

## Day 1

[King enters and stands by the table for the feast. Stewards all enter and sit at the table.]

King: Welcome, most noble lords and ladies, to my banquet hall.

Stephanie: We appreciate the invitation, your majesty!

King: The pleasure is all mine, Lady Stephanie. But let us wait no longer. Dig in!

[They all begin to eat. The King gets up.]

King: I almost forgot dessert. Let me get it. [He exits.]

Leon: Why do you think the King called us here today?

Belle: He said he had an important announcement. With how terrible things are going in this town, it's probably bad news.

Emma: Maybe he thinks the Vikings are coming again to attack.

Belle: Or maybe we've run out of food.

Stephanie: Oh, don't be silly, Lady Belle. If we were out of food, why would he be throwing this big feast?

Belle: Because he's keeping the last of the food for himself while the rest of us starve.

[The King enters with desserts.]

King: Here we are, enjoy. Now I bet you're wondering why I've called you here today. I have an important announcement. As you know, there are many problems in our town right now. Food is running low, some of the buildings are falling down, and there are Vikings in the area.

Leon: Don't forget the rat problem.

King: Indeed, Sir Leon. Now I have heard of a Kingdom far away where I can bring everyone. It's beautiful, full of food, and well-protected. It will make a great home for our people.

Emma: It sounds like a fairy tale.

King: I can assure you it is very real, Lady Emma, and I am going on a journey to find it so that I can bring our people there.

Stephanie: You're going away? But who will protect and watch over us?

King: That's why I've called all of you here. I want you all to take care of the town while I'm gone. You will need to provide food, keep the town in good repair, protect the people from attack, and most importantly, tell them that I'm coming back to bring them to my new kingdom and make sure they stay in town so they are ready when I return.

Belle: You mean *if* you return.

King: I will surely return, Lady Belle, though I don't know when. It could be soon, or in a long time. But I will come back.

Stephanie: But we won't be able to make it without you.

Leon: Yeah, how are we supposed to protect the town, or feed the people?

King: I am giving you everything you need. You will have all my money, all my things, all my servants, all my knights. I know it won't be easy, but I believe you can do it. Can I count on you all?

Stewards: Yes, your majesty. [They bow.]

King: Then I will be on my way. We don't have a moment to lose. [He exits.]

Stephanie: I can't believe the King is leaving! And he's left us with such a big responsibility until he comes back.

Emma: You really think he's coming back? I doubt it.

Belle: He's probably abandoning the town because he knows that we're doomed. He's trying to get to safety while the rest of us are trapped here forever!

Stephanie: Oh, don't be silly. Of course he's coming back. The king always keeps his promises. And in the meantime, we've got a lot of work to do. I think we should...

Leon: Now hold on, the king hasn't even left yet. He'll probably be gone for months, maybe even years. We have plenty of time. No need to rush. Let's relax. Take it easy.

Stephanie: But the people...

Leon: Will be fine.

[Mary and Snowball storm in.]

Snowball: Where's the king?

Emma: He just left. He's going on a journey.

Mary: Left? Well, that's just great. What are we supposed to do?

Stephanie: He's asked us to take care of his kingdom while he's gone. Is there anything we can help you with?

Snowball: Farmer Mary's barn has just collapsed, and all her animals are running away. I think the Vikings did it.

Mary: Can you help us?

Emma: Vikings! That sounds scary. I'm not going anywhere near Vikings.

Leon: I agree, and besides, that sounds like a lot of work. I've got better things to do than run around chasing cows and sheep. Don't we have servants to take care of problems like that?

Belle: I'm so terribly sorry. I wish we could help, but we can't.

Stephanie: Hold on, guys. The King asked us to take care of his kingdom until he returns. He's trusting us. We'll do it! [The other stewards look at her angrily.]

Mary: Thank you so much! Let's go, Snowball. [Mary and Snowball exit.]

Emma: What are you thinking?

Belle: This is ridiculous!

Leon: Can't we just send someone else?

Stephanie: Look, the King was clear. He wants us to take care of the kingdom and its people while he's gone. This is our job. We want him to find the kingdom thriving when he gets back.

Belle: You mean if he comes back.

Stephanie: He will!

Emma: Fine, we can go.

[All exit. Mary enters a farm scene, with various animal puppets going up and down. He chases them, and they disappear.]

Mary: Dottie! Come back, girl! [Cow puppet goes down.] This is terrible.

[Stewards enter, all but Stephanie look reluctant.]

Stephanie: We're here to help! What can we do?

Mary: Great, you came! See if you can chase these animals into a corner.

Leon: Chase? I don't really feel like running.

Emma: Maybe we can do something else. Like watch?

Mary: Actually, that would be great! You can keep watch in case the Vikings come back.

Emma: On second thought, we'd love to help chase your animals.  
[Leon nods in agreement.]

Mary: Perfect! Let's work in groups and try to surround the animals, and we can use these ropes to catch them. Lady Stephanie can go with Lady Belle, and why don't Lady Emma and Sir Leon work together?

Belle: Fine. Let's just get this over with.

[The two groups futilely attempt to catch the animals, bump into each other, etc. Belle is completely uninterested, and Emma and Leon are giving only a half effort.]

Belle: This isn't working.

[Cow pops up.]

Mary: Look, it's Dottie. Why don't you guys approach her from that side, and we'll catch her from behind.

[The two groups surround the cow. Just as Stephanie tries to use her rope to catch the cow, the cow goes down and Snowball pops up, and Stephanie catches her.]

Snowball: Ahh! What was that for!

Stephanie: I'm sorry Snowball, I was trying to catch Dottie.

Snowball: Well you caught me instead. [Stephanie helps untangle her.]

Belle: This is a waste of time. Let's go back to the castle. [Belle exits, followed by Emma and Leon.]

Snowball: Thanks for trying to help. Have a safe trip back to the castle.

Stephanie: Go back? The King asked me to take care of his kingdom, and it's my job to take care of you until he gets back. I'm staying until the job is done.

Mary: Thanks Lady Stephanie! I think I saw Dottie go that way. Let's go.

[All exit.]