

## Day 4

[Enter King from left]

King: Today is invitation day. It's time for me to decide who we are going to invite to my great birthday feast tomorrow. I can't wait to see how happy the people are when they find out that they're invited. Oh look, here they come now!

[King moves to side. Enter Joe, Jack, Abby, and Crystal from right.]

Crystal: Do you believe this? The king's birthday is tomorrow and I still haven't gotten my invitation!

Jack: Yeah, me neither. I thought I would get invited for sure.

Joe: Yeah, well at least you guys still have a chance to make it. After yesterday there's no way the king is inviting me.

Crystal: Don't be silly. The king was never going to invite you anyway. You aren't important enough. [Citizens freeze, King moves to center.]

King: Now that's not true at all! Just because Joe made a mistake doesn't mean that I don't care about him anymore. I love all my people even though they make mistakes, and I have forgiven Joe for what he did. [King moves to side, citizens unfreeze.]

Jack: How about you, Abby? Did you get an invitation yet?

Abby: Not yet, but I'm not worried. I have a plan.

Crystal: What kind of a plan?

Abby: The king told us that he wanted to invite his noblest subjects to the party. Maybe I need to prove to him just how noble I am. Show him what I have to offer.

Jack: Well how do you plan on doing that? It's not like the king ever leaves his castle.

Abby: True, but his herald usually walks this way around 9:51 every morning. If I can impress him, maybe he'll tell the king and then the king will invite me. [Citizens freeze, king moves to center]

King: Well this sounds interesting. I think I'll put on my disguise and see what might happen. [Puts on disguise and joins group, citizens unfreeze]

Joe: That sounds like it might be worth a try. In fact, maybe I can impress him with some of the fruits and vegetables I've been growing.

[Enter herald from left]

Abby: I'm sure. Look, here he comes, right on schedule. Watch and learn. [To herald] Oh hey there, Herald!

Herald: Dr. Abby, good to see you. How can I help you?

Abby: I wanted to tell you about the new formula I've been developing in my lab. I call it the Giant Maker of Orchids, or formula GMO for short.

Herald: I see. What does it do?

Abby: Look here. [Picks up pot] In this pot I planted an ordinary seed just this morning. [Puts pot down behind prop] All I have to do is add some GMO [pours cup into pot] and look [picks up second pot with plant from behind prop] we went from seed to plant in seconds.

Joe: [To audience, looking dejected] I guess my crops are not that impressive compared to Dr. Abby's formula.

Herald: Fascinating! Does it work on people too?

Abby: No. Actually, I learned the hard way that it can be itchy when it comes into contact with human skin.

King: [To audience] I'd like to get a closer look. [Walks over to Abby, bumps into her, she spills it on them both]

Abby: You fool! Look what you've done! [Abby and king start itching]

King: I'm so sorry! I didn't mean to...

Abby: Great! Now I have to go clean this off. Ugh. [Abby storms off right, Joe goes over to help wipe off the king, Rich and Jack back away]

King: Thank you! That was very kind. What are you doing here?

Joe: We are all trying to impress the king by showing his herald what we have to offer. I was going to show off my crops, but my farming won't matter thanks to Dr. Abby's new formula.

King: I'm sure that the king will appreciate the loyalty you already give him.

Joe: Loyalty? What a brilliant idea! I can show him that I can be his loyal protector. Thanks man! [Goes over to herald]

Jack: Hey herald, I think I can set the record for lifting the heaviest boulder in all the land. Won't that be useful to the king when his enemies attack?

Herald: That would be something. Care to demonstrate?

Jack: I thought you'd never ask. [Lifts boulder, people clap]

Joe: [To audience] Who am I kidding? With knights like Sir Jack, why would the king need me and my strength?

Herald: Most impressive, Sir Jack. I will record it in the royal record book.

Jack: Wonderful! [He drops the boulder, it lands on the king's toe, Jack doesn't seem to notice] Well, I'm going to go home. I'm expecting some important mail later today. [Exits right]

Joe: [Going over to the king, who is hopping up and down in pain] Are you OK?

King: Thank you, but I should be fine.

Joe: I wish I could say that, but it looks like my chances of getting an invite to the king's party are fading fast. Maybe I could buy him a nice gift?

Herald: Well this has been exciting, but I must be on my way. The king needs me.

Crystal: One moment, Herald. Please give this to the king, my compliments. It's the finest food money can buy, and I can prove it. [Points to king] You there. Come try this. [Feeds it to the king]

King: Mmmm, this is delicious. I was really hungry and that hit the spot. What is it?

Crystal: It is a crème brulee. It contains eggs, cream, sugar, and walnuts.

King: Wait, did you say walnuts?

Crystal: I did.

King: I'm allergic to walnuts. It makes my tongue all swollen.

Crystal: That's a real shame. I wish I could help, but I need to get to the scepter store. I'm going to a birthday tomorrow and still need a gift. She exits right]

Joe: Can I do anything to help you? Do you want some water?

King: That's OK. It should go away in a few minutes.

Joe: Looks like someone's having a worse day than I am. Do you want some of my lunch?

King: Sure, thanks. I still am hungry. Are you alright? You sound upset.

Joe: I thought I was finally going to get a chance to impress the king by showing him what I have to offer, but it turns out that doesn't amount to much. I'm not as smart as Dr. Abby, as strong as Sir Jack, or as wealthy as Lady Crystal. What do I have to offer the king? It probably doesn't matter anyway. I blew any chance I had yesterday when he saw me steal something. Anyway, thanks for listening, but I should get back to working on the field. It's all I can do anyway. [He exits right]

King: Herald, I am ready to send out the invitations.

Herald: Yes, your majesty. To whom shall I send them?

King: I want you to invite Sir Jack, Dr. Abby, Lady Crystal, Joe, and...

Herald: Excuse me sir. Did you say Joe?

King: Yes, Joe the farmer.

Herald: Not to question your decision, your excellency, but I don't really see what Joe has to offer you. Jack has his strength, Abby has her science, Crystal has her money, and Joe has... carrots?

King: Weren't you paying attention? I'm not inviting any of them to the party because of their strength, smarts, or money. I'm inviting them because I love them and want to spend time with them. The kindness and compassion Joe has shown me is far more valuable and loving than anything I have ever gotten from those other three. In fact, I want you to hand-deliver Joe his invitation.

Herald: Yes, your majesty. [He starts to leave]

King: Oh, and by the way...

Herald: Yes, your majesty?

King: You are invited as well.

Herald: Thank you sir. [Herald exits right, king exits left]