

SCENE FIVE: Castle *Lumiere + Cogsworth*

(COGSWORTH and LUMIERE enter in mid-argument.)

COGSWORTH

Couldn't keep quiet, could we? Just had to invite him to stay, didn't we? Serve him tea, sit in the Master's chair –

LUMIERE

I was trying to be hospitable!

COGSWORTH

Hmph!

LUMIERE

Aw, Cogsworth, can you blame me for trying to maintain what's left of our humanity? Look at us. Look at you!

COGSWORTH

What about me?

LUMIERE

You always were insufferable. But every day, you become just a little more inflexible... a little more tightly wound... a little more ticked off!

COGSWORTH

Please, spare me the stupid puns.

LUMIERE

At least we are not as far gone as some of the others. You saw what happened to Michelle.

COGSWORTH

She always was too vain about her looks. And that's exactly what she's become.

LUMIERE

A vanity.

COGSWORTH

Little drawers, mirror... the works.

LUMIERE

And poor Jean-Claude.

COGSWORTH

Who?

LUMIERE

Jean-Claude. You remember him, not too bright, dumb as...

COGSWORTH

... a brick?

LUMIERE

The whole wall.

COGSWORTH

Jean-Claude's a brick wall?

LUMIERE

That's him in the kitchen, behind the stove. Slowly but surely, as every day passes, we will all gradually become... things.

COGSWORTH

But why did we have to get dragged into this whole spell business? It's not like we threw that poor old beggar woman out on her ear.

LUMIERE

But are we not responsible too? For helping to make him the way he is?

COGSWORTH

I suppose so.

LUMIERE

Eventually, I will melt away to nothing. I only hope there's something left of me if the Master ever breaks the spell.

COGSWORTH

Hold on, old man. We've got to hold on.

(BELLE enters, searching for her father.)

BELLE

Hello? Is anyone here? Hello?

(BELLE exits.)

LUMIERE

It's a girl!

COGSWORTH

Yes, of course, I can see it's a girl!

LUMIERE, COGSWORTH

It's a girl!!!

(LUMIERE and COGSWORTH follow BELLE off, arguing.)

LUMIERE

Mademoiselle...

COGSWORTH

Now, Lumiere, let me do all the talking.

LUMIERE

Yoo-hoo...

COGSWORTH

As head of the household, I should do most of the talking!

LUMIERE

Cherie...

COGSWORTH

A word. Just a word! That's all I'm asking for!

(COGSWORTH and LUMIERE exit as MRS. POTTS enters with CHIP.)

End

CHIP

Mama, Mama! You're not gonna believe what I saw!

MRS. POTTS

Yes, dear.

CHIP

No, really... it's the thing that everybody's been waiting for!

MRS. POTTS

All right, Chip, what is it?

CHIP

There's a young lady in the castle!

MRS. POTTS

Bless my soul, wouldn't that be lovely?

CHIP

But there is! I saw her!

MRS. POTTS

Now, Chip, I'll not have you making up wild stories. Getting everyone's hopes up for no reason.

(BABETTE rushes in.)

BABETTE

Mrs. Potts, did you hear? There is a young lady in the castle!

CHIP

See? I told ya! And she's real pretty too!

BABETTE

Well, I don't know about that.

Chip +
Mrs Potts

End

BELLE

Who's done this to you?

*(The BEAST appears in the shadows.)***MAURICE**

There's no time to explain. You must go... now!

BELLE

I won't leave you here!

(feels a presence and whirls around)

Who's there? I know someone's there. Who are you?

BEAST

The master of this castle.

BELLE

Then, you're the one who's responsible for this! Release my father at once!

BEAST

I am the master of the castle! I do not take orders from anyone. Throw her out!

*(The GARGOYLE suddenly springs to life and grabs BELLE.)***BELLE**

No! Wait! Forgive me. Please, let him out. Can't you see he's not well?

BEAST

Then he should not have trespassed here.

