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Game of Tiaras

A bloody, bloody tragic comedy in two acts

With apologies to Shakespeare

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Full-Length Comedy
9w, 10m, 15 any gender

When the aging king of a Magical Kingdom (England) decides to split his empire between his three daughters, Cinderella, Belle and the Snow Queen (who in no way resembles a copyrighted character), terrible tragedy ensues. Terrible, hilarious tragedy. Combining the gut-wrenching plot twists of Game of Thrones and the soul-numbing despair of Shakespearean tragedy, this adaptation of King Lear will leave you dying with laughter as the body count mounts. When you play the Game of Tiaras, you win or you die.

Cast of Characters

NARRATOR 1
NARRATOR 2

The Princesses:

SNOW WHITE, a princess, recently accompanied by dwarves
BELLE, the youngest daughter, very nice actually
CINDERELLA, the oldest daughter, not a terribly nice person
THE SNOW QUEEN, the middle daughter, has super-powers
THE LITTLE MERMAID, a mermaid

The Dudes:

KING
PRINCE CHARMING
SMEAGOL
FRENCH PRINCE
ANIMATED SNOWMAN
EXECUTIONER
CROWD MEMBERS
TALKING CANDLE MAN
TALKING TEAPOT LADY
BLOOD PACKET GUY

Snow White's Henchmen:
Dwarves 1-2

Cinderella's Henchmen:
GUARDS 1-3

Snow Queen's Henchmen:
SOLDIERS 1-3

Team Belle:
FRENCH SOLDIERS 1-3

Little Mermaid's Death Squad:
OTHER PRINCESSES 1-3*

PEASANTS
CROWD

*(Feel free to cast your "Other Princesses" based on your actresses. Some sample other princesses include Pocahantas, Mu Lan, Tiana, Jasmine, Leia, etc…)

**Guards, Soldiers, etc… may be played by actors of any gender.

***Also, this play is ridiculous. There's no reason a person of any ethnicity or gender couldn't play any role. It's probably funniest if the princesses resemble their movie or television equivalents, but not necessary.

Double-casting: Just about every role can be doublecast. In particular, the French Soldiers can be Guards or Soldiers with a few quick costume changes.

Setting: a Magical Kingdom. Let's call it England. A long, long time ago.

Game of Tiaras was commissioned by Foothills High School in Henderson, Nevada. It was directed by Greg Gaskill, and the original cast was as follows:

Narrator 1:	Ciarra Parry
Narrator 2:	Devin Jones
Snow White:	Morgan Hawkins
Belle:	Ashley Villareal
Cinderella:	Lindsay DeVries
Snow Queen:	Samantha Kimmell
Little Mermaid:	Jorden Nelson
King:	Jazz Addison
Prince Charming:	Chance Dinsman
French Prince:	Ben Guido
Blood Packet Guy:	Justin Padilla
Animated Snowman:	Nathan Benavidez
Dwarf 1:	Cailey Love
Dwarf 2:	Tatianna Gilbertson
Teapot Lady:	Savanna Milholland
Peasant 2:	Jasmine Buchanan-Tapia
Guards:	Jon Underwood, Norvell Collier, Matt James
Soldiers/French Soldiers:	Brandon Poe, Brandon Platz, Donovon Dula
Other Princess 1:	Jessica Walesa
Other Princess 2:	Adriana Solares
Other Princess 3:	Selene Ibarra

Act One

(The Castle.)

(Mysterious music like from the Prologue for Beauty and the Beast.)

NARRATOR 1

Once upon a time, in a magical kingdom known as… England, a mighty king lived in a powerful castle. And although he had everything he ever wanted, the king was old and pretty stupid.

(Lights up on the KING, perhaps just a silhouette of the king.)

He had three daughters, all of them really really hot –

(BELLE, CINDERELLA, and SNOW QUEEN appear, perhaps also in silhouette.)

But the king was not satisfied with his super foxy daughters. He wanted unconditional love, as long as it didn't require much effort from him, and as old age began to creep up on him, he began to think… of a plan. A plan that would have very serious… consequences.

(Lights down on them.)

NARRATOR 2

And so it begins.

(GAME of THRONES intro music.)

(CINDERELLA stands dramatically. She raises a sign that says "CINDERELLA.")

(Lights change to BELLE. She stands in a different dramatic pose. Raises a sign that says "BELLE.")

(A FRENCH SOLDIER stands near her with a portable handheld fan. It blows her hair.)

(Lights change to SNOW QUEEN. She shakes her hair out. Raises a sign that says "SNOW QUEEN." Raises a second sign that says "NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH" – Raises a third sign that says "COPYRIGHTED CHARACTER FROM RECENT MOVIE")

(The music ends dramatically.)

NARRATOR 2

Our tale begins not with those three, however, but with another princess.

(SNOW WHITE enters.)

The fairest of the fair. Which also, ironically, means hot. Because that's how young ladies were judged back in those days, unlike today when women are… anyway… this young princess had been through quite an ordeal

(DWARF follows, lugging a really heavy trunk. Behind him DWARF 2 carries an enormous box full of luggage.)

And now, finally, she had been invited to join the royal court of the magical kingdom –

SNOW WHITE
Come on boys that luggage isn't going to carry itself.

DWARF
Is there a way you could use magic to make the boxes float or something?

SNOW WHITE
You're such funny little men. Come along servants. And if you don't like it there's always room for you back in the mines.
(DWARVES begin singing)

DWARVES *(singing)*
HI HO HI HO
WE'VE BEEN REDUCED TO SLAVES WE KNOW
HI HO HI HO

SNOW WHITE
What did I tell you about that song!

DWARF 2
Sorry. It's just that singing is the only way to fill the emptiness in our souls.

SNOW WHITE
I don't like that song. I feel like it's being directed at me.

NARRATOR 1
It was a long, horrendous journey, and many dwarves died on the way.

DWARF
What?

NARRATOR 1
I'm just teasing you. You didn't die. You came down with terrible diseases. What? This is the Middle Ages. It's brutal. Anyway, the young girl finally made it to the castle of the magical kingdom –
(CINDERELLA rushes out.)

CINDERELLA
There you are!

SNOW WHITE
Hello! Hello very much!

CINDERELLA
I'm Cinderella and we've been anxiously awaiting your arrival! Oh my gosh let me look at you! You are so pretty!

SNOW WHITE

Thank you!

CINDERELLA

Just so pretty, just so so pretty I love this bow thing that you're doing. Gosh. Mm. You are going to have no shortage of princes after this package, let me tell you that much. They pretty much fall in love at first sight around here.

SNOW WHITE

Oh I would very much like to land a prince.

CINDERELLA

You will! You are so precious! I wanted to let you know something though, if you see Prince Charming – HE'S MINE. Ha ha ha ha! Seriously, though, we're all sisters here and I will put venomous snakes in your bed at night if you so much as look at him. Okay? Okay! Let's be friends! Also – just an FYI – trust no one.

(She claps her hands.)

Servants! Snow White needs some help out here! Servants!

(No one enters.)

They must be on lunch break or something. That's okay a little torture will get them back to work.

SNOW WHITE

You torture your servants?

CINDERELLA

What? No! Of course not! I don't sully my hands with it. Other people do that for you. It's part of being a princess.

SNOW WHITE

Usually, I just have my animal friends help me.

CINDERELLA

Ohhhh. I love animal friends.

SNOW WHITE

I've got bunnies –

CINDERELLA

I've got mice they're not quite as cute –

SNOW WHITE

And birds –

CINDERELLA

Yeah I got birds too. Birds are sweet. In fact they do a lot of my torturing for me. I used to have two wicked stepsisters – and my birds just went to town on their eyes, you know? Just…. Popped them with their cute little beaks. Aaaaaaaah! My wicked stepsisters were screaming and running blind and everything! It was so awesome.

SNOW WHITE

Oh.

CINDERELLA

They had been mean to me.
(Short pause, suddenly serious)
You're not going to be mean to me, are you?

SNOW WHITE

No, not at all! I'm very sweet and innocent!

CINDERELLA

I know! I know you are! And remember: I'm your only friend here. Everyone else is against you.

SNOW WHITE

Against me?

CINDERELLA

Oop! I've got to run! I've got a mani-pedi scheduled for noon! The King is having a great birthday party this afternoon and I have to look my best! You should come!

SNOW WHITE

Thank you I will.
(CINDERELLA dashes off.)
What a funny lady.
(CINDERELLA comes right back.)

CINDERELLA

Did you just call me funny?

SNOW WHITE

No.

CINDERELLA

I thought I heard you call me funny.

SNOW WHITE

I didn't. I was talking about the weather.

CINDERELLA

Am I funny to you?

SNOW WHITE

No.

CINDERELLA

Am I like a dwarf to you?

DWARF 2

Hey!

SNOW WHITE

No! You're not funny. I just –

CINDERELLA

Then why did you say I was funny?

SNOW WHITE

Sometimes I say things because I have no filter.

CINDERELLA

I would shut your mouth before someone shuts it for you.

SNOW WHITE

Okay. Good advice. Thank you. Nice talk.

(CINDERELLA points from her eyes to SNOW WHITE's eyes to indicate that she is "watching." She leaves slowly.)

DWARF 2

I gotta tell you, if I found her sleeping in my cottage, I woulda just killed her.

SNOW WHITE

Hey!

DWARF 2

Seriously. It woulda been like – hey look a stuck-up weasel lady is laying here – oh whoops my axe just dropped on her head. How did that happen?

SNOW WHITE

I'm sure she's very sweet on the inside. Now let's find my quarters.

(The SNOW QUEEN (ELLIE) enters.)

ELLIE

You made it!

SNOW WHITE

Yes. Hi you must be –

ELLIE

I'm the Snow Queen, I would tell you my real name but it's copyrighted. Just know that I have no relation to a movie character with similar characteristics and I'm available as a fair use character related to section 33.2 of the United States Copyright Code. You can call me Ellie.

SNOW WHITE

I'm Snow White.

ELLIE

I know. You're totally famous. Welcome to the castle at the magical kingdom. We're very glad to have you here.

SNOW WHITE

Thank you! It's so wonderful I just want to hug everyone!

ELLIE

DON'T TOUCH ME! I mean I'm cool now. But um… not a good idea for skin-to-skin contact. I have basically unlimited magical powers.

