

THE PRINCESS AND THE PEA

Written by
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Adapted from the story by
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Ryan Paul North
May, 2004

CHARACTERS

(in order of appearance)

Jerry Minstrel

Mary Minstrel

Carrie Minstrel

Harry Minstrel

Larry Minstrel

Terry Minstrel

The Pea

Townspeople

The Royal Decreeer

Royal Council Members 1 - 4

Robert the Prince of Cloisterham

Squire Reginald (Reggie)

The Queen of Cloisterham

Royal Wizard

Royal Trumpeters

Royal Guards

Royal Banner Carriers

Reporter #1 - #3

Marge (The Queen)

Eddie (The Royal Wizard)

Pines of the Circle Castle Workers

King Deesybrin of The Pines of the Circle

The King's Daughters: The Princesses of The Pines of the Circle (5)

Goblins

Citizens of the Old Brighton

Princess Elppa

Old Brighton girl

Old Brighton Mayor

White Bear Sea Messenger

The Dragon

Princess Willimina of Equidistantville

PROLOGUE – A COURTYARD

A band of merry minstrels enter each carrying instruments.

JERRY MINSTREL

I'm Jerry!

MARY MINSTREL

I'm Mary!

CARRIE MINSTREL

I'm Carrie!

HARRY MINSTREL

I'm Harry!

LARRY MINSTREL

I'm Larry!

TERRY MINSTREL

And I'm Terry!

ALL MERRY MINSTRELS

We're the Merry Minstrels! And welcome to the story of The Princess and the Pea!

They begin playing and singing.

JERRY MINSTREL

"Let us tell you our tale spun of intrigue and lore!"

MARY MINSTREL

"From a kingdom near East Penny-Cloisteram's shore!"

CARRIE MINSTREL

"Comes the very true story in which you will see."

HARRY MINSTREL

"A Queen and a Prince, a Princess and a pea."

ALL MERRY MINSTRELS

"Because we are the Minstrels and we like to sing about stories that have both a queen and a king! Yes we are the Minstrels and we sing in rhyme, so join hands together and..."

The Pea enters and breaks up the band of merry minstrels.

PEA

Would you puh-lease stop with the annoying minstrel singing! You make me wanna run back to my pod and hide. Oy! And what are you wearing? I hope you saved the receipts. Look, if you're gonna tell this story the right way, you need to hear it from someone who was truly stuck in the middle of things.

LARRY MINSTREL

And just who pray tell are you?

PEA

I'm a green M&M. DUH, I'm... the pea! As in the Princess and the... So step aside amateurs before you sprain something. I'm takin' over the tellin' of this story!

TERRY MINSTREL

I don't know Larry. I had a salad once with some bad peas on it. I mean those peas ruined my salad. Now you're telling me we should let this pea tell our story?

LARRY MINSTREL

Oh, come on Terry. He might be a great story-teller. You just never know. Let's give peas a chance.

SCENE ONE – A COURTYARD

As the merry band of minstrels disband the townspeople begin to wander in gathering around the ROYAL DECREER OF THE HIGH COUNCIL.

PEA

Thank you kindly! It all began right here in this very courtyard. It was just six months away from the Prince's eighteenth birthday and by royal decree...

THE ROYAL DECREER

The Prince must, by his ten and eighth birthday...

PEA

That means his eighteenth birthday...

THE ROYAL DECREER

The Prince must hereby embark upon a journey to choose a young lady to become his bride, princess, and future Queen of this kingdom.

ROYAL COUNCIL MEMBER ONE

And to preserve the aristocratic nature of the monarchy, the young lady chosen henceforth by the Prince must be of sovereign royal lineage.

PEA

That means she's gotta be a true princess!

ROYAL COUNCIL MEMBER TWO

If the Prince has not himself chosen his 'princess bride to be' by this time, he shall wait within the walls of the castle until a suitable princess presents herself upon the Royal Castle grounds.

ROYAL COUNCIL MEMBER THREE

Upon which time, the Royal High Council will administer a test of worthiness.

ROYAL COUNCIL MEMBER FOUR

If no princess presents herself or the princess in question is deemed unworthy, the Prince shall remain thusly unwed for the remainder of his days!

THE ROYAL DECREER

And now ladies and gentlemen, here to address you himself regarding this matter... Prince Robert of Cloisterham!

A flourish. The PRINCE, his Squire REGINALD, The QUEEN, and ROYAL WIZARD majestically enter accompanied by the ROYAL TRUMPETERS, GUARDS, and BANNER CARRIERS. The crowd cheers. One of the BANNER CARRIERS accidentally drops his banner emblazoned with the likeness of the Queen.

QUEEN

You there! Pick that up! How dare you drop my royal likeness on the dirty ground. What's your name? No, never mind. I don't care what your name is. You're fired. No... banished! Go on. You can keep the banner so you can remember who fired you. Me! The Queen of Cloisterham!

THE QUEEN laughs wickedly as THE BANNER CARRIER sadly exits.

