (*giggling*)

PASCAL: I'm serious!

RAPUNZEL: Well if he's anything like Mother Gothel, you aren't missing much. She keeps me up here day after day, brushing my hair and reciting that awful rhyme. She says it will keep her young, but I don't see any evidence of that.

PASCAL: Rhyme? What rhyme? I haven't heard any rhyme.

RAPUNZEL: But you're always here when I recite it. You must know the one.

PASCAL: Yeah, I tend to phase out when I'm not really interested. Would you recite it for me now?

RAPUNZEL: It's really not very good.

PASCAL: Oh I'm sure it is, pleaaaaase?

RAPUNZEL: Well okay.. it goes..

Flower, gleam and glow

Let your power shine

Make the clock reverse

Bring back what once was mine..

PASCAL: Oooh no. You were right, that's terrible. I'd rather listen to a Prince Phillip.. Collins album.

RAPUNZEL: Oh come on, it's not that bad. Anyway, it doesn't matter how good it is, I'm locked up here either way. No-one can get in or out of the tower.

🎵 CUE – ELEVATOR DING

{ENTER BORIS & BORIS JR I}

BORIS: Oh hellooo!

RAPUNZEL: Who are you? How did you get up here?

BORIS: I took the elevator.

RAPUNZEL: We have an elevator? Mother told me it was a laundry chute.

BORIS: Oh sorry. Then I took the laundry chute.

RAPUNZEL: Who are you?

BORIS: Oh, I'm Boris. I work for the king.

RAPUNZEL: The king? What king?

BORIS: King William of Clactonia. I have a message.. from his daughter. From the man himself.

RAPUNZEL: Well that's very confusing. And who's this?
(points to Jr)

BORIS: Oh it's take your daughter to work day. At least it was on Friday. But I didn't have a job on Friday. Or a daughter come to think of it.

RAPUNZEL: What?! Then who's this?

BORIS: Not sure. She did say, but I thought it'd be easier if I just call her Boris Junior.

RAPUNZEL: You can't just take any old child and give them a new name. That's kidnapping. *(grabs frying pan)* Little girl are you okay?

BORIS JR: Oh I'm fine thanks. I met this weirdo in the woods. About ten times actually. He was going round in circles. I thought he must be lost.

Next thing I know he's asking me if I knew where the tower was, and well, here we are.

PASCAL: This is all very strange.

RAPUNZEL: Yes it is. So... why are you here?

BORIS: Oh that. I'm here to invite you to a very special royal event.

RAPUNZEL: Me?

BORIS: You are the girl with the magic rabbit, right?

RAPUNZEL: No. But I have magic hair. I suppose rabbit is kind of like hare, if it's wildlife you're talking about.

BORIS: Oh, right. Sorry. That's the predictive text on this thingamebob. I thought it had changed a FEW words when I turned that setting on. Oh well. Doesn't matter really, I have what I need to say up here (*points at head*). Learned it by heart.

Right. Boris Junior, hold this. I won't be needing it. (*Hands i-Scroll to Boris Jr*). Are you ready to hear the message?

RAPUNZEL: Oh yes. This is very exciting.

BORIS: Right, here goes. (*clears throat and puts horn to mouth*)

🎵 CUE – BAD FANFARE

BORIS: "Dearest lying slugfests"

RAPUNZEL: What?

BORIS JR: (*looks at scroll*) It doesn't say that. It says.. "dearest loyal subjects." That'll be the predictive text.

RAPUNZEL: Oh. Carry on.

BORIS: "Today I fell on a ruler and it's time to vacuum the throne room."

BORIS JR: Huh? Well, that one isn't even close. It says, "today I feel it's time as your ruler to vacate the throne."

BORIS: Please little Boris, Daddy's got this.

BORIS JR: Whaa? You're not my.. Whatever.. Just get it over with.

BORIS: Thank you. Now where was I? Oh yes. "While I'm out of my mind, I'll be igniting you in the castle tomorrow where you can also expect to put on a stinky perfume."

RAPUNZEL & PASCAL: (*look to Boris Junior*)

BORIS JR: "With this in mind, I am inviting you to the castle tomorrow where I also expect you to put on a stunning performance."

RAPUNZEL: Ahh, right.

BORIS: "A perfume that will restore piles to all in the kingdom... Women's problems."

RAPUNZEL: Ohhh kayy?

BORIS JR: "A performance that will restore smiles to all in the kingdom... Period."

BORIS: "Most of all, I look forward to milking you at the castle, where I hope you are the ones that take my fish with you."

BORIS JR: "Most of all he looks forward to meeting you at the castle where he hopes you are the one to make his wish come true."

BORIS: Oh, and it was signed, "Your rotten halfwit, King Watermelon."

BORIS JR: "Your royal highness, King William."

RAPUNZEL: I... I don't know what to say. That's.. amazing.

BORIS: Well thank you. It only took me nine hours to learn that.

🎵 CUE – WALKING UP STAIRS

RAPUNZEL: Oh no, I think I hear mother. She'll be furious if she finds you here. Quick, hide.

PASCAL: (*runs to the scenery to blend in*)

BORIS: (*makes shape like an elephant*)

RAPUNZEL: What are you doing?

BORIS: Hiding. Exactly the same way an elephant hides in a tree.

BORIS JR: I've never seen an elephant hiding in a tree.

BORIS: That's because they're REALLY good at it.
Shhhhhh!

{ENTER MOTHER GOTHEL}

MOTHER GOTHEL: Rapunzel, who are these people?

RAPUNZEL: Umm, mother. Don't be mad..

MOTHER GOTHEL: How did you get in my tower? At least that explains why I had to take ten flights of stairs instead of the eleva.. laundry chute. Never mind. Who are you?

BORIS: (*looks behind him as though he believes she can't see him*). Oh, umm, I'm Boris, and this is.. oh, what was it again? Ahh that's it.. this is Boris.

MOTHER GOTHEL: Hmm. Whoever you are, you're trespassing. What are you doing in my tower?

RAPUNZEL: Mother, they had a message from the king.

MOTHER GOTHEL: What message?

RAPUNZEL: Something about choosing a new ruler.. and doing some hoovering. He has invited me to the castle to perform for him. I thought I might recite my rhyme.

MOTHER GOTHEL: No. You most definitely will not do that. That's for me only.

RAPUNZEL: But..

MOTHER GOTHEL: It's out of the question. Rapunzel, the king is a VERY evil man. I've heard he breathes fire and chops off little girls' heads for fun.

Isn't that right, Boris. And before you answer, I would choose your words VERY carefully if I were you. Do I make myself clear? (*motions as though chopping off head*)

BORIS: Ohh, yes. Crystal clear.

MOTHER GOTHEL: So, as I was saying. The king is a TERRIBLE and evil man. Isn't that right, Boris?

BORIS: No. He's really nice.

MOTHER GOTHEL: (*glares at Boris*)

BORIS: In fact, he gave me my first job. And my second. Come to think of it..

MOTHER GOTHEL: I don't want your employment history. I suggest you leave while you still can. Tell the king thank you, but we are not interested.

RAPUNZEL: But mother, he sounds nice.

BORIS: Oh he is. I used to be his personal servant.

RAPUNZEL: Really?

BORIS: Yeah. We'd sit at night and he'd tell me about how he just wanted people to be happy so he could retire and find a nice wife to share his ENDLESS riches with... Oh well, come on Boris. (*starts to walk off*)

MOTHER GOTHEL: Wait a moment. What did you say?

BORIS: I said, "Come on Boris."

MOTHER GOTHEL: No. Before that. The rich part.

BORIS: Oh, he wants a wife to share his riches with.

MOTHER GOTHEL: I see. Just how rich is he?

BORIS: Oh, he's VERY rich. He's got more gold than I can count, and I can almost count to twenty seventeen.

MOTHER GOTHEL: Hmm. (*thinks*) You know Rapunzel, I was just thinking this morning that seeing as it's your birthday, as a special treat it might be the perfect day for your first trip outside of the tower.

RAPUNZEL: What?! Really? You're not just saying that?

MOTHER GOTHEL: Of course not.

RAPUNZEL: And I can go perform for the king?

MOTHER GOTHEL: I don't see the harm in that. As long as it's not the rhyme you perform for me, that is.

RAPUNZEL: Oh, mother. This is just the best birthday gift ever. Thank you so much. You're so selfless and generous.

MOTHER GOTHEL: Well, yes. I suppose I am.

≡ CURTAIN CLOSE

SCENE FIVE – RAPUNZEL'S AUDITION

Rapunzel, Boris, Mother Gothel, King William, Twinkles, Purity, Priscilla

❖ BACKGROUND 5a – THE CASTLE AUDITIONS

≡ CURTAIN OPEN

{Fairies, Priscilla on stage}

PRISCILLA: Now remember, fairies. Not a word to anyone. We need that girl's hair. Well, some of it at least.

