

UNDERNEATH
The Tale of Beauty and the Beast

Music
by
Michael Malthaner

Book and Lyrics
by
Charles Corritore

ACT ONE

MUSIC CUE # PROLOGUE

SERVANT #1

(STICKING HIS HEAD OUT THROUGH THE CURTAIN AND SEEING THE AUDIENCE)

Oh, hello! *(COMING THROUGH CURTAIN AND CALLING OFFSTAGE)* Out here everyone! I told you I heard a noise. We've got visitors!

(OTHER SERVANTS ENTER, SEE THE AUDIENCE AND AD-LIB "HELLOs", ETC.)

(TO AUDIENCE) How's everybody doing today? *(WAITS FOR AUDIENCE TO ANSWER BACK OR ASKS THEM AGAIN UNTIL THEY ANSWER).*

Well, that's great! So..... what are you doing here?

SERVANT #2

You nitwit. They're here for the story.

SERVANT #1

What story?

SERVANT #3

What story? Our story!

SERVANT #1

(THINKING HARD) Our story.....our story.....our stor..... *(SERVANT #4 WHISPERS IN HIS EAR)* Oh, *that* story!! That's a great story. I always enjoy telling that one. *(TO AUDIENCE)* In fact, I never get tired of telling it since *we* are featured prominently in it.

ALL SERVANTS

(STRIKING PROUD POSES) Ta-dah!

SERVANT #1

(TO AUDIENCE) Do you know what my favorite part of that.....

SERVANT #4

(INTERRUPTING) Uh.....could we move it along. We've got a lot of territory to cover and they don't have all day.

SERVANT #1

Oh, sorry.

SERVANT #2

Let me handle this. *(TO AUDIENCE)* OK everybody, we know you came to see the story of Beauty and the Beast.....two very good friends of ours I might add.....so we're gonna get right to it. But first, a little song to get us started.

MUSIC CUE #
DOWN THROUGH THE AGES

SERVANT #2
DOWN THROUGH THE AGES ON FAIRY TALE PAGES
THERE'S ALWAYS A GAY HAPPY ENDING.

SERVANT #1
THE DRAGON IS SLAYED,
THE MORTGAGE IS PAID,

SERVANT #3
THE PRINCESS AWAKES,
THE HERO ESCAPES,

SERVANT #4
THE WRONGS HAVE BEEN RIGHTED,
THE LOST REUNITED,
AND BROKEN HEARTS SEEM TO BE MENDING.

ALL SERVANTS
BUT JUST BEFORE THE STORY ENDS
AND HAPPILY EVER AFTER,
THERE'S USUALLY SOMETHING THAT'S BLENDED IN
WITH ALL THE CHEERS AND LAUGHTER.
HOORAY, HURRAH, HOORAY, HURRAH!
THAT IS THE MORAL, AS WE LIKE TO CALL IT
THE REASON THE STORY WAS TOLD...

SERVANT #2
THE POINT OF IT ALL
NO MATTER HOW SMALL,

ALL SERVANTS
THE LESSON THE TALE WILL UNFOLD.
THIS ONE IS NO DIFF'RENT
IT'S GOT ALL THE PARTS
THAT A TALE NEEDS TO EARN THE NAME "FAIRY:"

SERVANT #3
A LASS THAT'S A BEAUTY

SERVANT #4
A BEAST A BIT BROODY

ALL SERVANTS

AND A CURSE QUITE EXTR'ORDINARY.

(MUSIC CONTINUES UNDER DIALOGUE)

SERVANT #1

And, oh yes, this tale has a moral....and a lesson too!. And that moral is.....

SERVANT #2

No, wait! *(MUSIC STOPS)*

(SCANNING THE AUDIENCE) You know, it looks like we've got some pretty smart ones out there today ? What do you think?

(ALL SERVANTS SCAN AUDIENCE)

SERVANT #1

Well, now that I get a good look at them, I think you're right.

SERVANT #2

So..... rather than give it away, let's see if they can figure the moral out for themselves.

SERVANT #1

OK, why not! *(TO AUDIENCE)* Look, everyone, I'll bet if you pay really close attention to the story, you'll see that the moral of this one is a cinch to figure out! Do you think you're up for it?

AUDIENCE

Yes!

SERVANT #2

OK, you're on!

SERVANT #3

(TO THE OTHERS) Look, we better clear the stage so they can get on with the show!

SERVANT #4

You're right. *(TO AUDIENCE)* Now we've got to leave you for a little while. That's because this story begins at a party.....

SERVANT #3

(INTERRUPTING).....a party that, believe it or not, we weren't invited to!

ALL SERVANTS

(STRIKING HAUGHTY POSES) Harumpf!

SERVANT #1

But that's OK. We'll be back later when the plot starts to thicken.

SERVANT #2

In the meantime.....

ALL SERVANTS

(AS THEY SPLIT AND BEGIN BACKING OFF, GESTURING UPSTAGE)

Enjoy the party!

(THEY EXIT AS CURTAIN OPENS)

MUSIC CUE #

IT'S WONDERFUL TO BE RICH

SCENE #1 - Elegant Home of Charles Eagleston and his Family

(A PARTY IS IN PROGRESS. MANY ELEGANTLY DRESSED PEOPLE ARE PRESENT. CHARLES AND FAMILY ARE NOT YET IN THE ROOM)

PARTYGOERS

**WHAT A MAGNIFICENT PARTY THIS IS
TASTEFULLY, SPLENDIDLY HEARTY THIS IS.
WEREN'T WE LUCKY TO BE ON THE LIST
FOR A MAGNIFICENT PARTY SUCH AS THIS?**

**HOW SMART WE ALL LOOK IN PROPER ATTIRE.
WE'RE ON DISPLAY HERE FOR ALL TO ADMIRE;
SETTING EXAMPLES FOR THE LESS WELL-TO-DO.
MAKE NO MISTAKE, WE'RE BLUE-BLOODED THROUGH AND
THROUGH.**

**ISN'T IT EXCITING TO BE THIS RICH?
THANKFULLY WE'VE MANAGED TO FIND OUR PERFECT
NICHE.
PITY ALL THE OTHERS OUTSIDE OUR LOOP
WISHING THEY COULD SOMEHOW COME JOIN OUR
PRIVILEGED GROUP.**

(MUSIC CONTINUES)

JOHN, THE BUTLER

(ENTERING AND ANNOUNCING) Ladies and gentlemen, may I present your host, Master Charles Eagleston.

(PARTYGOERS APPLAUD, CHARLES ENTERS.)

CHARLES

Thank you. Thank you all and welcome again to my home. I'm pleased that you could be here on this joyous occasion as we await word of the return of my ships from yet another successful trading expedition. I'm told that the four vessels are bringing back the finest linens, clothing and spices which means that our shops will soon once again be filled with activity. *(THE CROWD APPLAUDS)* In the meantime, please enjoy yourselves. And now, would you please welcome my children.....my sons, James and Terrance.....*(JAMES AND TERRANCE ENTER PUSHING THEIR WAY THROUGH THE CROWD. THEY BOW.)*and my daughters Precious and Prudence..... *(PRECIOUS AND PRUDENCE LIKewise PUSH THROUGH THE CROWD AND CURTSEY)* and Beauty. *(BEAUTY ENTERS, THE EPITOME OF SWEETNESS, AND CURTSIES. PRECIOUS AND PRUDENCE IMMEDIATELY CHARGE TO CENTER AND POSE IN FRONT OF BEAUTY)*

PRECIOUS AND PRUDENCE

IT'S A CHORE TO ATTEND
TO EACH NEW FASHION TREND
AND EACH DETAIL THAT MUSN'T BE MISSED.
AS WE GO THROUGH THE DAY
KEEPING SUITORS AT BAY
WE'RE A VISION THAT WE KNOW THEY CAN'T RESIST.

FOR WITH BEAUTY LIKE OURS
WE MUST FILL UP THE HOURS
MAKING SURE THAT WE'RE FITLY DRESSED.
IT'S EXHAUSTING, YOU KNOW,
TO CREATE SUCH A GLOW.
WHY, THE SERVANTS BARELY HAVE A CHANCE TO REST!

JAMES AND TERRANCE

BEING WEALTHY'S A BREEZE
YOU CAN DO AS YOU PLEASE
AND THERE'S NO ONE TO SAY YOU CAN'T.
ALL YOUR FRIENDS ARE FIRST RATE
AND YOU GET TO SLEEP LATE
AND YOUR HOUSE IS NEVER LESS THAN ELEGANT.

WITH A VAST REVENUE
PEOPLE LOOK UP TO YOU.
YOU'RE CONTENTED AND FREE FROM STRIFE.
THERE'S NO REASON TO FRET;
YOU DON'T HAVE A REGRET.
WHY WOULD ANYONE CHOOSE ANY OTHER LIFE?

ALL (NOT BEAUTY OR FATHER)

ANYONE CAN JOIN US, AND SHARE OUR LOT
YOU WILL FIND WE'RE FAR MORE ACCESSIBLE THAN NOT
THE DOOR IS ALWAYS OPEN, BUT LET'S BE FRANK.....
DON'T COME IN UNLESS YOU'VE GOT MONEY IN THE BANK.

BEAUTY

THOUGH IT'S NICE TO HAVE ALL THESE RICHES
KEEPING US HAPPY AND LOOKING GRAND.
THESE AREN'T THE RICHES THAT REALLY MATTER.....
THOSE CAN'T BE BOUGHT OR BE HELD IN YOUR HAND.
GOOD DEEDS, LOVING AND ALWAYS CARING,
THESE ARE THE THINGS THAT MAKE LIFE WORTHWHILE.
WHAT WE GIVE OTHERS GIVES LIFE ITS MEANING
MUCH MORE THAN DRESSES AND WEALTH AND STYLE.

(THERE IS A SHORT PAUSE AS EVERYONE THINKS ABOUT WHAT BEAUTY HAS JUST SAID.)

ALL (NOT FATHER OR BEAUTY)

Nah!

**ISN'T IT EXCITING TO BE THIS RICH?
THANKFULLY, WE'VE MANAGED TO FIND OUR PERFECT NICHE.
PITY ALL THE OTHERS OUTSIDE OUR LOOP
WISHING THEY COULD SOMEHOW COME JOIN OUR PRIVILEGED
GROUP.**

(THEY SING THEIR VERSES IN UNISON AGAINST EACH OTHER. FATHER DOES NOT SING BUT LISTENS TO BEAUTY)

(AFTER NUMBER THE GUESTS BEGIN TO MILL. JOHN ENTERS WITH A LETTER ON A SILVER TRAY)

JOHN

Sir, the letter has arrived.

CHARLES

(TAKING THE LETTER) Thank you, John. *(TO THE OTHERS)* Ladies and gentlemen, your attention please! The letter has just arrived. My ships must be in port. *(THEY ALL GATHER AROUND HIM, ANXIOUS TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS. HE OPENS THE LETTER AND READS ALOUD).*

My dear Mr. Eagleston:

It is with deep sorrow that I must inform you of tragic news. Earlier today I received word that your entire fleet of ships sailed head-on into an unexpected storm. There has been no sighting of the vessels since and it is presumed that the sea has claimed them as well as their cargo and crews. May I extend my deepest sympathy to you and your family.

Captain Phillip Glass.

(ALL ARE STUNNED INTO SILENCE)

CHARLES

We're ruined.

PRECIOUS

What do you mean father?

CHARLES

We've been wiped out. Our livelihood has been taken away from us.

(PARTYGOERS BEGIN TO MUMBLE)

PRUDENCE

Well, I'm sure it's not as bad as you think.

CHARLES

I'm afraid it is. *(TO PARTYGOERS)* Good friends.....it seems my family and I suddenly find ourselves penniless.

PARTY GUEST

Did he say penniless?

ANOTHER GUEST

I think he did!

CHARLES

And I'd venture to say that we may now be forced to turn to you, our dear neighbors, for help.

(THERE IS A MOMENT OF SILENCE AS EVERYONE FREEZES AND EYES DART TO ONE ANOTHER)

ANOTHER GUEST

Well.....gotta run!

MUSIC CUE #
IT'S WONDERFUL TO BE RICH (Reprise)

PARTY GOERS

(AS THEY MAKE A QUICK EXIT OUT THE DOOR)

**IF YOU CARE TO JOIN US, WE'D WELCOME YOU
JUST AS LONG AS YOU'RE STILL AMONG THE WELL-TO-DO.
OUR DOORS ARE ALWAYS OPEN, BUT LET'S BE FRANK
DON'T COME IN UNLESS YOU'VE GOT MONEY IN THE BANK.**

(SUDDENLY ARE ALL GONE EXCEPT CHARLES AND THE FAMILY.)

JAMES

But surely this must be a mistake!

TERRANCE

Of course. Perhaps it was another fleet of ships that just looked like ours.

PRECIOUS

That's it, father. So many ships look alike. I'll bet that ours have already made their way safely to port.

PRUDENCE

That's right. And we'll be getting word about them any minute now.

CHARLES

Children, I'm afraid that we must face the fact that our lives will never be the same again.

PRECIOUS

Meaning what?

CHARLES

Meaning that we will no longer have money to support the kind of life that we've all been accustomed to.

TERRANCE

And?

CHARLES

And we'll probably have to sell all our belongings.....

JAMES

And?

CHARLES

....and move into a smaller home and live a much simpler life.

PRUDENCE

No new dresses?

CHARLES

No.

PRECIOUS

No more parties?

CHARLES

No.

JAMES

No more....

CHARLES

(INTERRUPTING HIM) No. And we'll have to let the servants go as well.

(ALL BUT BEAUTY ARE AGHAST.)

TERRANCE

Let the servants go? But who will cook and clean for us?

CHARLES

We'll have to do it for ourselves from now on?

JAMES, TERRANCE, PRECIOUS, PRUDENCE

What!!!???

(SUDDENLY THEY ALL TALK AT ONCE, VERBALIZING TO THEIR FATHER HOW AWFUL LIFE IS GOING TO BE, HOW COULD HE DO THIS TO THEM AND HOW WILL THEY EVER BE ABLE TO FACE THEIR FRIENDS? THIS BABBLE CONTINUES UNTIL THEY HAVE ALL EXITED. ONLY BEAUTY IS LEFT WITH FATHER.)

CHARLES

I'm sorry, Beauty.

BEAUTY

There's nothing to be sorry for, father.