PEA

A few years ago, shortly after remarrying, the King of Cloisterham mysteriously disappeared. Ever since then, miss power crazy over there has ruled the kingdom solo with the help of the Royal Wizard.

THE ROYAL WIZARD

Most excellent job your highness!

QUEEN

Yes, I know. Thank you Royal Wizard.

She remembers why they're there.

QUEEN (CONT.)

Oh yes, the announcement.

PRINCE

Good people of this kingdom. As we all know... it has been too many years our good Kingdom of Cloisterham has remained without a King. As current and reigning Queen, my stepmother has provided a somewhat fair and partially adequate rule over this land.

A few claps and a boo are heard.

PRINCE (CONT.)

However, according to the Royal Decree, upon my wedding day I shall be crowned your King and my bride your Queen! Therefore restoring the full monarchy and allowing my stepmother to retire... to a very remote island. So let it be known that beginning tomorrow morning, my trusty Squire Reginald and I shall begin my journey across the far reaches, in search of an extraordinary princess and your future queen!

The crowd cheers!

REPORTER #1

Your majesty! Your majesty! Where do you plan on searching for this extraordinary princess?

PRINCE

Why in the four neighboring kingdoms of course. The Kingdom of the Pines of the Circle to the West, The Kingdom of the Valley of the Forest with the Lake to the North, The Kingdom of Old Brighton to the South, and The Kingdom of White Bear Sea to the East.

REPORTER #2

Your majesty! Your majesty! What perils do you expect to face along the way?

PRINCE

Oh, there's no danger that my trusty Squire Reginald and I can't face isn't that right! Come on up here Reggie!

REGGIE joins the Prince.

PRINCE (Cont.)

I'm sure we'll face the usual fire breathing dragons, nasty green goblins, tricky spell casting faeries, rickety bridges over hot lava rivers...

REGGIE hides under his cape.

PRINCE (Cont.)

But all in a day's work. Right Reggie. Reggie?

REPORTER #3

Excuse me! Excuse me! My question is for the soon to be deported wicked Stepmother reigning Queen. After the Prince finds a princess, and when you are sent away... excuse me (*checking her notes*) when you retire, how remote do you think the island will be?

QUEEN

Why you insolent little..

Another flourish cover's the QUEEN's comments. The Royal Procession and crowd exits leaving just the QUEEN, ROYAL WIZARD, and PEA onstage.

SCENE TWO – A COURTYARD

PEA

So, with that said and only six months to go, Prince Robert and his brave Squire Reginald began their preparations for their Princess finding journey. Meanwhile, Miss Nasty Pants and her Royal Magic buffoon were contemplating their soon to be distant future.

The Pea exits. The QUEEN covers her face as if she were crying.

ROYAL WIZARD

Oh your highness. Do not cry. I will come with you to this remote island. With a little spell here a little magic there, I can turn a dismal remote island into a... slightly less dismal remote island. Sure you may loose all of your majesty and power here...

The QUEEN begins to laugh.

ROYAL WIZARD (Cont.)

Your highness?

QUEEN

Fool! I am not going anywhere and neither are you. Except back to the castle to follow the Prince on his journey. With a little help from your magic bag, we'll make sure that each Princess he finds... well I'm afraid he will find them terribly unprincesslike. Wouldn't you and your magic powers agree?

ROYAL WIZARD

Well, I don't know. I've met the Princess of the Pines of the Circle, we were at this lovely opera about cats. I don't recall what the title of the opera was. Anyway, she's quite pleasant and easy on the eyes if I may say...

QUEEN

Do you ever listen to me? Your bag of magic! Casting spells. Turning nice princesses into nasty vile tempered little things. So the Prince wouldn't dream of choosing them as his princess. So I will remain in power, so you will have a job! Are you following me here?

ROYAL WIZARD

Yes! What a remarkably devilish plan! I love it!

They both begin to laugh maniacally until it dies down, leaving them just standing there.

QUEEN

Let's go.

They exit. Music.

SCENE THREE – COURTYARD

The Minstrel's run in a strike a singing pose center stage.

MINSTRELS

(sung) For we are the Minstrels and we sing a song. No matter how right or no matter how wrong. A song that...

The PEA runs on.

PEA

I thought I told you! This isn't a musical. Get! Go on! *(They exit.)* Meanwhile, back at the Royal Castle, Prince Robert and Squire Reggie prepare to depart for their journey as The Queen and the Royal Wizard, prepare for... something else.

SCENE FOUR – TWO ROOMS IN THE CASTLE

*Prince Robert and Squire Reginald
prepare for their journey SR as The
Queen prepares SL.*

PRINCE

Brave Squire Reggie...

QUEEN

(calling) Royal Wizard!

PRINCE

Are you ready to depart?

REGGIE

Yes, Prince Robert, but I don't know how brave I'm feeling.

*The Royal Wizard runs on with some
spell items in a crate.*

ROYAL WIZARD

Here are the ingredients your wickedness.

