THE SISTER WISHES

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A Musical Play in Three Acts

  by

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**Cast of Characters:**

Maggie: A young woman in her late teens or early twenties with a                     determination to make life better for herself. Ambitious.

Joy: A young woman in her late teens or early twenties who loves her life just as it is. Sweet

King Charles(KC): A young king who loves his kingdom and wants to keep it safe. Mild mannered.

Sebastian: A young shepherd who wants to see the world Adventurous

Mother: Maggie and Joy’s mother. Wise with a desire to help.

Father: Maggie and Joy’s father. Kind, a little protective

Herald: King Charles’ herald: does his job with gusto

Steward Helen: King Charles’ steward and first cousin: the villain

Minister of Economics(ME): King Charles’ advisor. On Steward’s side

 He is in charge of the country’s wealth

Keeper of the Robes(MR): King Charles’ advisor. Mostly loyal to King Charles.

 He is in charge of the king’s wardrobe

Minister of Health(MH): King Charles’ advisor. Wishywashy.

 He is in charge of the country’s health

Keeper of the Purse(KP): King Charles’ advisor. Mostly loyal to King Charles.

 He is in charge of King Charles’ personal money

Minister of War(MW): King Charles’ advisor. On Steward’s side.

 He is in charge of the country’s army

Minister of Agriculture: Royalty. King Charles’ advisor Kings side

Minister of the Arts: Royalty. King Charles’ advisor. Kings Side

Minister of Transportation: Royalty. King Charles’ advisor . Steward's Side

Royal Astronomer:  King Charles’ advisor. Stewards Side

Keeper of the Gardens: King Charles’ advisor. Neutral

Royal Architect: King Charles’ advisor. Neutral

Jester Madisyn: Royal Jesters. Fun, comedic. Make people laugh

Jester Lily: Royal Jesters. Fun, comedic. Make people laugh

Captain of the King’s Guard(CG): The leader of King Charles’ personal guard. Loyal to King.

Guards 1-5: King Charles’ personal guard. Loyal to King

King’s bodyguard(KB): King Charles’ right hand man and bodyguard. Loyal

Queen’s bodyguard(QB): A bodyguard assigned to the Queen to be. Loyal

Scout: A soldier Loyal

Fairy Queen(FQ): The Queen of the Fairies.

Sydney (with children): A poor and tired mother

Ambassador (AC): The Ambassador of Cumbria. Distrusting

Tinker: A merchant and family friend of Maggie and Joy’s family

Villagers 1-5: A group of angry women.

Village Children 1-4: A group of girls who take care of the younger children

Fairies 1-6: A group of fairies

Siblings 1-6: Maggie and Joy’s younger sisters

Narrators 1-6: Narrators who are from the time of the story

Queen's Attendants 1-4: Women assigned to help the Queen to be. Loyal

Queen’s Attendants 5-8: Women assigned to help the Queen to be. Steward’s side at first, but they become loyal to Maggie when they realize Steward wants to kill the king.

Shopkeepers 1-12 Women with stalls at the market: grocer, apothecary, baker, haberdasher, jeweler, and butcher

**Groups**:

Sheep: Kindergarten & 1st Grade Girls  Counting Sheep

Village children: Kindergarten & 1st Grade Boys ABC Song

Fairies: 2nd & 3rd Grade Girls  The Fairies

King’s Guards: 2nd & 3rd grade Boys  Follow His Orders

Queen’s attendants: 4th & 5th grade Girls  Gold

Farmers/shepherds: 4th & 5th grade Boys Going to War

Shopkeepers:                                   6th & 7th Grade Girls Market Day

King’s advisors: 6th grade and Up Boys  Plotting

Villager Women: 8th grade and up Girls  Face Off

Songs:

Counting Sheep:  Sheep and Sebastian

ABC Song: Village Children and Joy

The Fairies:  Fairies and Fairy Queen

Follow His Orders: Kings Guards and Captain

Gold: Queen’s Attendants and Maggie

Going to War: Farmers/Shepherds & Kings Guards

Market Days: Shopkeepers and Father/Mother

Face Off: Villagers and Steward

Ambassador Report: Ambassador

Making Wishes: Dad, Mom, and Maggie and Joy

Once Upon a Time: Narrators

Plotting: Advisors and Steward

**PROLOGUE**

SETTING: A pastoral scene backdrop, market booths set up UPSTAGE. The NARRATORS are standing at the mics so that they can get their story across.

Narrator Elizabeth

Welcome, ladies and gentlemen to the Nibley Children’s Theater and the Kingdom of Mercia!

Narrator Emily

This production is brought to you by our sponsors Rocky Mountain Power Company and the Cache County RAPZ tax!

Narrator Emmalyn

Don’t forget the Utah Division of Arts and Museums!

Narrator Audrey

But not one page of this glorious show could be performed without the continued, unfailing support of Nibley City!

(All NARRATORS bow to one side and then the other)

Narrator Hannah

We are so happy to have such a large audience today and ask for only two considerations: please, silence your phones and remove any people--big or small-- who are drowning out the performers.

Narrator Aliya

There are 201 children and 93 adults who have worked hard for 14 days to bring this show together. We hope you enjoy “The Sister Wishes”.

Narrator Elizabeth

Once upon a time…

Narrator Emily:

What? Did you already forget when it happened?

Narrator Elizabeth:

No. That’s just how you tell a story.

Narrator Emily:

That’s not how *I* tell a story.

Narrator Audrey:

She has a point-not every story starts the same way.

Narrator Emmalyn:

I like, “It was a dark and stormy night”.

Narrator Hannah:

I’m pretty sure it was daytime.

Narrator Aliyah:

And a nice day, too.

Narrator Emmalyn:

Well, I like the sound of it better than “once upon a time”--at least “dark and stormy night” gives some setting.

Narrator Elizabeth:

“Once upon a time” is classy! It’s-it’s traditional.

Narrator Hannah:

Yeah, but it was just last year.

Narrator Audrey:

 More like a year and a half.

Narrator Aliyah:  (Looking at her watch)

It was exactly 1 year, 3 months, 25 days, 12 hours, 36 minutes and 16 seconds ago. 17, 18…

(the others stop and look at her)

Narrator Aliyah:

What? I’m good with numbers.

Narrator Emily:

Anyway...whenever it was--

Narrator Elizabeth:

 Once upon a time—

***Once Upon a Time***

*(to the tune of: “In the Shade of the Old Apple Tree”)*

 *Once upon a time, so they do say*

 *Once upon a beautiful day*

 *There were fairies that flew*

 *In a time we once knew*

 *In those days of once upon a time*

 *We can hear the music of the fey*

 *And the wishes they granted that day*

 *To a heart that is pure*

 *Comes what e’er they wish for!*

 *On that once upon a, ‘pon a time!*

Narrator Emily:

There lived a farmer and his wife and their many children--

Narrator Audrey:

The oldest of these children were two beautiful young women….

(NARRATOR 1-3 exit stage right and NARRATOR 4-6 exit stage left)

**ACT I**

**Scene 1**

SETTING: Pastoral backdrop. Stalls are already set up. Cast members bring on their own market wares. FAMILY’s booth is stage right.  JOY enters Stage Left. FAITH brings her a basket of apples from their stall during the opening song.

***Market Day*** *(to the tune of “Over the hill and far away”)*

*All: In Mercia we welcome all*

*To buy from any of our stalls.*

*This is the time that we all say*

*Welcome to our market day!*

*Grocers: Come and buy my veggies, beans, and grains*

*Apothecaries: Come try my remedies for pain.*

*Tinker: Come test my pots before you pay*

*All: Welcome to our market day!*

*Bakers: Come smell the bread while it’s still hot*

*Haberdashers: Come see this pretty cloth I brought*

*Father/Mother: Taste this fruit that’s on display.*

*All: Welcome to our market day!*

*Jewelers: Come and see this necklace I just made*

*Sydney: I brought some homemade lace to trade.*

*Butchers: Come buy some fresh cured meats to-day!*

*All: Welcome to our market day*

*All: In Mercia we welcome all*

*To buy from any of our stalls.*

*This is the time that we all say*

*Welcome to our market day!*

*Welcome to our market day!*

Joy

Good morning, Annalee, what meat do you have today?

Butcher Annalee

Good morning, Joy! We have bacon and ham that we cured this past week.

Butcher Jenny

And half a cow!

(She holds out a couple packages wrapped in brown paper)

Faith

Mother would like a roast.

(BUTCHERS give FAITH a package and JOY gives them some coins.)

Baker Kate (loudly)

Fresh bread, rolls, and cakes for sale. Hot from the oven!

Faith

Oh, Joy! Can we buy a cake?

(JOY puts down her basket and looks in her coin purse)

Joy

I don’t think I have enough for a cake.

Baker Pearl

Hot cross buns! Meat pies! Freshly made this morning!

Faith

Hot cross buns, then? I’ll go share with Angie and Sophie, I promise!

Joy (laughing)

Sure, Faith, here you go.

(the exchange is made and FAITH takes the purchases and runs over to the stall to find ANGIE and SOPHIE)

Haberdasher Brielle

Handmade cotton cloth, sold by the yard!

Haberdasher Moira

I have imported satin ribbon to dress up any plain gown!

(JOY passes by with just a wave to acknowledge them. APOTHECARIES are downstage at the mics, as if hawking their wares to the audience.)

Apothecary Kennedy

Sore toe? Bruises? We can help!

Apothecary Esther

Runny nose? Upset stomach? We have an herb for all of that.

( JOY is making her way to the family’s stall when TINKER SAM comes up behind her)

Tinker Sam (addressing JOY from behind)

Miss Joy, how are you this lovely morning?

Joy (turning to face TINKER SAM)

Mr. Sam, nice to see you again! How is business?

Tinker Sam (gesturing to his cart and then the stalls)

I have no reason to complain. How’s your leg?

Joy

Getting better. Thanks for asking!

Grocer Avery (To Joy and Sam)

Have you need of any beans or rice for your meals today? I have the best price in town.

