FAIRYTALE

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ACT I - SCENE II

SETTING: Everaftia Castle Ballroom. Evening.

AT RISE: BALL GUESTS & QUEEN are enjoying themselves. TOWN CRIER addresses everyone.

TOWN CRIER

Every year since the King's death, the Queen hosted a grand ball to honor Sir Alexander's gallantry, and to give him ample opportunity to-

(QUEEN clears her throat)

TOWN CRIER, contd.

Oh! Of course, my queen. Enough exposition. Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my highest honor to announce our beloved princesses: Princess Pipsy, Princess Pansy, and Princess Prissy. Welcome, your highnesses!

(PIPSY, PANSY, & PRISSY enter. BALL GUESTS applaud)

PRISSY

Greetings, loyal subjects. Thank you all for joining us on this very special day: Everaftia's Annual Hero's Ball!

PIPSY

We hope you all have a splendid evening of merriment, enjoying all the pleasures that our fair kingdom has provided.

PANSY

And, as always, please refrain from any unauthorized portraits. We want to make sure the royal family is represented in only the best light from the best angles.

PRISSY

Now, no Hero's Ball would ever be complete without the guest of honor himself: Sir Alexander, champion of Everaftia!

(ALEX enters. EVERYONE cheers wildly)

ALEX

Hello, citizens of Everaftia.

QUEEN

Welcome, Sir Alexander.

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(QUEEN, PRISSY, PANSY, & PIPSY all curtsy)

QUEEN, contd. Would you do us the honor of starting off our festivities this evening with a dance? (gestures to PRISSY, PANSY, & PIPSY)

TOWN CRIER

Maestro!

(Dancing music begins)

ALEX

Oh...umm...

PIPSY It's not a chemistry test, Alexander. It's just a dance!

(PIPSY grabs ALEX & drags him to the dance floor. They begin to dance awkwardly)

PIPSY Thanks for rescuing me today. Like always.

ALEX

You're welcome, princess-

PIPSY I try to make it a challenge for you so you get an extra sense of accomplishment at the end of the day.

ALEX

You, what?

PIPSY

It's like how a sandwich tastes better when someone else makes it for you, ya know?

ALEX

How is rescuing you like a sandwich?

PIPSY

Silly Alexander, *everything* in life can be related to sandwiches.

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(ALEX & PIPSY finish dancing. PANSY takes PIPSY's place & begins dancing with ALEX)

PANSY

Do you like my dress?

ALEX

It's sparkly.

PANSY

The sparkliest! I had the dressmaker add some extra jewels so that no one could ever out sparkle me.

ALEX

That's quite the strategy.

PANSY

Quite the what?

ALEX The strategy, like a great plan for-

PANSY

You know, Alexander, I think you are a little unsparklicious there. I mean, as the future king, you should outshine everyone too.

ALEX

What do you mean?

PANSY I'll get in touch with your tailor to make sure next time you are just as sparkly as me!

ALEX

Please, you don't have to-

PANSY

Trust me. I know a thing or two about fashion, and you, sir, are lacking. (ALEX & PANSY finish dancing. PRISSY

takes PANSY's place & begins dancing
with ALEX)

PRISSY

You look very dashing this evening, Alex. Is that a new suit?

Yep.

(There is an awkward silence)

PRISSY So, how did the rescuing of Pipsy go today? Any unexpected complications?

ALEX

Nope.

PRISSY

That's good, I guess.

(There is another awkward silence)

PRISSY, contd. Do you have any fun plans for the weekend?

> (CLAIRE enters wearing pajamas with bunny slippers. ALEX is mystified by her immediately)

> > PRISSY, contd.

ALEX

PRISSY

ALEX

PRISSY

ALEX

Alex?

Who?

She's so beautiful!

(hopeful) Me?

No. Her.

You're unbelievable.

It's destiny!

PRISSY

Is it though?

(ALEX leaves PRISSY, & approaches CLAIRE)

ALEX

Oh, dazzling maiden, may I ask...?

(CLAIRE ignores him, continuing on her way)

ALEX, contd.

Excuse me, miss, but I must say, you are without a doubt the most beautiful girl in attendance this evening.

CLAIRE

Who, me?

ALEX Your charms have completely captivated me. Please, accept this gift as a token of my adoration. (ALEX hands CLAIRE a bracelet, rose, etc.)

