The Princess King

By Jeff Fluharty

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1. The full name of the play
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3. The following notice: “Produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Inc., Englewood, Colorado”
CAST OF CHARACTERS
(In Order of Appearance)

1. MOTHER ................................ storyteller, Lucille's mother 75
2. LUCILLE ................................ nine year-old girl who loves stories 44
3. DIRECTOR .............................. tries to keep actors in line 14
4. PRINCESS GENEVIEVE ........... strong willed; in love with the cook 42
5. HENRY THE COOK ................... kind and talented; loves the princess 37
6. KING FREDERICK .................... king of the Kingdom of Yourroom 53
7. ROYAL GUARD #1 ............... not very smart 8
8. ROYAL GUARD #2 ............... not as smart as Royal Guard #1 8
9. QUEEN BELLA ..................... queen of the kingdom 36
10. JESTER .............................. foolishly-wise court jester 11
11. ENTREPRENEUR .................... male villager; wants to make a buck 7
12. PERFORMER .......................... female villager; wants to be in a musical 17
13. POET ................................. male villager 8
14. TOWN CRIER .......................... male villager; very sad 9
15. OLD PEASANT ..................... female villager; poor and kind 10
16. HEAD SERVANT ..................... helps run the royal contest 23
17. CHARITY ............................. servant; loyal to the princess 27
18. HEAD COOK .......................... runs the royal kitchen; mean 13
19. THIEF'S MOTHER ................. the brains behind their evil plan 20
20. THIEF ................................. tries to steal the crown; cheats 32
21. PRINCE WHINER ..................... lazy; full of excuses 9
22. PRINCE AIR-GUITAR ............... medieval rock star 10
23. OTHER PRINCE ..................... minor character and not happy about it 14
24. TINA STARCHASER ............... reporter for Proclamation News 26
25. SARA PAPARAZZI ................... another 24
26. CLOVER .............................. personal trainer for Prince Air-Guitar 7
27. SEA BREEZE .......................... nutritionist for Prince Air-Guitar 7

NOTE: When characters are in disguise, the character's name will appear with an asterisk in the stage directions and line prompts. For instance, when THIEF is posing as PRINCE FLUFFY, his name will appear as "THIEF*".
as THIEF* in the stage directions. The same concept will be used for PRINCESS, HENRY and CHARITY when they are in disguise. For line prompts, the asterisk also indicates actors should be disguising their voices as well.

SETTING
Place: Lucille's bedroom and different locations throughout the Kingdom of Yourroom.
Time: The day before tomorrow.

Lucille's bedroom is DOWN RIGHT, in front of the curtains, and has a small bed, a chair and possibly a nightstand with a lamp. In Scene One, the ENTRANCE for the bedroom is CENTER through the closed curtains. The rest of the stage is the Kingdom of Yourroom. A simple backdrop represents both the exterior and interior walls of the castle with a door CENTER, if desired. The royal kitchen and royal dining room each require a table, but no other set pieces are needed.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES
A portion of each scene takes place in Lucille's bedroom, as Lucille's mother reads her the story of "The Princess King" one night. The story itself is acted out in a number of different locations over the time span of five days within the Kingdom of Yourroom.
Scene One: Inside the castle.
Scene Two: Outside the castle, later the same day.
Scene Three: In the royal kitchen, the same day.
Scene Four: In the thief's residence, the next day.
Scene Five: Outside the castle, the next day.
Scene Six: Outside the castle, the next day for the beginning of the contest.
Scene Seven: In the royal kitchen and dining room, that night.
Scene Eight: Outside the castle, the second day of the contest.
Scene Nine: Outside the castle, the third and final day of the contest.
THE PRINCESS KING

Scene One

LIGHTS UP: LUCILLE’S bedroom in front of the curtain DOWN RIGHT. MOTHER ENTERS through the curtains CENTER and crosses to the bedroom where she fluffs the pillow and prepares the bed for her daughter. MOTHER starts to become impatient as she waits for LUCILLE to come to bed.

MOTHER: (Yells OFFSTAGE as if LUCILLE was in other room.) Lucille, it’s time for bed! You need to hurry up so we can read a bedtime story!

LUCILLE: (ENTERS. She holds a toothbrush.) I’m brushing my teeth, Mommy. (EXITS.)

MOTHER: (Waits. Yells OFF.) Are you done brushing your teeth?

LUCILLE: (ENTERS, flossing.) Now I’m flossing, Mommy. I’ll be right out. (EXITS again.)

MOTHER: (Waits. Looks at watch.) How many teeth do you have? You must be done by now?

LUCILLE: (ENTERS with notepad and pen.) Of course I’m done. Now I’m working on my Christmas list. (EXITS again.)

MOTHER: (Stern.) Lucille! It’s April! Come to bed now, or no bedtime story.

LUCILLE’S VOICE: (From OFFSTAGE. Gives in.) Okay, Mommy.

MOTHER: (Shakes her head. To AUDIENCE.) Kids these days. They want to put off bedtime for as long as they can.

LUCILLE: (ENTERS and gets into bed.) Mommy, what’s tonight’s story?

MOTHER: Lucille, I have a very special story to read to you tonight.

LUCILLE: What’s it called?

MOTHER: It’s called “The Princess King.” (Reaches under the bed and pulls out a very small, plain book.)

LUCILLE: (Disappointed.) Uh, Mommy, that book looks a little small.

DIRECTOR: (ENTERS carrying a clapboard and a large, mysterious-looking book that reads “The Princess King.” To AUDIENCE.) Sorry, folks. I’m the director of this play, I apologize. It’s really hard to put together a good stage crew. Here’s the correct prop. (Places the new book under the bed. Takes the smaller book from MOTHER.) Okay, let’s redo the book scene. All right, here we go. “Book Scene” take two. (Shuts the clapboard and EXITS.)

MOTHER: The story is called “The Princess King.” (Reaches under bed and pulls out the new book.)
LUCILLE: (Looks surprised in an overacting kind of way.) Now that’s a cool book! (To AUDIENCE.) My mom is the best storyteller. She knows how to really bring characters to life.

MOTHER: The story of “The Princess King” takes place the day before tomorrow in the Kingdom of Yourroom.

LUCILLE: (Excited.) That means it takes place right here, right now!

MOTHER: You’re right, Lucille. Close your eyes. I want you to imagine a magnificent castle in the great Kingdom of Yourroom. (Pauses and turns to AUDIENCE.) Excuse me, audience. You should close your eyes, too. (Pauses and looks to see if the AUDIENCE is participating. Notices one AUDIENCE MEMBER with eyes still open. Points.) Hey, you in the front row, no peeking. (Pauses and checks AUDIENCE.) That’s better. Like I was saying, imagine a magnificent castle in the great Kingdom of Yourroom. Now, the story of “The Princess King” starts off with a beautiful princess named Genevieve and a handsome, young cook named Henry. Can you picture them?

LUCILLE: Yes. (CURTAIN RISES. PRINCESS and HENRY stand CENTER in tableau.)

MOTHER: Okay. Open your eyes. (To AUDIENCE.) Audience, if you’re still awake, you can open your eyes, too.

LUCILLE: (Amazed.) Wow, I can see them! There’s the princess and there’s the cook. (Pauses and looks critically at them. Walks over to PRINCESS and HENRY.) But I really pictured Henry a little taller. And I thought the princess would have longer hair because, you know, most princesses have really long, luxurious hair. And another thing— (PRINCESS and HENRY come out of tableau, insulted. MOTHER interrupts.)

MOTHER: Lucille! Please be polite. (LUCILLE crosses back to her bed. Whispers to LUCILLE.) I think you’re offending the characters.

LUCILLE: Sorry, Mommy. (To PRINCESS and HENRY.) Sorry. I think you both look just fine.

MOTHER: I will continue. (Cleares throat. Reads from book.) “Princess Genevieve and Henry, the young cook, were so in love.”

PRINCESS: (Gazes at HENRY.) I’m so in love with you, Henry.

HENRY: (Gazes at PRINCESS.) And I’m so in love with you, Genevieve.

MOTHER: “Princess Genevieve was the only child of King Frederick and Queen Bella. Not only was Genevieve beautiful, she was also strong, smart and talented.”

HENRY: Genevieve, I love you because you are so beautiful, strong, smart and talented.

For preview only
MOTHER: (Reads.) “Henry was a kind young man and an amazing cook. His lasagna and chicken pot pies were famous throughout the kingdom.”

PRINCESS: (To HENRY) I love you, Henry, because you are so kind and such an amazing cook. Your lasagna and chicken pot pies are just divine.

MOTHER: (Reads.) “The two were destined to be together forever.” (As the story unfolds, MOTHER and LUCILLE watch the action onstage. PRINCESS and HENRY hold hands and smile lovingly at each other. Continues reading.) “Unfortunately, there was one big problem. The princess’s father, King Frederick, did not approve of the cook.”

KING: (ENTERS LEFT and comes between PRINCESS and HENRY.) How many times have I told you to stay away from that… that cook. He is a commoner, and I forbid you from seeing him!

PRINCESS: Father, you can’t!

KING: I can and I will. (Yells OFF LEFT.) Royal guards! (ROYAL GUARDS ENTER LEFT.)

ROYAL GUARD #1: Yes, your majesty.

ROYAL GUARD #2: At your service, your highness.

KING: Take the… (Condescending.) …cook back to the kitchen where he belongs. And see to it that he never see the princess again.

ROYAL GUARD #1: Come along, Cook.

ROYAL GUARD #2: We must take you back to the kitchen. (GUARDS grab HENRY and start to drag him LEFT.)

PRINCESS: But, Father, I love him! (She and HENRY reach for one another.)

KING: Don’t be ridiculous. (Crosses to PRINCESS so she can’t see HENRY and GUARDS EXITING LEFT. Places a hand on PRINCESS’S shoulder.) You are my only child, and I am an old man, Sixty-nine years old to be exact. My birthday is in five days so I will soon be 70. Do you know what that means?

PRINCESS: (In an “I know” voice.) Yes, Father, I will remember to get you a present.

KING: (Slightly annoyed.) No. It means—

PRINCESS: I know, it means you can get the senior citizen discount at the Royal House of Pancakes. You always love a good bargain.

KING: (More annoyed.) No, it means— (Pauses and thinks.) Well, pancakes do sound good. You say there’s a senior citizen discount?