Grocer Shasta

I have cabbage and peas, fresh picked and ready to eat!

Joy (cheerfully)

No, thank you!

(The two turn towards the fruit stall run by JOY’S family and start to walk, but they will stop at Center Stage)

Jeweler Alivia (Coming up to  Tinker)

Ahh I think you would like to see some of our beautiful jewelry, necklaces, rings, bracelets…

Jeweler Rachel

Yes, I think there might be a special lady you would like to get a gift for.

Tinker Sam (nervously)

No thanks!

(JEWELERS laugh and turn the other way)

Tinker Sam (shaking his head at the JEWELERS and turning back to JOY)

How is your family doing?

(VILLAGE CHILDREN come on stage at Center Stage)

Joy  (to TINKER SAM)

We are all doing well, Mr. Sam. You are so kind to ask.

Tinker Sam

I had hoped to have a word with Maggie, I was —

Village child Mary (surrounding JOY and interrupting TINKER SAM)

Good morning, Joy!

Joy

Good morning, my little friends! How are you all this morning?

Village child Josslyn

Hungry, like always!

(JOY laughs)

Joy

I'm sorry, Mr. Sam! What were you saying?

Tinker Sam

I'll come back later.

(He moves Stage Left to talk to the butcher, as MAGGIE enters from Stage Right)

Maggie (Snatching the basket of apples from JOY’S hands)

Don’t give them anything! It just encourages them!

Joy

But that’s why I do it!

Village Child Amelia

And that’s why Joy is our favorite.

Maggie

Fine.

(She comes to stand by JOY, standing Stage Right of Center by the CHILDREN, and eyes the CHILDREN, who are Center Stage)

You know the rules.

Village Child Alise

Come on, Maggie, we haven’t had anything to eat since yesterday!

Joy  (leaning down and giving Alise a side hug)

Now. Now. I’ll help you.

Maggie:

On three, now, let’s hear it! If Joy is the only voice I hear, then she gets every last one of the apples!

(The CHILDREN gasp and straighten up)

Maggie (as if leading a choir)

1, 2, 3

 ***The Alphabet Song***

*(to the tune of “In the Hall of the Mountain King”)*

*Joy and Children: A,B, C, D, E, F, G*

 *Easy as 1, 2, 3*

 *H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O,*

*L, M, N, O, P*

 *Q and R and S and T*

 *Joy: T U V  Children: (T U V)*

 *Joy: Q, R, S, T*

 *Children: Q, R, S, T*

 *Children: U, V, Double U*

 *Joy: Then there’s X.*

 *And what comes next?*

 *Children: T U V Double U*

 *Then there’s X and Y and Z*

 *X and Y, Z*

*(The CHILDREN do a little dance as the music ends)*

Maggie  (as JOY hands out the apples)

That’s the only way you’re going to get ahead--education!

(MAGGIE returns to her book in front of their stall and ignores the CHILDREN).

(JOY gives high fives or pats on the head to each child as they exit Stage Right)

Father  (Comes in from Stage Right, looks at the children walking past with apples in their hands)

That was a lot of apples. Did any of them pay?

(MAGGIE snorts)

Joy

They recited their ABCs for Maggie. It’s payment enough to hear their sweet voices.

Father

Joy, we do need to make money at market today.

(JOY doesn’t answer, just stares as SEBASTIAN walks across the stage, coming from Stage Left. MAGGIE waves a hand in front of her face.)

Maggie  (with irritation)

Staring isn’t going to make us any money!

Joy (wistfully)

You know I don’t care about money.

(MAGGIE doesn’t respond and stomps over to sit at the stall. She looks at the people milling around and dismisses them by sitting in an available chair and pulling out a book.)

**ACT I**

**SCENE 2**

(A trumpet sounds and the ROYAL ENTOURAGE enters from the back of the audience, walking down the center aisle. All other traffic or trading stops. MAGGIE jumps up and is suddenly ready to greet customers.)

Herald (With some pizzazz, using cards to remember the KING’s names and tossing them over his shoulder)

All bow before His royal majesty: the one, the only King Charles Michael Herbert Godfrey Fitzgerald Angevin.

(JESTERS collect the cards and obviously rearrange them, while everyone bows. King Charles acknowledges them and waves them up. )

King Charles (cheerfully)

You are all too kind. Happy Market Day, everyone!

(He waves again)

Everyone

Happy Market Day, King Charles!

(All return to shopping. KING CHARLES and ROYAL ENTOURAGE are Center Stage, and turn to face the audience as they deliver the next lines. JESTERS return the rearranged cards to HERALD with flourishes and bows.)

Steward  (with disapproval)

Um, Sire, I’m not sure this is appropriate for someone in your position.

King Charles  (in surprise)

What are you talking about, Helen?

Jester Madisyn (innocently)

Going shopping?

Jester Lily (sarcastically)

Walking outside?

(JESTERS gasp, faking horrified expressions)

Steward (ignoring the JESTERS, sternly)

Sire, you are being entirely too casual and, I’m afraid, common.

(JESTERS giggle to each other)

King Charles (dismissively)

Nonsense, this is my kingdom and my people. I like to go among them and see personally how the kingdom is doing.

Steward (eagerly)

That’s all very well, my king, but if we invaded or expanded, we could have more money and more goods without you (pause, then continue with disgust) dirtying your hands with the commoners.

King Charles (concerned)

Invaded? At what cost?

(KING CHARLES walks toward Stage Right--on stage--with ENTOURAGE in tow)

Steward (dismissively. He follows KING CHARLES closely)

Well, I'm sure there is danger, but think of all that we could gain!

King Charles

You need to appreciate what’s already in front of you! (spreading his arms wide) Take this hardworking family for instance, their harvest paid off with such abundance they have last season’s apples left to bring to market this fine spring day!

(They look at MAGGIE and the family’s booth)

Sydney (She holds a baby on one hip and speaks in a quavering voice)

I don’t have coins today, but would you accept this lace in exchange for a ---?

Maggie (Interrupting)

Ma’am, we do not bring our produce to market to give away as charity! Please, step aside for our paying customers! (Brushes woman aside rudely then turns a wide, welcoming smile on the king) Your majesty, we are honored by your presence! What could we interest you in on this fine day?

King Charles

I can wait until you have finished with the lady.

(Both look to Sydney, who is still waiting, hopefully)

Maggie (laughing condescendingly)

She is not a paying customer, your majesty. A length of lace is just no substitute for cold, hard cash.

(STEWARD gestures dramatically to the king: EXACTLY!)

King Charles (moving towards Sydney)

May I see this lace?

Maggie

But, Sire--

(KING CHARLES raises a hand to silence her. MINISTERS at mics to say their lines as KING CHARLES calls for them.)

King Charles

Minister of Economics?

Minister of Economics

Yes, your Majesty?

King Charles

Can you tell me the value of this lace?

(MINISTER OF ECONOMICS examines it closely with a magnifying glass)

Minister Of Economics

The workmanship is very fine. It would sell for a bronze coin an inch at the High Market.

King Charles

Thank you, Minister.  Keeper of the Robes?

Keeper of the Robes

Yes, your majesty?

King Charles

Do we have a use for lace?

(KEEPER OF THE ROBES inspects the lace with a tape measure and the magnifying glass. MAGGIE should try to object and get a raised hand again)

Keeper of the Robes

Your majesty, this beautiful work would be a fine addition to your ceremonial robes or perhaps a wedding suit--

King Charles (interrupting)

Ceremonial robes, it is! What do you think, Minister of the Arts?

Minister of the Arts

Sire, it is truly magnificent. The Keeper of the Robes has a good eye.

King Charles (to the KEEPER OF THE ROBES)

How much would we need?

Keeper of the Robes

Better make it 3 yards, Sire. Lace is fragile.

King Charles (to KEEPER OF THE ROBES)

Thank you. (turning to STEWARD) Helen, better call over the Keeper of the Purse and finish this transaction. (He finally addresses the woman again) Will a bronze coin an inch be enough payment?

Sydney (in amazement)

More than enough, your Majesty!

King Charles

Do you have 3 yards?

Sydney (with emotion in her voice)

Yes, Sire.

King Charles (motioning to his advisors)

Sheldon, will you measure it out? Evan, how many coins do we need to give her?

(KEEPER OF THE ROBES uses tape measure on the lace. SOPHIE and FAITH come to help.)

Keeper of the Purse

Um, one coin an inch--3 yards--let’s see, uh, 3 yards is, uh--

Faith

108 inches

Sophie

Shhhhh!

Keeper of the Purse

108 bronze coins, Sire, or 10 silver pieces and 8 bronze.

King Charles

Will that be enough?

Sydney (openly weeping as she accepts the coins)

Yes, your Majesty! Bless you!

Maggie (in an aside)

If I had fancy clothes and endless coins, I could be so generous!

(KING CHARLES moves on and doesn’t buy anything from MAGGIE. MAGGIE sells to Sydney. The ADVISORS gather down stage center  as the rest of the cast “shops”.)

**ACT I**

**Scene 3**

Steward (angrily)

You see now why we need to make a change? My cousin will have us all in the poorhouse within the year!

Jester Madisyn

But we’ll be well dressed.

(The JESTERS laugh)

Steward (sharply)

Be serious!! Look, what we need to do is force his hand. If we can push him into a war with our neighbors, then we will see more money coming into our coffers, and if we can win that war, we will have access to all of their money as well.

Minister of Transportation

He is not interested in doing anything new.

Minister of War (hotly)

He’s a coward!

Minister of Health

Now, now, war is dangerous for everyone involved. I’m sure many people in our country would prefer to stay safe.

Minister of Economics

But staying safe won’t bring us anything new--experiences or wealth.

Jester Lily (with humor)

But it will keep us from getting dead.

Steward

Go away, you two buffoons! This is a serious conversation.

(JESTERS run away laughing as STEWARD tries to hit them with her cane)

Royal Astronomer

Based on the moon and the position of the planets I believe we need to act soon.

