

## ONCE UPON A MATTRESS

PROLOGUE *(Enter the Minstrel, the Jester and the Mime. The Mime tells the following story through dance.)*

MINSTREL

***SINGS: MANY MOONS AGO***

*(strumming a lute)*

Many moons ago in a far off place  
Lived a handsome prince with a gloomy face  
For he did not have a bride  
Oh he sighed "alas", and he pined, "alas"  
But alas the Prince couldn't find a lass  
Who would suit his mother's pride  
For a princess is a delicate thing  
Delicate and dainty as a dragonfly's wing  
You can recognize a lady by her elegant air  
But a genuine princess is exceedingly rare

JESTER

On a stormy night to the castle door  
Came the lass the prince had been waiting for  
"I'm a princess lost", quote she  
But the Queen was cool and remained aloof  
And she said, "Perhaps, but we'll need  
some proof  
I'll prepare a test and see.

*(spoken)* "I'll put twenty downy mattresses upon her bed,  
And beneath those twenty mattresses I'll place a  
tiny pea  
If the pea disturbs her slumber, then a true princess  
is she.

MINSTREL

JESTER

MINSTREL

Now the bed was soft and extremely tall  
But the dainty lass didn't sleep at all  
And she told them so next day  
Said the queen, "My dear if you felt that pea  
Then we've proof enough of your royalty  
Let the wedding music play"

JESTER

And the people shouted quietly, "Hooray"

BOTH

For a princess is a delicate thing  
Delicate and dainty as a dragonfly's wing  
You can recognize a lady by her elegant air  
But a genuine princess is exceedingly rare.

MINSTREL

There are many versions to this story. We sing them all. This is the prettiest one but it's not quite accurate.

I happen to know the true story of the princess and the pea, because I was there. It was in a very small kingdom, and the Princess in the true story was not the only girl put to the test. Actually she was one of thirteen girls who had come to the castle hoping to wed the prince, but who for one reason or another were found to be unsuitable. As a matter of fact the day I arrived they were testing princess #12. A curious quiz was in progress.

ACT 1  
SCENE 1

*Throne room:*

*(The King and Queen sit on thrones, prince Dauntless sits at his mother's feet. To the side stands princess #12. Beside her is the Wizard, the queen's helper.)*

WIZARD

Are you ready for the next question? *(He reads from a sheet of paper. His manner is that of a game show host)*

PRINCESS 12

I guess so.

WIZARD

The next question concerns famous rulers. Are you quite ready?

PRINCESS 12

Uh huh.

WIZARD

Well then, name 3 kings, Is that clear?

PRINCESS 12

Yes...*(thinks a moment)* Would you repeat the question please?

WIZARD

Certainly, name 3 kings.

PRINCESS 12

May I take the third King first?

*(Wizard nods yes)*

PRINCESS 12

Well then. Three kings are...*(she thinks)*

MINSTREL

*(to Lady Aria)* Is this a trial?

LADY ARIA

No, it's a royalty test to find out if she's a real princess.

PRINCESS 12

King John, King Arthur and...*(she thinks some more)*

MINSTREL

Does it matter if she's a true princess?

LADY MARY

Oh yes, she must be a true princess to marry the prince.

PRINCESS 12

King Ethelred

WIZARD

That is absolutely correct!

*(the men and ladies applaud)*

DAUNTLESS

*(in great excitement to the queen)* She's smart mama, she's the best one yet. Can I marry her now, huh? Can I mama?

QUEEN

No sweetheart, there's still one more question.

LADY RUTH

This test isn't going to be fair!

LADY MARY

It's the law that isn't fair.

JESTER

Law?

LADY ELIZABETH The marriage law: throughout the land no one may marry until Prince Dauntless finds a bride.

LADY OPERETTA And that will be never, if the Queen has her way!

LADY CANTATA You can say that again, girlfriend!

LADY CAROLE We've been around this block a few times before!

SIR PHILLIP Ladies, the Queen demands silence!  
WIZARD You have now reached the seventh plateau, and here is your final question.  
It is divided into four parts and concerns a famous man often referred to as the King Of The Red Cross. #1. What was his name? #2. What beast did he slay? #3. How many rows of teeth did the beast have and what kind? And #4. What was the middle name of the daughter in law of the best friend of the blacksmith who forged the sword that killed the beast?

PRINCESS #1. Saint George. #2. The dragon. #3. Twelve rows of teeth and they were iron, and #4.....would you repeat the last question please?

WIZARD What was the middle name of the daughter in law of the best friend of the blacksmith who forged the sword that killed the beast.

PRINCESS The middle name?  
WIZARD The middle name.  
PRINCESS The daughter in law?  
WIZARD In law. You have thirty seconds.  
PRINCESS Ohhhh!

LADY PAMELA Who could possibly know this?  
LADY MARGARET This is the hardest test yet!  
LADY LARKEN Oh, pass. Please, please pass.  
MINSTREL Did you speak, my Lady?  
LADY LARKEN *(Flustered)* No...I....*(she turns to look at the Princess)*  
WIZARD Twenty seconds.  
PRINCESS Ohhhhh!

LADY PRICILLA The poor girl doesn't stand a chance.  
MINSTREL *(to Lady Larken)* I wish her success, she's a pretty little thing.  
WIZARD Ten seconds.  
PRINCESS Ohhhhhhhhhhh!

LADY PATRICIA Say something...anything!

WIZARD                    *(Music cue)* I'm terribly sorry.....  
PRINCESS                Oh, nonononoooo!  
WIZARD                    *(Music cue)*...your time is up.  
QUEEN                    Too bad my dear, too bad. You do show a certain aptitude, but  
                                 as for true royalty...well, I'm afraid not. Remember: Blood  
                                 will tell, and yours didn't tell us quite enough.  
SIR WILLIAM            *(to Queen)* But perhaps one more question...*(Queen stares*  
                                 *him down)*...or maybe not.  
WIZARD                    *(gives the Princess a rubber chicken)* However to show that  
                                 there are no hard feelings, here is a nice prize for you.  
QUEEN                    Now good-bye, good luck and get out.  
                                 *(The Princess goes off weeping. Lady Larken breaks down,*  
                                 *weeping, as Lady Mary goes to console her)*  
QUEEN                    Dauntless! Stop pouting! *(she exits)*

DAUNTLESS

LADY MARY

DAUNTLESS

LADY RUTH

LADY CAROLE

ALL

LADIES

MEN

LADIES

MEN

LADIES

MEN

LADIES

MEN

LADIES

ALL

LADIES

ALL

*SINGS :OPENING FOR A PRINCESS*

Oh, I liked her

So did I

Why must every Princess get the chick

It's all a trick

I never heard a test so difficult to pass

We have an opening. For a Princess

For a genuine certified princess

Tell us when you intend to send Prince

Dauntless a bride

Tell us when will the Queen be satisfied.

What to do

What to do

What to do

What to do

Pity the ladies in waiting

Pity the gentlemen too

Four

Six, eight, ten, twelve, contenders in a row.

They came, they were tested

Then quickly requested to go...

Get a princess

Get a genuine, certified princess

Who's good enough, nice enough sweet enough

smart enough, rich enough for our poor prince.

(Exit all but Lady Larken and Sir William as SIR HARRY enters)

SCENE 1B

SIR WILLIAM      Ho! Sir Harry. *(He too, exits)*  
LADY LARKEN      My darling, you missed the test!  
HARRY              Sweet Larken, my new responsibilities as Chivalaric Knight  
                         of the Herald keep me busy.  
LADY LARKEN      The latest princess was a failure!  
HARRY              No!  
LADY LARKEN      Yes!  
HARRY              Bad luck, but don't Despair. If a true princess is not found, I  
                         will go out and find one myself, and then we shall be married.  
                         And now Lady Larken, I am off to slay dragons.  
LADY LARKEN      Oh but wait, Sir Harry! I've had troubling news from home.  
HARRY              What have you heard?  
LADY LARKEN      Simply that if I am not married within a fort night, I am to  
                         return home, where I will be wed to Sir Anthony of  
                         Whittingham. So you see Sir Harry, you simply must find a  
                         bride for Prince Dauntless, and soon, or there will be no hope  
                         for us.  
HARRY              Fear not, fair Larken, I will not fail you. I shall leave at once  
                         and I shall return with a true Princess, or I don't deserve to  
                         wear my spurs. Fair thee well. *(He exits)*  
LADY LARKEN      Oh, Harry? Perhaps in your travels, you could look around  
                         for a reasonable castle in the neighborhood for sale?  
                         *(They exit in different directions)*

SCENE 2

*(The King, Queen and Dauntless enter, Dauntless is tagging behind at some distance.)*

QUEEN

Come along, darling, don't dawdle. Dauntless! Pick up your feet for heaven's sake.