BELLE

But he's an old man. He could die!

BEAST

He came into my home uninvited and now he'll suffer the consequences.

BELLE

Please... I'll do anything.

MAURICE

Belle!

BEAST

There's nothing you can do!

BELLE

Wait, please!

BEAST

I said there is nothing you can do!

Belle +
Beast

Mama?

CHIP

Yes, Chip?

MRS. POTTS

Will I ever get to be a boy again?

CHIP

I hope so.

MRS. POTTS

When will I know?

CHIP

Soon. If it's to be, it will be very soon now. Come along, Son.

MRS. POTTS

(MRS. POTTS and CHIP exit.)

BELLE

(reading)

"Knowing not that this was indeed the legendary sword called Excalibur, Arthur tried to pull it from the stone. He tried once, to no avail. He tried a second time, but still he could not pull it out. Then, for the third time, Arthur drew forth the sword—"

BEAST

So that must mean that he's the King!

BELLE

Wait and see.

BEAST

I never knew books could do that.

BELLE

Do what?

BEAST

Take me away from this place and make me forget... for a little while.

BELLE

Forget?

BEAST

Who I— what I am.

(BELLE looks at the BEAST. He has touched her heart.)

*Belle +
Beast*

BELLE

We have something in common, you know.

BEAST

What?

BELLE

In the town where I come from, the people think I'm odd.

BEAST

You?

BELLE

So I know how it feels to be... different. And I know how lonely that can be.

(BELLE and the BEAST's eyes meet. A bond has formed between them. BELLE continues reading.)

"For the third time, Arthur drew forth the sword. And there arose from the people a great shout 'Arthur is King!'"

BEAST

Told you so.

(LUMIERE enters and watches BELLE and the BEAST in the library. MRS. POTTS and CHIP enter.)

MRS. POTTS

End

They're still in there?

LUMIERE

Yes, and so far he has been a perfect gentleman.

CHIP

You know what, Mama? I have a funny feeling inside. I don't know what it is, but it makes me feel kind of... bubbly.

(MRS. POTTS and LUMIERE share a knowing look.)

MRS. POTTS

It's hope, Son.

#16 - Human Again Lum., Cogs., Mrs. Potts, Chip, Bab., Madam, Staff

(MRS. POTTS)

I've been feeling it too.

LUMIERE

Ah, *oui*... my little friend, the day we have waited for may be at hand!

LUMIERE

With books!

*(COGSWORTH and LUMIERE draw BELLE away from the west wing.)***COGSWORTH**

Oh yes! Scads of books! Mountains of books!

LUMIERE

Books with pictures! Books with words!

COGSWORTH

More words than you could ever be able to read in a lifetime!

(COGSWORTH and LUMIERE toddle off.)

#11A – Belle in the West Wing

Orchestra

*(BELLE turns and sneaks into the west wing. The rose catches her eye and she moves closer, awestruck. She reaches out... The BEAST enters.)***BEAST**Don't touch that!**BELLE**

I'm sorry!

*(BELLE fearfully backs away. As the BEAST sees that the rose is unharmed, his fear begins to abate, but fury rises up in its place. He slowly advances on BELLE... eyes burning with rage.)***BEAST**

What are you doing here?

BELLE

I—

BEAST

I told you never to come here!

BELLE

I know but—

BEAST

Do you realize what you could have done? Get out!

BELLE

No—

Belle +
Beast

BEAST

You have no right! No right!

(As BELLE tries to run out, the BEAST grabs her arm. She falls backward.)

Oh... no...

BELLE

Don't touch me!

BEAST

No, I—

BELLE

Promise or no promise, I won't stay here!

(BELLE runs out. The BEAST is left alone with his remorse.)

BEAST

I'm sorry! I'm sorry! I didn't mean to frighten you. I didn't mean to hurt you. You don't understand.

End

#12 – *If I Can't Love Her*

Beast

(BEAST)

There's so little left of me... So little left...