Minister of War

We can’t rely on him to come to this conclusion on his own. He needs to be prodded!

(He pokes the air with his cane/billyclub as if prodding someone with a cattle prod)

Keeper of Robes

He’s not a cow or even one of your soldiers. He needs to be quietly encouraged with sublimal-subminial--subbil

Steward (confused)

Are you trying to say subliminal?

Keeper of Robes

Yes! Subliminal messaging.

The rest of the advisors (confused)

Huh?

Keeper of  Robes

Nevermind. We just need to be sneaky.

Steward

 Exactly my point! Now, let me tell you my plan…

***Plotting, Plotting***

*(to the tune of: “School Days”)*

*Advisors: Plotting, plotting*

*Taking o’er the kingdom*

*We want to build up the treasury.*

*We want more power for you and me.*

*Steward: We’ll start a war and blame the king.*

*Or Cumbria--that’s just the thing.*

*Then I will be crowned queen!*

*All: Then we will RISE*

*Our plotting will win us the PRIZE!*

(The group of ADVISORS walk off stage Left, whispering together)

**ACT I**

**Scene 4**

SETTING We start in the market, but move to the well, which is on the grassy area in front of stage Left.The well and a small, rustic bench are set out as the scene begins, and some trees separate it from the stage. SHOPKEEPERS at the marketplace can sit on stools at their booths, and the customers leave to reduce distraction from action in front of the stage. FAIRY QUEEN enters Stage Right disguised as an old woman, and slowly walks toward the front of Center Stage.

Mother

Maggie, please go fetch some water from the well?

Maggie (without looking up from her book)

Sure.

Joy

I'll go, Mother. Maggie is busy.

Mother

Maggie, don’t you dare make Joy do this alone with her leg like that!

(LIA intentionally bumps MAGGIE'S chair)

Maggie (startled)

What? Uh, I said I'd go.

(JOY is already walking off stage right with the bucket, heading toward the front of center stage. MAGGIE stands up to follow JOY. FAIRY QUEEN is on the grass ahead of JOY.. TINKER has left his cart to come and talk to MAGGIE)

Tinker

Miss Margaret, it’s lovely to see you.

Maggie

I’m sorry, I’m in a hurry.

Tinker

Of course, I was just hoping to--

(he stops talking as she walks briskly away.. He turns back to his cart when MAGGIE catches up with JOY.)

(MAGGIE catches up and takes the bucket from JOY. She then passes JOY going at such a pace that she knocks against an old lady in her path between stage right and center stage on the grass)

Maggie

Sorry!

Joy (coming to the old woman’s aid)

I'm sorry! My sister is in a hurry. Where are you going? Can we help you?

Fairy Queen (speaking in a quavering voice)

Thank you, sweet girl. I am headed to the well. If you could just help me to get a drink, I would be right as rain.

Joy

Of course! We are headed there as well.

 (JOY takes FAIRY QUEEN’s arm and they walk together at a slow pace.)

Maggie

Joy, you’re walking too slow--hurry up!

(she doesn’t wait and arrives at the well first. She begins to lower her bucket into the well.)

Joy (to MAGGIE)

We’re coming!

(to FAIRY QUEEN)

My sister is a hard worker.

Fairy Queen (skeptically)

Is she now?

Joy (earnestly)

Oh, yes. She is always trying to come up with new schemes for us to make something that will make extra money. She is brilliant!

Fairy Queen (warmly)

That is wonderful. Do you live in town?

Joy

Oh, no! We live on a farm just outside of town. It’s a big, beautiful piece of land with trees and crop land and a creek that runs through it all. It’s my favorite place. Where are you from?

Fairy Queen

Not far from here. My home is my favorite place, as well.

(FAIRY QUEEN pats JOY’s hand)

(They arrive at the well where MAGGIE is already pulling up a bucket of water.)

Joy

Maggie, can this nice lady get a drink first?

Maggie (with a tone of frustration)

Fine.

(She dips a cup in the bucket and hands it to FAIRY QUEEN).

Fairy Queen

Thank you, dear.

(She lifts the cup and drinks).

Joy

Will you need anything else?

Maggie (attempting to lift the full bucket of water)

I need help, Joy!

Fairy Queen (to JOY)

No, but will you stay until my children come for me so that I can repay you?

Joy

Of course, but there’s no need for payment.

Maggie (eagerly)

Repay? What did you have in mind?

**ACT I**

**Scene 5**

(Enter FAIRIES before FAIRY QUEEN can speak. FAIRIES sing and dance around FAIRY QUEEN. FAIRY QUEEN disappears offstage to be transformed.).

 ***The Fairies*** *(to the tune of The Skaters Waltz)*

*We are the fairies*

*We are the fairies of the wishing well*

*We are the fairies*

*We’re here to grant you both a single wish*

*(FAIRY QUEEN reenters during the FAIRY dance)*

*Fairy Queen: I am Titania*

 *Queen of the fairies of the wishing well*

 *I have the power*

 *To bestow upon you both a single wish*

Fairy Queen (in her normal voice)

I desire to give you both your dearest wish. One wish a piece, of course, I’m not a genie. Nothing is outside of my power. Wish and it is yours.

Maggie (decisively)

I know exactly what I want.

Fairy Kaesli

To make a wish, you must say, “I wish”

Fairy Ruth

And be very pacific-.

Fairy Audrey (interrupting)

She means specific!

Fairy Mckenzie

And you can’t wish for more wishes!

Fairy Emilia

Wishes have great power. Take your time!

Maggie

I don’t need to even think about this! I wish to have the wealth of a queen!

All Fairies

The wealth of a Queen!

Fairy Queen

Very well, Maggie.

(She taps her wand on Maggie).

And for you, Joy?

Joy

Oh, I can’t think of anything I would wish for! Everything is perfect just as it is.

Maggie (pointedly looking at Joy’s leg)

You don’t want to change anything?

Joy (blissfully unaware)

No, not one thing.

Fairy Chloe

Is that a wish?

(she looks around at her fellow FAIRIES)

Fairy Kaesli

It sounded like a wish to me!

Joy

Could you do that? Keep everything in my life as it is right now?

Fairy Queen

Of course. Nothing is beyond my ability. Is that what you want?

Joy

I don’t want to interfere with Maggie’s wish, though.

Fairy Ruth

Oh, don’t worry. We can deal with a pair of socks-

Fairy Audrey

She means paradox.

Fairy McKenzie

Yep. We do it ALL the time.

Fairy Emilia

Remember that one time--

Fairy Queen

Children! Let her make her wish.

Joy

Well, then, I wish for my life to stay the same--simple and predictable.

FQ

Very well, Joy.

(She taps her wand on Joy)

But be warned, you may not enjoy the consequences of your wishes. When that day comes, you may ask for the wish to be undone, but you can not make another.

(FAIRIES surround the FAIRY QUEEN and she leads them off the stage)

**ACT I**

**Scene 6**

SETTING We start at the well and end at the FAMILY’S market booth.

(The girls head back to the market, each holding one end of the water bucket)

Maggie

I can’t wait for my wealth! Do you think it’ll just be in my bed at home? Or maybe my sock drawer? Oh, Joy, I have such a list of things I want to buy when I have all of that money! You and Mother and Father and all the little ones don’t have to live in a musty old farmhouse any more! I can buy things from all the village stalls and help everyone! This is the best day!

(MAGGIE drops her end of the heavy water bucket while she talks. JOY tries to continue on, struggling with the weight. SEBASTIAN comes from stage right to help JOY with the bucket. Meanwhile, MAGGIE is dancing around in the background.)

Sebastian (to Joy)

Good afternoon. Do you need help with your bucket?

Joy (awkwardly)

Oh, um, I..

(Scene pauses as the FAIRIES 4-6 come from Stage Left, singing- and throw fairy dust in SEBASTIAN'S face.)

***Simple and Predictable****(to the tune of The Skaters Waltz, measures 9 to fin)*

 *Simple, predictable*

 *Not one change*

(Fairies exit stage right)

Joy (not letting go of the bucket)

Um, we're going to the market. My father and siblings have been there all morning and are quite thirsty.

Sebastian

The market is over there. (he points in the general direction without looking at her)

Joy (shyly and not looking at him)

Oh, I know. Does you have...I mean, do you have a stall there? For your sheep?

Sebastian (in an incredulous voice.)

My sheep? I don’t bring my sheep to market.

Maggie (curtly)

Hey, I can carry that.

Sebastian (annoyed)

I was just trying to help.

Maggie (snaps back)

Yeah, we don’t need your help. Go back to your sheep.

(He shrugs and walks off stage right. JOY watches him go.)

Maggie

He’s not worth it. He’s just a poor shepherd.

Joy (sighing)

I know, but he’s kind and dependable.

Maggie

But he can’t give you anything! No new dresses, no financial security, no *chocolate*--no nothing!

Joy

Those things aren’t as important to me, I guess. He seems perfect to me.

Maggie

Nobody’s perfect, but the more money, the less likely I am to mind!

(KING CHARLES and company approach from off Stage Right headed to Center Stage.)

Captain of the Guard (holding out a hand to stop the girls)

Halt! Stand aside until the king passes!

Herald (Stepping forward and pulling out his cards)

Make way for King Godfrey--wait, no, Charles Herbert Mich-

(JESTERS laugh and roll around on the ground)

King Charles (interrupting)

Yes, yes, that’s enough, Max. Captain, I think we can let these beautiful ladies pass first.

Steward (rudely)

These aren’t *ladies*, they’re *farm girls.*

King Charles

And what’s the difference, Helen?

(STEWARD gazes open-mouthed at KING CHARLES, like, “WHAT?!”)

King Charles (Walking up to MAGGIE)

Look at how well she c-

(Pause the action and bring in FAIRIES 1-3 from stage left to throw glitter and sing, as they walk around the KING once and exit.)

