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How Hans, Christian & Anderson Melted the Snow Queen

by

Lisa Like-Stokely

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CHARACTERS

11 F / 8 M

(Some roles gender neutral)

HANS (f): *A bespectacled ogre determined to save the Land of Spritely. (139 lines)*
CHRISTIAN (f): *Han's ogre sibling, with flaming red hair. (84 lines)*
ANDERSON (m): *The ogres' triplet brother with spectacular green ears. (47 lines)*
THUMBELINA (m): *The hairy, deep voiced, not so tiny dancer in ACT I. (22 lines)*
THUMBELINA (f): *The transformed lovely tiny ballerina in ACT II. (8 lines)*
JENNY, the Nightingale (f): *The voluptuous singing bird (56 lines)*
HENY, the Swan (m): *The ugly duckling turned obnoxious comedian (56 lines)*
BELFRY (m): *The duck with an English accent. (14 lines)*
SUNNY (m): *A singing duck, who is the male half of the famous duo. (12 lines)*
SHARE (f): *The other half of the famous singing duck duo. (17 lines)*
PRINCESS GARDENIA (f): *The directionally challenged Princess. (99 lines)*
BUTTERCUP (f): *Princess Gardenia's faithful handmaiden. (29 lines)*
THE EMPEROR (m): *The ditzy robe shedding shopper. (7 lines)*
BRUNO (m): *The valiant Tin Soldier, who dances hip hop. (15 lines)*
MINION #1 (f): *The Snow Queen's head monkey. (25 lines)*
MINION #2 (f): *The Snow Queen's second monkey. (15 lines)*
MINION #3 (f): *The Snow Queen's third monkey. (17 lines)*
VICTORIA (f): *The Snow Queen; Ruler of Spritely. (53 lines)*
BOGGART THE BLACKHEARTED: *The Queen's devious fiancé. (11 lines)*

SETTING

Somewhere between Camelot and modern day lies the magical Land of Spritely;
conveniently located near the HallMart in the Super Enchanted Forest.

RUN TIME

The play is written in two Acts and runs approximately 90 minutes.

SYNOPSIS

Somewhere between Camelot and modern day, between IPADs and poisoned Apples, between ballet and uptown funk, this fractured fairy tale brings the classic characters of Hans Christian Anderson to life. Thumbelina, the not so tiny dancer, who is transformed into a beautiful ballerina; Jenny, the diamond studded and care free Nightingale (Mae West character); Heny, the ugly duckling turned obnoxious comedian (a cross between Heny Youngman and Groucho Marx); Sunny and Share, the dynamic singing duck duo topping the charts at Swan Lake; the directionally challenged Princess Gardenia who unexpectedly finds romance; Bruno, the valiant tin soldier who dances hip-hop; and the appalling proclivities of the robe shedding Emperor, are all re-imagined into this delightful play for the whole family. Audiences will be pleasantly surprised to recognize entertainers from the past and present. Laugh along and find out how a diverse group of fairy tale characters and a trio of ogres work together to save the Snow Queen from her diabolical fiancé.

ETC.

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AUTHOR'S NOTES & PRODUCTION NOTES AT END OF SCRIPT

How Hans, Christian & Anderson Melted the Snow Queen

by Lisa Like-Stokely

ACT I SCENE 1

SETTING: *Somewhere between Camelot and modern day lies the magical Land of Spritely; conveniently located near the HallMart in the Super Enchanted Forest.*

AT RISE: *The QUEEN'S castle at the top of snow-covered Silver Mountain; from Off, we hear the blood curdling scream of FESTER, the COURT JESTER, being thrown down Silver Mountain.*

HANS and CHRISTIAN, ogre siblings (2 of 3 triplets to be precise), enter STAGE RIGHT in a panic. HANS is busy texting on his cell phone.

CHRISTIAN

Did you hear that? *(Holding his ears)*

HANS

Who didn't hear that? That scream would have sent Anderson through the roof. This is a colossal mess! I wonder who we can find now!

CHRISTIAN

I don't know, Hans. We just ran out of court jesters.

HANS

Poor Fester. Thrown down the mountain.

CHRISTIAN

Why do you think the Queen had him dumped?

HANS

I just got a text from the Commander of the Spritely Fire Brigade. He said Fester nearly broiled the Queen. Fester was juggling six flaming bowling pins, and one landed right in the Queen's lap. Lit her up like a baked Alaska.

CHRISTIAN

Was she hurt?

HANS

No, she was doused with a hose right away. But she was hopping mad. She hopped right over and threw Fester down the mountain. Usually she orders her Minions to take care of that stuff.

CHRISTIAN

I sure would have liked to have seen that. Our once beloved monarch baked and drenched. Now we have to get another spy inside the castle. Fester was supposed to juggle his way into finding out what that no-good scoundrel is up to, and now we are back to square one. Say, where did we find Fester?

HANS

The same place we found all the Queen's unemployed court jesters—at "Flaming Jesters.cloM – a unique experience in pyrotechnics." *(Extends hand and waves as if reading a billboard)*

CHRISTIAN

We should have checked him out on FRANGIE'S LIST before we hired Fester. What about HIM? Was HE there?

HANS

You mean Lord Boggart, the Blackhearted? Yup, he was there. In fact, he was the one who doused the Queen with the hose before the Fire Brigade arrived. Minions said that Boggart had a big smile on his face while he did it.

CHRISTIAN

He sure is mean, and he made the Queen mean too. We have to find a way to get rid of Boggart.

HANS

The wedding is in two days. She just *can't* marry him. If Queen Victoria marries Lord Boggart, I shudder to think about what will happen to all of us. *(Hans looks around.)* Where's Anderson? He was right behind us?

*ANDERSON, the third ogre triplet with
spectacular, green ears, enters running
from STAGE LEFT.*

HANS

Where have you been?

ANDERSON

I heard a terrible scream. Are you guys ok?

CHRISTIAN

Hans and I are fine. Fester was thrown down the mountain.

ANDERSON

Is that all? I thought it was serious.

HANS

This is serious. Christian and I were just discussing the big problem.

ANDERSON

What big problem is that?

*ANDERSON is not as concerned about
the situation as his siblings.*

HANS

You know; how to take care of Lord Boggart – remember, Boggart? The King's brother?

ANDERSON

He can take care of himself.

CHRISTIAN

No, Hans doesn't mean it that way.

ANDERSON

Sorry, I haven't been myself lately. Why do we have to take care of Bogus?

HANS

You sure are out of sorts, Anderson. Because the King has only been dead for three months and his brother, Lord Boggart, is about to marry the Queen. That's just not right.

CHRISTIAN

And we have to stop him.

HANS

Ever since Boggart showed up for his brother's funeral, the Queen hasn't been the same. She must be under some kind of spell. I don't know how he did it, but I intend to find out.

CHRISTIAN

Queen Victoria used to be jovial, so happy. I miss hearing her laugh in the courtyard. King Beauregard could always make her laugh. After the King died, it was like the Queen died too. I guess that's why they call her the Snow Queen around here; because she turned so cold.

HANS

She loved to dance. I sewed glamorous ballroom gowns for her to dance in. I was so proud to be the Queen's seamstress. I can't believe she fired all of us and banished us from the castle. I think Boggart told her to do it.

CHRISTIAN

And I loved wrapping the Queen in jewels and silk. Now that we're out of a job, all I get to wrap are my bunions. *(Points to his feet)* I adored the Queen. I take back what I said. I am sorry that she was baked and drenched.

ANDERSON

I haven't been of much help lately. I've been preoccupied.

HANS

That's ok, Anderson. We know you've been going through a rough time. Let's put our heads together and make a plan to get inside the castle and find out what Boggart is up to. We haven't got much time.

HANS and CHRISTIAN pace back and forth bumping into each other while ANDERSON meanders about.