CHARLES

I'm afraid we have no other choice. Everything we had was invested in those ships.

BEAUTY

You'll think of something. It will just take some time.

CHARLES

But I've made them all so unhappy.

BEAUTY

They're just disappointed, that's all.

CHARLES

Disappointed in me. When your mother died I promised myself that I would do my best to take care of all of you. Now it seems that I've got to break that promise.

**MUSIC CUE #
WE CAN DO IT**

BEAUTY

Father, this is only a temporary setback for us. We'll be all right. You'll see.

**DON'T WORRY FATHER, WE CAN DO IT.
NO MATTER WHAT, WE'LL GET THROUGH IT
JUST AS LONG AS WE STICK TOGETHER.**

**YOU'VE BEEN THERE FOR US THROUGH THE GLAD TIMES.
WE'RE SURE TO MAKE IT THROUGH THESE BAD TIMES
JUST AS LONG AS WE STICK TOGETHER.**

**SOMETIMES THE WORLD IS A SCARY PLACE;
SOMETIMES WE DON'T WHY...
AND, EVEN THOUGH WE NEVER KNOW WHICH WAY TO TURN,
WE CAN MAKE IT IF WE TRY.**

**WE'LL SHOW THEM FATHER WHAT WE'RE MADE OF.
THERE'S NOT A THING TO BE AFRAID OF.
NO MATTER WHAT THEY SAY,
WE CAN DO IT.
WE'LL GET THROUGH IT
WAIT AND SEE.
WE'LL GET THROUGH IT
TOGETHER.**

(BLACKOUT)

SCENE #2 - A Small Cottage

(THE COTTAGE IS A BIT RUNDOWN. IT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS FROM LOOKING AT IT THAT THEIR LIFESTYLE HAS CHANGED DRASTICALLY.)

**MUSIC CUE #
WHAT DID WE DO TO DESERVE THIS?**

(JAMES AND TERRANCE ENTER CARRYING HEAVY WOOD, MOANING AND GROANING ABOUT THE WEIGHT. THEY ARE A SIGHT.....TORN CLOTHES, SMUDGED FACES, MISMATCHED BOOTS. THEY BARELY MAKE IT TO THE WOODBIN WHERE THEY DROP THE WOOD AND LET OUT A PAINFUL YELL.)

JAMES AND TERRANCE

**BOY, DOES THAT HURT!
OH, WHAT A SPRAIN!
CARRYING WOOD FOR OURSELVES IS A STRAIN.**

JAMES

I WRECKED MY BACK!

TERRANCE

I POPPED A VEIN!

BOTH

LIVING LIKE THIS IS INSANE!

**PARDON ME, BUT
CAN WE DISCUSS
HOW THIS COULD HAPPEN TO SWELL GUYS LIKE US?
WAS IT A CURSE?
CAN YOU EXPLAIN
WHY WE DESERVE
ALL THIS PAIN?**

CHARLES

(WHO HAS ENTERED CARRYING A PAIL OF WATER)

**THERE'S A FEW OBSTACLES I HAVE TO ADMIT,
A FEW BUMPS THAT MAY CAUSE SOME STRIFE,
BUT, ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, THERE'S A LOT TO BE SAID
FOR LIVING A SIMPLER LIFE.**

**THINK OF THE EXERCISE YOU'RE GETTING EACH DAY,
THE PURE JOY WAKING UP BEFORE DAWN,
PLOWING AND PLANTING, OH, AND BALING THE HAY.
THE LIST COULD GO ON AND ON!**

PRECIOUS & PRUDENCE

(ENTERING ON KNEES WITH SCRUB BUCKETS AND BRUSHES, LOOKING EQUALLY SHABBY.)

**LOOK AT THE WAY WE DRESS!
EVEN OUR HAIR'S A MESS!
WE'RE BEING FORCED TO DO CHORES.
WORKING LIKE ALL THE REST
IS GETTING US SO DEPRESSED.
WE WEREN'T RAISED TO SCRUB FLOORS!**

**ONCE LIFE WAS BEARABLE
NOW IT'S JUST TERRIBLE.
WHEN WILL THIS NIGHTMARE END?
WE WERE ADORABLE
NOW WE LOOK HORRIBLE.
HOW WILL WE EVER FIND MEN?**

CHARLES

**HAVEN'T YOU NOTICED AS YOU'VE WALKED ON THE HEATH,
THERE ARE MEN ALL ALONG THE PATHS.....
TRUE, THERE'S A CHANCE THEY MIGHT BE MISSING SOME
TEETH
AND BADLY IN NEED OF BATHS.**

**I KNOW THEY'RE NOT THE SORT YOU'VE KNOWN IN THE PAST.
THEY LACK A FEW MANNERS, BUT THEN,
THOUGH YOU MAY THINK THEY MAY BE RUGGED AND CRASS,
BE THANKFUL, AT LEAST THEY'RE MEN.**

BEAUTY

(ENTERS LOOKING HAPPY AND CONTENT, CARRYING LAUNDRY BASKET.)

Good morning father!

(AS SHE SINGS, HER SIBLINGS CLEARLY DO NOT WANT TO HEAR HER SUNNY CHEERFULNESS)

**ISN'T THIS A DELIGHTFUL DAY?
HAVE YOU SEEN THAT GLORIOUS SKY?
LISTEN CLOSELY AND YOU CAN HEAR
ALL OF NATURE'S LULLABY.**

**I CAN'T THINK WHAT WE MUST'VE DONE
TO DESERVE SUCH WONDERFUL BLISS.
I'M QUITE SURE THAT, WITHOUT A DOUBT,
THERE'S NO BETTER LIFE THAN THIS.**

*(THEY SING THE VERSES IN A ROUND, CHARLES USING HIS FIRST 2 VERSES.
ON THE LAST LINE THEY SING:*

BEAUTY
THERE'S NO BETTER LIFE THAN THIS!
PRECIOUS & PRUDENCE
WHAT'D WE DO TO DESERVE ALL OF THIS?
TERRANCE & JAMES
HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN TO US?
CHARLES
THE LIST COULD GO ON AND ON!

PRECIOUS
Father, how much longer must we live like this?

JAMES
I thought surely we'd be back in our old house by this time.

BEAUTY
But James, you know we had to sell the house to pay off the creditors for the cargo that was lost when the ships sank.

PRUDENCE
I don't think I can last much longer doing the things I'm doing....

PRECIOUS
Or looking the way we look.

(THERE IS A KNOCK AT THE DOOR)

CHARLES
(GOING TO DOOR) I'm sorry children. We'll just have to find some way to get through all of this.

(OPENS DOOR AND FINDS MESSENGER.)

MESSENGER
Mr. Eagleston?

CHARLES
That's right

MESSENGER
(PRODUCING A LETTER)
I have a message from Captain Glass.

CHARLES
(TAKING LETTER) Thank you. *(FATHER OPENS THE LETTER AND WE SEE HIS FACE BRIGHTEN AS HE READS THE CONTENTS.)* Oh, this is wonderful news, children. *(THEY*

GATHER AROUND HIM.)

Mr. Eagleston,

I am pleased inform you that a vessel which fits the description of one of your missing ships has been sighted about 10 miles off shore. The captain of a passing ship has reported the vessel to be good shape although there was no sign of a crew on board. I will personally lead a search party which will be setting sail immediately. We should arrive at the location late Tuesday.

Sincerely,

Captain Phillip Glass

MESSENGER

The captain has asked me to accompany you on your journey to the coast, sir. He looks forward to meeting with you.

CHARLES

Thank you.

MESSENGER

I'll be waiting outside.

(MESSENGER EXITS)

BEAUTY

This is wonderful news, father.

JAMES

Late Tuesday! That was yesterday! They may have already found the ship.

PRUDENCE

We're saved!

PRECIOUS

We're rich again!

CHARLES

Now children. Let's not get our hopes up too soon. The letters says it *fits the description* of one of our ships but we don't know that it really *is* one of ours.

JAMES

Of course it is.

CHARLES

We'll just have to be patient. In the meantime, I'll need to leave immediately.

TERRANCE

We'll go with you.

CHARLES

No, you're needed here and must continue with your chores.

JAMES

But we don't need to worry about *this* place anymore. Once the cargo from the ship is recovered, we can afford to move.

CHARLES

Until we're sure it's one of our ships, you must continue to tend the farm and take care of the animals.

ALL

Yes, father.

PRECIOUS

(SUDDENLY HAS A GREAT IDEA) I know! Let's make a list of all the things we want father to bring back for us.

(ALL CHILDREN EXCEPT BEAUTY MOVE UPSTAGE AND BEGIN TO BABBLE ABOUT THE GIFTS THEY WANT FATHER TO BRING BACK WITH HIM.)

CHARLES

(TO BEAUTY) I fear there's still a chance we may all be disappointed when the ship is finally located.

BEAUTY

Well, until that time, it's wonderful to have hope again, isn't it father?

CHARLES

Yes, I suppose it is. And what about you, Beauty? Don't you have anything you'd like to add to their list?

BEAUTY

All I want is for you to come back safely.

CHARLES

Thank you. But surely there must be something you'd like just for yourself.

BEAUTY

Well, there is one thing that I've missed since we've moved from the old house.

CHARLES

And what's that?

BEAUTY

I've missed all the beautiful roses that we used to have in our garden.

CHARLES

Then that is what you shall have. I'll search till I find the most beautiful rose there is and bring it back just for you.

BEAUTY

Thank you, father.

(BROTHERS' AND SISTERS' VOICES SUDDENLY INCREASE AS THEY GET MORE AND MORE EXCITED ABOUT THE THINGS THEY WANT.)

CHARLES

I promise I'll do my best to come through for us all.

BEAUTY

We know you will.

MUSIC CUE #

WE CAN DO IT (Reprise)

(AS SONS AND DAUGHTERS MAKE THEIR WAY BACK TO CHARLES. BEAUTY HELPING HIM WITH HIS COAT, HAT AND WALKING STICK)

BEAUTY

DON'T WORRY FATHER, WE CAN DO IT.

PRECIOUS & PRUDENCE

DON'T FORGET TO BUY US DRESSES,

NO MATTER WHAT, WE'LL GET THROUGH IT

AND RIBBONS FOR OUR HAIR,

JUST AS LONG AS WE STICK TOGETHER.

AND LOTS AND LOTS OF JEWELS,

PRECIOUS JEWELS

SO WE'LL BE DRESSED BEYOND COMPARE.

WE'LL SHOW THEM, FATHER WHAT WE'RE MADE OF.

JAMES & TERRANCE

WE COULD USE A BRAND NEW SADDLE

THERE'S NOT A THING TO BE AFRAID OF

AND A QUIVER AND A BOW.

JUST AS LONG AS WE STICK TOGETHER

CAN YOU MAKE THAT TWO OF EACH?

OH, ONE MORE THING BEFORE YOU GO!

WE'LL GET THROUGH IT.

WE CAN DO IT

**ALL CHILDREN EXCEPT BEAUTY
WITH SOME SERVANTS WE'LL GET THROUGH THIS**

**THEN WE WON'T BE FORCED TO DO THIS
ALL
TOGETHER.**

(BY END OF NUMBER CHARLES HAS BEEN PRODDER TO LEAVE BY BEAUTY'S BROTHERS AND SISTERS. BEAUTY GIVES HER FATHER ONE LAST HUG. AS HE LEAVES, SHE THROWS HIM A KISS GOOD-BYE.

(BLACKOUT)

SCENE #3 - The Waterfront

**MUSIC CUE #
A SAILOR'S LIFE**

(THERE IS ACTIVITY OF SAILORS WORKING ON ROPES, MAKING NETS, ETC. LADIES ARE ALSO SEEN, POSSIBLY VENDORS.)

SAILOR GROUP #1
SHOW ME A LAD WHO LIVES LIFE ON THE SEA
SAILOR GROUP #2
A SAILOR'S LIFE FOR ME.
I'LL SHOW YOU A LAD WHO'S IN GOOD COMPANY
A SAILOR'S LIFE FOR ME.
SEAFARING MEN, WE ARE RUGGED AND STRONG
A SAILOR'S LIFE FOR ME.
GOD-FEARING MARINERS ALL THE DAY LONG,
A SAILOR'S LIFE FOR ME.

SAILOR #1
WHEN THE BRINY BECKONS, THERE'S NARY A MATE
SAILOR #2
CAN IGNORE ITS MYSTICAL SPELLS.
SAILOR #3
IN MIGHTY VESSELS WE NAVIGATE
SAILOR #4
THE PERILOUS, WATERY SWELLS.

(THEY DANCE A FEW HORNPIPE STEPS.)

(FLIRTING WITH THE WOMEN NEARBY)

SAILOR GROUP #1
HAPPY THE LASS WHO IS WED TO THE SEA
SAILOR GROUP #2
A SAILOR'S WIFE IS SHE!
WHERE IS THE LASS WHO'LL AGREE TO WED ME?
A SAILOR'S WIFE FOR ME.

LADIES
WE MAY FIND YOUR SEAFARING SWAGGER
APPEALING AND RATHER SWEET
BUT IN SPITE OF THAT
WE POLITELY DECLINE
FOR WE'VE COME TO REALIZE THAT
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO COMPETE

**WITH THE LURE OF THE SEA
IN A SAILOR'S MIND.**

**ALL SAILORS
BUT HAPPY THE LASS WHO IS WED TO THE SEA.
LADIES
NO SAILOR'S LIFE FOR ME.
IS THERE NO LASS WHO'LL AGREE TO WED ME?
NO SAILOR'S WIFE YOU'LL SEE.
IF THERE'S A DAY YOU ARE FREE OF THE SEA
THEN SAILOR'S WIVES WE'LL BE
BUT TILL THAT DAY YOU'LL BE SINGLE AND FREE.
NO SAILOR'S WIFE FOR ME.**

*(THEY LAUGH AND CONTINUE FLIRTING AS THEY ALL RETURN TO THEIR VARIOUS
CHORES.)*

(CHARLES ENTERS WITH THE MESSENGER.)

CHARLES

But, I don't see any of my ships.

MESSENGER

Perhaps the search party hasn't returned yet. Wait here while I go and see if the captain is back.

CHARLES

Thank you.

MESSENGER

You're welcome sir.

(MESSENGER EXITS)

(CHARLES APPROACHES ONE OF THE SAILORS AND WATCHES HIM WORK.)

SAILOR

Can I help you, mate?