 ***The Wealth of a Queen*** *(to the tune of The Skaters Waltz)*

 *The wealth to her is giv’n*

 *The wealth of queens*

(FAIRIES exit stage left)

 King Charles (In a dazed and confused way, trailing off)

 -carries herself. (Drops to one knee) Will you do me the honor of becoming my queen?

Maggie (Immediately after)

Absolutely, YES!

(Everyone else is too shocked to say anything.)

King Charles (Stands up, still dazed)

Keeper of the Gardens, are our gardens ready for a royal celebration announcing our engagement?

Keeper of the Gardens

Of course your majesty, I try to always have them ready and beautiful.

King Charles (Turning to the CAPTAIN OF THE GUARDS)

Well, uh, captain. Gather your guards and escort my, uh, queen-to-be to say goodbye to her family, and then to the palace.

Captain of the Guard (Shaking out of his shock)

Yes, Sir! Men, attention!

***Follow His Orders***

*(to the tune of “Baa Baa Black Sheep”)*

*Guards march back and forth during the song, just a square formation*

*Guards: Follow, follow, following orders*

 *Follow, follow, following orders*

*King: Guards, bring this maid with us to the castle*

 *Take her to the matrons to teach her to be royal*

*Guards: Follow, follow, following orders*

 *Follow, follow, following orders*

 *We follow orders and don’t question them.*

*Captain: Even though sometimes they can be so very dumb.*

*Guards: Follow, follow, following orders*

 *Follow, follow his orders*

(KING CHARLES and company, exit Stage Right, while the CAPTAIN OF THE GUARDS and two of the GUARDS walk with JOY and MAGGIE back to their family’s market stall)

Guard Tyler

You have a few minutes to say goodbye and gather your things.

Guard Parker

There’s a lot of work to be done for you to be ready to be queen!

Maggie (grandly)

Mother, Father, and all of you little people, I have an announcement to make.

Faith

Who did you insult?

Angela

I know, you stole something!

Lia

Nope. I think she sold one of us.

Maggie (to LIA)

If I did, it would be you!

Sophie (pushing between the two combatants)

Stop it. Can’t you tell it’s something good?

Maggie (brushing it off)

Of course it’s good! It’s the best news EVER! I’m getting married!

Mother

Oh, sweetheart! Did Tinker Sam finally ask you? (to the others) He’s been mooning about the stall all Spring.

Clara

A wedding! How exciting!

Millie (jumping up and down)

Will we get new clothes??

Maggie (a little haughtily)

I am not marrying some lowly tinker! I am marrying the king!

Father (Shocked and angry)

The KING?? Where is he? What has he done?

Joy (raising her hands to placate FATHER)

No, Father, this isn’t a joke or anything bad. He was quite serious and he knelt to ask and everything. I think he loves her. (a little quieter as everyone congratulates MAGGIE)

I hope he loves her.

(MAGGIE hugs all of her family, leaving Joy for the last. )

Joy (quietly)

Was this the fairies doing?

Maggie (indignantly)

No! He must have appreciated my business-like mind.

Joy (hesitantly)

Okay. Good luck!

Maggie (happily)

I’ll be fine. See you soon!

(GUARDS take MAGGIE to the palace. As they are leaving, the SHOPKEEPERS and MAGGIE’S family take down the market and take it off stage.)

Narrator Emmalyn (in a brooding, ominous voice)

Little did they know, they would never see each other again!

Narrator Emily  (smacking NARRATOR Emmalyn on the arm)

What are you talking about?

Narrator Elizabeth

Wrong story, Emma.

Narrator Audrey

Maggie was taken up to the castle by the guards.

Narrator Hannah

Her new rooms in the castle were bigger than the cottage her family owned.

Narrator Aliyah

Exactly 3.7 times as big.

Narrator Emmalyn

A giant fell out of the sky and crushed the castle, killing every--

Narrator Emily (interrupting)

This is a kid’s show! What is wrong with you??

Narrator Elizabeth

That’s Jack and the Beanstalk, not The Sister Wishes.

Narrator Emmalyn

I like Jack and the Beanstalk better.

Narrator Audrey

King Charles, under the spell of the fairies, made plans for a royal wedding.

Narrator Hannah

Maggie spent the next week talking with the Queen’s attendants about all the preparations she needed to make.

Narrator Aliyah

Along with reading the list of preparations, she also spent 1,643 minutes reading the enormous law book.

**ACT II**

**Scene 1**

SETTING Interior of the castle. A sitting room. MAGGIE in a dressing gown is sitting in a chair reading. STEWARD enters with advisors in tow.

Steward (with a note of disdain)

My lady, the king has requested that his ministers and I take over the responsibility of teaching you what it means to be a queen.

Maggie (waving a hand dismissively)

Yes, yes. I’ve had all the lectures from my attendants. I get it--with loads of money comes loads of boring paperwork.

Steward

Of course, my lady, but as the king’s personal advisors, we are the best to help you understand what it means to be the king’s partner in ruling the country.

Maggie (with interest)

Ruling? I hadn’t even thought about that! Does that bring more money?

Steward (hesitantly)

It depends on how you rule, my lady.

Maggie

Let’s hear it, then! (she grabs some paper and a pencil from a table near her to take notes)

Steward

Let’s start with the Minister of Economics.

Maggie

What about the minister of education??

Steward (looking at the advisors in confusion)

Minister of what now?

Maggie

Education! He would be the one in charge of making sure people are being educated.

Steward

That is unnecessary. People handle that on their own.

Maggie

Not as well as you seem to think. Do you have a royal architect? Could we build a school?

Royal Architect (stepping forward)

That would be me, my lady. I don’t know what land is available, but I do have some blueprints for schools. With labor and building materials, a single village school costs, well, more than your family makes in a year, if you will forgive my forwardness.

Maggie

Hmmm…okay. Sounds like I might have some work to do.

Steward

Whatever you say, my lady. (waving to the ministers) The minister of economics

Minister of Economics (with a bow)

My lady, the trend among the merchants and shopkeepers in the markets across the kingdom is an increase in the money made. As the king’s partner, it will be your role to spend money so that trend continues.

Maggie

Is there money for the country to build schools for the people?

Minister of Economics

Well, (he looks at STEWARD, who shakes his head emphatically) actually, no. I haven’t looked into the cost of a school, but all of our money is already required for many other things.

(MAGGIE takes notes. STEWARD motions to the next ADVISOR.)

Minister of Agriculture (With a bow)

My lady, I am able to tell you that our lands are in good condition and our farmers are able to produce more than they need. However, as I am sure you are aware, being that your family are farmers, more land is always needed to produce more crops as our wonderful country grows.

Maggie

Could some of this land be used for schools?

Steward

That seems like a redundant question, my lady. We don’t have the money, so we can’t use the land for that purpose.

Minister of Agriculture

But, if we had the money, I don’t see why we couldn’t!

(STEWARD pulls him away and motions to the next ADVISOR)

Keeper of the Purse (with a bow)

My lady, I am the Keeper of the Purse. Recently, the King’s purse has seen a decrease in the money coming in. As the king’s partner, it will be your role to find new sources for money so that the king and you can live in appropriate wealth and splendor.

Maggie

Wealth and splendor. Hmmm…does the crown have money to start a school? (STEWARD opens her mouth to talk) I know, I know, I asked this already, but I’m trying to cover all my bases. This is really important to me.

Steward

Well, then, it sounds like you need to find some money somewhere.

(STEWARD motions to next ADVISOR.)

Minister of Health (with a bow)

My lady, as the minister of health, I can tell you our people are in good health.

(STEWARD taps him on the leg with her cane)

Minister of Health

How-However, there is some danger from the North country of disease because they don’t have the same standards we have. It’s said that they don’t wash their hands or brush their teeth! They have sickness among them that we have never seen in our country, which could be very dangerous for our people.

Maggie

How appalling!

Minister of Health

Exactly. As the king’s partner you would need to find ways to protect your people from such dangers.

(STEWARD motions over the next ADVISOR.)

Minister of War (with a sharp salute, which MAGGIE returns a little jokingly)

My lady, as the minister of war, I can tell you the army is fully staffed and ready to take on any opposition to the throne.

Maggie (sitting up)

Really? How big is the army?

Minister of War

There are 10 of--

(STEWARD tries to hit him with the cane but MINISTER OF WAR shifts out of the way)

Minister of War

What I mean to say is there are 10 hundred thousand of us!

Maggie

Isn’t that a million?

Minister of War (mimes trying to count on his fingers)

Ye-es, yep. That’s how many we have, ma’am.

Maggie

Wow! I had no idea we had such an army. We could protect our borders forever from the North. There’s no reason to worry about the diseases, then.

**ACT II**

**Scene 2**

*ATTENDANTS enter. One takes MAGGIE’S book. Two stand at MAGGIE’S side, obviously in her defense.*

Steward (ignoring the ATTENDANTS)

Of course, my lady, and I’m sure it is better that the gold mines remain untouched than that we use our resources to claim them.

Maggie (excitedly)

Gold mines???

Steward

In the North mountains, my lady. Completely untouched. Never been mined.

Maggie

There is a mountain full of gold?? Just there for the taking?

Steward

Technically, it’s not ours, but…

Maggie

We could claim it? No one is mining it or making use of it? Could we just ask for it?

Steward

Sadly, the king has asked, but they have refused and sworn to invade if we ask again.

Maggie (getting up and pacing)

That’s not right! If they aren’t using it, why can’t we?? What did the king say?

Steward

The king is willing to take the army to claim it, given the (she pauses for effect) right motivation.

Maggie

You mean that he would go get all that gold if I asked him just right?

(All of the ADVISORS nod. )

Attendant Reagan (touching MAGGIE’S arm)

My lady, perhaps we should be careful.

Maggie (waving a hand dismissively)

Of course, of course. I’m sure we’ll be careful.

Attendant Cheryl

I don’t think we need all that gold.

Attendant Payzlee (wringing her hands to show her worry)

What if there’s a fight? This could end so badly!

Attendant Shelby (pleadingly)

Please, my lady, don’t do this.