SNOW WHITE

Wow. I really can't do anything. If you think about, I'm actually quite pathetic.

ELLIE

I know. I'm a mutant. But anyway, I'm sure that will cause no problems here at court. Everyone loves each other here.

SNOW WHITE

Oh really – cause Cinderella told me that –

ELLIE

You spoke to Cinderella?

SNOW WHITE

Yes?

ELLIE

Don't listen to a word she says, she's a liar. She'll kill you as soon as look at you. We used to have nine princesses here. Now there are three. Or four, counting you.

SNOW WHITE

What happened to the other six princesses?

ELLIE

I'll give you a hint: Death.

SNOW WHITE

She killed them?

ELLIE

Beware the birds. The fat ones have been feasting on princess eyes for years now.

SNOW WHITE

Oh that sounds dreadful.

ELLIE

Just remember – you have no friends. Everyone is trying to kill you.

SNOW WHITE

Even you?

ELLIE

Especially me. You have no friends here.

(BELLE enters.)

BELLE

Snow? Snow White? Is that you?

SNOW WHITE

Belle?! OMG Belle!

BELLE

OMG!

(BELLE and SNOW WHITE hug.)

It's been so long!

SNOW WHITE

I know! I thought I wouldn't have any friends here!

BELLE

Let me tell you – it is so awesome being a peasant at court. The king adopted me and now I'm a princess!

SNOW WHITE

Heck yes!

BELLE

Hi five!

(They high-five.)

So… okay the best part about being a princess –

SNOW WHITE

Skipping Forward

SNOW WHITE

And then I scored a prince –

BELLE

Double love it. Was he hunky?

SNOW WHITE

He didn't even hardly speak.

BELLE

Those are the best. Mine wouldn't shut up. Plus he had dental issues. It was a nightmare.

SNOW WHITE

But then he died in a boat crash and left me as a princess.

BELLE

Any male heirs?

SNOW WHITE

No.

BELLE

Oh that's too bad. Now they're going to have to marry you off to another prince.

SNOW WHITE

Right. And I'm cool with that. But on my terms this time. Last time I basically had to take the first prince that wandered by and kissed me while I was unconscious.

BELLE

You think that's bad? I had to go with the big hairy guy that kept me imprisoned in his castle. It was total Stockholm Syndrome.

SNOW WHITE

Anyway, I'm free now, and so excited about being here at the Magical Kingdom.

BELLE

Yeah, well… keep your eyes open. Lots of cold-blooded murderers around here.

SNOW WHITE

I've got my dwarves to protect me.

BELLE

Those hipster guys? They're cannon fodder at best. Seriously they won't last two minutes.

NARRATOR 1

It was a cold awakening for Snow White, who had always lived her life being pure and innocent –

SNOW WHITE

I am pure and innocent –

NARRATOR 1

And sleeping in strangers' beds.*

*(*This line can be changed to "and mooching off strangers.")*

SNOW WHITE

What?

NARRATOR 2

But in the meantime, her hipster dwarves were waxing their ridiculous facial hair and about to make an important discovery.

(The DWARVES put on glasses and are reading and listening to music.)

DWARF 1

You ever try that Keurig coffee?

DWARF 2

That's the only kind I drink, man.

DWARF 1

I'm really getting into local food. I don't really want to feed the industrial agricultural machine any more.

DWARF 2

I'm with you brother.

(CINDERELLA and a GUARD enter.)

CINDERELLA

We can be alone here.

GUARD

Oh Cinderella, you really light my fire.

CINDERELLA

Quiet. I'm not in the mood to be pawed today. I have a job for you.

GUARD

Anything. And by anything I mean anything evil. Because that's the only kind of thing we would be plotting in these caves.

CINDERELLA

My father is ready to pass on to the next magical kingdom.

GUARD

Orlando?

CINDERELLA

No. I mean the kingdom of death. The after-life.

GUARD

I didn't know he was sick.

CINDERELLA

He's not. Yet.

(DWARF 2 creeps closer to listen in.)

GUARD

Ohhhhh… so let me get this straight you want me to slowly substitute his food with rat meat so that he will contract the plague?

CINDERELLA

No I want you to poison him. With this.

(DWARF 2 shrieks like a girl.)

DWARF 2

Heavens!

(GUARD takes out a sword and nonchalantly stabs DWARF 2.)

Aaaaah! I'm dying in a random way!

NARRATOR 1

All right pause. Where's the blood?

NARRATOR 2

Um… we decided that we weren't going to do the blood cause we don't have that kind of budget.

NARRATOR 1

Are you kidding me? We're not doing blood? This is a tragedy!

NARRATOR 2

I know.

NARRATOR 1

No I mean we're doing a tragedy. We need a lot of blood.

NARRATOR 2

We're going to do something better. Trust me.

(BLOOD PACKET GUY enters.)

BLOOD PACKET GUY

Are you ready for me?

NARRATOR 2

You were a little late on your entrance.

NARRATOR 1

Who's this guy?

BLOOD PACKET GUY

Hey I'm *(real name)* I auditioned for the show but they said I had to be crew instead.

NARRATOR 2

This is our blood guy. Whenever blood is spilled on stage, *(real name)* is going to run out here and attach these colorful red streamers to show you the spurting geysers of blood erupting from the dying. It's gonna be awesome. And symbolic. Can we show `em?

BLOOD PACKET GUY

And I make cool sound effects.

GUARD

You want us to take it back?

NARRATOR 2

Yeah.

DWARF 2

I'm alive again!

NARRATOR 2

And go!

GUARD

Ohhhhh… so let me get this straight you want me to slowly substitute his food with rat meat so that he will contract the plague?

CINDERELLA

No I want you to poison him. With this.

(DWARF 2 shrieks like a girl.)

DWARF 2

Heavens!

(GUARD takes out a sword and nonchalantly stabs DWARF 2.

(As he's doing this, BLOOD PACKET GUY sprints out like a ball boy in a tennis match and attaches a red streamer to DWARF 2's chest. BLOOD PACKET GUY makes over-the-top gruesome noises as the blood pours out.)

Aaaaah! I'm dying in a random way!

CINDERELLA

I love it when you commit random acts of violence. Totally reminds me of Hamlet.

GUARD

I know, right? And that turned out well. Ready to go do some unnatural smooching?

CINDERELLA

I thought you'd never ask.

(CINDERELLA and GUARD exit.)

(DWARF 1 runs up to DWARF 2.)

DWARF 1

Dwarf 2! Dwarf 2! Speak to me!

DWARF 2

…that… really hurt…

DWARF 1

You're going to be okay!

(BLOOD PACKET GUY makes another streamer come out of DWARF 2's chest.)
(Splurrrch!)

BLOOD PACKET GUY

Internal bleeding.

DWARF 2

No… promise me something… Dwarf 1 –

DWARF 1

What is it?

DWARF 2

Justice…

DWARF 1

Got it.

DWARF 2

League Issue 425. I've got a copy of it in my backpack. It's really awesome.

DWARF 1

Oh. I didn't realize you liked comic books.

DWARF 2

I just… look at them… for…

DWARF 1

For what?

DWARF 2

For… *(dying)* booooooobs.

DWARF 1

Oh yeah. That makes sense.

DWARF 2

Avenge me…
(DWARF 2 dies.)

DWARF 1

Nooo! Nooooo! You were too beautiful to die! Noooo!
(DWARF 1 sobs ridiculously. He rends his clothes. He pounds on DWARF 2's body. He's really into it.)
(NARRATOR 1 intervenes.)

NARRATOR 1

You want to calm it down a bit?

DWARF 1

This is very tragic.

NARRATOR 1

We've got like twenty more people to kill here tonight, and if we go crazy over each one, it's going to be a long night.

DWARF 1

I thought we were doing a romance.

NARRATOR 1

No it's a tragedy.

DWARF 1

Oh. Oh I'm in a tragedy. Oh dang it.
(DWARF 1 runs off.)

NARRATOR 2

Anyway, before Dwarf number one took a ship to a happier place, he happened to drop in on Snow White.

(SNOW WHITE is in bed. DWARF pops his head over the edge of the bed.)

DWARF 1

Psst! Hey!

SNOW WHITE

Aaaaaah! Would you quit doing that?!

DWARF 1

Sorry it's a habit.

SNOW WHITE

It's really freaky and I don't appreciate you watching me while I sleep.

DWARF 1

If it helps, you look really beautiful while you sleep.

SNOW WHITE

Thank you. I always figured that I did.

DWARF 1

Oh yeah. Total knockout. It's when your eyes are open that things go wrong.

SNOW WHITE

What are you doing here?

DWARF 1

Um… so this is my letter of resignation.

SNOW WHITE

You can't resign! You're a dwarf! You serve me until death.

DWARF 1

Funny story. That's what happened to Dwarf 2. Cinderella is planning on murdering the king. Just an FYI. So I'd get out of here if I was you – I can't offer you much, maybe a little cottage in the woods, some forest creatures we can roast and eat – but you'll be safe there –

SNOW WHITE

No thanks. I'd hate to ruin our friendship.

DWARF 1

Yeah. Okay. I get that a lot.

SNOW WHITE

Maybe you should be with your own kind.

DWARF 1

That was like totally racist.

SNOW WHITE

Yeah, with a name like Snow White I get that a lot.

DWARF 1

Yep. Well see ya.

SNOW WHITE

See ya.

(DWARF 1 exits.)

NARRATOR 1

Burdened by the terrible news that one of the Princesses was planning on murdering the king, Snow White leapt into action.

(She yawns and stretches.)

She leapt into action.

(She yawns and stretches.)

Like a wild cheetah with a rocket shoved up its hindquarters, Snow White leapt from her cozy bed to confront Cinderella.

(She slowly gets out of bed.)

Nothing could stop her. Nothing except the - could you please hurry it up?

SNOW WHITE

Sorry, I'm doing things on my own timetable. To be honest with you, I was hoping a prince would show up and do my work for me, but…

NARRATOR 2

Not gonna happen.

SNOW WHITE

All right fine.

(ELLIE, CINDERELLA, and several GUARDS enter.)

ELLIE

Okay, it's time for the partner dance! Who wants to dance with me? I promise it won't hurt much.

CINDERELLA

Oh Ellie you're such an antisocial psychopath waiting to explode.