PRINCESS: Yes, I think it’s 15% off, and you don’t even need a coupon.

KING: I’ll have to check that out. I do love pancakes. (Realizes he is off topic.) Wait, wait, why are we talking about pancakes? You’ve
distracted me. My birthday means I must step down from the throne. The royal law dictates that on the day of the king’s 70th birthday he must pass the throne to his successor. (Turns to PRINCESS.) Unfortunately, you’re my only child. (To AUDIENCE.) Why didn’t I have a son? (To PRINCESS.) My daughter, you need to be married by my birthday so that your husband can become the new king. I must find a prince to marry you and take my crown.

PRINCESS: But, Father, I don’t want you to find me a prince. I want to marry sweet Henry.

KING: The cook?! He is not fit to be king, nor my son-in-law. You will not marry him.

PRINCESS: Father, I could run the kingdom.

KING: You! A girl? Never! (Laughs.) That’s even more absurd than the cook being king. I will find you a husband before my birthday, and that’s final.

PRINCESS: Father! If you only give me a chance, I will show you that I can lead the kingdom.

KING: I’ve heard enough! Now go to your room and let me figure this out. And stay away from that, that… cook!

PRINCESS: I will not go to my room while you are here deciding my fate!

KING: (To AUDIENCE.) Why didn’t I have a son? (Shakes his head.) Royal Guards! (ROYAL GUARDS #1 and #2 ENTER LEFT.)

ROYAL GUARD #1: Yes, your majesty?

ROYAL GUARD #2: At your service, your highness.

KING: Take the princess and lock her in her room. She is to remain locked up until I find her a husband.

ROYAL GUARD #1: Come this way, Princess.

ROYAL GUARD #2: Princess, we must lock you in your room.

PRINCESS: Take your hands off me. (ROYAL GUARDS lock arms with PRINCESS and pull her LEFT between them. PRINCESS faces AUDIENCE as she is taken away. QUEEN ENTERS LEFT. GUARDS and PRINCESS pass the QUEEN.) Mother, how can you stand to be married to such a rigid and difficult man? (Before the QUEEN can answer, GUARDS pull PRINCESS OFF LEFT.)

QUEEN: What did you do this time, dear? Genevieve seems unusually upset.

KING: Genevieve is always upset. Our daughter thinks she can run the kingdom, and she wants to marry the cook.

QUEEN: That’s ridiculous. We will find her an appropriate husband.
KING: Yes, but how can I find a man who will make a great king? (He and QUEEN pace and think. JESTER ENTERS LEFT and paces with them, moving comically and making faces to AUDIENCE. They don’t notice JESTER at first, but eventually bump into him after a sudden turn.)

QUEEN: (Surprised and slightly annoyed.) Jester, what do you want?

JESTER: As your court jester, I’m here to entertain you, my noble king and queen. Would you like to hear a joke? See me eat fire? How about I’ll juggle some swords?

KING: No, not right now, Jester. We have a serious problem to deal with. (He and QUEEN strike thinking poses.)

JESTER: I can be serious. (Makes overly dramatic serious faces. Mirrors KING’S and QUEEN’S poses, scratching head, rubbing chin, etc.)

QUEEN: (Notices him.) Stop that! We’re trying to figure out how to find a husband for Princess Genevieve.

JESTER: That’s easy, your majesties. Everyone in the castle knows that Princess Genevieve loves Henry, the cook. She can marry him and then your problem will be solved.

QUEEN: We don’t want her to marry the cook.

JESTER: Why not?

QUEEN: The cook is a commoner.

KING: Yes, how could we expect a simple cook to protect the kingdom and lead the people?

QUEEN: We need a man with great qualities. The qualities of a king.

KING: You forgot good looks.

QUEEN: No, I didn’t.

KING: (Shocked.) Hey!

JESTER: Wait, I’ve got the solution!

KING: What is it?

QUEEN: Yes, tell us.

JESTER: What you need is a contest.

QUEEN: (Looks at KING, confused.) A contest?

KING: (Looks at QUEEN, confused.) A contest?

JESTER: Yes, a contest. A contest where the champion wins the hand of your daughter and the crown of the Kingdom of Yourroom.

QUEEN: This is intriguing.

KING: ( Unsure.) How would this contest work?
JESTER: Your majesty, you simply need to plan events that test for the qualities you want in a future king. The winner of the contest will then be the best king. The contest will eliminate the foolish and weak and leave you with the one true leader.

QUEEN: You are a genius! (Pats JESTER on back.)

KING: Let’s go to the great hall and plan this contest. I am confident we will find a wonderful new king before my birthday. (EXITS LEFT with QUEEN and JESTER. FADE TO BLACKOUT.)

End of Scene One

Scene Two

LIGHTS UP: LUCILLE and MOTHER are in LUCILLE’S bedroom, DOWN RIGHT. Within the story of “The Princess King,” the action takes place outside the castle. HEAD SERVANT and CHARITY stand CENTER with parchments.

MOTHER: (Reads.) “Chapter Two: ‘Not a Trophy.’ So the king set out to hold a contest to find a husband for his daughter and a successor to the throne. As the servants spread the news of the royal contest, many villagers gathered.” (VILLAGERS do not ENTER. MOTHER looks to see what the problem is. Repeats in a louder voice.) Many villagers gathered. (Looks again with more concern. Even louder.) I said, many villagers gathered! (Looks at LUCILLE, confused.)

LUCILLE: I think there’s a problem.

DIRECTOR: (ENTERS LEFT carrying his clapboard.) What’s happening? Where are the villagers?

LUCILLE: We don’t know. They haven’t come out.

DIRECTOR: (Calls OFF RIGHT.) Villagers, you missed your cue! (VILLAGERS ENTER RIGHT, out of character.) Where were you?

ENTREPRENEUR: We were backstage.

DIRECTOR: (Annoyed.) Well, you need to be onstage.

PERFORMER: But we were playing cards.

POET: Yeah, the old peasant just won 20 bucks. (VILLAGERS congratulate OLD PEASANT with high fives.)

DIRECTOR: Cards?! There’s a play going on if you haven’t noticed!

TOWN CRIER: We can hear it from back there, thanks.

DIRECTOR: But you all have parts in the play?

OLD PEASANT: Oh, come on. We only have small parts.

POET: We’re just the villagers.

PERFORMER: I wanted to be in a musical. There hasn’t even been any dancing or singing in this play.

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ENTREPRENEUR: You won't miss us if we stay backstage.
DIRECTOR: (Yells in a grand voice.) This is the theater. There are no small parts!
POET: (Rises hand.) But our characters don't even have names.
DIRECTOR: Sorry, this play is on a tight budget, we can't afford names for your characters. (Pauses.) Now go to your places! (EVERYONE moves into proper place.) Get into character. (VILLAGERS start to stand and move like characters.) Okay, Head Servant advertising the king's contest, take two! (Shuts clapboard. EXITS LEFT.)
HEAD SERVANT: Hear ye, hear ye! Princes needed to compete in a royal contest to win the hand of the beautiful Princess Genevieve and the crown of the Kingdom of Yournroom.
ENTREPRENEUR: (In character.) This sounds exciting. A royal event is always good for business.
PERFORMER: (In character.) I think I feel a song coming on that will express the drama of this epic contest. (Does a little dance, but is disappointed that no song happens.)
OLD PEASANT: (In character.) I hope I can afford a ticket. I am an old peasant and haven't a possession to my name. (To AUDIENCE, out of character) Well, except for the 20 bucks I won backstage playing cards. (Winks.)
DIRECTOR: (Pokes head IN from OFF LEFT.) Old Peasant! Stay in character!
OLD PEASANT: (To DIRECTOR.) Sorry. (Back in character.) Oh, I'm dreadfully poor. I most definitely won't be able to afford a ticket.
POET: (In character.) A wonderful king I would make, this contest I will take. A poet king I will be, you all soon…(Pauses to think of a rhyme)…will see. (Pleased.)
ENTREPRENEUR: But you're the village poet, not a prince.
POET: Oh, you are so right, I will not be wearing a crown tonight.
TOWN CRIER: (Cries.) It's just so sad.
HEAD SERVANT: (Frustrated.) Are there any princes around here?
TOWN CRIER: (Frustrated.) I'm the town crier. That's what I do.
HEAD SERVANT: (Frustrated.) Are there any princes around here?
TOWN CRIER: (Frustrated.) Yes, but they're not here.
ENTREPRENEUR: I'm not a prince.
POET: (To TOWN CRIER.) Are you a prince?
TOWN CRIER: (Excited.) I once knew a prince, (Sad again.) but he moved to a land far, far away.
PERFORMER: (Dreamy.) I always wanted to be rescued by a handsome prince.

OLD PEASANT: Me too, but I’ve been waiting a long, long time for my prince.

HEAD SERVANT: (Firm.) Royal subjects, on the orders of King Frederick, I need to find a prince!

OLD PEASANT: If you do, could you give him my number? (VILLAGERS laugh.)

HEAD SERVANT: I’m not kidding. This is my job. We worked really hard on these parchments.

PERFORMER: Actually, I do believe I saw a few princes that way. (Points OFF LEFT.)

HEAD SERVANT: (Excited.) You did? Excellent! You are a real lifesaver. (Quickly EXITS LEFT followed by CHARITY.)

TOWN CRIER: (Breaks character and checks to see if HEAD SERVANT and CHARITY are out of sight.) I think they’re gone.

OLD PEASANT: (Breaks character.) Great! Now we can finish that card game. (VILLAGERS EXIT RIGHT.)

MOTHER: “But what the king did not know was that one of the servants was loyal to the princess. (GUARDS ENTER LEFT with PRINCESS, put her in her room and stand guard at the door. PRINCESS paces. [NOTE: If not using a door, the presence of the GUARDS and the PRINCESS can establish the room and the door.]) The servant’s name was Charity. (CHARITY ENTERS LEFT with a lunch basket and crosses to CENTER.) Instead of doing what the king asked, Charity went to tell the princess about the contest. (CHARITY approaches PRINCESS’S room.) When she got to the princess’s room, Charity was confronted by two royal guards. But she had a plan.”

ROYAL GUARD #1: Halt! No one may enter the princess’s room.

CHARITY: Royal Guards, may I have permission to pass? I have the princess’s lunch.