QUEEN

Wonderful!

PRINCE

Oh what's a few princesses?

REGGIE

It's not the princesses I'm worried about; it's what's in between the princesses that scares me.

PRINCE

Scares you? I thought you were supposed to be my brave Squire.

REGGIE

Well, I am brave. Except when I'm scared.

QUEEN

We can't very well follow the Prince looking like we do. Everyone would recognize us. So on with the spell casting!

PRINCE

Do you have our check list?

REGGIE

Yes sir! Journey hats.

PRINCE

Check!

ROYAL WIZARD

Eye of Toad and a drop of dew.

QUEEN

Yes!

REGGIE

Food, water, apples! You know how I love apples!

PRINCE

Check, check, check!

ROYAL WIZARD

A finger bone, a silver shoe.

QUEEN

Yes!

REGGIE

Dry socks, mouthwash...

PRINCE

Check, check!

ROYAL WIZARD

A flower from a day old grave.

QUEEN

Yes!

REGGIE

Deodorant!

They smell their underarms.

PRINCE

Check!

ROYAL WIZARD

A mushroom from a distant cave.

QUEEN

Yes!

REGGIE

We are ready Sir!

They double-check their bags.

ROYAL WIZARD

It's ready. Drink up!

They pour the liquid into two cups and down the vile potion. Coughing and gagging they fall behind the table. As the smoke clears, the Queen and the ROYAL WIZARD pop up from behind the table transformed into MARGE and EDDIE. They step DS.

PRINCE

We're off! Tally-ho!

The Prince and Reggie cross SL, nearly bumping into MARGE and EDDIE.

PRINCE

Excuse me m'lady. Sir.

MARGE

Uh... good luck with your journey, Your Highness.

MARGE smacks EDDIE on the shoulder.

EDDIE

Ow! I mean, yes! Of course. Good luck with your Journey. I hope you find a really great Princess.

PRINCE

Thank you. Tally-ho!

They begin to leave.

EDDIE

Because it would be a shame if the princesses you met had some nasty problems.

PRINCE

Yes, that would be unfortunate. Tally-ho!

They begin to leave again.

EDDIE

Because that would mean you would have to...

MARGE smacks his shoulder.

EDDIE (cont.)

Yes, goodbye. Safe journey.

PRINCE

Thank you. Tally...

They start to leave, then pause in anticipation of EDDIE saying something...

PRINCE (cont.)

Ho!

When he doesn't, they finally leave. A flourish as THE PRINCE AND REGGIE leave.

MARGE

I must say you've outdone yourself this time my Royal Wizard! Or perhaps I shall call you Eddie!

EDDIE

Thank you your evilness. Or should I call you... *(He thinks hard)* My Queen!

MARGE

Noooooo. Don't call me your Queen. We're in disguise now. Call me...
(thinking) Marge.

EDDIE

Marge! I like it. Marge. Marge! Large and in charge Marge!

She shoots him a dirty look.

EDDIE (cont.)

Sorry.

MARGE

Just Marge will do. In a few weeks after having no princessly luck on the road, our little prince will be locked away in the castle, while I enjoy continued happiness as all powerful ruler of this kingdom!

SHE laughs boisterously. EDDIE clears his throat and looks at her as if to say, what about me?

MARGE

And you'll be happily practicing your magic under my orders as usual. Shall we, Eddie?

EDDIE

After you my...

MARGE

Ah, uh uh!

EDDIE

After you... Marge.

MARGE exits. EDDIE follows and stops just short of SR and begins evil laughing. Sinister music plays.

MARGE (shouted, off-stage)

Let's go!

EDDIE runs off.

SCENE FIVE – THE PINES OF THE CIRCLE CASTLE

The PEA enters along with some Pines of the Circle Castle workers. They are busy cleaning for the arrival of Prince Robert.

PEA

With The Queen and the Royal Wizard hot on their trails, Prince Robert and his brave Squire Reggie's first stop was the Kingdom of the Pines of the Circle. Just a short jaunt to the West. Just down Lake drive actually. King Deesybrin of the Pines of the Circle had wanted to have a son to carry on the royal name. For five years he tried and each year yielded a daughter. Bad news for the King, good news for Prince Robert. Five princesses from which to choose.

KING DEESYBRIN of the Pines of the Circle enters SR as PRINCE ROBERT and REGGIE enter SL. The KING claps his hands and his CASTLE WORKERS snap to attention.

KING DEESYBRIN

Prince Robert of Cloisterham, how lovely it is to see you again.

PRINCE

King Deesybrin, thank you for arranging a meeting between your daughters and I. As you know, I must choose a true princess for my Bride.

As the KING gives his next speech, EDDIE and MARGE enter SL and sneak into hiding behind the line of CASTLE WORKERS. EDDIE takes off his magic hat and throws a spell off SR where the KING's daughters are waiting. There is a magic sound and a flash of light.