DAUNTLESS  
QUEEN

Yes Mama. *(they seat themselves on the thrones)*

And where is your Father? *(The King strolls on playing with a Slinky)* Meekimus! If I've told you once, I've told you a hundred thousand times, I will not have you playing these foolish games! It just isn't dignified! We are rulers of the Kingdom and if we don't set a proper example for the rest of the court, I'd like to know who will. I mean what's the point of being a ruler if one isn't going to behave as a ruler should *(the King sits, shaking his head in defeat)* That's better. *(she claps three times)* Now then, bring on the "Queen's Quartet"!

*(enter the ensemble of four singers, Aria, Operetta, Carol and Cantata).*

ARIA

*(To Operetta)* Did you hear, there's an open call for singers at The Palace theater?

OPERETTA

Yes, I heard! You're a shoe in, honey. And I heard that the Casting Minstrel is a maestro!

QUEEN

Ladies! If you please!

CAROLE

Oh, excuse us, your Highness. Just shop talk.

CANTATA

Your Majesty, we have a special treat for you today. We have taken the liberty of bringing in some Royal Dancers for your pleasure.

QUEEN

Dancers?! Did I request dancers????!!!

ARIA

Just a little choreography. You know, move your feet to the beat!

QUEEN

*(To Dauntless in disgust)* Entertainers! Ugh!

OPERETTA

Your Majesty, May I introduce the Quartet-etts! *(enter the dancers)*



QUARTET

SINGS: GREENSLEEVES

Alas, my love, you do me wrong  
To cast me off discourteously,  
For I have loved you oh, so long,  
Delighting in your company.  
Greensleeves was all my joy,  
Greensleeves was my delight.  
Greensleeves was my heart of gold,  
And who, but my lady Greensleeves.

*(the beat changes to a 60s rock rendition)*

Oo, sha la la la la, Oo sha la la la la  
Oo, sha la la la la, Oo sha la la la la  
Alas, my love, you do me wrong  
To cast me off discourteously,  
For I have loved you oh, so long,  
Delighting in your company.  
Greensleeves was all my joy,  
Greensleeves was my delight.  
Greensleeves was my heart of gold,  
And who, but my lady Greensleeves.

QUEEN  
CAROLE  
CANTATA

CUT!!!!

That's our cue, Girls!

Looks like this gig is up!

*(Dancers and singers hurry off. The King who has been enjoying this, follows the dancers off. The Queen tries to "snap him back" but gets no response.)*

QUEEN  
DAUNTLESS  
QUEEN  
DAUNTLESS  
QUEEN

Meekimus!!! Ugh!

Mama...

Now what?!!!

Mama, when am I going to get my princess?

Dauntless, I don't want to discuss that now, It's time for your cocoa.

DAUNTLESS

But Mama, sometimes I get the funniest feeling that you don't want me to get married.

QUEEN

Don't *WANT* you to get married? Don't *WANT* you to get married? Dauntless don't you trust me?

DAUNTLESS  
QUEEN

Well of course Mama, but...

Well then how can you say such a thing? I want you to married! How many times have I said to you, "I want you to get married?" Why only this morning I was saying to your father, I said, "Meekimus, I want that boy to get married!.

After all, he is a prince, and next in line for the throne." And that's exactly what I said to your father this morning. Of course he didn't say anything. He never does. He may be a Mute, but that's no excuse! But you know him as well as I do. I don't have to tell you how impossible he is, and how we don't get along and never have. He may be a mean, stupid, selfish, rotten man, but he is your father and I want you to respect him. There is only one person in this world who really worries about your future, and that's what I'm talking about right now. Your future! And so I want to make myself absolutely clear. I want you to get married, but you must marry someone suitable, someone who's good enough for my good, nice, sweet beautiful baby boy. And she must be a real princess, just as I was. That's what you really want, isn't it? Someone just like me? Of course you do!

*(Enter SIR HARRY & LADY LARKEN)*

LADY LARKEN  
DAUNTLESS  
QUEEN  
HARRY

*(Curtsying)* Your Majesty, Your Highness  
*(He admires Harry)* Hello Harry.  
Well?

Madame, I wish to search for a true princess, a princess of the Royal Blood, one who will suit both your Majesty and Prince Dauntless.

QUEEN  
DAUNTLESS  
QUEEN

No!

Mama!

No, no, no. We've been all through the eligible girls in all the neighboring kingdoms. There are none left. We simply have to wait until their little sisters grow up and that will take years.

HARRY  
QUEEN  
HARRY  
QUEEN  
HARRY

But Madame, I plan to head north over the mountains,  
Over the mountains?

...across the badlands.

Across the Badlands?

...and into the marshland where the beautiful swamp lily grows.

QUEEN  
DAUNTLESS  
QUEEN

Into the Marshland, are you out of your mind?

*(Excited)* Let him go Mama! Let him go!

You won't find anything there except frogs and tadpoles and things

DAUNTLESS  
QUEEN  
DAUNTLESS  
QUEEN

Mama.

Do you know what the weather there is like?

Mama please...

Do you know how damp and foggy and..

DAUNTLESS  
QUEEN *(Pleading)* Mama!  
*(Pushes Dauntless out of the way)* Quiet! ...and humid and  
oppressive...

DAUNTLESS  
QUEEN Mama...let Sir Harry try! Please...please!  
*(Looking from Sir Harry to Dauntless)* All right fine , go  
ahead. It's your sinus.

DAUNTLESS  
QUEEN Hooray!  
Come along Dauntless, you've missed your cocoa.*(exiting)*

DAUNTLESS  
HARRY Good luck Harry! *(He runs off)*  
*(To Larken)* Don't you worry, little Larken. I'll bring back a  
princess who is not only a real princess, but one who will be  
able to pass the Queens test.

LARKEN Oh, I believe you ! I'm not afraid.  
HARRY And I shan't be away long.  
LARKEN Oh, do fly as fast as you can. My time is running out!

## SCENE 2B

*(Harry exits as Lady Mary with other Ladies in Waiting enter.  
They are laden with cleaning rags, brooms, feather dusters.)*

ANN *(To Mary)* So what is the Queen's request today?  
MARY *(passing her a feather duster)* The dusting.  
RUTH The mopping.  
ELIZABETH The sweeping.  
PATRICIA The usual!  
PAMELA You know, being a lady in waiting isn't all it was cracked up  
to be.

MARGARET Someday I'll be the Lady of my own house.  
ANN Someday I'll have Ladies waiting on me.  
RUTH There will be no giving orders or shouting in my house.  
ELIZABETH And I'll have a husband of my own.  
MARGARET Me too. And I'll treat him like a King...but I'll respect him.  
PRICILLA Someday...if Dauntless ever finds a Princess.  
PAMELA Right...we'd better get used to being Ladies in Waiting.  
PRICILLA Oh, It's so depressing!  
PATRICIA By the time the Queen passes a Princess, I'll be an old maid.  
MARY What's the matter Lady Larken?

*IF DAUNTLESS WERE MARRIED*

LARKEN

***SINGS: IF DAUNTLESS WERE MARRIED***

If Dauntless were married I'd live in a house  
As cozy as cozy could be  
Sir Harry, the husband, three dogs and two cats,  
six goldfish, oh! yes and the wife would be me  
If Dauntless were married.