TWINKLES & PURITY: Yes mistress.

{ENTER BORIS, RAPUNZEL, MOTHER GOTHEL}

BORIS: Oh ello, m'lady. (*bows to fairies*) Fairies.

PRISCILLA: Boris, did you do as I asked?

BORIS: Oh yes, m'lady. This is the girl in the mirror. Except she's not still in the mirror. She's right here. May I introduce to you... Rope puzzle.

RAPUNZEL: (*corrects him*) Rapunzel. It's Rapunzel, your highness. I'm so pleased to meet you.

PRISCILLA: The feeling is mutual I'm sure. And this is? (*looking at Mother Gothel*)

MOTHER GOTHEL: I'm her parent slash guardian your highness. I'm merely here to oversee her performance. If she's not up to standard in any way, just give me a nod and I'll.. WHIP her into shape, if you get my meaning.

PRISCILLA: Oh I do. I think I'm going to like you.

RAPUNZEL: Okay, I think I'm ready. Is the king going to be here?

PRISCILLA: All in good time. I'm afraid Boris forgot to mention one tiny thing on his message.

BORIS: I did?

PRISCILLA: I'm afraid there's a small entry fee for this audition of one thousand gold pieces. That won't be a problem, will it?

RAPUNZEL: Oh. We don't have that sort of money. Do we mother?

MOTHER GOTHEL: No, we don't. At least not yet. Is there some other way we could pay you? Perhaps her first born child? Would that do?

RAPUNZEL: Mother!

PRISCILLA: No, I'm afraid not. I'm not a fan of children. They're all small and whiny. BUT..

RAPUNZEL: Yes? Anything!

PRISCILLA: Well, you have such a beautiful head of hair. It simply glows. If you wouldn't mind chopping off some for me, I'll gladly take that as your entry fee.

RAPUNZEL: Mother? Can I? Please?

MOTHER GOTHEL: Oh, I don't know. Your hair keeps me looking young and beautiful. Then again, endless riches also means endless plastic surgery. I do believe you have yourself a deal!

PRISCILLA: Splendid. You won't regret your decision. We'll get the palace barber to give her a trim on her way out. As for now, fairies, go and get my father.

TWINKLES: Certainly mistress. Do you know where he is?

PRISCILLA: Well, if I know my father, he'll be hanging around outside, waiting to make an over the top, dramatic entrance.

BORIS: That's what he hired me for.

PRISCILLA: Precisely. Now go get him.

TWINKLES & PURITY: (*together*) Yes your highness.

{EXIT TWINKLES & PURITY}

♪ CUE – BAD FANFARE

{ENTER KING, TWINKLES & PURITY }

BORIS: Rabies and Gentle Ben. His royal high chair, King Will-I-am.

ALL ON STAGE: (*bow to king*)

KING WILLIAM: Thank you, Boris. That was excellent.

MOTHER GOTHEL: That's the king? Ewwww. Well this day was a total waste of make up.

RAPUNZEL: Mother!

PRISCILLA: Father, I'd like you to meet your first contestant.

KING WILLIAM: Contestant? Oh that sounds much better than "potential replacement". Almost like a game show. Let's use that instead. Let me just go take my chair.

PRISCILLA: Of course, father.

KING WILLIAM: Oh this won't do. Something's missing. (*goes to pocket*) Oh, look what I found just sitting there in my pocket when I was looking for a tissue. It's a golden buzzer. And look, it goes lovely just here. (*puts it on table*).

PRISCILLA: You just happened to have that laying around, father?

KING WILLIAM: Well of course. What of it? I find all sorts in my pockets. Bits of fluff, finger nails, buzzers. It's the very reason the royal gowns have such big pockets.

PRISCILLA: Of course it is. Whatever. Let's get this over with. Rapunzel, are you ready?

KING WILLIAM: Oh hold up, Priscilla. We can't start the performance without testing this thing first. Fairies, give me a song.

TWINKLES: Really? You want us to sing? What an honour. Okay, let us just think of a nice song for you.

PURITY: (*pushes in front, sings Lion King intro, motions to king as though to say "how good was that?"*)

KING WILLIAM: (*buzzes*)

🎵 CUE – BILL THEME TUNE

KING WILLIAM: Splendid. Finally a buzzer everyone can enjoy.

PRISCILLA: Yesss. I think I'll be taking that. You wouldn't want to put off the contestants.

KING WILLIAM: Oh, I suppose not. Good point, Priscilla. Okay, I'm ready. Little girl, make me smile.

RAPUNZEL: I'll do my best, your highness.

KING WILLIAM: Break a leg! (to Priscilla) I've always wanted to say that.

🎵 CUE – I REALLY LIKE YOU

KING WILLIAM: Oh that was simply wonderful.

RAPUNZEL: Thank you, sire.

KING WILLIAM: You've got the job.

RAPUNZEL: Really?

PRISCILLA: Father, you've only seen one contestant.

KING WILLIAM: Yes, but she was...

PRISCILLA: (*interrupts*) We have others that are equally as talented still to come.

KING WILLIAM: We do? As talented as that? Well I never. Okay then, what is it they say... "Don't call us, we'll call you." Oh, this is fun.

PRISCILLA: Yes father. Rapunzel.. come back here on coronation day. We will make a surprise announcement then.

KING WILLIAM: That's a great idea. I love surprises.

PRISCILLA: GOOD, because I'm quite sure what happens on coronation day may come as a big surprise to everyone.

Oh, and Rapunzel. Do remember to visit the palace barber on the way out. There's a good girl.

As the saying goes. Hair today. GONE tomorrow.

≡ CURTAIN CLOSE

SCENE SIX – WRAPPING UP PART ONE

Twinkles, Purity

❖ BACKGROUND 6a – THE PALACE

≡ CURTAIN OPEN

♪ CUE – FAIRY ENTRANCE

{ENTER TWINKLES & PURITY}

PURITY: Oh hello again! *(wait)* I said, hellooooo!

TWINKLES: Oh Purity, these guys are sooo nice!

PURITY: They really are. The princess, not so much.
(thumbs down to audience)

TWINKLES: Definitely not. You know, taking Rapunzel's hair was just so wrong.

PURITY: It was, though she didn't seem to mind that much. She almost seemed happy about it. She said now she can just "wash and go", whatever that means.

TWINKLES: Well, at least the barber didn't take THAT much. *(to audience)* You know her hair was so thick he went through fifty pairs of scissors and only just got enough for a small wig.

And something tells me she won't be too happy with the result.

PURITY: Yeah, it did look a bit silly. *(snigger together)* Then again, when is she ever happy anyway?

TWINKLES: Good point.

PURITY: Anyway, we'll find out soon enough. For now, we've reached the half way point of our story. Are you liking it so far? *(wait)*

TWINKLES: Oh that's great.

PURITY: Oh, and before we go, we're supposed to say that the king has left refreshments for you down there so you can spend all your gold coins.

TWINKLES: And if you still have some left you can still get wands and swords to annoy the queen over there.

PURITY: We'll see you all after the break.

TWINKLES: Bye lovely peoplesss!

{EXIT TWINKLES & PURITY}

END OF ACT ONE

SCENE SEVEN – READY TO RUMPLE

Priscilla, Twinkles, Purity, Boris

❖ BACKGROUND 7a – THE PALACE

≡ CURTAIN OPEN

♪ CUE – FAIRY ENTRANCE

{ENTER TWINKLES & PURITY}

PURITY: Oh hello again everyone! (*wait*)

TWINKLES: Great, they remembered!

PURITY: We're so glad you're still here. The princess has just been to pick up her wig. The one made from Rapunzel's magic hair.

TWINKLES: I don't like it. I hear she's been acting even stranger than normal too since putting it on. I don't mind telling you, she scares me.

PURITY: Me too, and now she wants to get her hands on Rumplestiltskin's spell book too. Can you imagine what might happen if she gets her hands on that?

TWINKLES: (*to audience*) Shhh! Here she comes. Don't forget to boo!

♪ CUE – PRISCILLA ENTRANCE

{ENTER PRISCILLA}

PRISCILLA: QUIET PEASANTS! Don't be alarmed fairies, it is only I, your princess. So what do you think?
(*motions to hair*)

TWINKLES: Well..

PRISCILLA: Come on now, you can be honest.

TWINKLES: Do I have to? You look..

PURITY: ..like a dictator that's lost their marbles?
(covers mouth, she said too much)

PRISCILLA: I'm sorry?

PURITY: Oh, I just meant.. you look very different.