KING DEESYBRIN

Of course. I'm sure you'll find my daughters to be fine Princess material. They have been schooled by the finest of Pines of the Circle school-masters, they are fine diplomats, and of course they have very proper princess behavior. Would you like to meet them?

PRINCE

Yes, I would be delighted. I've heard nothing but wonderful things about the daughters of...

The KING'S DAUGHTERS enter acting totally crazy! Running around, spinning, making strange noises. They scare off the CASTLE WORKERS and exit in different directions.

KING DEESYBRIN

I don't know what happened, it's as if a...

EDDIE cast the same spell on the KING. The KING goes crazy and runs off leaving the PRINCE and REGGIE onstage alone.

PRINCE

Well that was the strangest thing I've ever seen.

REGGIE

Perhaps we should move onto the next kingdom.

PRINCE

Not the best way to begin our journey. One down, three to go. Onto The Kingdom of the Valley of the Forest with the Lake. Tally Ho!

Music. They exit SL followed by a giggling MARGE and EDDIE. The MINSTRELS run on SR.

MINSTRELS

(sung) The journey! To find a princess! A worthy princess!

The PEA runs SR on and growls. The MINSTRELS run off SL.

PEA

I'm trying to tell a story here.

SCENE SIX – NEAR THE GOBLIN FOREST (Near the Kingdom of the Valley of the Forest with the Lake)

PEA (cont.)

Now where was I? More importantly, where were Prince Robert and Reggie? I'll tell ya where they were. They were...

EDDIE and MARGE enter carrying road signs. The PEA exits.

MARGE

Lost! Lost! The Prince is lost and heading for the Goblin Forest.

EDDIE

Isn't that a bit dangerous?

MARGE

Yes, of course it's dangerous. And I'm sure if they knew they were walking into the Goblin Forest, they'd turn back. But they don't know where they're going because...

EDDIE

Because we stole the road signs. Your evilness is mind-blowing. If we have the road signs, how do we know where we're going?

MARGE looks concerned.

MARGE

Oh, we're not far from the main path. Stop trying to be so reasonable. Bring those signs for a campfire. And don't get your hands all rough. Tonight is my foot massage night and since the Royal Massager is miles away, I guess you'll have to rub my feet.

The Princess and the Pea – Ryan North

She exits SL. EDDIE gets the shivers and exits after her. PRINCE ROBERT and REGGIE enter SR, trying to read a map.

REGGIE

I think we made a wrong turn back there at the forest opening.

PRINCE

The map said there'd be a road sign pointing to Pathway 35. I saw no road sign. But yes, I would agree. We do seem to be lost.

A band of GOBLINS runs on and hides.

REGGIE

What was that?

PRINCE

I didn't hear anything.

The GOBLINS poke their heads out and hide again.

REGGIE

There, I heard it again! I bet we've stumbled into the (*gulps*) Goblin Forest?

PRINCE

Goodness no. (*looking at the map*) By my keen sense of direction, I believe we are somewhere East of the Sippimissis River.

The GOBLINS grab REGGIE and pull him off stage. The PRINCE doesn't notice.

PRINCE (cont.)

Plus, if we were in the Goblin Forest, I'm sure one of us would have been snatched up by Goblins and had some sort of spell placed on us by now. Reggie? Reggie? Stop playing in the bushes and help me navigate this map.

REGGIE walks in. He has been turned into a Man-Rabbit. He now dons bunny ears and a fluffy tail.

PRINCE (cont.)

Why Reggie. You have... bunny ears. And a bunny tail. It appears you were right. We are in the Goblin Forest. At this time, I would like to suggest we...

The GOBLINS sneak back on. The PRINCE sees them.

PRINCE and REGGIE

Run!

PRINCE

Tally Ho!

The GOBLINS chase after. The Minstrels run on to Center Stage.

SCENE SEVEN – KINGDOM OF OLD BRIGHTON

JERRY MINSTREL

(sung) The Prince and Squire escaped fair well.

CARRIE MINSTREL

(sung) But Reggie remained under Goblin spell.

LARRY MINSTREL

(sung) So they ran and they ran and they ran and they ran.

MARY MINSTREL

(sung) To the very next kingdom as fast as they can.

MINSTRELS

(sung) Tra la la, tra la la, tra la la, tra la! Tra la la, tra la la, tra la la, tra la!

The PEA sneaks up behind them. It takes them a moment to realize the PEA is there. Once they see the PEA, they scam and take off running. The OLD BRIGHTON CITIZENS enter and line up SR for the Apple Race where they must carry an apple on a spoon to the finish line.

PEA

The Prince and Reggie alas couldn't find the The Kingdom of the Valley of the Forest with the Lake. So they decided to move on. Once they found the path, it was a two day trek from the Goblin Forest to the Kingdom of Old Brighton to the South where they were holding their annual Apple Harvest Festival, presided over by the beautiful, powerful, and rarely seen Princess Elppa. Who was half human half Faerie. Everyone in town participated in the apple race. The winner was granted a wish by the magical Princess Elppa. And guess who arrived just in time to participate?