ROYAL GUARD #1: Lunch? What is it?

CHARITY: Lunch? It’s the meal after breakfast and before dinner, but that’s not important right now. What’s important is that I have to give this turkey and cheese sandwich to the princess. I’m sure you wouldn’t want me to tell the king that you would not let his beautiful daughter eat.

ROYAL GUARD #2: (GUARDS look at each other, concerned that they might get in trouble with KING.) You may enter. Just don’t make too much noise. We’re trying to get some sleep out here. (Motions CHARITY into the PRINCESS’S room.)
PRINCESS: (Runs to CHARITY and takes her hands.) My friend, it is such a relief to see you. Have you brought me news?
CHARITY: Yes, Princess, but I'm afraid this news will not please you.
PRINCESS: Do tell.
MOTHER: "The servant explained the contest to the princess, and the princess was horrified." PRINCESS: I am horrified! How could my father turn me into a prize? I am a woman, not a trophy. A contest is no way to find love. I must see Henry. We have to get out of here.
MOTHER: "The princess and the servant made their way to the royal kitchen." (PRINCESS and CHARITY rush OFF LEFT.)
LUCILLE: Wait! How did they get past the guards?
MOTHER: You are a very observant listener. How do you think they got out?
LUCILLE: (Stands on bed and poses.) Martial arts? Oh, maybe the princess used her heat vision? No, I know! She took dynamite out of her utility belt and she blew a hole in the wall and—
MOTHER: (Scolds.) Lucille! I think you've been watching too much television. (Goes back to telling the story.) "The princess and the servant simply climbed out the window and scaled down the side of the castle."
LUCILLE: (Embarrassed.) Oh, that works too. (FADE TO BLACKOUT.)

Scene Three

Lights up: LUCILLE and MOTHER are in LUCILLE’S bedroom. Within the story of "The Princess King," the action takes place inside the royal kitchen, where there is a table with a pot of stew, a ladle and a jar of food on it.
MOTHER: (Reads.) "Chapter Three: 'The Heat in the Kitchen.' Meanwhile, Henry had troubles of his own. He worked in the royal kitchen for the incredibly mean head cook. She made poor Henry slave away day and night. He never got to use his talents to make his wonderful lasagna and delicious chicken pot pies. Henry was forced to make the same boring, tasteless glop stew day after day."
LUCILLE: What's glop stew?
MOTHER: Let's just say that glop stew tastes about as bad as it sounds.
HEAD COOK: (Enters left dragging HENRY into the kitchen behind her. Angry.) Get in the kitchen! (Pushes HENRY towards table.) Now get to work on the glop stew. The King is planning a major event.
Some kind of contest to find the next king, and we will need to feed thousands of spectators.

HENRY: (Concerned.) But the next king would have to be married to Princess Genevieve.

HEAD COOK: (Sarcastic.) You are a real genius. Of course he would.

HENRY: Why? Are you still in love with the princess? Well, give it up! You are nothing more than a common cook. And you will spend the rest of your sorry life cooking glop stew. Now get to work! Have you added the rat meat yet? What about the root of skunk weed?

HENRY: I'll do it right now, Head Cook.

HEAD COOK: You better. I'll be working in the other room, so no daydreaming! (EXITS LEFT.)

HENRY: (Stouches on table, slowly stirs a pot and sighs several times, changing positions each time. Begins to talk to himself and the AUDIENCE.) I miss Princess Genevieve so much. What am I going to do? (Looks at stew, makes disgusted face.) This is awful. I hate making this terrible food. (HEAD COOK ENTERS LEFT and overhears.) Someday, I will make my own food, and I will marry the princess.

HEAD COOK: That's ridiculous! You are a pathetic little dreamer and a very slow worker as well. You need to finish the glop stew before I return, and that's an order. And this time, don't forget the fish gums and the lion sweat. If you don't finish soon, I will personally lock you in the dungeon.

HENRY: Yes, Head Cook. (Stirs the stew. PRINCESS and CHARITY peer ON LEFT until HEAD COOK EXITS RIGHT. They quickly ENTER LEFT. HENRY and PRINCESS hurry to greet each other.)

PRINCESS: Henry!

HENRY: Princess! (They meet CENTER and hug. Both talk at the same time.)

PRINCESS: The king is planning a contest and we have to do something! (Pause and look at each other with surprise.)

HENRY: You already know? We said the same thing… at the same time. We must be in love. (They hug again.)

CHARITY: (Crosses between them.) Sorry to interrupt you two lovebirds, but we need to come up with a plan.
PRINCESS: Yes, we need a plan. Henry, what is it that you are making?
(Takes a ladle full of stew and tastes it. Makes a disgusted face.)

HENRY: The head cook has me making glop stew for the spectators.

PRINCESS: (Spits.) Glop stew, yuck! I don’t know why she never lets you make your lasagna. I just love your lasagna.

HENRY: And I just love you. (They stare love-struck at each other and hold hands.)

CHARITY: (Crosses between PRINCESS and HENRY.) Excuse me! We have a problem to solve.

PRINCESS/HENRY: (At the same time.) Sorry. (They smile and giggle.)

CHARITY: What are we going to do?

HENRY: If only I could enter the contest and win. (Takes a spatula from his pocket and scratches his chin with it.)

CHARITY: I heard that it’s a contest of athleticism and strength.

(HENRY tries to flip the spatula in the air and catch it, but clumsily drops it. CHARITY and PRINCESS look at the spatula on the ground and then at each other with great concern.)

HENRY: I wish it was a cooking contest.

PRINCESS: Henry, you would definitely win with your lasagna. (HENRY smiles.)

CHARITY: There’s talk that the last event is to climb Fog Mountain and take a feather from the great chicken-dragon named Squawk!

(PRINCESS, HENRY and CHARITY stomp loudly, yell “Squawk,” flap their arms and mime laying an egg like a chicken.)

LUCILLE: Mommy, why did they do that funny arm thing? (Mimics the arm flapping.)

MOTHER: The great chicken-dragon is half chicken and half dragon. It’s very scary. For as long as anyone in the kingdom can remember, whenever the name of the great chicken-dragon is said, everyone flaps his or her arms and pretends to lay an egg like a chicken. No one knows why.

LUCILLE: What’s the name of the chicken-dragon again?

MOTHER: Squawk. (PRINCESS, HENRY and CHARITY stomp, yell “Squawk,” flap their arms and mime laying an egg.)

LUCILLE: I like that. Let me try. Squawk. (Characters stomp, yell “Squawk,” flap and mime laying egg.) Squawk. (Again.)

MOTHER: Lucille, let’s continue. “So the cook was very worried.”

HENRY: (Concerned. Stutters.) Did, did, did you say chicken-dragon?

CHARITY: Yes, and I’ve heard that the chicken-dragon has grown to the size of a castle!

HENRY: A sand castle, I hope. (Smiles nervously.)

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HENRY: The head cook has me making glop stew for the spectators.

PRINCESS: (Spits.) Glop stew, yuck! I don’t know why she never lets you make your lasagna. I just love your lasagna.

HENRY: And I just love you. (They stare love-struck at each other and hold hands.)

CHARITY: (Crosses between PRINCESS and HENRY.) Excuse me! We have a problem to solve.

PRINCESS/HENRY: (At the same time.) Sorry. (They smile and giggle.)

CHARITY: What are we going to do?

HENRY: If only I could enter the contest and win. (Takes a spatula from his pocket and scratches his chin with it.)

CHARITY: I heard that it’s a contest of athleticism and strength.

(HENRY tries to flip the spatula in the air and catch it, but clumsily drops it. CHARITY and PRINCESS look at the spatula on the ground and then at each other with great concern.)

HENRY: I wish it was a cooking contest.

PRINCESS: Henry, you would definitely win with your lasagna. (HENRY smiles.)

CHARITY: There’s talk that the last event is to climb Fog Mountain and take a feather from the great chicken-dragon named Squawk!

(PRINCESS, HENRY and CHARITY stomp loudly, yell “Squawk,” flap their arms and mime laying an egg like a chicken.)

LUCILLE: Mommy, why did they do that funny arm thing? (Mimics the arm flapping.)

MOTHER: The great chicken-dragon is half chicken and half dragon. It’s very scary. For as long as anyone in the kingdom can remember, whenever the name of the great chicken-dragon is said, everyone flaps his or her arms and pretends to lay an egg like a chicken. No one knows why.

LUCILLE: What’s the name of the chicken-dragon again?

MOTHER: Squawk. (PRINCESS, HENRY and CHARITY stomp, yell “Squawk,” flap their arms and mime laying an egg.)

LUCILLE: I like that. Let me try. Squawk. (Characters stomp, yell “Squawk,” flap and mime laying egg.) Squawk. (Again.)

MOTHER: Lucille, let’s continue. “So the cook was very worried.”

HENRY: (Concerned. Stutters.) Did, did, did you say chicken-dragon?

CHARITY: Yes, and I’ve heard that the chicken-dragon has grown to the size of a castle!

HENRY: A sand castle, I hope. (Smiles nervously.)
1 CHARITY: No, a big castle. (Slowly looks up to illustrate the size.
HENRY also looks up.) A huge castle. And the chicken-dragon has
razor sharp teeth in its beak.

HENRY: How many teeth?

CHARITY: Lots of teeth. It also breathes fire and can eat a person with
one giant peck. But the chicken-dragon is covered in soft feathers,
so it can’t be all that bad. (Pats HENRY on back to reassure him.)
HENRY: (Very nervous.) Chicken-dragon, teeth, fire, feather, giant peck.
(Stutters.) I, I guess I could, I could do that. This stress is making
me hungry. (Grabs a jar of food from table and tries to open it, but
can’t.) Could you open this for me? (Hands the jar to PRINCESS.)

PRINCESS: Certainly. (Opens it easily and hands it back to HENRY.) I
wish I could enter the contest. I can handle that chicken-dragon.

CHARITY: I’ve got it! (Excited.) I know how we can solve all of our
problems. Gather around. (They huddle up. CHARITY silently
explains the plan.)

PRINCESS: That’s brilliant! So I will dress up as a man and enter the
contest and win. Once my father sees what a great leader I am, I
know he will give me a chance to run the kingdom. But winning this
contest is not going to be easy.

HENRY: We will need to plan carefully.

