



# **Beauty & the Beast**

**A Traditional Family Pantomime by Brian Luff**

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## **Beauty & the Beast**

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### CAST OF CHARACTERS

Beauty - The Heroine

The Beast / Leopold - a prince.

Dame Peekaboo - The Cook

Lampard – Dame Peekaboo’s pet sheep.

Elvinia - A wicked fairy

Aurora - A good fairy

Tom Goodenough – Beauty’s Father

Bernice )  
          ) Beauty’s sisters  
Denise )

Bertie Piddle-Hinton )  
                                  ) A pair of hopeless aristocrats  
Aubrey Huffington )

Bernard - The Beast’s Butler

Mrs Pickles – The Beast’s servant

Chives – Goodenough’s housekeeper.

*Plus, a chorus of fairies, townspeople, children, party guests and castle guards.*

## SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

### ACT ONE

Scene One - Beauty's House.

Scene Two - Fairyland

Scene Three – Beauty's House.

Scene Four – Beauty's Garden

Scene Five – The Grounds of the Beast's Castle

Scene Six – Beauty's House.

Scene Seven - The Beast's Castle

### ACT TWO

Scene One - The Ballroom

Scene Two - Fairyland

Scene Three - The Ballroom

Scene Four - A Country Lane

Scene Five - Beauty's Cottage

Scene Six - A Country Lane

Scene Seven - The Beast's Castle

## ACT ONE

### Scene 1

*Elvinia enters on tabs, accompanied by evil-sounding, discordant music An eerie, green light floods the stage.*

**Elvinia** *(To audience)* Welcome, one and all, to our pantomime. I'm Elvinia. Some people call me a “wicked” fairy but I don't really think that does me justice. I am actually the nastiest, naughtiest, most vicious and mischievous fairy in all the land.

**Audience** Boooooo!

**Elvinia** *(To audience)* Boo me all you like! Do you think I care? I love it! I drink it up like nectar. Your displeasure invigorates me and makes me stronger.

*Elvinia stretches out her arms as if ready to cast a spell.*

**Elvinia** *(Evil laugh)* Ah, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha! Ah, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!

*She walks downstage and chats to the audience.*

**Elvinia** I think that's enough evil laughing for the time being. Between you and me it kills my throat. Right, *(clap)* on with the plot. I have an important announcement to make. I have decided to get married again! All my previous husbands met with... unfortunate accidents. One fell in a river, one fell down a well, and the other one was poisoned, strangled and then he jumped out of a window. Of course, none of these accidents were anything to do with me. I just collected the life insurance and moved on. But there is still nothing I like better than the sound of wedding bells. So, I've already decided who my next husband is going to be. He's very rich, he's very handsome, and he is extremely eligible. The only problem is, he doesn't yet know that I exist. But fear not, I shall bewitch him with my beauty...

*The lights change to a normal daylight setting. Enter Prince Leopold.*

**Elvinia** Here he comes now. *(To Leopold)* Excuse, me...

**Leopold** Yes?

**Elvinia** Have you got a moment?

**Leopold** I am quite busy.

**Elvinia** My name is Elvinia.

**Leopold** Charmed, I'm sure.

**Elvinia** I was just wondering if you would like to marry me.

**Leopold** Marry you?

**Elvinia** Yes.

**Leopold** Of course I don't want to marry you. We literally only met three seconds ago! And in any case, you look to me like a wicked fairy!

**Elvinia** How dare you.

**Leopold** Just sayin'

**Elvinia** Have you ever heard of "Married at First Sight"?

**Leopold** What's that?

**Elvinia** A television show.

**Leopold** What's "television"?

**Elvinia** *(To audience)* Oh dear, I completely forgot. The year is 1750 and it's still the olden days.

**Leopold** Go away and leave me alone.

*Elvinia grabs the prince and talks to him nose to nose.*

**Elvinia** Look into my eyes! Are they not like bottomless pools of deep blue, tranquil water?

**Leopold** Actually they look a bit bloodshot.

**Elvinia** Bloodshot?

**Leopold** Yes. Bloodshot and a bit... puffy round the edges.

**Elvinia** I am losing my patience with you, Prince Leopold.

**Leopold** How do you know my name?

**Elvinia** I've been stalking you on social media.

**Leopold** I'd rather die than marry you, you old witch!

**Elvinia** I am not a witch! I'm an evil fairy!

**Leopold** Same difference! If you don't leave me alone I shall call the castle guards and have you thrown into jail.

*She grabs him again.*

**Elvinia** Now you listen to me. I'll give you one last chance, lover boy. Agree to marry me or I will... cast a spell.

**Leopold** I'm not afraid of your silly spells! There is no such thing as magic.

**Elvinia** Then you leave me no choice. I shall place a curse on you.

**Leopold** A curse?

**Elvinia** Yes!

**Leopold** Do your worst!

**Elvinia** *(To Leopold)* Right! You asked for it. *(Rolling up her sleeves)* Bear with me everyone, this next bit has to rhyme. Which can be quite tricky.

*Thunder and lightning.*

“As I command this thunderstorm,  
Your face so fair I shall transform.  
Those noble cheekbones will revert,  
An elegant profile I'll convert.

Your handsome features will stagnate,  
That stately chin will trans-mutate.  
At once, you'll feel your fine looks cease,  
I'll turn you now from man to beast!”

**Leopold** What's happening?

**Elvinia** Hold on, I haven't finished yet...

“Your privileged life will disappear,  
When folks see you they'll quake with fear,  
You shall be stuck like that for life,  
And wish you'd taken me for your wife!”

*Elvinia waves her arms to cast the spell. There is a final crash of thunder and lightning.*

*Blackout. Leopold exits. The good fairy Aurora plods on.*

**Aurora** *(To audience)* Oh, for heaven's sake! That Elvinia just gets worse and worse. She really is the nastiest fairy in the kingdom. But, as I'm sure you boys and girls will know, for every bad fairy there is a good fairy. And that's where I come in. I am Aurora - the fairy of all things delightful, delectable and enchanting. Butter would not melt in my mouth. *(Aside)* Or, indeed, any other kind of dairy spread or butter substitute. If Elvinia really has succeeded in turning that poor prince into a hideous beast, then I'll need to come up with a plan to save him. And luckily, good fairies are just as powerful as bad fairies. I'll go and look up some really good magic spells and I'll get back to you later. In the meantime, you can drop in on a party. It's a birthday party for the most popular girl in all the land. I'm sure you will not be surprised to hear that her name is... Beauty.

*Aurora exits. Tabs open to reveal Beauty's House, decorated for a party.*

### Song 1

*The party guests sing and dance a big opening number. Enter Beauty and her father Tom Goodenough who join in with the song. At the end of the song...*

**Beauty** What a wonderful party! Thank you so much for organising it for me, father.

**Goodenough** Nothing is too good for my little girl. *(Sadly)* I only wish your mother could have been here to see it.

**Beauty** Yes, where is mother?

**Goodenough** She's living in Bognor Regis with a plastic surgeon.

*Enter Goodenough's servant Chives.*

**Chives** *(To Goodenough)*. Excuse me sir, there are two young gentlemen here to see you.

**Goodenough** Mm. They're probably trying to gate-crash the party. Tell them to go away.

**Chives** They are very insistent, sir.

**Goodenough** Oh, very well, send them in. *(To Beauty)* I'm guessing they're going to ask me for your hand in marriage.

**Beauty** What, *both* of them?

**Goodenough** Beauty, you are a victim of your own success. News of your loveliness has travelled far and wide.

*Beauty's sisters Bernice and Denise enter. Beauty and Goodenough walk upstage to chat with the party guests.*



**Chives** (*To the audience*) Look out, it's the ugly sisters. They're in the wrong panto, but no-one has noticed yet.

*Chives exits.*

**Bernice** Stand aside, peasants.

**Denise** Make way for Britain's Next Top Model.

**Bernice** That's me.

**Denise** No, that's definitely me!

**Bernice** I'm Bernice.

**Denise** And I'm Denise.

**Bernice** Together we are...

**Bernice/Denise** (*Together*) Bernice & Denise.

**Bernice** We are known around here as "the party animals."

**Denise** We get invites to everything! Opening nights...

**Bernice** Closing nights...

**Denise** Tea parties...

**Bernice** Ski parties...

**Denise** Last week we got an invite to the opening of an envelope.

**Bernice** Pool parties...

**Denise** April Fool parties...

**Bernice** Baby showers, after hours....

**Denise** Graduations, celebrations.... and of course... soirées.

**Bernice** That's French, that is.

**Denise** But of course we don't get invited to half as many parties as our step-sister Beauty.

**Bernice** No! She is little-miss popular pants.

**Denise** She gets sack-loads of invitations every day.

**Bernice** And she gets about 20 proposals of marriage every week.

**Denise** All from posh, rich suitors.

**Bernice** I like a posh, rich suitor.

**Denise** So do I, Bernice.

**Bernice** But we're not bitter, are we Denise?

**Denise** No! Not bitter at all.

*Beauty walks over to her step-sisters.*

**Beauty** Hello Bernice, hello Denise. How nice of you to come to my party.

**Bernice** Well, we didn't have much choice, did we?

**Denise** Father said we had to come or he'd stop our allowance.

**Bernice** Who are those two gorgeous men waiting outside?

**Beauty** They've come to ask for my hand.

**Bernice** We'd give them more than our hands, wouldn't we Denise?

**Denise** Too right. They could have our heads, shoulders, knees and toes.

**Bernice** And eyes and ears and mouth and nose.

**Denise** Let's go, Bernice. We shouldn't be seen talking to her.

**Bernice** She's *so* uncool.

**Beauty** I am not uncool!

**Denise** You are!

**Beauty** I am not!

**Bernice** You are!

**Beauty** Leave me alone!

*Dame Peekaboo the cook enters, carrying a tray of nibbles.*

**Dame Peekaboo** For heaven's sake, ladies. Stop squabbling!

**Bernice** We weren't talking to you, Mary Berry

**Dame Peekaboo** Why don't you make yourselves useful? Go and hand out these Twiglets to the guests.

*Bernice, Denise and Beauty run off.*

**Dame Peekaboo** *(To audience)* Hello, everyone! Nice to meet you! My name's Dame Peekaboo. I'm the cook around here. I also do all the other chores as well: I have to clean the floors, polish the doors, tidy the drawers and stock the stores. But seeing all your lovely smiling faces has cheered me right up. I tell you what, every time you see me why don't you shout out "How are you, Peekaboo?" Can you do that?