MARY

If Dauntless were married I'd buy a white gown  
the prettiest you've ever seen  
something old, something new, something borrowed  
and blue  
if someone would borrow our rotten old queen  
and Dauntless got married

BOTH

Dauntless, be brave and be bold  
get down on your knee  
Before I'm too old

BOTH

Dauntless please don't hesitate  
we'll buy you the rice, before it's too late  
it would be so great if Dauntless got married to stay  
But maidens get tested  
And tested  
And tested

ALL

And always get turned away  
Oh! Dauntless  
Oh! Dauntless  
Oh! Dauntless, get married today.

BLACKOUT

SCENE 3B

MINSTREL *Minstrel enters on Apron*  
Sir Harry's perilous journey took three weeks and Lady Larken had all but given up hope that he would find a true princess. Then one sunny morning in April the lookout in the north tower spied two distant figures approaching at full gallop. The alarm was spread "Sir Harry is back, Sir Harry is back with the new princess".  
Now let's see how does this part go in the old story?  
**SINGS:**  
On a stormy night, to the castle door  
came the lass the prince had be waiting for...

JESTER *(enters, stomping on)*  
That of course is utterly untrue. It didn't storm that night at all. In fact it wasn't even night. And the princess only looked as though she'd come in from the storm.  
*(The curtain opens onto the throne room. The Queen, Dauntless, the Knights and Ladies are staring at Princess Winnifred)*

DAUNTLESS *(Facinated)* Mama look! She's all wet!  
WINNIFRED Actually I swam the moat. But never mind. If I just stand right here there's a nice draft. I'll be dry in no time.

QUEEN You swam the moat?  
*(Winnifred nods)*

SIR WILLIAM We tried to stop her, but she wouldn't wait for the drawbridge.  
QUEEN You swam the moat?  
SIR PHILLIP She seemed determined to arrive as soon as possible.  
SIR WILLIAM Fastest swimmer I've ever seen!  
LADY PRICILLA AND, she was doing the backstroke!

SIR PHILLIP  
QUEEN  
WINNIFRED

We had to get a rope and pull her out  
YOU SWAM THE MOAT?  
All right so I was a little anxious. My friend, Sir  
Harry...uh...he's still out there...he told me you had an  
opening for a princess and I figured the early bird ... anyway,  
here I am. Who's the lucky man?

*SINGS: SHY*

PHILLIP  
WINNIFRED  
WILLIAM  
WINNIFRED

Hey, nonny nonny is it you?  
Hey, nonny nonny nonny no.  
Hey, nonny nonny is it you?  
Hey, nonny nonny nonny no.  
Hey, nonny nonny is it you, or you, or you, or  
you, or...

DAUNTLESS

*(speaks)* Nonny, neeny, noony, nonny, neeny, nonny.

QUEEN

No, no, no!

WINNIFRED

Someone's being bashful  
That's no way to be.  
Not with me  
Can't you see that I am just as  
Embarrassed as you  
And I can understand your point of view  
I've always been  
Shy! I confess it, I'm shy!  
Can't you guess that this confident air  
Is a mask that I wear, 'cause I'm shy  
And you may be sure  
Way down deep I'm demure  
Though some people I know  
Might deny it  
At bottom I'm quiet and pure  
I'm aware that it's wrong to be meek as I am  
My chances may pass me by  
I pretend to be strong  
But as weak as I am  
All I can do is try  
God knows I try  
Though I'm frightened and shy  
And despite the impression I give  
I confess that I'm living a lie  
Because I actually, terribly, timid and horribly  
shy.

QUEEN  
WINNIFRED

You swam the moat?  
(*to William*) Does she ever say anything else except "You swam the moat?"

SIR WILLIAM

Actually, she says quite alot...(The Queen stares him down)  
uh... why don't you ask her yourself?

WINNIFRED  
QUEEN

Do you ever say anything except "You swam the..."  
Do you mean to ask me to believe that your a true princess of  
the royal blood and I am to actually understand that you have  
the nerve to apply for my son's hand in marriage? Do  
you imagine for even one moment that I would even consider  
you suitable for any son of mine? Well let me tell you, my  
son isn't going to marry any moat swimmer. Not while I have  
a breath in my body, although I haven't been well at all  
lately....

DAUNTLESS  
QUEEN

Mama may I say something?  
NO! (*Enter the Wizard*)



WIZARD Okay, show time folks it's time for double jeopardy! (*To Winnifred*) Are you a new contestant?

WINNIFRED It's a nut house. I'm out of here!

LADIES (*ad lib*) No please don't leave, No don't go away, Stay don't leave us!

DAUNTLESS No wait!

WINNIFRED You're the one I guess.

DAUNTLESS Yes I'm prince Dauntless... the drab

WINNIFRED Well, glad to have met you.

DAUNTLESS No please don't go I like you. Everybody does

QUEEN Hah!

DAUNTLESS Well almost everybody.

WINNIFRED Dauntless, I'd like to stay here, but I wouldn't want come between you and your mother. So, I guess I'll just face the facts , cut my losses, and head back to the swamps.  
(*There is a fanfare Enter Sir Harry*)

HARRY I have the honor to announce the arrival of her royal highness, the princess Winnifred.

QUEEN You are a little late, and this is no princess!

HARRY Ah, but she is, your Majesty.

QUEEN What?

WIZARD Surely you jest.

HARRY On mine honor as a knight. I have her papers right here.

QUEEN (*Waving the papers away*) Never mind!

DAUNTLESS You see she is a princess.

LADY MARY She looks like a princess.

LADY ANN I know she's a princess.

ELIZABETH She must be a princess.

MARGARET Oh, please be a princess!

QUARTET (*sing*) Oh yea!

WIZARD A least a test your Majesty.

QUEEN All right we'll test her. The Wizard and I will put on our thinking caps...(*crosses to the Wizard*)...and make up a nice fair test just as we always do and I'll prove to you that this girl cannot possibly be a princess. We'll test her for sensitivity. She'll have her test and she'll fail, just like all the others...fair and square (*Queen and Wizard exit*)

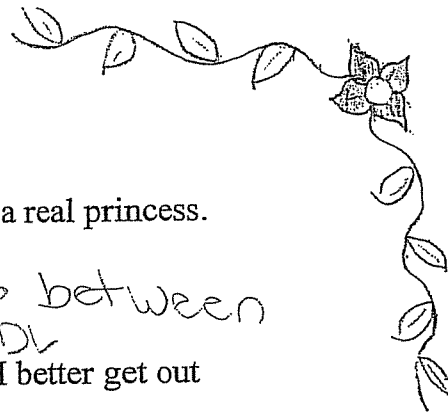
WINNIFRED Fail what?

CAROL The royalty test

CANTATA Haven't you heard about the Royalty Test?

RUTH You aren't going to like this!





LADY PATRICIA Every princess must pass a test to prove she's a real princess.  
It's always highly secretive.

ELIZABETH And always very difficult!

LADY PAMELA And NOT always very fair!

come up between  
Sara DL

WINNIFRED

Well we'll worry about that later. Right now, I better get out  
of these wet clothes.

DAUNTLESS

May I show you part of the castle on the way to your room?

WINNIFRED

Sure.

DAUNTLESS

You're awfully nice.

WINNIFRED

You're nicer.

DAUNTLESS

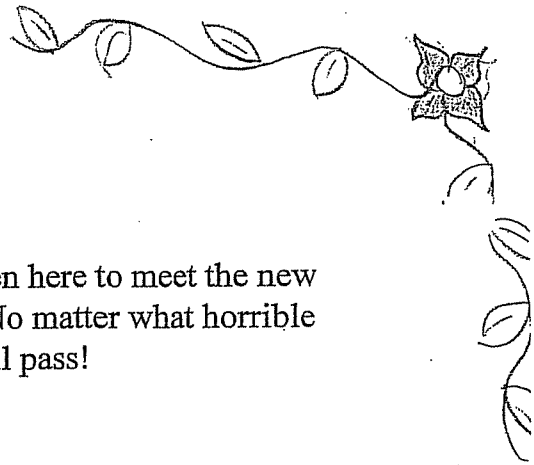
Well... you're a better swimmer.