ANDERSON

Armored tanks? Nuclear weapons? We could storm the castle and

*HANS and CHRISTIAN stop pacing and
give ANDERSON a look.*

ANDERSON, Continued

Nope, I suppose that wouldn't work.

CHRISTIAN

I got it! (*Stops in his tracks*) What about dancing?

ANDERSON

Dancing? Christian, I've seen you dance, and it's not pretty.

CHRISTIAN

Not me. I mean a real dancer. Watching a graceful dancer might be the perfect distraction while we sneak into the castle and snoop around.

ANDERSON

What about Thumbelina? When we worked at the castle, Thumbelina performed at the King and Queen's royal ball. Maybe we could ask her to perform for the Queen again.

HANS

That's actually a good suggestion, Anderson. Queen Victoria and King Beauregard used to host the most wonderful royal balls. One year she hosted a royal ball for Tzar Nicholas and his five brothers. It was a magnificent event. We called it, "Dancing with the Tzars."

CHRISTIAN

Thumbelina should remember us. Who could forget us?

HANS

Let's think about this a minute. I doubt Thumbelina throws bowling pins, (*Counts on his fingers for "one"*), I don't think she would throw anything that goes up in flames, (*Counts on his fingers for "two"*). And we are old pals; surely she would remember us – we're great; (*Counts on his fingers for "three."*) There, that's three positive reasons to find Thumbelina and ask her to help us.

CHRISTIAN

Do you remember when Thumbelina first came to Spritely? Her story is legendary. She arrived on the wings of a hummingbird, so tiny and delicate. The bird set her down in a nest of rose petals growing in the middle of the Super Enchanted Forest.

ANDERSON

Mostly I remember how beautiful she was. So lovely and graceful.

HANS

I think you had a little crush on her Anderson.

ANDERSON blushes and shies away.

CHRISTIAN

It would be nice to see her again. Let's try to find her.

ANDERSON

She probably has moved away. I don't want to see any girls anyway.

HANS

Come on, Anderson, you need to get over it.

CHRISTIAN

Hans is right. Ever since your girlfriend broke up with you, you've done nothing but mope around. It's been a month now.

ANDERSON

But I can't stop thinking about her. She said she didn't like my big, green Ogre ears. That's my trademark, you know, my big, green Ogre ears. They are spectacular. I can hear for miles and miles. (*Touches his ears with pride*)

HANS

Anderson, my dear, sweet, kind-hearted brother, I love your big, green Ogre ears, and Christian loves your big, green Ogre ears. You'll find someone to love them as much as we do. Please try to move on.

CHRISTIAN

I don't think she treated you right any way. You are better off without her.

ANDERSON

Thanks for trying to make me feel better.

HANS

We're here for you, buddy. Now back to the task at hand. Christian, check your Poisoned Apple

CHRISTIAN pulls out an IPAD. The device has an Apple computer style logo with a skull and cross bones X across the logo.

CHRISTIAN

I bet we can find her on FLEECEBOOK. *(Clicks around on the IPAD)* Hmmm, Thumb... hmmm, dance. Well, what do you know, here she is! Thumbelina lives right here in the Super Enchanted Forest.

HANS, CHRISTIAN, and ANDERSON move STAGE RIGHT to the Super Enchanted Forest.

SFX: We hear the beautiful "Waltz of the Flowers" from the "Nutcracker."

THE TRIO stops at a sign displaying THUMBELINA'S DANCE STUDIO. They hear a booming voice.

THUMBELINA, Off

(Shouting)

Releve...you dolt...I said releve!

SFX: The "Waltz of the Flowers" bellows into an awkward sound.

HANS gives a concerned look and knocks on the sign.

HANS

Hello?.....Thumbelina?..... Are you here?

THUMBELINA

(Gruff)

Who wants to know?

HANS

We're old friends. We're the Ogres. Do you remember us?

THUMBELINA steps out of the shadows of the FOREST. THUMBELINA is no longer the graceful ballerina they once remembered. She is now huge and slovenly in her off color, dirty leotard and tutu. (This role is played by a husky male with facial hair.)

CHRISTIAN

Thumbelina? Is that you?

ANDERSON

It can't be!

THUMBELINA

Whadda you want? I'm teaching a class now!

HANS

I guess you *don't* remember us. We haven't seen you in quite some time. My... how you have...grown.

THUMBELINA cranes her head back toward the dance studio and yells out to her students.

THUMBELINA

Josephine, you call that a plié? *(Returns to THE TRIO)* No, I don't remember you. What did you say your names were?

HANS

I'm Hans, this is Christian, and surely you remember our brother, Anderson. (*Pushes ANDERSON forward*) You knew us when you danced at the castle.

THUMBELINA

Oh, that. I used to dance before the kings and queens of all the lands.

CHRISTIAN

Do you still dance?

THUMBELINA

Not really; now I teach the ballet. (*Cranes her head back to look inside the studio; yells out to her students*) Madeline; that was the worst arabesque I have ever seen. Drop and give me 20! (*Back to HANS, CHRISTIAN, and ANDERSON*) I really am a delightful teacher. (*Belches*) Now what did you want to see me about?

HANS

We wanted to know if you could dance before Queen Victoria once again.

THUMBELINA

Me? Dance again before royalty? Well, let's see now. It's been a while. (*Looks at ANDERSON*) Cool ears. What did you say your name was again?

CHRISTIAN

This is Anderson.

THUMBELINA

Yes, Andy, I remember you now. You other two monsters I don't remember so much.

HANS

We're not monsters, we're ogres!

THUMBELINA

Same difference. Let me try one of my signature moves. Watch this!

THUMBELINA attempts a pirouette, and it doesn't go well. HANS and CHRISTIAN look concerned.

HANS

Oh, well, we see that you are very busy.

CHRISTIAN

You must not keep your students waiting.

THE TRIO starts to make a quick exit.

THUMBELINA

No, wait; let me try another move. I'm a little rusty. Hey you, with the red hair, let me leap into your arms...ready?

CHRISTIAN

No, I don't dance – bunions, you know. *(Points to his feet)*

THUMBELINA

Ok, then; you there with the cute ears – here I come.

THUMBELINA lurches forward and awkwardly falls as ANDERSON makes a feeble attempt to catch the lunging ballerina.

ANDERSON

Oh, I'm so sorry. I missed. Are you alright?

THUMBELINA

I'm fine. I just need to get back into shape. *(Struggles to get back up)*

HANS

That's a good idea, Thumbelina. Thank you for your time. We won't bother you any longer.

THUMBELINA

What's the rush? I could dazzle the Queen with my gracefulness. It's all coming back to me. All I need is a little practice.

HANS

We'll be in touch. We have to go. We have...important...laundry...and stuff.

CHRISTIAN

Yeah, underwear ...and stuff.

ANDERSON

It was good to see you again. We live by Swan Lake. Maybe we'll see you around.

*HANS, CHRISTIAN and ANDERSON
move away from the Super Enchanted
Forest STAGE LEFT toward SWAN
LAKE. They stop at a tree between
CENTER STAGE and STAGE LEFT.*

THUMBELINA

Wait come back! I'll work on my technique. I'll drop by and show you.

CHRISTIAN

Thumbelina's dancing is *not* the answer to our problem. We are back where we started. And we only have two days to get to the bottom of Boggart's plan.

HANS

Juggling flaming bowling pins didn't work, (*Counts on his fingers for "one"*) and Thumbelina isn't going to work, (*Counts on his fingers for "two" then lifts his finger for "three"—realizes there is no three*) Where does that leave us?

CHRISTIAN

How about singing? (*All pause and consider.*) If we could find a lovely voice to distract Queen Victoria and Boggart, that could get us into the castle.

HANS

I have an idea; a brilliant idea. I saw that the winner of The Voice Choice talent competition lives right here in Spritely.

ANDERSON

The Voice Choice; that's my favorite TV show. I like that show almost as much as "Spritely's Got Talent." You're right, Hans, the winner of The Voice Choice was Jenny the Nightingale. Her competition was stiff. There was this cool, feathered, older couple that came in second place. They had long hair and funky clothes. They were pretty good.