The PEA exits. PRINCE ROBERT AND REGGIE enter.

PRINCE

What's going on?

OLD BRIGHTON GIRL

It's the Apple race. The winner gets a wished granted by Princess Elppa herself. Here, I have an extra spoon, do you have an apple?

PRINCE

Why yes I do!

REGGIE excitedly pulls an apple out of his bag and hands it to the PRINCE.

OLD BRIGHTON MAYOR

On your marks, get set, go!

The Princess and the Pea – Ryan North

The OLD BRIGHTON CITIZENS race toward SL. Robert pulls ahead and wins. The CITIZENS take their apples and leave just as EDDIE AND MARGE sneak on stage and hide. PRINCESS ELPPA crosses down to PRINCE ROBERT and REGGIE.

PRINCESS ELPPA

Congratulations Prince Robert. You've won our Apple Race.

PRINCE ROBERT

You know who I am?

PRINCESS ELPPA

I've had my eye on you. I heard you were searching for a princess. Any luck so far?

PRINCE

Not yet.

PRINCESS ELPPA

Good. As winner of the Apple race, you are granted one wish. What is your wish?

EDDIE is frantically searching through his hat for a spell.

MARGE

What are you doing? She's falling for him! Do something.

EDDIE

I'm trying. You can't just cast any spell on a half Faerie.

PRINCE

I wish to get to know you better... in hopes of finding my true princess.

PRINCESS ELPPA

You don't need a wish for that. I would love learn more about the handsome Prince of Cloisterham.

MARGE

Why did I bring you along? Do something! Anything!

PRINCE

Then would you accompany me to the Apple Pie Eating contest?

PRINCESS ELPPA

My answer of course is...

EDDIE hurls a spell. We hear a magic sound.

PRINCESS ELPPA (cont.)

Moo!

PRINCE ROBERT and REGGIE look at each other, as do MARGE and EDDIE.

PRINCE

What was that? Excuse me?

PRINCESS ELPPA

Moo! Moo! Moo!

PRINCESS ELPPA runs off in horror...

PRINCE

Princess Elppa!

*Followed by the PRINCE and REGGIE.
MARGE cracks up. EDDIE feels bad for
what he has done.*

MARGE

Oh, at this rate we'll be back at the castle in no time. It's been so long since I've fired someone or counted my crowns! Let's go watch the Princess eat grass.

*She runs off laughing, followed by a
somewhat dejected EDDIE. The Pea
enters.*

SCENE EIGHT – COUNTRY SIDE

PEA

Oh that Queen is a rat. Prince Robert was saddened by what happened with Princess Elppa, but was excited to receive a message from the Kingdom of White Bear Sea, sent from Princess Dakota.

WHITE BEAR SEA MESSENGER

A message your highness, sent from Princess Dakota of White Bear Sea. She says, she has received word of your journey and very much looks forward to meeting you.

PRINCE

Most excellent. Thank you.

WBS MESSENGER

And don't forget to check all of your magical items at the front gate. White Bear Sea is in a NMZ.

REGGIE

NMZ?

WBS MESSENGER

No magic zone. Nothing gets by the MSDs.

REGGIE

MSDs?

WBS MESSENGER

Magic Sniffing Dogs. Do you wanna follow me? I'm heading back ASAP.

PRINCE

Absolutely. Lead the way.

REGGIE

I have a good feeling about this one.

They leave. EDDIE and MARGE enter.

MARGE

No magic zone?

EDDIE

Oh well. I guess we can go home and pack. Can't say we didn't try...

MARGE

Oh no you don't. The messenger said you can't use magic inside the Kingdom. That just means you'll have to stop him somehow before he reaches the Kingdom. I want something big, something scary, he must not enter the gates of White Bear Sea or all is lost!

She runs off SL.

EDDIE

(mocking MARGE) He must not enter the gates of White Bear Sea, or all is lost...

MARGE

(off stage) I heard that!

EDDIE runs off SL as THE PRINCE, REGGIE, and the WBS MESSENGER enter SR.

WBS MESSENGER

Right this way, just another minute or so to the front gates. So are you really going to ask Princess Dakota to marry you?

As the WBS MESSENGER and PRINCE ROBERT talk, we hear that all too familiar magic sound as a very large green dragon appears SL. REGGIE sees it, but is frozen with fear.

PRINCE

Well, I wouldn't just ask her to marry me before I got to know her. From what I hear she's a charming young lady.

WBS MESSENGER

Oh yes, the Princess is definitely a charmer. Just from knowing you for an hour or so, I would say that you and she will get along wonderfully.

PRINCE

Is she the type to like flowers? Or should I go for something non-traditional?

WBS MESSENGER

Flowers are always a fine idea. She rather enjoys lilies.

PRINCE

I think we passed a patch of wild lilies a mile back.

WBS MESSENGER

I say, do you smell something... hot?