PRISCILLA: Good. I actually feel different. Rapunzel's hair has left me feeling younger and even more beautiful.

I suppose the real test is whether the king recognises me, but we'll get to that later - we have other business to attend to. (to Twinkles) Fairy, get Boris for me.

TWINKLES: Yes mistress. (rings bell on stage)

{ENTER BORIS}

BORIS: Oh, ello fairies. You rang m'lady?

PRISCILLA: Yes I did. Boris, you remember that little job you did for me?

BORIS: Oh yes m'lady.

PRISCILLA: I would like you to do the same again.

BORIS: For real? I don't know what to say! You know, this is my second longest job EVER after the one I had as the palace zookeeper.

PURITY: YOU were the palace zookeeper? What happened?

BORIS: Well they fired me. All the attractions died of starvation. Wasn't even my fault. There were signs everywhere as clear as day saying DO NOT feed the animals.

TWINKLES: Oh.

BORIS: Anyway, so who do you want me to find this time, m'lady?

PRISCILLA: Oh, an old friend. They call him Rumpelstiltskin. The poor soul is cursed and can not have children, so a while back, I.. well, borrowed someone else's for him.

BORIS: Really? I did the same thing yesterday, and it just seemed to make everyone really angry.

PRISCILLA: My point is, he has something I need. A magic spell book. A spell book so magical that it can even make me live forever. I'll be immortal.

BORIS: Immortal? Really? I'd love to be immortal. Just imagine being able to go anywhere and no one can see you.

PRISCILLA: Umm, that's "invisible", Boris?! Invisible!

BORIS: Oh, right.

PURITY: Mistress, you didn't explain, why would he possibly just hand over his spell book to you?

PRISCILLA: Let's just say there was a pretty good reason Snow White was happy to hand these particular children over.

Anyway, there's no time to waste. We'll use the mirror again.

PURITY: Mistress, I really don't think...

PRISCILLA: I don't pay you to think, fairy. Now shush. Hmm, where was I. Oh yes. (*turns to mirror*).

"Magic mirror, wise and clever, show me the man who can live forever."

❖ BACKGROUND 7b – MIRROR SHOWS RUMPLESTILTSKIN

- MIRROR -

The mirror knows all and will now speak,
For it's Rumpelstiltskin that you seek.
A man immortal, fluent in verse,
But forever trapped by a spell book's curse.
For a heart of darkness, envy or greed,
Will spell misfortune, guaranteed,
So take this warning, heed my advice,
Or the power you seek, will come with a price.

PRISCILLA: And there he is!

PURITY: Mistress, are you not listening?

PRISCILLA: Of course I am. I have ears you know. (*to Boris*) Boris! Bring him to me by sunset tomorrow. And do not fail me.

BORIS: Oh, I wouldn't dream of it, m'lady.

≡ CURTAIN CLOSE

SCENE EIGHT – MEETING RUMPLESTILTSKIN

Rumplestiltskin, Asbo, Aggro, Boris, Boris Jr II

❖ BACKGROUND 8a – RUMPLE’S COTTAGE

≡ CURTAIN OPEN

♪ CUE – RUMPLE INTRO MUSIC ENTRANCE ???

{RUMPLE, ASBO, AGGRO on stage}

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: ..And they all lived happily ever after in Clactonia. The end. Well girls, (yawns) I’m tired. Time for bed.

ASBO: Again, again!

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: Please, that’s the tenth time today. Daddy’s got a headache.

ASBO: (*kicks Rumple in the shin*) That’s for being tired.

AGGRO: (*kicks Rumple in the shin*) And that’s for having a headache.

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: Owwwwwww!

ASBO: I said AGAIN!

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: Please. No more. Just this once would you be good for me? You have school tomorrow. I could get into a lot of trouble with the school board if you don’t go.

AGGRO: I don’t want to go.

ASBO: Me neither.

AGGRO: You can’t make us go.

ASBO: (*kicks Rumple in the shin*) That’s for making us learn stuff.

AGGRO: (*kicks Rumple in the shin*) And that's for getting in trouble with the school board.

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: Owwww! Stop that.

AGGRO: Oh, tough guy are we? You gonna make me?. You want to make something of it?

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: No. I don't. I just want you to go to bed.

Please girls, I beg you. Look. If you go to bed now, I promise I'll make it worth your while.

ASBO: Okay, we're listening.

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: Oh.. Errm well, if you go to bed now, I'll buy you the most beautiful hats in all the kingdom. The finest hats money can buy.

AGGRO: Really?

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: (*nods and prays, clasping hands together*)

ASBO: What sort of hats?

AGGRO: How beautiful are we talking?

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: So beautiful, you'll look like a couple of princesses. So fine, handsome princes will be knocking down the door to come see you.

AGGRO: Hmm. I like the sound of that. What do you think?

ASBO: (*kicks Rumple in the shin*) That's for calling us ugly if we don't have the right hats.

AGGRO: (*kicks Rumple in the shin*) And that's for reminding us we've never had a boyfriend.

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: Stop doing that! Please girls, would you just settle down for the night.

ASBO: We are NOT going to bed, and we are NOT going to school.

AGGRO: Have you any idea what it's like when you're the only ones in your reception class with beards?

ASBO: (*walks as though she is going to kick him again*)

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: Please! No more...

🎵 CUE – RUMPLE’S DOOR BELL

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: HAH! Saved by the bell. But who would be knocking at our door at this time of night?

{ENTER BORIS & BORIS JR II}

BORIS: Oh `ello! The door was unlocked, I hope you don't mind.

ASBO: (*kicks Rumple in the shin*) That's for not locking the door!

BORIS: Oh, he or she is a feisty one.

AGGRO: (*kicks Boris in the shin*) That's for calling her gender neutral.

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: I'm terribly sorry about that. Umm, but can we help you, sir?

BORIS: (*rubbing shin*) I hope so. Are you the one they call Rumplestiltskin?

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: I am indeed. And these are my daughters, Aggro and Asbo. People come from far away lands to seek an audience with me.

ASBO: If riddles or magic are what you seek..

AGGRO: With Rumplestiltskin you should speak.

BORIS: Oh no, that's a really catchy rhyme, but I don't want any riddles. Or magic.

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: Oh. Then who exactly are you?

BORIS: I'm Boris, and this little fella is .. oh sorry, I'm terrible with names.. help me out?

BORIS JR II: Well, up until I met him I've always been known as Zelda, but apparently now I'm... Boris.

BORIS: Oh yes, that was it. The same as my name. What are the odds of that?

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: Slim, I'd say. So where do you come from Boris?

BORIS: Oh I come from the royal kingdom of Clactonia.

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: Really? Which part?

BORIS: Well, all of me.

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: No, I mean...

BORIS JR II: *(interrupts)* You won't get much sense out of him. I found him giving a crazy speech from King William to the scarecrow in your garden.

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: Oh, I see. Wait! King William of Clactonia? I know his daughter, Priscilla. In fact, she was the one who gave me..

AGGRO: Gave you what?

ASBO: Yeah, what did she give you?

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: *(looks and holds shins)* Umm, these shoes?

ASBO: Oh. *(waits until Rumple isn't holding shins and then kicks Rumple again)* That's for having friends with bad taste in shoes!

BORIS: Anyway, I really must be going. I've got to be back by tomorrow at sunset. It was nice meeting you all. *(starts to leave)*

BORIS JR II: Errm, Boris. The speech?

BORIS: Oh of course. Thank you Boris, I almost forgot. I have a speech from the king.. from the princess.

AGGRO: Well, that doesn't make any sense.

BORIS: That's because you haven't heard my perfectly rehearsed speech. Hold this for me will you, Boris. *(gives Boris Jr the i-Scroll)* I won't be needing it. It's all up here *(points to head)*.

(clears throat)

Dearest wrinkled neck skin

BORIS JR II: What? No. It says, "Dearest Rumplestiltskin."

BORIS: The king would like to wheelclamp you to the palace..

BORIS JR II: Welcome you to the palace..

BORIS: ..where he hopes you will take a poop in his furry sleeves.

BORIS JR II: Take part in his festivities.

BORIS: Once here you will be welcome to sample a large bucket of fish fingers on the landing.

BORIS JR II: Once here you will be welcome to sample a lavish banquet of the finest foods in the land.

BORIS: And should you be the onion to create smell from the poop hole..

BORIS JR II: And should you be the one to create smiles for the people..

BORIS: You may one day become the one to ruin our ping pong.

BORIS JR II: ..rule our kingdom..

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: (to Asbo and Aggro) Did you get any of that?

ASBO & AGGRO: (shake head)

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: (to Asbo & Aggro) You know what to do..