**Audience** Yes!

**Dame Peekaboo** Let's have a little practice, shall we?

*She runs off and comes on again.*

**Dame Peekaboo** Yoo hoo!

**Audience** How are you, Peekaboo?

**Dame Peekaboo** What was that? I could hardly hear you! Let's try it again.

*She runs off again and comes back on.*

**Dame Peekaboo** Yoo hoo!

**Audience** How are you, Peekaboo?

**Dame Peekaboo** That's more like it! I'm sure we're all going to be the very best of friends. I tell you what, later in the show I'll teach you my favourite song. Would you like that, boys and girls?

**Audience** Yes!

**Dame Peekaboo** Now, let me tell you a bit about myself. Unfortunately, I am a poor window...

**Audience** Aaaahhhhhhh!

**Dame Peekaboo** Come on, you know the drill. It's sadder than that.

**Audience** Aaaahhhhhhh!

**Dame Peekaboo** Thank you. Much appreciated, I'm sure. It's quite tricky running the kitchen in this place. My master, Tom Goodenough is a nice old fella - I could quite fancy him on a good day - But his step-daughters are a bloomin' nightmare and they have some *very* unusual eating habits. Bernice will only eat things that rhyme with "beans". So I can only give her greens, nectarines, sardines and tangerines. Meanwhile, Denise will only eat meals that rhyme with "pepperoni". So, I have to cook her baloney, cannelloni, macaroni, minestrone and rigatoni. If you think that's odd, their father likes to eat snails, which posh people call "escargot". Every day, snails, snails, snails. He says it's because he can't stand fast food. And Tom's youngest daughter Beauty eats loads of yoghurt. She says it's good for her skin, but I think it's because she's so cultured. Come on, keep up. I'm not explaining them.

*Enter Lampard, the sheep.*

**Dame Peekaboo** This is Lampard, my pet sheep.

**Lampard** (*To audience*) Evening.

*Lampard stares intensely at the audience.*

**Dame Peekaboo** It's a rare breed of talking sheep from the Shetlands. It's quite intelligent but it does have a tendency to stare. Lampard, stop staring at the boys and girls.

**Lampard** I'm not staring.

**Dame Peekaboo** You are staring. Look at me.

*Lampard quickly looks at Peekaboo. But his head then slowly moves back to stare at the audience.*

**Dame Peekaboo** You're doing it again.

**Lampard** I'm not.

**Dame Peekaboo** Lampard keeps me company when I'm outside looking after my little garden. Actually, I was going to plant a *herb* garden...

**Lampard** But she couldn't find the thyme.

**Dame Peekaboo** Lampard! I've told you before, do not jump in and do my punchlines.

**Lampard** Sorry.

**Dame Peekaboo** Where was I? Oh yes, I was going to plant a herb garden...

**Lampard** But she had to “Herb Her Enthusiasm”.

**Dame Peekaboo** Lampard! You did it again.

**Lampard** Sorry.

**Dame Peekaboo** (*To Lampard*) And stop staring at the audience!

**Lampard** I am not staring!

**Dame Peekaboo** What else can I tell you about herb gardens?

**Lampard** There’s never a dill moment?

**Dame Peekaboo** Oh, get out of here!

**Lampard** I’m going, I’m going.

*Exit Lampard.*

**Dame Peekaboo** That bloomin’ sheep. It’ll be the death of me. Now let me tell you about the family. Bernice and Denise are both *very* jealous of their step-sisters’ good looks. Every man in the village wants to marry Beauty, but Bernice and Denise are just getting snogged and avoided. They are desperate, I can tell you. Desperate! It makes me grateful that I am such an attractive woman. I’ve never had any problem at all getting a man. I think it must be my natural charisma...

## Song 2

*Dame Peekaboo sings a song about being sexy. At the end of the number Goodenough enters with Bertie and Aubrey.*

**Goodenough** This way gentlemen.

**Aubrey** (*Very posh*) I say! What a simply delightful house!

**Bertie** (*Even posher*) Yes! It’s quite super-duper! I’m sure I saw it on Grand Designs!

**Dame Peekaboo** (*To audience*) Oh dear, who are these two clowns?

**Aubrey** (*To Goodenough*) Who designed the wallpaper?

**Goodenough** B&Q.

**Aubrey** How charming.

**Aubrey** Allow me to introduce myself. I am Aubrey Oxlade-Chamberlain Huffington.

**Bertie** And I am Lord Bertie Piddle-Hinton.

**Goodenough** Dame Peekaboo, these gentlemen will be eating with us.

**Dame Peekaboo** If you insist. *(To Aubrey)* Any food allergies?

**Aubrey** Yes, we're both allergic to shellfish.

**Bertie** What's for dinner?

**Dame Peekaboo** Shellfish.

**Aubrey** Ah!

**Dame Peekaboo** Don't worry, I'll rustle up a couple of omelettes.

*Dame Peekaboo exits.*

**Goodenough** What brings you two gentlemen here?

**Bertie** I should have thought that was obvious, sir!

**Aubrey** We want to marry your daughter.

**Goodenough** My daughter? Which daughter?

**Bertie** You have more than one daughter?

**Goodenough** Why, yes. I have three.

*Bernice runs on. She latches herself onto Bertie.*

**Goodenough** This is Bernice.

**Bernice** *(To Bertie)* Hello, sweetie!

*Denise dashes on and hooks her arm into Aubrey's.*

**Goodenough** This is Denise.

**Denise** *(To Aubrey)* Come here, big boy.

*Enter Beauty, who stands between the two gentlemen and her step-sisters.*

**Goodenough** And this is... Beauty.

**Beauty** Hello.

*(Beat)*

**Aubrey** Oh, my! This girl is quite, quite beautiful.

**Bertie** She looks so innocent and pure of heart.

*Bertie & Aubrey both drop down on one knee.*

**Bertie & Aubrey** *(Together, to Beauty)* Will you marry me?

*(Beat)*

**Bernice & Denise** We will! We will!

**Bertie** What?

**Goodenough** That's settled, then. You have officially proposed to my daughters.

**Aubrey** No!

**Goodenough** In front of witnesses.

**Bertie** But...

**Goodenough** And they have both accepted your proposal.

**Bernice & Denise** *(Jumping up and down)* Yippee!

**Bertie** *(To Aubrey)* Aubrey...

**Aubrey** *(To Bertie)* Yes, Bertie?

**Bertie** What just happened?

**Aubrey** I think we got engaged.

**Beauty** Congratulations, gentlemen! I hope you'll be very happy.

**Bertie** O, dear.

*Dame Peekaboo enters with some party guests.*

**Dame Peekaboo** Yoo hoo!

**Audience** How are you, Peekaboo?

**Dame Peekaboo** I'm very well thank you. And thanks for asking. Oooh, I do love an engagement. *(Aside)* And so early in the show.

**Goodenough** I hereby announce the engagement of my two lovely daughters to these two *(cough)*... fortunate young gentlemen.

**Aubrey and Bertie** Run away!

*Aubrey and Bertie dash off in a panic.*

**Dame Peekaboo** I think that calls for a song, don't you?

### **Song 3**

*Dame Peekaboo and Denise & Bernice lead everyone in a big celebratory song. At the end of the song, curtain.*

### **Scene 2**

*Elvinia enters on tabs. Lighting suggests fairyland.*

**Elvinia** Hello, you horrible bunch. Are you still here?

**Audience** Boooooooo!

**Elvinia** Would you care to see the results of the little "makeover" I did for Prince Leopold?

**Audience** Boooooooo!

**Elvinia** He's trying to hide himself away from the public, but I thought you might like an exclusive... private viewing.

**Audience** Boooooooo!

**Elvinia** And now behold a frightful scene,  
A ghastly, gruesome, grim imposter.



Prince Leopold the handsome royal  
Has now become a hideous monster.

*Thunder and lighting. Demonic music. The Beast enters and kneels in shadow. Elvinia moves towards him.*

**Elvinia** Prince Leopold?

**The Beast** (*Looking down*) Yes.

**Elvinia** Or, should I call you... The Beast?

*Another crash of demonic music. The prince looks up. A spotlight illuminates his face which is now that of a frightful beast.*

**Elvinia** You've turned out to be even more repulsive than I imagined. Do you like the prince's new look, boys and girls?

**Audience** No!

**Elvinia** (*To the prince*) I tell you what Leopold - can I call you Leopold? - I'm a reasonable woman. This spell is still entirely reversible.

**The Beast** Is it?

**Elvinia** Of course. You only have to agree to do one little thing.

**The Beast** What's that?

**Elvinia** Why, marry me, of course. Surely you would do anything for love?

**The Beast** Yes. But I won't do that.

**Elvinia** (*To audience*) I'm sure I've heard that somewhere before.

**The Beast** Leave me in peace!

**Elvinia** By the time I've finished with you, you will rest in peace forever!

*Elvinia conjures more thunder and lightning.*

**Elvinia** My patience now is wearing thin,  
So here your torment shall begin.  
If you'll not take me as your wife,  
You'll live a miserable, lonely life!

Take him away!

*The Beast's butler Bernard enters and leads him slowly off stage, his back painfully hunched.*

**Elvinia** *(To audience)* Not entirely the outcome I was hoping for, but there's nothing like an evil curse to start the story off with a bang!

*Enter the good fairy Aurora.*

**Aurora** Elvinia!

**Elvinia** *(To audience)* Oh, here she comes.

**Aurora** You hateful, wicked creature!

**Elvinia** *(To Aurora)* Get out of here! *(To audience)* There's nothing worse than a good fairy. They are so *pleased* with themselves.

**Aurora** You are mean, conceited and vain, Elvinia! Just because that poor man won't marry you, that is no reason to torture him!

**Elvinia** And what exactly are *you* going to do about it, Aurora? You know very well that my magic is every bit as powerful as yours.

**Aurora** Then, how shall we settle this?

**Elvinia** Well, how about a little... wager?

**Aurora** A wager?

**Elvinia** Yes. A simple challenge. Good versus evil.

**Aurora** What do you propose? Arm wrestling?

**Elvinia** No.

**Aurora** Table tennis?

**Elvinia** Don't be facetious.

**Aurora** Then what?

**Elvinia** Here is my proposal. If you can find a girl who will fall in love with the Beast, then I will lift the curse and set him free.