HANS

If we can locate Jenny the Nightingale *and* if we can find some other acts, and I mean *good* acts, we could put on a spectacular show for the Queen. That would give us plenty of time to find out what's going on. Well go ahead, Christian, look her up.

*CHRISTIAN picks up the Poisoned Apple
IPAD and scrolls around.*

CHRISTIAN

I don't see her on FLEECEBOOK. Jenny might be more of a...a... professional... Let me try PLINKEDIN.

HANS

Good call, Christian.

CHRISTIAN

Jenny... Hmm... Nightengale... singer.... Here she is! It says "look up."

ANDERSON

Yes, yes, that's right, look her up.

CHRISTIAN

No... I mean... LOOK UP!

*HANS, CHRISTIAN and ANDERSON are
standing under the tree.*

*SFX: SPOTLIGHT on JENNY sitting in
the tree.*

*JENNY is dressed like Mae West, the
voluptuous bombshell of the 1930s.
JENNY is dripping in diamonds.*

*THE TRIO is transfixed. They wave to
her.*

JENNY

Why, hello there. (*Mae West accent*) I just heard my name. What can I do for you?

HANS

Jenny! You look fabulous.

CHRISTIAN

Goodness, look at those diamonds!

JENNY

Goodness had nothing to do with it, honey. Do I know you?

ANDERSON

We saw you on The Voice Choice. We came to ask you a favor.

JENNY

My, you are cute little monsters.

HANS

We're not monsters, we're ogres.

JENNY

Same difference. What do you want? I am getting ready to head south to the warm country.

JENNY flutters gracefully from the tree.

CHRISTIAN

We need your help.

JENNY

My help? I doubt I can do anything for (*Looks THE TRIO up and down*) you boys.

HANS

We are putting together a show for the Queen of Spritely. We've come to ask if you would sing in our show.

JENNY

The Queen? It's been a long time since I've seen Vickie. I hear they call her the Snow Queen now. We grew up together. She latched on to that handsome Beauregard before I could get my...well never mind. I sort of latched on to Beauregard's cousin, Seymour. (*Admires her diamonds with a smirk*)

ANDERSON

What happened to Seymour?

JENNY

I kept seeing him less. Vickie and I were close friends when we were young. It might be good to see her again. What kind of a show is it?

HANS

It's a variety show with singers and dancers and other acts. I am a costumer by trade. I have a great idea about a show based on a sunny day in Paradise.

JENNY

Do you mean like that show... I can't quite come up with the name. Oh, you know what I mean. That show where they all sing and dance. It rhymes with "gee" or "flea".

CHRISTIAN

Oh, you mean "Joyous."

JENNY

Yes, that's it. Joyous. Why are you doing this? Things have been dark here since Beaugard died. That's why I am heading south. Surely you have other things to do.

HANS

Jenny, we have a very good reason for doing this. I would be happy to explain after we...

JENNY

After you what? What other acts have you lined up for your show?

ANDERSON

We're still looking into that.

CHRISTIAN

To be honest, Jenny, you're the first one; but we know we can find more.

JENNY

I'll have to think about singing for the (*Makes air quotes*) "Snow Queen." If you are looking for entertainment, why don't you try those silly Ducks by the Lake?

CHRISTIAN

Those guys? I don't know about that. I heard that those Ducks are trouble makers. At the Spritely banquet last year, one of those silly ducks "*pantsed*" the Emperor

*CHRISTIAN makes a gesture of downing
the pants of the Emperor.*

CHRISTIAN, Continued

It was hilarious. All the sprite ferries laughed so hard – they *sprinkled*.

HANS

Not everybody laughed. After losing his pants, the Emperor decided he liked his new look so much that now when he goes out shopping, he takes off his royal robe and walks around; without any clothes.

ANDERSON

I've seen him. It's gross. EEEOOOOWWWW!

JENNY

I heard that the Swan tells some good jokes.

CHRISTIAN

You mean Heny, the Swan? I haven't seen that ugly duckling in quite some time.

JENNY

He's no ugly duckling anymore. He turned into a beautiful Swan. A bit hairy for my taste. They say he's the hit of Swan Lake. He's always telling jokes and funny stories.

CHRISTIAN

Let's look him up.

*Christian grabs the Poisoned Apple
IPAD and scrolls around.*

CHRISTIAN, Continued

He's not on FLEECEBOOK or PLINKEDIN.

ANDERSON

Try FLITTER, maybe Heny's on FLITTER.

CHRISTIAN

How about that! I found him under “obnoxious comedians.” He’s here at the Lake.

HANS points to HENY, who is standing at the edge of the LAKE admiring himself. HENY is facing UPSTAGE with his back to the AUDIENCE.

JENNY

I’ll think about it, boys. I’ve got a lot on my plate right now, but I don’t want to miss the early-bird special at the Forest Café. I will meet you boys at the Lake later.

JENNY exits STAGE RIGHT.

HANS, CHRISTIAN and ANDERSON move STAGE LEFT to SWAN LAKE.

ACT 1

SCENE 2

Undeterred in their mission, HANS, CHRISTIAN and ANDERSON approach SWAN LAKE to entice HENY to join them as an act in their variety show.

SFX: SPOT LIGHT on HENY as he slowly turns around to face the AUDIENCE wearing his Groucho Marx glasses with nose, black mustache and twitches his CIGAR.

SFX: SPOT LIGHT EXPANDS to include the three ducks, BELFRY, SUNNY and SHARE. They are swimming in the LAKE minding their own business.

HENY

(Dips his wing into the water)

BURRRRH... the water is much colder today. You there, Belfry, you're taking up the sunny spot. Move over!

BELFRY

But...I am all the way over he...are. *(Using his best English accent)*

HENY

You have bats in your Belfry...Belfry. I need much more room to spread out my glorious wings.

*BELFRY moves to the other side of the
LAKE.*

HENY bumps into SUNNY.

HENY

Do you mind? You are in my way too, Sunny.

SUNNY

Y'know...ever since your "transformation," Heny, you've become very bossy.

HENY

Look; Duck. *(Points his wing at SUNNY)* I put up with your teasing about how ugly I was for a long *(Points)*, long *(Points)* time. Then you were all surprised when I turned into a majestic swan; a magnificent specimen. *(Admires himself)* I think you Ducks owe me an apology.

SUNNY

(Snarky)

Sorry.

*SUNNY begrudgingly moves out of
HENY'S way.*

HENY

That wasn't genuine. You can stuff your sorry in a sack.

SHARE stands up defiantly in the middle of the Lake. She points at HENY with her extra-long finger nails and constantly pushes her long hair away from her face.

SHARE

Sunny shouldn't have to apologize at all, and I'm not going to apologize either. You were ugly, and you're still obnoxious. I'm not going to move.

HENY glides to SHARE.

HENY

Say, Share, I have many stories of Swan Lake. How would you like it if I tell everybody about how long it took you to learn to swim?

SUNNY starts to laugh until SHARE gives him a disapproving look and whacks him with her wing.

SHARE

All right, all right, let's not go there, *(Under her breath)*, Jerk.

HENY

What did you say?

SHARE

I said, "Work." You don't need to work at being a – what did you call yourself – a magnificent specimen?

SHARE moves off to the side visibly annoyed.

HENY

That's what I thought you said.

HENY raises his wings and glides along the LAKE, bumping into BELFRY, SUNNY and SHARE as he circles.

SFX: SPOTLIGHT OUT.

HANS

Henry!

*HENY continues to swim, admiring his
feathers until BELFRY stops him.*

HENY

What's the big idea?

BELFRY

Those monsters over there want to see you.

HENY

Monsters? Why not; they all love me.

HENY glides over to the TRIO.

HENY

Enjoying the view?