***Gold!***

*(to the tune of “Woodman, spare that tree”)*

*Atten Attendants 1-4: Please, don’t be so bold*

*Good Queen, let us not rush.*

*We can’t claim all that gold!*

*This action is not just!*

*You do not know what you are doing!*

*This plan has a downside!*

*It’s war you are pursuing.*

*What if the steward lied?*

*Maggie: Come on, let’s be bold!*

 *Let’s take our tools and rush.*

 *Let’s go claim all that gold.*

 *I know this cause is just!*

*Attendants 5-8: The gold just sits inside the hill.*

*Maggie: It’s worth must be untold.*

*Attendants 5-8: Our coffers will be filled.*

*All: Let’s go get all that gold!*

 Maggie

I like this plan! We can definitely build a school with a mountain full of gold!

(KING’S BODYGUARD, entering with QUEEN’S BODYGUARD bows and nudges the other BODYGUARD to do the same)

King’s Bodyguard

My lady, the king has asked that you accompany him to the market today. Lucy here has been assigned as your personal bodyguard and will be in charge of security measures.

Queen’s Bodyguard  (very businesslike)

Any visitors you have, need to go through me--welcome or otherwise. Your safety is my primary responsibility.

Maggie

I think I’m pretty safe here in my rooms, but it’ll be nice to know you have my back outside of these walls.

Attendant Ila

You will need to change, my lady.

Maggie

I’m sure what I’m wearing is fine. It’s just the market.

Attendant Nora

To be sure, but you will be queen. The people need to see you that way.

Attendant Evie (as if to herself)

And the king does too.

Attendant Morgan (excitedly)

I have just the thing!

Maggie

Oh, well, in that case…(turning to the room) perhaps you all had better leave, gentlemen.

(The men and STEWARD exit Stage Left and the women exit Stage Right. QUEEN’S BODYGUARD stands on guard at stage right during the scene change.)

**ACT II**

**Scene 3**

SETTING Pastoral backdrop. Market stalls are set up on stage left. In the grassy area in front of the stage, Sebastian and his sheep come into view.

***Counting Sheep*** *To the tune of “Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child”*

*Sebastian Sebastian : Ev’ry morning is just the same*

*I wake at sunrise each new day*

*I count my sheep as we walk along*

*And in my mind I hear them say:*

*All: Just keep counting the sheep*

*Just keep counting the sheep.*

*Chorus*

*Sheep: Just keep counting all of the sheep,*

*‘Cuz this is what you were born to do*

*Sebastian: Counting the sheep is what I was born to do*

*So I’ll keep counting all the sheep,*

*I’ll keep count of the sheep*

*All: Just keep count of the sheep*

*Sebastian: I hope some-day to break away*

*And go trav’ling a-cross the sea*

*Maybe I’d come back home a hero*

*No that could never be me*

*All: No that could never be.*

*Just keep counting the sheep.*

*Repeat Chorus*

(JOY comes on Stage Left to help set up the market and stops to admire SEBASTIAN.  FAIRIES 4-6 come and interfere in SEBASTIAN noticing JOY. SEBASTIAN and SHEEP leave. Enter KING CHARLES and MAGGIE with KING’S BODYGUARD and QUEEN’S BODYGUARD from Stage Right. MAGGIE is fully decked out--very overdone. They move to Center Stage, Down Stage.)

King Charles (eyeing her critically and shaking his head)

That dress seems a little much for a trip to the market.

Maggie (a little offended)

I only had a couple of choices and I didn't want the townspeople to mistake me for a farmer’s daughter, instead of a queen-to-be.

King Charles

You can be both. I like my subjects to feel like I’m one of them.

Maggie

Of course you do, my king, but I need them to remember that I will be queen. You have always been respected and admired. I have to work at it. You do want them to admire me, don’t you?

King Charles

Right, yes, of course. This is just overpowering!

Maggie

Thank you, my king!  I must mingle among my subjects.

(MAGGIE sees her family Up Stage Right and flounces over there, QUEEN’S BODYGUARD and at least one ATTENDANT follow.)

King Charles (to KING’S BODYGUARD)

It won’t be difficult to keep an eye on her at least.

King’s Bodyguard (wryly)

No, indeed, sire.

(STEWARD approaches with AMBASSADOR.)

Steward

My king, the Ambassador of Cumbria, the Lady Francesca.

(She motions her companion to step forward.)

(AMBASSADOR bows slightly and KING CHARLES inclines his head in response.)

King Charles (extending his hand to shake AMBASSADOR’S hand. AMBASSADOR shakes back.)

Good of you to come, Lady Francesca. I was hoping to show you the benefits to be had by our trade agreement.

Ambassador

Of course, King Charles. The Queen of Cumbria is most anxious to have everything settled. War would be a costly business on both sides.

King Charles

I completely agree. My minister of economics tells me that trading with your country will bring both of our countries more money, which is much better than less.

Ambassador

I’m so glad you see it that way. We were concerned that your interest in the gold mines would be a problem.

King Charles (shaking his head)

Not at all. I would never try to take something that wasn’t mine.

Ambassador

That is excellent news.

King Charles

I like to shop during market days. You are welcome to talk to anyone and look at what our common folk have to offer.

Ambassador

Of course, King Charles.

(she bows again)

(STEWARD coughs loudly)

King Charles (vigorously patting STEWARD on the back)

Actually, my steward can accompany you and answer any other questions you might have.

(STEWARD bows slightly and AMBASSADOR bows back, then bows to KING CHARLES. There is a short bowing session with the other ADVISORS as well, everyone bowing to each other.)

(KING CHARLES walks off UpStage Left to visit shops, his GUARDS follow.)

**ACT II**

**Scene 4**

(STEWARD and AMBASSADOR move towards Stage Right)

Steward

Do you have any questions, my lady?

Ambassador

Who would you say is closest to the king? I would like to hear what is really in his heart.

Steward

The Queen-to-be, of course, my lady. She will share his throne, so she must know all his secrets, even ones he would keep from us. She is a commoner, so you might find her difficult to talk to.

Ambassador

Let me be the judge of that. Where is she?

(STEWARD points and AMBASSADOR walks two steps in MAGGIE’s direction)

Maggie (talking to her family and kind of putting on airs)

Can you imagine? A whole mountain of gold that no one even wants! All I have to do is tell my husband--

Sophie

Future husband…

Maggie

Future husband--how much I and the country need the gold and he will take the million man army he has and get it for me! He already wants it for the economy.

Clara

What’s an economy?

Maggie

It’s all the money in a country.

Faith

But why does he want gold from somewhere else?

Angela

Yeah, you can’t eat it!

(SIBLINGS laugh)

Faith

That’s not what I meant!

Lia

I get it--the King is greedy.

Maggie

He’s not greedy! The gold would help everyone. He’s generous and wouldn't just store it away. He’d help people with it.

Clara

You have to say that since you’re his wife.

Sophie

Future wife.

Maggie

Well, who would know him better? He is going to get that gold.

(She stomps off stage at Stage Right)

(AMBASSADOR takes center stage. The action behind her can stop.)

***Ambassador Report***

*(to the tune of “Saper bramate bella il mio nome”)*

*Her Royal Highness, The Queen Katarina,*

*I have a message from the land of Mercia*

*The King has lied to all of us*

*He plans to invade; The army will be coming*

*over the mountains to seize our gold*

*(instrumental bridge)*

*We must not sit back and wait for their coming*

*Let us attack them and thus preserve our homes*

*and country from treachery*

*I’ll go to the south to gather our forces*

*There I will wait for your command*

*Together we will stand against this traitor*

*We will give him a fight he will not forget*

*For all of Cumbria land we will fight.*

*Your most obedient servant Francesca Gabardini the twenty-third*

(AMBASSADOR exits down the center and walks out through the audience)

**ACT II**

**Scene 5**

(MAGGIE, still in her fancy dress, returns to the stage from stage left and takes a seat on the stairs with her head in her hands. QB stands at attention a respectful distance off. FATHER comes from their stall towards MAGGIE.)

Father

Hey, kiddo, are you doing okay?

Maggie  (wiping at her eyes)

Yeah. I’m fine.

Father  (sitting down next to her)

Uh huh. I can see that. Do you want to talk about it?

Maggie

Talk about what?

Father

Your upcoming marriage, maybe? Is that what’s bothering you?

Maggie

I don’t know. Kind of. I just thought it would be good, you know? But I don’t feel right.

Father  (standing up)

What did that guy do??

Maggie  (pulling him back down)

No. No. King Charles is a perfect gentleman, Father. I’m just not very queenly. I don’t know how to talk, how to dress, how to do anything!

Father (patting her back comfortingly)

Hey, it’s okay, Maggie. No one expects you to know how to be a queen in a day. It takes time to learn how to do things. Did I ever tell you about the first orchard I planted?

Maggie (shaking her head)

This isn’t really the same, Father.

Father

Sure it is. I put everything we had into those trees and all of our hopes were on them producing enough to make money at the market that very year. I just didn’t seem to realize that it took time for apple trees to get big enough to produce the kind of crop I needed. I was very frustrated when year after year we had to struggle to make do without the extra income from those apples because that orchard didn’t start producing enough for our family for five years. You and Joy and Faith were all born during that time and I felt like I’d let you all down because we had to struggle so much. My inexperience made our lives harder than, well, than they needed to be.

Maggie

But what if my inexperience does that to the whole country?

Father

Then, just like your mother and I, you’ll learn from it. That’s what life is made of--opportunities to learn. We learn from our work and our mistakes and we make the life we want. Maybe what you need to decide is: is being queen really the life you want?

(Joy enters stage right)

Maggie

I thought so.

***Making Wishes***

*(to the tune of “De Colores”)*

*Father: Making wishes, they can grant you the favors*

*Desired but you must be careful*

*Making wishes, they can give you the blessing of comfort*

*Or get you in trouble*

Joy  (spotting them and moving towards Center Stage)

Father! Mother needs you. Millie is stuck on the roof again.

Father

That kid never learns!