WINNIFRED

Yeah well...

*(Winnifred, Dauntless, Ladies and Knights exit Mary stays on stage)*

fix L →



SCENE 4  
MARY

*(Larken enters.)*

Oh Lady Larken, I wish you'd have been here to meet the new Princess. I really think she's the one! No matter what horrible test the Queen has in store..I think she'll pass!

LARKEN  
MARY  
LARKEN

I know, Sir Harry told me all about her!

Are you feeling better now?

Oh yes! Much better! *(they hug, and Mary exits as the King enters)*

LARKEN

*(Excitedly)* Oh, your Majesty. I'm so excited. Sir Harry is back.

KING  
LARKEN

*(pantomimes an excited speech and hugs Larken)*

Yes he is and he's brought us a sweet princess. Have you seen her?

KING

*(No)*

LARKEN

Neither have I, but I'm sure she's as delicate as an orange blossom! And I'm to be her lady in waiting. Sir Harry arranged it. *(begins to get choked up with emotion)* Isn't he thoughtful? He's arranged everything? And I'll be staying here forever *(sobbing with joy)* Isn't it wonderful. I'm so happy! *(She exits crying. Now the King worried, paces back and forth. The Jester and the Minstrel enter.)*

MINSTREL

What's wrong?

KING

*(worried)*

JESTER

You're worried?

KING

*(yes)*

JESTER

About what?

KING

*(points off right)*

MINSTREL

Who?

KING

*(Lady)*

JESTER

Some lady? Which lady?

KING

*(two syllables)*

MINSTREL

Two syllables.

KING

*(first syllable)*

MINSTREL

First syllable.

KING

*(Bird)*

JESTER

Bird...some kind of bird

KING

*(yes)*

JESTER

Bluebird, catbird, dove, eagle...

MINSTREL

Finch, hawk, lark, jay...

KING

*(Claps hands on lark)*

JESTER

Lark!

MINSTREL

Lady Larken!

KING

*(Right. Pantomimes sad)*

JESTER

She is sad?

MINSREL

Why is she sad

KING

*(In love)*

JESTER

She's in love?

MINSTREL

With who?

KING

*(Sir Harry)*

BOTH

Sir Harry!

KING

*(But she must marry soon or else she must leave)*

BOTH

But she must marry soon or else she must leave?

KING

*(yes, but you must keep it a secret)*

MINSTREL

We can keep it a secret, but can you?

KING

*(ME? I can't even talk)*

JESTER

We know you can't talk, but you do manage to communicate.

SINGS: THE JESTER, THE MINSTREL AND I

MINSTREL & JESTER We have only two voices among us and yet  
There's a third voice: a voice in disguise  
You'll be hearing a trio , and not a duet  
If you listen with both of your eyes  
Kindly (listen) with both of your (eyes)  
We produce a unique and remarkable blend  
When we raise our three voices on high  
We're in perfect accord from beginning to (end)  
The King and the Minstrel and I.

JESTER  
MINSTREL & JESTER Yet if one of our trio should ever depart  
Then the others would languish and die.  
We're like three different people with only one (heart)  
The King and the Jester and I.

MINSTREL

MINSTREL & JESTER Sing hey nonny nonny, hey nonny nonny. Hi diddle  
diddle.  
Strike up a tune on the (fiddle)

MINSTREL & JESTER Oh the cook claims she's missing one choc'late cream  
roll  
And a fish that was ready to fry  
Guess who's dining on pastry and filet of (sole)  
(The Minstrel, the Jester and I)

KING  
MINSTREL & JESTER Sing hey nonny nonny, hey nonny nonny, needle and  
thimble  
Crash us a clash on the (cymbale)  
Say the King and the Jester  
The King and the Minstrel  
(The Minstrel, the Jester and I).

JESTER  
MINSTREL  
KING

*They dance off*

SCENE 5

*(Enter the Queen followed by the Wizard)*

QUEEN

It's all too much, having to protect my son from every catch penny princess that comes along.

WIZARD

Well, her papers seem to be in order.

QUEEN

I know, and the worst of it is, that foolish boy actually seems to like the girl. We must think of a test that sounds fair and seems fair and isn't fair.

WIZARD

Why should this test be different than all other tests?

QUEEN

What did you say?

WIZARD

Nothing! Should we test her table manners?

QUEEN

No, that's not enough.

WIZARD

Perhaps her culinary skills?

QUEEN

No!

WIZARD

Her fashion sense?

QUEEN

No!

WIZARD

Water aerobics?

QUEEN

No, no, no!!! We need to test her sensitivity! Now think up a test for that wretched moat-swimming princess!

SINGS: THE QUEEN'S LAMENT

Why would a fellow want a girl like her,  
A funny, fluffy beauty?  
Why can't a fellow ever once prefer  
A girl who's more like me?  
She's a frothy little bubble  
With a perky kind of charm  
And with very little trouble  
I could break her little arm!  
Oh, why would a fellow want a girl like her,  
So obviously unusual?  
Why can't a fellow ever once prefer  
A usual girl like me.  
Her cheeks are a pretty shade of pink,  
But not any pinker than a rose is  
Her skin may be delicate and soft  
But not any softer than a doe's is.  
Her neck is no whiter than a swan's  
She's only as dainty as a daisy,  
She's only as graceful as a bird,  
So why is the fellow going crazy?  
Oh, why would a fellow want a girl like her?  
A girl who's more than lovely?  
Why can't the fellow ever once prefer  
A girl who's more like me!  
What's the matter with the prince  
What's the matter with the prince  
What's the matter with the prince?!

WIZARD  
QUEEN

Madame, may I suggest maybe we ought to...  
Don't take all night! I'm not well, I need my rest...not that I  
ever get any rest on that lumpy mattress, oh god, my back.  
You see I have true sensitivity. I am sure I could feel any  
lump even if it were under the mattress and small as a pea.  
Pea! That's the answer! Under the mattress, we'll test her  
tonight. One tiny pea beneath one thick downy mattress...no  
make it two!

WIZARD  
QUEEN

Why not five?  
Ten, I think would be plenty...better yet still, make it twenty.  
Oh, but you're clever! I love the way you think! Now get out!

(BLACKOUT)

SCENE 6A

*Winnifred's dressing chamber. Winnifred, Dauntless and Ladies enter. Winnifred is dressed in a modest dressing gown. She carries her wet gown in a wad.*

WINNIFRED Well, it certainly feels good to get into something dry. This old dress is just soaked.  
*Enter the King and the Jester*

MINSTREL Your Highness, the King has asked to meet the young lady

DAUNTLESS Why? He never asked before.

JESTER He heard she swam the moat.

WINNIFRED *(Aside to Dauntless)* Is your Father anything like your Mother, because if he is...

DAUNTLESS Oh no...my father is silent. He...

WINNIFRED I'd love to meet him!

DAUNTLESS Papa, this is the Princess Winnifred.  
*(She bows as graciously as she can)*

JESTER Your Highness, the King welcomes you...and...*(King pantomimes)* he asked me to say that he hopes you'll get a hundred on the test tomorrow.  
*(Pleased)* Ahhh. Well....thanks!

WINNIFRED My father never touches his crown to his heart unless he really means it.

MINSTREL Alas, madame, the King is mute, or he would speak for himself. He's still under a curse cast by a witch long ago...before Prince Dauntless was born. The curse says: "King Meekimus will never talk, Until the mouse devours the hawk."

WINNIFRED "Until the mouse devours the hawk?" Well, can't you find a big mouse and a little hawk and...

DAUNTLESS We tried that once, but the mouse got scared and ran away and the hawk bit Daddy.

WINNIFRED Well, just let me get this test under my belt and we'll figure something out, don't you worry...*(Enthusiastically shaking hands with King)*. It certainly has been a pleasure meeting his Majesty! *(King enjoys it too)* A short while ago I had the pleasure of meeting her Majesty. *(To Dauntless)* Now that is a nice man. *(The King and Jester exit)* I certainly do like almost both your parents, Dauntless!