*HANS, CHRISTIAN, and ANDERSON
play along.*

HANS

Indeed; you are the most glorious swan we have ever seen. Even with your oddly out-of-place mustache and cigar.

HENY

You're pretty smart for a monster.

HANS

I'm not a monster, I'm an ogre.

HENY

Same difference.

CHRISTIAN

We hear that you are very wise, Heny.

HENY shakes his head in agreement.

ANDERSON

And so funny.

HENY

Well, yes, I *am* quite humorous.

*BELFRY, SUNNY and SHARE roll their
eyes.*

SUNNY

He's such a ham; he'd feel at home between two slices of bread.

CHRISTIAN

We've come because we need your help.

HENY

Moi?

ANDERSON

We've come to ask if you would join us to see the Queen.

HENY

The Queen? Royalty wants to see me?

HANS

We're putting together a show for her. We were hoping that you would be one of our acts.

CHRISTIAN

We want you to entertain her; make the Queen laugh.

HENY

Why? What's in it for me?

HANS

Why, you ask? Because you're too talented to be stuck here at Swan Lake. You're a big fish in a small pond.

SHARE

He sure stinks like a big fish.

CHRISTIAN

Your talent needs to be "out there"; exposed to the world.

*The EMPEROR enters STAGE RIGHT
wearing his ermine collared royal coat
and high crown.*

EMPEROR

Exposed? Did someone say exposed? Pardon me, but can anyone direct me to the Land of Nod.

SUNNY

Certainly, Emperor. The Land on Nod is a few Kilometers in that direction. (*Points STAGE LEFT*)

CHRISTIAN

Hey, guys; that's him! The Emperor – you know – from the Spritely Banquet last year.

BELFRY

I remember him. (*Hides behind Jenny's tree*) I hope he doesn't remember me.

EMPEROR

Thank you, kind sir. I appreciate your helpfulness. I am off to do some shopping.

SUNNY

You're welcome. It's nice to see you again (*Under his breath*) wearing clothes.
EEEEOOOWW!!

ALL watch the EMPEROR exit.

HENY

Let's get back to ME. You're right about my genius needing to be being exposed. I suppose you expect me to give out my rare and exceptional talent for free?

HENY raises his wing as if looking for cash.

HANS

We have no money. We're broke. We're out of work right now. But if you join our show, then everyone could see your amazing talent. Maybe you could get a paying job out of it.

CHRISTIAN

Can you tell a few jokes that would impress the Queen?

HENY

A few jokes? You bet your life I have a few jokes! I have a whole routine. I've been dying to try out my new material on a good audience. These Ducks just don't get it.

SFX: SPOTLIGHT on HENY

HENY

I just returned from a pleasure trip....I took my mother-in-law to the airport.

SFX: Drum Beat; Bu-duh- bum.

HENY, Continued

I got a million of 'em. Take Belfry over there; he has a nice head on his shoulders.

BELFRY looks out from behind the tree where he was hiding from the EMPEROR and is pleased to hear a complement.

HENY, Continued

It would look better on a neck!

*SFX: Drum Beat. Bu-duh- bum.
Cymbal.*

BELFRY

(Using his best English accent)

Well, excuse me!

HENY

And Sunny over there; we almost lost him as a duckling.

ANDERSON

Oh, that's too bad.

HENY

Nah, his parents didn't take him far enough into the woods.

SFX: Drum Beat. Bu-duh- bum. Cymbal.

*HENY laughs heartily at his own jokes.
ALL shake their heads.*

HENY

I am so good! I will honor you with my appearance for this limited engagement.

SFX: SPOTLIGHT OUT.

HANS

I guess he'll have to do. He's the only act we have.

JENNY floats in from STAGE RIGHT.

CHRISTIAN

Jenny! It's nice to see your back.

HENY

Especially after seeing your face. *(Twitches his cigar)*

JENNY

How rude.

SHARE

Apologize, right now, you windbag.

HENY

Ok, ok, sorry, doll face, it's just a joke.

JENNY

It's not a good one! If I wasn't such a lady, I would stuff that nasty cigar up your nose. Boys; I thought about it, and I have decided to be in your show.

HANS

That's fantastic. This is all coming together.

JENNY

Hey, you over there. (*Winks at the MALE DUCKS*) Why don't you come up andsee me sometime?

BELFRY and SUNNY point at each other; mesmerized.

SUNNY responds back to JENNY with a wink.

SHARE moves immediately over to SUNNY and smacks him across the face with her wing.

SHARE

SNAP OUT OF IT!

ANDERSON

Now we have two acts for the Queen's show.

BELFRY

We can help. We Ducks have talent.

HENY

No they don't; they're fowl. (*Twitches cigar*) I am so good!

HANS

Really? What kind of talent?

BELFRY

I have a flair for the dramatic. I recite poetry and Shakespe...are.

*BELFRY extends his wing and bows as if
an actor on the Shakespearian stage.*

CHRISTIAN

Shakespeare? Get out!

*SUNNY drapes a cape around BELFRY'S
shoulders. SHARE grabs BELFRY a cane
for full effect.*

HENY

Oh, geez, not this again.

BELFRY

“To be or not to be. That is the question. Whether tis nobler in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune.”

HENY

(Interrupts Belfry by fake applauding)

Outrageous is right.

HANS

That's not bad. Belfry would bring a little class to our production. What do you two do?

SUNNY

We're entertainers.

SHARE

We sing! *(Pushes back her hair)* And we have a hit song. Maybe you saw us on The Voice Choice.

ANDERSON

I knew it! I knew you looked familiar.

SUNNY

We almost won the competition.

SHARE

Until she showed up. (*Points to JENNY*)

HENY

Now we are forced to listen to them stink up the airwaves on Radio WSL at beautiful Swan LAME.

SHARE

You know, Heny, I've had just about enough of you.

HANS

Can you sing it for us?

SFX: "The Beat Goes On."

SUNNY and SHARE break into the first chorus of "The Beat Goes On."

CHRISTIAN

We were wrong about you. We heard stories about you Ducks.

SUNNY

Oh, you mean that Emperor gig.

CHRISTIAN

We heard that you "pantsed" him.

SHARE

It wasn't Sunny. And it wasn't me. It was Belfry!

ALL turn and look at BELFRY.

BELFRY turns to the AUDIENCE out of character, grins, and raises his eyebrows up and down.

BELFRY turns back into character.

HANS

We should be careful about listening to rumors. Can you help us?

BELFRY

Absolutely; our talents are too great to remain hidden here with *that*. (*Points to HENY*)

CHRISTIAN

Now we have four terrific acts. I mean three terrific acts and Heny. This is a real variety show, just like you hoped for, Hans.

HANS

I haven't been this happy since I created that stunning crystal ball gown for the Queen. I will create something just as lovely for you, Jenny. You will be the star of the show.

HENY

What are you talking about; you said I was the genius who should be *exposed*. I am the star of the show. (*Twitches cigar*)

BELFRY

You are all incorrect, I... am the star! (*Waves his cape*) "To be or not to be..."

SUNNY

No way, we're rock royalty.

SUNNY and SHARE start to sing "The Beat Goes On."

ALL bicker; talking over each other about who is the star.

HANS

All right, all right, enough, everyone take five. In fact, why don't we all take more than five. I have some planning to do. I have to figure out how to stage this production (*Counts on his fingers for "one"*); I have to create fabulous costumes, (*Counts on his fingers for "two"*) — Oh dear, I will never have time to create fabulous costumes (*Takes away finger "two"*) and then I have to figure out how to get us into the castle and find out what devious plot Boggart

HANS, Continued

is hatching. (*Counts on his fingers for “two” again and a number “three”*) Let’s all meet back here in two hours.

HENY

I’m not going anywhere.

SHARE

Too bad. We’ll rehearse until you come back.

ALL exit together STAGE LEFT, speaking over one another; HENY tells jokes, BELFRY recites his Shakespeare, and SUNNY and SHARE vocalize.