CHARLES

No, thank you. I'm waiting to speak to Captain Glass.

(ALL SUDDENLY STOP THEIR ACTIVITY AND LOOK IN HIS DIRECTION)

SAILOR

Beg pardon, sir?

CHARLES

I'm here to meet Captain Phillip Glass concerning a message I received about an abandoned ship.

(SAILOR LOOKS AT THE OTHERS)

SAILOR

I take it you ain't heard the news then?

CHARLES

News?

SAILOR

About the cap'n.

CHARLES

No, I just arrived. Has he returned with the search party yet?

SAILOR

'fraid not, sir.

CHARLES

When do you expect him?

SAILOR

We *don't* expect him.

CHARLES

I don't understand.

SAILOR

He's been lost at sea.

CHARLES

What? But what happened!?!

SAILOR

Old Stuart can tell you. 'E's the only one from that crew that made it back alive. (*CALLS FOR HIM*) Stuart!

STUART

What's the matter?

SAILOR

This man was wantin' to speak with the cap'n.

(STUART APPROACHES)

STUART

Well I guess e's got a long wait now, 'asn't 'e?

CHARLES

Can you tell me what happened?

STUART

Why do you want to know?

CHARLES

The ship you were searching for may have been one of mine. Please....tell me what's happened.

STUART

Well, I warn ya, it ain't a pretty story.

MUSIC CUE #

TWENTY-TWO MEN

(ALL GATHER ROUND TO HEAR HIS STORY)

**IT WAS A DAY;
WATER WAS CALM;
NARY A CLOUD WAS FILLED WITH DREAD.
TWENTY-TWO MEN
BOARDED THE SHIP
NEVER TO KNOW WHAT LAY AHEAD.**

**WE SET OUT T'WARD DISTANT WATERS
BUT BEFORE THE DAY WAS DONE
TWENTY-TWO MEN WHO HAD JOURNEYED
WERE REDUCED TO ONLY ONE.**

ALL

**TWENTY-TWO MEN
BOARDED THE SHIP
BUT IT CAME BACK WITH ONLY ONE.**

STUART

**WE SET A COURSE DUE SOUTH AND SAILED
SIX MILES AWAY FROM SHORE
WHEN SUDDENLY OUT OF NOWHERE CAME
A THUND'ROUS, MIGHTY ROAR.**

**THEN IN A FLASH
OUTTA THE BLUE
ALL'O THE SEA BEGAN TO SWELL
NONE 'O THE MEN
COULD'A PREPARED
FOR ALL THE DANGER THAT BEFELL.**

**FACE TO FACE WITH NATURE'S FURY
A DEADLY TIDAL WAVE
TOSSED THE CREW INTO THE OCEAN,
INTO A WAT'RY GRAVE,**

**IT WAS A SIGHT
ALL OF 'EM GONE,
LOST TO THE WIND AND RAGING SEA.
WHEN IT WAS THROUGH
I WAS ALONE;
ALL OF 'EM GONE EXCEPT FOR ME.**

ALL

**THEY SET OUT T'WARD DISTANT WATERS
BUT BEFORE THE DAY WAS DONE
TWENTY-TWO MEN WHO HAD JOURNEYED
WERE REDUCED TO ONLY ONE.**

**TWENTY-TWO MEN
BOARDED A SHIP
BUT IT CAME BACK WITH ONLY ONE.**

(AFTER SONG, CHARLES IS DOWNHEARTED)

STUART

Sorry, mate, if it ain't what you were hoping to hear. I would'a been a goner too if I hadn't gone below deck to fetch a rope just before the wave hit. If your ship was out there, it's doubtful she could'a survived a storm like that.

MESSENGER

Is there anything I can do for you, sir?

CHARLES

I'm afraid not.

MESSENGER

If you'd like, I can escort you back to your home.

CHARLES

That won't be necessary.

MESSENGER

But they say another storm is heading this way.

CHARLES

I'll be fine. I just need to figure out a way to break the news to my children. They're going to be so disappointed.

STUART

Whyn't you just explain it to 'em this way? The sea is like a mysterious lady.....sometimes gentle and sometimes vicious.....and even the best of us can't always be sure what to expect from her! Ey mates?

SAILORS

(LAUGHING) Aye!!

**MUSIC CUE #
A SAILOR'S LIFE**

(AS CHARLES EXITS)

SAILOR GROUP #1

SHOW ME A LAD WHO LIVES LIFE ON THE SEA

SAILOR GROUP #2

A SAILOR'S LIFE FOR ME.

I'LL SHOW YOU A LAD WHO'S IN GOOD COMPANY

A SAILOR'S LIFE FOR ME.

SEAFARING MEN, WE ARE RUGGED AND STRONG

A SAILOR'S LIFE FOR ME.

GOD-FEARING MARINERS ALL THE DAY LONG,

A SAILOR'S LIFE FOR ME.

(LIGHTS DIM OUT SLOWLY AS THEY FINISH SONG.)

SCENE #4 - Father's Journey Back Home

The Forest / The Entrance to the Beast's Castle

MUSIC CUE #
THE STORM

IN DARKNESS SOUNDS OF THUNDER AND LIGHTENING. WHEN LIGHTS COME UP, CHARLES ENTERS MAKING HIS WAY ACROSS THE STAGE IN FRONT OF A FOREST DROP. THE EFFECT OF THE STORM WEAKENS HIM CAUSING HIM TO FALL ONCE OR TWICE ALONG THE WAY. HE EXITS. DROP OPENS TO REVEAL FRONT OF CASTLE, A HUGE DOOR CENTER STAGE. THE STORM CONTINUES. CHARLES REAPPEARS, MAKES HIS WAY TOWARD THE DOOR, FALLING ONCE MORE ALONG THE WAY.

CHARLES

Hello! Can anyone help me? *Please!*

(HE FINALLY REACHES THE DOOR. SUMMONING HIS LAST BIT OF STRENGTH, HE BANGS ON THE DOOR THREE TIMES. NOTE: THE SOUND EFFECT OF HIS BANGING SHOULD BE HEARD ABOVE THE STORM.)

Please. Someone help me! Someone.....please.....help.....me.

(HE FINALLY COLLAPSES AT THE FOOT OF THE DOOR. THE SOUND OF SOMEONE UNLATCHING THE DOOR IS HEARD, THE DOOR CREAKS OPEN SLOWLY AND A HAND REACHES OUT GRABS CHARLES AND BEGINS TO PULL HIM IN SLOWLY. MUSIC BUILDS AS THE LIGHTS BLACKOUT.)

SCENE #7 - A Bedroom in the Castle

(CHARLES IS DISCOVERED IN A NIGHTSHIRT IN BED. THE ROOM IS INVITING, WARM AND COMFORTABLE. OUTSIDE THE WINDOW A ROSE BUSH IS SEEN FULL OF RED ROSES. THERE ARE TWO DOORS THAT LEAD FROM THE ROOM, ONE ON EITHER SIDE OF THE STAGE. CLEAN CLOTHES HAVE BEEN SET OUT FOR CHARLES AS HAS FOOD ON A NEARBY TABLE. CHARLES AWAKENS. FOR A MOMENT HE DOESN'T REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED.)

CHARLES

(CALLING OUT)

Hello? Is anyone here?

(HE GETS OUT OF BED, NOTICES THE FOOD AND CLOTHES THAT HAVE BEEN LEFT FOR HIM. LOOKS OUT THE WINDOW.)

Hello?

((HE GOES TO THE DOOR ON STAGE LEFT, OPENS AND CALLS OUT .))

Hello? Can anyone hear me?

(HE CLOSSES DOOR AND LOOKS AROUND.)

There's got to be someone around.

(HE OPENS DOOR ON STAGE RIGHT, LOOKS OUT)

Hello?

(STILL NO ANSWER. HE LOOKS BACK IN THE ROOM ONCE AGAIN, THINKS A BIT AND THEN DECIDES TO GO LOOKING FOR HIS BENEFACTOR. HE GOES TO DOOR ON STAGE RIGHT AND OPENS IT)

Hello?

(HE EXITS, CLOSING DOOR BEHIND HIM)

(ALMOST IMMEDIATE THE DOOR ON STAGE LEFT OPENS AND SERVANT #1 PEEKS IN)

SERVANT #1

Hello?

(WHEN HE GETS NO ANSWER, HE MOTIONS FOR OTHERS TO FOLLOW AND SLOWLY ALL SERVANTS ENTER THE ROOM LOOKING FOR THE STRANGER)

SERVANT #1

(TO AUDIENCE) See, didn't I tell you we'd be back?

(HE CONTINUES TO THE OTHER DOOR AND PEERS OUT BUT DOESN'T FIND CHARLES)

SERVANT #2

Where did he go?

SERVANT #3

Perhaps he's already gone home. That would be a relief. That way the master will never know that we helped him last night.

SERVANT #4

(SEEING CLOTHES)

If he did leave, he left in his nightshirt. His clothes are still here.

SERVANT #3

(FIGURING IT OUT LOUD) Well if he's *not* in here, and hasn't gone *home*.....

ALL

Oh no!!

SERVANT #2

He must be prowling the halls!

SERVANT #1

And you know what that means.

SERVANT #4

We sure do!

MUSIC CUE #
A STRANGER AT THE DOOR

ALL SERVANTS

**RUN FOR COVER!
PULL THE CURTAINS!
HERE WE GO ONCE MORE.
IT HAPPENS EVERY
TIME WE GET A
STRANGER AT THE DOOR.**

**IF WE ONLY
COULD HAVE WARNED HIM
WHAT MAY BE IN STORE,
THEN WE'D BE MUCH LESS
TENSE ABOUT THIS
STRANGER AT THE DOOR.**

SERVANT #1

**EVERYTHING IS FINE.....
IT'S OFTEN CALM AT FIRST
BUT WE'VE LEARNED TO ALWAYS
.....EXPECT THE WORST.**

SERVANT #2
**HE'S NOT YET AWARE,
NOT IN THE VERY LEAST,
THAT HE NEEDS TO BE CAREFUL OR
HE'LL AGGRAVATE THE.....**

*(SERVANT #3 PUTS HAND OVER SERVANT #2's MOUTH BEFORE HE SAYS THE WORD
"BEAST")*

SERVANT #3
SSHHHH!!! He's still asleep. Talk about a temper! Oi vey!

ALL SERVANTS
**WHAT A HEADACHE!
WHAT A NUISANCE!
WHAT AN AWFUL BORE!
ONCE AGAIN WE'VE
GOT A PROBLEM
THAT WE CAN'T IGNORE.
THINGS WERE QUIET,
CALM AND PEACEFUL
AS IT WAS BEFORE,
BUT NO LONGER
THERE'S ANOTHER
STRANGER AT THE DOOR.**

SERVANT #3
**WE MUST SOMEHOW RESCUE HIM.
THAT SEEMS OUR SAFEST BET.
BEFORE HE'S HAD A CHANCE TO DO
SOMETHING WE'LL ALL REGRET.**

SERVANT #4
**WE'LL STAND GUARD OUTSIDE HIS DOOR
AND KEEP HIM OUT OF SIGHT,
THEN ONCE THE MASTER'S FAST ASLEEP
WE'LL SNEAK HIM OUT AT NIGHT.**

If we don't he's bound to stick his nose where it doesn't belong..... and then look out! So.....

ALL SERVANTS
**THAT'S THE PLAN.
WE'LL HAVE TO HURRY.
WHO KNOWS WHAT HE'LL DO?
LET'S HOPE WE FIND HIM,**

**LONG BEFORE HE
BOTHERS “YOU KNOW WHO.”**

**IF WE’RE CAREFUL
WE CAN DO IT
AND THEN FURTHERMORE
WE’LL FORGET THERE
EVER WAS
THIS STRANGER AT THE DOOR.**

**IF WE WANT TO SPARE US THE SOUND
OF THE MASTER’S ROAR,
JUST PRETEND THAT WE NEVER HEARD
A KNOCKING AT OUR DOOR**

THEN.....

**GOOD BYE TO WORRY!
GOOD BYE TO TROUBLE!
GOOD BYE TO PROBLEMS!
NO MORE STRESS OR BAD NEWS.
NO NEED TO WORRY!
THERE WON’T BE PROBLEMS
‘CAUSE ONCE HE’S GONE
WE WON’T BE SINGIN’ THE BLUES.**

NO MORE HITCHES; SERVANT #1
NO MORE HASSLES; SERVANT #2
NO HOT WATER SERVANT #3
EVER MORE; SERVANT #4

ALL
**NO MORE HEADACHES
ONCE HE’S GONE
THE STRANGER AT THE....
JUST AS SOON AS HE’S SPLIT
WE WON’T HAVE TO ADMIT
THAT WE HAD TO OUTWIT
THE STRANGER AT THE DOOR.**

SERVANT #2

Come on, let’s go find him!

*(THEY ALL EXIT OUT THE DOOR ON STAGE LEFT.)
AS SOON AS THEY'RE GONE, CHARLES COMES BACK IN FROM STAGE RIGHT DOOR.
HE CALLS OUT ONCE MORE)*

CHARLES

Hello? Well, that's the strangest thing. I could have sworn I heard voices in here. Oh well. I guess I should be on my way.

(HE DRESSES QUICKLY. ONCE DRESSED HE MAKES HIS WAY TOWARD THE DOOR.)

Whoever you were that took care of me, thank you.

(HE IS ABOUT TO EXIT OUT THE STAGE LEFT DOOR WHEN HE SEES THE ROSES.)

Oh. Beauty's rose. I almost forgot.

(HE GOES TO THE WINDOW AND PICKS ONE OF THE ROSES OFF THE BUSH.

*SUDDENLY A BOOMING, ECHOING VOICE IS HEARD, EERILY SOUNDING MUSIC
ACCOMPANIES THE VOICE)*

BEAST

You dare to pick a rose from my garden!!!

MUSIC CUE #

CHARLES

Who said that?

BEAST

After the kindness you were shown, you dare to steal from me!!!

CHARLES

Where are you?

BEAST

Was the kindness not enough??!! You dare to expect more!!!

*(CHARLES RUNS FOR THE DOOR BUT WHEN HE OPENS IT HE IS FRIGHTENED BY THE
BEAST WHO IMMEDIATELY LUNGES INTO THE ROOM WITH ANOTHER BOOMING
PROCLAMATION)*

BEAST

Why do you steal my roses!!!?