DAUNTLESS We want you to be happy here.

SCENE 6B

LADY MARY Your Highness, the girls and I would like to show you some gowns you might borrow while your ...uh...garment is drying.

WINNIFRED Why, thanks!

LADY ANN Ladies! *(She claps her hands twice and Ladies exit)*

WINNIFRED Dauntless, I have to change now?

DAUNTLESS You do? All right.

WINNIFRED I'll see ya later.

DAUNTLESS *(Stary-eyed)* Yeah. *(exits)*

LADY ARIA *(entering)* Hurry Ladies. May I show you the gowns now, your Highness?

WINNIFRED Yes.

LADY MARY Now here is the very latest thing from...they do such lovely work, don't you think? Notice the fullness in the back. And the window sleeves cut right down to the....it's really you. *(putting it on her)*

OPERETTA Honey, you are going to turn some heads in that get up. Clothes do make the girl...clothes and talent, that is.

LADY RUTH It looks marvelous on, don't you think so Lady Cantata?

LADY CANTATA It reminds me of that cute little number I wore in our last concert.

LADY ANN Stunning! Perhaps her highness would like to look in the mirror?

LADY CAROLE Oh! You look like a regular Diva in that dress!



LADY MARY  
WINNIFRED

Does her highness have a favorite color?

Well, back home in the swamps, we wear a lot of dark green and earth brown. But I guess my favorite color is...raspberry. I tell you what...leave them all and the ones I can't use I'll send back.

LADY ANN

Very good, your Highness. Ladies? *(They put the dresses down on a chair and exit. Winnifred looks at herself in the mirror, tries several poses, then decides the dress needs something. She takes grapes from table, inserts them in neckline, decides they don't help. She return to table, and as she is smelling flowers, and removing dress, she tips the vase over. She rights the vase, and begins to mop floor with her hanky. A bell rings.*

WINNIFRED

Come in.

*Enter Lady Larken followed by Lady Pamela with a mop and pail. Larken stops when she sees Winnifred and turns to Pamela.*

LADY LARKEN

I guess I won't need you, Pamela. They've already sent a girl up to do the floor.

PAMELA

That's all right by me. *(she exits)*

LADY LARKEN

You're new here, aren't you?

WINNIFRED

Yes, I...

LADY LARKEN

Well, remember! We're all here to do a job and your job is just as important as anyone else's. *(Larken suddenly closes her eyes and makes a wishful prayer)* Oh dear, sweet. Lovely Princess Winnifred, you will pass the Queen's test. You will! Oh, pardon me, but you can't possibly clean the floor with such a tiny patch. *(Goes to chair where Winnifred's dress is lying)* You need a good big wet rag! Here, what this?

WINNIFRED

That's my favorite....

LADY LARKEN

Use this old thing *(She tears off a good, big piece of the dress and hands it to Winnifred)* Just look at this mess! I can't bear to think what my gentle Princess will think of this messy place. Can you know what it means to be Lady in Waiting to the blessed Winnifred? Now hurry up! *(The bell rings)* Get that, please. Quick, quick, quick, quick, quick!

*Winnifred rushes to the door. Harry enter*

WINNIFRED

Harry!

HARRY

*(bowing)* Your Highness.

LADY LARKEN

Your what?

WINNIFRED How are you? Say I'm awfully sorry about that..you know..swimming the moat. I hope I didn't make a bad impression.

HARRY Not at all your Highness. And, if you'll just give your wet dress to one of the Ladies in waiting, she'll see that it's taken care of.

WINNIFRED Thank you, it's already been taken care of. *(She smiles at Larken who Harry now sees)*

HARRY I see you have met my dear Lady Larken.

WINNIFRED You mean this, is the little Larken girl? Why Harry she's beautiful...and a bundle of energy.

HARRY When I gaze upon that captivating face, I realize how poor my description must have been.

LADY LARKEN Sir Harry is not very good at describing people, your Highness.

WINNIFRED Well, he may not know how to describe them, but he sure knows how to pick them. Now if you'll excuse me... *(She picks up an armful of dresses)* I have to return these to the fourth floor. *(She exits)*

SCENE 6C

LADY LARKEN *(In horror)* I've never been so humiliated in all my life!  
HARRY What's the matter?  
LADY LARKEN I thought she was a chambermaid!  
HARRY What? Larken, how could you? How could you mistake a Princess for a chambermaid?  
LADY LARKEN How could I? How could you mistake that chambermaid for a Princess?  
HARRY Don't say such a thing. Just because you made a stupid mistake...  
LARKEN I made a mistake? Don't you dare try to blame it on me!  
HARRY I do blame it on you!  
LARKEN She was on her hands and knees, scrubbing the floor.  
HARRY She's a real lady wherever she was. That's more than I can say for some people around here!  
LARKEN I hate you!  
HARRY Well I hate you too!  
LARKEN Get out!  
HARRY Don't worry I'm going  
LARKEN Goodbye!  
HARRY Goodbye!  
LARKEN Goodbye!  
HARRY Goodbye! *(He exits)*

BLACKOUT

SCENE 7

*The Queen enters on the Apron, followed by the Wizard.*

QUEEN

After all, you're a Wizard.

WIZARD

*(Trying to get a word in)* Ah....

QUEEN

You should be able to think of something that will help get that what's-her-name- to sleep.

WIZARD

But...

QUEEN

Don't forget to whip up a sleeping potion and some of that good heavy incense.

WIZARD

You...

QUEEN

And that hipnotic mirror too.

WIZARD

See....*(realizing she's finished)* Oh.... sure thing, your Highness.

*(They exit)*

ACT 2  
SCENE 1

*(On the Apron. Larken enters followed by Mary. Larken is loaded down with baggage, and she is dressed as a boy)*

MARY Larken! Larken stop! I won't let you do this! Stealing Prince Dauntless' suit! Running away without the Queen's permission! If you are caught, I dare not think what will happen to you.

LARKEN I have no choice. I won't stay in the same Kingdom as that brute, Harry, and I won't return home to marry one that I do not love.

MARY Oh, Larken, where will you go?

LARKEN Don't worry about me, Mary. I'll be fine.

MARY Oh, Larken. Goodbye...I will miss you! *(they hug)*  
*(Mary exits as the Queen's Quartet enter)*

OPERETTA Good evening, sir.

LARKEN Good evening *(lowering voice)* I mean, good evening.

CAROLE Are you new here?

LARKEN Well, ah...yes...sort of ...just arriving.

ARIA Well then, welcome sir.

LARKEN Thanks. *(lower)* uh, thanks. *(Exits)*

CANTATA Why that Queen of ours is hiring Knights younger and younger! This one's voice hasn't even changed yet!  
*(They exit as the curtain opens. The Knights are on duty guarding the castle. Larken enters and is stopped by Sir Phillip.)*

SIR PHILLIP Halt! Who goes there? *(taking a closer look)* Why, my lady, is that you?

LARKEN Yes.

SIR PHILLIP Is...something wrong?

LARKEN No....

SIR PHILLIP Well, that's good.

LARKEN I felt faint that's all. I was sitting in my room...sewing...and it got a little stuffy, so I just decided to come out here and get some air.

SIR WILLIAM I see you were planning to camp for a while.  
*Larken burst into tears and sits on case*

LARKEN Did I say something wrong?

LARKEN Oh, you don't know, you just don't know what can happen in a relationship between a man and a woman. You see, Sir

Harry...I mean...Oh, I'm glad I found out when I did. It's better this way. I'm leaving!

SIR PHILLIP You're leaving the service of the Queen? Without her permission?

SIR WILLIAM That's a pretty big step to take alone.

LARKEN I have no choice.

SIR WILLIAM You're leaving forever?

LARKEN Yes.

SIR PHILLIP Who will go with you?

LARKEN I don't need help from anyone, thank you. I can go alone.

SIR PHILLIP Over the wall?