JENNY remains with THE TRIO.

ANDERSON

Did you hear that? (*Places his hand up to his spectacular, big, green ear*)

THE OGRES strain to hear what ANDERSON is hearing, but they hear nothing.

ANDERSON

It’s coming from over there (*Points STAGE RIGHT*) I hear voices as clear as a bell; ladies’ voices.

PRINCESS GARDENIA and her handmaiden, BUTTERCUP, emerge from the Super Enchanted Forest STAGE RIGHT and move STAGE LEFT to SWAN LAKE.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

Buttercup. Where are we? Oh, my, you startled me. Hey, you’re cute little monsters.

HANS

We’re not monsters— (*Annoyed*) We’re ogres.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

What's the difference?

CHRISTIAN

Monsters are mischievous, and ogres are helpful.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

I didn't know that. Then you can help me and my handmaiden find our way home. We were lost in the Forest. Can you tell us where we are?

JENNY

You arrived at Swan Lake. How do you do; I'm Jenny.

*BUTTERCUP moves in front of
PRINCESS GARDENIA.*

BUTTERCUP

M'lady's name is Princess Gardenia. She is royal heiress to the throne of the Valley of Azaleas.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

Buttercup and I are returning from the Rose Regatta, and we lost our way trying to get home. I am so bad with directions. We live in the Valley of Azaleas. Do you know where that is?

HANS

The Valley of Azaleas is just past the Land of Nod – over there. (*Points past Land of Nod to STAGE LEFT*)

PRINCESS GARDENIA

We spent the night at the castle. We met the most awful Queen and there was a creepy looking man with her.

HANS

Sadly, that would be the Queen's fiancé.

BUTTERCUP

Her fiancé? Yuk. He was bossing her around. He made it quite clear that we were not welcome.

CHRISTIAN

What a coincidence, we are all heading over to the castle to see the Queen.

BUTTERCUP

You don't want to go there!

PRINCESS GARDENIA

After the Regatta, we were tired from our travels, so we stopped at the castle to rest. Strange looking monkeys took us to see the Queen.

ALL EXCEPT BUTTERCUP AND PRINCESS GARDENIA

(In unison)

Minions!

PRINCESS GARDENIA

I asked the Queen if Buttercup and I could stay the night. It's professional courtesy for royals to extend an invitation to other royals to lodge for the night.

BUTTERCUP

And do you know what happened? The Queen didn't believe m'lady was a real princess! She accused us of being imposters.

HANS

I hope she didn't try to have her Minions throw you down the mountain.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

At first, the Queen yelled a lot, claiming that we were nothing but freeloaders, and how dare we take up her precious time and ask for hospitality. "This isn't a RaNada Inn," she shouted.

BUTTERCUP

We were very frightened. But when m'lady told her we were trying to get home to the Valley of Azaleas, the Queen suddenly changed her mind and allowed us to stay the night. Her creepy fiancé was not happy about that.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

She gave Buttercup a lumpy cot to sleep on; and it was the oddest thing; she made me sleep on top of 20 mattresses. We were too tired to argue.

BUTTERCUP

Twenty mattresses! I counted.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

I thought it would be *more* than comfortable, all those mattresses, you know. Instead, I had a horrible night's sleep. I had the most frightening dreams. In the morning, my back side was black and blue.

CHRISTIAN

How did that happen?

BUTTERCUP

I looked under every mattress to see what bothered m'lady so terribly. I thought I would find an ax or a spinning wheel or something at the bottom of the stack.

ANDERSON

What did you find?

BUTTERCUP

A tiny, green pea.

BUTTERCUP pulls a tiny, green pea out of her pocket and gives it to HANS to inspect.

HANS

A pea?

HANS and CHRISTIAN inspect the pea and hand it to PRINCESS GARDENIA. PRINCESS GARDENIA places the pea in her coat pocket.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

Yes, a pea. When I told the Queen that I was black and blue after sleeping on 20 mattresses, she just nodded. Then she ordered her, what did you call her monkeys, Minions, to get us something to eat for breakfast.

BUTTERCUP

The mean guy went nearly crazy when she ordered us breakfast. He was yelling at the Queen and practically shoeing us out the door.

HANS

He is a devious person.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

We figured out why we were allowed to stay. We overheard the Minions talking about the Valley of Azaleas. They said that the Queen had a sister who lived there. It turns out that my mother, Queen Violet, is the Queen's sister.

JENNY

Yes, yes! Violet and Victoria! I know them both. The pea was a little test to see if you are truly a royal. Only a true princess would turn black and blue from sleeping on a tiny pea under all of those mattresses. You passed the test! The Queen is your aunt. That's wonderful news!

PRINCESS GARDENIA

Oh, no it's not. I don't like her one bit. My mother doesn't talk about her family. If I ask, she becomes sad. I did not know she had a sister, let alone a nasty sister.

BUTTERCUP

We got out of the castle as quickly as we could after breakfast.

HANS

Princess Gardenia, ever since the King died, the Queen has become...let's say...difficult. Her creepy fiancé, Lord Boggart, has her under some kind of spell. They are to be married in two days.

CHRISTIAN

And we have to stop them.

JENNY

Do you mean, Boggart, the BlackHearted?

ANDERSON

The very same.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

And just how do you plan to stop them?

CHRISTIAN

We really don't know exactly.

HANS

What are you talking about? Of course, we know. Our scheme is to present a show of fantastic proportions. Once the show is underway, we ogres can snoop around and find out what Boggart is planning and stop the wedding...somehow. You could help us, seeing that you are her kin and all.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

It sounds like you could use some help. What do you want me to do?

HANS

The Queen obviously likes you and Buttercup. Otherwise she would not have allowed you to stay the night. Now that she knows you are family, she likes you. Maybe she even trusts you.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

I doubt that.

CHRISTIAN

You could open our show by announcing that you are the Queen's niece. That will get her attention.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

I suppose I can understand what the Queen is going through, having lost her sister and her husband. It's hard when you don't have family to talk to.

ANDERSON

Would you be willing to help us?

PRINCESS GARDENIA

It would be nice to have family. Even if she is nasty family. I will help you, Ogres.

BUTTERCUP

I won't have you going back to see that wicked woman.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

Buttercup, don't be that way.

BUTTERCUP

I promised your mother, Queen Violet, that I would take care of you. I am concerned for your safety. You are sole heir to the throne of the Valley of Azaleas. I won't have you thrown off a mountain at the hand of a wicked Queen or her evil boyfriend; your aunt or not!

HANS

But, Princess, you are our last hope. You are the key to getting us into the castle.

CHRISTIAN

We will all be with you.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

What about that, Buttercup? We can all go together. (*Buttercup paces as if in thought.*) I know you, dear friend. What are you thinking of, Buttercup?

BUTTERCUP

We need an escort! A big, strong man to accompany us to the castle so we would not be harmed in any way.

ANDERSON

What am I; chopped liver?

BUTTERCUP

No offense, Ogre. I was thinking of someone else. M'lady, do you remember when we journeyed to the Land of Nod and met the handsome young man.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

Do you mean Wesley, the farm boy?

BUTTERCUP

No, I mean the soldier who won the shooting contest?

PRINCESS GARDENIA

Yes, I remember him. He was made out of tin because the silversmith ran out of silver. Mostly, I remember his smile. Such a sweet smile.

BUTTERCUP

If you can find the Tin Soldier to escort us to the castle, I will allow the Princess to go with you.

HANS

As you wish, Buttercup.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

Which way is the Land of Nod? I am so bad with directions; even these red shoes don't help (*clicks her heels twice.*) See... nothing! I need a GPS just for me.

ANDERSON

A GPS just for you?

PRINCESS GARDENIA

Yes, a "Gardenia 'Point-me-in-the-right-direction' System."

BUTTERCUP

That's for sure. I can't tell you how many times we've gotten lost.

HANS

Well, we're glad you found *us*. We can find your Tin Soldier; the Land of Nod is close by.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

Let's get going.