CHARITY: Princess, you will need a name. Hmmm. (Thinks.) How
about Prince William?

PRINCESS: Perfect.

CHARITY: Now, Henry, in order to make this plan work you will need
to dress up as the princess so that the royal family doesn’t miss
her. Do you think you can fool the king and queen?

HENRY: I will do anything to help my beautiful princess.

PRINCESS: Oh, that’s so sweet. (HENRY and PRINCESS look at each
other, entranced with love.)

CHARITY: Excuse me! (Waves hands to get their attention.) Excuse
me! (They snap out of it.) We have more planning to do.

PRINCESS/HENRY: (At the same time.) Sorry. (They giggle again.)

CHARITY: The final part of the plan is that I will disguise myself as a
cook and cover for you in the kitchen.

HENRY: (Excited.) It’s a perfect plan. (EVERYONE EXITS LEFT. FADE TO
BLACKOUT.)

End of Scene Three
Scene Four

Lights up: Lucille and Mother are in Lucille’s bedroom. In the story of “The Princess King,” the action takes place outside the castle where thief and Thief’s Mother reside.

Mother: (Reads.) Chapter Four: ‘A Thief and His Mother.’ Many people heard about the contest. Some noble and some sinister— (Thief and Thief’s Mother enter right, cross center and face Audience.) —such as the thief and his mother.

Lucille: What does sinister mean?

Mother: Sinister means bad, evil, up to no good.

Thief: (Reacts with pride to Mother’s description of them.) That’s us.

Thief’s Mother: We are just a couple of criminals trying to make a dishonest living. (Old Peasant enters right, holding coins.)

Mother: “On this day, the thief stole several coins from a villager.”

Thief: (Takes coins from Old Peasant.) I’ll take those. (Exits right.)

Old Peasant: That’s all the money I have. Have mercy on a poor old woman. (Exits right. Head Servant enters left carrying parchment.)

Mother: “The thief’s mother took something even more interesting.”

Thief’s Mother: (Takes parchment from Head Servant.) I’ll take that. (Exits left.)

Head Servant: Hey, come back here with that parchment. (Exits left. Thief and Thief’s Mother re-enter and meet center.)

Thief: (Proud.) Mother, I stole these coins from some foolish old peasant at the market, I will add them to our stash. (Evil laugh.)

Thief’s Mother: Not bad, my wicked son, but I have something better.

Thief: (Excited.) What is it? Did you steal more jewels from the church today? Did you swipe some candy from the village children?

Thief’s Mother: No. What I have will bring us riches beyond our wildest dreams. Look. (Shows Thief the parchment.)

Thief: (Takes parchment and tries to read it.) C, c, con… conteeest to buy swing.

Thief’s Mother: Give that to me. (Takes parchment. Hits Thief on back of head.) I told you to study more when you were at thief school. I’ll tell you what it says.

Mother: “So the thief’s mother explained the contest to her son.” (Thief’s Mother is frustrated as she tries to explain the contest to Thief. Done briefly in pantomime.)

Thief: Big deal. They’re having a contest.
THIEF’S MOTHER: Yes, and you... (Points to THIEF.) ...are going to enter it and win. You will be made king, and we will own all of the royal treasures. (Evil laugh.)

THIEF: We’ll be rich. (Evil laugh. Then realizes he will have to marry PRINCESS.) But I don’t want to marry the princess.

THIEF’S MOTHER: Trust me, it will be a short marriage. After you win, I will arrange for a very unfortunate accident to occur to the princess.

THIEF: I like this plan. It’s so evil.

THIEF’S MOTHER: It is. I just love evil. Now, you must be a prince to enter the contest. So you will need a new name, because your current name, Thief, would probably cause some to be suspicious.

THIEF: (Shows his muscles.) I want a tough name like Prince Dagger or Prince Bone Crusher or Prince Eternal Darkness.

THIEF’S MOTHER: No, those sound like evil names.

THIEF: But I am evil. (Makes evil looks at AUDIENCE.)

THIEF’S MOTHER: I know that, and I love that you are evil. But we don’t want the royal family to know that you are evil.

THIEF: Oh.

THIEF’S MOTHER: (Paces.) We need a positive name. A name that won’t arouse any suspicions. A name that say’s, “Hey, I’m a happy, noble, white horse riding kind of prince.”

THIEF: Yuck, I hate happy and noble.

THIEF’S MOTHER: I’ve got it. Your new name will be...

THIEF: Yes.

THIEF’S MOTHER: It will be...

THIEF: Come on, tell me.

THIEF’S MOTHER: (Excited.) Prince Fluffy.

THIEF: (Upset.) Prince Fluffy! I don’t want to be Prince Fluffy!

THIEF’S MOTHER: (Excited.) It’s perfect. It’s nice, and no one will ever suspect that Prince Fluffy is really evil. Come on, Prince Fluffy. We have a lot of planning to do. (Starts to EXIT RIGHT.)

THIEF: (Protests and stands firm.) I don’t want to be Prince Fluffy!

THIEF’S MOTHER: (Returns to THIEF. Grabs his ear.) Let’s go, Fluffy. (Puts THIEF by the ear OFF RIGHT. FADE TO BLACKOUT.)

End of Scene Four
Scene Five

1 LIGHTS UP: LUCILLE and MOTHER are in LUCILLE’S bedroom. Within the story of “The Princess King,” the action takes place outside the castle.

MOTHER: (Reads.) “Chapter Five: ‘Signing Up To Be King.’ So the thief and his mother went off to plan the arrival of Prince Fluffy.”

LUCILLE: Prince Fluffy is really the thief in disguise.

MOTHER: Exactly. Speaking of disguises… (Reads.) “The princess, the cook and the servant were all ready for their plan. The princess was now disguised as Prince William. (PRINCESS* ENTERS LEFT in disguise and stands CENTER.) The servant was disguised as the cook. (CHARITY* ENTERS LEFT in disguise and stands CENTER.) And the cook was disguised as the princess.” (HENRY* ENTERS LEFT in disguise and stands CENTER. LUCILLE walks over to get a closer look.)

LUCILLE: Henry looks pretty good as a girl.

HENRY*: Thank you. (Curtseys. LUCILLE returns to her bed.)

MOTHER: “The princess, now Prince William, went to the castle to enter the king’s contest. (PRINCESS* EXITS LEFT.) The servant left to fill in for the cook in the kitchen. (CHARITY* EXITS LEFT.) And the cook left to sneak back into the princess’s room to cover for…” (Looks at LUCILLE for the answer.)

LUCILLE: (Proud.) The princess. (HENRY* EXITS LEFT.)

MOTHER: Exactly. “Meanwhile, various princes were coming from faraway lands to sign up for the great contest.”

HEAD SERVANT: (ENTERS LEFT with parchment and a pen with a large plume. THIEF* and PRINCES ENTER RIGHT.) Okay, let’s make an orderly line here. (PRINCES line up in the following order: THIEF*, PRINCE WHINER, PRINCE AIR-GUITAR and OTHER PRINCE. HEAD SERVANT records names as each prince comes forward.) Come forward and state your name.

THIEF*: (Mumbles.) Prince Fluffy.

HEAD SERVANT: Speak up, I can’t understand you.

THIEF*: (Clearer.) Prince Fluffy, (EVERYONE laughs.)

HEAD SERVANT: Okay, Prince Fluffy. (EVERYONE laughs again. THIEF* glares.) You may stand over there. (Points LEFT. THIEF* crosses LEFT.)

PRINCE WHINER: (Steps forward. In a whiny, bored voice,) I hope I’m called soon. I can’t believe how much waiting around there is. It’s taken forever to get to the front of this line. When are we going to start? I hope it’s not too early. I’m really not a morning person. I sure hope this contest isn’t too hard. My knee kind of hurts. Can
I go see the royal nurse? You know I really thought that this whole process would be a little smoother.

HEAD SERVANT: What is your name?
PRINCE WHINER: Prince Whiner, but my friends call me Whiny.

HEAD SERVANT: Prince Whiner, stand over there. (PRINCE WHINER lines up behind THIEF*. HEAD SERVANT silently signs up PRINCE AIR-GUITAR and OTHER PRINCE as KING and QUEEN ENTER LEFT.)
QUEEN: Look at all of these fine men. I’m confident that we will find a strong and honorable husband for our daughter.
KING: Yes, dear, I’m sure that there is a king somewhere among all of these princes.
QUEEN: (Points as TINA STARCHASER and SARA PAPARAZZI ENTER RIGHT.) It looks like we are getting some good press. Here are two royal reporters covering the event right now.
TINA: (To AUDIENCE.) Hear ye, hear ye, this is Tina Starchaser…
SARA: (To AUDIENCE…) …and I’m Sara Paparazzi for Proclamation News.
TINA: We’re here live at the Kingdom of Yourroom.
SARA: Tina, there are many potential suitors arriving to compete for the chance to marry the princess and become the next king.
TINA: Yes, Sara, this is a day where dreams will come true and hearts will be broken.
SARA: The contest is composed of many events and will take three days to complete.
TINA: At the end of this gueling series of challenges a star will be born, and we will crown a new king.
SARA: A chill just went up my spine when you said that.
TINA: I know what you mean.
SARA: (Spots PRINCE AIR-GUITAR.) Wait, Tina, isn’t that Prince Air-Guitar?
TINA: Oh, my. It is Prince Air-Guitar! We must get an interview. (REPORTERS cross to PRINCE AIR-GUITAR.)
SARA: Excuse me, Prince Air-Guitar. I’m Sara Paparazzi from Proclamation News.
TINA: And I’m Tina Starchaser.
SARA: What do you think about the contest?
PRINCE AIR-GUITAR: (Shouts.) I think it rocks! (Plays wild air-guitar and makes guitar sounds.) I mean it’s, like, awesome. No, it’s better than awesome. It’s, like, totally super awesome. Yeah! (Plays wild air-guitar again.)
TINA: Do you think you can win?

PRINCE AIR-GUITAR: Honestly, Tina, I’ve, like, been trainin’ way hard for this contest. But I haven’t done it alone. Clover and Sea Breeze, come on out. (CLOVER and SEA BREEZE ENTER LEFT.)

CLOVER: Hi, I’m Clover. I’m Prince Air-Guitar’s personal Pilates instructor.