LARKEN ...yes.

SIR WILLIAM You'll be all right once you get past the water rats.

LARKEN Rats?

SIR PHILLIP Oh yes, they live on the edges of the stagnant pools near the quicksand.

LARKEN Quicksand?

SIR WILLIAM Beyond the wall which you must climb.

LARKEN Climb?

SIR PHILLIP It's twenty-two feet and covered with slime.

LARKEN Slime?

SIR WILLIAM And infested with spiders.

LARKEN Spiders?

SIR PHILLIP Oh the spiders are sweet compared to the snakes.

LARKEN Snakes?

SIR WILLIAM On the other side. But they won't hurt you, unless you plan to go alone.

LARKEN Well, I did but if I'd known it was so terrible out there...

SIR PHILLIP Then you'd think a second thought and return to your chambers where you'll be safe.

LARKEN Perhaps you're right.....*(she exits somewhat confused)*  
Goodnight.

BOTH KNIGHTS Goodnight my lady.

SIR WILLIAM *(to Phillip)* And so was it Larken's safety you were worried about, or your own, when the Queen found out you let her first Lady in Waiting leave without permission?

SIR PHILLIP Why William, I'm sure I can speak for us both when I say we were only protecting Lady Larken.

SIR WILLIAM And the rest of the Kingdom as well. I would rather face rats and snakes than the Queen's rath.

SCENE 2

*(Enter Winnifred and Dauntless)*

WINNIFRED Maybe you could give me a clue? I know it's highly secretive but what sort of test does she usually give?

DAUNTLESS Well, with Mama thinking up the test it could be almost anything.

WINNIFRED Like what?

DAUNTLESS Oh, sometimes it's history.

WINNIFRED Oh.

DAUNTLESS Sometimes it's spelling

WINNIFRED Oh.

DAUNTLESS Sometime times it's dancing.

WINNIFRED Oh.

DAUNTLESS But sometimes it's a test of strength and endurance.

WINNIFRED *(Now she perks up)* Aha!

DAUNTLESS For instance one of the girls was supposed to lift this weight. *(He goes to a large "Medieval weight")* She couldn't *(He tries to lift it and giggles)* I can't even lift it....But I know you'll pass; you don't have to worry.

WINNIFRED Do you want me to pass? *(he nods)* I'll pass. *(She lifts the weight, holds it over her head, lets it drop)*

DAUNTLESS Hey, I think you're wonderful.

WINNIFRED By the way, I don't think I ever told you my full name. It's Winnifred the Woebegone. But Winnifred is too formal. You can call me by my nickname.

DAUNTLESS Winnie?

WINNIFRED Fred.

DAUNTLESS Fred! What a beautiful name. So straight...So strong...So you!

*SINGS: SONG OF LOVE*

I like you, Fred, I like you!

WINNIFRED You're just saying those words to be kind

DAUNTLESS No, I mean it, I like...I mean I love you, Fred!

WINNIFRED He is out of his medieval mind!

DAUNTLESS I'm perfectly sane and sound!

I never felt better in my life!

Everybody! Everybody! Everybody come

And meet my incipient wife!

*(enter the Kingdom)*

I'm in love with a girl named Fred!

My reason must be clear

When she shows you all how strong she is

You'll stand right up and cheer  
*(Winnifred lifts weight)*  
 ALL With an F and an R and an E and a D  
 And an F R E D Fred!  
 Yea!  
 DAUNTLESS I'm in love with a girl named Fred  
 She drinks just like a Lord  
 So sing a merry drinking song and let the wine be  
 poured!  
*(Winnifred drinks wine)*  
 ALL Fill the bowls to overflowing, raise the goblets high!  
*(Winnifred lifts weight)*  
 With an F and an R and an E and a D  
 And an F R E D, Fred!  
 Yeah!  
 DAUNTLESS I'm in love with a girl named Fred!  
 She sings just like a bird  
 You'll be completely speechless  
 When her gentle voice is heard  
*(Winnifred vocalizes, she drinks wine)*  
 ALL Fill the bowl to overflowing  
 Raise the goblets high  
 With an F, and an R, and an E, and a D  
 And a F R E D, Fred!  
 DAUNTLESS I'm in love with a girl named Fred  
 She wrestles like a Greek!  
 You will clap your hands in wonder  
 At her fabulous technique!  
*(Winnifred throws Dauntless, everyone claps in rhythm, she  
 vocalizes, she drinks wine)*  
 ALL Fill the bowl to overflowing  
 Raise the goblets high  
 With an F, and an R, and an E, and a D  
 And a F R E D, Fred!  
 DUNTLESS I'm in love with a girl named Fred  
 Who dances with such grace  
 You're bound to sing her praises  
 Till you're purple in the face  
*(Winnifred dances)*  
 ALL Bravo! Bravo! Bravissimo! Bravo! Bravo! Bravissimo!  
*(Winnifred throws Dauntless, everyone claps, she vocalizes,  
 drinks wine)*



ALL

Fill the bowl to overflowing  
Raise the goblets high  
With an F, and an R, and an E, and a D  
And a F R E D, Fred!

DAUNTLESS

I'm in love with a girl named Fred  
She's musical to boot  
She will set your feet a-tapping  
When she plays upon the lute

*(Winnifred plucks the lute, everyone tap feet in rhythm. She dances)*

ALL

Bravo! Bravo! Bravissimo! Bravo! Bravo!  
Bravissimo!

*(Winnifred throws Dauntless, everyone claps, she vocalizes, drinks wine)*

ALL

Fill the bowl to overflowing  
Raise the goblets high

*(Winnifred is about to lift weight, she staggers across the floor as everyone sings)*

With an F, and an R, and an E, and a D  
And a F R E D, Fred!

DAUNTLESS

I'm in love with a girl named Fred  
A clever, clownish wit!  
When she does her funny pantomime  
Your sides are bound to split

ALL

Ha, ha, ha, ha, ho, ho, ho, ha, ha, ha, ho!

*(Winnifred plucks lute, everyone taps feet, she dances)*

ALL

Bravo! Bravo! Bravissimo! Bravo! Bravo!  
Bravissimo!

*(Before she can throw Dauntless, he falls to the floor.*

*Winnifred heads straight to the wine as everyone claps and sings)*

ALL

Fill the bowls...etc

*(She picks up the weight and staggers across the stage with it in one hand)*

ALL

With an F and an R... etc

DAUNTLESS

I'm in love with a girl.

ALL

He's in love with a girl named F-R-E-D- FRED!

*(On the final cheer Winnifred passes out backwards into the crowd.)*

SCENE 3

MINSTREL

*(Enter the Minstrel, Jester and Mime)*  
*(Looking around)* The castle halls seem to be exceptionally quiet tonight.

JESTER

*(Loudly)* Yes it most certainly is quiet!  
*(Enter a procession of ladies in waiting, led by Ladies Carol & Cantata. All are carrying pillows, sheets, blankets, etc.)*

CAROL  
& CANTATA  
OPERETTA  
& ARIA  
BOTH

Quiet, quiet, the queen insists on quiet!  
She's ordered twenty mattresses, the softest and the best  
And she's threatened execution if we dare disturb the rest  
Of her very special guest  
She's ordered quiet, quiet  
*(Repeat with all the Ladies in Waiting chanting & fade as they exit)*

SCENE 4

*The knights are on the apron standing guard but talking with the Minstrel and Mime who are quite shocked by what they are hearing. Sir Harry enters.*

MINSTREL            Sir Harry, you are a bully and a tyrant! Just because you won your spurs you think...

HARRY                Now see here!

JESTER                No, you see here! A Knights job is to protect fair Ladies..

HARRY                There's no need to tell me my duties...

SIR WILLIAM         Well, someone has to. Lady Larken could use some protecting.

HARRY                What about Larken? What are you taking about?

SIR PHILLIP         Just that she almost ran away, more to the point, she was almost driven away, by the likes of you.

HARRY                How dare you speak to me in this fashion! Where is she now?

PHILLIP              She is safely in the castle, thanks to us.