ELLIE

I know.

(SNOW WHITE enters.)

CINDERELLA

Oh it's Snow White!

ELLIE

What's up?

CINDERELLA

You're definitely prettier asleep.

SNOW WHITE

I'm glad you're here, Ellie. I've discovered something shocking!

CINDERELLA

I know, I know. I'm having all kinds of affairs. It happens when you get bored.

(SNOW WHITE takes out a letter.)

SNOW WHITE

Cinderella… by the power vested in me by… not really anybody – I hereby accuse you of planning on killing the king, and also killing one of my dwarves and scaring the other one. I have here sworn testimony by dwarf number one that you are evil, and also that you smell bad, and also that you are not a very nice person.

ELLIE

Can I see that?

SNOW WHITE

Sure.

(She hands over the letter to ELLIE.)

ELLIE

Wow. This is terrible.

SNOW WHITE

I know.

CINDERELLA

You dare accuse me? I am Cinderella! I am the mightiest princess the whole kingdom!

ELLIE

Hold up, hold up. Let's examine the evidence.

(ELLIE rips up the letter.)

Whoops. Guards. Seize the traitor.

(The GUARDS grab SNOW WHITE.)

SNOW WHITE

What?

GUARD

Sorry about this miss.

GUARD 2

If it makes you feel any better, I have a wife and children to think of.

SNOW WHITE

I don't care about your wife and children.

(GUARD 2 takes out his wallet.)

GUARD 2

Her name's Brunnhilda and she's got a goiter the size of a cantaloupe sticking out her neck. At first I was like, I can do better, but then I came around to thinking, you know what, I'm just a guard, somebody's probably going to kill me randomly at some point, so why not marry the goiter lady? She can actually use it to open bottles, so that's a bonus. And here's little Wulfgar – he's already learning to stab things like his old man, and here's the light of my life, little Brunnhilda junior. She's got the cauliflower ear.

SNOW WHITE

You'll never get away with this! Justice will be served! I'll let Belle know! And the King!

ELLIE

Yeah, somebody shut her up.

GUARD 2

Again, terribly sorry about this.

(GUARD 2 smacks her in the back of the head.)

SNOW WHITE

Ow.

GUARD 2

If you could pretend to be unconscious after I hit you that would be great.

(He hits her again.)

SNOW WHITE

Ow!

GUARD 2

You're ruining this!

SNOW WHITE

Oh I'm unconscious now!

Skipping Forward

(The CROWD carries a throne in. BELLE, ELLIE, and CINDERELLA enter and stand in different corners of the stage. The KING enters, with his assistant, SMEAGOL, a hunchback.)

SMEAGOL

Hear ye! Hear ye! The court of the king, your father, is now in session! Sit yourselves!

CINDERELLA

We don't have chairs.

SMEAGOL

Don't tell me your problems I don't have a spine.

KING

Well that was exciting today, wasn't it?

BELLE

Father, I think it's totally bogus that Ellie just beheaded my friend. I mean she just got here.

KING

Sweetheart, I love you, but remember, we're a family. And a family sticks together, even when one family member viciously murders another family member's friend. That's how it works. We will always be together. And nothing I could say would ever change that.

CINDERELLA

Of course, father.

ELLIE

You're absolutely right, Dad.

BELLE

Fine. I'll drop it. But can we at least take her head down from the spike?

ELLIE

Daddy –

KING

Yes, pumpkin?

ELLIE

I think if we take the head down from the spike the terrorists win.

KING

Yeah, you're probably right. Let's keep it up there.

ELLIE

You're the best!

BELLE

This is ridiculous.

ELLIE

Hey. You're hurting my feelings. Just be thankful we didn't split her open, take out her intestines and burn them in front of her.

NARRATOR 1

Again, things that actually happened during this time period.

CINDERELLA

Or we could have cut out her organs and then put them on four ships and sent them to the far reaches of the empire.

NARRATOR 2

Also stuff that happened. And not in Disney movies.

NARRATOR 1

You know, you think the English are harmless with those funny accents –

NARRATOR 2

Bloodthirsty psychopaths. Anyway -

KING

Now – I am a just and righteous King.

SMEAGOL

Yes you are sir.

KING

But I'm a little insecure with my feelings these days.

SMEAGOL

Totally understandable, completely logical situation.

KING

So – daughters… I'm about to split my kingdom in three parts, but one of you… is going to get this.

(He shows everybody the crown.)

EVERYONE

Oooooh!

KING

And also – one of you is going to get the best part of the kingdom – and the other two are going to get like the totally lame parts – soooo… the one who answers this question best gets the great part of England, and the crown, and you can do whatever you want with your other sisters. Also, I foresee no jealousy or problems with this.

CINDERELLA

This sounds like a great idea, Dad.

BELLE

I'm not really sure we should be doing this.

ELLIE

Does she lose? She loses right? It's over she lost.

KING

No hold on. So… the first question is…

(SMEAGOL starts a drum roll.)

We don't need the drum roll.

SMEAGOL

I thought it added drama and suspense.

KING

Oh yeah you're probably right. Carry on then.

(SMEAGOL does a very elaborate drum roll with cymbal-crashing and a drum solo in the middle of it. Then stops.)

Who loves me the most? And please be specific in your answer and feel free to compose a song off the top of your head. Cinderella, my oldest and meanest daughter, you first.

CINDERELLA

Thank you father. Or should I say "best father." You know there's a lot of types of love in the world. There's the love that a muskrat gives to another muskrat. There's the love that an egg gives to a mama bird. There's the love that a princess gives to her evil henchman. But, best of all these loves, is the father-daughter bond. Dad. Daddy. Papa Bear. I tattooed your face here on my arm. It hurt a lot but it was worth it. I love you like the…

(she takes out a sheet of paper where she has these written down)

I love you like the waves of the ocean love the fish.
I love you like the banana spider loves the bananas he's hiding upon.
I love you like the convicted felon loves his ex-wife.
I love you like the… I can't continue. These are too beautiful. I love you this much.

(She spreads her arms really wide.)

Also – your other two daughters are horrible human beings and they should be killed. Just sayin.

KING

Interesting. I'm glad that you learned to read Cinderella.

CINDERELLA

I learned a lot sleeping by the hearth.

KING

Okay – second daughter. The Snow Queen who in no way is an infringement of copyright seeing as how her origin story is public domain.

ELLIE

Thank you, Daddy.

(ELLIE has a hallmark card and is reading it out loud.)

When I think of you, Daddy, I think of Sundays grilling out hamburgers, and afternoons on the couch watching football –

KING

Did you just read that off that card?

ELLIE

Um… what?

KING

You just bought a hallmark card for this?

ELLIE

Uh… it actually perfectly captures what I wanted to say.

KING

That's just your Father's Day card from last year.

ELLIE

I WILL BURY THIS MAGIC KINGDOM IN AN ENDLESS WINTER!

KING

Oh stop it.

ELLIE

Sorry. Habit. Uh… well then I do an interpretative dance about how much I love you.

(ELLIE begins a rather sad interpretive dance.)

KING

Stop. Stop. Don't demean yourself by engaging in modern dance.

ELLIE

Sorry.

KING

Enough. My youngest and favorite daughter, Belle, how much do you love me?

BELLE

I guess a decent amount.

KING

What was that?

BELLE

I love you about as much as is proper for a daughter to love her father.

KING

Well hold on there. Did I mention that I'm going through a mid-life crisis right now and need some pretty serious validation and am really insecure about everything?

BELLE

Look, if you want butt-kissing, go to Cinderella –

CINDERELLA

Thank you.

BELLE

Or my other sister, Elsa –

ELLIE

Ellie. My name is Ellie.

BELLE

Right. The Snow Queen. Look, I'm cool, you're cool, let's just be cool together.

KING

That's not really what I'm looking for.

SMEAGOL

Princess! Consider you answer carefully! Your father loves you most of all, and he loves you so much that he's going to disinherit you if you don't fall to your knees and kiss the floor he walks on!

BELLE

Sorry. I've got self-respect.

KING

Very well! You are banished from my kingdom because I'm a great king!

BELLE

Dang it!

KING

Cinderella, other daughter, I'm splitting the kingdom in half between the two of you –

CINDERELLA

Yes! I shall initiate a reign of terror upon my kingdom! Peasants! You shall know your full measure of tears when my armies cross upon your land and lay waste to your pathetic lives! I will be worshipped like a God! I will also market my image on plastic cups.

ELLIE

And I shall reign in a kingdom of snow where everyone is forced to sing the same songs that I sing! You will never escape me! In your cars, at home, everywhere – your children will wake up in the morning with my song on their lips and you will be forced to make humiliating internet videos of yourselves singing along! I will also market my image on plastic cups.

KING

Welp, I'm done here. I'm going to travel the countryside like a peasant as the two of you tear apart my kingdom. Somehow I wish this could've all been avoided. But *someone* not naming names but her name rhymes with Hell – thought she was just too cool for Dad today. Oh well – the thousands of senseless deaths that will follow are on your head. Peace out.

(KING peaces out and leaves with Smeagol.)

CINDERELLA

Well uh – this has been great. I'm going to go to my own castle and raise an army. Just in case. Oh – Belle – maybe we can have a sleep-over tonight?

BELLE

No thanks.

ELLIE

I'm also going to head off for a little while, maybe build an ice castle, see what shakes out. Probably raise an army. Build some snowman giant legions, you know – some stuff that's been on my to-do list for a while.

CINDERELLA

Cool.

ELLIE

Cool.

CINDERELLA

Get her!

(BELLE runs off. The GUARDS chase after her.)

ELLIE

Dad's birthdays are always so eventful.

(PRINCE CHARMING enters.)

PRINCE CHARMING
Hey I'm late to the party did I miss anything?

CINDERELLA
Oh Prince! Remember when we danced together?

PRINCE CHARMING
Not ringing a bell.

CINDERELLA
You brought a shoe to my house, and then my sisters tried to trick you before my bird minions clawed out their eyes?

PRINCE CHARMING
Oh yes. I remember their horrible screams.

CINDERELLA
So – funny story – turns out I was a princess anyway.

ELLIE
From common stock. Cinderella came from common stock.

CINDERELLA
That just means I'm not stuck-up. Anyway, I noticed that you have a very large army at your service.