SEA BREEZE: And I’m Sea Breeze, his personal nutritionist.

CLOVER: Without a doubt, he will be the leanest and fittest prince in the contest.

SEA BREEZE: Yes, I have him on this vegan, primary color diet where he eats only red, blue and yellow foods. It has him completely balanced.

PRINCE AIR-GUITAR: Tina, I feel balanced. And I totally know that I am going to rock this contest. Before you know it, we’ll be partying like it’s 1399, baby. Yow!

HEAD SERVANT: Okay, Prince Air-Guitar, time to line up over there. (PRINCE AIR-GUITAR lines up. CLOVER and SEA BREEZE EXIT LEFT.)

SARA: All I can say is wow.

TINA: It certainly looks like this will be quite a contest. (REPORTERS EXIT.)

MOTHER: “Throughout the morning, many other princes continued to sign up.”

LUCILLE: What were their names?

MOTHER: (OTHER PRINCE listens.) They don’t have names. They were just other princes who entered the contest.

OTHER PRINCE: (Raises hand. To MOTHER.) Uh, excuse me, I don’t mean to be rude, but are you telling me that I’m the “Other Prince”? I feel so invisible up here. It’s like the writer didn’t even finish my character.

LUCILLE: I think you really should just be happy to be in the story.

OTHER PRINCE: (Annoyed.) Oh, come on! What kind of part is “Other Prince”? I feel so invisible up here. It’s like the writer didn’t even finish my character.

MOTHER: Can we continue with the story?

OTHER PRINCE: Yes, but I just want it noted that I’m not happy. (Lines up with PRINCES.)

MOTHER: Okay. (Clears throat and reads.) “By the end of the day, 28 princes had signed up.”
PRINCESS*: (Runs IN LEFT.) Wait! I want to compete in the contest.
MOTHER: Make that 29 princes. "It was Prince William, also known
as Princess Genevieve. The king looked at Prince William."
KING: What is your name? (Stares curiously PRINCESS*.)
PRINCESS*: Your majesty, my name is Prince William. (Bows.)
KING: You look familiar, Prince William. Have you ever been to
the castle before?
PRINCESS*: No, this is my first time.
KING: Hmmm... Good luck, Prince William.
PRINCESS*: Thank you, Your majesty.
QUEEN: Frederick, it is time to address the crowd.
KING: Yes, dear.
HEAD SERVANT: Everyone, gather to hear your king speak. (EVERYONE
except HENRY ENTERS to listen to KING.) I present to you, the
honorable King Frederick. (EVERYONE cheers.)
KING: (Moves CENTER.) My loyal subjects and noble princes, among
you all, I hope to find one great man.
PRINCESS*: (To AUDIENCE.) Or woman.
QUEEN: I don’t know. I sent for her an hour ago. (Looks around.
HENRY ENTERS LEFT.) Here she is.
KING: Frederick, the next king and earn the honor of marrying my daughter, the
beautiful Princess Genevieve. (EVERYONE cheers. KING looks
around.) Where is the princess?
QUEEN: I do believe Genevieve might need a little
more beauty sleep. (QUEEN nods in agreement. To PRINCES.) Noble
princes, I wish you strength as you face the great challenges
ahead. (Waves and EXITS LEFT with QUEEN and HENRY* as CROWD
cheers.)
HEAD SERVANT: Return here tomorrow when the contest will begin at
sunrise. (ALL EXIT. FADE TO BLACKOUT.)
End of Scene Five

Scene Six

LIGHTS UP: LUCILLE and MOTHER are in LUCILLE’S bedroom. Within
the story of "The Princess King," the action takes place outside the
castle where the contest takes place.
MOTHER: (Reads.) “Chapter Six: ‘The Contest Begins.’ The first day of the contest was filled with action and drama. All of the kingdom gathered to watch the princes compete.”

VILLAGERS, THIEF’S MOTHER, JESTER, QUEEN, HENRY, HEAD SERVANT, ROYAL GUARDS, HEAD COOK, CHARITY, CLOVER and SEA BREEZE ENTER and stand UPSTAGE.

LUCILLE: Did the princess do well? Oh, I hope she wins. I want to hear what happened. (TINA STARCHASER and SARA PAPARAZZI ENTER RIGHT.)

TINA: (To AUDIENCE) Hear ye, hear ye, this is Tina Starchaser…

SARA: (To AUDIENCE) …and I’m Sara Paparazzi for Proclamation News.

TINA: We’re here live at the Kingdom of Yourroom.

SARA: The first event of the contest was a tremendous horse race. (PRINCES ENTER RIGHT on hobby horses, ride to CENTER and face the AUDIENCE.)

PRINCE WHINER: I don’t like the color of my horse. I always get the one that’s the wrong color.

SARA: It was a tight race with all of the princes neck and neck. But as the race progressed, Prince Fluffy took the lead using some questionable tactics.

THIEF*: Take that! (THIEF* kicks PRINCE WHINER’s horse.)

PRINCE WHINER: Why does everyone always pick on me? (THIEF* kicks his horse again.) That’s not fair. (As he falls off his horse, his momentum causes him to EXIT RIGHT.)

THIEF*: I’ve got a carrot. (Takes carrot from pocket and shows it to PRINCE AIR-GUITAR’S horse.) Fetch, horsey. (Throws carrot OFF RIGHT.)

PRINCE AIR-GUITAR: (As his horse takes him OFF RIGHT.) Man, that was way uncool!

TINA: After they leaped the great river (Horses jump,) and went around the enchanted mountain, (Horses turn, lean RIGHT,) Prince William had caught up with Prince Fluffy.

SARA: As they came down the homestretch, the two were neck and neck. (CROWD cheers.)

TINA: And they finished in a tie! (VILLAGERS cheer. PRINCESS*, OTHER PRINCE and THIEF* EXIT RIGHT.)

LUCILLE: I can’t believe it!
SARA: Other highlights of the day include Prince Fluffy dominating the competition in the egg and spoon race. (PRINCES ENTER RIGHT with eggs on spoons. THIEF** balances his egg with ease.)

TINA: Wow, how does he balance that egg?

THIEF**: This helps. (Reveals bottle of glue to AUDIENCE. Laughs deviously. PRINCES EXIT LEFT.)

TINA: But I would have to say that the crowd favorite was the royal dance contest. (PRINCES ENTER LEFT and line up DOWN CENTER.)

SARA: All of the princes showed off their best moves. (PRINCES can dance at the same time or individually. CROWD reacts accordingly.)

TINA: In the end, Prince Air-guitar took first prize in the royal dance contest. (PRINCE AIR-GUITAR does flamboyant dance and/or wild air-guitar performance. CLOVER and SEA BREEZE step out of the CROWD carrying a cape.)

PRINCE AIR-GUITAR: Thank you and good night. (CLOVER and SEA BREEZE wrap cape around him.)

CLOVER: You were awesome.

SEA BREEZE: Like a shooting star.

SARA: With today’s events over, the king and the royal family went back to the castle for a banquet fit for a... (Thinks of appropriate word.)... king.

TINA: I’m sure that the king's cooks are working hard to prepare a five-star meal.

SARA: This is Sara Paparazzi...

TINA: ...and I'm Tina Starchaser, signing off for Proclamation News. (ALL EXIT. FADE TO BLACKOUT)

End of Scene Six

Scene Seven

LIGHTS UP: LUCILLE and MOTHER are in LUCILLE’S bedroom. Within the story of “The Princess King,” the action takes place inside the castle. The royal kitchen with a table is RIGHT. On the table is a pot of glop stew and a ladle. A shelf or additional table has other jars and a platter of food labeled “R.D.F.” The royal dining room is CENTER, composed of a large table with six chairs. The table should include items such as place settings, candelabra, etc. to give it a royal feel. There is also a pitcher of milk.

MOTHER: “Chapter Seven: ‘A Feast Fit for a Beast.’ Later that evening, the royal family gathered for dinner as the servant tried desperately to cover for the cook.”
HEAD COOK: (ENTERS RIGHT into the royal kitchen. To HERSELF.) This meal must go smoothly. The king will have our heads if everything isn’t perfect. Where is that, that cook? Cook, get in here!

CHARITY*: (ENTERS LEFT.) Yes, Head Cook.

HEAD COOK: Where have you been? (Pauses and looks at CHARITY*.)

CHARITY*: (Nervous.) No, ma’am.

HEAD COOK: I think you are a little malnourished. Maybe you should have some glop stew. (Forces CHARITY* to taste the stew. CHARITY* makes a face of disgust.) It’s going to be a busy evening, so you better not mess this up. If you do, you’ll be off to the dungeon.

(Exits right.)

CHARITY*: (To AUDIENCE.) Okay, let’s see... I just need to... Oh, who am I kidding? I don’t know how to cook! (Leans on table in frustration.)

MOTHER: (Reads.) “Meanwhile the royal family was discussing the day’s events and waiting for their meal.” (KING, QUEEN, JESTER and HENRY* ENTER LEFT.)

KING: I think the contest is progressing nicely, don’t you, dear?

QUEEN: Yes, you’ve done a wonderful job. (Pats KING on back in congratulations. KING pulls out a chair for QUEEN. JESTER pulls out a chair for HENRY*. All four sit.)

KING: I must say, I do like that Prince Fluffy. He seems like a fine young man.

JESTER: Your majesty, if I may give my opinion, I have noticed that Prince William is doing quite well.

QUEEN: Yes, both men would make good kings and wonderful husbands for our little princess. (Pinches HENRY*S cheek.)

HENRY*: Personally, I’m leaning towards Prince William.

KING: Daughter, it pleases me to see that you are now in support of this contest. I have really seen some positive changes in your behavior recently.

HENRY*: (To AUDIENCE.) More changes than he realizes.

QUEEN: It’s so nice to see that our little girl is finally growing up and learning what it takes to be a lady. (HENRY* looks at AUDIENCE, nervous.)

KING: I have a wonderful idea. We will invite Prince Fluffy and Prince William to dine with us.

QUEEN: That would be fabulous. It will give us a chance to get to know them. One of them will be our son-in-law very soon. (ROYAL FAMILY looks to kitchen area and FREEZES.)
MOTHER: “So the queen summoned Prince Fluffy and Prince William to dine with the royal family for dinner. Meanwhile, Charity, still disguised as the cook, desperately tried to fulfill her duties in the royal kitchen.”