(He rushes off Stage Right)

Joy

Are you okay, Maggie?

Maggie (straightening her shoulders)

Of course! I’m getting everything I ever wanted!

Joy

Because of your wish? I can’t tell if mine even worked.

Maggie

That’s probably because you wished for nothing to change. How would you even notice?

Joy

I guess something would change.

(SEBASTIAN comes on Stage Left.)

Maggie (looking at Joy, who is looking at SEBASTIAN)

Like a certain shepherd would notice you?

Joy

I know it’s silly, but I feel so trapped suddenly because nothing I do makes a difference. I can’t seem to even change my dress!

(MOTHER and a few SIBLINGS come Stage Right)

Maggie (quietly, while watching her MOTHER and SIBLINGS)

I feel a little trapped, too.

***Making Wishes***

*(to the tune of “De Colores”)*

*Joy: Making wishes for my life to not change*

*But as I see him standing right there,*

*Though I want to have some things that*

*Just stay the same, I wish that he would*

*notice me here*

*Maggie: Making wishes for my life to improve*

*But as I see them standing right there,*

*Though I want to have some things that*

*Change in my life, I wish I could keep*

*My family near*

(the song plays through one more time as everyone exits the stage--MAGGIE is led away by QB stage left and JOY by MOTHER and SIBLINGS Stage Right. NARRATORS enter from both sides and come to stand at their mics.)

Narrator Emmalyn

Be careful what you wish for, you may end up dead!

Narrator Emily

Stop it! You are scaring the children!

Narrator Elizabeth

Nobody dies in this story. Not even Steward.

Narrator Emmalyn

Then what’s the point of this story?

Narrator Audrey

You’ll know at the end.

Narrator Hannah

Yeah, no spoilers. Even for you.

Narrator Aliyah

And we still have 26 pages to go, so be patient.

Narrator Elizabeth

Maggie and Joy are both feeling a little trapped by their wishes.

Narrator Audrey

And the Ambassador leaves Mercia without confronting the king, so he doesn’t know that the Steward lied to him and the queen-to-be.

Narrator Emmalyn

See--War! Someone is going to die.

Narrator Emily

Any more of your negativity, Emma, and we won’t let you back on stage!

Narrator Hannah

This is a really stressful time all around. I think we need something to lighten the mood.

Narrator Aliyah

I know some good jokes.

Narrator Elizabeth

Nevermind your jokes, Aliyah. They’re all math jokes.

Narrator Audrey

Yeah. We should get back to the castle and see how the king is doing.

**ACT II**

**Scene 6**

SETTING In the throne room of the castle. KING CHARLES is sitting on his throne, surrounded by his ADVISORS and GUARDS.

King Charles (to STEWARD)

Did the ambassador return to sign the trade agreement?

Steward

No, your majesty.

King Charles

It’s only been a few days, perhaps she needed to consult with the queen.

Steward

Certainly, your majesty.

Captain of the Guard (entering Stage Left with SCOUT)

Your majesty

(both bow)

Border patrols have identified activity on our northern border.

King Charles

What sort of activity?

Captain of the Guard

I will let our scout explain.

Scout (delivering his line from one of the mics Downstage)

The Cumbrian army is gathering a few miles from our border. They have thousands of armed men and wagons of supplies. We assume that they are planning to invade.

King Charles (surprised and worried )

Invade? What sort of invasion?

Scout (looking confused)

Are there multiple types of invasions? I figured it was the usual: kill us all and take our land.

King Charles (getting to his feet)

That can’t be! We were talking about an alliance. Why would they attack without provocation?

Scout

I don’t ask why, Sire. I just ask what we are going to do about it.

Captain of the Guard

Wise words. Thank you, Scout. Go get something from the kitchen while the king thinks about what is to be done.

(SCOUT exits Stage Left and ADVISORS gather closer.)

Captain of the Guard

Sire, all of your advisors are here. What is your plan?

King Charles (pacing to show his concern and decision making process)

Minister of Transportation-

Minister of Transportation

Yes, your majesty?

King Charles

How are the conditions of our roads to Cumbria?

Minister of Transportation

Good, Sire. We have been improving them for trade purposes. We were at peace.

King Charles

Minister of War--

Minister of War

Yes, Sire?

King Charles (stopping in front of MINISTER OF WAR)

How many active military do we have that we can send immediately to the front?

Minister of War

Um, 10...Sire.

King Charles (he sits back down suddenly. CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD and KING’S BODYGUARD move a stool and catch him on it before he hits the floor.)

10???! You mean, 10 cohorts or squadrons or something?

Minister of War

Um, well, no. I mean, literally 10 of us, including me. It is growing season and we are not--were not--at war, so I, uh, I, uh, sent everyone home.

King Charles

We’ll need to call them all back.

Minister of War

Yes, Sire.

Captain of the Guard

That could take weeks, Sire.

King Charles (wearily)

It doesn’t sound like we have weeks, Captain. How many able bodied men could we round up from just the nearest towns?

Captain of the Guard

Not sure, but maybe a thousand?

(He looks at the ADVISORS and they all kind of nod or shrug)

King Charles

Let’s do that, then. We need to leave by morning. There’s no time to lose.

(KING CHARLES leads CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD and the MINISTER OF WAR exit Stage Right. FARMERS 1-6 file on Stage Left and stand at the mics to say their lines. KC and the guards should be getting outfitted for war. They come back on with swords and spears to hand out to the farmers)

Farmer Gavin

Evenin’, mates, how are your crops comin’ along?

Farmer Ben

Looking good!

Farmer Korbin

My tomatoes are almost ready to start picking!

Farmer Michael

I’ve had a really good crop of herbs to sell to the apothecary.

Farmer Ethan

We’ve had so many berries that we’ve hired more kids to help pick!

Farmer Trace

This has been a really good year and is just going to get better!

(Enter KC and ENTOURAGE.)

Herald

Hear ye, hear ye! Cumbria is preparing to invade our country! Our beloved king has asked that all able bodied men join him to protect our land.

(JESTERS gather the farmers and mime fighting)

***Going to War*** *(to the tune of “Wait for the Wagon”)*

*Chorus:*

*Jesters: Come join the army*

*King Charles: Come join the army*

*MW: Come join the army*

*All: and we’ll all go to war*

*Verse 1:*

*KC: Will you come with me, my people? Will you come and join this fight?*

*I didn’t ask for this war. The cost will be quite high.*

*I promise you, my people, I really just want peace.*

*But I will fight for our home ‘til our enemy will cease.*

*Come join the army*

*Come join the army*

*Come join the army*

*And we'll all go to war!*

*Verse 2:*

*Farmers and shepherds: Oh, we’ll protect our lovely home from foreign invasion.*

*We’ll fight and fight with our might for the full duration.*

*Come join us in this battle; Grab coats and lock the doors.*

*We will all march together and we will all go to war.*

*Chorus reprise*

(Those going off to war follow KING CHARLES off Stage Left. JESTERS wave white handkerchiefs, then exit Stage Right.  Enter NARRATORS. NARRATOR EMMALYN starts to come on and is dragged off stage by stage crew.)

Narrator Elizabeth

And so King Charles of Mercia took his people to fight the people of Cumbria.

Narrator Audrey

His cousin, the steward, took his place in leading the people who were left behind.

Narrator Emily

At the steward’s side, were all of the king’s advisors who supported Helen.

Narrator Hannah

Maggie and Joy watched their father and the shepherd, Sebastian, go off with the king.

Narrator Aliyah

I ran the numbers, guys, and there’s just no way Mercia has any kind of chance against the Cumbrian army.

Narrator Audrey

Don’t turn into Emma.

Narrator Hannah

Yeah, King Charles could face any army and win. He’s the best!

Narrator Emily

He is mighty, but this was a scary moment anyway.

Narrator Aliyah

Sebastian’s mom cried for the whole 3 days before--

Narrator Elizabeth

The people finally stood up to Helen.

**ACT III**

**Scene 1**

SETTING ADVISORS are gathered in the KING’S throne room. VILLAGE WOMEN armed with farm implements are present with concerns about the men all going off to war. MAGGIE (dressed in her normal clothes) and her ATTENDANTS are standing off Stage Left listening in.

Steward (Raising her hands for silence. VILLAGE WOMEN quiet quickly.)

We have heard enough of your concerns that we can make a judgment. With the lack of men due to the war and an increased demand for food, also due to the war, we decree that the minimum working age be lowered to 6 years old. Put all those kids to work, people!

Minister of Health

But be sure to give them a 10 minute break every 3 hours--for their health.

Minister of Economics

And everyone should work 7 days a week for the highest output!

Keeper of the Purse

What if we raised taxes, too? I mean, as an incentive to work harder?

Keeper of the Robes (in an aside)

Does that actually work?

Steward

Thank you, advisors. I hereby institute a 7 day work week. As long as there is daylight everyone can work. Anyone who doesn’t work will be required to pay a fine of 100 gold pieces.

Village Woman Bella (outraged)

That’s outrageous! First you start a war that takes away our best workers just at harvest time and now you are asking us to make our small children do labor meant for adults or we will owe you more money than most of us make in 10 years!

Village Woman Adelaide (angrily)

You are not the king! You can’t do this!

Other Villagers (defiantly)

Yeah! You can’t do this!

Steward (smugly)

While the king is gone, I am in charge. This behavior is treason and you are all going to jail!

Village Woman Charlotte (aggressively)

Oh, yeah? You and what army?

(Some ADVISORS come to stand with STEWARD and VILLAGE WOMEN line up on the other side.)

(MAGGIE comes to stand between them.)

Maggie (sternly)

Stop! This isn’t right!

Steward

Thank you. I will remember that you backed me up.

Maggie (to STEWARD)

I’m not backing you! You know that the king wouldn’t approve of any of this! He didn’t want to take all the men to war, but he had to because Cumbria is gathering an invasion. He is trying to protect us.

Steward (angrily)

And I am trying to do my job!

Maggie (incredulously)

Your job?