JENNY

I will catch up with you later. I need to take care of a little business.

JENNY exits STAGE RIGHT.

ANDERSON

Did you hear that?

OFFSTAGE we hear a sweet voice humming, "Waltz of the Flowers."

SFX: "Waltz of the Flowers."

*THUMBELINA gracefully pirouettes
from STAGE RIGHT. She is transformed
into a lovely ballerina.*

THUMBELINA

Remember me?

ANDERSON

No, I don't... is that you, Thumbelina?

THUMBELINA

It's me, all right. You made me yearn to dance the ballet again. I worked hard to get back into my girlish figure. It didn't take long either. You helped me to find my true self again. Thank you, Andy, I mean, Anderson.

*THUMBELINA moves closer to
ANDERSON.*

THUMBELINA

Do you know what I like? I like your ears. I think they're adorable! *She touches Anderson's spectacular, big, green ears.*

*ANDERSON blushes and gives an "aw
shucks" movement.*

HANS

Thumbelina, you look just as lovely as when you danced for the Queen.

ANDERSON

Will you dance for the Queen again?

THUMBELINA

With pleasure.

*THUMBELINA does a graceful pirouette.
ANDERSON takes her hand.*

HANS

It's getting late. Anderson can tell you all about our plan. First, we have to get to the Land of Nod (*Counts on his fingers for "one"*); then we have to find the Tin Soldier and convince him to escort us to the castle (*Counts on his fingers for "two" and "three"*); then we have to meet the rest of them back here at Swan Lake, and then I have all of those other things I already counted (*Counts on his fingers for "four" and "five"*.) Oh, man, this is getting complicated. I'm running out of fingers. It's too much. I have to adjust my "skepticals."

HANS adjusts his spectacles.

CHRISTIAN

We'll figure it out, Hans. Let's get going.

*HANS, CHRISTIAN, ANDERSON,
PRINCESS GARDENIA, BUTTERCUP
AND THUMBELINA (the "GROUP")
move STAGE LEFT toward The Land of
Nod.*

*The Main Street of Land of Nod has a
Town Hall, jail, a Church, a Dress Shop,
and a Silversmith Shop.*

HANS

What's going on here? Everyone is asleep.

BUTTERCUP

The people in the Land of Nod take their siesta every afternoon.

CHRISTIAN

Does anything look familiar to you? Do you have any thoughts about where we should start?

BUTTERCUP

Main Street looks familiar. There's the dress shop, and over there is the silversmith. We can ask the silversmith if he knows where we can find the Tin Soldier.

*The GROUP heads toward the
Silversmith Shop.*

*The EMPEROR approaches from STAGE
RIGHT. The EMPEROR is wearing a
regal robe and a crown.*

CHRISTIAN

Look! (*Points and whispers*) There's one guy who's awake.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

Do you mean my Soldier?

CHRISTIAN

No, not your soldier. I recognize him. He's the Emperor of the Land of Nod. Thank goodness he's wearing clothes today.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

What are you talking about? He looks perfectly regal to me. Excuse me, sir.

EMPEROR

You mean me, young lady?

PRINCESS GARDENIA

I was wondering if you could help us. We are looking for a man. He's a soldier; a Tin Soldier.

EMPEROR

Of course, everyone knows Bruno, the Tin Soldier.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

Do you know where we can find Bruno?

EMPEROR

He is our Sentry. Bruno watches over the Land of Nod.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

He's brave too!

EMPEROR

You can find Bruno standing his post at the end of Main Street.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

Thank you.

EMPEROR

You're welcome young lady. Now if you will excuse me, I am off to *go shopping*.

*The EMPEROR begins to remove his
robe.*

BLACK OUT.

ALL

(Loud)
EEEEEOOOOOOWWWWWW!!

—INTERMISSION—

**ACT II
SCENE 1**

AT RISE: *At the end of Main Street STAGE LEFT,
BRUNO stands at his post holding a
sword. The GROUP approaches
BRUNO.*

PRINCESS GARDENIA

Bruno?

BRUNO

Do we know each other?

PRINCESS GARDENIA

Not really. I saw you at the Tournament. You won the shooting contest. You were wonderful.

*BUTTERCUP steps in front of
PRINCESS GARDENIA.*

BUTTERCUP

M'lady's name is Princess Gardenia. She is royal heiress to the throne of the Valley of Azaleas.

BRUNO

How do you do?

BRUNO clicks his heels together and bows.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

He clicks his shoes, Buttercup. *(Whispers)* OOoh, I like that.

BRUNO

The pleasure is all mine. *(Bows)*

PRINCESS GARDENIA

We've come to ask for your help.

BRUNO

How may I be of assistance?

HANS

We've come to ask if you would go with us to see the Queen, Ruler of the Land of Spritely. We need you to escort us to the castle for safe measure. The Queen and her fiancé have a nasty habit of getting rid of people they don't like.

CHRISTIAN

And we desperately need to see the Queen.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

Can you help us?

BRUNO

Sounds like a dangerous mission. As a soldier, I will help.

HANS

Thank you, Bruno. You don't know how much this means to us.

BUTTERCUP

My goodness, it is getting cold. M'lady, here is your wrap.

*BUTTERCUP takes a shawl out of her
knapsack.*

BRUNO

Allow me.

*BRUNO places the shawl around
PRINCESS GARDENIA'S shoulders.
PRINCESS GARDENIA does a secret
thumbs up to BUTTERCUP.*

PRINCESS GARDENIA

A gentleman, too.

*PRINCESS GARDENIA extends her hand
for BRUNO to kiss. BRUNO shakes her
hand, but does not kiss it.*

BRUNO

Allow me to call my deputy to take over as Sentry while I am away. I will meet you back here in a minute.

*BRUNO clicks his heels, bows, and exits
STAGE LEFT.*

*PRINCESS GARDENIA is again
delighted at the sound of shoes clicking.
She clicks her own red shoes in delight.*

JENNY re-enters from STAGE RIGHT.

JENNY

Well, boys, I did a little checking. I know who Boggart is and what he is up to.

HANS

What did you find out?

BRUNO enters and rejoins the GROUP.

BRUNO

I am at your service.

JENNY

He's King Beauregard's kid brother. I knew him back in the day. He was a pesky little kid that used to follow me, Victoria, and Beauregard around. He played snotty tricks on us. He's always been a pest, and he has always been jealous of Beauregard. He grew up to be greedy too.

CHRISTIAN

What do you think he is up to?

JENNY

After I left you and the Princess, I flew into the castle through an open window and hid in the rafters where no one could see me. I overheard Boggart ordering the Minions to get ready for the wedding. When Boggart left the room, Minions were scurrying about. They seemed very sad. I heard that in two days, they will have to work for their new lord and master; Boggart. He is planning to take over the Queen's throne and install himself as the new Ruler of Spritely.

HANS

Diabolical!

PRINCESS GARDENIA

I can't believe it!

*JENNY floats over to talk to PRINCESS
GARDENIA.*

BUTTERCUP

Inconceivable!

BRUNO

We will not let that happen. Follow me!

*The GROUP follows, exiting STAGE
RIGHT.*

ACT II
SCENE 2

*HANS, CHRISTIAN, ANDERSON,
HENY, BELFRY, SUNNY, SHARE,
PRINCESS GARDENIA, BUTTERCUP,
THUMBELINA, JENNY and BRUNO
(the "GROUP") enter STAGE RIGHT by
the Queen's throne.*

*The GROUP approaches the castle. The
performers of the GROUP wear
Hawaiian leis for the Passport to
Paradise show.*

*PRINCESS GARDENIA pulls a ROPE to
gong the bell by the castle DOOR. The
others hide outside.*

SFX: Gong.

*MINION #1 opens a WINDOW from
inside the castle DOOR and peaks out.*

MINION #1

Who goes there?

PRINCESS GARDENIA

It's me, Princess Gardenia. I have come back to see the Queen.