**Aurora** You promise?

**Elvinia** I solemnly swear.

**Aurora** That is a fiendish challenge indeed.

**Elvinia** And just to make it interesting we'll have a shilling on the side.

**Aurora** Very well. I accept.

**Elvinia** It would have to be a girl who is truly pure of heart.

**Aurora** Yes.

**Elvinia** A girl who can see past the frightful exterior of the Beast and learn to love the man inside.

**Aurora** You don't have to explain it, Elvinia, I think we all get the idea.

**Elvinia** Just to be clear.

**Aurora** Actually, I think I know the perfect girl.

**Elvinia** Impossible!

**Aurora** Don't be so sure.

**Elvinia** What's her name?

**Aurora** Well, I'm not going to tell you, am I? You'd probably go and put a curse on her too.

**Elvinia** I wouldn't do that, would I boys and girls?

**Audience** Yes!

**Aurora** There's no time to lose. I shall start straight away on my quest.

**Elvinia** Good luck, Fairy Aurora. You'll need it!

*Elvinia and Aurora exit in different directions.*

### **Scene 3**

*Tabs open on beauty's house. Next morning. Dame Peekaboo and some of the guests are tidying up after the party.*

**Dame Peekaboo** *(To audience)* Yoo hoo!

**Audience** How are you, Peekaboo?

**Dame Peekaboo** I'm very well, thank you, and thanks for asking. It turned out to be quite a *wild* party last night. But what a bloomin' mess! There's red wine on the white carpet, white wine on the red carpet...

*Enter Lampard carrying a traffic cone.*

**Lampard** And I just found this traffic cone.

**Dame Peekaboo** Where was it?

**Lampard** Under the sofa with a couple of road signs.

**Dame Peekaboo** Oh, dear.

**Lampard** There is also someone asleep in the sink.

**Dame Peekaboo** The sink?

**Lampard** I tried to wake him up but he just rolled over. And then his bottom spoke.

**Dame Peekaboo** Oh dear. What did it say?

**Lampard** It said... *(he makes the sound of passing wind)*

**Dame Peekaboo** What was that again?

*Lampard makes the sound again.*

**Dame Peekaboo** Mm. That sounds like the vicar. I'll take him a cup of tea, he's got a christening at three.

**Lampard** And I'll go and fish that shopping trolley out of the lake.

*Exit Peekaboo and Lampard.*

**Dame Peekaboo** Look out, it's the Cheeky Girls!

*Enter Bernice and Denise.*

**Bernice** Well, that was a night to remember!

**Denise** Was it?

**Bernice** Don't you recall doing your impression of Lady Gaga on the kitchen table?

**Denise** Nope!

**Bernice** Do you remember trying to water ski across the fish pond?

**Denise** Oh! I wondered why I woke up with a water lily behind my ear.

**Bernice** I'm sure you must recall getting engaged.

**Denise** Oh, yes! How could I forget that?

**Bernice** What a magical moment!

**Denise** Where are our fiancés?

**Bernice** I just caught Bertie trying to abseil out of the bathroom window.

**Denise** Oh, dear.

**Bernice** I had to wrestle him to the ground and then sit on him until he stopped kicking.

**Denise** I last saw Aubrey attempting to clamber into the back of an Uber.

**Bernice** Bless him.

**Denise** I pulled him out and dragged him back into the house by his ears.

**Bernice** You have to let 'em know who's boss.

**Denise** Oh, yes!

**Bernice** Heads up! Here they come now.

*Enter Bertie and Aubrey.*

**Bernice / Denise (Together)** Good morning, boys!

**Aubrey / Bertie (Together, exhausted)** Good morning, ladies.

*Bernice and Denise run and grab their fiancés by the arm.*

**Bernice** What would you like for breakfast, flirty Bertie?

**Aubrey** Our freedom?

**Bernice** That's witty. Isn't that witty, Denise?

**Denise** Very droll.

**Bertie** Actually, I am a bit hungry. Do you have any Rice Crispies?

**Bernice** Rice Crispies?

**Bertie** They snap, crackle and pop.

**Bernice** You're making me snap, crackle and pop.

**Bertie** Am I?

**Bernice** Oh yes. Feel my heart.

*Bertie puts his hand on Bernice's heart. SFX bongo drums.*

**Bertie** Oooh, I say.

**Denise** *(To Aubrey)* What can I get for you, chu-chi face?

**Aubrey** Shredded Wheat?

**Denise** How many would you like?

**Aubrey** I'll have the same number as you?

**Denise** I usually have ten.

**Aubrey** Ten Shredded Wheat?

**Denise** With Heinz Spaghetti on top.

**Aubrey** Ugggh!

**Bernice** It puts hair on her chest.

**Denise** Come on Bernice, let's go and make ourselves beautiful for the boys.

**Bernice** I'm going to pluck my chin.

**Denise** You can help me shave my legs.

**Denise / Bernice** *(Together)* See you later!

**Aubrey** *(To Bertie)* This is going to get worse before it gets better, isn't it?

**Bertie** Oh, yes.

#### **Song 4**

*Bertie & Aubrey sing a song together. At the end of the song, they exit. Curtain.*

*Enter Goodenough and Beauty on tabs. He is holding a letter.*

**Goodenough** Beauty, I have to travel to the city today.

**Beauty** Oh?

**Goodenough** I've been called to an urgent meeting. I've no idea what it's about.

**Beauty** Don't worry, father. I'll keep an eye on everything while you're away.

**Goodenough** Thank you, Beauty.

*Bernice and Denise run on.*

**Bernice / Denise** *(Together)* Step-father!

**Goodenough** *(Sighing)* Hello, ladies.

**Bernice** Did we hear you correctly?

**Denise** You're going to London?

**Goodenough** Yes!

**Denise** London!

**Bernice** Can we come?

**Goodenough** Absolutely not!

**Denise** Pretty please.

**Goodenough** No.

**Bernice** Then you must bring us some presents!

**Denise** From Oxford Street!

**Bernice** And Carnaby Street!

**Denise** And Bond Street!

**Bernice** I need a new hat!

**Denise** I want a new dress!

**Bernice** A new coat!

**Denise** A silk scarf!

**Bernice** Oooh, and some lovely sparkly jewellery?

**Denise** And shoes!

**Bernice** O.M.G., lots and lots of shoes!

**Denise** I love shoes!

**Goodenough** Ladies, ladies, I have a meeting in London. I won't have time to go shopping for you!

**Denise** (*To Bernice*) Well, I never did! That is *so* hash-tag selfish!

**Bernice** We're way more important than meetings.

**Bernice** We're more important than anything!

**Denise** I'm going to throw myself on my bed and sulk!

**Bernice** I'm going to throw myself on my fiancé!

*Denise and Bernice run off.*

**Goodenough** Oh dear, whatever am I going to do with those two? They only ever think of themselves.

**Beauty** Father...

**Goodenough** Yes, Beauty?

**Beauty** I only desire one thing.

**Goodenough** What's that?



**Beauty** That you return home safely.

**Goodenough** Aw! Thank you, Beauty. That's a very kind thing to say. I'm sure I'll find time to get a little gift for you.

**Beauty** Really, father there's no need.

**Goodenough** I insist. But don't tell your step-sisters.

*Goodenough and Beauty hug. Enter Aurora in a single spotlight.*

**Aurora** Hello! Sorry to interrupt again, but it's time for another update from fairyland. If you haven't already guessed, it was *me* who wrote that letter to Beauty's father. When he's on his way to London he'll get caught in an enchanted storm. He'll fall from his horse, and in search of shelter he will stray into the grounds of The Beast's castle. And it's there that this magical story will truly begin...

*Fairy music. Goodenough and Beauty exit. Curtain.*

*On tabs, Aurora is joined by a company of little fairies.*

## Song 5

*Aurora and the fairies sing a song about dreams coming true. At the end of the song, they all exit.*

## Scene 4

*Tabs open to reveal the garden outside Beauty's House. Dame Peekaboo and Lampard the sheep are on stage. Peekaboo is standing behind a raised section of garden soil. She is prodding at the soil with a little trowel. Lampard is next to a table which is covered with a selection of vegetable plants in pots. There is plastic sheeting on the stage.*

**Dame Peekaboo** Come on you lot! Time to make yourselves useful!

*Enter Bertie, Aubrey, Bernice and Denise.*

**Denise** I hate being useful. It's against my principles.

**Bernice** I'd much rather be painting my toenails. *(To Bertie)* Or even better, painting your toenails, flirty Bertie.

**Bertie** Get off!

**Aubrey** What do we have to do, Peekaboo?

**Dame Peekaboo** You are going to help me and Lampard plant some vegetables in the kitchen garden.

**Aubrey** Ugh! I hate vegetables.

**Denise** And I hate that sheep. He's always staring at me.

**Dame Peekaboo** Lampard stop staring at Denise!

**Lampard** Sorry.

**Bernice** Vegetables are way too healthy.

**Denise** We like chicken nuggets and skinny fries.

**Bernice** And onion rings.

**Dame Peekaboo** Oh, stop moaning! Come and stand over here.

*Bertie, Aubrey, Bernice and Denise stand behind the raised section of soil.*

**Dame Peekaboo** And keep your eyes peeled. There are a lot of moles in the garden at this time of year.

**Bertie** Moles?

**Lampard** Little furry animals that live underground.

**Denise** I thought moles were imaginary.

**Bernice** Like gnomes.

**Dame Peekaboo** No! Moles are real. They tunnel under the earth and pull the vegetables down before we can pull them up.

**Aubrey** Well, I never.

**Bertie** How utterly beastly.

*Lampard gives Bertie a flowerpot with a spinach plant in it.*

**Lampard** Here you are, Bertie. You can start by planting this.

*Using a little trowel, Bertie plants his spinach in the soil. Lampard hands out three more plants to the others.*

**Dame Peekaboo** Aubrey can plant the cauliflower, Bernice can plant the lettuce, and Denise can plant the celery.

*Dame Peekaboo walks over to the table - her back turned to the others. They all quickly plant their vegetables in the earth.*

*Suddenly, a mole (hand puppet) pops up at the end of the row of vegetables. It looks around, then quickly disappears. The audience react.*

**Bertie** Bernice...

**Bernice** Yes Bertie?

**Bertie** I think I saw a mole.

**Bernice** A mole?

**Bertie** Yes, a mole in a hole.

**Bernice** Where?

**Bertie** There.

**Bernice** Did you see a mole in a hole, boys and girls?

**Audience** Yes!!!

**Bernice** Where?

**Audience** There!!!

*Another mole appears next to the cauliflower plant. It looks around then disappears. Almost immediately the cauliflower is yanked down into the soil. Dame Peekaboo turns around.*

**Dame Peekaboo** (To Aubrey) Aubrey, I thought I told you to plant that cauliflower.

**Aubrey** I *did* plant the cauliflower.

**Dame Peekaboo** (To Aubrey) Well, where is it? Did you see what happened to the cauliflower, boys and girls?

**Audience** Yes!!!

**Lampard** What happened? Was it the mole?

**Audience** Yes!!!

**Dame Peekaboo** I'll go and get another cauliflower.

*Dame Peekaboo returns to the table - her back once again turned to the others. Lampard hands her a cauliflower.*

*Another mole pops up and runs backwards and forwards along the line of vegetables. As soon as it disappears, the spinach, lettuce and celery plants are all pulled down into the soil, one after the another. Dame Peekaboo turns around.*