*(HE ADVANCES SLOWLY AS CHARLES, SHOCKED AT WHAT HE SEES, BACKS AWAY
FROM HIM)*

CHARLES

Forgive me. I only took one. I meant you no injustice.

BEAST

Then why!!!?

CHARLES

A token gift for my daughter, Beauty. Nothing more. I swear!
(HE IS STILL AT A LOSS AT THE VISION HE SEES)

BEAST

Why do you stare at me!!!?

CHARLES

I'm sorry. It's only that.....that.....

BEAST

That I'm hideous and ugly?

CHARLES

No.....no....I.....

BEAST

That's what you're thinking.....Say it!
(CHARLES IS SPEECHLESS)
Say it!!!

CHARLES

(SLOWLY, HAVING BEEN FORCED TO SAY IT) You're.....hideous.....and.....ugly.

BEAST

(STALKING HIM ONCE MORE) And because I am, I face each day dealing with people like you who trespass on my property and destroy what doesn't belong to them. The roses are important to me!!

CHARLES

Forgive me. Had I known I would never have taken one.

BEAST

But you did and for that you must be punished!!

CHARLES

Punished? What do you mean?

BEAST

You must pay for the injustice you committed.

CHARLES

Injustice? But I only picked a rose!

BEAST

(BOOMING ONCE MORE)

And my roses are never to be touched!!!

(CHARLES IS OVERCOME WITH FEAR ONCE MORE AND CANNOT SPEAK. SUDDENLY THE SERVANTS RUSH IN AND REALIZE IT'S TOO LATE.)

SERVANT #1

Oh, dear!

BEAST

Ah, yes. My faithful servants. Did you think that I wouldn't know about the stranger? I saw you take him in last night during the storm. I did nothing to stop you because I realized he needed help. And he repays me with thievery.

SERVANT #1

Sir, if I may speak in his behalf.

BEAST

If he is ever to learn his lesson, he must be punished.

SERVANT #1

Oh, dear.

BEAST

(TO CHARLES)

From this day on, you will be a prisoner within these walls.....

CHARLES

A prisoner?

BEAST

.....until such a time that I feel you have paid for your dishonesty.

CHARLES

Please, sir....I have a family.

BEAST

Silence. I'll hear no more from you. Perhaps you should have thought of them before this.
(TO THE SERVANTS) You are to stand guard over him to prevent an escape. Is that clear?

SERVANT #2

Couldn't we talk this over? I'm sure we can come up with a simpler solution.

BEAST

Enough!!

MUSIC CUE #

SERVANT #2

Yes sir.

BEAST

(TO CHARLES) I would caution you against any thought of leaving. Is that clear?

CHARLES

Yes.

BEAST

Good. And remember.....stay away from the roses!!!

CHARLES

I will.

(BEAST TURNS AND WALKS DOWNSTAGE AS MUSIC BEGINS. AS SERVANTS GATHER AROUND CHARLES BEDROOM WILL DISAPPEAR BEHIND BLACK SCRIM. BEAST IS LEFT ONSTAGE ALONE.)

UNDERNEATH

BEAST

**WHAT DO THEIR EYES SEE
WHEN FIRST THEY GAZE
UPON THIS PERSON
WHOSE LOOK BETRAYS
WHAT IS THERE, UNDERNEATH THIS SHELL?**

**MY FACE IS UGLY;
MY HANDS ARE SCARRED;
MY BODY'S TWISTED
AND YET MY HEART
FIGHTS TO LIVE UNDERNEATH THIS SPELL.**

**BUT WHEN THEY LOOK AT ME
THEY CANNOT CONCEIVE
THERE'S A MAN WHO'S TRAPPED INSIDE
WHO MUST BELIEVE
THAT THERE'S ANOTHER
WHO'LL BREAK THE BOND,
SOMEONE WHO BRAVELY**

**WILL LOOK BEYOND...
RESCUE ME FROM THIS LONELY CELL.**

VOICES OFFSTAGE

**PITY THE MAN
HOPELESSLY LOST
INSIDE THESE WALLS
EVERMORE.**

BEAST

**IF ONLY I COULD GO BACK
TO THE TIME THAT USED TO BE,
LONG BEFORE THE THINGS THAT HAPPENED
AND THAT MADE ME SEE
HOW YOUR LIFE CANNOT BE MEASURED
BY THE RICHES YOU ACQUIRE
THAT WEALTH AND POSITION
ARE NOT THE THINGS WE SHOULD DESIRE.**

**OFTEN I RECALL IT,
IT'S THE DAY THAT I REGRET,
WHEN I CAME ACROSS A WOMAN
WHOM I'D NEVER MET.
SHE WAS OLD AND GRAY AND FEEBLE,
NOT THE SORT I WOULD BEFRIEND.
AND BECAUSE I WAS BLIND,
I'LL NEVER BE THE SAME AGAIN.**

(WHILE THE MUSIC UNDERSCORES, BEAST REMEMBERS THE EVENTS OF THAT FATEFUL DAY. LIGHTS COME UP BEHIND SCRIM REVEALING FRONT OF CASTLE AND DOORWAY. AN OLD AND DECREPIT-LOOKING GYPSY WOMAN APPROACHES THE DOOR. SHE KNOCKS. A HANDSOME MAN, GREGOR, OPENS AND IS APPALLED AT HER SIGHT. NOTE: GREGOR WILL JUST MIMIC MOVEMENT WHILE BEAST SAYS ACTUAL LINES)

BEAST

(RATHER HAUTILY)
What is it old woman?

OLD WOMAN

(IN AN OLD, COLORFUL GYPSY TONE)
Could you spare a bit of bread for an old gypsy, sir?

BEAST

How did you sneak past the guard? Get away from here you old hag.

OLD WOMAN

Come on, dearie.....a square of bread wouldn't put you out now, would it?

BEAST

I don't allow the likes of you on my property. Now be gone before I have you removed.

OLD WOMAN

Is that any way to treat an old woman who means you no harm?

(SHE GRABS GREGOR'S ARM)

BEAST

(GREGOR TRIES TO FREE HIMSELF)

Let go of me!

OLD WOMAN

You would deny an old woman, a bit down on her luck, a morsel of food?

BEAST

I said let go of me! Guard!!!!

(SHE LETS GO OF HIM)

OLD WOMAN

All right. I'm going. *(SHE GETS OMINOUS)* But hear these words and heed them wisely.....A curse I put on you from this day forward. As you are appalled by my features, so too will everyone be of yours. So hideous will you be that you will be forced to hide behind these walls lest you are hunted down and destroyed by those who will only see you as the beast that you will become. And, on the day the last rose has left your garden, unless someone has expressed love for you in spite of your hideousness, YOU....WILL....DIE!!!

(SHE BEGINS TO CACKLE LOUDLY AND SMUGLY AS SHE RUSHES OFF)

BEAST

Get away from here!!! Get.....

(GREGOR SUDDENLY IS STRICKEN AND BEGINS TO HOWL IN PAIN. HE COVERS HIS FACE TURNS UPSTAGE AND COLLAPSES. LIGHTS GO OUT BEHIND SCRIM)

**AND SO I SUFFER
THROUGH ENDLESS DAYS
CONDEMNED TO WANDER
THIS ENDLESS MAZE
AS I HIDE UNDERNEATH THIS VEIL**

**MY EVERY FEATURE,
GROTESQUE AND CRUEL,
CONCEALS THE HEART OF**

**A WRETCHED FOOL
TRAPPED INSIDE HIS MAN-MADE JAIL.**

**VOICES OFFSTAGE
PITY THE MAN,
HOPELESSLY DOOMED,
NEVER TO SHARE
HIS HEART.**

**BEAST
AND SO MY LIFE IS
AN ENDLESS GAME
AND I MAY NEVER BE THE SAME.
CONDEMNED AND HIDDEN
UNDERNEATH THIS MASK OF SHAME.**

(BLACKOUT)

SCENE #6 - The Forest, dusk

(BEAUTY AND HER SIBLINGS ARE HEARD OFFSTAGE CALLING FOR FATHER. THEY ENTER. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THEY'VE BEEN TRAVELING A LONG WAY.)

PRECIOUS

(PLOPPING HERSELF DOWN ON A STUMP OR SOMETHING OF THAT NATURE)
I refuse to walk another step. *(TAKES OFF HER SHOE AND MASSAGES HER FEET)*

BEAUTY

But we've got to keep going.

PRECIOUS

Why?

BEAUTY

Father needs us.

PRECIOUS

We don't even know where father is.

BEAUTY

Even more reason to keep going.

JAMES

She's right Precious. He should have contacted us by now.

TERRANCE

(AS HE'S LOOKING AROUND)
Perhaps he's lost his way.

PRUDENCE

Or been hurt.

JAMES

Or something even worse.

BEAUTY

Don't say that. We're going to find him. The sailors on the wharf told us that he had started back for home.

PRECIOUS

Then we should have stayed *home* to wait for him.

BEAUTY

But that was three weeks ago. It would never have taken him this long to get back. He needs our help, I'm sure of it.

PRECIOUS

Then you keep going and meet me back here when you find him.

JAMES

No, Precious, it's best that we stay together. There's no telling what's lurking in these woods now that the sun is going down.

PRECIOUS

I'm not scared.

BEAUTY

But Precious.....

TERRANCE

Oh, let her stay if she wants to. Let's just keep going. I think I see a light up ahead.

JAMES

(TO BEATRICE) All right. Suit yourself. I just hope that you can take care of yourself all alone.

PRECIOUS

Don't worry about me.

JAMES

Come on everyone, let's go. *(THEY EXIT)*

PRECIOUS

They think I'm easily frightened. Ha! I'll show them.

MUSIC CUE #

(THERE IS AN INSTANT LIGHT CHANGE SIGNIFYING NIGHTTIME).

Boy, night sure falls fast in these woods, doesn't it?

(AN OWL HOOTS. PRECIOUS FREEZES)

James, is that you?

(THE OWL HOOTS ONCE MORE)

Terrance, if you're trying to scare me, it's not working.

(SUDDENLY THE FOREST IS ALIVE WITH THE SOUNDS OF THE BIRDS AND ANIMALS OF THE NIGHT. PRECIOUS RISES AND BEGINS CHANTING) I'm not afraid.....I'm not afraid.....I'm not afraid....I'm....

(SUDDENLY THE SOUND OF A WOLF BAYING IS HEARD. PRECIOUS CHANGES HER MIND QUICKLY)

I'm afraid! I'm afraid! Wait up for me everyone!! I've changed my mind. HELP!!!

(SHE RUNS OFF)

(BLACKOUT)

SCENE 7 - The Grand Room Inside the Beast's Castle

(THE ROOM IS ORNATE, A LONG DECORATED DINING TABLE WITH CANDELABRAS ADORNING IT SITS UPSTAGE CENTER A BIT, TWO CHAIRS ON EITHER END OF IT. OVERHEAD HANGS A PORTRAIT OF A YOUNG, HANDSOME MAN.)

MUSIC CUE #

(BEAUTY AND SIBLINGS ENTER.)

BEAUTY

Hello, is anyone here?

PRECIOUS

Well, it looks like no one's home. Let's leave.

(SHE BEGINS TO RUN OFF BUT PRUDENCE AND JAMES GRAB HER)

TERRANCE

But I'm sure I saw candlelight coming from the windows.

BEAUTY

Hello? Can anyone help us, please?

(THEY ALL BEGIN TO CALL OUT LOUDLY FOR ANYONE TO ANSWER. SUDDENLY SERVANTS #1 and #2 ENTER)

SERVANT #1

Shhhhhh! We heard you. In fact, I think the whole town heard you. What's the trouble?

BEAUTY

Sir, we've been searching for our father and wondered if he might have passed this way?

SERVANT #1

Your father, eh?

(GIVES A LOOK TO THE OTHER SERVANT. HOLDS HIS HAND UP)

Was he about this tall?

BEAUTY

Yes.

SERVANT #2

Dark hair?

BEAUTY

(A BIT HOPEFUL) Yes!

SERVANT #1

Blue eyes?

BEAUTY

(*MORE HOPEFUL*) Yes!!

SERVANT #2

Wearing brown trousers, brown boots, plaid vest and yellow shirt?

BEAUTY

Yes, that's him!!!

BOTH SERVANTS

Nope, haven't seen him.

BEAUTY

But you just described him perfectly.

SERVANT #1

(*OBVIOUSLY LYING TO HER*)

Oh, we get a lot of visitors here who look like that.

SERVANT #2

Very true, very true.

BEAUTY

(*BEGINS TO SOB. LOOKS TO HER BROTHERS AND SISTERS*) What are we going to do now? I just know father is in some terrible danger.

SERVANT #2

(*TO SERVANT #1*) Oh, why do they always have to cry? All right...all right. We'll help you. But you've got to promise to stop crying first. (*BEAUTY DOES*) That's better. Don't worry, your father is safe.

JAMES

So you *have* seen him.

SERVANT #2

Yes.

TERRANCE

Where is he?

SERVANT #2

Here in the castle.

Then take us to him.

TERRANCE

Well.....actually, it's not that easy.

SERVANT #2

JAMES
What do you mean?

He's what you might call a prisoner here.

SERVANT #1

A prisoner?

BEAUTY

Your prisoner?

JAMES

Oh, no, we're just the servants.

SERVANT #2

Then whose?

JAMES

We can't really say.

SERVANT #2

Why not?

JAMES

We can't really say.

SERVANT #2

Well, what can you say?

TERRANCE

Not much. But trust me, he's fine.

SERVANT #2

Then let us see him.

JAMES

SERVANT #1
That's not possible.

JAMES

Why not?

JAMES AND SERVANT #1

We can't really say.

JAMES

This is ridiculous. *(BEGINS CALLING OUT)* Father! Father can you hear us!!
(THEY ALL BEGIN CALLING FOR HIM. SERVANTS TRY TO QUIET THEM. SUDDENLY CHARLES APPEARS ACCOMPANIED BY THE OTHER TWO SERVANTS.)

CHARLES

Children!

BEAUTY

Father! *(THEY ALL RUN TO HIM, AD LIB THEIR JOY AT SEEING HIM. THEY ALL START TALKING AT ONCE UNTIL THEIR VOLUME HAS INCREASED VERY LOUDLY.)*

BEAST *(BOOMING HE ENTERS)*

Silence!!