MINION # 1

Princess! Please come inside; you left so suddenly. We didn't get a chance to say goodbye. I will see if the Queen can be disturbed.

*PRINCESS GARDENIA enters the castle
ALONE.*

MINION #1 exits STAGE LEFT.

*MINION'S # 2 and # 3 are in the castle
polishing silver and dusting with a large
feather duster.*

MINION # 2

It's good to see you again. The castle was so alive when you stayed with us.

MINION # 3

You had quite an effect on her. The baker came by after you left this morning asking for his bill to be paid. Usually, Boggart would have ordered us to throw him down the mountain, but instead, the Queen paid the baker and sent him out the front door.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

That's very mean of you. Why do you throw people off the mountain? People could get hurt.

MINION # 2

No one actually gets hurt. There's an enormous patch of yellow and white boun-ce-daisies at the bottom of the mountain. It's like a trampoline down there.

MINION # 3

And times being what they are, we need the job. Boggart made the Queen fire everyone but us Minions.

*MINION # 1 re-enters from STAGE
LEFT.*

MINION # 1

Lord Boggart ordered the Queen not to see any visitors.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

Not even me?

MINION # 1

Lord... um... the Queen has ordered you to leave.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

She won't even see her own *niece*.

MINION # 1

What did you say? How did you know?

PRINCESS GARDENIA

I heard you speak of the Valley of Azaleas this morning, and I know that the Queen's sister is my mother, Queen Violet.

MINION # 1

Oh, dear, they will not be pleased to know we blabbed.

MINION # 2

And you know what happens when they are not pleased.

MINION # 3

I have no doubt that Lord Boggart will throw us right out of here and right out of a job.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

No, he won't. Bruno will not let him.

MINION # 1

Who is Bruno?

PRINCESS GARDENIA

He is my escort. He is right outside. All my friends are right outside. May they come in?

MINION # 2

Oh, no. Lord Boggart would not allow it.

MINION # 3

He runs the castle now.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

What do you mean? The Queen was quite in command this morning.

MINION # 1

We can't tell you.

MINION # 2

Maybe we should tell her. Maybe she can help. The Queen smiled when you stayed at the castle. I haven't seen her smile since the King was alive.

MINION # 3

That's right. Go ahead, let's tell the Princess. Let's tell her everything. Maybe seeing you has brought back wonderful memories of a happier time.

*MINIONS look around to see if the
QUEEN or BOGGART are within
hearing distance.*

PRINCESS GARDENIA

I know that Boggart is planning to marry Queen Victoria and take over Spritely. My friends and I want to help.

MINION # 1

How did you find out?

PRINCESS GARDENIA

One of my friends overheard you talking.

MINION # 1

Overheard us talking again? Now we will be thrown out for sure. He always finds out. If I tell you, do you promise to help us get out of here?

MINION #2

And not by a trip down the mountain.

MINION #3

It's time for us to stop being scared and do the right thing.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

Of course.

MINION # 1

Here goes. Boggart moved right in after the King's funeral. He began helping her around the castle; taking care of the tasks the King used to do. At first, the Queen was grateful to have him around. They have known each other since they were young; long before the King and Queen were married.

MINION # 2

Gradually, Boggart began to take control over the Queen. It's like she is in a trance. We knew something wasn't right when he made her stop going into the village. The Queen loved meeting with her people.

MINION # 3

And then he ordered her to fire everyone who worked at the castle, except us. He made her fire her dress maker, her personal assistant, her cook.

MINION # 1

Cook was very suspicious of him. Cook told me that he saw Boggart putting some kind of a powder in the Queen's drinking goblet. Cook thinks that Boggart is poisoning her.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

(Gasps)

That's terrible.

MINION # 2

We investigated, but we did not find any strange powders or potions. We are careful to bring the Queen her goblet directly.

MINION # 3

I think whatever he's been putting in her drink is keeping her under his control. How else could he have coerced the Queen to agree to marry him? She doesn't love him. They are to be married the day after tomorrow.

MINION # 1

We realized what his evil plan was when we heard Boggart late at night in the Room of Treasures talking to himself. He was drinking spirits and laughing about how all of this would soon be his.

MINION # 2

Boggart wants to have everything that his brother had. Not that he has earned any of it. He thinks that he is just going to take it, and the Queen too.

MINION # 3

I fear for the Queen and for Spritely. If she marries Boggart and he becomes the King, he might throw her out of the castle.

MINION # 1

Penniless and alone. We can't let that happen to our beloved Queen Victoria.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

No, we are not going to let that happen.

PRINCESS GARDENIA moves to the door and motions for the GROUP to enter the castle.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

Come in, everyone.

HANS

Is it safe? Where shall we hide?

PRINCESS GARDENIA

No one is going to hide. Set up your show right here. You are all going to perform for the Queen.

HENY

Excellent. The monster with the spectacles said that I could perform first.

BELFRY

Wait a minute, Swan, the one with the big ears said I could go first. You heard them, I bring class to the production.

SHARE

You are all wrong, we're going first. We are the real celebrities here.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

Quiet everyone, or I will have Bruno clunk your heads together. Henry, you will start the show.

HENRY

Wise choice.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

Then Belfry, then the Ducks, then Thumbelina, and Jenny will be the final act.

SUNNY

Third billing. How embarrassing. Oh, well, the beat must go on.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

Hans, I hope you don't mind that I took over the show. I know what's going on. We're going to look around. Jenny has been a big help.

*JENNY floats over to PRINCESS
GARDENIA.*

HANS

What are we looking for?

PRINCESS GARDENIA

For iocane powder.

HANS

Iocane power! That stuff will turn you into a zombie.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

Jenny and I think that's how Boggart has been doing it. Minions believe he has been poisoning the Queen, and Iocane powder seems logical. Once we find the evidence, we can prove that he is an imposter.

HANS

Of course, I don't know why I didn't see it when I worked here.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

Give this to the Queen.

PRINCESS GARDENIA reaches into her coat pocket and pulls out the pea and gives it to MINION # 1.

MINION # 1 exits STAGE LEFT and re-enters from STAGE LEFT escorting the QUEEN.

The QUEEN angrily takes her place on her throne. MINION # 1 gives her the pea.

QUEEN

Who has dared to disturb me? Get back to work! My robes need to be pressed, and my silver needs to be polished. Now get moving.

MINIONS # 1, # 2 AND # 3

Yes, your majesty....moving.....moving.....moving.

MINIONS scramble to attend to the royal wardrobe and silver.

*PRINCESS GARDENIA steps forward.
The GROUP gathers behind her.*

QUEEN

Why have you come back?

PRINCESS GARDENIA

If it pleases your majesty, we are your lowly subjects, who care only for your happiness and wellbeing.

QUEEN

What do you want? My time is valuable. Who are these imbeciles?

HANS steps forward.

HANS

We have come to brighten your day, majesty. We have brought you a magnificent Swan to regale you with his humor and other spectacular entertainers to lift your spirits. We are your Passport to Paradise.

QUEEN

I recognize you, you little monster. You've been here before.

HANS

I was once your seamstress, highness.

CHRISTIAN

And I was once your assistant. You fired us, but we never forgot how kind you were.

QUEEN

I'm sure I fired you for good reason.

*PRINCESS GARDENIA pushes HENY
CENTER STAGE.*

*HENY dusts off his wings, whips out his
CIGAR, and goes into his routine.*

HENY

Good afternoon, ladies and germs, I mean, your majesty. (*Twitches his CIGAR*) It's great to be in the house, ah, the castle. Did you hear the one about the....no.... you probably already heard that one. OK, let's start over. Say, did you hear about the guy who quit his job as a food taster.... he didn't get enough time off for lunch.

SFX: Crickets.