**Dame Peekaboo** Where are all the vegetables? Did you see what happened, Lampard?

**Lampard** No.

**Dame Peekaboo** Did you see what happened, boys and girls?

**Audience** Yes!!!

**Lampard** Was it another mole?

**Audience** Yes!!!

**Dame Peekaboo** Right! This is not over!

*Dame Peekaboo quickly replants four new vegetables. Within seconds two moles appear, look around, then quickly vanish. One by one, all four vegetables disappear into the soil.*

**Aubrey** Crikey! Did you see that?

**Denise** This is hopeless.

**Lampard** What are we going to?

**Dame Peekaboo** There's only one thing for it.

**Lampard** What?

**Dame Peekaboo** There is something that moles hate more than anything?

**Bertie** Brussels sprouts?

**Dame Peekaboo** No.

**Aubrey** Marmite?

**Dame Peekaboo** No.

**Bernice** Is it Piers Morgan?

**Dame Peekaboo** No. It's a well-known fact that moles cannot stand water.

*Dame Peekaboo runs off.*

**Lampard** *(To the audience)* I can see where this is going.

*Dame Peekaboo returns with an armful of big water pistols.*

**Dame Peekaboo** These water pistols should do the trick.

*She hands them out.*

**Dame Peekaboo** One for you, one for you, one for you, one for you, one for Lampard and one for me.

**Aubrey** Oh goody! Water pistols.

**Dame Peekaboo** Keep your eyes peeled, everyone!

*They all stand in a line and point their water pistols at the soil.*

**Lampard** I don't think the moles are going to come out now.

**Dame Peekaboo** They will. We just have to be patient.

*A mole slowly appears. Aubrey squirts it with water and it disappears again.*

*Ad lib several moles pop up and Dame Peekaboo, Bernice, Aubrey, Denise Bernice and Lampard each squirt them with water. Now and again, a little of the water misses the moles and hits the audience. Eventually, the moles stop appearing.*

**Bertie** I think we've done it. The moles have gone away.

**Dame Peekaboo** I wouldn't bank on it.

**Lampard** They've probably just called for reinforcements.

*At that moment, a very large mole appears upstage. (This time it's not a puppet, it's a person in a mole suit.) The mole is armed with two large pump-action water pistols. Dame Peekaboo and the others do not see it at first. The audience react.*

**Aubrey** What's that boys and girls? Can you see another mole?

**Audience** Yes!

**Bernice** Where is it?

**Audience** Behind you!

**Denise** Is it behind us?

**Audience** Yes!

*They all turn around.*

**Dame Peekaboo** Wow, that is one big mole!

**Lampard** I'll bet he eats Shredded Wheat for breakfast.

**All** Run for it!

*The mole chases them all around the stage, squirting them with water.*

**Lampard** What do you suggest we do now?

**Dame Peekaboo** There's only one thing for it, Lampard.

**Aubrey** What's that?

**Dame Peekaboo** We'll have to do a song.

*Blackout. Curtain.*

### **Song 6**

*On tabs, Dame Peekaboo, Lampard, Bertie, Aubrey, Bernice and Denise enter. They do a comedy song and the big mole does a little dance to accompany them. After the song they all exit.*

### **Scene 5**

*Tabs open to reveal the rose garden of the Beast's domain. Evening. On the backdrop we can see his tall castle towering above the grounds. Downstage is a neat little row of rose bushes.*

*Enter the Beast's butler Bernard and a servant called Mrs Pickles.*

**Mrs Pickles** Oh, Bernard, I haven't seen Prince Leopold for days.

**Bernard** Mrs Pickles, you know the master now only comes out of his rooms after dark.

**Mrs Pickles** I feel so sorry for him. He's no longer free to come and go as he pleases.

**Bernard** Not since Elvinia placed that curse on him.

**Mrs Pickles** Leopold is such a kind man. I suppose he just doesn't want to frighten people.

**Bernard** Indeed. That wicked fairy has made the master a prisoner in his own castle.

**Mrs Pickles** If only there was something we could do to help.

**Bernard** It's getting dark. He will be out soon and will wish to walk in the castle grounds alone.

*Exit Bernard and Mrs Pickles. Enter Tom Goodenough. He looks lost.*

**Goodenough** *(To audience)* Oh dear, on the way into London, I got caught in a terrible storm, and my horse reared up and threw me from the saddle. I awoke with this great, big bump on my head and my horse had run away. I seem to have been walking for hours. I am completely lost.

*Goodenough notices the little rose garden.*

**Goodenough** My, what a lovely rose garden! I did promise I'd get a little present for Beauty, and one of those beautiful red roses would make a perfect gift.

*Goodenough crosses to the rose bushes. He checks to see that no-one is about..*

**Goodenough** I'm sure no-one would mind if I picked just one little rose.

*He picks a rose. As he does so, The Beast appears. Goodenough is clearly shaken by the sight of his face.*

**The Beast** *(Furious)* Stop! Step away from that bush!

*Goodenough backs away.*

**The Beast** Who told you that you could take one of my roses?

**Goodenough** I'm sorry. I - I... didn't know they belonged to you.

**The Beast** Guards! Seize him!

*Two castle guards appear and grab hold of Goodenough's arms.*

**The Beast** What is your name?

**Goodenough** Tom Goodenough. I fell from my horse during the storm. I'm lost.

**The Beast** Storm? There has been no storm!

**Goodenough** (*To audience*) That's odd.

**The Beast** Now you listen to me, Tom Goodenough! See that castle?

**Goodenough** Yes.

**The Beast** (*Getting angrier*) That's *my* castle. These castle grounds are *my* castle grounds.

**Goodenough** I understand.

**The Beast** The castle is mine, the castle grounds are mine, and the rose garden is mine. Are you following this so far?

**Goodenough** Yes.

**The Beast** That rose bush is mine and therefore, the rose you are holding in your hand belongs to...

**Goodenough** You?

**The Beast** Yes!!!

**Goodenough** Sir, you have my most humble apologies.

**The Beast** Do I? And what possible use is that to me if you have my rose?

**Goodenough** What are you going to do with me?

**The Beast** You are a thief, sir! You have broken the law! How do you plead?

**Goodenough** Guilty?

**The Beast** Very well. In this land the penalty for theft is... death.

**Goodenough** Death? That's a bit harsh!

**The Beast** What can I tell you, Tom? These are the dark ages.

**Goodenough** Yes.



**The Beast** But, since you have confessed to the crime, I shall reduce your sentence...

**Goodenough** Thank you!

**The Beast** From death to... life imprisonment!

**Goodenough** Life?

**The Beast** In my dungeons, yes. Do you have a lawyer?

**Goodenough** No.

**The Beast** Then I shall pass sentence.

**Goodenough** But... I picked the rose for my daughter!

**The Beast** Your daughter?

**Goodenough** I promised her a gift.

**The Beast** How very touching.

**Goodenough** My daughter's name is "Beauty". She is famed throughout the kingdom for her....

**The Beast** Let me guess. Her skill at badminton?

**Goodenough** No.

**The Beast** For restoring old clocks?

**Goodenough** No.

**The Beast** Could it be for her... beauty?

**Goodenough** Yes. The clue is in the name.

**The Beast** I see.

**Goodenough** I beg you, don't throw me into a dungeon for the rest of my life! Beauty's heart would be broken..

**The Beast** You love your daughter very much, don't you?

**Goodenough** Of course I do. She is kind, and gentle, and so caring.

**The Beast** Then, Beauty shall have her rose. And I will overlook your minor offence.

**Goodenough** Thank you!

**The Beast** In return, you can do something for me.

**Goodenough** Anything!

**The Beast** You must swear that you will return and visit me again.

**Goodenough** I swear.

**The Beast** Both you and your daughter Beauty shall be my guests at the castle.

**Goodenough** Both of us?

**The Beast** Tom, I do not have many guests. The way I look tends to frighten people.

**Goodenough** Oh, I find that very hard to believe. You are a very handsome... creature.

**The Beast** You're just being kind, Tom. But we both know the truth.

**Goodenough** I will be more than happy to visit you again. And yes, I shall bring my daughter to meet you.

**The Beast** Excellent! But first you must join me for dinner this evening.

**Goodenough** Dinner?

**The Beast** Then, I shall lend you a fresh horse and you can return home.

**Goodenough** That's very generous of you.

**The Beast** Don't mention it. *(To the audience)* It's quite a while since anyone called me generous. *(Calling offstage)* Bernard!

*Enter Bernard.*

**Bernard** Yes, master?

**The Beast** Bernard, this gentlemen will be eating with me this evening. Show him to the dining room.

**Bernard** Very well. *(To Goodenough)* Follow me, sir.

*Bernard, Goodenough and the castle guards exit. The Beast walks downstage. The tabs close behind him.*

**The Beast** *(to audience)* I cannot believe that I seriously considered taking that man's life. Simply for picking a rose in my garden. Am I truly turning into a beast? The smallest thing sends me into a furious rage. I must guard my temper well.

### **Song 7**

*The Beast sings a song. At the end of the number, fade to black.*

### **Scene 6**

*Tabs open to reveal beauty's house. Bertie, Bernice, Aubrey and Denise are on stage. There is a row of 4 chairs in the centre of the room. Enter Dame Peekaboo.*

**Dame Peekaboo** *(To the audience)* Yoo hoo!

**Audience** How are you, Peekaboo!

**Dame Peekaboo** *(To the audience)* I'm very well, thank you, boys and girls. And thanks for asking. *(To the others)* What are you lot up to?

**Denise** We are playing musical chairs.

**Dame Peekaboo** Ooooh! That's my favourite game.

**Bernice** You can help if you like.

**Dame Peekaboo** Yes please!

**Denise** *(To Peekaboo)* You can be the one who takes the chairs away after each round.

**Dame Peekaboo** Leave it to me. But no cheating!

**Bernice** We never cheat!

**Dame Peekaboo** Now, let's see. There's one, two, three, four, of you and one, two, three, four chairs. We need to take one chair away!

**Bertie** But if you take a chair away, one of us won't have anywhere to sit!

**Dame Peekaboo** That's the idea of the game, you nitwit!

**Bertie** Is it?

**Dame Peekaboo** Yes!

**Bernice** He's too posh to stand up!

*Peekaboo picks up a chair and walks off with it stage left. Music starts. Bertie, Bernice, Aubrey and Denise walk around the chairs.*

*Before Peekaboo comes back on, Lampard dashes from stage right and places a chair next to the others, before running off again. Peekaboo enters, clapping along to the music..*

**Dame Peekaboo** Round and round the chairs you go, like a silly so and so, circle round without delay, till the music goes away!