PRINCE CHARMING
I wouldn't say it's that large. It's probably average.

ELLIE
Don't listen to her – she's in love with her henchmen. Probably most of them.

CINDERELLA
I've got a castle somewhere around here – come on over, we can have some coffee, join forces to crush my sister – that sort of thing. Look at her – she says she doesn't even need a prince.

ELLIE
I don't need a stupid prince. I could use a prince who comes complete with his own army. Plus, I totally have magic powers.

CINDERELLA
My fairy Godmother would wipe the floor with you.

ELLIE
Where's your fairy Godmother now? You see her? I don't see her.

PRINCE CHARMING

Ladies. Ladies. Please. I will be happy to marry one of you once I've played the field for a while. Now if you'll excuse me, I'm going to go change into something a little more dashing.

(He exits.)

ELLIE and CINDERELLA

He's mine.

(Lights change.)

NARRATOR 2

It was a dangerous time for Belle. Her sisters' allies were everywhere.

(CINDERELLA has a walkie-talkie out.)

CINDERELLA

Big hot Mama to Alpha Team Bravo. Big Hot Mama to Alpha Team Bravo. Come in please.

(GUARD enters, with walkie-talkie.)

GUARD

Alpha Team Bravo here.

CINDERELLA

Time to bring in Little Bird. Repeat: Time to bring in little Bird.

GUARD

Ten Four.

(BELLE runs in, scared.)

BELLE

All right maybe I should have just told my Dad that I thought he was great. But come on – that was –

(GUARD and several other Guards surround her.)

GUARD

What's the matter, little girl?

(They take out swords.)

GUARD 2

I think it's time for Shish-ke-princess-bobs.

GUARD 3

With a little extra hot sauce on top of them.

GUARD 2

That didn't really help my metaphor, Bob.

Skipping Forward

Yes! It will be so wonderful here – plus we can wait out a siege and eat all the pets of the commonfolk when we begin to starve.

PRINCE CHARMING

I like your resourcefulness.

CINDERELLA

We're having most of the corgies fattened up as we speak. They're like little furry sausages.

PRINCE CHARMING

Perhaps I ought to go check on Ellie in her ice kingdom and see if she's changed her mind about needing a man.

CINDERELLA

Nonsense. You shall remain here with me. Mark my words, Prince, Cinderella does not intend to die. When the smoke clears I will be sitting on the throne and you shall be at my side.

PRINCE CHARMING

Isn't that the other way around?

CINDERELLA

Let's just remember whose name sells tickets to the movie, okay?

(The GUARDS rush in.)

GUARD

Your highness!

GUARD 2

It wasn't our fault!

GUARD 3

There were too many of them!

CINDERELLA

What are you talking about?

GUARD

French!

GUARD 2

They had pointy weapons!

GUARD 3

And they said mean things!

CINDERELLA

I thought I told you to bring me Belle's head in a box.

GUARD

Oh, um…

GUARD 3

Well we stopped off and killed a peasant that looked like Belle and then painted her hair brown, so we've got that for you –

(BLOOD PACKET GUY starts to enter, then pauses. Waits for it.)

GUARD 2

Barry, can I talk to you for a second?

GUARD 3

What?

GUARD 2

That was our plan to deceive Cinderella.

GUARD 3

Ohhhhh… Oh dang it. So we just killed that peasant for no reason then?

GUARD 2

Don't worry about it, this is a tragedy, life is cheap.

CINDERELLA

Where is she?

GUARD

She ran off with the French Crown prince to a castle to raise her own army to crush you.

CINDERELLA

Well now I'm having a bad day!

PRINCE CHARMING

Perhaps we ought to have a ball.

CINDERELLA

Is that all you think about? Listen to me you worms, I want her head on a plate, and I want it now!

GUARD

Yes, your highness.

(KING and SMEAGOL enter.)

KING

Hello? Hello there?!

CINDERELLA

Oh dash it all it's my father. Everybody look like we weren't plotting to kill Belle.

(Everyone tries to look like they weren't plotting to kill Belle.)

(CINDERELLA motions to BLOOD PACKET GUY, who leaves.)

GUARD 3

Lovely day for not murdering someone, isn't it?

KING

Hello there! Cinderella! My eldest daughter!

CINDERELLA

Father! What are you doing away from the castle? Air smooches!

(They give air smooches.)

KING

I've retired from being King and now I'm wandering the country like a beggar for no apparent reason.

SMEAGOL

It's a new thing we're trying.

KING

So I was figuring I could stay with you.

CINDERELLA

Oh. Oh sure. Yes. Um… here's the thing – I'm just so busy with work these days…

KING

That's okay, I'll just take up a wing of your castle. No worries.

CINDERELLA

Yeah. Um… about that… don't you think we would be tripping over each other all the time?

PRINCE CHARMING

Go home old man!

CINDERELLA

Charming, we're not going to act like that.

PRINCE CHARMING

Sorry. I was just vocalizing my innermost thoughts. I do that from time to time. I like bunnies!

KING

Do you mean to turn out your poor, dear father?

CINDERELLA

No, of course not! Of course not! But there's an Old Folks home called Shady Kingdom down the street that would be so much better for you. You know, your own place, with plenty of old person stuff for you to do. They have bingo on Saturday nights. Can you imagine the excitement of bingo?

KING

I don't want to go to the Old Folk's Home.

CINDERELLA

There's like two ladies for every man there. You would be a hot commodity, let me tell you. Plus, you still have your teeth. That's a bonus.

KING

Is it come to this? My eldest daughter refusing me entry into her castle and turning me out into the night? For the wolves?

CINDERELLA

There's no wolves there most days.

PRINCE CHARMING

The wolves have an all-you-can-eat buffet on Tuesday. So there are usually a lot of open spaces on Wednesday.

KING

This is how I'm treated after I've split the kingdom between you and your sister!

SMEAGOL

To be fair, your highness, you did sort of bring this on yourself.

KING

I don't pay you for telling the truth, Smeagol!

SMEAGOL

I don't recall getting paid, Sire.

KING

That's because I don't want to spoil you. Like the other people who eat things.

CINDERELLA

Let's just go check out Shady Kingdom together. Maybe they've got some movies on. You like Braveheart, right?

KING

I don't like Braveheart.

CINDERELLA

Well never mind. But there's probably some great mashed potatoes. I mean, think of English cuisine and then sand off the rough edges and make it a little more liquefied and that's what you're going to end up with there.

PRINCE CHARMING

I hear their sausage slushies are delightful. I like bunnies!

KING

No thanks! Let's get out of here Smeagol! Saddle up my horse!

SMEAGOL

You didn't bring one, sire.

KING

Well who planned this trip?!

SMEAGOL

There have been mistakes all round.

KING

Well you know what happens then.

SMEAGOL

Sire, really – I am a faithful servant, but –

KING

Giddyup!

(SMEAGOL bends over at the KING hops on his back.)

I want to see you canter! Canter, dang it!

SMEAGOL

Cantering, sire!

(SMEAGOL canters off with the KING on his back.)

PRINCE CHARMING

I love the elderly. They're so… spunky.

CINDERELLA

Quiet.

PRINCE CHARMING

I prefer your sister. Did I say that out loud?

(NARRATOR enters.)

NARRATOR 1

Meanwhile, in the northland, the Snow Queen was busing raising a gigantic, thousand-foot tall ice wall which is totally possible for medieval people to build.

(ELLIE enters and begins waving her arms and humming a song. In the middle of this, she lets her hair down.)

ELLIE

There, that ought to stop the hordes of zombies that are threatening England for no apparent reason. Now to deal with my wardrobe, because if there's one thing that I know as an independent woman, you gotta have an awesome dress.

(An Awesome dress is thrown in at her from off-stage.)

That's more like it. Okay, nothing to do now but wait until I starve to death in my kingdom of ice and snow. Winter. Is. Coming.

(She puts her feet up.)

Or I could raise an army and crush my sister to take the throne. That sounds good. Excuse me, could I have everyone out here please?

(SOLDIERS enter.)

Thank you. Thank you for coming today. First, I want to say that we're working on opening the public pool – at the moment we've got an issue with the pump, so that's causing it to back up a bit.

SOLDIER

What? When is the pool going to be ready!

ELLIE

Just calm down. We're working on it.

SOLDIER

I didn't sign up for this!

(SOLDIER tosses down his weapon and leaves.)

ELLIE

All right, anyway. Point two: We're going to sweep southward and destroy my evil sister Cinderella.

SOLDIER 2

Wait a minute – isn't she the one with evil sisters?

ELLIE

Those were evil stepsisters. And now, ironically, she has become an evil sister.

SOLDIER 3

I didn't sign up for irony!

ELLIE

Shush. Will you follow me!?

SOLDIER

The Queen in the North! The Queen in the North!

ALL SOLDIERS

The Queen in the North! The Queen in the North!

(They all raise their swords and cheer.)

ELLIE

Hey um… just gauging interest here – how do y'all feel about fighting next to an unstoppable horde of animated snowmen? Yes? No? Oh well. It was worth a try.

(Lights change to KING, riding on SMEAGOL.)

SMEAGOL

Sire, my back is really starting to hurt.

KING

That's funny, I didn't know horses could talk.

SMEAGOL

I have to stop here.

KING

All right. Dismount!

(He dismounts. SMEAGOL collapses.)

SMEAGOL

Are you sure that your other daughter who bears no resemblance to a copyrighted character has a castle up in these mountains?

KING

I'm always sure. Just like I was sure asking which daughter loved me most was a good idea.

SMEAGOL

Maybe you ought to rethink that one, your highness.

KING

Oh well I guess I'll just build a time machine and go back to the beginning of the play AND PREVENT MYSELF FROM DOING THAT! This isn't Harry Potter, Smeagol, we don't have the ability to do that. Wait! What's that?

(An ANIMATED SNOWMAN enters.)

ANIMATED SNOWMAN

Why hello there, I'm an animated Snowman who also bears no resemblance to a copyrighted –

KING

What witchery is this!? It's a white walker! Kill it!

SMEAGOL

Kill it!

(SMEAGOL draws his sword and stabs the SNOWMAN repeatedly.)

(BLOOD PACKET GUY comes out and raises his hands in the air, utterly confused.)

ANIMATED SNOWMAN

Hee hee! That tickles!