*While HENY is performing, the Ogres
begin to look around the castle.*

*JENNY floats into the Room of
Treasures.*

*BRUNO and BUTTERCUP stand guard
by the DOOR.*

*LORD BOGGART enters. The QUEEN is
instantly distracted.*

BOGGART

(Snarky)

Darling, didn't I tell you not to have any visitors!

HENY

Wait, wait, let me tell you another one. I got a great joke about pickle juice. *(Turns to the
AUDIENCE)* Whatever is eating the Queen must be suffering from indigestion.

SFX: Drum Beats.

QUEEN

What is the meaning of this?

HENY

No wait, I got a million of 'em. Hey, Boggart, I hear your really clicking big around town. I
guess your dentures don't fit.

SFX: Drum Beats.

HENY

Geez, this is a tough crowd, *all together.*

*ALL look out to the AUDIENCE out of
character.*

ALL

"Geez, this is a tough crowd!"

ALL return back into character.

HENY

Hey, Queenie, looks like you were born with a silver spoon in your mouth. All the other
queens had tongues.

SFX: Drum Beats. Cymbals.

HENY

Boggart, can I drop you off somewhere...perhaps a nearby bridge?

SFX: Drum Beats; Cymbals.

BOGGART

I'll drop *you* off somewhere, Swan.

HENY

You don't understand. This is killer material. Speaking of killer... take my wife...please.

SFX: Drum Beats.

HENY

No, no ... take my ex-wife...her name is... Plaintiff!

BOGGART

Take him away!

MINION #1

No! We won't!

BOGGART

You dare to defy me?

*BOGGART grabs HENY and takes him
OFF STAGE RIGHT before BRUNO can
reach him.*

SFX: HENY falling down the mountain.

HENY

"Pic... kle... juice!!!"

SHARE

I guess you could say that was a moving performance. Moved him right out of the castle.

*JENNY floats to the GROUP and gives a
small vial to PRINCESS GARDENIA.*

JENNY

Just as we suspected, Princess.

BOGGART

And now I am going to take care of all of you.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

Not so fast, Boggart! Bruno – hold him.

BRUNO rushes over to hold BOGGART.

BOGGART

Why, you insolent little peon. I'll have you drawn and quartered for this.

PRINCESS GARDENIA

It's no use, Boggart. We found the Iocane Powder.

QUEEN

Iocane Powder? *(Slowly awakening)* What are you talking about?

PRINCESS GARDENIA

He's been poisoning you, majesty. He's been putting Iocane Powder in your goblet.

QUEEN

Boggart?

*The QUEEN grabs her goblet and
examines it.*

PRINCESS GARDENIA

You won't find anything in there. Iocane Powder is odorless and tasteless.

JENNY

I found a vial of it in the Room of Treasures. I am afraid it's true, Vickie, Boggart has been poisoning you.

QUEEN

Jenny? Is that you? *(Becoming more awake)*

JENNY

It's me all right. We came to help you.

QUEEN

Boggart? Is this true? (*Now more awake*)

BOGGART

My love, my sweet, they are all liars. Of course, it's not true. Who are you going to believe, me or these trespassers? They are here to harm you. They need to be thrown out.

QUEEN

It's you I don't believe. Why would you do this to me? Why would you do this to your dear departed brother?

BOGGART

Victoria! I order you to throw out these intruders! Do as I say!

This is Not the End of the Play
Ending Intentionally Omitted for Security Purposes

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AUTHOR'S NOTES

Hans Christian Anderson was a Danish author who lived from 1805 to 1875. He wrote plays and novels, but he is best remembered for his fairy tales. Some of his most famous fairy tales are “Thumbelina,” “The Ugly Duckling,” “The Emperor’s New Clothes,” “The Steadfast Tin Soldier,” and “The Red Shoes.” “The Nightingale” is a story he penned about his passion for the famous singer, Jenny Lind. The musical comedy “Once Upon a Mattress” was based upon Anderson’s story of “The Princess and the Pea.” Anderson’s “The Queen,” was a tale later re-told in the Disney animated film, “Frozen.” The characters in this play were inspired by the characters in Anderson’s cherished fairy tales.

The character of JENNY is modeled after the iconic siren of the 1930’s, Mae West. Known for her racy portrayals, double entendres, and sly delivery, Mae was a woman ahead of her time.

HENY is a combination of two famous comedians, Groucho Marx and Heny Youngman. Groucho is still identified as one of the best comedians of the modern era in film and television. He made many successful movies with his four siblings, The Marx Brothers, and hosted the long running quiz show, “You Bet Your Life.” Groucho is best known for his distinctive appearance with thick greasepaint mustache and eyebrows, glasses, and cigar. Heny Youngman outpaced Groucho as the King of the One-Liners and is best known for this quip, “Take my wife...please.”

The singing duck duo, SUNNY and SHARE, are patterned after the husband and wife pop singing couple, Sonny and Cher Bono. One of their hit songs from 1967, “The Beat Goes On,” is performed in this play. Sonny and Cher hosted two successful television variety shows. After the pair separated in 1975, Cher went on to a successful solo career and Sonny was elected to Congress as a US Representative from California.

Each of the ogres has a unique qualifier. HANS, the calculating ogre wears spectacles; CHRISTIAN is a computer savvy red-haired ogre, while ANDERSON is a sensitive romantic with spectacular green ears. The role of THUMBELINA in ACT I is written for a husky male with a deep voice, and the transformed THUMBELINA is a lovely female ballerina in ACT II. BRUNO will need to dance hip-hop to Bruno Mars music. The three MINIONS are monkeys, ala Oz. Roles in *How Hans, Christian, and Anderson Melted the Snow Queen* are written as gender neutral.

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PRODUCTION NOTES

PROPS

IPAD, Apple computer style logo with a skull and cross bones X through the apple to display on the IPAD; throne, large plastic pool for a lake; green pea; knapsack, shawl; feather dusters; polishing rags; items to polish; cape; cane; signage; Groucho Marx black glasses with nose, mustache and cigar; diamond jewelry; sword; microphone; goblet; small vial; Hawaiian leis for the Passport to Paradise show.

COSTUMING

HANS, CHRISTIAN and ANDERSON, the Ogres, wear medieval style peasant costumes. HANS has round spectacles, CHRISTIAN spouts flaming red hair, and ANDERSON has big, green ears.

LORD BOGGART like all villains, he wears a long black cape and go-tee.

THUMBELINA will need a husky size dirty leotard and tutu for the male role.

THUMBELINA will also need a standard ballerina costume for the female role.

JENNY needs wings, a Mae West style wig, form fitting gown, and diamonds.

HENY, the Swan, has elegant wings while wearing Groucho Marx black glasses with nose, famous black mustache, and an ever-present cigar.

BELFRY, the duck, portrays a Shakespearian ac-tore with an English accent. He will need duck feathers, a cape and a cane.

SUNNY and SHARE are ducks costumed as the famous singing couple, Sonny and Cher.

SUNNY, circa 1960's, wears a wild colored fringed vest with puffy sleeved shirt, bell bottomed pants, a bandana and wide mustache. SHARE, has waist length black hair, long finger nails, and extra-long eye lashes and wears a 60's outfit.

PRINCESS GARDENIA wears a blue gingham dress and red shoes.

BUTTERCUP wears a simple maid's frock.

EMPEROR wears a purple robe with an ermine collar with high "Burger King" type crown.

BRUNO is costumed in a soldier's uniform with sword.

MINIONS are dressed like monkeys, Oz style.

The SNOW QUEEN wears a royal gown and crown.

SET DESIGN

AT RISE: The curtain opens to the Queen's castle at the top of a snow-covered mountain. There is a door to the castle. The throne is UPSTAGE and off to the side is a Room of Treasures. A large window by the throne allows the actors to look down over Swan Lake and neighboring Land of Nod STAGE LEFT. The Super Enchanted Forest is STAGE RIGHT. A tree is between the Forest and Swan Lake. Signs identifying the Dance Studio and HallMart are in front of the Super Enchanted Forest, and the Land of Nod.