*The music stops abruptly. They all sit on a chair.*

**All** Hoorah!

**Dame Peekaboo** Hold on a minute! How come there's still four chairs? Did you cheat?

**All** No!

**Dame Peekaboo** Did they cheat, boys and girls?

*The audience scream out their replies.*

**Dame Peekaboo** Right, this time I'm going to take away two chairs.

*Peekaboo picks up two chairs and walks off with them stage left. Music starts. Bertie, Bernice, Aubrey and Denise walk around the two remaining chairs.*

*Lampard runs on with two chairs and places them next to the others before dashing off again. Peekaboo comes back on.*

**Dame Peekaboo** (*Clapping*) Round and round the chairs you go, like a silly so and so, circle round without delay, till the music goes away!

*The music stops abruptly. They all sit on a chair.*

**All** Hoorah!

**Dame Peekaboo** Wait a minute, there's *still* four chairs! Did you cheat again?

**All** No!

**Dame Peekaboo** Did they cheat again, boys and girls?

*The audience react.*

**Dame Peekaboo** Right, I'm going to put a stop to all this.

**Bernice** We're not cheating

**Aubrey** Honestly we're not!

**Dame Peekaboo** Listen to me, you lot! This time I'm going to take away all the chairs but one, and I'm going to keep a very close eye on all of you.

*Peekaboo stacks three chairs and takes them off stage left. Music starts. While Peekaboo is still off stage left, Lampard dashes on with four new chairs and puts them next to the remaining one. There are now five chairs on stage. This time Lampard joins in the game.*

*Dame Peekaboo comes on again.*

**Dame Peekaboo** (*Clapping*) Round and round the chairs you go, like a silly so and so, circle round without delay, till the music goes away!

*The music stops abruptly. They all sit on a chair.*

**Dame Peekaboo** Hold on a minute. Now we've got more chairs than we started with!

**Denise** Wow, that's spooky.

**Dame Peekaboo** (*To Lampard*) And what are you doing here?

**Lampard** Playing musical chairs.

**Dame Peekaboo** I can see that!

**Bertie** I say, a talking sheep!

**Dame Peekaboo** I've had enough of this. You all cheated again!

**All** We didn't

**Dame Peekaboo** You did!

**Bertie** Oh, no we didn't!

**Dame Peekaboo** Oh, yes you did!

**All** Oh, no we didn't!

**Audience** Oh, yes you did!

*Ad lib with audience.*

**Dame Peekaboo** Well, if you're not going to take this game seriously, I refuse to play anymore.

*Enter Goodenough.*

**Goodenough** Hello, everyone! Sorry to interrupt your game.

**Dame Peekaboo** *(To Goodenough)* Don't mention it, Tom. *(To the others)* Go on, get lost you lot! Bunch of cheats!

**Lampard** Spoilsport!

*Lampard, Aubrey, Denise, Bertie and Bernice each grab a chair and run off.*

**Dame Peekaboo** *(Calling off)* Beauty, your father's here!

*Beauty runs on and throws her arms around her dad.*

**Beauty** Father! You're home!

*The pair walk downstage and the tabs close behind them.*

**Goodenough** Yes, Beauty. But I've got something to tell you.

**Beauty** Is it about your business trip?

**Goodenough** In a way, yes.

**Beauty** Why are you looking so worried? What's wrong?

**Goodenough** Well, on my way to London there was a terrible storm.

**Beauty** That's odd. The weather here has been glorious since you left.

**Goodenough** That is rather strange, isn't it? Anyway, my horse was frightened by the thunder and ran away. I was looking for shelter when I came to the grounds of a castle.

**Beauty** A castle! How exciting!

**Goodenough** The castle garden was full of roses.

**Beauty** I love roses.

**Goodenough** I know. That's why I picked one for you.

*He gives Beauty the red rose.*

**Beauty** How lovely! It smells wonderful! Thank you father.

**Goodenough** I'm afraid that's not the end of the story, Beauty.

**Beauty** Oh?

**Goodenough** A monster appeared. He had the body of a man and the head of a beast.

**Beauty** But... that's terrifying!

**Goodenough** The beast said he was going to punish me for stealing the rose from his garden. I pleaded with him and he finally agreed to let me come home. But...

**Beauty** But what?!

**Goodenough** He made me swear that I'd return.

**Beauty** Return? But you can't go back to a monster's castle!

**Goodenough** There's something else.

**Beauty** Something else?

**Goodenough** I'm so sorry, Beauty. I should never have promised it...

**Beauty** Promised what?

**Goodenough** I said I would take *you* to meet the beast. I gave him my word.

**Beauty** I see. Well, father you always taught us that we must keep our promises.

**Goodenough** Oh, Beauty...

**Beauty** Chives! Can you come here, please!

*Enter Chives.*

**Chives** (*To Beauty*) Miss Beauty, are you ok? You sound upset.

**Beauty** Will you please put this rose in some water.

**Chives** Ah! What a lovely rose!

**Beauty** And then I need you to help me pack a bag. I have to go away.

**Chives** Go away?

**Beauty** Yes, I have to go and visit a monster in a castle.

**Chives** Oh, get away with you. You're pulling my leg!

**Goodenough** I'm afraid Beauty is telling the truth.

**Chives** Really?

**Beauty** Yes. Father took that rose from a monster's garden and...

**Goodenough** It's complicated.

**Chives** Is the monster dangerous?

**Goodenough** I don't think so. Actually, he invited me to have dinner with him.

**Chives** Dinner?

**Goodenough** We had roast beef and Yorkshire pudding.

*(Beat)*

**Chives** *(To audience)* There's never a dull moment in this family.

*Chives exits.*

**Beauty** Come on, father, I'm sure everything will be fine.

*They exit. Fade to black.*

## Scene 7

*Tabs open to reveal the rose garden of The Beast's castle. Eerie lighting and mist. Elvinia appears in a single spotlight.*

**Elvinia** *(To audience)* A thousand curses!

**Audience** Booooooo!

**Elvinia** *(To audience)* So, by using her puny, white magic, Aurora has succeeded in luring a beautiful girl to this castle!



**Audience** Booooooo!

**Elvinia** *(To audience)* Oh, shut your gobs, I'm trying to move the story forward! In the extremely unlikely event that Beauty falls in love with the Beast, my evil plan will be foiled and I shall be forced to lift the curse on Prince Leopold. What's worse is that I will have to give that wretched good fairy a shilling! But, you don't think I'm just going to stand by and let that happen, do you? You know what they say, boys and girls, if you don't cheat, you're not trying hard enough!

**Audience** Booooooo!

**Elvinia** *(To audience)* Time for an evil laugh, I think. Ah, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha! See you later, peasants...

*Elvinia exits. Lighting changes to an evening glow. Goodenough and Beauty enter.*

**Goodenough** Well, we're here! The castle of the Beast.

**Beauty** Oh father, it's so beautiful. I was expecting something a bit more... creepy.

**Goodenough** Creepy?

**Beauty** With spiders' webs and bats flapping around everywhere.

**Goodenough** Bats? The Beast is not a vampire, Beauty. He's a beast.

**Beauty** Should we go and ring the front door bell?

**Goodenough** No. I'm sure he will come to meet us.

*The Beast appears. On seeing his frightful face, Beauty screams and leaps backwards in horror.*

**Beauty** Aaggghhhhh!

**The Beast** Good evening.

**Beauty** I am so sorry, I didn't mean to scream like that.

**The Beast** Don't worry, I'm used to it. At least you didn't faint. Some people faint.

**Beauty** You just took me by surprise, that's all. I wasn't expecting you to be so....

**The Beast** Hideous?

**Beauty** That's not what I meant.

**Goodenough** This is my daughter, Beauty.

**The Beast** You are well named, my dear.

**Beauty** Thank you.

**The Beast** (*To Goodenough*). I must confess to being slightly surprised that you returned.

**Goodenough** A promise is a promise, sir.

**The Beast** Beauty, did you enjoy your rose?

**Beauty** Oh, yes, thank you. It was beautiful.

**The Beast** It came from one of my best rose bushes. As a matter of fact it was a prize-winner at the Chelsea Flower Show. Monty Don said it was one of the most beautiful rose plants he'd ever seen.

**Beauty** You obviously take a lot of care of your flowers.

**The Beast** I do, yes. I love my roses. That's why I was so angry when your father...

**Beauty** Let's talk about something else, shall we?

**The Beast** (*To Goodenough*) You must be very proud of your daughter.

**Goodenough** I am. I love her very much.

**Beauty** If you love others, then that love will surely be returned.

**The Beast** You would think so, wouldn't you? But when people look at me, there is no love in their eyes. They are simply afraid.

**Beauty** I'm not afraid.

**The Beast** You do not need to be. You have nothing to fear from me.

**Beauty** I can sense that.

**The Beast** I'm glad.

**Beauty** In any case, my father is here to look after me.

**The Beast** Oh, dear. There's seems to be some confusion here. Your father cannot remain here.

**Goodenough** What?

**The Beast** Beauty must stay... alone.

**Beauty** No! Let him stay!

**The Beast** Beauty, your father agreed to bring you here.

**Goodenough** Yes, but...

**The Beast** (*To Beauty*) And now, you belong to me.

**Goodenough** I didn't know you meant that!

**The Beast** (*Menacingly*) Are you trying to go back on your promise?

**Goodenough** Beauty, I don't know what to do!

**The Beast** (*To Beauty*) Don't worry, my dear. You will be safe with me. You'll have everything your heart desires.

**Beauty** You're going to keep me as a prisoner?

**The Beast** "Prisoner" is such an ugly word. You will be my guest.

**Beauty** Guest?

*Goodenough runs to Beauty and hugs her.*

**Goodenough** What have I done?

**Beauty** Don't worry, father. I can take care of myself. I'm sure everything will turn out alright in the end.

### **Song 8**

*Goodenough and Beauty sing a duet together. At the end of the song...*

**The Beast** Guards! Show this man out of the castle grounds!

*Two castle guards appear. They grab Goodenough roughly.*

**Goodenough** Beauty! I'm sorry!

**Beauty** Oh, father!

*The guards march Goodenough off stage.*

**The Beast** *(To Beauty)* Come, my dear.

*The prince takes Beauty's hand and they begin to exit.*

**The Beast** I shall give you a tour of the castle.

**Beauty** Wait!

*Beauty stops and bends down to look at the roses.*

**The Beast** Beauty, you will have plenty of time to admire the roses. In fact, you will have the rest of your life...

*Blackout. Curtain.*

## ACT TWO

### Scene 1

*Tablts open to reveal a grand ballroom in The Beast's castle. There is a very long table centre stage. The Beast's servants are setting the table for dinner and generally tidying and cleaning the room.*

*Enter the butler, Bernard. Music begins.*

**Bernard** Come on, chop, chop! I want this place looking spick and span. Polish the silver! Lay the table, and set a great big crackling log fire in the grate. The master has a very special guest!