AND IN MY TWISTED FACE
THERE'S NOT THE SLIGHTEST TRACE
OF ANYTHING THAT EVEN HINTS AT KINDNESS
AND FROM MY TORTURED SHAPE
NO COMFORT, NO ESCAPE
I SEE, BUT DEEP WITHIN IS UTTER BLINDNESS
HOPELESS, AS MY DREAM DIES
AS THE TIME FLIES...
LOVE, A LOST ILLUSION
HELPLESS, UNFORGIVEN
COLD AND DRIVEN
TO THIS SAD CONCLUSION...

NO BEAUTY COULD MOVE ME
NO GOODNESS IMPROVE ME
NO POWER ON EARTH, IF I CAN'T LOVE HER
NO PASSION COULD REACH ME
NO LESSON COULD TEACH ME
HOW I COULD HAVE LOVED HER

SCENE TWO: Castle

(BELLE helps the BEAST to his chair by the fireplace. He holds one arm painfully. MRS. POTTS, LUMIERE, and COGSWORTH enter. COGSWORTH carries a bowl and cloth to wash the Beast's wounds. MRS. POTTS pours in steaming water. BELLE dips a clean cloth into the hot water and wrings it out. She reaches for the BEAST's wounded arm, but he growls and pulls away.)

BELLE

Don't do that!

(BELLE reaches for the BEAST again, but he won't let her touch his arm.)

Just hold still.

(BELLE gently dabs at the wound.)

BEAST

(cringing and pulling away)

Ow! That hurts!

BELLE

If you'd hold still, it wouldn't hurt as much.

BEAST

If you hadn't run away, this wouldn't have happened.

BELLE

If you hadn't frightened me, I wouldn't have run away!

(This gives the BEAST pause.)

BEAST

Well... you shouldn't have been in the west wing!

BELLE

And you should learn to control your temper!

(The BEAST doesn't have an answer for that. He and BELLE glare at each other in a silent battle of wills. BELLE dips the cloth in hot water again and wrings it out.)

Now, hold still, this may sting a little.

(BELLE dabs gently at the wound on the BEAST's arm. He winces but doesn't pull away.)

By the way... thank you for saving my life.

BEAST

You're welcome.

(MRS. POTTS, LUMIERE, and COGSWORTH look at each other with happy surprise.)

Belle +
Beast

ACT ONE

#1 – Overture

Orchestra

PROLOGUE

Narrator

#2 – Prologue

Orchestra

(A YOUNG PRINCE of noble bearing stands in the doorway of a majestic castle. We hear a voice.)

NARRATOR

Once upon a time in a faraway land, a young prince lived in a shining castle. Although he had everything his heart desired, the Prince was spoiled, selfish, and unkind.

(An OLD BEGGAR WOMAN appears.)

But then, one winter's night, an old beggar woman came to the castle and offered him a single rose in return for shelter from the bitter cold. Repulsed by her haggard appearance, the Prince sneered at the gift and turned the old woman away. But she warned him not to be deceived by appearances, for beauty is found within. And when he dismissed her again, the old woman's ugliness melted away to reveal... a beautiful enchantress.

(The OLD BEGGAR WOMAN transforms into an ENCHANTRESS. The YOUNG PRINCE falls to his knees.)

The Prince tried to apologize, but it was too late, for she had seen that there was no love in his heart. As punishment, she transformed him...

(The YOUNG PRINCE transforms into the BEAST and holds a magic mirror.)

... into a hideous beast and placed a powerful spell on the castle and all who lived there. Ashamed of his monstrous form, the Beast concealed himself inside his castle with a magic mirror as his only window to the outside world.

(The rose appears.)

The rose she had offered was truly an enchanted rose, which would bloom for many years. If he could learn to love another and earn their love in return by the time the last petal fell, then the spell would be broken. If not... he would be doomed to remain a beast for all time.