PRINCE

Yes, a rather sulfuric smell. Awful! Last time I smelled that smell was years ago, when I fought my first...

They turn slowly around to see the dragon. Music. They scream...

PRINCE/WBS MESSENGER/REGGIE

Dragon!

The MESSENGER runs away. The PRINCE draws his sword and approaches the dragon. REGGIE is still frozen.

PRINCE

(valiantly spoken) If it's a fight you want, then a fight you shall have! Nothing shall stand in between me, my brave Squire and the princess who awaits me. Reggie, draw your sword and fight with me.

REGGIE doesn't move.

PRINCE (cont.)

Reggie, I can't take this dragon alone.

THE DRAGON advances.

PRINCE (cont.)

Reggie? Look out!

THE PRINCE pulls REGGIE off stage, out of harm's way. The DRAGON backs back off stage. The PEA enters.

SCENE NINE – BACK AT THE CASTLE

PEA

To make a long story short...

VOICES FROM OFFSTAGE

Too late.

PEA

Oy, everyone's a critic. Prince Robert and his not so brave half man half bunny Squire Reginald, having no princessly luck, returned to the Kingdom of Cloisterham empty handed... foiled by the evil Queen and her Magic stooge. Squire Reggie left to find the Kingdoms best Goblin spell reverser. Prince Robert had only one day left before his eighteenth birthday for a worthy Princess to present herself on the castle grounds. And the Queen was doing everything she could to prevent that from happening. Prince Robert was as gloomy as the weather outside.

The Princess and the Pea – Ryan North

We hear the storm! The PEA exits. The QUEEN returns, back to her old self followed by The ROYAL WIZARD. A storm rages outside.

QUEEN

Did you bar and padlock the castle gate?

ROYAL WIZARD

Yes. There's no way a Princess or anyone could get through the gate. I also boarded up the lower windows too, just like you told me to do. And there's not a ladder long enough in the Kingdom to reach the upper windows.

QUEEN

Good. And with that storm raging outside, there's no way anyone would be out on a night like this. In twenty four hours, I will be Queen forever! Nothing can stop me!

She laughs evilly. We hear a scream, a glass crash, another scream, and a thud. PRINCE ROBERT runs in, accompanied by REGGIE. The noise also stirs all of the Royal Castle staff who enter. Everyone looks off SL. In walks Princess Willimina of Equidistantville, soaking wet. She is not shy.

WILLIMINA

The door was locked and the windows were boarded up. So I just used the catapult. Sorry about your window. Is that Prince Robert guy still looking for a princess? My name's Willimina. Princess Willimina of Equidistantville.

Everyone is in shock for a moment, then all clamor to talk to the PRINCESS WILLIMINA. The crowd moves off SL. As the PEA enters SL.

ROYAL WIZARD

Equidistant?

WILLIMINA

Yes, when the distance between objects are the same.

ROYAL WIZARD

So... Center.

WILLIMINA

Boring.

SCENE NINE – THE CASTLE GRAND HALLWAY

PEA

Now, as you can imagine, Prince Robert was very excited about getting to know Princess Willimina. They spent the morning talking, playing Parcheesi, and taking long strolls through the castle hallway. The Queen was furious!

The ROYAL WIZARD enters SR followed by the QUEEN.

QUEEN

What do you mean you can't do anything about it? Can't you cast a spell and make her disappear?

ROYAL WIZARD

There are castle workers in every room, the council is always walking around, and the Royal Guard is watching over Prince Robert and Princess Willimina, making sure they have some privacy.

QUEEN

Quiet. Here come the Royal Council. There's still a chance she won't pass the Council's worthiness test. Hide.

The QUEEN and the ROYAL WIZARD duck behind a piece of scenery to overhear the ROYAL COUNCIL'S plans. The ROYAL WIZARD pokes his head out.

ROYAL WIZARD

What's the worthiness test?

QUEEN

Shhhh! Get down!

They duck down as the ROYAL COUNCIL enter SL.

ROYAL COUNCIL #1

How about this? All Princesses should be poised under pressure. Let's set the Royal Palace on fire and see how poised she remains.

ROYAL COUNCIL #2

Would you remained poised if the Royal Castle was on fire?

ROYAL COUNCIL #1

I most absolutely would.

ROYAL COUNCIL MEMBER #2 looks off SL and points!

ROYAL COUNCIL #2

Oh my goodness! Fire in the Royal Kitchen!

ROYAL COUNCIL #1

Where? Ahhhrgh! Help! Save me! I don't want to die!!!

ROYAL COUNCIL #2

Poised you say?

ROYAL COUNCIL #3

Enough. We shall test her sensitivity. A worthy Princesses is, among other things, a sensitive Princess.

ROYAL COUNCIL #4

And how shall we test her sensitivity?

ROYAL COUNCIL #3

Is the Royal Cook still preparing tonight's meal?

ROYAL COUNCIL #4

Yes, I believe we are having split pea soup.