### Song 9

*Bernard leads a lively, welcoming number with the servants. After the song, Beauty and the Beast enter. They sit at opposite ends of the very long table. Bernard pours the Beast a goblet of wine.*

**The Beast** *(To Beauty)* Good evening, my dear. Are you hungry?

**Beauty** *(Calling out)* Pardon?

**The Beast** *(Calling out)* I said "Are you hungry?"

**Beauty** *(Calling out)* I'm sorry, I can't hear you! This is a very long table.

**The Beast** *(Calling out)* What?

**Beauty** (*Calling out*) I said, it's a very long table! You're too far away!

**The Beast** (*Calling out*) You'll have to speak up. (*Beat*) It's a very long table.

**Beauty** (*Calling out*) Sorry?

**The Beast** (*Calling out*) I said, you'll have to speak more loudly.

**Beauty** (*Calling out*) Right!

**The Beast** (*To Bernard*) Bernard, Beauty cannot hear me.

**Bernard** I am aware of that, master. It's a very long table.

**The Beast** Could you please move my guest a little closer?

**Bernard** Yes, master.

*Bernard walks to the other end of the table.*

**Bernard** (*To Beauty*) Miss Beauty, the master asks that you join him at the other end of the table.

**Beauty** That's a good idea. (*Beat*) This is a very long table.

**Bernard** Indeed. Follow me.

*Beauty stands up. She watches as Bernard moves her chair closer to the Beast. Then she goes and sits little more than an arm's length away from him.*

**Beauty** That's much better. Why have you got such a very long table?

**The Beast** Pardon?

**Beauty** (*Calling out*) I said...

**The Beast** I'm only joking. I can hear you perfectly well now. I have a very long table because I used to have a very long list of friends. Of course, they have all deserted me now.

**Beauty** I'm sorry to hear that.

**The Beast** (*Indicating his face*) The reason is clear to see. Would you like a goblet of wine?

**Beauty** Thank you.

**The Beast** Bernard?

*Bernard pours a goblet of wine for Beauty.*

**Beauty** Thank you, Bernard.

**The Beast** Do you like my castle? It's Grade III listed, you know.

**Beauty** Is it?

**The Beast** Oh, yes.

**Beauty** It reminds me of a castle in a fairy story.

**The Beast** Really? Which fairy story?

**Beauty** I can't remember its name. It's about a pretty girl with two ugly sisters...

**The Beast** That sounds familiar. Does she meet a handsome prince?

**Beauty** Yes. Then she falls in love and lives happily ever after.

**The Beast** I only wish I could be your handsome prince. But I'm afraid that is no longer possible.

**Beauty** Can I ask a question?

**The Beast** Of course.

**Beauty** This is a ballroom, isn't it?

**The Beast** It used to be a ballroom. We've had some marvellous parties in here.

**Beauty** We'll then, why don't you start having parties again? You could make new friends.

**The Beast** No-one wants to come to a party at the castle anymore.

**Beauty** Have you asked them?

**The Beast** No.

**Beauty** Then how do you know? If you are kind and friendly and sociable, people will not care how you look.

**The Beast** If only that were true.

**Beauty** Well, you won't know until you try. Bernard!

**Bernard** Yes, Miss Beauty?

**Beauty** The prince is going to have a party.

**Bernard** Is he?

**The Beast** Am I?

**Beauty** Absolutely. A Grand Fancy Dress Ball!

**The Beast** Oh, I've just remembered the name of that fairy story!

**Beauty** What is it?

**The Beast** Cinderella!

**Beauty** Of course! Cinderella!

**The Beast** Will you come to my ball as Cinderella?

**Beauty** Yes. But only on one condition...

**The Beast** What's that?

**Beauty** You must be Prince Charming. You'll make a splendid prince.

**The Beast** Then I agree.

**Beauty** Excellent!

**The Beast** We shall hold a Grand Fancy Dress Ball! Bernard!

**Bernard** Yes, master?

**The Beast** Tell the servants. We have a lot of planning to do!

*Blackout. Curtain.*

## Scene 2

*From opposite sides of the stage, Elvinia and Aurora enter on tabs. Lighting suggests fairyland.*

**Aurora** Hello, boys and girls! It looks like my plan is working, doesn't it? Beauty is already starting to fall in love with the Beast!

*Enter Elvinia in an eerie green light.*

**Audience** Booooo!

**Aurora** Elvinia! How nice of you to join us! Soon you will have to admit defeat and lift your evil curse as we agreed!

**Elvinia** You foolish fairy! Do you really think I'm going stand by and let you humiliate me? This fairy tale is far from over!

**Aurora** Do your worst, you wicked spirit!

**Elvinia** You have not yet seen my worst, Aurora! I shall send a letter to Beauty, telling her that her father is gravely ill.

**Aurora** Ill?

**Elvinia** She will beg the Beast to let her go and he will of course forbid it.

**Aurora** But that would drive a wedge between them that can never be repaired!

**Elvinia** Exactly! It's a clever little twist, isn't it? One of my better ones, I think. Beauty will spend the rest of her days trapped in that castle with a monster who she despises!

**Aurora** Elvinia, that is the most despicable plan I've ever heard.

**Elvinia** Thank you. Now, if you will excuse me, I have a letter to write.

*Elvinia exits.*

**Aurora** *(To audience)* Don't worry, boys and girls. I'm sure true love will find a way.

*Exit Aurora.*

### **Scene 3**

*Tabs open to reveal the ballroom at The Beast's castle. It has been decorated and festooned for a party. To grand, triumphant music, the chorus enter one by one - each dressed as a character from a fairy tale or pantomime.*

*Finally, Beauty enters with the Beast. They are dressed as Cinderella and Prince Charming. The Beast offers Beauty his arm then leads her to the centre of the dance floor.*

### **Song 10**



*The couple perform a swirling and romantic dance together and sing a duet. At the end of the song, the guests disperse.*

**Beauty** What a wonderful party. I'm having such a nice time.

**The Beast** I'm glad. Your presence has once again made the castle a splendid place to visit. I suppose the guests think I'm wearing some kind of fancy dress.

**Beauty** Well, I think you look very handsome.

*Bernard enters holding a letter on a silver tray.*

**Bernard** I'm sorry to interrupt, Miss Beauty, but a person just delivered this letter for you.

**Beauty** A person?

**Bernard** A very strange person, as a matter of fact. To be honest, she gave me the willies.

**The Beast** She?

**Bernard** She did not leave her name.

*Beauty opens the letter and reads it. She looks upset.*

**Bernard** Is it bad news, Miss Beauty?

**Beauty** Yes. It says my father is ill.

**The Beast** That is bad news indeed. I will send Bernard to your father's house to see what is happening.

**Beauty** But, if my father is seriously ill, I must go and visit him right away.

**The Beast** My dear, you know that is impossible!

**Beauty** Impossible?

**The Beast** (*Angry*) I simply cannot allow it! You live here with me now!

**Beauty** I hate you!

*Beauty runs off.*

**The Beast** (*To the audience*) Well, that's certainly put a bit of a damper on the party.

**Bernard** Master, if Miss Beauty's father is ill, then she needs to be with him.

**The Beast** Bernard, you know perfectly well that if I let her leave she will never return!

**Bernard** You cannot know that for sure.

**The Beast** Beauty has made me feel alive again. I love her.

**Bernard** Then you must let her go. And if she returns, you will know that she returns your love.

**The Beast** That's not a risk I am willing to take.

**Bernard** Master, you must. If not, I fear you may have already lost her heart.

**The Beast** Very well, Bernard. Bring Beauty to me.

*Bernard exits.*

### **Song 11**

*The Beast sings a heartfelt love song. At the end of the song Beauty is led onto the stage by Bernard. She dries her eyes. Bernard exits.*

**The Beast** Beauty, if your father is ill you must go to him.

**Beauty** Do you mean it? It's not another trick?

**The Beast** No. You're free to go. Bernard can go with you for company.

**Beauty** (*Calmly*) Thank you. But what made you change your mind?

**The Beast** I should have thought that was clear. I love you, Beauty. How can I refuse you anything?

**Beauty** I will come back.

**The Beast** Do you promise?

**Beauty** I will return as soon as I know my father is well.

**The Beast** That's more than I could have hoped for.

**Beauty** I swear.

*Beauty takes Leopold's hand.*

**Beauty** Au revoir.

**The Beast** God speed.

*Beauty runs off.*

**The Beast** I miss her magical presence already. I fear that without Beauty in my life, even for a few days, I will surely die.

*The Beast exits. The lights dim and fairy Aurora enters in a single spotlight.*

**Aurora** Time for another bulletin from Fairyland. The good news is that it looks like Elvinia's evil plan to make Beauty hate the Beast has failed. He had no choice but to let her go and visit her father. The bad news is that if she doesn't return to the castle as she promised, Elvinia will win her wager and the Beast will be cursed for all eternity!

*Aurora starts to exit.*

**Aurora** (*Shrugging to audience*) Sometimes it's hard being a good fairy!

*She plods off. Fade to black. Curtain.*

#### Scene 4

*Enter Dame Peekaboo on tabs. Birdsong. Lighting suggests the countryside.*

**Dame Peekaboo** Yoo hoo!

**Audience** How are you, Peekaboo?

**Dame Peekaboo** I'm very well, and thanks for asking! As it's such a lovely day today, I thought I'd come for a long walk in the countryside. The sun is shining, the birds are singing and it's so peaceful.

*We suddenly hear loud, repetitive, bouncing SFX. Like the sound of someone jumping up and down on bedsprings.*

**Dame Peekaboo** Well, it *was* peaceful. What on earth is that racket? Can you hear that noise, boys and girls?

**Audience** Yes!

**Dame Peekaboo** (*Looking offstage*) It's coming from over there.

*Enter Bertie, riding a Space Hopper. The SFX play in sync with his bouncing. While waving to the audience, he bounces around in a circle then comes to rest in the centre of the stage.*

**Dame Peekaboo** Bertie, what on earth are you doing?

**Bertie** Bouncing.

**Dame Peekaboo** I can see that! But what is that contraption you are sitting on?

**Bertie** It's called a Hoppy Hopper!

**Dame Peekaboo** A Hoppy Hopper?

**Bertie** Yes. It's the latest super-duper craze. Everybody's doing it!

**Dame Peekaboo** Well, I'm not doing it! You won't get me on one of those things!

**Bertie** You don't have to charge it up, or put petrol in it or anything. It's extremely comfortable and it's got a *very* small carbon footprint.