KING

Stab it!

SMEAGOL

I'm trying sire! It doesn't appear to have internal organs!

ANIMATED SNOWMAN

Anybody want a hug?

(ANIMATED SNOWMAN hugs SMEAGOL.)

SMEAGOL

It's got me! Tell my wife and children I love them!

KING

I don't know where they live!

SMEAGOL

They live in town somewhere! I largely abandoned them when I joined your service!

KING

Man, that's really tragic! You shouldn't have done that! You must have a lot of regrets!

SMEAGOL

I do! A really large number of regrets!

ANIMATED SNOWMAN

You smell like strawberries.

SMEAGOL

I think it's seducing me, sire!

KING

That's impossible!

ANIMATED SNOWMAN

Maybe some day we'll relax on the beach together and…

SMEAGOL

Kill it with fire! Kill it with fire!

(A torch is tossed in from off-stage and the KING snatches it. He holds it in front of SNOWMAN.)

ANIMATED SNOWMAN

Ooh pretty.

KING

Back to the hell from whence you came, demon!

(KING sets the torch on ANIMATED SNOMWAN, who dies slowly.)

ANIMATED SNOWMAN

I couuuuulllld havvvvvvve lovvvvvvvved youuuuuuuuuu….

(he dies.)

(BLOOD PACKET GUY runs up and makes sizzling and popping sounds as ANIMATED SNOWMAN dies. He pours a cup of water out.)

SMEAGOL

Thank you, sire.

KING

You now owe me your life.

SMEAGOL

Oh come on, are we really doing this now?

KING

I saved you. I own your soul now.

SMEAGOL

Does that mean what I think it does?

KING

Yup. Giddyup.

(SMEAGOL bends down again and the KING hops on.)

We're gonna try a trot now.

(ELLIE and SOLDIERS enter.)

ELLIE

Daddy?

KING

Pumpkin? Let me ride up and say hi!

SMEAGOL

Oh come on!
(SMEAGOL trots up to ELLIE.)

KING

Dismount!
(the KING dismounts. SMEAGOL collapses again.)

ELLIE

Air smooches!

KING

Air smooches!
(They air smooch.)
So what have you been up to?

ELLIE

Oh um… you know little things. Raising an army. Building my ice castle. Now I'm going to sweep southward with my friends here, set fire to most of England, and slaughter Cinderella like a fatted calf.

KING

You always did remind me of your mother.

ELLIE

You're welcome to join us, although I should add here that I've kind of abandoned all human emotion in my quest for ultimate power. So I may have to sacrifice you at some point.

KING

You know, Ellie, I realize that you think your sister has insulted your honor.

ELLIE

She will die by my blade.

KING

But you have just to… what's the word I'm looking for here… you know, kind of release the anger that you're feeling.

ELLIE

Don't say it.

KING

Skipping Forward

FRENCH PRINCE

Slowly.

FRENCH SOLDIER 3

Anyone here surprised our king is marrying a model?

BELLE

I'm not a model. I just look like one. Oh it's so good to be back in England where the weather is horrible.

FRENCH PRINCE

You know, we could just go home to my kingdom and rule a nice country together.

BELLE

No. My sisters are busy trying to carve this place up. I'm not going to let them. I love the common people too much.

(some PEASANTS enter.)

PEASANT

Look who it is!

PEASANT 2

It's Belle! It's Belle! Everyone it's Belle!

PEASANT

She's so peculiar.

BELLE

What was that?

PEASANT

I just find it odd that you like to read.

BELLE

Oh, I'm odd now, am I?

FRENCH KING

Honey, let it go.

(ELLIE darts in.)

ELLIE

No! No. That's my line.

FRENCH PRINCE

Sorry. I did not realize you had the copyright on that.

ELLIE

I do, okay. I do.

(ELLIE exits.)

BELLE

Quick question for you: can you read?

PEASANT

No, ma'am, like most peasants, I'm completely illiterate.

BELLE

Then shut your face.

PEASANT 2

Ha ha ha ha! She told you!

BELLE

I am the one true Queen! The other Queens are impostors!

PEASANT

Yes, your highness, anything you say, your highness.

PEASANT 2

I always thought she was crazy.

BELLE

Now look, you rabble are free to become a mob and pick up torches to join me.

PEASANT

Yes! Woo!

(PEASANT grabs a convenient torch and realizes he is the only one cheering.)

Oh wait – what's our rampaging mob going to be doing?

BELLE

I'll let you know when the time comes.

PEASANT 2

Woo! We'll be a mob!

(PEASANTS pick up torches and begin chanting.)

(PEASANT stops to cry.)

PEASANT 2

Are you all right?

PEASANT *(overcome with emotion)*

Well it's just… my high school guidance counselor told me I was never going to amount to anything – all I would be doing would be selling baguettes in some little provincial town, and now… look at me… I'm about to become a part of an angry mob.

PEASANT 2

Yeah.

PEASANT

Dare to dream. Dare to dream.

PEASANT 2

Let's go chase down someone who looks different and burn them.

PEASANT

I thought you'd never ask.
(The PEASANTS leave.)

FRENCH PRINCE

Belle, do you think it's wise to create an angry mob of peasants?

BELLE

Look, they're going to be an angry mob for me, or they're going to be angry mob for someone else. This way I can direct them where to go.

FRENCH PRINCE

I suppose.

BELLE

Plus, they don't stop for picnics like some soldiers I could mention.

FRENCH PRINCE

We live the good life. Even at war.
(A HERALD runs in.)

HERALD

I seek a parley with Belle!

FRENCH SOLDIER 1

Go right ahead. We're on break.

FRENCH SOLDIER 2

Would you like some cheese? We have some nice pairings here.

BELLE

I'm Belle. What is it you want?

HERALD

I bring an invitation to you!
(He hands it over.)

BELLE

Is it a peace treaty?

HERALD

Sort of.

BELLE

Cinderella and Prince Charming would like the pleasure of company at a ball being thrown in the Prince's honor. Oh a ball! I could wear that yellow dress you like so much.

FRENCH PRINCE

You wear that every three days.

BELLE

It looks nice on me. They're suggesting we lay down our arms and have a party for a little bit. You know what? That's a great idea.

FRENCH PRINCE

Very well.

BELLE

Ooh and it's got a theme color.
(She opens the invitation. It's red.)
Red. The Red Ball.

FRENCH PRINCE

That doesn't sound ominous at all.

BELLE

Charming throws the best parties.
(Lights down.)

(GAME of THRONES theme music.)

(End of act one.)

Act Two

(Theme music.)

NARRATOR 1

Now where were we?

(Theme music continues.)

(CINDERELLA stands apart, looking impressive. She holds up the sign that says "CINDERELLA.")

(CHARMING swoops in next to her with a sign that says "PRINCE CHARMING.")

(BELLE stands next to FRENCH PRINCE. She holds up a sign that says "BELLE." He holds up a sign that says "FRENCH DUDE.")

(ELLIE looks very cool. Multiple people are now blowing her hair in the breeze. She raises a sign that says "SNOW QUEEN." Raises a second sign that says "NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH" – Raises a third sign that says "COPYRIGHTED CHARACTER FROM RECENT MOVIE")

NARRATOR 2

Last time on Game of Tiaras.

(SNOW WHITE runs in with BLOOD PACKET GUY.)

(He attaches more streamers to her neck as she dies.)

NARRATOR 2

The Magical Kingdom was at war. Cinderella's forces, located in the west, were making for Bannockburn –

CINDERELLA

Did everyone go to the bathroom? We're not stopping on the way, so make sure you go now. All right – you were warned!

(CINDERELLA, CHARMING, and her GUARDS move in one direction. GUARD 3 raises his hand.)

GUARD 3

I'm gonna need a minute.

(CINDERELLA doesn't wait for him. GUARD 3 waits for a second, then hurries after.)

NARRATOR

The Snow Queen was descending from the north with her own force, and Belle, with a crack troop of French soldiers, was having a picnic. But very soon, very soon, her army would be moving northward when they felt like it and after they had had the proper cheeses. But there was

yet another aspirant for the crown, and at that very moment, she was coming ashore with her own force of impossibly awesome ninjas.

(OTHER PRINCESS 1 darts in with bow and arrow. She looks around, then motions, military-style for the others to follow her.)

(OTHER PRINCESS 2 and 3 enter, pulling a wagon. Inside the wagon, THE LITTLE MERMAID, in mermaid-form, is resting.)

OTHER PRINCESS 2

Can't you just turn back into your human form?

MERMAID

Sorry, I'm not able to just create the – what do you call them? Legs.

NARRATOR

That's right, because long ago, the King had had a "dalliance" with a mermaid –

(The KING enters, looking younger with a young GIRL.)

KING

I love you. Even though you can't speak.

(GIRL nods.)

If you want to get married to me, don't say anything.

(GIRL can't say anything.)

Awesome. You're the best girlfriend ever. I love how you listen.

(GIRL can't say anything.)

So I was thinking for our wedding that we could do like a heavy metal theme. Like, we could have the groomsmen dress up like Motley Crue, and then we'd have showgirls jump out of the cake. If you like that idea, don't say anything. This is going to be sweet!

(He takes GIRL off-stage.)

NARRATOR

Now, the wedding never happened –

(KING enters, alone.)

KING

Random girl whose name I don't know? Are you there? Noooo! Left at the altar! But she had the most awesome personality where she never said anything at all. Now I'm going to be insecure for the rest of my life! Well, I hope this won't have any negative repercussions on anything.

(KING leaves crying.)

NARRATOR

However, the Mermaid discovered, upon returning to her watery home, that she was… um… she was…

NARRATOR 2

She was about to lay eggs.

NARRATOR 1

Yes. Like all fish type creatures… she was about to lay eggs, which had been… hold on. So she's got like a fish tail, right?

NARRATOR 2

Yeah.

NARRATOR 1

So then… how do… how do fish make little fish?

(NARRATOR 2 produces a biology textbook.)

NARRATOR 2

Well in my biology textbook it says that… ew. Oh. Um… the female lays the eggs and then the male comes by and… oh yuck.

NARRATOR 1

So basically all male fish are deadbeat dads. And this new mermaid daughter was not in line for the throne because –

NARRATOR 2

She was illegitimate.

NARRATOR 1

Right.