(AT THE SIGHT OF HIM, THE PRUDENCE AND PRECIOUS SCREAM, THE MEN ARE AGHAST AND ALL COWER BEHIND CHARLES.)

CHARLES

(TRYING TO CALM THEM)

It's all right. I'm the one he wants, not you.

BEAST

So, you've come to claim your father, have you? Too bad. He's not free to leave this castle.

PRUDENCE

Father, what is he saying?

BEAST

(TO CHARLES) Tell them.

JAMES

What's this all about?

CHARLES

I'm being held prisoner here as punishment for stealing from him.

TERRANCE

But, what did you steal?

CHARLES

A rose.

TERRANCE

A rose?

CHARLES

Yes. I was bringing it back for Beauty.

(BEAUTY REACTS)

TERRANCE

You stole a single rose? And for that you're a prisoner here?

BEAST

That's correct! My roses are very important to me and must not be touched! As a result, he is forbidden to leave this place. And I would advise you not to interfere. This matter concerns your father and me!

(BEAST GRABS CHARLES AND PULLS HIM AWAY FROM OTHERS. CHARLES FALLS TO FLOOR)

TERRANCE

I'll show you!!

(TERRANCE ADVANCES ON THE BEAST READY TO STRIKE HIM.)

CHARLES

(TRYING TO STOP HIM) Terrance, no!

(AS TERRANCE RAISES HIS HAND, BEAST GRABS IT AND, SHOWING GREAT STRENGTH, STOPS HIM IN DEAD HIS TRACKS. AFTER A BIT OF A STRUGGLE, THE BEAST EVENTUALLY OVERCOMES HIM AND SLOWLY FORCES HIM DOWN TO HIS KNEES AND THROWS HIM TO THE FLOOR.)

BEAST

That was a rather stupid thing to do.

JAMES

But how long will you keep him here?

BEAST

That's for me to decide. Now I suggest you leave here immediately or you risk becoming a prisoner as well.

BEAUTY

(STEPPING FORWARD)

No, I won't let you do that!

(BEAST SUDDENLY SEES HER FOR THE FIRST TIME AND IS TAKEN IN BY HER BEAUTY. HE ADVANCES SLOWLY TOWARD HER)

CHARLES

Beauty, stay back.

BEAUTY

He doesn't scare me, father. *(TO BEAST)* My father should not be blamed for this!

BEAST

(GETTING CLOSER TO HER)

Oh?

CHARLES

(RUNNING TO PUT HIMSELF BETWEEN BEAUTY AND BEAST)

Beauty, please.

BEAUTY

Father, if it wasn't for me, you wouldn't be in this trouble.
(CROSSES BRAVELY TO BEAST) I insist you release him.

BEAST

And why should I do that?

BEAUTY

Because I was the one who asked for the rose in the first place. I'm the one who should be punished. Take me instead.

CHARLES

(TRYING TO PULL HER BACK)

Beauty, no!

PRECIOUS

(STEPPING OUT)

She's right, you know. We wouldn't be here now if it wasn't for her.

(BEAST LOOKS AT PRECIOUS WHO IMMEDIATELY RUNS BACK TO THE OTHERS)

BEAST

(TO BEAUTY) You mean that you would be willing to trade places with your father?

BEAUTY

If it will save him from this, yes.

CHARLES

(STEPPING IN FRONT OF BEAUTY ONCE MORE TRYING TO PROTECT HER)

She doesn't know what she's saying. You've already got me..... now let the rest of them go.
I...

BEAST

Silence!! *(HE TOSSES CHARLES ASIDE. SERVANTS GRAB HIM AND PROTECT HIM)*

(TO BEAUTY) Your proposal intrigues me. I must admit that I have gotten rather bored with your father. *Your* presence, however, might prove a pleasant diversion. You are fully aware, if I agree to let you take his place, you would not be allowed to venture beyond these walls.

BEAUTY

I am aware of it, yes.

BEAST

And you will be under constant guard to prevent your escape.

BEAUTY

Yes.

BEAST

And you must obey my orders.

BEAUTY

I will.

BEAST

And you will have no contact with your family whatsoever.

BEAUTY

(PAUSES, LOOKS BACK AT FATHER, THEN SAYS BRAVELY) I accept that.

BEAST

(AFTER THINKING ABOUT IT) Then *I* accept your proposal. But understand this....if you do escape you will bring great harm to your family.

(PRUDENCE, PATIENCE, JAMES AND TERRANCE LET OUT A LOUD YELL.)

BEAUTY

I understand.

CHARLES

No, I can't let you do it, Beauty.

BEAUTY

Father, you must let me do this for your sake and for the sake of the rest of the family.

PRUDENCE

I think we should let her do it father.

CHARLES

Prudence, please be quiet. Beauty, I beg you to reconsider.

BEAUTY

Father, I can take care of myself.

MUSIC CUE #

CHARLES

I'd never forgive myself if anything ever happened to you.

BEAUTY

I'll be fine.

CHARLES

This can't be happening.

BEAUTY

It's going to be all right. You'll see.

WE CAN DO IT (Reprise)

BEAUTY

**SOMETIMES THE WORLD IS A SCARY PLACE;
SOMETIMES WE DON'T WHY
AND, EVEN THOUGH WE NEVER KNOW WHICH WAY TO TURN,
WE CAN MAKE IT IF WE TRY.**

**WE'LL SHOW THEM, FATHER WHAT WE'RE MADE OF.
THERE'S NOT A THING TO BE AFRAID OF
NO MATTER WHAT THEY SAY.
WE CAN DO IT.**

FATHER

WE CAN DO IT.

BEAUTY

WE'LL GET THROUGH IT

FATHER

**WE'LL GET THROUGH IT
BOTH
TOGETHER.**

BEAST
(TO SERVANT #1) Servants, show them out.

SERVANT #1
Are you sure you want to do this.

BEAST
I SAID SHOW THEM OUT!!!

SERVANT #1
OK, you're the boss. *(TO FATHER AND THE FAMILY IN A LOUD WHISPER)* You'd better do as he says. *(LOUDLY)* This way please! *(BROTHERS AND SISTERS RACE OUT SCREAMING. THREE SERVANTS FOLLOW THEM. FATHER STAYS BEHIND)*

SERVANT #2
(TO CHARLES) You'd better go quickly, sir!

CHARLES
(PULLING BEAUTY ASIDE, IN CONFIDENCE TO HER) We'll get you out of here just as soon as we can. I'll get more help and we'll be back to rescue you, that's a promise.

BEAUTY
Thank you, father.

SERVANT #2
You must hurry!

CHARLES
Good-bye, Beauty. *(HE HUGS HER)* Take care of yourself.

BEAUTY
I will. I'll be fine, don't worry.

(FATHER LEAVES WITH SERVANT #2)

(BELLE AND BEAST ARE ALONE ON-STAGE TOGETHER. THEY LOOK AT ONE ANOTHER)

BEAST
You are very brave.

BEAUTY

Not so much brave as determined to spare my father any harm.

BEAST

And the sight of me doesn't frighten you?

BEAUTY

Should it?

BEAST

Nor the thought of living here with me?

BEAUTY

No.

BEAST

(AFTER A PAUSE) Very well. *(CALLING OUT)* Servant!

SERVANT #2

Yes, sir?

BEAST

Take her to her room.

SERVANT #2

This way miss.

(SHE EXITS, BEAST WATCHING HER)

MUSIC CUE #
UNDERNEATH (Reprise)

BEAST

**IS SHE THE ONE I'VE HOPED FOR
AND THE ANSWER TO MY PRAYER?
MAYBE SHE CAN EASE THE BURDEN
OF THIS WRETCHED CURSE I BEAR.**

**I MUST FIND A WAY TO MAKE HER
SAY THE WORDS I NEED AND THEN
I'LL BE FREE OF THIS BEAST
AND BECOME A HUMAN
ONCE AGAIN.**

(CURTAIN

ACT TWO

PROLOGUE

Music Cue #

SERVANT #1

(PEEKING THROUGH THE CURTAIN.)

Hey, you came back! *(CALLING OUT)* Hey, everybody, they came back!

(SERVANTS ENTER, SEE THE AUDIENCE AND WELCOME THEM BACK)

(TO AUDIENCE) Well, we're sure glad you stayed because we've got a lot more story to tell.

SERVANT #2

But just in case you may have forgotten what's going on, let's review what's happened, shall we?

THE STORY THUS FAR

SERVANT #2

**BEAUTY'S FAMILY WAS RICH,
THEN THEIR FORTUNE WAS LOST
SO FATHER WENT OUT TO SEEK AID**

SERVANT #4

**AND WHILE HE WAS GONE
HE STUMBLED UPON**

SERVANT #3

**AN ILL-TEMPERED BEAST
WHOSE ANGER INCREASED**

SERVANT #1

**WHEN HE FOUND A ROSE
HAD BEEN PLUCKED FROM HIS NOSE**

SERVANT #2:

When he found a rose had been plucked from his nose?!!

SERVANT #3:

I think he means had been pluck from UNDER his nose.

(THEY ALL LAUGH AT HIM UNTIL THEY SEE HIM GLARING AT THEM.)

SERVANT #1:

May I go on?

SERVANT #4:

Of course.

SERVANT #1

**WHEN HE FOUND A ROSE
HAD-BEEN-PLUCKED-FROM-UNDER HIS NOSE
AND HIS KINDNESS HAD BEEN BETRAYED.**

SERVANT #2

So father became the beast's captive.....that is, until Beauty and her sisters and brothers showed up trying to rescue him. All it took was one look at Beauty and the beast was smitten. Now all he has to do is make her say she loves him before the last rose falls in the garden and the curse will be broken.

SERVANT #4

Unfortunately, the feeling isn't mutual on Beauty's part.

SERVANT #3

Yes. Four weeks have already passed and they're still not getting along.

SERVANTS

**AND THAT'S WHERE WE LEFT OFF
BEFORE INTERMISSION
WE'LL PICK UP WHERE ACT ONE WAS ENDING:
BEAUTY SHOWING RESISTANCE
BEAST KEEPING HIS DISTANCE
AND NEITHER SHOW SIGNS OF BEFRIENDING.**

SERVANT #1

(TO AUDIENCE) Do you think they're ever going to get together?

AUDIENCE

Yes!

SERVANT #1

I sure hope you're right. Let's watch and see.

(DIRECT SEGUE)

SCENE #1 - The Garden at the Castle

(WE SEE THAT HALF THE ROSES ARE GONE FROM THE GARDEN)

(BEAST ENTERS, SEES SERVANTS WHO ARE STILL IN POSITION FROM BEGINNING OF ACT)

BEAST

Why are you all standing around?

SERVANT #1

(INDICATING AUDIENCE) Oh we were just talking to....

SERVANT #2

(ELBOWING HIM AND STOPPING HIM) We were just leaving. We just came out here to...to....

SERVANT #1

(THINKING FAST) To exercise! *(SERVANTS LOOK AT HIM)*

Yep, that's it, we came out here to exercise!

(THEY ALL BREAK INTO VARIOUS HUMOROUS EXERCISES, EACH COUNTING THEIR OWN RHYTHM)

BEAST

(AFTER WATCHING THEM FOR A FEW MOMENTS) Don't you have work to?

SERVANT #2

(AS THEY CONTINUE TO EXERCISE)

Yes! Yes, we do. Come on everyone, back to work.

(SERVANTS EXIT, CONTINUING TO EXERCISE AND COUNT AS THEY DO.)

And one and two and three and four, and one.....

BEAST

(CALLING TO SERVANT #1)

Grumio?

SERVANT #1 (GRUMIO)

(STOPPING)

Yes, sir.

BEAST

A word, please.

SERVANT #1

Yes, sir?

BEAST

(FIRST MAKING SURE OTHERS HAVE GONE)

Has Beauty asked about me *today*?

SERVANT #1

I'm afraid not. But she'll come around sooner or later. Just give her time.

BEAST

I don't have much time. *(INDICATING THE ROSES)* Look, half the roses have already fallen.

SERVANT #1

Sir, if you don't mind my suggesting it. Why don't you just tell Beauty about the curse? I'm sure she'd agree to say whatever you need to hear.

BEAST

Because the curse can only be broken if the words are said honestly. She has to mean it. Until that time, she mustn't know about the curse, is that clear?

SERVANT #1

Yes sir.

BEAST

You may go.

SERVANT #1

Yes, sir.

(HE STARTS TO EXIT, REMEMBERS THE EXERCISING AND DOES IT ALL THE WAY OUT)

And one and two and three.....

MUSIC CUE #
WHAT'S A BEAST TO DO?

BEAST

**THE DAYS FLY BY AND TIME GROWS SHORT
BUT STILL SHE DOESN'T SEE.
THERE'S SO MUCH MORE SHE DOESN'T KNOW,
MUCH MORE INSIDE OF ME.
THIS GRUFF AND DARK EXTERIOR
STILL FRIGHTENS HER AWAY
AND YET I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO
AND DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.**

**EACH DAY BEGINS QUITE HOPEFUL;
MY INTENTIONS ARE THE BEST.
I TELL MYSELF THAT I
WILL GO TO HER AND TRY**

**TO SHOW THE REASONS WHY
SHE NEEDN'T BE QUITE SO DISTRESSED.**

**BUT ALL MY GOOD INTENTIONS
CAN'T BEGIN TO OVERCOME
THE SIMPLE FACT THAT I
AM ACTU'LLY QUITE SHY.
WHENEVER SHE'S NEARBY
THAT'S SUDDENLY WHEN I BECOME
A TONGUE-TIED, AWKWARD, BUMBLING FOOL
AND, BY THE TIME I'M THROUGH,
I'VE BELLOWED AT HER ONCE AGAIN.
OH, WHAT'S A BEAST TO DO?**

-280

**NO MATTER HOW I TRY TO ACT,
I HAVEN'T GOT A CLUE
ABOUT THE WAY TO DEAL WITH HER.
OH, WHAT'S A BEAST TO DO?**

(BLACKOUT)

SCENE #2 - The Grand Room in the Castle

BEAUTY ENTERS, AIMLESSLY WALKING, LOOKING AT THE VARIOUS AND SUNDRY THINGS THAT ADORN THE HALL. FINALLY SHE STARES AT THE PORTRAIT HANGING OVERHEAD.)

(SERVANTS ENTER AND SEE BEAUTY)

SERVANT #1

(WHISPERS TO THE OTHERS) Let me do the talking.
(TO BEAUTY) Hello, Beauty.