**Dame Peekaboo** Where did you get it?

*Bertie sets off again. Loud bouncing SFX*

**Bertie** (*Loudly*) I bought it from the Hoppy Hopper Shop.

**Dame Peekaboo** (*Loudly*) The Hoppy Hopper Shop?

**Bertie** Yes.

**Dame Peekaboo** You were a shopper at the Hoppy Hopper Shop?

**Bertie** Yes.

**Dame Peekaboo** Be careful you don't fall off.

**Bertie** It's perfectly safe.

**Dame Peekaboo** I wouldn't want you to come a cropper on your Hoppy Hopper.

*Bertie stops bouncing.*

**Bertie** Don't worry. I bought the very best model in the Hoppy Hopper Shop. This is called a Proper Hoppy Hopper.

**Dame Peekaboo** A Proper Hoppy Hopper?

**Bertie** Yes.

**Dame Peekaboo** *(To audience)* I suppose that's better than an Improper Hoppy Hopper.

*Enter Aubrey, Bernice and Denise on Space Hoppers.*

**Dame Peekaboo** Oh, dear, oh dear. They've *all* got them!

**Denise** You, hoo Peekaboo!

*More loud bouncing SFX. They all bounce round and around on the stage with Bertie.*

**Aubrey** Sorry Bertie, old chap, we got held up.

**Bertie** Held up?

**Denise** We got stopped for speeding by a couple of policemen.

**Bernice** Yes! Our Hoppy Hoppers were stopped by coppers!

**Aubrey** We got an on-the-spot fine and an endorsement on our Hoppy Hopper licenses.

**Dame Peekaboo** You need a license to drive a Hoppy Hopper?

**Denise** Oh, yes.

*They all stop bouncing momentarily.*

**Dame Peekaboo** Aubrey, why is your Hoppy Hopper bigger slightly than the other Hoppy Hoppers?

**Aubrey** It's a Whopper Hoppy Hopper!

**Dame Peekaboo** A Whopper Hoppy Hopper?

**Aubrey** Yes. Would you like to have a go on my Whopper?

**Dame Peekaboo** I beg your pardon???

**Aubrey** Oh, go on! *(To audience)* Should Dame Peekaboo have a go on my Whopper Hoppy Hopper, boys and girls?

**Audience** Yes!

**Dame Peekaboo** *(To audience)* There's a sentence I never thought I'd hear.

**Denise** Go on, Peekaboo!

**Bernice** You know you want to.

**Dame Peekaboo** Oh, all right! Give it here.

*Peekaboo sits on the biggest Space Hopper.*

**All** Hooray!

**Denise** *(To audience)* Give her a Hoppy Hopper, and nothing can stop her.

**Dame Peekaboo** Why isn't it moving? Do I have to put it into gear or something?

**Denise** Just bounce!

*Peekaboo starts to gently bounce.*

**Dame Peekaboo** Oooh! I like it. It's giving me a nice fuzzy feeling.

*Aubrey dashes off stage and comes back with a fifth Space Hopper. He sits on it.*

**Dame Peekaboo** *(To audience)* I don't know why, but this reminds me of my second husband for some reason.

**Bernice** Everyone set?

**Dame Peekaboo** Yes, but I think it's probably time to wrap this item up.

**Aubrey** Why?

**Dame Peekaboo** I can't think of any more words that rhyme with hopper.

**Bernice** What about chopper?

**Dame Peekaboo** You always have to lower the tone, don't you, Bernice?

**Bernice** Sorry.

**Bertie** Ready, steady, go!

*All five of them bounce off stage on their Space Hoppers.*

**Dame Peekaboo** See you later, boys and girls!

*A moment after they are all gone, Lampard the sheep dashes across the stage on another Space Hopper.*

**Lampard** Wait for me!

*Lampard exits. Enter Beauty and Bernard.*

**Beauty** We're nearly at the house. Thank you for showing me the way home, Bernard.

**Bernard** You are very welcome, Miss Beauty.

**Beauty** I only hope that my father is alright.

**Bernard** Don't worry, I'm sure he's fine.

**Beauty** Good bye, Bernard. You're a good friend. I'll be back as soon as I can.

*Exit Bernard.*

### **Song 12**

*Beauty sings a song about love and friendship. At the end of the song, fade to black.*

### **Scene 5**

*Tabs open on beauty's garden. Goodenough is sitting in a deckchair reading a newspaper. Enter Chives.*

**Chives** Can I get you anything, sir?

**Goodenough** No thank you, Chives. I'm still full of Dame Peekaboo's delicious apple pie.

**Chives** It's good to see you smile, sir. You haven't smiled much since Beauty went away.

**Goodenough** No, I suppose I haven't. The days seem longer now.

**Chives** Why don't I make you a nice cup of tea?

**Goodenough** Really, Chives, I'm fine. Why don't you take the rest of the afternoon off.

**Chives** Thank you, sir. That's very kind of you.

*Chive exits. Beauty enters upstage. She creeps up behind her dad and whispers in his ear..*

**Beauty** Hello, father.

**Goodenough** Beauty! My prayers have been answered! How marvellous to see you!

*They hug.*

**Goodenough** However did you get away from the castle? Did you dig an escape tunnel?

**Beauty** No.

**Goodenough** You built a glider?

**Beauty** No! I didn't need to escape. The Beast let me go.

**Goodenough** I don't understand.

**Beauty** I received a letter telling me you were ill.

**Goodenough** Ill?

**Beauty** Yes, and the Beast said I could come and see you.

**Goodenough** I'm not ill. I've never felt better.

**Beauty** That's wonderful news.

**Goodenough** Maybe the Beast is kinder than we thought.

**Beauty** I wonder who wrote that letter.

**Goodenough** It does seem rather mysterious.

**Beauty** Anyway, I promised to go back.

**Goodenough** Go back? To the castle?

**Beauty** Yes.

**Goodenough** But... you *can't* go back!

**Beauty** Father, just like you, I made a promise to the Beast. And you know that in this family we keep our promises.

**Goodenough** After all that's happened! Have you grown to *like* him?

**Beauty** I think so. Yes.

**Goodenough** You have a kind heart, Beauty. As much as I will miss you, you must return as you promised.

**Beauty** I knew you'd understand, father.



**Goodenough** Come on, let's go inside and you can tell me all about life at the castle.

*Beauty and Goodenough exit. Enter Bernice & Bertie.*

**Bernice** So, Bertie, are you looking forward to our wedding?

**Bertie** Like a turkey looks forward to Christmas, my love.

**Bernice** That's sweet. Have you bought a nice suit?

**Bertie** Yes. It was made to measure.

**Bernice** Perfect.

**Bertie** Unfortunately, it was not made to measure for me.

**Bernice** Oh.

**Bertie** Here come Aubrey and Denise.

**Denise** Hello, you two! How are the wedding plans going?

**Bernice** I'm all over it.

**Denise** Have you ordered the flowers?

**Bernice** Oh, yes! We've got roses, posies, petunias, daisies, daffodils, tulips and forget-me-nots. Have you got forget-me-nots, Aubrey?

**Aubrey** I can't remember.

**Denise** We've gone for *much* posher flowers. We've got delphiniums, geraniums, gardenias, chrysanthemums and orchids.

*During the following argument, Aubrey and Bertie start to slowly back away towards the wings.*

**Bernice** What about the wedding cake? We've got a cake with 4 tiers.

**Denise** We've got a cake with 6 tiers.

**Bernice** Our cake is six feet tall.

**Denise** Our cake is twenty feet tall. With a penthouse on the top.

**Bernice** Our cake is so big it's surrounded by a moat.

**Denise** Have you booked a church?

**Bernice** Of course! We getting married in Westminster Abbey!

**Denise** Mm, we thought the abbey was a bit common. We've booked St. Pauls Cathedral. I like a dome.

**Bernice** Where are you going for your honeymoon?

**Denise** We're going to Blackpool.

**Bernice** We're going to Scotland.

*The sisters angrily go nose to nose.*

**Denise** We're going to Majorca.

**Bernice** We're going to the Caribbean!

**Denise** We're going to Australia!

**Bernice** We're going to the moon.

**Denise** We're going to Mars!

**Bernice** We're going to the Sun!

**Denise** It'll be too hot!

**Bernice** We're going at night!

**Denise** That's a terrible old joke.

**Bernice** I know!

*They suddenly stop arguing when they notice that Aubrey and Bertie have almost crept off stage.*

**Denise** You two! Where do you think you're going?

**Bertie** To the pub?

**Bernice** Get back over here!

*Dame Peekaboo enters dressed as a traffic warden. Lampard the sheep follows her on.*

**Dame Peekaboo** *(To audience)* Yoo hoo!

**Audience** How are you, Peekaboo?

**Dame Peekaboo** I'm very well, thank you, and thanks for asking.

**Lampard** Oh, dear are those two arguing again?

**Aubrey** Dame Peekaboo! Why are you dressed as a traffic warden?

**Dame Peekaboo** It's my new part time job. You don't think I can survive on what the master pays me!

**Lampard** Is that your horse outside?

**Aubrey** Yes.

**Lampard** Well it's on a double yellow line. She had to give it a ticket.

**Aubrey** It's only been there for 5 minutes.

**Dame Peekaboo** That's no excuse! Now, go and move it or I'll have it towed away.

*Aubrey runs off, followed by Bertie, Bernice and Denise.*

**Dame Peekaboo** *(To audience)*. I'll let you into a little secret, boys and girls. The only reason I took this job is because men *love* a woman in uniform. Army uniform, police uniform, nurse. They don't care which. As long as you look like you're going to teach them a lesson.

**Lampard** *(To the audience)* She loves issuing parking tickets.

**Dame Peekaboo** I do. I can feel the power surging through my body.

**Lampard** She put a ticket on the royal carriage yesterday and the king had to pay eighty quid for parking next to a zebra crossing.

**Dame Peekaboo** Then I gave a ticket to the zebra for crossing when the lights were green. Everybody loves a traffic warden, don't they?

**Audience** No!!!

### **Song 13**

*Dame Peekaboo sings a funny song with Lampard. At the end of the song Beauty enters with her father.*

**Dame Peekaboo** Beauty? I thought I'd never see you again!

*They hug.*

**Beauty** (*Seeing her uniform*) You're a traffic warden now? Oh dear, we left our carriage on a parking meter and I didn't have any change.

**Lampard** Don't worry, we've done that bit.

**Dame Peekaboo** Beauty, is it really you?

**Beauty** Of course it's me!

**Lampard** So, the Beast didn't kill you?

**Beauty** No, he is far too kind to do that.

*Enter Bernice and Denise.*

**Bernice** Look out everyone, she's back.

**Denise** (*To Beauty*) We thought we'd seen the last of you.

**Dame Peekaboo** (*To Bernice & Denise*) That's quite enough out of you two! Welcome your step-sister home this instant or I shall never cook a meal for either of you again!