ASBO & AGGRO: (go to kick Boris)

BORIS: No, wait. The king wants to see you. Get them off me! Perform well for him and you could be the new king.

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: Really? Well why didn't you just say so. I'll get my coat.

ASBO: Shall I get your spell book?

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: Of course. I have a feeling it may come in handy.

≡ CURTAIN CLOSE

SCENE NINE – RUMPLESTILTSKIN'S AUDITION

Rumplestiltskin, Priscilla, King William, Twinkles, Purity, Boris

❖ BACKGROUND 9a – THE CASTLE

≡ CURTAIN OPEN

{PRISCILLA wearing wig, PURITY, TWINKLES on stage}

PRISCILLA: Where are they?

TWINKLES: They are on their way up, mistress.

PRISCILLA: Good. I need to get that spell book before father sees it.

{ENTER BORIS & RUMPLESTILTSKIN}

BORIS: Oh 'ello fairies! M'lady.

PRISCILLA: Rumple! How long has it been? Far too many once upon a times, I'm sure.

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: Princess Priscilla. You look.. different.

PRISCILLA: Why thank you for noticing. (*plays with hair*) Where are those lovely kids?

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: Oh, they wanted to play spot the animals in the palace zoo, so I left them downstairs.

PRISCILLA: I see. Well just don't expect them back any time soon. Is everything working out well with them?

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: Well.. as you know I'm not one to complain your highness, and I don't want to seem ungrateful, but..

(*drops to knees*) PLEASE TAKE THEM BACK! They're horrible. All they do is whine twenty-four hours a day, and their warm hugs are all hairy and bristly.

PRISCILLA: Oh, really? I had no idea.

TWINKLES & PURITY: (*exchange glances*)

PRISCILLA: I'm afraid I can't do that.

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: Oh please. I'll give anything!

PRISCILLA: Anything?

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: Yes, anything. Just name your price.

PRISCILLA: Well.. I did hear that Snow White was looking for a spell book. I don't suppose..

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: (*interrupts*) A spell book? It just so happens I have one with me. The very one I used to curse your...

PRISCILLA: (*interrupts*) Rumpel! Do we have a deal?

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: Oh.. yes! DEAL!! (*hands over spell book*) Take it, please. But before you give it to Snow White, please warn her of something. This is VERY important.

PRISCILLA: Yes? (*not really listening*)

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: The book says that all magic comes with a price. I didn't really pay much attention to this, and used it to make the kids happy, but it didn't work. They were NEVER happy. It just seemed to make them worse.

PRISCILLA: I see. Well, I'll be sure to tell her. You can go now and as for the kids, leave them to me. Perhaps it's time our zoo had a couple of new exhibits.

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: Wait.. don't I need to perform for the king?

PRISCILLA: Ahh yes. A minor problem. (*pauses*) Actually, something Boris said has given me an idea. The king won't need to be SEEING you today.

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: Thank you, your highness. I don't know what to say.

PRISCILLA: No need to thank me, old friend. I assure you, the pleasure is all mine.

{EXIT RUMPLESTILTSKIN}

PURITY: Umm, mistress. How can he perform if he isn't here?

PRISCILLA: Let me worry about that. Boris, go get my father.

{EXIT BORIS and then ENTER BORIS}

♪ CUE – BAD FANFARE

BORIS: Please all rise for his right hornets nest.

{ENTER KING WILLIAM}

KING WILLIAM: Thank you Boris. Great job as always.

BORIS: Thank you, sire.

KING WILLIAM: *(looks at Priscilla)* Priscilla, something's different about you. *(pause to look her up and down)* Is that a new dress?

PRISCILLA: No father. Care to try again?

KING WILLIAM: No, not really. Far too excited. When's the next contestant? *(makes way to chair)* Show him in, will you?

PRISCILLA: Of course, father. May I introduce to you, Rumplestiltskin *(pause)* the invisible man.

KING WILLIAM: But I don't see anyone.

PRISCILLA: That's because.. he's invisible. *(pretends someone is whispering to her)* What's that, Rump? Yes, he really does look surprised.

KING WILLIAM: *(gets excited)* Oh that's marvellous! An invisible man in the castle. I've never seen such trickery. Let me come and meet him.

PRISCILLA: Errm, no father, he's...

KING WILLIAM: *(gets up ignoring Priscilla and stands beside her)* So where are you, you little rascal?

PRISCILLA: *(taps him on the shoulder behind him)*

KING WILLIAM: Ohhh! That's excellent. Amazing! Do something else.

PRISCILLA: (*switches sides and taps him on the other shoulder behind him*)

KING WILLIAM: (*jumps*) Ahh, it's like he's everywhere!

PRISCILLA: Yes, it is.

KING WILLIAM: Get him to show himself, so I can congratulate him on his amazing work.

PRISCILLA: Errm... Oh drat. He's just left.

KING WILLIAM: Oh. Well that's a real shame. I tell you something, that act will certainly take some beating.

PRISCILLA: Yes, I'm sure it will.

KING WILLIAM: I honestly didn't see that coming. It was so good it was almost as though he wasn't here.

PRISCILLA: Yes father, it was.

KING WILLIAM: Well, all this excitement has left me bushed. I think I'll retire to my quarters. I can't wait for tomorrow's contestant. Good night everyone.

ALL ON STAGE: Good night, sire.

KING WILLIAM: (*as he's walking off*). Invisible! What fun!

{EXIT KING WILLIAM}

PRISCILLA: (*to fairies*) Don't say a word.

TWINKLES: Wasn't going to, mistress.

PRISCILLA: Right. That's two down, one to go. All I need now is the man with the magic flute and the kingdom is as good as mine.

Boris, would you be interested in one final job for me?

BORIS: Oh yes m'lady. You know, this is the best week...

PRISCILLA: (*interrupts*) Boris, look at my face. I do not care. Be quiet and I'll show you who you need to bring to me.

"Magic mirror standing tall, show me the man who is followed by all."

❖ **BACKGROUND 9b – MIRROR SHOWS THE PIED PIPER**

- **MIRROR** -

The mirror knows all and will now speak,
For it's the pied piper that you seek.
This man has the power to control,
Using dance and music from his soul,
But without a pure soul, there's no disco troupe,
Instead you'll be forever in a dad dance loop,
So take this warning, heed my advice,
Or the power you seek, will come with a price.

PRISCILLA: Bring him to me by sunset tomorrow.

BORIS: Well that should be no problem. He sounds kind of fun.

PRISCILLA: Well, he isn't. King Michael of Jacksonia thought the same. He sent an entire army to capture him.

PURITY: What happened?

PRISCILLA: They returned to the kingdom with extremely sore feet, splits in their pants, and their chain mail armour had been replaced with spandex and sequins.

BORIS: Oh. Then how am I suppose to get him here?

PRISCILLA: You'll have an army as backup. One that will be sure to grab his attention. In fact, they are on their way to the piper now.

BORIS: An army? I'll be in charge of an army? I don't know what to say, m'lady.

PRISCILLA: Then say nothing. But Boris? Underestimate him at your peril.

BORIS: Yes m'lady.

≡ **CURTAIN CLOSE**

SCENE TEN – MEETING THE PIED PIPER

Boris, Boris Jr III, Pied Piper

❖ BACKGROUND 10a – THE PIED PIPER’S BATTLE

≡ CURTAIN OPEN

{PIPER on stage with five dancers}

🎵 CUE – SHAKE YOUR GROOVE THING SHREK INTRO

DANCE HOUSE: (*Dancing on stage*)

{ENTER BORIS & BORIS JR III}

PIED PIPER: Class. At ease. It appears we have visitors.

(*to Boris*) Who are you, visitor? Friend or foe? Are you a thief? I don't much like thieves.

BORIS: Oh no, the name's Boris.

PIED PIPER: And who's this? (*to Boris Jr*)

BORIS: Oh, I found her sitting by the horses back there, crying her eyes out. She told me she'd lost all her life savings. I felt so sorry for her I gave her ten gold coins.

PIED PIPER: Oh. That's very generous of you.

BORIS: Well, I don't usually do that kind of thing but I'd just found two thousand of them in the stables.

PIED PIPER: I see.

BORIS: Are you the pied piper?

PIED PIPER: Who wants to know?

BORIS: (*points to self*) I do. Boris. I thought that was clear.

PIED PIPER: No, I mean, WHY do you want to know?

BORIS: Oh that. Well I have a message for the pied piper from King William of Clactonia.

PIED PIPER: I do not like kings. I was betrayed by a king once.

BORIS JR III: What happened?

PIED PIPER: Well, a long time ago, King Richard, or Rick as I used to call him, promised me I could give dance lessons in his castle. We were very close.

I trusted him like a fool and he betrayed me. His words still cut through my very bones.