BEAUTY

(BRIGHTENING UP A BIT) Oh, hello.

SERVANT #1

How *are* you today?

BEAUTY

The same. Lonely.

SERVANT #1

You really miss your family, don't you?

BEAUTY

Of course. But I'll do whatever I must to keep them safe from harm. *(SHE SIGHS)* The days wouldn't seem so long and dreadfully boring if there was more to do or more people to talk to. If it wasn't for all of you, I'd have no one to talk to at all.

SERVANT #1

(THE SERVANTS PRODDING HIM) What about the master?

BEAUTY

I can't talk to him!

SERVANT #1

Why not?

BEAUTY

Because every time I've tried, he ends up bellowing at me.

SERVANT #1

He does bellow a lot, that's true.
(SERVANTS AGREE)
But....um....

(HE LOOKS BACK AT THE OTHER SERVANTS. THEY ARE SILENTLY PRODDING HIM TO SPEAK POSITIVELY ABOUT THE MASTER)you know, he's not so bad, really.

BEAUTY

Well, you'd never it know from the way he acts.

SERVANT #1

In fact, he can be quite a charmer.

BEAUTY

I don't believe that.

MUSIC CUE #

SERVANT #1

Oh, yes. You just have to get to know him, that's all.

THE NATURE OF THE BEAST

SERVANT #1

**THOUGH YOU MIGHT PREFER A MAN
WHO'S DRIPPING WITH FINESSE,
THIS ONE'S QUITE THE OPPOSITE.
HE'S ONE BIG AWKWARD MESS.
SO IF, AT TIMES, HE COMES ON STRONG
AND LACKS SOME SOCIAL SKILLS,
WHY NOT JUST ACCEPT HIM
AS A GUY WITHOUT THE FRILLS?**

'CUZ THE TRUTH IS

ALL SERVANTS

**IT'S JUST HIS NATURE.
HE'S NOT A TERRIBLE BRUTE.
IT'S JUST HIS NATURE.
HIS TEMPER IS A BEAUT**

SERVANT #1

BUT DON'T FORGET THAT

ALL SERVANTS

**IT'S JUST HIS NATURE.
HE DOESN'T MEAN IT IN THE LEAST.
IT'S JUST HIS NATURE,
THE NATURE OF THE BEAST.**

SERVANT #2

**THOUGH YOU'RE USED TO GENTLER CHAPS
WHO HAVE A QUIET SIDE,
THIS ONE'S GOT A QUIET SIDE
IT'S JUST MORE AMPLIFIED.
AND, YES, HE SOMETIMES ROARS A BIT,
BUT WE CAN GUARANTEE
THAT, IF YOU CAN IGNORE THE NOISE,
HE'S THE SAME AS YOU AND ME.**

SO REMEMBER

ALL SERVANTS

**IT'S JUST HIS NATURE,
HIS BARK'S WORSE THAN HIS BITE.
IT'S JUST HIS NATURE.
AND, WHEN HE PICKS A FIGHT,
NEVER DOUBT THAT
IT'S JUST HIS NATURE.
HE'S NOT A BULLY IN THE LEAST.
IT'S JUST HIS NATURE,
THE NATURE OF THE BEAST.**

SERVANT #3

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN, WE ADMIT, IT'S BEST TO STAY AWAY.

SERVANT #4

IT'S US'ALLY WHEN HE HASN'T SLEPT OR HAS A BAD HAIR DAY.

(THEY LAUGH)

And with him that can be pretty rough!

SO....

SERVANT #1 & 2

**IF, AT TIMES, YOU MAY NOT LIKE
THE CONDUCT HE DISPLAYS
AND FEEL THE NEED TO LECTURE HIM
ABOUT HIS BEASTLY WAYS,**

SERVANT #2

**KEEP IN MIND HE'S JUST A GUY
WHO'S BEEN MISUNDERSTOOD
AND WHEN IT COMES TO MANNERS,
WELL, HE'D CHANGE THEM IF HE COULD,**

ALL SERVANTS

**BUT TRUST ME
IT'S JUST HIS NATURE,
JUST IGNORE WHATEVER HE DOES.**

**IT'S JUST HIS NATURE.
HE CAN'T BE BLAMED BECAUSE
IT'S A FACT THAT
IT'S JUST HIS NATURE.
HE DOESN'T MEAN IT IN THE LEAST.
IT'S JUST HIS NATURE.
WHEN HIS ANGER HAS INCREASED
PLEASE REMEMBER....
IT'S JUST HIS NATURE
THE NATURE OF THE BEAST.
THE NATURE OF THE BEAST.**

(THEY ALL LAUGH, INCLUDING BEAUTY WHO HAS ENJOYED THE SONG.)

(BEAST ENTERS. SERVANTS SEE HIM, IMMEDIATELY STOP LAUGHING.)

SERVANT #1

(LOUDLY AND WITH MUCH EMPHASIS) Sorry, Beauty, we can't talk any longer. We've got more exercising to do. Come on everyone. And one and two and three.....

(THEY ONCE AGAIN EXIT WHILE EXERCISING)

(BEAUTY AND BEAST ARE ALONE. THERE IS AN AWKWARD MOMENT WHERE NEITHER SPEAKS. FINALLY BEAST BREAKS THE SILENCE)

BEAST

I'm sorry, I didn't know you were here. *(BEAUTY REMAINS SILENT. AFTER A PAUSE)*
I'll leave you now.

(HE BEGINS TO EXIT)

-280

BEAUTY

You don't have to go.

BEAST

(STOPS) I don't want to disturb you.

BEAUTY

You're not. I'd enjoy the company.

BEAST

Thank you.

(BEAUTY LOOKS FOR A WAY TO BREAK THE ICE)

BEAUTY

I've.....I was admiring your library earlier. Have you read all those books?

BEAST

Most. Do you enjoy reading?

BEAUTY

I do, very much

BEAST

Feel free to borrow any that you like.

BEAUTY

That's very kind of you.

BEAST

(AFTER ANOTHER AWKWARD PAUSE) Beauty, I realize you've been unhappy since you arrived.

BEAUTY

It's very lonely here.

BEAST

I haven't been very good company for you.

BEAUTY

No.

BEAST

But I want to change that. I want so much to be your friend.....that is, if you'll let me. In fact, *(SUMMONING UP THE COURAGE TO ASK)* if you would join me for dinner this evening at seven o'clock I'd be most honored.

BEAUTY

I'd like that!

BEAST

(BRIGHTENS) Thank you. I'm also aware of how much you miss your family.

BEAUTY

More than you can ever know. Do you think I might be able to visit them soon?

BEAST

Beauty, I know you can't understand this, but I need to you stay here just a little while longer.

BEAUTY

How long?

BEAST

At least until the roses are all gone.

BEAUTY

Why are the roses so important to you?

BEAST

One day you will know, but not just yet. In any event, to help ease your sadness over your separation from your family, I have something for you. *(HANDS HER AN ORNATE MIRROR. SHE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND)* You see, it's not an ordinary mirror. This will give you the power to see your family whenever you like. All you need to do is look into it and say the words

"Mirror mine

help me see

all my loving family."

(BEAUTY LOOKS AT HIM, DISBELIEVING)

Go ahead... .try it.

(BEAUTY WALKS DOWN TO A CORNER OF STAGE, HOLDS UP THE MIRROR)

BEAUTY

"Mirror mine,

help me see

all my loving family."

MUSIC CUE #

(MUSIC UNDERSCORES LIGHT CHANGE, PUTTING HER IN A SPECIAL. AS SHE LOOKS INTO THE MIRROR LIGHTS COME UP ON THE FAMILY ON OTHER SIDE OF THE STAGE)

CHARLES

Children, we must come up with a plan to rescue Beauty.

PRECIOUS

But the beast said that if she tried to escape, he would bring harm to us all.

CHARLES

We can't think about that now. The most important thing is Beauty's safety.

WE'VE GOT TO SAVE HER

CHARLES

WE'VE GOT TO SAVE HER.

**WE'VE GOT TO PUT ASIDE OUR FEAR
AND FIND A WAY TO PERSEVERE.
WE'VE GOT TO SAVE HER.
UNTIL SHE'S FREED FROM BEASTLY CLUTCHES
WE MUST FIGHT FOR HER. AS MUCH AS
WE MIGHT WISH IT WASN'T SO,
WE'VE GOT TO GO.**

*(CHILDREN AD LIB THEIR STUBBORNNESS AND DETERMINATION NOT TO PUT
THEMSELVES IN HARMS WAY)*

**ALL BUT CHARLES
BUT WHY SHOULD WE EVEN BE BOTHERED?
WHY SHOULD WE RISK IT ALL FOR HER?
BEAUTY'S THE CAUSE OF IT. EVERYONE KNOWS
SHE WAS THE ONE WHO ASKED FOR THE ROSE.
IF SHE HADN'T ASKED FOR IT, DO YOU SUPPOSE
WE'D BE IN THIS MESS?**

**CHARLES
NONETHELESS...**

*(DURING THE NEXT VERSE, THE CHILDREN FINALLY COME AROUND AND AGREE TO
HELP)*

**WE'VE GOT TO SAVE HER
WE'VE GOT TO PUT AWAY OUR PRIDE
AND STAND TOGETHER SIDE BY SIDE.
WE'VE GOT TO SAVE HER.
WE HAVE TO STAND UP TO HER CAPTOR
AND WE'LL FIGHT HIM 'TIL HE'S TRAPPED OR
ELSE SHE CAN'T ESCAPE THE MAN
SO THAT'S THE PLAN....**

We'll round up all the townspeople and attack the beast's castle. We'll fight until we've defeated him and forced him to release Beauty.

**ALL
WE'LL RESCUE HER AND THEN,
ONCE WE'VE CRUSHED THE BEAST, THAT'S WHEN
SHE'LL BE SAFE WITH US AGAIN.**

(LIGHTS FADE ON THE FAMILY AS THEY RUN OFF. CROSS FADE TO BEAUTY AGAIN.)

BEAST
Is your family well?

BEAUTY

(HIDING THE REAL FACTS) Yes, they are very well. Thank you. I will cherish this gift always.

BEAST

It gives me pleasure to know that. Well, I'll leave you now.....and I look forward to dinner at seven.

BEAUTY

Before you go, may I ask you a question?

BEAST

Of course.

BEAUTY

(POINTING TO THE PORTRAIT HANGING OVERHEAD) I've been wondering who the gentleman is in that portrait.

BEAST

(TENSING UP A BIT) He's.....he's someone who once owned this house.

BEAUTY

What was his name?

BEAST

-280*(TRYING TO AVOID THE ISSUE)* I've forgotten.

BEAUTY

Did you know him well?

BEAST

Not well.

BEAUTY

What happened to him?

BEAST

(GETTING MORE AND MORE TENSE AND EVASIVE) He.....he disappeared.

BEAUTY

He just disappeared?

BEAST

Yes. And please don't ask anymore questions about him.

BEAUTY

But why? Were you very close?

BEAST

(HIS VOICE BEGINNING TO RISE) Not very.

BEAUTY

I don't understand.

BEAST

(MORE AND MORE UPSET) No more questions please!

BEAUTY

But he must have been someone who was very important to you.

BEAST

-280*(VOICE IS STRONGER YET)* I told you we weren't very close!! Why won't you believe me?

BEAUTY

But, if his portrait still hangs in a place of honor in your home, he.....

BEAST

(LOUDLY AND WITH SUDDEN FORCE) Why do you persist in these endless questions??!!! I've already told you all you need to know about it!!! The rest is of no interest to you!!! This discussion is over!!!!

(BEAUTY IS STUNNED AT HIS OUTBURST. FOR A MOMENT SHE DOESN'T MOVE, BUT THEN RUNS OFF CRYING, LEAVING BEAST ALONE).

BEAST

(CALLING AFTER HER) Beauty, wait! I'm sorry. *(SHE IS GONE)* Aaaaahhhhhhh!!!! I've done it again!

(SERVANTS ENTER, LOOKING OFF AS IF BEAUTY HAS JUST RUN PAST THEM)

SERVANT #1

Now what happened? Oh, oh..... you've gone and put your foot in your mouth again, haven't you?

BEAST

I'm afraid so.

SERVANT #1

When are you ever going to learn?

BEAST

I don't need any lectures right now. It's hopeless so just leave me be.

(SERVANTS LOOK AT ONE ANOTHER)

SERVANT #2

Look, boss. It's like this. She's a female.....and you gotta treat her a little more gently.

BEAST

It doesn't matter anymore. I've lost my chance.

SERVANT #3

What about dinner tonight at seven o'clock?

BEAST

(ADVANCING ON HIM) How did you know about that!!!!?

SERVANT #3

Oh well.....I.....we.....we just.....happened to be.....um.

BEAST

Listening in?

SERVANT #2

All right, we admit it. We were listening in.

SERVANT #1

Look.....you need our help. And dinner tonight would be the perfect time to impress her.

BEAST

If she even shows up.

SERVANT #4

She has to eat, doesn't she?

SERVANT #2

Besides, I have a feeling she'll have calmed down by then and she'll be here.

SERVANT #1

I agree. And if you're gonna try to impress her, we've got a lot of work to do.

MUSIC CUE #

BEASTLY ETIQUETTE

SERVANT #1

WHEN IT COMES TO A FEMALE

CERTAIN RULES DO APPLY.

SERVANT #2

**IF YOU ASK HER TO DINNER
AND YOU'RE HOPING TO WIN HER**

SERVANT #3

THERE ARE THINGS WE CAN TEACH YOU

SERVANT #4

SO PLEASE, WE BESEECH YOU

ALL 4 SERVANTS

PAY ATTENTION WHILE WE TRY!

SERVANT #1

WHEN SHE ENTERS THE ROOM, STAND UP

BEAST

Stand up?

SERVANT #1

STAND UP AND THEN TAKE HER HAND

(BEAST GRABS HIS HAND STRONGLY)

Owwww!!!!

**DON'T GRAB IT SO FORCEFUL
BE A BIT MORE RESOURCEFUL....
AND MAKE IT MUCH LESS A DEMAND.**

(HESITANTLY) Now try it again. *(BEAST DOES IT. SERVANT #1 IS VERY RELIEVED)* That's much better. Going on.

NOW YOU BOW SLIGHTLY...

(BEAST HUNCHES OVER)

NO, FROM THE WAIST.