NARRATOR 2

You see, in ancient times, Kings um… they liked to… explore their realms.

NARRATOR 1

Yes. They explored.

NARRATOR 2

And, as a result of their… explorations…

LITTLE MERMAID

All right half-sisters, let's go!

NARRATOR 2

Once again I would like to mention that History is totally inappropriate, by the way.

OTHER PRINCESS 1

Hey wait a minute, we just introduced you as a character, isn't it time for you to sing a song about what you want?

LITTLE MERMAID

Thanks for reminding me.

OTHER PRINCESS 2

Actually, I was going to sing a song about what I wanted.

OTHER PRINCESS 3

Whoah. Whoah. Hold on. Aren't we here to assassinate the other princesses so that you can be queen?

LITTLE MERMAID

That's what my song is about!

OTHER PRINCESS 3

Oh. Sorry.

(Music)

LITTLE MERMAID *(singing)*

LOOK AT MY FRIENDS
MAYBE THEY DIED
WHY WOULD YOU THINK I'D BE SATISFIED?
TO RULE A KINGDOM AT THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN?

LOOK AT THIS HAND MIGHTY AND STRONG
DON'T YOU THINK I'VE BEEN WAITING TOO LONG
TO TAKE MY RIGHTFUL PLACE - A PLACE ON THE THRONE

I'VE GOT SOLDIERS AND NINJAS TO HELP ME
I'VE GOT ARMIES JUST OFF THE SHORE
YOU WANT CATAPULTS? I'VE GOT TWENTY.
SO LET'S GO, LET'S RIDE, I WANT WAR

I WANT TO CRUSH MY SISTERS HEARTS
I WANT TO SEE – TO SEE EM HANGING
DANGLING BY THOSE – WHAT DO YOU CALL EM – OH HEADS
PLOTTING REVENGE YOU DON'T GET TOO FAR
YOU NEED TO ACT, NEED TO START BELLS CLANGING
MAYBE SLAUGHTER THEM IN THEIR – WHAT'S THAT WORD AGAIN - BEDS
UP HERE THEY'LL WALK
UP HERE THEY'LL RUN
UP HERE THEY'LL PERISH ALL FOR MY FUN
TAKE IT FROM ME
I'M GOING TO BE
QUEEN OF THE WORLD

WHAT WOULD I TRY
IF I COULD RISE OUT OF THESE WATERS

WHO WOULD I KILL
WHAT A THRILL
TO MAKE A STAND
I'LL TAKE THE LAND
CHOP OFF HANDS AND
SLAUGHTER MY FATHER'S DAUGHTERS
DEAD YOUNG LADIES
ENTER HADES
JUST LIKE I PLANNED

I'M READY TO CONQUER AND TAKE WHAT I WANT
TAKING THEIR CASTLES AND BURNING HAMLETS
SET THEM ON FIRE AND WATCH THEM WHAT'S THE WORD RUN
I AM THE ONE
I WANT TO RULE
APPLY THOSE THINGS I LEARNED IN QUEEN SCHOOL

OUT OF THE SEA
I'M GOING TO BE
QUEEN OF THE WORLD

OTHER PRINCESS 2

Okay, can I sing my song now? It's pretty awesome.

LITTLE MERMAID

No. We're going to get sued as it is.

OTHER PRINCESS 1

By the way, I just wanted to mention that it would be nice if we had something else we could do other than be your enforcers.

LITTLE MERMAID

Okay. Noted. Death to the humans.

OTHER PRINCESS 2

We're humans.

LITTLE MERMAID

Oh right. Time to make the other princesses… sleep with the fishes. Ha ha ha ha. See what I did there? That was a double entendre.

OTHER PRINCESS 3

Yeah I got it.

NARRATOR 1

Hey, by the way, is she the good guy?

NARRATOR 2

Oh no. No way.

NARRATOR 1

So is Ellie the good guy?

NARRATOR 2

Oh no. She's a heartless killing machine.

NARRATOR 1

So it's Belle then?

NARRATOR 2

Eh. She's allied herself with the French. I can't really root for her.

NARRATOR 1

So who's our main character?

NARRATOR 2

Um…

NARRATOR 1

This story seems like it's getting more and more complicated.

NARRATOR 2

Just wait till we get the sub-plot about the previous king's descendants, who are all currently hanging out Scotland just waiting for the chance to claim the throne.

NARRATOR 1

How is this possibly going to end?

NARRATOR 2

It's going to end badly. Now… let's forget about the mermaid's murderous mission for the moment and shift our gaze to Prince Charming's castle.

(The scene changes.)

(The RED BALL.)

NARRATOR 2

Now, the King declined to attend because he fell asleep in a ditch.

(KING falls asleep on the side of the stage. SMEAGOL is trying to wake him up.)

SMEAGOL

Your highness? Your highness? We're going to miss the party.

Skipping Forward

FRENCH PRINCE

Hello.

PRINCE CHARMING

Lovely meeting like this, isn't it?

FRENCH PRINCE

I believe so, yes.

PRINCE CHARMING

Sooo… I guess we're brothers in law.

FRENCH PRINCE

Yes.

PRINCE CHARMING

You ever fall in love at first sight?

FRENCH PRINCE

Oh definitely.

PRINCE CHARMING

Cool.

(ELLIE approaches BELLE.)

ELLIE

There you are! I heard you had gone to France and raised an army.

BELLE

Yes, it was a really great experience. I learned a lot about peasants and strategy and when to execute traitors.

ELLIE

Ugh. Tell me about it. Sometimes I get soldiers that just won't fight, you know?

BELLE

Right. What do you do then?

ELLIE

You know what works – you take their families hostage. Start doing some dismembering.

BELLE

Oh! I hadn't thought of that. That seems a little harsh.

ELLIE

Gotta break some eggs if you're going to be queen. Right? Gotta break some eggs. Am I right? Gotta break… some eggs.

(CINDERELLA approaches.)

CINDERELLA

Are you monopolizing Belle?

ELLIE

Oh I'm no I'm just talking to her as the tension mounts.

CINDERELLA

Oh yes. The tension. Shall we talk about the weather?

BELLE

I guess.

CINDERELLA

Oh it sure is a… stormy night tonight, right?

BELLE

I suppose.

ELLIE

Oh yes it is. So… stormy. As if… anything could happen at any moment and it would be a big… surprise.

CINDERELLA

Yes. A surprise.

ELLIE

A surprise.

CINDERELLA

Yes.

(Pause. They look at ELLIE.)

BELLE

Is something going on here?

CINDERELLA

Can we cue the ominous music please?

(OMINOUS music begins.)

BELLE

Hey that song reminds me of my mortal enemies for some reason.

CINDERELLA

Hug?

BELLE

What? Why would I hug you?

CINDERELLA

No reason.

ELLIE

Let's make it a group hug.

(They hug Belle.)

PRINCE CHARMING

You know what I love? Boiled cod with chips. Fantastic. You soak it in vinegar. Throw some salt on top. The best of English cuisine.

FRENCH PRINCE

I don't like your food. Roadkill is better than most of the food you eat.

PRINCE CHARMING

Oh sure… Road… Kill.

CINDERELLA

Let's dance! Come on everybody!

(CINDERELLA grabs PRINCE CHARMING and they begin to dance.)

Come on Belle!

(BELLE and the FRENCH PRINCE dance.)

(BLOOD PACKET GUY dances in.)

BELLE

Hey isn't that the - ?

CHARMING

Don't worry about it.

ELLIE

I'll just stand over here being feminist thanks.

(CINDERELLA and CHARMING separate. CINDERELLA taps on BELLE's shoulder.)

CINDERELLA

Mind if I… cut… in?

(FRENCH PRINCE dances with CINDERELLA.)

(CHARMING dances with BELLE.)

(CHARMING nods to GUARD. GUARD nods to GUARD 2.)
(GUARD 2 nods to GUARD 3.)
(CINDERELLA winks obviously at GUARD.)
(GUARD winks at GUARD 2, who is nodding at GUARD 3.)
(GUARD 2 and 3 wink at CINDERELLA.)
(ELLIE makes a little motion with her hand at GUARD.)
(GUARD winks, make a little motion with his hand, and nods at GUARD 3.)
(Everyone starts winking, motioning with their hands, and nodding at each other.)

FRENCH PRINCE

You dance so well. Wait a minute… are you wearing armor under your dress?

CINDERELLA

I need a lot of support.

ELLIE

Now!

(GUARD, GUARD 2, GUARD 3 draw swords simultaneously and stab FRENCH PRINCE.)

FRENCH PRINCE

Aaaah! It was a trap!

(They stab him over and over again.)
(BLOOD PACKET GUY has a great time with the FRENCH PRINCE. Blood everywhere. Lots of sound effects.)

(CINDERELLA and ELLIE draw swords and swing at BELLE, who ducks the swords.)

BELLE

My friends!

(FRENCH SOLDIERS charge in, weapons drawn.)

FRENCH SOLDIER

We are here to save –

FRENCH SOLIDER 2

Did someone bring the Brie?

FRENCH SOLDIER 3

I brought the baguettes. Who brought the cheese?

(GUARDS slaughter FRENCH SOLDIERS.)
(BLOOD PACKET GUY decorates them quickly. He's having a hard time keeping up.)

BELLE

Ahhh!

(CINDERELLA advances on her.)

CINDERELLA

I've been waiting for this.

PRINCE CHARMING

Allow me, milady, Prince Charming has always been good at slaying the ladies.
(He looks for applause)
Get it? Get it? I'm equating slaying with -

CINDERELLA

Not this time, Charming.
(She shoves him out of the way.)

BELLE

So it's a fair fight you want? I mean, now it's a fair fight after you tricked me and killed everyone following me. Now it's fair?

CINDERELLA

Oh wait I'm doing this wrong. I didn't say fair.
(GUARDS draw their weapons. ELLIE draws her sword as well.)
How bout we do it like this?
(Everyone attacks BELLE at once.)

BELLE

Ellie! Ellie! Please! We're sisters! We're supposed to love each other! Let's build a snowman or something!

ELLIE

Shut up! Daddy always loved you best!
(Swordfight between ELLIE and BELLE.)

BELLE

Come on. Let it go!
(ELLIE sees red.)

ELLIE

NOW YOU DIE!
(CINDERELLA joins in.)