BORIS: What did he say?

PIED PIPER: I can't. It's still very raw.

BORIS: Oh you can tell me, it may help.

PIED PIPER: Well.. okay. One day, after a particularly funky disco session he sat me down and looked deep into my eyes. Then those words.

BORIS: Go on..

PIED PIPER: He said Piper.. I'm never going to give you up. Never gonna let you down. Never gonna run around and desert you. But he did.

BORIS: Errrm.

PIED PIPER: King Richard of Astley was a monster. But I had the last laugh. When I left I took with me the very best dancers in his kingdom. (*looks at dancers*). And they're never going back.

BORIS: You can't just take young children without asking, Mr Piper, it's wrong. I certainly wouldn't do it.

PIED PIPER: I don't care. He got what he deserved.

BORIS: Ahh well this king isn't like that. Just let me read my message from him.. from his daughter.

PIED PIPER: Huh? Oh fine. Just get it over with.

BORIS: Will do. Boris, hold my script. I won't be needing it. (*clears throat*).

Dearest pan pipe,

BORIS JR III: Errm, it says Pied Piper..

BORIS: Shush Boris!

It is my understanding that you lick your bogeys..

BORIS JR III: "You.. like to boogie."

BORIS: So I, the king, would like to insult you at the castle where you can shoot your movies through a peephole.

BORIS JR III: "invite you to the castle where you can show your moves to the people."

BORIS: And should your dunces cook snails in our kitchen..

BORIS JR III: "your dances cause smiles in our kingdom"..

BORIS: You may be the one to soon feed me a kitten.

BORIS JR III: "You may be the one to succeed me as king."

PIED PIPER: Oh I see. A royal invitation. At least, I think it was. No thank you.

BORIS: But you could be king!

PIED PIPER: Boris. What part of no thank you do you not understand?

BORIS: Errm, the NO part. Anyway, I think you'll like King William. He's nice. He gave me a job when no one else would.

PIED PIPER: What sort of job?

BORIS: Oh, I used to race his horses for a living.

BORIS JR III: Really, did you win many races?

BORIS: Nah, the horses were always much faster. (*pause*)

PIED PIPER: Oh. Well, be that as it may, I don't trust kings. So thanks.. but no thanks.

BORIS: Ohhhh. I really hoped it wouldn't come to this. The princess thought you may say that, so she sent an army as backup.

PIED PIPER: An army? What army?

BORIS: They'll be here any minute. (*girls come on one by one, Boris looks for more after five*).

PIED PIPER: That's your army? What can they possibly do to me? (*laughs*) Girls, show them what WE can do. Dance these fools out of here.

PIPER'S GIRLS: (*step forward menacingly*)

PIED PIPER: Give them the fever!

🎵 CUE – NIGHT FEVER

BORIS: (*can't stop himself dancing*) Enough! We'll be going. So sorry to..

PRISCILLA'S ARMY: (*step forward unafraid, taking over*)

🎵 CUE – CAN YOU FEEL IT?

PIED PIPER: Oh! A good old fashioned dance battle. YES! I'm down with that. Girls, bring out the fire!

🎵 CUE – DISCO INFERNO

PIED PIPER: You like?

BORIS: No. I just want to go home.

PRISCILLA'S ARMY: (*step forward again*)

PIED PIPER: Ooh, they've got some more!

🎵 CUE – SHAKE YOUR BOOGIE

PIED PIPER: Yessss, you're almost a worthy challenger. This is such fun. Note I said ALMOST. Let's take them down to FUNKY TOWN!

🎵 CUE – EVERYBODY DANCE

PIED PIPER: Boris, that was just what I needed. Who would have guessed that you're a jive turkey at heart.

BORIS: I am? I mean, yes I am.

PIED PIPER: You've reminded me that dance is about bringing people together, not tearing them apart. I accept your invitation to perform for the king.

BORIS: You do? Oh thank goodness.

PIED PIPER: Come on, don't leave me hanging (*Puts out hand to fist pump.*)

BORIS: (*Shakes hand instead.*)

☰ CURTAIN CLOSE

SCENE ELEVEN – PIED PIPER'S AUDITIONS

King William, Priscilla, Twinkles, Purity, Boris, Pied Piper

❖ BACKGROUND 11a – THE CASTLE

≡ CURTAIN OPEN

{TWINKLES, PURITY on stage}

PURITY: Oh I do hope mistress doesn't get her wish. I can't imagine a kingdom under her control.

TWINKLES: Me neither. We have to do something about it, but what?

PURITY: Shh! Here she comes.

🎵 CUE – PRISCILLA ENTRANCE

{ENTER PRISCILLA}

PRISCILLA: Fairies. Is the man with the magic flute here yet?

TWINKLES: I believe so, mistress. He's just trying out the palace dance hall.

PRISCILLA: Excellent. Once I have that flute, everything will be in place. Then come coronation day, (*looks around*) ALL THIS will be mine.

PURITY: Mistress? Are you really going to perform for your father? Won't he recognise you?

PRISCILLA: Of course he won't. With my new items, I'll be.. "Priscilla: master of disguise."

PURITY: Errm, mistress?

PRISCILLA: What now fairy?

PURITY: Just a small thing, but you..

TWINKLES: can't sing (*steps back scared*). What if you don't win?

PRISCILLA: Then we'll simply move to plan B. One way or another, the throne will be mine. No-one has the power to stop me.

♪ CUE – SHAKE YOUR GROOVE THING

PRISCILLA: What's that noise? Do you hear that?

TWINKLES: Yes, mistress. I do.

PRISCILLA: MY LEGS!.. I can't control my legs. Make it stop!

{ENTER DANCERS}

PRISCILLA: And who are these people?

{ENTER PIED PIPER}

PIPED PIPER: (*finishes dance*)

PRISCILLA: So YOU must be the piper?

PIED PIPER: That's me!

PRISCILLA: That was quite a demonstration of your power, sir. Well played.

PIPED PIPER: Oh that was nothing.

PRISCILLA: And I assume you have more of the same for our king?

PIED PIPER: Much more. I'm going to wow him with the power of disco. As you may have noticed, my boogie gives me GREAT power.

PRISCILLA: Yes I saw. Strange though, I'd heard it was a magic flute that gives you your power.

PIED PIPER: What this? No. I just carry this for effect. The real magic comes from in here (*points to heart*). Music is in my bones.

PRISCILLA: I see. Well, let's find out. Errm, Boris?

{ENTER BORIS}

BORIS: Is it safe to come out?

PRISCILLA: Of course it is. Boris.. The king please.

BORIS: Yes, m'lady (*walks away as though scared of the piper*).

🎵 CUE – BAD FANFARE

BORIS: Gravies and germalene. His real harness, king wheelie bin.

{ENTER KING WILLIAM}

KING WILLIAM: Thank you, Boris. Perfect as always. (*makes way to seat*) Okay, I'm ready. What do you have for me today?

PRISCILLA: (*goes over to Piper smuggly*) Oh, Piper. Somehow this totally slipped my mind, but.. the king REALLY HATES disco.

PIED PIPER: Are you sure, your highness?

PRISCILLA: I'm quite sure of it.

PIED PIPER: Oh. Then what should I do? He's waiting.

PRISCILLA: I don't know. I suppose.. if you were to give me the flute, he might be amazed at the TRUE power you possess. The power in there (*points to his heart*).

Or you could just gamble and play your disco tunes. Who knows, you might get lucky.

PIED PIPER: Lucky? I don't need this to get lucky! (*hands over flute*)

PRISCILLA: Well if you insist.

❖ BACKGROUND 11b – THE CASTLE DISCO

♪ CUE – GET LUCKY

❖ BACKGROUND 11c – THE CASTLE

KING WILLIAM: Ooh, that was most excellent!

PRISCILLA: Yes it was. Boris, why didn't you warn me of this.

BORIS: Don't blame me m'lady, I didn't know. He's just got music in his bones.

PRISCILLA: I didn't say I was blaming you, Boris. I said it was your fault.

KING WILLIAM: (*sings*) "we're up all night to get lucky.."

PIED PIPER: You want to see some more, your majesty?

KING WILLIAM: Oh, that would be..

PRISCILLA: (*interrupts*) NO... Thank you.. We wouldn't want to trouble you.

PIED PIPER: It's okay, I could go on all night.

PRISCILLA: Not without a head you couldn't.

KING WILLIAM: Well then, if we're done I suppose I should head to bed. I've a very difficult decision to make you know.

PRISCILLA: Oh I'm SURE you will make EXACTLY the right decision, father.

KING WILLIAM: Why thank you, Priscilla. I'll bid you all a good night.

TWINKLES & PURITY: Good night, sire.