BEAST

From the waist?

SERVANT #1

**THE WAIST! AND THEN SMILE AND SAY
"HOW NICE YOU COULD BE HERE
WOULD YOU CARE TO JOIN ME HERE?"
FOLLOWED CLOSELY BY, "HOW WAS YOUR DAY?"**

BEAST

Say all that while I'm bowing?

SERVANT #1

Look, we know what we're talking about. Just try it.

BEAST

(MIMICKING HIM) How nice you could be here. Would you care to join me here? How was your day?

SERVANT #1

Excellent! Now, was that so hard? No matter what, you've always gotta remember....

ALL SERVANTS

**TO IMPRESS A GIRL FULLY, YOU CAN'T BE A BULLY
HAVING MANNERS IS FIRST A PRE-REQUISITE,
BUT FOLLOW OUR LEAD, AND YOU'RE SURE TO SUCCEED
IF YOU LEARN ALL ABOUT BEASTLY ETIQUETTE.**

(Note: Need to pronounce it "eti-kitt")

SERVANT #1

Shall we continue?

BEAST

If we must!

SERVANT #1

We must.

SERVANT #2

NEXT, IT'S TIME TO SHOW HER TO THE TABLE

BEAST

Table, this is Beauty!

SERVANT #2

**TO ESCORT HER, I MEAN, TO HER CHAIR
SO HOLD OUT YOUR ARM, PLEASE**

(BEAST THRUSTS HIS ARM STRAIGHT OUT QUICKLY. SERVANT BENDS IT IN CORRECTLY)

**WITH A TAD BIT MORE CHARM, PLEASE,
AND WALK AS IF FLOATING ON AIR.**

(SERVANT DEMONSTRATES. BEAST TRIES IT, AT FIRST UNSUCCESSFULLY, BUT THEN GETS IT RIGHT)

By George, I think he's got it!

BEAST

Not bad for a novice, eh?

SERVANT #2
**NOW ONCE YOU'VE ARRIVED AT THE TABLE,
YOU PULL OUT HER CHAIR, AND THEN**
(SERVANT PULLS OUT THE CHAIR)
**RIGHT AFTER YOU'VE DRAWN IT,
SHE'LL SIT DOWN UPON IT
AND WAIT TILL YOU MOVE IT AGAIN.**

*(BEAST PICKS UP THE CHAIR QUICKLY AND STARTS TO CARRY IT OFF. SERVANT
STOPS HIM)*

Not quite that far. You just push it into the table a bit.

(BEAST DOES IT.)

That's what we like to see because...

ALL SERVANTS
**TO IMPRESS A GIRL FULLY,
YOU CAN'T BE A BULLY.
HAVING MANNERS IS FIRST A PRE-REQUISITE
BUT FOLLOW OUR LEAD**
-280 **AND YOU'RE SURE TO SUCCEED
IF YOU LEARN ALL ABOUT
BEASTLY ETIQUETTE.**

SERVANT #2
You're catching on so quickly.

BEAST
Didn't realize I was such a quick study, did you?

SERVANT #2
You sure had us fooled. But I wouldn't get too overconfident yet. There's more.

BEAST
More?

SERVANT #2
More.

SERVANT #3
**WHILE YOU'RE BOTH SITTING THERE AT THE TABLE,
YOUR NAPKIN IN PLACE ON YOUR LAP,**

BEAST
I have to use a napkin?

SERVANT #3

Just do it!

(BEAST PUTS NAPKIN ACROSS HIS LAP)

CONVERSE WITH HER PROUDLY

(BEAST GROWLS LOUDLY)

BUT DON'T SPEAK TOO LOUDLY

OR YOU MIGHT RISK A SOCIAL MISHAP.

Speak lower.

(BEAST GROWLS LOUDLY AGAIN)

Lower!!

(BEAST GROWLS IN A VERY LOW REGISTER)

We'll work on it later.

WHEN DINNER IS SERVED.....

(SERVANT NOTICES BEAST'S MIND IS WANDERING)

Pay attention!

USE A FORK, KEEP YOUR SWORD IN ITS SHEATH.

DON'T SLURP UP YOUR STEW;

DON'T BURP WHEN YOU'RE THROUGH

AND FOR PITY'S SAKE DON'T PICK YOUR TEETH.

BEAST

You call that having dinner?

SERVANT #3

I know it's not easy but you just gotta do it. Come on! You're in the home stretch now.

BEAST

I don't think I can remember much more.

SERVANT #3

Don't give up yet.

SERVANT #4

AS THE EVENING DRAWS CLOSE TO ITS ENDING

IF SHE NEEDS TO RETIRE, DON'T GET SORE

BEAST

But she just got here.

SERVANT #4

DON'T RAVE AND DON'T RANT

OR INSIST THAT SHE CAN'T

SAY "OF COURSE" AND ESCORT HER TO THE DOOR.

BEAST

Can't she find it by herself?

SERVANT #4

Be quiet and listen!

**THE LAST THING YOU DO IS IMPORTANT
SO WATCH VERY CLOSE OR YOU'LL MISS IT.
FIRST YOU BOW, YES ONCE MORE.**

(BEAST BOWS)

TAKE HER HAND LIKE BEFORE

(BEAST TAKES HAND)

BUT THIS TIME YOU TENDERLY KISS IT.

BEAST

What??

SERVANT #4

You kiss her hand.

BEAST

Why??

SERVANT #4

Because it shows you're a gentleman.

BEAST

By slobbering all over her hand?

SERVANT #4

You don't slobber all over it! You kiss it gently.

BEAST

I don't know.

SERVANT #4

Trust me, she'll love you for it.

BEAST

(REALIZING WHAT THAT WOULD MEAN) She'll love me for it?

SERVANT #4

Have we ever steered you wrong? Don't answer that. Just remember.

ALL SERVANTS

**TO IMPRESS A GIRL FULLY, YOU CAN'T BE A BULLY
HAVING MANNERS IS FIRST A PRE-REQUISITE**

SERVANT #1

**TRY BEING MORE PENSIVE
AND LESS REPREHENSIVE;**

SERVANT #2

**SHOW HER SOME FEELING
AND YOU'LL BE MORE APPEALING;**

SERVANT #3

IF YOU WEREN'T SO BEARISH

SERVANT #4

0

YOU'D BE QUITE DEBONAIRISH,

ALL SERVANTS

THEN YOU'LL EVEN HAVE TO ADMIT

IF YOU FOLLOW OUR LEAD

IT'S A CINCH YOU'LL SUCCEED

'CAUSE YOU'VE LEARNED ALL ABOUT

'CAUSE YOU'VE LEARNED ALL ABOUT

BEASTLY ETIQUETTE.

(BLACKOUT)

SCENE #3 - A Hallway in the Castle

MUSIC CUE

DINNER PREPARATIONS

-280Note: *this entire scene is underscored with music and done without spoken dialogue.*

(IT'S CLOSE TO 7:00 THAT EVENING. SERVANT #1 (GRUMIO) IS DISCOVERED AT CENTER CARRYING A CHECKLIST. HE SUMMONS THE SERVANTS IN AND, ONE BY ONE, THEY ENTER CARRYING VARIOUS ITEMS FOR DINNER INCLUDING COVERED SILVER PLATTERS, CANDELABRAS, ETC. AS THEY PASS SERVANT #1, HE CHECKS THE ITEM OFF THE LIST AND THEY EXIT, PRESUMABLY TO THE DINING ROOM. ONCE THEY HAVE ALL PASSED BY AND EXITED, SERVANT #1 SUMMONS THEM BACK OUT. THEY LINE UP.

AS MUSIC CHANGES, BEAST ENTERS PROUDLY AND GALLANTLY, HANDSOMELY DRESSED FOR THE OCCASION. SERVANTS GATHER AROUND HIM TO CHECK HIS APPEARANCE.

THE CLOCK BEGINS TO STRIKE SEVEN. AS THE SERVANTS LINE UP ONCE MORE, BEAST TAKES HIS PLACE WAITING FOR BELLE TO ENTER. AT THE SEVENTH CHIME ALL EYES TURN TOWARD THE ENTRANCE. BUT BEAUTY DOESN'T APPEAR. AFTER A FEW MOMENTS, BEAST'S MOOD CHANGES TO ONE OF SADNESS AND DISAPPOINTMENT. SERVANTS GATHER AROUND HIM AND TRY TO CONSOLE HIM. SUDDENLY, SERVANT #2 LOOKS OFFSTAGE AND IS OVERJOYED AT WHAT HE SEES. HE TELLS THE REST OF THE SERVANTS AND THEY QUICKLY LINE UP AGAIN. BEAUTY ENTERS, BEAUTIFULLY DRESSED, LOOKING TOWARD THE BEAST WHO IS TURNED AWAY AND IS NOT AWARE OF HER PRESENCE. SERVANT #3 TAP BEASTS ON THE SHOULDER. HE TURNS AND HIS FACE BRIGHTENS WHEN HE SEES HER. MUSIC STOPS. FOR A MOMENT NO ONE MOVES. FINALLY, HE CROSSES TO HER IN A MOST GENTLEMANLY FASHION.

AFTER A PAUSE, BEAST TAKES BELLE'S HAND AND BOWS JUST LIKE THE SERVANTS HAVE TAUGHT HIM. SHE IS TAKEN ABACK, BUT EVENTUALLY CURTSIES. THEY LOOK AT EACH OTHER FOR A MOMENT. BEAST OFFERS HER HIS ARM. SLOWLY SHE PUTS HER ARM ON HIS. MUSIC IN AGAIN. THEY SMILE AT EACH OTHER AND PROCEED TOWARD THE DINING ROOM.

BEAUTY TURNS BACK (WITHOUT BEAST SEEING) AND LOOKS AT SERVANTS. THEY GIVE HER THE "THUMBS-UP" SIGN. BEAST ALLOWS BEAUTY TO EXIT FIRST THEN HE TOO THEN LOOKS BACK AT SERVANTS. THEY ALSO GIVE HIM SOME SORT OF VICTORY SIGN. BEAST EXITS AND SCENE ENDS WITH MUSIC BUILDING AND SERVANTS CONGRATULATING THEMSELVES.

(BLACKOUT)

SCENE #4- The Wharf

MUSIC CUE #

(IN DARKNESS, WE HEAR THE ROAR OF A CROWD. LIGHTS COME UP AND WE SEE THAT CHARLES HAS GATHERED THE SAILORS AND TOWNSPEOPLE AND IS ASKING FOR THEIR HELP IN SAVING BEAUTY)

0

CHARLES

And if we don't take care of this now, it may be your daughter or your son who may be taken captive next. I'm asking all of you to help us fight this wretched animal that threatens our whole town.

(ALL CHEER THEIR APPROVAL)

WE'VE GOT TO SAVE HER (Reprise)

CHARLES

**WE'VE GOT TO SAVE HER!
WE NEED YOUR HELP, I BEG YOU, PLEASE
WE'VE GOT TO BRING HIM TO HIS KNEES.
WE'VE GOT TO SAVE HER.
WE'VE GOT TO DO WHATEVER'S NEEDED
TILL WE'VE THOROUGHLY SUCCEEDED
AND WE'VE OVERCOME THE BEAST.
AND HE'S DECEASED.**

0

-280

**WE'VE GOT TO SAVE HER!
UNTIL THIS CHALLENGE HAS BEEN MET
WE MUST PROCEED WITHOUT REGRET.
WE'VE GOT TO SAVE HER.**

**WITHOUT YOUR HELP WE'LL NEVER BEAT HIM.
THERE'S NO CHANCE THAT WE'LL DEFEAT HIM
AT HIS CRUEL LITTLE GAME.
HE MUST BE TAMED!**

And once Beauty is freed he must be destroyed. Can I count on all of you for help?

ALL

Yes! You can count on us! Let's get him!, etc.

(SUNG IN AN ECHO FASHION, ONE GROUP STARTING AND THE OTHER JUST A FEW BEATS LATER)

**WE'VE GOT TO SAVE HER.
WE'LL STAND TOGETHER SIDE BY SIDE**

**AND WE WON'T BE SATISFIED
UNTIL WE SAVE HER.
HE MUST BE THOROUGHLY DEFEATED
LONG BEFORE WE HAVE RETREATED.
WE WILL FIGHT HIM TO THE END.
WE'LL NEVER BEND.
WE'VE GOT TO SAVE HER.
WE'VE GOT TO SAVE HER.
WE'VE GOT TO SAVE HER
BEFORE HE HAS THE CHANCE TO STRIKE AGAIN**

CHARLES

Follow me!

(THEY EXIT CHEERING, MOB-STYLE)

(BLACKOUT)

SCENE #5 - Belle's Room
(same room as Father in Act 1)

MUSIC CUE #

(IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING DINNER.

FROM THE WINDOW, WE SEE THAT THERE ARE FEWER ROSES LEFT ON THE BUSH)

(BEAUTY ENTERS ON BEASTS ARM. THEY HAVE BEEN CHATTING AND ITS OBVIOUS THEY BOTH HAVE ENJOYED EACH OTHER'S COMPANY)

BEAST

I've had a most enjoyable time, Beauty. Thank you for agreeing to dine with me.

BEAUTY

I should be thanking you for the wonderful evening. It's been quite some time since I've been treated so specially..... such delicious food, such elegant surroundings..... and, most of all, a charming host who has been nothing less than a perfect gentleman.

BEAST

(SMILES SHYLY) Thank you. For so long, I've wanted to be your friend but I just didn't know how to go about telling you.

BEAUTY

I haven't exactly been the most agreeable of house guests.

BEAST

Beauty, even though the circumstances which brought you here were not the happiest, your presence here has been more wonderful than I could have ever imagined.

BEAUTY

Thank you. And tonight, I've realized that a real person lives underneath that gruff exterior of yours.

(SHE KISSES HIM GENTLY ON HIS CHEEK. HIS HEART SOARS)

BEAST

(TOUCHING HIS CHEEK WHERE BEAUTY KISSED IT)

Thank you for that. Well, it's getting late and you need to get some rest. So, I'll say goodnight for now.

BEAUTY

Goodnight.....Gregor.

BEAST

How did you know my name?

BEAUTY

The servants.

BEAST

Of course. I should have guessed.

BEAUTY

It's a beautiful name.