CINDERELLA

This is a dream my heart makes!
(CINDERELLA stabs BELLE. A hit!)

BELLE

Aaaaah!

(BLOOD PACKET guy attaches one red streamer to her.)

ELLIE

Now you're a fixer-upper!
(ELLIE stabs BELLE again.)
(Another red streamer.)

CINDERELLA

And you forgot my birthday this year!
(Stabs her.)
(Another red streamer.)

ELLIE

And we don't like brunettes!
(Stabs her.)
(Another red streamer.)

CINDERELLA

How bout looking past this appearance!
(Stabs her.)
(Another red streamer.)

BELLE

Ohh… y'all are a bunch of losers… aaahhhh…
(BELLE collapses.)

CINDERELLA

Is she alive?

ELLIE

Barely. I'll take her prisoner.

CINDERELLA

Um… no. Then I'm forced to clean up the party.

ELLIE

Your friends made the mess.

CINDERELLA

You had fun at the party too.

ELLIE

It's *your* party! It's *your* responsibility to clean it up!

CINDERELLA

You always do this cause you're spoiled!

ELLIE

Oh I'm spoiled! I do my magic myself! I don't have to have someone else come in and do it for me!

CINDERELLA

Cause you're a freak!

PRINCE CHARMING

Ladies. Ladies. Please. We have servants for this sort of thing. They'll clean up.
(The GUARDS have left.)

CINDERELLA

Wait a minute. I think I got this.
(She calls out.)
Oh animal friends! Animals friends!

NARRATOR 1

And from every corner of the forest came chipmunks and squirrels and birds and bunnies –

PRINCE CHARMING

I love bunnies!

NARRATOR 1

And while the adorable forest creatures lapped up the pools of blood on the ground, the birds carried off the dead bodies… This is from English History?

NARRATOR 2

We're elaborating.
(KING enters.)

KING

Oh I just woke up what did I miss?

CINDERELLA

Um… We killed the French and then we took Belle prisoner.

KING

Man. I sleep through everything these days.
(KING exits.)

ELLIE

And now we can get to the real showdown.
(ELLIE draws her sword on CINDERELLA.)

CINDERELLA

I live to fight another day! Come on Prince Charming!
(CHARMING watches her go.)

PRINCE CHARMING
Yeah I'm just gonna… She's just so much more modern and… I'm kind of into bossy women.

ELLIE
Good. Come with me.

PRINCE CHARMING
Yes, Ma'am.
(They exit.)

(The prison. KING and SMEAGOL enter.)

(BELLE is chained to the wall, or has a ball and chain around her ankle.)

KING
Belle. Oh Belle. Has it come to this?

BELLE
Father? Is that you?

KING
It's me.

BELLE
I need to tell you something…

KING
What is it darling?

BELLE
You're a total jerk and this is entirely your fault.

SMEAGOL
That's what I've been trying to tell him.

KING
Clearly, being imprisoned has broken your spirit.

BELLE
Nope.

KING
Ellie will listen to me. I'll convince her that you shouldn't be executed.

BELLE

She's going to execute me?

KING

Oh. Oh sorry. Spoiler alert.

BELLE

You can't say spoiler alert after you've already said the spoiler!

KING

Yeah – she thinks you're too dangerous to live and wants to see you dead.

BELLE

But we're sisters! We have a very special bond!

SMEAGOL

I wouldn't really count on that.

BELLE

Wait a minute – I know what can save me. One act of true love. If there's something you can do –

KING

Wait, wait, hold on.
(He takes out the program for the show.)
See here?

BELLE

Where?

KING

Tragedy. This is a tragedy.

BELLE

But you're the main character, right?

KING

Sort of.

BELLE

That means you're the one who's gonna die at the end. I still might make it.

SMEAGOL

She's got a point there, sire.

KING

I'll talk to Ellie. Does anybody happen to know any trolls? She'd totally listen to those freaky dudes. Smeagol, you know the drill.

SMEAGOL

We're in the dungeon, sire.

KING

Yeah, and I also saved your life. I'm riding out of here.

SMEAGOL

Hop on, sire.

KING

Let's ride!

(He spurs SMEAGOL on. They exit.)

(PRINCE CHARMING enters.)

CHARMING

I thought your father would never leave.

BELLE

Charming? What are you doing here?

CHARMING

I think it's about time for my evil villain monologue, don't you think?

BELLE

This is Shakespeare. You don't get an evil villain monologue.

CHARMING

I'm pretty sure Shakespeare invented the evil villain monologue. Now keep quiet or I'll be forced to kiss you.

(He takes out a parchment.)

So, Cinderella, you realize my plan at last.

BELLE

I'm Belle.

CHARMING

Oh, sorry.

(He takes out a second piece of parchment.)

So, Ellie, you realize my – oh wait.

(He takes out a third piece of parchment.)

Here we go. By now my plan is only dimly visible to you. Who is my enemy? Why are they trying to kill me? These are the questions that will still be going through your head tomorrow, as your body hangs from the gallows. Now, you might just think that you're pure of heart and that will save you. Oh no, my dear. Pure of heart saves no one. You see, your two sisters believe that the crown exists for them, but they're going to be in for such a shock when they realize it's their husband who will wield the power. And if they aren't willing to share, well, I've got plans for that too. After the wedding there will of course be many, many sad people. But that's how the game is played, isn't it? Enjoy your time in the darkness.

(he looks at his paper again.)

And then I put some space in here for improv-ing a few lines if I felt like it. But I'm just going to practice my smug evil laugh. Heh heh heh heh. Your head's going to be very pretty on a spike. It'll be the cutest one since I put Snow White's up there.

(He exits.)

BELLE

This is such a bummer.

(Darkness descends on her.)

(Something bright is coming her way.)

(TALKING CANDLE MAN enters.)

TALKING CANDLE MAN

Bonjour Cherie!

BELLE

Talking Candle Man who in no way resembles a copyrighted piece of intellectual property!

TALKING CANDLE MAN

Ah yes! It is I! And even though I am a talking candle I'm sure that I can –

(PRINCE CHARMING stabs him in the back.)

Urk.

(BLOOD PACKET GUY looks at TALKING CANDLE MAN and is unsure of what to do.)

BLOOD PACKET GUY

Blood, I guess.

(TALKING CANDLE MAN dies.)

PRINCE CHARMING

Oh. One more thing. Don't try to escape. I'm going to enjoy killing all the animated characters that try to save you. Oh dear. I believe he's been… snuffed. Or as they say in France, snoofed.

(He exits.)

By the way in case you're wondering I'm going to be standing over here in the dark with my sword drawn for quite a while.

(TALKING TEAPOT LADY begins to enter from off-stage.)

TALKING TEAPOT LADY

Bounjour Cherie! Aaaaaaaah!

(CHARMING stabs her too. She's dragged off.)

NARRATOR 1

Meanwhile, at Cinderella's castle.

(OTHER PRINCESS 1 darts in. She motions for the OTHER PRINCESSES to follow. They all run in.)

OTHER PRINCESS 1

You guys. You forgot something.

OTHER PRINCESS 2

Oh. Dang it.

(OTHER PRINCESS 2 and 3 run back and bring in a wheeled cart with a large bucket. The MERMAID sits in it.)

LITTLE MERMAID

Thank you. Does anyone mind spooning water on me? If I dry up, I'm going to be toast.

(OTHER PRINCESS 3 takes out a cup.)

OTHER PRINCESS 3

I've got the salt mixture in here just like you like it.

LITTLE MERMAID

Thank you. Ohhhh yeah. That's the stuff.

OTHER PRINCESS 3

Now that we have this time alone I was thinking that we should share our dreams.

LITTLE MERMAID

I shared my dream to take control of my father's kingdom in my last solo.

OTHER PRINCESS 3

I know. I was thinking that I could have a solo.

LITTLE MERMAID

Don't be ridiculous, you're not even a named character.

OTHER PRINCESS 3

But I could be named. You see… I wasn't always known as Other Princess number 3. I once had my own kingdom.

(music)

YOU THINK I'M A SUPPORTING CHARACTER
AND YOUR MOVIE GROSSED MUCH HIGHER SO IT MUST BE SO
BUT STILL I DON'T BELIEVE

Skipping Forward

OTHER PRINCESS 3

Looks more like halibut to me.

OTHER PRINCESS 1

Let me take care of this traitor, your highness.

LITTLE MERMAID

Please do, I'm feeling kind of upset now.

OTHER PRINCESS 3

You think you can take me?

OTHER PRINCESS

I'm gonna show you a whole new world of pain.

OTHER PRINCESS 3

Your little genie ain't here, sweetheart. It's just you and me. And those three other guys behind you.

(OTHER PRINCESS 1 turns around.)

OTHER PRINCESS 1

What?

(OTHER PRINCESS 3 stabs her in the back.)
(BLOOD PACKET GUY attaches a red streamer to her.)

OTHER PRINCESS 3

Oh. Oh that looked like it hurt.

LITTLE MERMAID

Whatever Cinderella's paying you, I'll double it. I've got whozits and whatsits galore. You want thingamabobs?

OTHER PRINCESS 3

Why would I want thingamabobs?

LITTLE MERMAID

I've got twenty. You can have nineteen of them. Seriously. Just leave me one cause I'm kind of crazy about my thingamabobs.

OTHER PRINCESS 3

Afraid not, fish lady. I've got direct orders from Cinderella. It's time for a Friday night Fish Fry. Come on Blood Packet Guy. We're going to be needing you.

(BLOOD PACKET GUY approaches MERMAID.)

NARRATOR 1

And meanwhile, on the field of battle -

NARRATOR 2

Whoah whoah what happened to the little mermaid?

NARRATOR 1

It's a cliff-hanger. We're leaving it there. This play is full of them.

NARRATOR 2

But we don't see what happens to her –

NARRATOR 1

Oh we'll get there. Now it's time for the war scene!

(CINDERELLA enters on one side of the stage with her three GUARDS.)

(ELLIE enters opposite with her three SOLDIERS.)

(BLOOD PACKET GUY enters upstage center. He's got all the blood streamers ready. He stretches out as the narrators go through the next part.)

(Every time someone is about to be hit, BLOOD PACKET GUY runs in and gets in position.)

NARRATOR 1

Two vast armies watched each other across an open plain.