CHARITY*: (Grabs a jar from shelf.) I’ll add some of this. I don’t know what this is, but it can’t hurt. (To AUDIENCE.) I hope I don’t poison them.

HEAD COOK: (ENTERS RIGHT.) What is happening in here? You should have already served the food. Take it out now! (Shakes head and EXITS RIGHT.)

CHARITY*: What am I going to do? (Looks at glop stew.) I can’t bring this out. Let me look for something else. (Finds platter with food marked “R.D.F.”) This looks fancy. It says “R.D.F.” on it. I wonder what that means. I hope it’s something good, because it will have to do. (Takes platter of food into the royal dining room.)

HEAD SERVANT: (ENTERS LEFT with PRINCESS* and THIEF*.) Your majesties, I present to you, Prince William and Prince Fluffy. (ALL stand to greet the two PRINCES. EXITS LEFT.)

KING: Welcome, fine princes. (Motions to them to come in.) We are pleased that you could join us.

PRINCESS*: It is an honor to be here. (Bows.)

THIEF*: Yes, an honor. (Bows.)

KING: My daughter is anxious to meet both of you. (To HENRY*.)

PRINCESS*/HENRY*: (Together.) Yes, Father. (PRINCESS* realizes that she shouldn’t have answered. Both PRINCESS* and HENRY* look worried.)

KING: (Confused. To HENRY*) Princess, please greet Prince William and Prince Fluffy.

HENRY*: (Steps forward.) Oh, nice to meet you. (Shakes their hands too masculinely.)

QUEEN: (To HENRY*) Princess! Where are your manners?! (To PRINCESS* and THIEF*) I apologize. I don’t know what’s gotten into our daughter.

HENRY*: I beg your pardon. Welcome. (Curtseys awkwardly.)

QUEEN: Much better. Please, everyone take a seat. (ALL except CHARITY sit at table.)

KING: (To CHARITY*) Cook, I do believe it’s time for some food.

CHARITY*: Yes, your majesty. (CHARITY* begins to serve food.)

QUEEN: (Excited.) What delicacy have you prepared for us this evening?
CHARITY*: (Nervous.) Uhhh, it’s a surprise, your majesty. It’s something special I found... I mean made in the kitchen.

HEAD COOK: (ENTERS RIGHT into dining room just as everyone takes their first bite.) Cook, does that platter have “R.D.F.” etched into the side of it?

CHARITY*: Yes.

HEAD COOK: You just served the majesty and his guests the royal dog food!

EVERYONE AT TABLE: Royal dog food. Yuck! (EVERYONE spits out food, except THIEF*.)

HEAD COOK: Cook!

CHARITY*: Sorry. (HEAD COOK starts to chase CHARITY* around the table.)

HEAD COOK: Cook, I will get you for this!

CHARITY*: It was a mistake! (HEAD COOK catches CHARITY* LEFT.)

QUEEN: I can’t believe I ate dog food. (Starts to cry.)

THIEF*: I think it tastes pretty good. (Takes another bite. LUCILLE crosses to the dining room table, pours a glass of milk and begins to drink.)

KING: This dinner is a disaster!

JESTER: Excuse me. Excuse me! (Screams.) Excuse me!! (EVERYONE stops and looks at JESTER.) Your majesties, I’m sorry to interrupt all of this important business, but who is she? (Points to LUCILLE, who sips her milk. EVERYONE is shocked. ALL stand and stare.)

KING: Yes, who are you? And what are you doing in the royal dining room?

LUCILLE: My name is Lucille. I’m nine years old, and my mom is telling me this story, but I was kind of thirsty, so I thought I’d get some milk. (Takes another sip. EVERYONE watches in bewilderment. LUCILLE starts to walk back to her bed. Looks back at EVERYONE.) Sorry to interrupt. Please continue. (EVERYONE looks at each other in silence. LUCILLE stands by her MOTHER, who is not happy with her.)

DIRECTOR: (ENTERS LEFT, upset.) Stop, stop, stop! Remember me?!

KING: I’m the director of this play. (To LUCILLE.) You are making a mockery of this story, Lucille. Back to bed. (LUCILLE gets in bed.) The rest of you... King, don’t you give me that look. The rest of you sit down and eat. (EVERYONE goes back to their seats and sits down.) I don’t want to have to come out here again.

QUEEN: (Protests.) But—

DIRECTOR: No.
QUEEN: But—
DIRECTOR: (Points at QUEEN.) No!
QUEEN: But it’s the royal dog food!
DIRECTOR: (Frustrated.) You are actors. Pretend that it is filet mignon.
EVERYONE looks at the food and begrudgingly takes a bite. (No more complaining!) (To HEAD COOK and CHARITY.*) No more chasing! (To LUCILLE.) No more milk! Please continue. (EXITS LEFT.)
MOTHER: (To LUCILLE.) I asked you to be polite.
LUCILLE: You always told me to (Makes quotation marks.) “get into” a good story. (Smiles.)
MOTHER: Back to our story. (Reads.) “Eventually everything settled down and everyone survived the dinner.”
KING: (Rises glass and EVERYONE follows.) A toast to Prince Fluffy and Prince William. I wish you the best of luck in tomorrow’s events.
MOTHER: With that, everyone left for a much needed night of sleep.
EXITS LEFT.
End of Scene Seven

Scene Eight
LIGHTS UP: LUCILLE and MOTHER are in LUCILLE’S bedroom. Within the story of “The Princess King,” the action takes place outside the castle where the second day of the royal contest is taking place.

MOTHER: (Reads.) “Chapter Eight: ‘The Contest Continues.’ The second day of the contest was filled with even more excitement than the first day. A great crowd gathered to watch the princes compete.” (VILLAGERS, THIEF’S MOTHER, KING, QUEEN, HENRY*, JESTER, ROYAL GUARDS, HEAD COOK, HEAD SERVANT, CHARITY*, CLOVER and SEA BREEZE ENTER and stand UPSTAGE.)

LUCILLE: I think we’re about to hear what happened. (REPORTERS ENTER RIGHT.)
TINA: (To AUDIENCE.) Hear ye, hear ye, this is Tina Starchaser…
SARA: (To AUDIENCE.) …and I’m Sara Paparazzi for Proclamation News.
TINA: Once again, we’re here live at the Kingdom of Yourroom.
SARA: Tina, the second day of the royal contest was simply riveting.
TINA: Yes, it was. The first event was a journey through an ancient maze. (HEAD SERVANT, ROYAL GUARDS and VILLAGERS form a maze.) (SEE PRODUCTION NOTES.) PRINCESS* ENTERS RIGHT and makes her way through it. Prince William used his vast knowledge of the sun and shadows to navigate the maze and find his way out.
PRINCESS*: Yes! (Pumps fist in celebration, then EXITS RIGHT as CROWD cheers.)

TINA: This guaranteed him at least a first place tie.

SARA: That was incredible. I mean, I usually can’t find my horse when I tether it outside the royal market. (REPORTERS laugh.)

TINA: That is so true. Many of the other princes did not fare as well as Prince William.

PRINCE WHINER: (ENTERS RIGHT.) This maze is too hard. It was my understanding that there would be no mazes in this contest. (Walks OFF RIGHT in frustration.)

SARA: Of course, Prince Fluffy once again proved that he will do just about anything short of stealing the crown to win this contest.

THIEF*: (SHOWS GPS to AUDIENCE.) I’m sure no one will mind if I use this global positioning system that I took from one of the audience members earlier in the play. (Gives an evil laugh.)

GPS VOICE: (As THIEF makes his way through the maze.) Turn left at next intersection. (Pause.) Now make a right. (Pause.) Continue straight for 0.2 kilometers. (Pause. THIEF emerges from maze.) Destination reached.

THIEF*: Yes, another victory for me! (CROWD cheers as he EXITS. HEAD SERVANT, ROYAL GUARDS and VILLAGERS rejoin CROWD.)

SARA: The next event was one of skill and strategy. The servants set up the alley. (PRINCESS* ENTERS as HEAD SERVANT places VILLAGERS in a triangle formation like bowling pins.) Once everything was ready, the princes competed in a game of bowling for villagers.

TINA: Prince William eyed the pins. (Pause while PRINCESS* stares at pins.) Then, with great force, he hurled the ball down the alley and bowled a perfect strike! (PRINCESS* pantomimes bowling. VILLAGERS fall down. SOUND EFFECT: BOWLING PINS FALLING.)

PRINCESS*: Yes! (Pumps fist in excitement as CROWD cheers. VILLAGERS return to CROWD. PRINCESS* EXITS RIGHT.)

TINA: Prince William may have dominated the bowling for villagers competition, but Prince Fluffy took an impressive first place in the final event of the second day. The royal staring contest.

SARA: Now that was one event where if you blinked you just might have missed it.

TINA: Blinked. I get it. (Laughs.) Sara Paparazzi, you are so funny.

SARA: I know. (Laughs.)

HEAD SERVANT: That concludes the second day of the competition. (Each PRINCE ENTERS RIGHT as his/her name is called.)
Fluffy and Prince William are tied for first place, followed by Prince Air-Guitar, the Other Prince and Prince Whiner. (CLOVER and SEA BREEZE come forward, congratulate PRINCE AIR-GUITAR and stand next to him.)

PRINCE WHINER: Why do I have to be last? This contest isn’t fair.

HEAD SERVANT: The third and final day of the competition will take place tomorrow. It will be the hardest, most feared challenge of them all. The princes will climb Fog Mountain and attempt to take a feather from Squawk... (EVERYONE stomps, yells “Squawk,” flaps and mimes laying an egg)... the great chicken-dragon. (EVERYONE reacts with fear.)

PRINCE WHINER: I think I’m going to call in sick tomorrow.

PRINCE AIR-GUITAR: I have a totally cool dragon tattoo on my back.

CLOVER: He does. It’s drawn in hemp ink.

SEA BREEZE: It’s a vegetarian dragon tattoo, of course.

THIEF*: I will cheat my way to victory.

THIEF’S MOTHER: And we will be the evil rulers of the kingdom. (THIEF* and THIEF’S MOTHER give an evil laugh.)

OTHER PRINCE: I’m sure I will have another unimportant and uninteresting part in this chicken-dragon scene.