HARRY                How dare she try to leave without permission...

JESTER                Sir Harry, you're a fat head!

HARRY                Why, I'll have you.....

MINSTREL            You are a fat head! We're trying to help you.

HARRY                How could you two possibly help me?

JESTER                By finding out what the test is..from the Wizard.

HARRY                *(He thinks it over...finally)* That's cheating.

MINSTREL            Don't you understand. This is for you. By the time you figure things out, Lady Larken will be wed to Sir Anthony of Whittingham, and the Dauntless will still be in search of a princess.

HARRY                Sweet Larken....

JESTER                I'll go to the Wizard.

HARRY                No, if anyone should defy the Wizard's magic, I should.

MINSTREL            No, you must stand guard. We'll take care of it and report back to you.

JESTER                In the mean time, maybe you could start working on an apology.

HARRY                .....I'm sorry I shouted at you two..

ALL                    Not for us!!! For Lady Larken!!!

HARRY                Oh, how silly of me! I'll get right on it! *(Exits)*

*Jester and Minstrel slowly look at each other and shake their heads, as do the Knights. The Jester & Minstrel exit, the Knights resume their guard.)*

SCENE 5

*Winnifred's dressing chamber*  
*Dauntless has several books, and is reading from one. He is helping Winnifred cram for the test they both think is tomorrow.*

DAUNTLESS           Sum  
WINNIFRED           Sum. S-U-M, sum.  
DAUNTLESS           Summer.  
WINNIFRED           Summer. S-U-M-E-R. Summer.  
DAUNTLESS           Good! Well, if Mama test you in spelling, you're sure to pass. That leaves history.  
  
WINNIFRED           History, well that takes in quite a lot, but let's give it a whirl.  
DAUNTLESS           *(reading)* The first chapter is called, "The Bravery Of Prince Waldere".  
  
WINNIFRED           Waldere...  
                          *(Lady Larken, still dressed as a boy enters dazedly)*  
LARKEN               *(To Dauntless)* Did you ring for a page boy?  
DAUNTLESS           No.  
WINNIFRED           You've got the wrong room, son. *(But now, Winnifred recognizes her, gets up and goes to her)* Aren't you Larken?  
  
LARKEN               Yes, your Highness.  
WINNIFRED           What's the matter?  
LARKEN               I...  
DAUNTLESS           *(Who has been curiously studying Larken's attire)* I have a suit just like that.  
  
LARKEN               I am in disguise. Your Highness. I was running away.  
WINNIFRED           I see. Well sit down and have a rest.  
LARKEN               I'll just go out on the parapet and stand there and catch a chill and die and that'll show him.  
  
DAUNTLESS           Show him what?  
LARKEN               He'll be sorry..  
DAUNTLESS           Who?  
LARKEN               Horrible Harry....  
DAUNTLESS           You mean big, nice Harry?  
LARKEN               We had a little disagreement.  
WINNIFRED           So you decided to run away?  
LARKEN               *(defending herself)* He said some perfectly horrible things to me!  
  
WINNIFRED           Oh...I see. Well in that case, I guess you were right. I guess about the only thing you can do is... pack up and...get out. Unless of course, you just go to him and tell him you're sorry.

Listen, that Harry is a wonderful boy...and he really loves you!

LARKEN Oh, your Highness!

WINNIFRED Now you just get into something pretty that shows you're a girl and patch things up with him. Oh, and Larken...try to act a little helpless..men don't like girls that are too strong .

DAUNTLESS I do!

LARKEN Dear, dear Princess, I don't know how to thank you!  
*(She hugs Winnifred and exits)*

WINNIFRED Dauntless you'd better go to bed. And leave the history book.

DAUNTLESS Good night Fred. I'm positive you're going to pass Mama's test tomorrow. *(Exits)*

WINNIFRED *(Picks up book and begins to read. Ladies in waiting enter with bedclothes.)* "And so Prince Waldere having slain the dragon...bla, bla, bla...*(She turns to the last page)* ..where they were married and lived happily ever after". *(She closes book)* Well I'm glad!

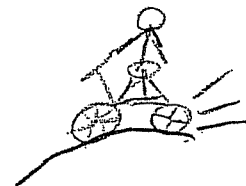
*Sings: HAPPILY EVER AFTER*

They all lived happily happily happily ever after  
The couple is happily leaving the chapel eternally tied  
When the curtain descends there is nothing but loving and laughter  
When the fairytale ends, the heroine's always a bride.  
Ella the girl of the cinders  
Did the wash and the walls and the winders  
But she landed a Prince who was brawny and blue-eyed and blond  
Still I honestly doubt that  
She could ever have done it without that  
Crazy lady, with the wand

*(spoken)* Cinderella had outside help!  
I have no one but me  
Fairy Godmother, Godmother, Godmother, where can you be?

*(spoken)* I haven't got a Fairy Godmother  
I haven't got a Godmother  
I have a Mother. A plain ordinary woman.

LADY MARY Snow White was so pretty they tell us  
That the Queen was insulted and jealous  
When the mirror declared that Snow White was the fairest of all



QUARTET

She was dumped on the border  
But was saved by some men who adored her  
Oh I grant you, they were small

WINNIFRED (*Spoken*) But there were seven of them practically a regiment!

I'm alone in the night

By myself, not a dwarf, not an elf, not a goblin in sight.

(*spoken*)

That girl had seven determined little men working day and  
night just for her. Oh sure, the Queen gave her a poison  
apple, but even so!

I want to live happily, happily, happily, ever after

I want to walk happily out of the chapel eternally tied

For I know that I'll never live happily ever after

Till after I'm a Bride

ALL

And then I'll be happily happy

Yes, happily happy

And thoroughly satisfied, satisfied, satisfied.

Oh yea!

BLACKOUT



SCENE 6

*On the apron is the Wizard's work station with chemical bottles and a cauldron. The Minstrel and Jester enter.*

JESTER

Pardon, Sir Wizard.

WIZARD

What do you want?

JESTER

My friend here, the Minstrel is a great admirer of yours.

WIZARD

No soft soap, if you please.

MINSTREL

This is not soft soap. It's just that we are both, well sort of entertainers, if you will, and well...I hope this won't embarrass you, but..I had to tell you what a great artist you are. You are amazing! Well I guess we'd better be going now.

WIZARD

No. Stay awhile, Sir Minstrel.

JESTER

Oh, we don't want to bother you. Anyway, you're probably busy with that test for tomorrow.

WIZARD

Oh, that's all right. The test is all taken care of.

MINSTREL

I don't suppose you could tell a fellow artist what it is?

WIZARD

Well, I'm sort of under oath...

MINSTREL

We understand. *(They start to go, he turns back)* But I must tell you how I just love that trick of yours where you produce a rubber chicken...right out of thin air. *(Laughing)* That one gets me every time.

WIZARD

Some people think my act is pretty fowl.

MINSTREL & JESTER *(Laugh loudly)*

WIZARD

I bet you can't guess what the test is all about.

JESTER

Astronomy?

WIZARD

No. You'll never guess...*(Conspiratorially)* Sensitivity.

*(They laugh)*

MINSTREL

Sensitivity!*(To Jester)* Did you hear?

WIZARD

I was just going to step out. Come walk with me and I tell you the rest. *(Putting an arm around the Minstrel)* Well just call it sharing show biz secrets.

*(They all exit laughing)*



SCENE 7

*A corridor. Harry is pacing back and forth. Larken enters*

HARRY Who's there? Friend or foe?

LARKEN Friend...I hope...Oh Harry! Harry, look at me...I...I was trying to ..to run away. But that was only because I thought you didn't love me...(waits for response, gets none. Tries again) But even if you don't love me, I still want to stay here, near you. Oh Harry, I don't blame you if your feelings have changed.

HARRY Well, in a way...they have.

**SINGS: YESTERDAY I LOVED YOU**

Yesterday I loved you

As never before

But please don't think me strange

I've undergone a change

And today, I love you even more.