Steward (proud)

I am in charge when the king is gone, and the kingdom needs to make more money.

Maggie (hands on hips)

You’re in charge? Says who?

Steward

I am the king’s first cousin and the steward. If you had read the law book we left you, you would know that makes me his heir.

Maggie (angrily)

I did read it. You are not the king and your job is to do what the king would do, not exactly the opposite! How are you going to explain this when he gets back?

Steward (growling)

He won’t be coming back.

(Collective gasp)

***Face off between Steward and the Villagers*** *(to the tune of: The Fox)*

*Steward: King Charles went to war because I said!*

 *Your commoner Queen has been misled!*

*And this little war will kill him DEAD!*

 *So, now the queen is ME-o, me-o, me-o*

 *And this little war will kill him dead,*

 *So now the queen is me-o.*

(Music plays through the following)

Village Woman Joslyn (pointing her pitchfork back and forth between STEWARD and MAGGIE)

I don’t know who to be more angry with! You both make me sick!

Village Woman Abigail

Let’s take back the kingdom from this---I don’t even know words bad enough to describe you, Helen!

(All VILLAGE WOMEN yell in agreement and raise and lower pitchforks, as they start to encircle the STEWARD and ADVISORS. QUEEN’S BODYGUARD and ATTENDANTS lead MAGGIE to the other side of the stage.)

*Villagers: You are the worst we have ever seen.*

 *We have never seen a meaner “king”.*

 *And you’re gonna find that we’re not so keen*

 *To follow where you lead-o, lead-o, lead-o.*

 *And you’re gonna find that we’re not so keen*

 *To follow where you lead-o.*

(VILLAGE WOMEN attack STEWARD and the ADVISORS, who should try to fight back for a minute)

Queen’s Bodyguard (insistently)

My lady, we should leave. NOW!

(QUEEN’S BODYGUARD and ATTENDANTS escort MAGGIE to the well while VILLAGE WOMEN chase the ADVISORS off the stage the other way, waving farm implements and shouting “death to tyrants!”)

**ACT III**

**Scene 2**

SETTING MAGGIE and her ATTENDANTS are at the well with QUEEN’S BODYGUARD. On stage, the family’s farmhouse is being set up quietly.

Maggie (anxiously)

I can’t believe this is happening! The king could die and that--

Attendant Reagan (interrupting)

Jerk?

Attendant Cheryl

Stupid head?

Attendant Payzlee

Meanie?

Maggie

All of the above! She can’t be king or queen or whatever. She just can’t. She’s--the worst! (as if just realizing it) And I helped her. I feel so, so bad.

(sits down and puts her head in her hands)

Attendant Shelby (comfortingly)

It’s not your fault, my lady. You couldn’t have known.

Attendant Ila

I knew a little. I didn’t think Helen would go this far, though.

Attendant Nora (determinedly)

We can’t let her win. We have to do something.

Attendant Evie

And we have to do it quickly.

Maggie

We need to tell the king, but I don’t know how to get to him.

Queen’s Bodyguard (confidently)

I can get to him. I’ll need to go back to the castle and get my horse.

Attendant Morgan

I want to go back to the castle, too.

Attendant Reagan

Someone needs to take care of things back there, for sure.

Attendant Payzlee

You’ll need all of us. We’ll come, too.

(ATTENDANTS 1, 3, and 4 stand next to QUEEN’S BODYGUARD)

Attendant Shelby

What about her ladyship? I’m not sure we should leave her alone.

Maggie

Actually, I need my sister. This is where it all started, so I think we need to be here to finish it.

Attendant Ila

Morgan and I will go.

Attendant Nora

And then, join the rest of us at the castle.

Maggie

Thank you.

Attendant Evie

Shelby and I will wait with you, then.

Queen’s Bodyguard (to ATTENDANTS)

Okay, everyone who is coming with me. We need to go now. The rest of you be safe. (bowing to MAGGIE) My lady, I wish I could stay and protect you, but I think we’ll all agree that our responsibility to the kingdom must come first.

Maggie

I understand. We’ll be just fine. Go. Quickly!

(They all break up, heading different directions)

**ACT III**

**Scene 3**

SETTINGS Pastoral scene with a farmhouse in the front. Center stage is JOY and FAIRY CHLOE. FAIRY CHLOE is on her hands and knees in the “dirt.”

(JOY mimes weeding and FAIRY CHLOE follows her putting the weeds back.)

Joy

I have pulled every weed from this patch three times and they keep coming back!

Fairy Chloe

 I wish she’d stop! This is exhausting!

Mother

Joy, are you coming in for lunch?

Joy

Yes, Mother! I’m not making any headway here.

Mother

What are you working on, dear?

Joy

I just wanted to have my own little garden spot to grow some herbs or flowers.

Mother

Oh? That sounds lovely, dear. When are you going to start?

Joy

I’ve been working on it for an hour.

Mother

Hmmm...I don’t want to criticize, but those are all weeds. Well, that thistle might be useful if we dry it and…

Joy

I know, Mother. Every weed I have removed has grown back. It’s like--MAGIC!

Mother

Magic? Why would you say that?

Joy

Watch.

 (She pulls a weed and FAIRY CHLOE puts it back. MOTHER sits down rather suddenly.)

Joy

Do you see what I mean?

Mother (faintly, as if overwhelmed)

Yes.

(FAIRY CHLOE sits down in the garden patch, exhausted)

Joy

Ever since that day at the well, it has been like this--I can’t even TRY anything new. I ruin it. Every time. Remember the plum cake the other day? It was a new recipe and I followed it exactly as written, but it never set up--never even mixed properly--RUINED!

Mother

Well? You had something happen at the well?

Joy

Maggie and I gave this nice lady a drink at the well and she turned into a fairy and said she’d grant our wishes.

Mother

Oh, no! Let me guess--Maggie wanted to be queen and you wanted---actually, what did you wish for? I can’t imagine what you asked for that would result in failed plum cake and a weedy garden patch.

Joy

I-I wished for nothing to change. I have always loved my life just as it is!

Mother

Those fairies! This isn’t the first time they’ve done this sort of thing!

(FAIRY CHLOE stands up in surprise and runs off the stage)

Joy

Really? I was wondering if it really happened.

Mother

Oh, it happened, alright.

Joy

How do you know about all this? Did it happen to you?

Mother (shaking her head)

No, no, this happened to Nana Rose and Great Aunt Bea.

Joy

I’ve never heard this story!

Mother

Aunt Bea was a great storyteller, you know, but she always felt like Nana Rose didn’t like her to tell this particular story, so I only heard it a couple of times before grandma put a stop to it. But, it has stayed with me. The two girls were much like you and Maggie and when the fairies offered them the wishes, they asked for similar things. To be Queen and to be comfortable. Nana Rose received a comfortable house and had just exactly what she needed. Aunt Bea got all that she wanted but it ended badly.

Joy

So, she regretted her wish?

Mother

She never said. The story ended with Bea coming back to live in Nana’s comfortable home. The moral was that we have all that we need right here.

Joy

Exactly! That’s how I feel--felt. Except that I can’t do anything new! I can’t get the shepherd boy to notice me. I can’t weed a garden patch. I can’t--

Mother

What shepherd boy?

Joy

Nevermind about that. We don’t need to get into my love life, or lack thereof.

Mother

Okay, dear. I’ll let it pass for now.

Joy

So, you don’t know how to fix it?

Mother

No, dear. I haven’t ever seen the fairies myself. I have always been content to make my choices and be in charge of my own plow, if you can understand the analogy.

Joy

You didn’t want the security your grandmother had?

Mother

Sometimes. But I saw what the wishes cost both my grandmother and my great aunt. I didn’t want that sense of helplessness in my own life.

Joy

Helplessness is exactly the right word! I just want to MAKE something happen, but my wish has made that impossible.

***Making Wishes***

*(to the tune of “De Colores”)*

*Mother: Making wishes, they can grant you the favors desired,*

*but you must be careful*

*Making wishes, they can give you the blessing of comfort*

*Or get you in trouble*

*Making wishes, though it may seem a blessing to not work*

*for what you hold dear,*

*Ev’ry wish in your heart will come to you if you will just*

*do the work and persevere*

Attendant Morgan (coming from stage right with ATTENDANT EVIE)

Joy! Lady Maggie needs you at the well right now!

Mother

Go, Joy, and undo this craziness. Get your life back.

(MOTHER and JOY hug and JOY and ATTENDANTS head to the well.)

**ACT III**

**Scene 4**

SETTING MAGGIE and JOY meet at the well and ATTENDANTS leave while everyone else prepares for the finale.

Joy

Maggie?

Maggie (sitting at the well, stands up and comes to JOY)

Oh, Joy! I’m so glad you’re here! Help me fix this!

Joy

You want to fix things? I thought I was the only one who wanted to change the wishes!

Maggie (confused)

Why? Your life is perfect and your wish makes that permanent--why change it?

Joy (almost in tears)

Because I want my own life! I don’t want a life that NEVER changes--I just want one that I get to be in charge of. I want to fall in love, grow my own garden, learn a new recipe, (looking down at her dress) change my clothes!

Maggie

Your wish did all that? Or, I guess, prevented all that?

Joy

It has to have been my wish. There is no logical or reasonable explanation for weeds growing back within seconds of being pulled up! Our wishes did this!

Maggie

Or a king asking to marry me when we’ve hardly ever spoken.

Joy

Oh, I’m sorry, Maggie! I didn’t think--

Maggie

It’s okay, Joy. I know. But, I don’t want my wish anymore either. It just hasn’t been as freeing or happy as I thought wealth would be. I’ve made such a mess of it.

Joy

But you were going to do so much good, Maggie.

Maggie

And I still will. I just won’t wait until I’m queen to do it.

Joy

Do you still want to be queen?

Maggie

I don’t know. I think I’d like to earn the wealth and respect I want. And I’d rather not marry a total stranger.

Joy

I’m so glad! I was a little worried about that! So, what do we do? How do we fix this?