NARRATOR 2

We need a bigger cast.

NARRATOR 1

We'll just do this Shakespearean style.

NARRATOR 2

How does that work?

NARRATOR 1

People run off and on and swing swords at each other and say things like "I am for you."

NARRATOR 2

Oh.

NARRATOR 1

And the great battle began!

(GUARDS and SOLDIERS begins running around.)

GUARD

I am for you!

SOLDIER

No I am for you!

(SOLDIER runs away from GUARD.)

(GUARD 2 runs on.)

GUARD 2

It looks like it's you and me, pal.

SOLDIER 2

Yeah. Yeah so it does.

GUARD 2

By the way, can I just – I've some great photos of my kids here – do you mind?

SOLDIER 2

No! Not at all.

(GUARD 2 shows photos to SOLDIER 2.)

Oh they're adorable.

GUARD 2

Yeah. Oh yeah.

SOLDIER 2

I don't normally do this in a war, but –

(SOLDIER 2 takes out his photos on his iPhone.)

GUARD 2

Let me see, let me see. Oh yes. Yes. Your wife is totally hot.

SOLDIER 2

Hey!

(BLOOD PACKET GUY approaches. He's ready if this turns south.)

GUARD 2

It was a compliment!

SOLDIER 2

That's a little odd compliment I gotta tell you.

GUARD 2

And your daughters are just lovely.

SOLDIER 2

They are. They are lovely.

(GUARD 3 runs in.)

GUARD 3

We are being defeated! Get to your position!

GUARD 2

Duty calls.

SOLDIER 2

Hey. Here's my card. Are you on Linkedin?

GUARD 2

Yeah. Can I just send you a text with my info?

SOLDIER 2

Great idea.

(GUARD 2 takes out his phone. SOLDIER 3 runs in.)

SOLDIER 3

I am for you!

GUARD 3

And I am for you!

(GUARD 3 and SOLDIER 3 fight while GUARD 2 and SOLDIER 2 continue to exchange info.)

(SOLDIER 3 is hit.)

BLOOD PACKET GUY

Yes!

(BLOOD PACKET GUY attaches a streamer.)

SOLDIER 3

Ah! I'm hit! Help me!

SOLDIER 2

Hold on, I'm trying to get this to work. It's hard to get a signal on the battlefield.

GUARD 2

Is that running on Windows?

SOLDIER 2

Yeah.

GUARD 2

Oh man I'm sorry.

SOLDIER 3

Avenge… me…

(SOLDIER 3 dies.)

(ELLIE enters with sword. CINDERELLA enters opposite.)

ELLIE

Hello there sister.

(GUARD runs at her.)

GUARD

I am for you!

(ELLIE kills him with one blow.)
(BLOOD PACKET GUY leaps in.)

ELLIE

Oh come on I'm a main character.

CINDERELLA

Well, sister, it's time for the climactic sword fight.

ELLIE

I've been waiting for this.

CINDERELLA

Me too.

(They fight.)

ELLIE

No clever wordplay?

(CINDERELLA takes out her pocket edition of King Lear.)

CINDERELLA *(recites a line)*

Despite thy victor sword and thy fire-new fortune
Thy valor, and thy heart, thou art a traitor –
False to thy gods, thy sister, and thy father.

ELLIE

Two can play at that game.

(ELLIE takes out her own version of King Lear.)

A most toad-spotted traitor. Say thou no,
This sword, this arm, and my best spirits are bent
To prove upon thy heart, whereto I speak,
Thou liest.

CINDERELLA

Oh yeah?

(CINDERELLA recites another line.)

Back do I toss those treasons to thy head,
With the hell-hated lie o'erwhelm my heart,
Which – for they yet glance and scarcely bruise –
This sword of mine shall give them instant way,
Where they shall rest forever.

ELLIE

What the heck does that mean?

CINDERELLA

Not sure. I think I hate you.

(They fight again. PRINCE CHARMING rushes in.)

SOLDIER

I am for you.

PRINCE CHARMING

Oh stop it. Ladies! Please! All this fighting over me?

CINDERELLA

No we're fighting over the kingdom.

ELLIE

That is so sexist to think that we're fighting over a man. We're actually engaged in a conquest here to monopolize the resources of this island.

PRINCE CHARMING

But don't you believe in what we had? True love?

ELLIE

You know I don't believe in true love. I'm only marrying you because it would form a mutually advantageous alliance and allow me to consolidate my territorial holdings. Also, you have a number of secondary alliances with lords and their attendant soldiers, so I would be able to control a vastly larger force through our marriage.

PRINCE CHARMING

Huh.

ELLIE

Believe me, I was only thinking of geo-political ramifications the entire time.

NARRATOR 1

And once again our take is one hundred times more accurate than any Disney movie!

CINDERELLA

Wait a minute! Charming! We had a dance together! You said you loved me! My foot fit in the dang shoe!

PRINCE CHARMING

Honey, what we had is very special to me, but Ellie has… larger land holdings in the north.

CINDERELLA

I have land holdings too!

PRINCE CHARMING

Yeah, but they're… they're not very well-defended.

CINDERELLA

Oh come on those were just rumors!

PRINCE CHARMING

Little too much love at first sight for me. Ellie… will you marry me? Think of the geo-political ramifications.

ELLIE

That's all I've ever think about Charming.

CINDERELLA

Oh come on! She's cold as ice!

PRINCE CHARMING

We can have a thing on the side, don't worry.

ELLIE

All right let's do this.

CINDERELLA

I'm not done trying to stab you!

(GUARD 2 and SOLDIER 2 approach.)

GUARD 2

Hey! Let them have their moment.

SOLDIER 2

Yeah. It's beautiful.

GUARD 2

I thought so too, Chad.

SOLDIER 2

If I cry, will you hold me?

GUARD 2

Always.

PRINCE CHARMING

Hey is anyone here a priest?
(SOLDIER 3 raises his hand.)

SOLDIER 3

I'm a priest on weekends.

PRINCE CHARMING

Good enough for me. It's time for another wedding!

ELLIE

Yes!
(Everyone gathers on stage, brings out tables and chairs.)
Could someone remove the bodies please?
(The bodies of the fallen are dragged off.)

CINDERELLA

You know who would really love this wedding? Dad.

PRINCE CHARMING

Oh he's busy comforting Belle before I have her executed.

ELLIE

He always loved her best. He's gonna be so sad when we hang her.

PRINCE CHARMING

I thought we were going to cut her head off.

ELLIE

We already did that once in this show. Variety is so nice.

CINDERELLA

Hanging is so much more picturesque. I think that's the way Belle would like it.

ELLIE

Honey, we talked about this. I get to say how my sisters are executed.

PRINCE CHARMING

I wish you wouldn't do that in front of our friends. It makes me feel emasculated.

ELLIE

Oh `it makes me feel emasculated' I don't care. Suck it up.

PRINCE CHARMING

Can I talk to you over here for a second?

ELLIE

No. If you have a problem with the way I execute my sisters, then you can say it in front of everyone. If not, shut your mouth, get up here to the altar, and marry me.

(Pause.)

PRINCE CHARMING

All right.

CINDERELLA

You're just gonna let her walk all over you like that?

SOLDIER 3

Ahem. Can we do this thing?

ELLIE

Yes.

(SOLDIER 3 takes out a sermon.)

SOLDIER 3

Allow me to read from my sermon on love.

PRINCE CHARMING

You have that on you?

SOLDIER 3

It's an emergency sermon.

(He clears his throat.)

Marriage. Love. True love. When I think of marriage, I'm reminded of my best friend Barney. He was such a happy guy. Before. You should've seen him. Running around. Laughing. Joking. Making rude noises with his hand in his armpit. Kinda sounded like someone passing gas, but it was really just him squeezing his hand in there. It was… it changed my life. He changed my life. So talented. And then he got married.

(he starts to tear up.)

I saw Barney about three years later and I said Barney – do the thing and he said… I'm sorry I'm having a hard time continuing this story – give me a second – he said he couldn't make the farting noise anymore because *she* didn't think it was worthy of him. I hate that woman. It's like she took an angel and she tore off his wings. Rip. No more armpit noise. So I said, "who are you?" and he said, "I don't know man…. I don't know."

(he gestures at CHARMING and ELLIE)

So now you two are gonna do it. Who cares? Whatever. I can't stop ya. Do you?

PRINCE CHARMING

Yes.

SOLDIER 3

Do you?

ELLIE

Yes.

SOLDIER 3

All right, you're married.

CINDERELLA

I propose a toast.

ELLIE

We don't have glasses.

CINDERELLA

Oh. Um… can we get some props please?

(other actors run out with glasses and hand them to everyone.)

Okay – and as we all raise our unpoisoned glasses to the sky, I wish you both the best.

(Everyone drinks except for ELLIE.)

ELLIE

Oh you thought you'd get me, didn't you? You thought you would poison my cup! I know how this works! I know that weddings are deadlier than battles! You won't get me that easily, Cinderella!

CINDERELLA

Please, sister, I wouldn't even think of poisoning you, that's ridiculous. We're…

(she starts coughing)

I mean… who would think… there would be…

(she starts coughing a lot and falling down)

Poison…

(CINDERELLA collapses.)

ELLIE

She's dead. The war is over!

(Everyone cheers.)

CINDERELLA

Ha ha ha ha ha ha oh man I kill me! I'm just kidding! There was no poison at all. I'm totally sentimental about weddings.

ELLIE

You got me there sister. Urrrrrrk…

(ELLIE clutches her stomach.)

Oh dang it…

(She dies.)

CINDERELLA

Ellie? Ellie are you faking it?

PRINCE CHARMING

Her, never!

(CINDERELLA kicks ELLIE's body.)

CINDERELLA

You sure you're dead?

PRINCE CHARMING

She's dead!

SOLDIER 3

But she didn't drink anything, how could she be poisoned?

(OTHER PRINCESS 3 enters, with MERMAID in a large bucket.)

LITTLE MERMAID

There's more than one way to poison a glass. For instance, the poison of the pufferfish is so deadly that just lightly coating the stem of a glass with kill a princess within a few minutes.

CINDERELLA

The Little Mermaid!

LITTLE MERMAID

The same!

CINDERELLA

I thought I had you killed!

End of Excerpt.
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