(The BEAST gazes at the rose... trapped, forlorn, and hopeless.)

As the years passed, he fell into despair and lost all hope. For who could ever learn to love a beast?

VILLAGERS

LOOK, THERE SHE GOES, THAT GIRL IS SO PECULIAR
I WONDER IF SHE'S FEELING WELL

FEMALE VILLAGERS

WITH A DREAMY, FAR-OFF LOOK...

MALE VILLAGERS

... AND HER NOSE STUCK IN A BOOK

VILLAGERS

WHAT A PUZZLE TO THE REST OF US IS BELLE

(BELLE stops for a moment, engrossed in her book.)

BELLE

OH... ISN'T THIS AMAZING?
IT'S MY FAV'RITE PART BECAUSE... YOU'LL SEE...
HERE'S WHERE SHE MEETS PRINCE CHARMING
BUT SHE WON'T DISCOVER THAT IT'S HIM
TILL CHAPTER THREE

SAUSAGE CURL LADY

NOW IT'S NO WONDER THAT HER NAME MEANS "BEAUTY"
HER LOOKS HAVE GOT NO PARALLEL

BOOKSELLER, CANDLEMAKER

BUT BEHIND THAT FAIR FACADE
I'M AFRAID SHE'S RATHER ODD

CANDLEMAKER

VERY DIFF'RENT FROM THE REST OF US

SOME VILLAGERS

SHE'S NOTHING LIKE THE REST OF US

ALL VILLAGERS

YES, DIFF'RENT FROM THE REST OF US IS BELLE

(Gunshot. LEFOU rushes onstage, holding a gunnysack open toward the sky... ready to catch the fallen prey.)

LEFOU

I got it. I got it. I got it!

(A large duck drops, missing the bag entirely. LEFOU quickly puts the duck into the bag as GASTON enters carrying a large, smoking rifle.)

Le Fou
+
Gaston

(LEFOU)

You didn't miss a shot, Gaston. You're the greatest hunter in the whole world!

GASTON

I know.

LEFOU

No beast alive stands a chance against you! And no lass, for that matter.

GASTON

It's true, Lefou. And I've got my sights set on...

(points to BELLE)

... that one.

LEFOU

The inventor's daughter?

GASTON

She's the one. The lucky girl I'm going to marry.

LEFOU

But, she's—

GASTON

The most beautiful in town.

LEFOU

I know, but—

GASTON

That makes her the best.

(grabs LEFOU with a beefy hand and pulls him up nose-to-nose)

And don't I deserve the best?

LEFOU

Well, of course you do!

(GASTON drops LEFOU.)

GASTON

RIGHT FROM THE MOMENT WHEN I MET HER, SAW HER
I SAID SHE'S GORGEOUS AND I FELL
HERE IN TOWN THERE'S ONLY SHE
WHO IS AS BEAUTIFUL AS ME
SO I'M MAKING PLANS TO WOO AND MARRY BELLE

(GASTON strides toward BELLE. Three twittering FILLES DE LA VILLE swoon as he passes.)

End

(BELLE heads for home, with GASTON and LEFOU close behind. GASTON runs around in front of her and strikes a nonchalant pose.)

Gaston +
Belle

GASTON

Hello... Belle.

BELLE

Bonjour, Gaston.

(GASTON moves and blocks BELLE's way. She is amused by this. He's harmless.)

Excuse me.

(GASTON snatches the book out of BELLE's hand.)

Gaston. May I have my book, please?

GASTON

(flicking through the book)

How can you read this? There's no pictures.

BELLE

Well, some people use their imagination!

GASTON

Belle, it's about time you got your head out of these books and paid attention to more important things.

(GASTON strikes a handsome pose.)

LEFOU

Hint... hint.

BELLE

Like you?

GASTON

Exactly! The whole town's talking about it. It's not right for a woman to read. Soon she starts getting ideas... and thinking... for herself!

BELLE

Gaston, you are positively primeval!