Maggie

Let me see if I can remember.

(FAIRIES begin to gather, play “The Fairies:reprise”)

Maggie (as the girls pace)

Okay-she said, “Dearest wish.”

Joy

Yes! But just one.

Maggie

And something about pacific.

Joy

Ooh, ooh, and a pair of socks!

(they pause for a second)

Maggie

That doesn’t make any sense.

Joy

No, it doesn’t.

(Another pause)

Okay, we made our wishes and then the Fairy Queen gave us a warning.

Maggie

Right! She said we couldn’t make another wish, but we could--

Maggie and Joy

Ask that it be undone!

(Do a little happy dance)

Joy

Wait, wait, how do we do that?

Maggie

Well, we just said our wishes out loud, so I’m thinking we could just ask for it to be undone the same way.

Joy

Are you sure? I mean, are you sure you want it undone?

***Making Wishes*** *(reprise)(to the tune of “De Colores”)*

*Both: Making wishes, they can grant you the favors*

*Desired but you must be careful*

*Making wishes, they can give you the blessing of comfort*

*Or get you in trouble*

*Making wishes---*

(song cuts off abruptly as in walks FAIRY QUEEN)

Joy (jumping up and down)

Maggie, look, they’re here!

Fairy Queen

Girls, how are you enjoying your wishes?

Maggie (humbly)

That’s why we’re here.

Joy (pleading with hands clasped)

Please, Fairy Queen, can you take the wishes back?

Fairy Queen

You want the wishes undone?

Joy

Yes, please.

Fairy Queen

And, Maggie, is this what you want as well?

Maggie (decisively)

Yes, it is what I want.

Fairy Kaesli

You have to say the words.

Fairy Ruth

And be pacific--

All fairies (with frustration)

Specific!!

Fairy Queen

Hush, children. Let them speak and get ready.

Maggie & Joy (holding hands)

I wished a wish--just the one. But now I wish the wish undone!

Fairy Queen (waving a magic wand)

 Let it be so.

(FAIRIES dance around the girls and throw confetti as they sing The Fairies Reprise)

*We are the Fairies*

*We are the Fairies*

*We’ll take you to the time before your wish*

(FAIRIES and FAIRY QUEEN exit, leaving MAGGIE and JOY at the well)

**ACT III**

**Scene 5**

SETTING SHOPKEEPERS begin setting up the market and all characters begin to gather on stage--the girls take the full bucket of water in their hands out of the well

Maggie

Did it work?

Joy

I don’t know. Look here’s our water bucket.

(picks up bucket)

Maggie

Isn’t that the same bucket from the day we made our wishes?

Joy

Maybe…

Maggie

Let’s carry it back to market. We’ll know when we get there if the wishes have been undone. I’ll take it.

Joy

It’s pretty heavy.

Maggie

Oh, yeah, well, if we work together it won’t be quite so heavy.

(They start walking and meet SEBASTIAN coming from Stage Right.)

Sebastian

Good afternoon. Do you need help with your bucket?

Joy

Um, uh….

Maggie (dropping her side of the bucket)

Thank you for the offer. Aren’t you the shepherd?

Sebastian

Well, I’m a shepherd. My name is Sebastian.

Maggie (extending her hand to shake his)

Pleased to meet you. I’m Maggie and this is Joy. We need to get this bucket of water back to our family at the market.

Sebastian

I’m sure I could carry it, if that would help.

Maggie (looking at JOY)

I think it would help. I’ll run ahead and let the family know you’re coming. I’m sure we could share our lunch with you.

Sebastian

Oh, you don’t have to do that. I’m happy to help.

Maggie

And we are happy to share. You cannot refuse our hospitality!

Sebastian

No, I suppose I can’t.

Maggie

See you soon!

(MAGGIE exits stage right, still on the grass, towards family stall)

Sebastian (to JOY)

I can carry the bucket by myself.

Joy  (finally letting go of the bucket)

Oh, uh, of course. I’m, uh, sorry...I

Sebastian  (taking the bucket from her)

Don’t be sorry.

Joy

Okay. Were you, uh, headed to market, too?

Sebastian

Yes, I was. I don’t have anything to sell this time, but I have things to buy.

Joy

Oh? Something nice or just the usual--you know, food and stuff?

Sebastian  (with a laugh)

“The usual”? That’s funny. Yeah, I really just buy supplies--food and stuff.

Joy  (laughing as well)

My family is the same! We’re farmers, you know.

Sebastian

My uncle is a farmer, but he doesn’t have quite as much at his stall as your family does.

Joy  (surprised)

Oh! Have you been to our stall?

Sebastian  (with an embarrassed smile)

Of course! You have the best apples.

(The two exchange smiles and walk towards the stall on the side of Stage Right, they stay on the grass)

**ACT III**

**Scene 6**

SETTING The cast is gathering at the market. MAGGIE is center stage, having just come up the stairs. KING CHARLES and entourage enter Stage Left, walking in front of the gathering market towards MAGGIE, as if to exit the stage. TINKER SAM approaches from Stage Right.

Tinker Sam

Miss Margaret, could I talk to you for a minute?

Maggie

Oh, Sam, you can call me Maggie. I’m sorry that I ignored you earlier. What did you need to talk about?

Tinker Sam

It’s okay and you can just call me Sam, then, Maggie. I was hoping that you could help me with my business, I would like to expand. Maybe set up another cart or travel more? I know that you have a great deal of knowledge on businesses and wondered if you might help me.

Maggie

I would love to help expand your tinker business, Sam! I have so many ideas. Why don’t you come to dinner tomorrow with the family?

Tinker Sam

Thank you, I really appreciate the help.

(They shake hands)

Herald

His Lordship the Great King Fitz--no, that’s the wrong-- (he shuffles his cards)

King Charles

That’s enough, Max. I don’t think we need to lay it on so thick out here.

Maggie  (curtsying)

Your majesty. I wanted to thank you for your example of generosity earlier.

King Charles

You are the young shopkeeper. I thought you didn’t approve.

Maggie

 I’m sorry. I was too focused on money and I’ve come to realize that money is not the most important thing. People matter a lot more.

King Charles

That is a very wise thing to say. Thank you, young lady.

Steward

She’s not a lady, sire.

King Charles

There’s no need to be rude, Helen. As she said, people matter more than money or position or policy.

(STEWARD shakes her head.)

Maggie

I don’t think your steward has the same opinion.

King Charles  (patting STEWARD on the shoulder)

Of course she does! She’s family, after all.

Steward

Do we need to discuss this in front of a farm girl?

King Charles  (in good humor)

Maybe you’re right, young lady. She does seem to be snobbish, doesn’t she?

(He takes a step back, as if to view STEWARD from a different angle)

Steward

Snobbish? Sire, we are royalty. We are special. We are not just common folk. That’s just the way it is! I’m being realistic and practical.

Maggie  (a little aggressively)

So, if you were king or queen, how would you treat “common folk”, like me?

Steward  (with disgust and disdain)

Well, just as you need to be treated.

King Charles  (Looking interested and concerned about how Steward will reply)

And, how is that, Helen?

Steward

Common folk need to learn their place and do their work without complaint. It is the responsibility of the common folk to care for the land and to provide for the crown’s needs. Everyone knows this.

King Charles

Provide? Helen, are you suggesting that the common folk are taking care of me??

Steward

Um, no. (in a slightly nervous voice and taking a step back) I think that you’re not taking advantage of your position in the right manner. You could make a lot more money if you did require payments from the common folk.

King Charles  (with exasperation)

Helen, we have been over this. I don’t need more money. The country doesn’t need more money. If I take more money from the common folk, they won’t be able to care for themselves. The people are happy with the way things are and so am I. Your changes and your suggestion of war will only hurt our people and our way of life.

Maggie

Are you saying, my king, that you wouldn’t trust Helen here to take over the kingdom for you?

King Charles

I suppose not.

Steward

Now, see here, Charlie!

King Charles

Stop right there, Helen. I am king and I get to decide who is my heir. From this moment on, you are off the list! I will make a decision when I review who is next in line.

Steward  (angrily)

You can’t just do that! I am your closest relative and there are rules!

King Charles

Yes, there are rules. And I will follow them to find your replacement.

(STEWARD lunges at KING and KING’S BODYGUARD grabs her and restrains her)

Steward  (screaming and struggling to get free)

I’ll get you for this! Charlie!

King Charles

Put her in the dungeon.

Guard Jett  (saluting)

With pleasure, your majesty!

Guard Paul

Finally, a command we can get excited about!

(GUARDS surround STEWARD with a rope to restrain her)

Guard Brigham  (whispering to Maggie)

We’ve wanted to put her away for a long time!

(GUARDS exit with STEWARD, who protests the unfairness of being hauled off)

King Charles

Thank you, young lady.

Maggie

It’s Maggie, Sire.

King Charles  (taking MAGGIE’S hand and kissing it)

Thank you, Maggie. I think you just saved the kingdom.

Maggie

Well, it’s my pleasure. I rather like our kingdom the way it is.

King Charles

Me, too, Maggie. Me too.

Maggie

There is one thing I’ve been thinking about, though, if you have a moment.

King Charles

Certainly.

Maggie

Have you ever considered having a Minister of Education??

(the two of them walk off to the side as other cast members come on stage)

Narrator Elizabeth

And they all lived happily ever after.

Narrator Emmalyn

Until the evil fairy appeared and cursed---

Everyone but Emmalyn

BE QUIET!

(NARRATOR EMMALYN scoots backwards)

Whole cast

THE END!

(and stare at NARRATOR EMMALYN)

Narrator Emmalyn  (dejected voice reluctantly)

 Alright. This is the end.

***Market Days (reprise)***

*All: We thank you all for visiting*

*And seeing us in Mercia*

*Now it’s time for us to say*

*Farewell from our market day*

*We thank our friends from City Hall*

*Supporting kids both short and tall.*

*Allowing us to use this stage*

*To perform our Nibley play*

*Thanks for coming to our play!*