KING WILLIAM: (*dances off singing Get Lucky again*)

{EXIT KING WILLIAM}

PRISCILLA: He seemed to like you, Piper. Come back on coronation day. I'm sure everything will become much clearer then.

PIED PIPER: Yes, your highness and thank you.

PRISCILLA: Oh, it was my pleasure. I'll show you out.

{EXIT PRISCILLA & PIED PIPER}

PURITY: Twinkles, I don't like this one little bit.

TWINKLES: Me neither.

PURITY: If only Cinderella was here.

TWINKLES: (*sadly*) Yeah. Hey! What if she was?

PURITY: What do you mean?

TWINKLES: The mirror! We could use it to find her.

PURITY: No, Twinkles. If the king was to find out...

TWINKLES: It's got to be better than having mistress as our queen, surely?

PURITY: I suppose, but..

TWINKLES: (*turns to mirror*) Magic mirror, show me Cinderella! (*pause*) Oh it didn't work. (*to audience*) What am I doing wrong? (*pause*) That's it. It needs to rhyme.

PURITY: "Magic mirror, please just tell her. We need to find our Cinderella..."

❖ **BACKGROUND 11d – MIRROR SHOWS FAIRIES CINDERELLA**

- **MIRROR** -

The mirror knows all and will now speak,
To show you the daughter that you seek.
She's quite nearby, but in her mind,
No memories of here you'll find.
For her to know, her life of old,
The curse must be broken, and the magic unfold.
And until that difficult path is crossed,
I can only show you, a princess lost.

TWINKLES: That's her! Boris! Would you find her for us? Please?!

PURITY: Please!

BORIS: Oh. How could I say no?

PURITY: Thank you Boris. You could quite possibly be the one to save our kingdom.

BORIS: Yay! And the crowd goes wild (*makes pretend crowd noise*) Boris saves the day!

TWINKLES: Boris. Today!

BORIS: Oh, right. I'm on my way!

≡ CURTAIN CLOSE

SCENE TWELVE – FINDING CINDERELLA

Boris, Cinderella, Griselda, Mildred, Fairy Godmother

❖ BACKGROUND 12a – CINDERS HOUSE

≡ CURTAIN OPEN

{GRISELDA & MILDRED on stage}

GRISELDA: Where's Cinders?

MILDRED: She's still outside cutting the grass.

GRISELDA: But she's been out there for hours.

MILDRED: Yes. Do you think we should have given her a bigger pair of scissors?

GRISELDA & MILDRED: *(both look at each other, pause and then laugh)*

GRISELDA: So what do you want to do tonight?

MILDRED: We could torment Cinders some more I suppose, but I was thinking maybe a girly night? Some nice turnip ice cream and then a makeover to further enhance our beauty.

GRISELDA: Oh come on, sis. You don't need make-up.

MILDRED: Really? That's the nicest thing you've said all day.

GRISELDA: No, you need plastic surgery.

MILDRED: Oh, I see. We're going there are we?

GRISELDA: We are. In fact, you're SO ugly you make BLIND children cry.

MILDRED: Yeah? Well you're so ugly when you open the door on Halloween the kids give YOU candy.

GRISELDA: Hah! You're so heavy you went out in high heels and came back in flip flops.

MILDRED: Yeah? Well the last time you wore high heels you struck oil!

GRISELDA: *(covers mouth shocked)* MILDRED! Are you saying I eat too much? I've actually lost a little weight.

MILDRED: *(looks at her bottom)* If you look behind you, you'll find it.

GRISELDA: How dare you! I'll have you know my New Year's resolution was to get in shape.

MILDRED: And it worked. If that shape was ROUND!

{ENTER CINDERS & BORIS}

CINDERS: Sisters!

GRISELDA: *(to Mildred)* We'll finish this later. Cinders, about time. Have you finished the lawn?

CINDERS: No. Better. You won't believe what I have to say. Can I tell them what you told me?

BORIS: Well, it is MY job, but okay little Boris, you can do it this once.

CINDERS: *(looks confused)* Errm, actually my name is..

MILDRED: *(interrupts)* Come on little Boris, out with it. We haven't got all day. What did he tell you?

CINDERS: Oh right. He said that.. *(thinks)* King Wibble is having a cornetto in his pants and has invited us to wiggle while he hoses down his new roommate.

BORIS: *(looks at i-Scroll)* BORIS! That is NOT what I said. It says clearly.. King William is having a coronation in his palace and you're invited to witness as he chooses a new ruler.

CINDERS: Oh, but you said.. I'm confused.

BORIS: Yes, it's not as easy as it looks, is it? I'll let you off this time though, since unlike me, you're clearly not a trained professional.

GRISELDA: Give me that! *(takes i-Scroll)*

MILDRED: What does it say?

GRISELDA: He's looking for the king's rightful heir.

MILDRED: Rightful heir? That's got my name written all over it.

GRISELDA: You? He clearly means me.

MILDRED: No. He said rightful heir. Not frightful hair.

GRISELDA: Pfft. You're one to talk. I suppose we will just have to let the king decide!

GRISELDA & MILDRED: (*look each other over*) Agreed.

BORIS: Errm, if it's all the same to you, I'll be leaving now. I wouldn't want things to get.. ugly.

GRISELDA & MILDRED: (*both glare angrily and GROWL at Boris who runs off*)

{EXIT BORIS}

CINDERS: Sisters.. before you leave too..

GRISELDA: What is it now?

CINDERS: I know I shouldn't ask, but.. may I come? I don't know why, but I have a strange feeling I should be there.

GRISELDA: Let us have a think about that and get back to you.

CINDERS: Really?

GRISELDA: NO! Of course not!

CINDERS: (*sighs sadly*)

MILDRED: Oh did you see the look on her face? It was priceless.

CINDERS: You know, I'm not one to speak out of turn, but sometimes you're not very nice to me. Your words can be mean.

GRISELDA: WHAT? Did you hear what she said about us, Mildred? (*to Cinders*) How dare you!

MILDRED: So ungrateful! I can't believe she called YOU mean.

GRISELDA: And I can't believe she called YOU an ugly, smelly, ratbag.

MILDRED: (*as they start to leave*) She didn't say that.

GRISELDA: Doesn't make it any less true.

{EXIT GRISELDA & MILDRED}

CINDERS: (*mouse thrown on, she picks it up*) Oh Squeak (*talking to mouse*). I don't know why, I just have this feeling I should go too. I wish I could go with them.

♪ CUE – FAIRY GODMOTHER ENTRANCE

{ENTER FAIRY GODMOTHER}

CINDERS: (*throws mouse*)

FAIRY GODMOTHER: You called, dear child?

CINDERS: I don't think so. Who are you?

FAIRY GODMOTHER: I'm your fairy godmother.

CINDERS: I didn't know I had one.

FAIRY GODMOTHER: Well you do. All you need to do is say "I wish" and I will come and grant your wishes.

CINDERS: That's amazing. But hold on, I've said those words lots of times.

FAIRY GODMOTHER: No you haven't.

CINDERS: No, really. Just earlier I said "I wish I had a dress without holes in it".

FAIRY GODMOTHER: Oh.. yeah. I remember now. Sorry, I was on the other line. Besides, sewing isn't exactly my strong point.

CINDERS: Oh. Then how about this morning. I was so hungry and I definitely said "I wish I had something to eat for breakfast".

FAIRY GODMOTHER: Oooh, yeah. Cooking. Let's just say that's another area I... struggle with.

CINDERS: Okay, then how about all the times I have wished for just ONE friend. All I have is a mouse for company.

FAIRY GODMOTHER: Ahh, well how do you know it wasn't me who sent the mouse for you?

CINDERS: You gave me Squeak? For company?

FAIRY GODMOTHER: Errm, sure. Why not. *(pause)* Ahh!! *(remembers)* I can do slippers. Want some? Any style you like!

CINDERS: Really?

FAIRY GODMOTHER: Yes. As long as they are clear and made of glass.

CINDERS: Oh. Then no. Thank you. All I really want is to go to the castle. I just feel I should be there.

FAIRY GODMOTHER: And you shall go to the ball.. Castle.. My child, just for you.. the FINEST garments in all the land. BIBBITY.. BOBBITY.. BOO!

🎵 CUE – FAIRY GODMOTHER MAGIC

FAIRY GODMOTHER: *(gets out cloak)*

CINDERS: Umm, you did say "finest", right?

FAIRY GODMOTHER: Look, I tried. It's either that or a scarf. I can do scarves.

CINDERS: Oh, I suppose it will do. Thank you. *(takes cloak)* But can I really just walk into the castle wearing this?

FAIRY GODMOTHER: Welllll... *(looks shifty)* You'll need to keep what you are about to see on the down low. Okay?