**Bernice/Denise** (*Sarcastically*) Welcome home, Beauty.

**Dame Peekaboo** Without the sarcasm.

**Bernice/Denise** Welcome home, Beauty.

**Dame Peekaboo** (*To Bernice/Denise*) Well done.

**Lampard** That didn't hurt, did it?

**Bernice** I hate that sheep.

**Denise** (*To Beauty*) Why did the Beast let you go?

**Beauty** He was being kind. We thought that father was ill.

**Goodenough** Well, all that matters is that Beauty is home.

## Song 14

*Goodenough, Beauty, Peekaboo, Lampard, Bertie, Denise, Aubrey and Bernice sing a song together. At the end of the song Peekaboo, Lampard and Beauty walk downstage and the tabs close behind them.*

## Scene 6

*On tabs. Lighting suggests the countryside.*

**Dame Peekaboo** It must feel great to be home, Miss Beauty?

**Beauty** Of course it is.

**Lampard** Even if both your step-sisters need an urgent personality transplant.

**Dame Peekaboo** Lampard! Don't be so rude!

**Lampard** It's true.

**Dame Peekaboo** And don't stare!

**Lampard** Are you really going back to the castle, Beauty?

**Beauty** I have to. I've already been away far too long. I shall set off at first light tomorrow.

**Dame Peekaboo** Well, before you go, can you help me with something?

**Beauty** Of course.

**Dame Peekaboo** I promised I'd teach the boys and girls my favourite song. Will you help me to do that?

**Beauty** Yes, that'll be fun.

**Dame Peekaboo** Lampard, go and get that big board with the words written on it.

**Lampard** I'll tell you what?

**Dame Peekaboo** What?

**Lampard** I'll go and get that big board with the words written on it.

## Song 15

*Still on tabs, Peekaboo, Lampard and Beauty teach a song to the audience. At the end of the song, they all exit.*

## **Scene 7**

*Tabs open to reveal the castle. The Beast lies in the centre of the stage. He is covered with a blanket. Bernard is kneeling next to him.*

*Enter Beauty.*

**Beauty** Bernard! What's going on?

**Bernard** Miss Beauty, you're back at last! The master thought he was never going to see you again..

**Beauty** Is he ill?

**Bernard** I've been trying for hours to wake him up, but he seems to have fallen into a deep sleep. Perhaps he will awake if *you* talk to him.

*Beauty kneels down next to the Beast. Bernard stands up and walks away.*

**Beauty** It's Beauty. I've come back as you asked. Can you hear me?

*There is a little movement in the Beast's body.*

**The Beast** Beauty? Is that you?

**Beauty** Yes. I'm sorry I was away so long.

**The Beast** You came back.

**Beauty** Of course I came back, my darling.

*The Beast looks up at Beauty.*

**The Beast** I thought you'd left me forever. And now, I fear I am dying.

**Beauty** Please! Don't die! I love you.

*There is a crash of thunder and a flash. Dramatic, soaring music. The lights quickly fade to black.*

*After a few moments, the lights slowly fade back up, revealing that The Beast has transformed back into Prince Leopold. He is standing before Beauty.*

**Leopold** Beauty...

*Beauty obviously does not recognise him.*

**Beauty** Good day, sir. May I ask, how do you know my name?

**Leopold** Beauty, we are not strangers to each other as it might appear. You know me.

**Beauty** Do I?

**Leopold** Yes.

**Beauty** Sir, your voice is indeed familiar, but...

**Leopold** I am he that people called... The Beast.

**Beauty** The Beast?

**Leopold** Yes. But now you can call me by my real name. I am Leopold.

**Beauty** Leopold?

**Leopold** Prince Leopold.

**Beauty** You're a prince?

**Leopold** Yes.

*Beauty studies Leopold's face and gently touches his hair with her hand.*

**Beauty** I don't understand. Why do you now look so... different?

**Leopold** An evil fairy put a curse on me when I refused to marry her.

**Beauty** A curse?

**Leopold** She turned me into that frightful creature you knew. A creature that no-one could ever love.

**Beauty** Why didn't you tell me?

**Leopold** Because, Beauty, I wanted you to admire the man within. Not dismiss me for the way I looked.

**Beauty** Then, why was the spell broken? Why now?

**Leopold** I think it must have been when you said you loved me.

**Beauty** I do love you.

**Leopold** Even now that you have seen my real face.

**Beauty** It's a very nice face.

**Leopold** Thank you. But I fear I probably need a haircut.

**Beauty** (*Laughing*) I'll book you an appointment.

**Leopold** Thank you.

**Beauty** Can I bring my family to the castle? I'd like them to meet my handsome Prince Charming.

**Leopold** Of course. Then, I can tell everyone that I am in love with the most beautiful girl in the world, and we can start to plan... our wedding.

**Beauty** Our wedding? But, you haven't asked me to marry you.

*Leopold gets down on one knee. Romantic music swells.*

**Leopold** Beauty...

**Beauty** Yes, Leopold?

**Leopold** Will you do me the great honour of being my wife.

*Beauty throws her arms around him, and he spins her around.*

**Beauty** Of course I will!

### **Song 16**

*Beauty and Leopold sing a love duet together. At the end of the song, Aurora and Elvinia enter from opposite sides of the stage.*

**Elvinia** I do so *hate* happy endings.

**Aurora** Your power grows weaker every day, Elvinia. Your curse is lifted and good has once again triumphed over evil!

**Elvinia** Don't rub it in!



**Aurora** Oh, and one last thing...

**Elvinia** What's that?

**Aurora** You owe me a shilling.

*Elvina storms off, growling to herself.*

**Aurora** *(To audience)* Didn't I tell you that everything would turn out fine in the end? You should always put your trust in a good fairy.

*Aurora exits. Lighting change. Enter Bernard, Dame Peekaboo, Goodenough, Aubrey, Denice, Bernice, Bertie, Lampard, Chives and Mrs Pickles. The ugly sisters are dressed up to the nines with enormous hats.*

**Dame Peekaboo** Yoo hoo!

**Audience** How are you, Peekaboo?

**Dame Peekaboo** I'm as happy as happy can be. We've all been invited to a grand royal wedding at the palace, and I'm going to bake the biggest wedding cake you've ever seen!

**Beauty** Dame Peekaboo, may I introduce you to my fiancé Prince Leopold?

**Dame Peekaboo** *(To Leopold)* Charmed, I'm sure.

**Leopold** *(Bowing)* I've heard so much about you.

**Dame Peekaboo** *(To the prince)* Nothing good, I hope.

**Beauty** And this is Peekaboo's sheep, Lampard.

**Lampard** Good evening.

**Leopold** Well I never. A talking sheep. *(To Peekaboo)* Why is it staring at me?

**Dame Peekaboo** Lampard stares at everyone.

**Leopold** It's very unnerving.

*The prince produces a pair of completely opaque sunglasses.*

**Leopold** Here, puts these on.

*He gives the sunglasses to Lampard who immediately puts them on.*

**Leopold** That's better.

**Lampard** *(To audience)* This guy is cool.

*Leopold kisses Dame Peekaboo's hand.*

**Leopold** Welcome to my castle Dame Peekaboo.

**Dame Peekaboo** *(To audience)* Oooh, I've gone all unnecessary again. *(Fanning herself)* My hormones are raging! He's the best looking beast I've seen for a long time. I hope he's house trained.

**Beauty** *(To the Prince)* Of course, you've already met my father.

**Leopold** Good evening, Mr Goodenough.

**Goodenough** You can call me Tom.

**Leopold** Tom.

**Goodenough** After all, you are going to be my son-in-law.

**Leopold** Yes.

**Goodenough** You look very different without your... in the absence of having... I mean... I wasn't expecting you to be so...

**Dame Peekaboo** *(To audience)* This is awkward.

**Beauty** *(Jumping in)* Er... and this is our housekeeper. Chives, this is Crown Prince Leopold.

*Chives takes one look at Leopold and faints to the floor with a thud. Dame Peekaboo runs to revive her.*

*Meanwhile, Bernice, Bertie, Denise and Aubrey draw closer to the happy couple.*

**Aubrey** Well, this is simply spiffing. I've never met a real prince before.

**Bertie** I wonder if he's in line for the throne.

**Denise** He looks more like he's in line for the supermarket checkout. The royals are such a scruffy bunch these days, aren't they?

**Bernice** He's not nearly as handsome as you, flirty Bertie. *(Squeezing his cheek)* You're my little beastie boy, aren't you?

**Bertie** *(Unenthusiastic)* Yes, my love.

**Beauty** Leopold, these are my two delightful step-sisters and their husbands-to-be.

**Leopold** Delighted to meet you ladies. Glad to see you didn't go to too much trouble to dress up. As you can see we are very informal here at the castle.

**Denise** Check!

**Bertie** *(To Leopold)* Your Highness, I am Lord Bertie Piddle-Hinton...

**Leopold** Your lordship...

**Aubrey** And I am Aubrey Oxlade-Chamberlain Huffington. We are delighted to hear that our proud families will soon be joined.

**Leopold** The pleasure is all mine.

**Bertie** We were just wondering if you wouldn't mind lending us a few quid.

**Leopold** What?

**Aubrey** Just to tide us over until our benefit cheques arrive.

**Leopold** Oh dear, whatever has happened to the British aristocracy?

**Bernard** *(To the audience)* And now, by royal decree, I declare this fairy story at an end. The Prince shall marry Beauty, Aubrey shall marry Miss Denise, Bertie shall marry Miss Bernice, and I shall marry...

**Dame Peekaboo** *(To audience)* This bit's not in the script...

**Bernard** And I shall marry... Dame Peekaboo.

**Dame Peekaboo** *(To audience)* What???

**Lampard** Well, that came out of left field.

*Dame Peekaboo runs and grabs Bernard by the arm.*

**Dame Peekaboo** *(To Bernard)* Shouldn't we get to know each other first?

**Bernard** All in good time, Dame Peekaboo.

**Dame Peekaboo** *(To audience)* Should I marry Bernard, boys and girls?

**Audience** Yes!

**Dame Peekaboo** *(To Bernard)* Right, you're on. But I want a pre-nup.

*Aurora runs on.*

**Aurora** So concludes our pantomime,  
And as the music fades away,  
We all should smile and be assured  
That love has surely won the day.

We hope you've had a lovely time,  
You've laughed and cried and raised the rafters.  
Now, please re-join us every year,  
For many Happy Ever Afters."

### **Song 17**

*Everyone sings a big finale song. Fade to black.*

*Walkdown and reprise of final song.*

THE END