GASTON

Why, thank you, Belle. What do you say you and me take a walk over to the tavern? I can show you my trophies.

BELLE

Maybe later. I have to go help my father.

LEFOU

That crazy old fool. He needs all the help he can get!

(GASTON and LEFOU laugh heartily.)

BELLE

Don't talk about my father that way!

(GASTON thunks LEFOU on the head.)

GASTON

Yeah! Don't talk about her father that way!

BELLE

My father's not crazy! He's a genius!

#3B – Maurice's Entrance

Orchestra

(MAURICE enters with his colorful new invention.)

MAURICE

Belle! Belle!

BELLE

It's working!

(MAURICE waves merrily as part of the invention falls apart.)

GASTON

Some genius! Now, Lefou, I want you to go out into the woods and bring me back the biggest, healthiest deer you can find.

LEFOU

Not the woods! Anything but the woods! You know I hate the woods.

GASTON

Just bring me a deer for my wedding feast!

LEFOU

But I hate the woods! It's dark and spooky, and there's bugs and spiders!

(GASTON and LEFOU exit.)

BELLE

Papa, are you all right?

MAURICE

I can't for the life of me figure out why that happened! I'm about to give up on this hunk of junk!

BELLE

Oh, you always say that.

MAURICE

I mean it this time! I'll never get this bone-headed contraption to work!

BELLE

Yes, you will. And you'll win first prize at the fair tomorrow.

MAURICE

(sulking)

Hmmph!

BELLE

And become a world-famous inventor.

MAURICE

You really think so?

BELLE

You know I do. I always have.

MAURICE

Well, we'd better get cracking. This thing's not going to fix itself. Now let's see...

(tinkers with the invention)

So... did you have a good time in town today?

BELLE

I got a new book.

MAURICE

You do love those books.

BELLE

Well, they take me away to wonderful places where there's adventure and mystery and romance and... happy endings.

(a beat)

Papa... if I ask you something, will you answer me honestly?

MAURICE

Don't I always?

(MAURICE ducks behind the invention.)

BELLE

Do you think I'm... odd?

MAURICE

My daughter! Odd?

(reappears with a silly-looking work helmet and goggles)

Now, where would you get an idea like that?

Maurice
+
Belle

If you are performing #4 (ALT) – No Matter What and #4A (ALT) – Maurice Travels, turn to page 97 in the Appendix.

BELLE

(amused)

I don't know. It's just that – well... people talk.

MAURICE

They talk about me, too.

#4 – Maurice and Belle

Orchestra

(MAURICE)

(sees that BELLE is really upset)

You're not happy here.

BELLE

I'm surrounded by people... but I've never felt so alone.

MAURICE

I felt that way before I met your mother.

BELLE

How did you know she was the one for you?

MAURICE

After we met, I felt changed... transformed. And I knew I could never be without her. The same thing will happen to you.

BELLE

I don't know.

MAURICE

It will. Trust your papa.

BELLE

I love you.

(MAURICE and BELLE embrace.)

MAURICE

My daughter... my beautiful, beautiful Belle. Now... what do you say we give her a try? All right. Stand back.

(MAURICE pulls a lever and the invention springs to life.)

#4A – Maurice Travels

Maurice

BELLE

It works! Papa, you did it! You really did it! You'll win first prize at the fair tomorrow, I know it!

If you are performing #4 (ALT) – No Matter What and #4A (ALT) – Maurice Travels, continue here.

MAURICE

Who knows, maybe I will at that!

BELLE

Oh, I almost forgot! I made you a scarf for good luck.

(BELLE wraps the scarf around MAURICE's neck.)

MAURICE

Now I know I'll win. And then we'll get out of this town and travel to all those places you've read about in your books. Well, I'm off!

BELLE

Goodbye, Papa.

MAURICE

Bye-bye, Belle.

BELLE

Be careful!

(MAURICE heads toward the forest, leaving BELLE behind.)