HEAD SERVANT: I know you are all exhausted. Rest up, because tomorrow, you most likely will be eaten. (PRINCES look nervous. ALL EXIT except PRINCESS*, who crosses CENTER.)

PRINCESS*: (To AUDIENCE. Still in disguise, but in her own voice.) I don’t know if I can face the chicken-dragon. Look how much I’m shaking. (Holds out one hand completely steady.) Oh sure, my hand is steady, but it’s my legs (Legs start shaking wildly) that are going to have to walk up to the chicken-dragon.

MOTHER: “While the princess was doubting her ability to get a feather from the chicken-dragon, the cook was coincidentally preparing a special gift for the princess.” (HENRY* ENTERS LEFT with a package and moves DOWN LEFT. PERFORMER ENTERS RIGHT.)

HENRY*: (Calls to PERFORMER.) Excuse me, villager.

PERFORMER: (Crosses to HENRY* DOWN LEFT.) Yes, your highness?

HENRY*: Please take this package to the princess. (Hands package to PERFORMER.)

PERFORMER: Certainly, your highness. (Hands it back to HENRY*)

HENRY*: What are you doing?

PERFORMER: You said to give this to the princess. Well... you’re the princess.
HENRY*: Oh, I forgot. I know how you love drama, so I’m going to let you in on a secret. I’m really the cook. (Lifts up wig.)

PERFORMER: Wow! So where’s the princess?

HENRY*: She is disguised as Prince William.

PERFORMER: So where’s Prince William?

HENRY*: There is no Prince William. We made him up.

PERFORMER: Oh, I get it. This is great. I’m part of a secret plan. (Jumps up and down in excitement, then does a little dance.)

HENRY*: Villager, please take this package to the princess, who is disguised as Prince William. Also… (Whispers into PERFORMER’S ear.)

PERFORMER: This is so exciting. (Imitates HENRY* in dramatic voice.) “Please, take this package to the princess.” I love this! (Waits to PRINCESS* as HENRY* EXITS LEFT.)

MOTHER: “The villager found the princess and delivered the secret package from the cook.”

PERFORMER: Princess, I mean, Prince William. (Looks to AUDIENCE and winks.) This is a gift from the cook. He also told me to give you a message. Would you like me to sing it? I’ve always wanted to be in a Broadway musical. Orchestra, please start the music. (Waits for music.)

PRINCESS*: No, just read it.

PERFORMER: I could do an interpretive dance to illustrate the essential meaning of the note. (Dances with interpretive movements.)

PRINCESS*: No, that’s not necessary.

PERFORMER: How about a mime? (Mimes that she is in a box.)

PRINCESS*: Just read it, please.

PERFORMER: Okay, but that’s kind of boring. The note from the cook says, “Dearest Princess, Chicken-dragons love lasagna, and I love you. Signed, Henry.” (Gives PRINCESS* the package.)

MOTHER: “The princess knew exactly what the cook meant by the note and why he had given her the lasagna.” (PRINCESS* and PERFORMER EXIT RIGHT.)

LUCILLE: What is the princess going to do with it?

MOTHER: We will have to wait and see. (FADE TO BLACKOUT.)

End of Scene Eight
Scene Nine

LIGHTS UP: LUCILLE and MOTHER are in LUCILLE’S bedroom. Within the story of “The Princess King,” the action takes place outside the castle where the third day of the royal contest is taking place.

MOTHER: (Reads.) “Chapter Nine: ‘A New King and Queen.’ Everyone gathered to watch the final day of the great contest.” (ALL except DIRECTOR ENTER.) “There were only a few princes left. Many had been eliminated, and some simply gave up.”

PRINCE WHINER: This contest is too hard. I’m going home. (Threw up hands and EXITS RIGHT.)

MOTHER: “The few remaining princes were preparing for their greatest challenge yet.” (PRINCE AIR-GUITAR sits cross-legged. CLOVER and SEA BREEZE sit next to him doing yoga poses. ALL other PRINCES stretch and prepare for the contest. THIEF’S MOTHER is next to THIEF.)

CLOVER: Now I want you to visualize the dragon as a peaceful sunflower blowing in the afternoon breeze.

SEA BREEZE: Yes, and the sunflower is happy to see you. It says “Hi, Prince. I’ve been waiting for you.”

PRINCE AIR-GUITAR: Hi, sunflower, nice to see you.

THIEF’S MOTHER: I don’t think Mr. Sunflower is much of a threat to win this contest, but you must do whatever it takes to beat the other princes. (Grabs THIEF’S cheeks.) Son, do you understand what I mean?

THIEF*: Yes, Mother. I won’t let you down. (Both laugh evilly.)

HEAD SERVANT: Noble princes, it is now time to prove your bravery by confronting the chicken-dragon… (Pauses. EVERYONE looks at her.) Okay, one more time… whose name is Squawk. (EVERYONE stamps, yells “Squawk,” flaps and mimes laying an egg.) The first prince to return with a chicken-dragon feather will get to marry the princess and become our new king. (EVERYONE cheers.)

ENTREPRENEUR: I bet the chicken-dragon eats all of them.

POET: The afternoon sun has cast a foreshadow across the land. I just know something tragic is soon at hand.

OLD PEASANT: I once saw a dozen knights climb Fog Mountain and none returned.

TOWN CRIER: (Very worried.) Why must they face the chicken-dragon? I can’t bare to watch!

KING: I wish all of you good luck, and I hope the chicken-dragon doesn’t eat too many of you. (Laughs.) Be off, and bring back a chicken-dragon feather. (PRINCES march OFF RIGHT. KING, QUEEN,
ROYAL GUARDS and SERVANTS EXIT LEFT while ALL OTHERS EXIT RIGHT.)

MOTHER: “Surprisingly, the first prince to reach the chicken-dragon was a previously unmentioned one. The last thing he heard was a great roar. (SOUND EFFECT: LOUD ROAR.) Then, unfortunately, he was quickly eaten up. (SOUND EFFECT: GIANT BURP. PRINCE AIR-GUITAR, CLOVER and SEA BREEZE ENTER RIGHT.) And the chicken-dragon spit out the parts of the prince he did not want to eat.” (A helmet rolls ON LEFT.)

PRINCE AIR-GUITAR: Whoa, that chicken-dragon totally ate that poor dude.

CLOVER: It’s really not that healthy for him to eat so much red meat. He should eat some soy-based princes to balance out his diet.

SEA BREEZE: I think the chicken-dragon has anger issues. I bet if I used some Feng Shui decorating techniques and moved a few boulders around in his cave, he would feel more at peace. (SOUND EFFECT: LOUD ROAR.)

PRINCE AIR-GUITAR: I vote that we all go for sushi and forget this king thing.

CLOVER: Excellent idea.

SEA BREEZE: It’s like you read my mind. (PRINCE AIR-GUITAR, CLOVER and SEA BREEZE EXIT RIGHT.)

MOTHER: “The princess disguised as Prince William reached the chicken-dragon next.” (PRINCESS ENTERS RIGHT with a plate of lasagna and crosses LEFT. Looks OFF LEFT at the chicken-dragon.)

LUCILLE: Oh, I hope she doesn’t get eaten.

MOTHER: “But, unlike the first prince, she had a plan. She held the lasagna that the cook had made in her trembling hands.”

PRINCESS*: (To AUDIENCE.) Everyone knows that dragons love lasagna.

MOTHER: “As the great chicken-dragon pulled the lasagna back into the cave with one of his massive claws, a giant feather floated ever so gently to the feet of the princess. (Large feather floats ON LEFT.) The princess picked it up and looked at the chicken-dragon. (PRINCESS* looks up.) He had already taken a bite of the lasagna.
Now some people say that chicken-dragons don’t smile, but if you ask Princess Genevieve, she’ll tell you that she saw this chicken-dragon smile as he ate that lasagna. While the chicken-dragon happily ate, the princess made her way down the mountain.”

(PRINCESS* runs OFF RIGHT.)

LUCILLE: So she won!

MOTHER: No, far from it, you see, the other prince… (Looks and waits, Louder: The Other Prince… (OTHER PRINCE ENTERS RIGHT.) I said, “The Other Prince…”)

OTHER PRINCE: Me?

MOTHER: Yes, the Other Prince.

OTHER PRINCE: It’s about time I get to do something interesting in this play, you know, it’s really hot backstage.

MOTHER: “Miraculously, the Other Prince also ended up with a feather.” (OTHER PRINCE takes feather from back pocket and proudly shows it to AUDIENCE.)

LUCILLE: How did he get it?

MOTHER: I’m not sure. It just says that he got one. But he did not have it for long. You see, on his way back to the castle, Prince Fluffy stole the feather from the Other Prince. (THIEF* ENTERS RIGHT and walks up to OTHER PRINCE.)

THIEF*: (Points.) Hey, look. A dragon.

OTHER PRINCE: Where? (Looks.)

THIEF*: (Takes the feather.) I’ll take that. (Quickly EXITS LEFT.)

OTHER PRINCE: Come back here with my chicken-dragon feather! (EXITs LEFT.)

LUCILLE: That’s not fair!

MOTHER: It’s not, but now Prince Fluffy had a chicken-dragon feather of his own, and he raced to catch up with the princess.

LUCILLE: Oh no!

MOTHER: “The princess was in the lead, but Prince Fluffy was not far behind. While making her way back to the castle and certain victory, the princess came across an old peasant who needed help.”

OLD PEASANT: (ENTERS RIGHT and spills the basket of fruit she carries. PRINCESS* ENTERS STAGE LEFT.) Kind stranger, would you please help an old woman?

PRINCESS*: Of course, let me assist you with that. (Helps her pick up the fruit.)

MOTHER: “When the princess stopped to help the old peasant, Prince Fluffy darted past her.”
THIEF*: (ENTERS LEFT, running, and knocks down PRINCESS* and OLD PEASANT. To AUDIENCE,) Victory will be mine! (Laughs an evil laugh and EXITS RIGHT, followed by OLD PEASANT and PRINCESS*.)

MOTHER: “And with a sinister gleam in his eye, Prince Fluffy reached the castle first.”

LUCILLE: Prince Fluffy won?!