My heart can not be trusted, I give you fair warning

I openly confess

Tonight I love you less

Than I will tomorrow morning.

LARKEN Yesterday I loved you

As never before

But since this afternoon

My heart has changed it's tune

Now it seems, I love you even more

LARKEN & HARRY

My heart can not be trusted

I give you fair warning

I openly confess

Tonight I love you less

Than I will tomorrow morning.





SCENE 8

*(The bedchamber. The room is dominated by an enormous bed piled high with mattresses. The queen is counting them)*

QUEEN

Seventeen, eighteen, nineteen, twenty. That should do it. Now all we need is a pea, but not just any pea. The most perfect little pea..(calling off) Bring in the peas!

*(enter Sweet pea and Penelopea)*

SWEETPEA

*(SINGS) ("Being Green")*

It's not that easy being green

PEAS

Being green

SWEETPEA

Having to spend each day the color of the leaves

PEAS

Of the leaves

SWEETPEA

When I think it could be nicer being red or yellow or gold or something much more colorful like that.

PEAS

Much more colorful like that

SWEETPEA

But green's the color of spring

PEAS

Ooooo Oooooo

SWEETPEA

and green can be cool and friendly like

PEAS

Ooooo Oooooo Oooooo

SWEETPEA

And green can be big like an ocean or important like a mountain of tall like a tree.

PEAS

Tall like a tree

ALL PEAS

When green is all there is to be

It could make you wonder why

but why wonder, why wonder?

I am green, and it'll do fine

It's beautiful, and I think it's what I want to be.

SWEET PEA

We're proud to present the Pea Procession.

PEA WEE

We are Peas by birth and by profession.

PEANUT

Please choose one, use your own discretion.

QUEEN

*(to Sweet Pea)* You'll do. What's your name?

SWEET PEA

Sweet Pea.

QUEEN

Swell. Get under the mattresses!

*(Sweet pea climbs under the bed)*

And now the girl...where is the girl?

*Winnifred staggers in, all but asleep on her feet*

Oh, it's you. Ready for bed? You must be sure to get a good night's rest so you'll be fresh early tomorrow morning for your trip back to your kingdom or wherever you're going.

*(Calling off)* Bring the hypnotic mirror. *(Lady Aria brings her an eight sided mirror similar to a disco ball)*



LADY ARIA           The mirror, your Majesty  
 QUEEN               And where is the incantation the Wizard prepared?  
 LADY OPERETTA (*entering*) Here it is your Majesty.  
 QUEEN               Read it.  
 QUARTET           (*Rapping as the mirror revolves*)  
                       “Silken swishing sibilance  
                       Wraps us in a gentle trance  
                       Deep in Morpheus’ arms we lie  
                       Off we go to beddy-bye”  
 WINNIFRED       (*Stops the mirror and stares into it as though hypnotized*)  
                       You know, I think I’m getting a sty right here.  
 QUEEN               Bring in the sleeping potion!  
 LADY CAROL       (*Enters*) Here it is, your Majesty  
 QUEEN               (*She pinches Winnifred’s nose and pours it down her throat*)  
                       That’s right. Drink a little extract of opium and warm milk  
                       before going to bed, I always say. Drink it down. Now I’m  
                       sure you’re going to get a good night’s sleep. Everybody out!  
                       (*They exit. Winnifred climbs into bed. She flops onto the bed  
                       and curls up. Slowly her knees come up under her. She turns  
                       over on her back, sits up, smooths the bed and tries again,  
                       changing position several times. She stands on the bed and  
                       warns..*)  
 WINNIFRED       All right lumps, watch out! (*She dives down, pounding at a  
                       lump. After several more positions she ends up hanging off  
                       the bed upside down facing the audience*)  
                       All right, We’ll take it from the top. (*she climbs down onto  
                       the floor and addresses the room generally:*) Goodnight  
                       everybody...sleep well. (*starts up the bed*) What a beautiful  
                       bed! Twenty soft downy mattresses. Oh! I’m going to sleep  
                       like a baby. (*She gracefully lays down, only to pop up again,  
                       sits on the edge of the bed and says*) All right sheep...I’m  
                       ready whenever you are! (*She starts to count sheep as lights  
                       fade.*)



SCENE 9

*(The next morning. The Men and Ladies are all nervously assembled)*

LADY ELIZABETH Ohhh, my goodness!!!

ALL Shhhhhhhh!!!!

LADY ELIZABETH I can't help it. I'm so nervous I could die! Absolutely die!

ALL Shhhhh!

SIR HARRY Control yourself, they'll be here in a minute.

LADY MARY If she didn't pass I'll just kill myself.

LADY RUTH Don't talk! Here comes the Queen.

ALL Good morning, your Majesty.

QUEEN All here to see the princess on her way? Since she's such a favorite of ours I have decided that she should have an extra special consolation prize. Who's got the chicken?

WIZARD *(holding out a rubber chicken)* Here your Majesty. A very thoughtful gift

QUEEN Charming, charming..

*(Dauntless grabs the bird, hits the Wizard over the head with it, and throws it off)* Dauntless! And where is our little slugabed? She should be getting an early start

Ah! here she is now *(enter Winnifred)* she isn't even dressed yet. She must have slept like a baby.

WINNIFRED 37,428

QUEEN 37,428 what?

WINNIFRED Sheep. What do you stuff your mattresses with, jousting equipment?

QUEEN What do you mean?

WINNIFRED I mean that bed ought to be moved down to the torture chamber

QUEEN You didn't sleep?

WINNIFRED I never shut my eyes.

DAUNTLESS *(rushing up to her)* You've passed.

WINNIFRED Passed what?

DAUNTLESS The test. Mama put a pea under twenty mattresses and you felt it and now we can be married.

*(Harry faints. Larken rushes to revive him)*

ALL Hooray! married at last Hooray!

WINNIFRED A pea under twenty mattresses? No wonder I'm black and blue. Twenty mattresses huh? I'll leave the wedding arrangements up to you but you had better start looking around for a small kingdom for us... I've got a feeling we



aren't going to want to live with the in-laws. *(She very delicately stretches out on the floor and goes to sleep)*

DAUNTLESS She's going to get cold sleeping on that bare floor. I'd better take her to her room.

QUEEN Dauntless wait...

DAUNTLESS What should I wait for?

QUEEN To give this matter proper consideration..

DAUNTLESS She passed the test and I have to take..

QUEEN I said wait!! Now you listen to your Mother. I will not stand by and watch you throw yourself away on this little nobody...

DAUNTLESS Shh, Mama, she's asleep.

QUEEN I mean, look at her, just look at her..

DAUNTLESS Mama, quiet!

QUEEN She may have passed the test, but I must say I've never trusted anyone who had those shifty eyes or that mean little mouth or....

DAUNTLESS *(Shouts)* I told you to SHUT UP!!!!  
*The Queen is struck dumb...literally dumb. Her mouth opens but no words come out. The Jester jumps forward.*

MINSTREL It's happened..it's happened: "The mouse devoured the hawk"

HARRY The Queen can't talk. *(She is trying, and now the King begins working his mouth)*

KING I...I...I..

LADY MARGARET What, your Highness?

KING I can!!!

ALL The King talks!! *(cheers)*

KING *(to queen)* And I've got a lot to say... Now you asked for it Aggravain, and you got it. From now on when I say hop, I want you to hop. Hop! *(She hops)* Skip! Jump! Hop! Skip! Jump! *(They exit with the Queen following his orders)*

SWEET PEA *(entering holding a mace, a club, the Minstrel's lute and more. She taps Dauntless on the shoulder.)* Excuse me sir, But I found all this under the mattress.....

ALL **SING:**  
How did she stay awake? That pea was awfully small.  
But it wasn't the pea, it wasn't the pea, it wasn't the pea at all.



***SINGS: FINALE***

For a princess is a delicate thing  
Delicate and dainty as a dragonfly's wing  
You can recognize a lady by her elegant air  
But a genuine princess  
(*Winnifred now SNORES loudly*)  
Is exceedingly rare.

**CURTAIN**