ROYAL COUNCIL #3

Perfect. Tonight, before Princess Willimina retires to her bedroom, we shall place a single green pea beneath the mattress. If she truly has the sensitivity of a Princess, the pea will disturb her rest and she will toss and turn all night.

The QUEEN peeks out and imitates the COUNCIL MEMBERS' voice.

THE QUEEN

Only one mattress?

ROYAL COUNCIL #2

Good point. If we truly want to test her sensitivity, perhaps we should use five mattresses.

QUEEN

How about twenty?

ROYAL COUNCIL #4

It's a tough test, but we are talking about the future Queen. Twenty it is then. In the morning we shall ask Princess Willimina how she slept.

ROYAL COUNCIL #1

A truly sensitive Princess will have an awful night's sleep.

ROYAL COUNCIL #2

And if she fails?

ROYAL COUNCIL #3

Then Prince Robert will never assume the throne and we'll be stuck with the Queen as our ruler.

QUEEN

I think the Queen is an excellent ruler.

The ROYAL COUNCIL look at each other, burst out laughing and exit. The QUEEN and the ROYAL WIZARD come out of their hiding place.

QUEEN

She will fail that test if it's the last thing I do.

ROYAL WIZARD

It might well be the last thing you do.

QUEEN

You are not helping. What good is having a Royal Wizard if you can't use your magic to help my evil plans! I'm putting you on probation!

ROYAL WIZARD

Probation?

QUEEN

I'll fix this myself. After I'm through with her, she'll be so tired there's no way she won't sleep like a baby.

QUEEN

Now hush, here they come. Try not to mess things up!

*PRINCESS WILLIMINA and PRINCE ROBERT
ENTER SL walking and talking.*

PRINCE

I can't believe you beat me in Parcheesi. I'm having such a good time with you.

PRINCESS WILLIMINA

I must say, I'm enjoying myself very much as well. I'm glad I dropped in.

QUEEN

Good afternoon my dears. Robert, the Royal Astronomer had a question and was wondering if you would help him out.

PRINCESS WILLIMINA

You like astronomy?

PRINCE

I won the astronomy bee three years in a row!

They do something cute.

QUEEN

Yes, isn't that nice. Well, you run along now. This will give the Princess and I some alone time.

PRINCE

I'll see you shortly, Princess Willimina.

PRINCESS WILLIMINA

Goodbye my Prince!

He exits, staring at the PRINCESS.

QUEEN

Yes, yes, yes. Have you toured the East and West wings of the Royal Castle?

PRINCESS WILLIMINA

Yes, Prince Robert and I...

QUEEN

Well let's do it again. (*the QUEEN grabs her arm.*) This time we'll run! Princesses have to get their exercise!

The Princess and the Pea – Ryan North

The QUEEN runs off SR with the PRINCESS in tow.

ROYAL WIZARD

Probation? You know what? I'm not sure, but I get the feeling that the Queen keeps me around not because she likes me, but for my magical powers. Hmm.

The QUEEN and the PRINCESS run by from SR to SL. Music. Blackout.

SCENE TEN – THE ROYAL GUEST BEDROOM

In the blackout, the twenty mattresses are placed onstage. The lights come up on the ROYAL COUNCIL standing by the pile of mattresses. The Pea is DSC.

PEA

Finally, here comes the part of the story with me in it! So the Queen ran the Princess ragged, while the Prince was occupied by the Royal Astronomer. He'll talk your ear off I tell ya. The Royal Council had selected the most perfect pea they could find. Me! And placed me under the bottom most mattress. I have to go get ready. My big part's coming up!

Pea runs off SL. And yells...

PEA

Make up!

The ROYAL COUNCIL places a pea under the bottom most mattress as PRINCE ROBERT enters.

PRINCE

Have you seen the Princess? I've looked all over for her and... what is this?

ROYAL COUNCIL #1

After all of tonight's excitement, I'm sure the Princess will want to have the most comfortable of sleeping arrangements.

PRINCE

Yes, I suppose you're right.

The Queen and the Princess enter SR doing jumping jacks. The QUEEN is counting them.

QUEEN

Ninety-five, ninety-six, ninety-seven, ninety-eight, ninety-nine, one hundred! And that is the Royal workout routine. Very good! Oh my dear, you must be exhausted!

PRINCESS WILLIMINA

I am. Thank for showing me around.

PRINCE

There you are.

PRINCESS WILLIMINA

Wow, what an exciting evening! Am I sleeping up there?

ROYAL COUNCIL #2

Yes you are. Nothing but the test for you. I mean, nothing but the best for you!

PRINCESS WILLIMINA

How thoughtful! It has been my pleasure to meet you Prince Robert. I look forward to seeing you in the morning.

PRINCE

My father selected the silk used in making these mattresses and insisted on hand picking each downy feather that was used to stuff them. I'm sure you'll sleep like a baby! Get your rest, I'm sure the council will test you in the morning.

QUEEN

Yes, sleep well. Sleep oh so well!

She starts to laugh evilly. Everyone stares at her.

