

Day 4

[Stephanie, Leon, Emma, and the townspeople all enter.]

Mary: Thanks again for getting all this food for us.

Snowball: It was very brave of you guys!

Stephanie: You're welcome, but it is really Lady Belle we should be thanking. We couldn't have done it without her.

Leon: I hope she's okay.

Charlie: Here she comes now.

[Belle enters running.]

Belle: [Huffing and puffing] Wall... broken... Vikings!

Emma: Slow down, Belle. What happened?

Belle: As I escaped the Vikings and ran back into the town, they broke through the wall. Now there's nothing to keep them from getting in!

Charlie: We're doomed!

Mary: Might as well pack our bags and leave now.

Stephanie: The King will rescue us. All we need to do is...

Emma: Are you still trusting in the King? Face it, Stephanie, he's not coming back.

Leon: You did your best, but there's nothing we can do.

Snowball: Even I have given up hope, Lady Stephanie. I think it's time to admit we were wrong.

Stephanie: Well I'm not giving up, we can...

Belle: Actually, I think I have an idea.

Stephanie: You do?

Belle: Yes, I know a place where we can sneak up on the Vikings and take them by surprise. I'll show you.

Stephanie: Wow, that sounds great! Snowball, Charlie, and Mary, you stay here. We'll go stop the Vikings.

Belle: Follow me!

[Belle leads the other stewards off stage.]

Charlie: I never realized how brave Lady Belle is.

Snowball: I know! At first I thought that she didn't care about this town, but she's working really hard to protect us.

Mary: I'll say. Do you think her plan will work?

[Harr and Garr cackle from offstage.]

Charlie: What was that?

Mary: I think somebody's coming.

[Harr and Garr enter.]

Snowball: It's the Vikings!

[Vikings capture the townspeople.]

Harr: Hahaha! Lady Belle's plan worked.

Snowball: What do you mean, "Lady Belle's plan"?

Garr: She tricked your friends so we could capture you. With Stephanie and the others gone, it was almost too easy.

Charlie: Lady Belle... is helping you?

Harr: That's right. She told us we could have whatever we wanted if we helped her take the town and become queen.

Mary: Why would she do that?

Garr: I don't know. And don't care.

Harr: Alright, enough talking to the prisoners, let's take them to the dungeon!

[Harr and Garr take the townspeople offstage. Belle and the stewards enter. She leads them to the corner of the stage.]

Belle: They should be right over here. [They all lean by the edge.]

Leon: Over where? I can't see them!

[Belle pushes them. They fall into a pit.]

Stephanie: What are you doing?

Leon: We're trapped!

Emma: Lady Belle, what is the meaning of this?

Belle: I can't believe you fell for that! Now the town is mine.

Stephanie: But how could you? We were supposed to take care of the town and wait for the King.

Belle: Oh enough about your silly King already. He isn't coming back. I'm in charge now, so you better get used to Queen Belle. Mwahahaha! [Harr and Garr enter.] Perfect, you're here. Tie them up, boys.

Garr: My pleasure!

[Harr and Garr tie the stewards up around a tree.]

Belle: Time to go. We have a castle to redecorate!

Harr: But my Queen, shouldn't we watch them in case they try to escape?

Belle: Escape? Even if they got out of those ropes, they'd be foolish to try to come back to this town. Let's leave them.

[Belle and the Vikings exit.]

Leon: What are we going to do? We're never going to see our homes again! We should have left town while we had the chance.

Stephanie: Don't give up, Sir Leon. Everything is going to be okay. We just need to have hope.

Emma: Hope? How can you have hope in a time like this? We have no food, the town is falling apart, and now Lady Belle's betrayed us and we're trapped out here.

Leon: Even if we escaped, it's not like we could go back home. The Vikings have taken over. We wouldn't stand a chance.

Stephanie: I know things seem bad now, but everything will be better once the King returns.

Emma: The King? You still believe that he's coming back? I hate to say I told you so, but I knew he was never coming back.

Stephanie: But Lady Emma, he *is* coming back. I truly believe that. And when he does, he's going to fix everything. I know

that things seem bad right now, but when the King returns and brings us to his new kingdom, there will be no more hunger, no more fear, and no more Vikings! Whenever things are tough or I am afraid, I try to think about how great the King's return will be, and it gives me hope and comfort.

Leon: I'm not sure if I believe that, but I hope you're right.

Emma: Even if it is true, that doesn't change the fact that we're in trouble now. How do we get out of here?

Leon: That's a good point, I'm getting uncomfortable sitting next to this Viking helmet.

Emma: Viking helmet? What on earth are you talking about?

Leon: One of the Vikings dropped his helmet next to me while he was tying me up. It's poking me in the side.

Stephanie: Can you pass it over to me? I have an idea.

[Leon passes the helmet to Stephanie, who then uses it to cut herself and the others free.]

Emma: Brilliant, Lady Stephanie! Now we can run far away from here. Hopefully we can find a town without any Vikings.

Stephanie: We can't. We have to go back. The King is counting on us, and we need to be ready for him. We can't lose hope.

Leon: I admire your courage, Stephanie, and your trust in the King. But I can't go back to town. I've given up on the King.

Emma: Maybe he was captured by the Vikings or got lost. Maybe there is no new kingdom. I don't want to waste my life waiting for a King that might never come back. Things are bad in town, and they're never going to get any better.

Stephanie: The King has always kept his promises to me before, and there's no reason for me not to trust him now. If you guys want to leave, I understand. I won't stop you. But I have to go back. I have to help our people. I have to trust the King. And hopefully, you'll change your minds and come back with me too. [She exits.]

Leon: I don't understand how after everything that's happened, after everything that is wrong with the town, she still has hope.

Emma: She really trusts the King. No matter how bad things get, she believes that he is going to fix everything.

Leon: Do you think she's right?

Emma: I don't know, and it would be a big risk to go back with her and find out. I think we should get going.

[Leon and Emma hesitate before exiting.]