CINDERS: *(nods)* Of course.

FAIRY GODMOTHER: You see, this may come as a surprise, but doing magic isn't really my gig.

CINDERS: Oh, I'd never have guessed.

FAIRY GODMOTHER: I know, right?! But if you're looking for tickets or vouchers on the other hand *(gets out tickets)*, well, I'm your man. Now let me see.. Right.. we've got front row tickets for Queen Elsa's Dancing on Ice..

CINDERS: (*shakes head*)

FAIRY GODMOTHER: 'Hansel and Gretel's Guided Tour Experience?' .. I hear it's good.

CINDERS: No, thank you.

FAIRY GODMOTHER: Then how about a ticket to go on the NINE, sorry I mean 'SEVEN dwarfs mine train'?

CINDERS: No, I just want to go to the coronation.

FAIRY GODMOTHER: Ahh yes. Of course you do. Here you go. One ticket to the coronation.. (*gives her ticket*) But.. if ANYONE asks, your name is JACK.

CINDERS: (*nods*)

FAIRY GODMOTHER: What's your name?

CINDERS: Jack! (*thinks*) What's my surname in case they ask?

FAIRY GODMOTHER: (*grabs ticket back to look at it*) And the beanstalk.

CINDERS: Got it. (*excited*) I can't believe I'm going to see the king. Oh, but what about my sisters?

FAIRY GODMOTHER: Oh, don't worry about them. (*pulls out ticket*) An all inclusive voucher for a head to toe make over at the Bibbity Bobbity Boutique should keep them busy. Something tells me they won't be leaving there in a hurry.

CINDERELLA: I don't know what to say. Thank you so much! This really is the best day ever!

FAIRY GODMOTHER: You're quite welcome child. It's what I do.

≡ CURTAIN CLOSE

SCENE THIRTEEN – HAPPILY EVER AFTER

Boris, Cinderella, Twinkles, Purity, Priscilla, King William, and Rumpelstiltskin, Pied Piper, Rapunzel, Ugly Sisters.

❖ BACKGROUND 13a – CORONATION DAY CASTLE

≡ CURTAIN OPEN

{PRISCILLA, TWINKLES, PURITY on stage}

PRISCILLA: Fairies, how do I look?

TWINKLES: Mistress, is that really you?

PRISCILLA: Yes it is. A little magic from my new spell book combined with Rapunzel's wig and now no one will recognise me. Anyway, where is my father?

TWINKLES: Oh, he's on his way up your highness.

PRISCILLA: Perfect. Let's put this to the test.

{ENTER KING WILLIAM}

KING WILLIAM: Fairies. Where was my fancy entrance? Where's Boris?

TWINKLES: He's not here your highness. He had some really important business to attend to.

KING WILLIAM: Oh. (*addresses Priscilla*) So you must be his replacement?

TWINKLES: No sire, that's...

PRISCILLA: Just a huge admirer, your majesty.

KING WILLIAM: (*sits and starts drinking*) Well that's very kind of you to say and it's good to have you here. You know, today is coronation day. I simply can't wait to see the look on people's faces when I make my announcement.

PRISCILLA: Oh, neither can I sire. Neither can I.

KING WILLIAM: Fairies, go find Boris for me will you, so we can start.

TWINKLES: Yes your majesty.

KING WILLIAM: And on your way out, pop into the castle kitchen and send my compliments to the chef. This is the best soup I've ever had!

PURITY: It's whiskey, your majesty.

KING WILLIAM: Oh. Well whatever type of soup it is, it's really rather tasty. Certainly fit for a king.

TWINKLES & PURITY: Of course, sire.

{EXIT TWINKLES & PURITY}

KING WILLIAM: (*waits until they have left stage*) I really hope they aren't long. I can't stand long..

{ENTER BORIS, TWINKLES & PURITY, CINDERELLA}

PURITY: (*interrupts king*) Sire, we're back.

KING WILLIAM: Oh, splendid. Boris, we almost started without you. And who's this you've brought for me?

BORIS: The fairies sent me to find your daughter, sire.

KING WILLIAM: Oh I wondered where she'd got to. Priscilla, you're late. We'll talk about the silly costume later, but we're just about ready to start.

PURITY: No, sire, that isn't..

PRISCILLA: (*interrupts*) FAIRY, listen. Do you hear that?

PURITY: (*shakes head*)

PRISCILLA: It's the sound of you not talking and still having a head tomorrow. Do you understand?

PURITY: (*nods and steps back*)

KING WILLIAM: Oh such banter, but I suppose if everyone's ready, we should really get cracking.

PURITY: Yes, sire.

KING WILLIAM: Okay, here goes. I hereby declare that the new ruler of Clactonia... drum roll please, Boris.

BORIS: *(pretends to drum and makes drum noise, others join in after he starts)*

KING WILLIAM: Excellent. I hereby declare that the new ruler of Clactonia shall be.. *(pause)* The invisible man, Rumpelstiltskin.

ALL ON STAGE: *(all look around to locate him and clap)*

KING WILLIAM: Come on, show yourself man. Don't be shy!

PRISCILLA: Errm sire, a minor problem.

KING WILLIAM: Yes?

PRISCILLA: Rumpelstiltskin was banished from the kingdom this morning.

KING WILLIAM: Banished? What sort of idiot would have him banished?

PRISCILLA: Oh, that would be you, sire.

KING WILLIAM: Me? I don't recall that. Why would I do such a thing?

PRISCILLA: Well sire, you remember this morning when your daughter Priscilla got you to sign the papers to order more bread for the kitchen?

KING WILLIAM: Why yes I do. I hardly had enough toast for my soldiers!

PRISCILLA: Well, apparently there was some kind of mix-up and somehow you signed the wrong papers.

KING WILLIAM: Oh no. That's terrible. Poor Rumpelstiltskin.

PRISCILLA: It's worse than that sire. You now have nothing to go with your dippy eggs tomorrow morning.

KING WILLIAM: Nothing to dunk in my dippy eggs? Then they won't be dippy at all! That isn't right.

PRISCILLA: No sire.

KING WILLIAM: (to *Priscilla*) Wait a moment, young lady. You seem to know an awful lot about castle business.

PRISCILLA: (*shakes head, as though to say 'not really'*) I do?

KING WILLIAM: Yes. In fact (*long pause*) I could use someone like you on my staff.

PRISCILLA: Oh.. Well thank you for the offer sire, but unfortunately I already have a job lined up. (*pause*) In fact I start.. later today.

KING WILLIAM: Oh drats. You know, it doesn't seem to be my lucky day. So what do we do now?

TWINKLES: How about one of the other contestants, your majesty?

KING WILLIAM: Well, they were all good, but not as good as the invisible man. I was up way past my bedtime thinking about it and I still have no idea how he did that.

PRISCILLA: Perhaps I might suggest something sire?

KING WILLIAM: Please do.

PRISCILLA: Well, since you have no contestants to choose from, maybe we.. I mean YOU should ask if there's anyone else here that would like to perform. Perhaps someone that didn't get an invitation?

KING WILLIAM: Yes! That's a fine idea. Thank you.

PRISCILLA: Oh, you're welcome sire.

KING WILLIAM: People of Clactonia. Do we have anyone here that might want to enter? (*waits*) Anyone? (*waits*) Anyone at all?

PRISCILLA: Sire, I'm but a simple peasant girl, but it would surely be an honour to entertain you on such a special occasion. Might.. I enter?

KING WILLIAM: Well I don't see why not. And being the only contestant you'll probably stand a pretty good chance of winning.

PRISCILLA: Me sire? Really? I hadn't noticed.

KING WILLIAM: Well, no time to waste. Show us what you can do.

PRISCILLA: Of course sire. I think you'll like this.

🎵 CUE – QUEEN OF MEAN

FAIRIES: *(get audience to boo during performance)*

KING WILLIAM: You were right, I did like it! Good job, young lady.

PRISCILLA: Thank you, sire. So what happens now? Do you just hand over the crown, or is there some sort of fancy ceremony?

KING WILLIAM: Well, if you were going to be the next ruler, then yes there would be. But you're not.

PRISCILLA: WHAT???

KING WILLIAM: Did you see the villagers? Some of them weren't smiling. In fact, I could have sworn I even heard some boos.

PRISCILLA: *(turns to audience)* Useless peasants!
(pause) I mean, oh never mind.

TWINKLES: So what now, sire?

PURITY: Will you stay on as king?

KING WILLIAM: I'm not really sure. It wasn't supposed to go this way. I'll have to go away and think. Unless you have a better idea?

PRISCILLA: Excuse me again father... I mean, your highness who I don't know and have never met before.. but.. why not let the magic mirror decide who should take over the throne.