QUEEN (cont.)

Sorry.

Everyone exits as the PRINCESS makes her way to the top of the mattresses. The lights dim. The QUEEN and the ROYAL WIZARD sneak in. The QUEEN removes the pea and throws it off SL.

PEA (screams off SL)

I'm okay!

QUEEN

There, we can't take any chances. Now, just for extra measure, I want you to cast your best sleeping spell on her. Don't mess this up. She must sleep through the night. Now go, do my bidding.

The QUEEN exits as the ROYAL WIZARD contemplates what to do. The lights blackout. Music.

SCENE ELEVEN – THE ROYAL GRAND ROOM

We hear a rooster crow. The lights come up on the entire ROYAL CASTLE STAFF assembled to greet the Princess. The PRINCE is addressing the CASTLE STAFF.

PRINCE

It's as if we've known each other for years. We laugh, we talk, we were made for each other. She should be here any moment.

The Princess and the Pea – Ryan North

The Princess enters, trying to maintain her positive attitude, despite a horrible night's sleep.

PRINCE (cont.)

There she is. What a picture of beauty! How did you sleep fair Princess?

The COUNCIL, WIZARD, QUEEN all lean in anticipation of her answer. She pauses, then begins to cry.

PRINCE (cont.)

What? What is it?

PRINCESS WILLIMINA

I am so sorry. It's just that you have been so kind. But I must be honest, and if what I say offends you I will leave. I know the mattresses upon which I slept were made especially by your father, but I no matter how hard I tried, I could not sleep a wink. I tossed and turned all night as if I were sleeping on a bed of rocks.

There is a sigh of relief from the COUNCIL and the WIZARD.

QUEEN

What!?!

The QUEEN glares at the WIZARD. Everyone looks strangely at the QUEEN.

QUEEN (cont.)

I mean, how horrible. (*sarcastically*) I thought for sure you would fall into a deep sleep as if under a spell.

PRINCESS WILLIMINA

I am sorry. I will take my leave of you.

ROYAL COUNCIL #1

Wait. Princess Willimina!

ROYAL COUNCIL #2

You have been tested by the Royal Council... and have passed.

ROYAL COUNCIL #3

We are sorry for your discomfort last night, but we placed a single green pea underneath the bottom most mattress to test your sensitivity.

The PEA pokes his head in SR and waves.

ROYAL COUNCIL #4

And through not one, not five, but twenty mattresses, that tiny pea disrupted your sleep, showing that you possess a sensitivity only a true princess could possess. Congratulations!

PRINCE ROBERT runs to the PRINCESS.

ROYAL DECREER

Then, if it is your wish, Prince Robert for Princess Willimina to become your future bride and this Kingdom's future Queen, then by royal decree (*he reads*) on your wedding day you shall become Cloisterham's King and you Princess Willimina will become Cloisterham's new Queen!

Everyone cheers and exits as the action shifts to the Royal Guest Bedroom. The QUEEN pulls the WIZARD into the Royal Guest Bedroom.

QUEEN

You idiot! How could this have happened? She should have had the best sleep of her life! (*mocking*) "It's as if I were sleeping on a bed of rocks." Really...

The QUEEN looks under the bottom most mattress, shocked to discover several large rocks.

QUEEN (cont.)

Rocks? There has got to be twenty large jagged rocks under here. (*pointing at the WIZARD*) You did this! And after all I do for you. Fine. You want to play dirty huh? Guards! Council! Come quick! The test has been tampered with by the Royal Wizard!

The PRNCE, PRINCESS, COUNCIL and GUARDS enter.

ROYAL COUNCIL MEMBER #1

What is the meaning of this.

QUEEN

The Princess fails the test. She is not sensitive. Why you'd have a horrible night's sleep too if there were...

She shoves her hand under the bottom mattress. The Wizard subtly snaps his fingers. We hear his magic sound. The QUEEN dramatically pulls out a pea.

QUEEN (cont.)

Jagged rocks under your mattress. What!?! There were rocks under there. Large jagged rocks!

The PRINCE gestures for her to be taken away. The ROYAL GUARDS seize the QUEEN and walk her off as she rants! The PEA enters along with the rest of the cast and takes CS along with the MINSTRELS.

PEA

So that's the story of the Princess and the Pea. It's really more the story of a brave Prince, his faithful Squire, an evil Queen, a redeemed Wizard, a true Princess and of course me... the Pea! Prince Robert and Princess Willimina were married within a year and became Cloisterham's new King and Queen allowing the ex-Queen to (*clears throat*) retire. Squire Reggie was de-bunnified and knighted Sir Reginald. And the Royal Wizard, freed from the evil grip of the ex-Queen, was happy to be working under new management. But you know what they say, every ending is a new beginning. Does anyone else smell a sequel? Alright, you Minstrels wanna help wrap things up? I've gotta split!

They nod, happy to be finally included.

MINSTRELS

(*sung*) And they all lived happily ever after!

ALL

The End!