BEAST

Thank you. Well.....Goodnight. (*HE TURNS, STOPS, TURNS BACK TO HER*) What I said that day about harming your family if you tried to escape.....I want you to know that I would never hurt them...or you. It was the only way I could think of to make you stay. Now I see how foolish I was and the sadness I've brought to you. You are free to leave whenever you like. No one will try to stop you.

(*HE BEGINS TO EXIT*)

BEAUTY

And if wish to stay?

BEAST

(*HE STOPS, LOOKS AT HER, HIS HEART FULL*)

Then I would do everything in my power to make you happy.

BEAUTY

(*SMILES AT HIM*) Goodnight.

BEAST

Goodnight.

(*AGAIN, HE TURNS TO GO BUT STOPS. HE LOOKS BACK. FINALLY, HE WALKS TO HER, TAKES HER HAND AND KISSES IT. THEY SMILE AT ONE ANOTHER. HE EXITS.*)

MUSIC CUE #
WHO IS HE?

BEAUTY

WHO IS THIS MAN WHO ENCHANTS ME?
WHERE WAS HE HIDING 'TIL NOW?
IS THIS THE SAME VOICE THAT BELLOWED
AS FAR AS THAT VOICE WOULD ALLOW?

**IS HE THE ONE WHO ONLY YESTERDAY HAD LEFT ME
DETERMINED TO SPOIL HIS PLAN,
AND WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO MAKE HIM CHANGE
INTO SUCH A DIFFERENT MAN?**

**PERHAPS THERE IS A REASON
THAT WE SHOULD MAKE AMENDS.
PERHAPS THERE'S A CHANCE
WE COULD BECOME BEST OF FRIENDS.
THEN MAYBE I'D DISCOVER
WHAT SETS HIM APART
AND WHY THERE IS SOMETHING
THAT HE'S TOUCHED DEEP INSIDE MY HEART.**

**WITHOUT EVEN A WARNING
WHY DO THESE FEELINGS START?
AND WHY IS THERE SUDDENLY
THIS NEW AND EXCITING COURSE TO CHART,
SOMETHING THERE
DEEP INSIDE MY HEART?**

(STILL SMILING FROM THE MEMORY OF THE EVENING, SHE PICKS UP THE MAGIC MIRROR)

BEAUTY

*“Mirror mine,
help me see,
all my loving family.”*

(HER MOOD CHANGES)

What's happening? They're carrying weapons. What are they doing? Oh, no!! They must be on their way to rescue me. I've got to stop them. I've got to tell them that Gregor means them no harm. *(SHE GRABS HER CAPE.)* I've got to get to them before they try to harm him. *(SHE RUNS OFF)*

(BLACKOUT)

SCENE 6 - The Next Morning, the garden

(WE SEE THAT THERE IS A SINGLE ROSE LEFT ON THE VINE)

BEAST

(OFFSTAGE) Beauty! Beauty, where are you?

(HE ENTERS.) NOTE: BENEATH HIS CAPE HE WILL BE UNDERDRESSED FOR THE EVENTUAL TRANSITION FROM BEAST TO MAN)

Beauty? Are you out here?

(NO ANSWER.. HE CALLS LOUDER)

Beauty??

(CALLING FOR SERVANTS)

Grumio? Grumio?

(SERVANTS ENTER)

SERVANT #1

Yes, sir?

BEAST

Grumio, I've been looking for Beauty. Have you seen her?

SERVANT #1

(EYES DARTING TO THE OTHERS) Have I seen her?

BEAST

Yes, I wanted her to join me for a picnic near the waterfall. Have you seen her?

SERVANT #1

(TRYING TO EVADE)

Have I seen who?

BEAST

Beauty! Beauty!!

SERVANT #1

Oh! Beauty!! You're looking for Beauty?

BEAST

Yes, I'm looking for Beauty. Where is she?

SERVANT #1

(EYES DARTING AGAIN TO THE OTHERS)

She's.....she's.....

BEAST

Well....speak up!

SERVANT #1

Oh what's the use in trying to hide it. She's gone.

BEAST

Gone?

SERVANT #2

Yes, she left last night.....shortly after dinner.

BEAST

Did she say where she was going?

SERVANT #2

She said she was going to look for her family. That's all.

BEAST

(CRUSHED) Then last night meant nothing to her after all. It was all just a cruel joke to get me to say that she was free to go and that no one would try and stop her.

SERVANT #1

Well, apparently she took you up on the offer.

SERVANT #2

(ELBOWING SERVANT #1 IN THE RIBS) Maybe she'll be back.

BEAST

What's the difference? Time has run out for me. Look. there's only one rose left. Any hope I ever had of Beauty breaking the curse and helping me become human again is lost now.

(MAKING HIS WAY TO THE ROSE BUSH)

I should have realized that anyone who looks as hideous as me can never hope to find someone who'll give their heart freely to him.

(HE GRABS HOLD OF THE ROSE, READY TO PICK IT)

SERVANTS

Wait, don't do it! Stop, etc.

SERVANT #1

You know what will happen if you do.

BEAST

Yes. Let me pick this last rose and willingly face my destiny.

SERVANT #2

But there's got to be another way.

BEAST

There *is* no other way... .no other choice.

(AS THEY YELL "NO!" ONE LAST TIME, HE PLUCKS IT FROM THE VINE.)

MUSIC CUE #
THE LAST ROSE / THE FIGHT

(BEAST SLOWLY WALKS DOWNSTAGE, BEGINS TO STUMBLE AND WEAKEN. HE DROPS THE ROSE. SUDDENLY THE ADVANCING MOB IS HEARD OFFSTAGE)

SERVANT #1

(LOOKING OFFSTAGE) Master!!!! There's a mob approaching the castle. Get inside and protect yourself. (SERVANTS GRAB THE BEAST AND PUSH HIM INSIDE THE CASTLE)

(SUDDENLY THE MOB ENTERS WITH THE MOB)

JAMES

Where is he? We want him!

SERVANTS

He's not here!!

JAMES

We don't believe you! (YELLING TO THE OTHERS) Come on!!! Let's find him!

(THEY ADVANCE. THE SERVANTS MANAGE TO WARD THEM OFF FOR A FEW MOMENTS. EVENTUALLY BEAST REAPPEARS.

TERRANCE

(SEEING BEAST) There he is!!

SERVANTS

(TRYING TO STOP HIM.) No, master. Get back!

BEAST

Let me be!

(TERRANCE RUSHES FORWARD. HE RAISES HIS FIST TO THE BEAST BUT, AS HAPPENED IN ACT ONE WHEN THE FAMILY CAME TO THE CASTLE, BEAST GRABS HIS ARM AND EVENTUALLY OVERCOMES HIM AND BRINGS HIM TO HIS KNEES. JAMES RUSHES FORWARD WITH CLUB IN HAND)

JAMES

He's mine now!!

(JAMES STRIKES BEAST WITH A CLUB. UNABLE TO FIGHT BECAUSE OF HIS WEAKNESS, BEAST IMMEDIATELY CRUMBLES TO HIS KNEES. AS JAMES HELPS TERRANCE UP AND PUSHES HIM BACK TOWARD THE CROWD, BEAST MANAGES TO GET BACK ON HIS FEET. JAMES STRIKES HIM AGAIN. AGAIN HE CRUMBLES TO HIS KNEES.

And now to make sure that you will never again harm anyone!

(JAMES RAISES HIS CLUB OVER HIS HEAD READY TO STRIKE THE FINAL BLOW WHEN BEAUTY RUSHES IN)

BEAUTY

James stop! Don't do it. Please!

(JAMES STOPS)

CHARLES

(RUSHING TO HER)

Beauty, are you all right?

BEAUTY

Yes. But you must stop this. This man is no threat.

CHARLES

This is not a man.....this is a beast!

BEAUTY

Only on the outside. Inside is a man who has shown me nothing but kindness and respect. And I know now that he meant no harm to any of us.

(SHE KNEES AND CRADLES BEAST IN HER ARMS)

MUSIC CUE #
HOW FAR WE'VE COME

I'm sorry, Gregor. This should never have happened.

BEAST

Beauty.....when they told me you had gone, I thought I had lost you forever.

BEAUTY

I only meant to stop them before they could hurt you.

BEAST

None of it matters now. It's too late for me.

BEAUTY

Don't say that.

BEAST

It's true.

BEAUTY

**HOW FAR WE'VE COME.
WHY MUST IT END?
HOW COULD WE LET ALL THIS HAPPEN?
HOW DID I MISS
ALL THAT WAS THERE,
ALL THAT WAS THERE RIGHT BEFORE ME?
WHAT I WOULD GIVE
IF I COULD NOW
SOMEHOW POSSESS ALL THE POWER
TO CHANGE EVERY MOMENT THAT LEAD TO THIS TIME,
SOMEHOW TO TURN BACK EV'RY HOUR.**

BEAST

**YOU MUSTN'T SHED ANY TEARS
YOU MUSTN'T SHARE ANY BLAME.
HOW COULD YOU KNOW ALL THE JOY I FELT
SIMPLY BY SPEAKING YOUR NAME?**

BEAUTY

**IF I COULD NOW
GIVE UP MY SOUL,
TRADE IT FOR YOURS
I'D BE WILLING,
FOR WITH YOUR LOVE
I'VE COME TO LEARN
TO SAVE YOUR LIFE
I WOULD GLADLY GIVE MINE IN RETURN.
TO SAVE YOUR LIFE
I WOULD GLADLY GIVE MINE IN.....**

BEAST (counter melody)

**I ONLY HOPE THAT YOU
CAN SOMEHOW UNDERSTAND....
YOUR LOVE I TRIED TO EARN,
AND THOUGH I KNOW THAT LOVE
I'LL NEVER HAVE.
TO SAVE YOUR LIFE
I NOW GLADLY GIVE MINE IN RETURN.
TO SAVE YOUR LIFE**

I NOW GLADLY GIVE MINE IN.....

(BEAST CLUTCHES HIS HEART)

BEAUTY

Gregor!!!

BEAST

Beauty, I.....I.....love you.

(HE DIES.)

BEAUTY

(CRYING) No Gregor.....no.....no.....it can't be, etc..

MUSIC CUE #
BEAST DIES

(CHARLES COMES TO BEAUTY, HELPS HER UP AND THEY MOVE AWAY FROM BEAST. TWO SERVANTS BRING A BLANKET FROM INSIDE THE CASTLE TO COVER BEAST.)

(AS CHARLES COMFORTS HER. SHE LOOKS BACK TO BEAST) I realize now that I loved him with all my heart.

CHARLES

Come, Beauty. Let's go.

(THEY BEGIN TO WALK AWAY. SUDDENLY THERE IS MOTION UNDER THE BLANKET. AS THE FIGURE SLOWLY COMES TO A STANDING POSITION. AS MUSIC HITS PEAK, THE BLANKET IS THROWN ASIDE TO REVEAL GREGOR, LOOKING EXACTLY AS HE DID IN THE PORTRAIT HANGING IN THE GREAT HALL)

GREGOR

(CALLING OUT TO HER) Beauty!

(BEAUTY TURNS AND AT FIRST DOESN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT'S HAPPENED. THEN SHE SEES THE BLANKET ON THE GROUND)

BEAUTY

Gregor?

GREGOR

Yes.

(HE HOLDS OUT HIS ARMS TO HER)

BEAUTY

Gregor! *(RUNNING TO HIM, HUGGING)* Gregor, it really is you.

GREGOR

Yes.

BEAUTY

But I don't understand.

GREGOR

Once I was a vain and arrogant man who turned my back on someone who needed my help simply because I detested the way she looked. Because of that, I've lived under a curse, forced to go through life as an ugly beast until someone realized there was real person underneath. I always hoped and prayed it would be you.

BEAUTY

I love you, Gregor.

GREGOR

And I love you, Beauty.

(THEY KISS. ALL CHEER.)

UNDERNEATH (Reprise #2)

BEAST

**NOW I'VE LEARNED THAT LIFE IS MEASURED
BY THE KINDNESS THAT WE SHARE.
AND HOW HAPPINESS IS WAITING
IF WE SHOW WE CARE.**

BEAUTY & GREGOR

**AND THERE'S MORE TO EVERY PERSON
THAN WE SOMETIMES REALIZE
BUT HOW OFTEN WE'RE BLIND
TO THE BEAUTY RIGHT BEFORE OUR EYES.**

ALL

**DON'T JUST SEE WHAT'S ON THE OUTSIDE.
LOOK BENEATH A PERSON'S SKIN.
ONLY THEN WILL YOU FIND
THE REAL, TRUE PERSON DEEP WITHIN.**

(GREGOR AND BEAUTY HUG. ALL FREEZE EXCEPT THE SERVANTS WHO MAKE THEIR WAY DOWN STAGE DURING THE APPLAUSE.)

MUSIC CUE #

EPILOGUE

SERVANT #1

**SO THAT'S THE WHOLE STORY IN ALL OF ITS GLORY,
EXACTLY THE WAY IT OCCURRED.**

SERVANT #2

**A BEAST THAT WAS CURSED
HAD HIS CURSES REVERSED;**

SERVANT #3

**BEAUTY FOUND A PRINCE;
SHE'S BEEN HAPPY SINCE.**

SERVANT #4

**AND WE UNDERSTAND
THAT A WEDDING IS PLANNED,
ALL SERVANTS
AT LEAST THAT'S THE RUMOR WE'VE HEARD.**

SERVANT #1

And, did you figure out the moral of the story? It was there all along. It's.....(TO THE OTHER SERVANTS) Can I tell them *now*?"

OTHER SERVANTS

You may!

SERVANT #1

It's "don't judge a book by it's cover!"

SERVANT #2

In other words, even though someone may look different on the outside...

SERVANT #3

....on the inside they're probably just the same as you and me.

SERVANT #4

Who knows? Maybe they just need you to show them a little kindness to help them break a curse that's been put on them.

ALL SERVANTS

It's possible, you know!
(*ALL BREAK FREEZE*)

ENTIRE COMPANY

**AND THAT'S WHAT WE CALL
A FAIRY TALE ENDING
WITH MUCH CELEBRATION AND LAUGHTER**

**IT'S HOW ALL THE REALLY GREAT STORIES WIND UP,
WITH BLISSFULLY, JOYOUSLY,
GIRL AND BOYISHLY,
HAPPILY , HAPPILY, HAPPILY, HAPPILY,
HAPPILY EVER AFTER.**

(BLACKOUT)

**MUSIC CUE #
BOWS**