CLAIRE Oh, wow, I don't usually accept gifts from strangers.

How can we be strangers when our destinies are entwined? I must ask you to share the next dance with me.

CLAIRE

ALEX

What?

ALEX

To dance with you would be enchanting.

CLAIRE

Oh, no. I just came down for a sandwich. I didn't even know there was a party tonight.

ALEX

Even so you are without a doubt the belle of the ball. Just one dance?

CLAIRE

I mean, okay...

(CLAIRE & ALEX begin to dance. PRISSY, PANSY & PIPSY exit)

ALEX

Do you believe in love at first sight?

CLAIRE

I'm pretty sure that only exists in fairytales.

ALEX

I think tonight is a wonderful night for a fairytale, don't you?

CLAIRE

What? Who talks like that? Oh no, you're not going to sing, are you?

FOREVER

ALEX

Here we are you and I

CLAIRE

Great. Here we go.

ALEX

Together at last Our destinies entwined In this moment for which I've waited all my life

CLAIRE

You've been waiting to dance with a girl wearing bunny slippers?

ALEX

When you walked into the room My heart began to soar My eyes fell upon your beauty I was seeing for the first time

CLAIRE

You've got to be kidding me!

ALEX

Fair maiden, with your hand in mine I could conquer all the world Will you stay with me

CLAIRE

Seriously, I just want a sandwich

ALEX

For eternity

CLAIRE

What is happening?

ALEX

And make this dance last forever

CLAIRE

Forever? C'mon man, I'm so hungry! Look, there's a plate of sandwiches right over there. I'll just take one and get out of your way. Surely you'd rather dance with, you know, a real princess, maybe one of my step-sisters with their sparkly dresses and vague expressions?

ALEX

Peace, my angel. You are safe now. I am here.

CLAIRE

I don't want to be safe, I want to be eating! I'm uncomfortable I wish this moment would end I'm uncomfortable I wish that I could be invisible Wish that I could just get outta here Wish this moment would end I wish this moment would end And will this song ever end? I wish this moment would finally end

ALEX

Now our future is at hand

CLAIRE

Oh brother.

ALEX

It's waiting at the door

CLAIRE You're not even listening, are you?

ALEX

Your life is changed forever

CLAIRE

Will you please just let me go? I'm so hungry for some turkey and some swiss ALEX I will never let you go Fair maiden, with your hand in mine I could conquer all the world

ALEX

Will you stay with me For eternity And make this dance last forever

CLAIRE

Is this song almost over?

ALEX Would you make this dance last forever?

CLAIRE My feet kind of hurt and I wanna go to bed

ALEX Would you make this dance last forever?

CLAIRE

You made this dance last forever

(Music ends & BALL GUESTS erupt in applause)

CLAIRE

Finally! Sandwich time! (hurries over to the refreshments table, grabs a sandwich, & exits quickly)

(QUEEN approaches ALEX)

QUEEN

I'm so sorry about that, Sir Alexander. Normally we only let the best of the best into the Hero's Ball. I don't know how that Claire got in. What a disgrace in those bunny slippers!

ALEX

An angel!

QUEEN No, a disgrace. I said she's a disgrace.

ALEX

What grace!

QUEEN

Never mind her.

(Dancing music resumes & BALL GUESTS begin to dance)

QUEEN, contd.

You work so hard, Alexander. The princesses want you to know how appreciated you are, going out of your way to save them so often.

ALEX It is my duty, your majesty. I could hardly leave a princess in danger.

QUEEN And such lovely girls, don't you agree?

ALEX

Uh...sure.

That Pipsy, so smart, isn't she? ALEX Uh huh. (looking for CLAIRE) QUEEN Pansy is so lovely, and takes such care of her appearance. ALEX Where did-QUEEN And Prissy! My, that girl is so regal, so elegant. ALEX Where did my angel go? QUEEN Your who? ALEX That girl I just danced with, who has stolen my heart. OUEEN I don't have any idea who you are talking about. ALEX I must find her immediately! My heart cannot stand to be apart from her another moment! (exits) OUEEN Kado! (KADO steps out of the shadows, disguised)

OUEEN

KADO

Yes, your majesty?

QUEEN

I'm concerned. Make sure our noble knight's attention stays properly focused.

KADO

It will be done. (exits)