MOTHER: I’m afraid so. (THIEF* ENTERS RIGHT as KING, QUEEN, HENRY, JESTER, HEAD SERVANT, POET, PERFORMER, TOWN CRIER, THIEF’S MOTHER, PRINCE WHINER, PRINCE AIR-GUITAR, HEAD COOK, CHARITY*, SARA PAPARAZZI, TINA STARCHASER, CLOVER and SEA BREEZE ENTER to greet him CENTER.)

KING: (THIEF* hands feather to KING.) It looks like we have a new king! (EVERYONE chezrs. PRINCESS* and OLD PEASANT ENTER RIGHT. OLD PEASANT has the basket of fruit. PRINCESS* holds the chicken-dragon feather and looks disappointed.)

LUCILLE: (Stands.) What kind of ending is this?

KING: Congratulations, Prince Fluffy. You will now get to marry my beautiful daughter and take my crown. (Takes off his crown and starts to place it on THIEF*S* head but is interrupted as OTHER PRINCE runs ON RIGHT.)

OTHER PRINCE: (Out of breath.) Wait! Stop! Don’t place that crown on his head. He is a fraud. (EVERYONE gasps.)

QUEEN: What are you saying?

OTHER PRINCE: (Points at THIEF*.) Prince Fluffy stole that chicken-dragon feather from me. (EVERYONE is stunned.)

KING: This is a serious accusation. Can you prove that Prince Fluffy stole it?

OTHER PRINCE: If you look closely at the feather, you will notice that it’s not even a real chicken-dragon feather.

KING: (Looks closely at the feather. Shocked.) You’re right! Written on the side of the feather is... “Made in China”!

EVERYONE: (Surprised. To AUDIENCE,) Made in China?

OTHER PRINCE: You see, I bought that feather from a nice souvenir seller at the base of the mountain. Here she is now.

ENTREPRENEUR: (ENTERS RIGHT with various “Princess King” souvenirs.) Get your “Princess King” souvenirs here. I’ve got “Princess King” hats, “Princess King” pennants, “Princess King” shirts, “Princess King” foam fingers and authentic-looking “Princess King” chicken-dragon feathers. Low prices. They make great gifts. (Pauses as she realizes that everyone stares at her.) What? A person’s got to make a living somehow. I mean, acting sure isn’t going to pay the bills.
KING: That's all the proof I need.

QUEEN: Me too. Royal Guards! (GUARDS ENTER LEFT.)

ROYAL GUARD #1: Yes, your majesty.

ROYAL GUARD #2: At your service, your highness.

QUEEN: Take this cheater to the dungeon.

ROYAL GUARD #1: I hate cheaters. (GUARDS grab THIEF.*)

ROYAL GUARD #2: Off to the dungeon, Prince Fluffy. (They start to pull him LEFT, but THIEF* stops them.)

THIEF*: (To THIEF'S MOTHER.) Help me, Mommy. (EVERYONE gasps and looks at THIEF'S MOTHER.)

THIEF'S MOTHER: I've never seen him before in my life. Take him to the dungeon.

THIEF*: But, Mommy, this evil plan was your idea. (EVERYONE gasps again.)

THIEF'S MOTHER: (Looks very guilty. Waves for taxi.) Uhh… taxi!

QUEEN: Take this cheater and his mother to the dungeon. (GUARDS drag THIEF* and THIEF'S MOTHER OFF LEFT.)

KING: (Looks at PRINCESS* and sees feather.) With Prince Fluffy eliminated, I declare Prince William the new king. (Holds up PRINCESS*' hand in victory. EVERYONE cheers.) Please remove your hat so I may place the crown upon your head. (PRINCESS* removes her hat and EVERYONE recognizes her.)

PERFORMER: It's the princess!

POET: My head is in a whirl! The new king is a girl.

OLD PEASANT: It's that nice soul that helped me on road. I think she'll make a wonderful king.

TOWN CRIER: (Disappointed.) Oh no! How is she going to marry herself?

QUEEN: Genevieve!

KING: How...? What...? Why have you done this?

PRINCESS: I wanted to show you that a girl could do anything a man could do, including be king.

QUEEN: I am not sure what to make of this,

KING: You have made your point. (Pauses and thinks.) I will keep my promise. (Lifts crown.) With this crown, I pronounce you the new ruler of the Kingdom of Yourroom. (Places the crown on her head.) EVERYONE: Long live the Princess King! (EVERYONE cheers.)

KING: I still have one question. If you are my daughter, then who is she? (Points to HENRY*, EVERYONE looks at him.)

HENRY: (Removes wig.) Hi, your majesty. (Smiles, nervous.)
KING: (Begrudging, gives into situation.) Welcome to the family, Henry. (Extends hand and they shake.)

QUEEN: I do believe we have a wedding to plan. (EVERYONE cheers.)

MOTHER: “So the princess was made king, and of course she married the cook. (WEDDING MUSIC PLAYS as PRINCESS and HENRY hook arms. STORY CHARACTERS face AUDIENCE.) The Princess King’s first official duty was to make her husband the new head cook.”

HEAD COOK: (Protests.) What about me? I’m already the head cook.

PRINCESS: You are now in charge of cleaning the royal horse stables.

MOTHER: “The princess and cook ruled for many years and their reign was one of peace and prosperity. The kingdom was known throughout the land as a happy place with the finest cuisine.”

HEAD SERVANT: Long live the Princess King! Hip, hip…

EVERYONE: …hooray!

HEAD SERVANT: Hip, hip…

EVERYONE: …hooray!

HEAD SERVANT: Hip, hip…

EVERYONE: …hooray!

HEAD SERVANT: Hip, hip…

EVERYONE: …hooray!

LUCILLE: I’m so excited that the princess and the cook ended up together. (Pauses to think.) But what’s the moral of this tale?

MOTHER: Hmm. That depends on your perspective. (Motions to characters.)

KING: The moral is that you’re never too old to learn something new.

PRINCESS: Or that a girl can grow up to lead a kingdom.

HENRY: Or that a man can cook a delicious lasagna.

PRINCE AIR-GUITAR: My moral is that all you need are three loud chords and some rockin’ tunes to be happy. (Plays air-guitar.)

DIRECTOR: (ENTERS LEFT.) That directing a play takes a lot of patience.

PRINCE WHINER: And that whining accomplishes nothing.

CHARITY: Maybe it’s that even a servant can come up with a brilliant plan.

OTHER PRINCE: I think it’s that there are no small parts. Even a minor character can be a hero.

LUCILLE: I think I know what it is. (EVERYONE looks at LUCILLE.)

MOTHER: What, Lucille?

LUCILLE: That you’re never too old for a good bedtime story.

MOTHER: I like that one. (Tucks LUCILLE into bed.) Good night, Lucille.
LUCILLE: (To ALL.) Good night, everyone.
EVERYONE: (To AUDIENCE.) Good night. (ALL wave and EXIT. FADE TO BLACKOUT. CURTAIN.)

End of Play
ONSTAGE:
Lucille’s bedroom: Bed with pillow and blanket, chair, small plain book. Optional nightstand with a lamp.

BROUGHT ON, Scene One:
Toothbrush, dental floss, notepad and pen (LUCILLE)
Clapboard, large “Princess King” book (DIRECTOR)

BROUGHT ON, Scene Two:
Clapboard (DIRECTOR)
Parchments (HEAD SERVANT, CHARITY)
Lunch basket (CHARITY)

ONSTAGE, Scene Three:
Royal Kitchen: Table, pot of stew, ladle. 

BROUGHT ON, Scene Three:
Spatula (HENRY)

BROUGHT ON, Scene Four:
Coins (OLD PEASANT)
Parchment (HEAD SERVANT)

BROUGHT ON, Scene Five:
Parchment, pen with plume (HEAD SERVANT)

BROUGHT ON, Scene Six:
Hobby horses, eggs on spoons (PRINCES, THIEF, PRINCESS)
Carrot, glue bottle (THIEF)
Cape (CLOVER, SEABREEZE)

ONSTAGE, Scene Seven:
Royal Kitchen: Table, pot of glop stew, ladle, shelf, jars, platter with food labeled “R.D.F.”
Royal Dining Room: Table, six chairs, pitcher of milk, six place settings, candelabra.

BROUGHT ON, Scene Eight:
Optional sheets of green fabric with greenery (VILLAGERS)
GPS device (THIEF)
Package (HENRY)

BROUGHT ON, Scene Nine:
Helmet, large feather (from OFFSTAGE)
Plate of lasagna, large feather (PRINCESS)
Large feather (OTHER PRINCE)
Basket of fruit (OLD PEASANT)
“Princess King” souvenirs (ENTREPRENEUR)
SOUND EFFECTS
Bowling pins falling, loud roar, giant burp, wedding music.

NOTE ON THE MAZE
Villagers and extras can create the maze by lining up in a zigzag formation that the princes can pass through. Sheets of green fabric adorned with greenery could also be brought on for the villagers to stretch between themselves, indicating a maze of hedges.

COSTUME SUGGESTIONS
MOTHER wears a dress with an apron or perhaps pajamas and a robe. She also wears a watch.
LUCILLE wears pajamas with fuzzy slippers.
DIRECTOR wears backstage black. He may also wear a jacket.
PRINCESS GENEVIEVE wears a flowing dress and a tiara. When she is disguised as “Prince William,” she would wear chain mail and armor. Her hair should be hidden under a princely hat, perhaps with a feather.
HENRY THE COOK wears a simple tunic with an apron. When he is disguised as Princess Genevieve, he wears a wig and her tiara and either the same dress that she wears or one very similar.
KING FREDERICK wears a fine purple tunic with a shiny royal robe and a crown.
QUEEN has a matching purple dress with matching shiny accents and a crown.
JESTER wears a multi-colored tunic with a floppy jester hat.
ROYAL GUARDS wear chain mail, armor and matching tunics.
HEAD SERVANT might wear a fine tunic in a light shade of red or purple.
CHARITY’S dress might be similarly colored.
HEAD COOK is in a tunic and apron.
THIEF wears a black tunic with a black hat. When disguised as “Prince Fluffy,” he wears mail and armor over his black tunic.
THIEF’S MOTHER wears a black dress.
PRINCES wear chain mail and armor. Each wears a uniquely colored tunic.
VILLAGERS wear simple tunics or dresses.
OLD PEASANT wears a dirty, ragged dress.
REPORTERS, CLOVER and SEA BREEZE wear dresses with shiny accents.
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