KING WILLIAM: Hmm. How does a simple peasant girl know about the magic mirror's powers?

PRISCILLA: Errm, I don't?

KING WILLIAM: You don't? Oh well, it just so happens that the mirror can do EXACTLY that. How fortunate!

PRISCILLA: Yes, fortunate indeed.

KING WILLIAM: Right. Magic mirror. Now how do we do this?

PRISCILLA: Just a guess, sire. But perhaps a rhyme?

KING WILLIAM: Yes! That's right. I remember now. You're certainly a useful person to have around, young lady. Quite remarkable. Hmm, let me think.

PRISCILLA: Sire? Allow me? (*moves king out of the way, then addresses mirror*)

"Magic mirror, wise and fair. Show to the king .. HIS RIGHTFUL HEIR!"

❖ **BACKGROUND 13b – MIRROR CHOOSES THE HEIR**

- MIRROR -

The mirror knows all and will now speak,
To show you the ruler that you seek.
In fact she's here before your eyes,
But the one you seek is in disguise.
To be seen, this veil they must lose,
Before the king can rightly choose.
So I will now remove all magic and curses,
And the truth will be told by the end of these verses.
So magic be gone, curses fail, I declare,
Before you my king, stands your true rightful heir.

PRISCILLA: (*stands before the mirror, de-cloaked*)

CINDERELLA: (*swirls into middle, de-cloaked*)

❖ **BACKGROUND 13c – THE CASTLE**

CINDERELLA: Where... where am I?

KING WILLIAM: Cinders? Is that really you?

PRISCILLA: NO! It can't be!

KING WILLIAM: Priscilla, you're here too. What's going on?

CINDERELLA: Father, is this a dream? The last thing I remember was.. (*looks at Priscilla*).. It's all kind of fuzzy.. I was picking flowers, and suddenly there was a dark shadow standing over me.

KING WILLIAM: A dark shadow? Like a person?

CINDERELLA: Yes. And they were smiling. And laughing. They said I would NEVER return.

KING WILLIAM: Priscilla, what is she talking about? You were there that day. Did you see any such person?

PRISCILLA: No father. She's clearly quite confused and mistaken. Cinderella, go and rest my dear, we can talk about this later.

CINDERELLA: No. I remember. (*pauses and turns to Priscilla*) It was YOU! You sent me away.

PRISCILLA: Me? No. Guards! Take her to her room. Keep her there until she stops saying things I don't want to hear.

KING WILLIAM: Priscilla, tell me this isn't true. I can hardly believe my ears.

PRISCILLA: It's lies! (*pause*) Fine! It's true. Are you happy?

KING WILLIAM: No, I'm confused.

PRISCILLA: I was only going to send her away for a little while, so you could see how important I was too, but you were so busy being upset you didn't even notice me.

KING WILLIAM: What did you expect? My daughter had disappeared. I would be the same if it was you.

PRISCILLA: You wouldn't. You're just saying that.

KING WILLIAM: No, I'm not. You two have always meant everything to me. I always thought that one day you'd rule the kingdom side by side as it should be.

PRISCILLA: I.. I didn't know.

CINDERELLA: Father. It's not too late for that.

KING WILLIAM: No, Cinderella. Priscilla has shown her true colours. She is not worthy to rule this kingdom. In fact, she is not welcome to live in this kingdom.

PRISCILLA: *(puts head in hands)*

CINDERELLA: Father, no. I know you are angry and hurting, but let me remind you of something someone told me when I was just a little girl. It was around the time mother left. I was SO angry and confused.

KING WILLIAM: Yes, we all were.

CINDERELLA: I told you I wished you were NOT my father. I promised I would hate you FOREVER. I blamed you.

KING WILLIAM: Oh yes, I remember. You were upset.

CINDERELLA: Well, what I remember more than anything is something I was told after. A wise, kind and caring person said something I will never forget.

KING WILLIAM: What did they say?

CINDERELLA: They simply said..

"It's okay. *(pause)* You just forgot who you are for a while. *(pause)* Welcome back."

Then they put their arms around me and everything suddenly felt like it was going to be okay.

KING WILLIAM: That's beautiful. Who was it?

PRISCILLA: It was you, father. I remember it too.

CINDERELLA: Don't you see? We shouldn't be pushing people away when they're hurting. We should be turning the sadness into smiles.

KING WILLIAM: Yes, but..

CINDERELLA: *(interrupts)* Father. What did it used to say in huge letters on the gates of our kingdom?

KING WILLIAM: It said, "Be our guest."

CINDERELLA: Yes it did. And what was it you would always say as you walked among your loyal subjects?

KING WILLIAM: I'd say, "Come in. Be our guest."

CINDERELLA: Exactly! And those words are precisely what we need, now more than ever.

KING WILLIAM: You really think?

CINDERELLA: I do. Let me show you.

♪ CUE – BE OUR GUEST

≡ CURTAIN CLOSE

SCENE FOURTEEN – HAPPILY EVER AFTER

Twinkles, Purity

❖ BACKGROUND 14a – THE PALACE

≡ CURTAIN OPEN

♪ CUE – FAIRY ENTRANCE

{ENTER TWINKLES & PURITY}

PURITY: Ladies and gentlemen, as our fairy story draws to a close, we'd like to thank you for allowing us to tell it to you.

TWINKLES: We really hope you enjoyed the story as much as we enjoyed telling it, and we wish you all a safe and magical journey home.

PURITY: But before you go, the king has asked us to pass on a very special message to you. He said that YOU are OUR guests today, and because of that he'll be around afterwards, to "beat you and silence your proud grans".

TWINKLES: "Meet you and sign your programmes."

FAIRIES: (*look at each other, then together*) BORIS!

PURITY: Sorry. Anyway, with that we hope to see you all again and there's really only one thing left to say... For one last time we give you....

TWINKLES: The girls and boys of Spotlight Youth Theatre Company..

PURITY: And our special guests from the fantastic Dance House Academy. (*both bow*)

♪ CUE – BOWS

≡ CURTAIN CLOSE & BOUNCE

THE END

BE OUR GUEST LYRICS

CINDERS SINGS

Be my guest
Be our guest
Put our friendship to the test
Greed and power do not interest me
And evil I detest

Sadness gone, we'll amaze
Bringing new and happy days
You can trust me, I'm not scary
Don't believe it, ask the fairies (*to Fairies*)

FAIRIES SING

Free to sing
Free to dance
We'll enjoy our second chance

CINDERS SINGS

With friends like us, they'll never be depressed (*to Priscilla*)

You'll know to trust me when
You take a chance and then
You'll be our guest
Be our guest
Be our guest (1:00)

Rap-un-zel's magic hair
She was wrong, but don't despair (*points at Priscilla*)
It will soon grow back and then you'll be
Quite free without a care

Rumplestiltskin here's the thing
Kids are hard just ask the king
Simply trust me, you'll soon see
That you can handle anything

A few jokes
And some tricks
You'll solve all of your conflicts
But it's all in perfect taste as you can guess

Come on, forget the past
You've won your own free pass
To be our guest

If you're stressed
A big smile I would suggest

Be our guest
Be our guest
Be our guest

PRISCILLA SINGS

Life was so alone
For a princess on her own
Not a fairy or a sister to call friends
Oh such evil times I was misguided
But maybe darker times are at an end

Too long I've been in hiding
Not a soul I could confide in
What is love? If not a cause of endless pain
Most days I'd simply mask my own deep sorrow

Then a magic mirror
Made my future seem much clearer (2:20)

CINDERS SINGS

You're my guests (*to audience*)
You're our guests
Sakes alive, well I'll be blessed
You're not bored, oh thank the Lord
In fact, you seem like you're impressed

Disco dance
Will enhance
All our lives, given the chance (*to King William*)
Wait till Piper's boogie hits you
Two left feet won't be an issue (2:35)

Don't be sad, don't be stressed
A smiley face is always best
You'll find those frowns you see
We'll lay to rest

Accept our invitation
Be our new relations
You're our guests (*to cast*)
You're our guests (*to audience*)

FAIRIES, CINDERELLA, PRISCILLA & KING WILLIAM

Be our guest
Be our guest
Our command is your request

It's been years since we had anybody here
And we're obsessed (2:58)

Try a smile
For a while
Make it spread for miles and miles
While the happiness is flowing
Let us help you
We'll keep going

Course by course
One by one
'Til you shout, enough, I'm done
Then we'll sing you off to sleep as you digest

Tonight you'll prop your feet up
But for now, let's eat up
Be our guest (to left)
Be our guest (to right)
Be our guest (to audience)
PLEASE, BE OUR GUEST!

NOTES