CHARACTERS

Jesse
Ben
Jasmine
Ariel
Ru
Belle
Snow
Wicked Witch
Fairies (3)
Minions (3)
Mirror

Playwright's Note: The actors playing “The Minions" can also play “The Fairies”.

TIME
Unknown

PLACE
Enchanted Forest
Act 1 scene 1

At Rise: A forest. It’s spring time. Birds chirping. Flowers blooming. The environment is complete and utter utopia. JESSE, 13 and BEN, 10 enter wearing Boy Scout uniforms. They have been walking for quite some time.

JESSE

Come on, Ben.

BEN

My feet hurt.

JESSE

We’re almost there.

BEN

You said that fifteen minutes ago. Twenty minutes before then. Thirty--

JESSE

Alright already. I get the point.

BEN

We should just wait until someone finds us.

JESSE

And miss out on getting my final badge? Never.

BEN

You and that stupid badge.

JESSE

No one told you to come.

BEN

So.

JESSE

Exactly. Now, if you don’t mind, I’d like to get us back to the campsite.

He holds out his compass and begins looking in various directions.

JESSE

Okay. The sun rises in the east. And sets in the west--

Ben tugs on Jesses arm.
BEN
Ah...Jesse

JESSE
Not now, Ben. So that means we should continue in this direction--

*Ben tugs again.*

JESSE
Shut up, Ben. Can’t you see, I’m busy? Continuing this way we’ll run smack dead--

*Ben tugs again.*

BEN
Jesse! I think--

JESSE
What Ben?! What?! Gosh, I can’t concentrate with you bothering me. What do you want?

BEN
No need to get upset.

JESSE
Well, I’m trying to do something here. You want to get back with the others, don’t you?

BEN
Yeah, but--

JESSE
So let me do that, will you?

*Ben raises his hands in submission. Jesse turns to continue walking. He sees footprints and candy wrappers.*

JESSE
*(Picks up wrappers.)* *(Raises hands in triumphant.)*
Ah ha! See, Master Woodsman Jesse Harris strikes again. Eagle Scout, here I come.
What’d you find?

BEN

The one thing that proves I’ve been on the right track.

JESSE

Candy wrappers?

BEN

Not just any candy wrappers. Willie Wonker’s Wow Wonder Woopers. There are only two people that eat these. That’s you and Scout Leader Benson.

JESSE

Ah Jess--

BEN

He must be out here looking for us, but if I find him first--

JESSE

Jess—

BEN

He’ll be so proud of me. These footprints must belong to one of the guys--

JESSE

Jesse.

BEN

What?

JESSE

That stuff doesn’t belong to Mr. Benson.

BEN

And how do you know?

JESSE

Because they’re mine.

BEN

What?
That’s my candy and footprints. *(Places foot in footprint)* I was hungry and tired. You wouldn’t stop so I stomped the rest of the way—

**JESSE**

Oh gosh!

**BEN**

Sorry.

**JESSE**

I thought, I told you not to step in the mud. Geez, you can’t do anything right.

**BEN**

Don’t blame me. You’re the one that got us lost.

**JESSE**

If I would’ve gone by myself--

**BEN**

You would’ve still been lost.

**JESSE**

Shut up.

**BEN**

You’re so hard headed. Always trying to outdo the other guys. No one told you to walk off on your own.

**JESSE**

I’m the oldest and I gotta lead. That’s what leaders do. They go out ahead of the rest and make sure it’s safe. It’s called being brave, but you wouldn’t know what that means.

**BEN**

I am brave. Take that back.

**JESSE**

You still wet the bed. What kind of bravery is that?

**BEN**

Take it back.

**JESSE**

Nope.

*Ben pushes Jesse.*
BEN
Take it back.

Jesse pushes back.

JESSE
Make me you little squirt.

They push each other back and forth.

BEN
Stupid head.

JESSE
Pee boy.

BEN
Dumb dumb.

JESSE
Peeeeeeboy. Peeeeeeboy.

Ben charges towards Jesse. They wrestle to the ground. Rolling over and over each other. They stop. Both tired and heavily breathing.

BEN
We’re still lost.

JESSE
Shut up.

They stare towards the sky.

Beat.

BEN
Jesse?

JESSE
Yeah.

BEN
What do those clouds look like to you?

JESSE
Clouds.
BEN
I know that, but what kind of shape do they remind you of?

JESSE
I don’t know.

BEN
Remember how mom used to have us lie in the yard and look at the clouds?

JESSE
And try to figure out what each one looked like?

BEN
Yeah and we’d create fairy tales.

JESSE
That was cool.

BEN
Hours and hours would pass by. Before we knew it, the sun was setting.

JESSE
Yeah.

BEN
I could never figure out the shapes as fast as you and mom.

JESSE
Yeah.

BEN
I miss her.

*Jesse turns his back to Ben.*

BEN
Jesse?

JESSE
What?

BEN
Do you miss mom?
JESSE
What’s with all the questions, Ben?
BEN
I only asked one.
JESSE
Well, it seemed like a thousand.
BEN
Sorry.
JESSE
Let’s just lie here for a while. In silence. Can you do that?
BEN
I guess so.
JESSE
Good.

Jesse takes a locket from under his shirt and kisses it. Silence.

BEN
(Points to the sky)(Yawns) What does that cloud remind you of?

Jesse doesn’t look up.

JESSE
I don’t know.
BEN
Looks like a dolphin to me. With wings. And a saddle. And a jet propeller attached to the tail.

JESSE
That makes no sense.
BEN
Can’t you see it?

JESSE
Nope and neither can you.

BEN
You’re not looking.
JESSE

I don’t have to.

BEN

(Yawns) You just gotta use your imagination.

JESSE

Un-huh

BEN

(Points to another cloud) Like those four look like princesses standing over something. Maybe. Maybe not. I’m not sure. What do you think, Jesse?

JESSE

(Mumbles) Un-huh...Yeah...Dolphin princesses’ jet propelled into to something.

BEN

Huh?

Jesse is asleep. He moves a bit. Snoring is heard.

Are you asleep?

BEN

Ben checks to see if Jesse is indeed sleeping or just pretending. He shakes him. Nothing. He sticks his fingers up Jesse’s nose. Jesse moves a bit.

JESSE

(Still in a sleep state) Get away, Ben.

BEN

(Slight snicker to himself) I didn’t know you were sleeping.

He lies back down and stares once again at the clouds. After a moment, sleep starts setting in. His words become slurred.

BEN


He lets out one large stretch and yawn then falls asleep.

LIGHTS FADE.
Act 1 scene 2

Jesse and Ben are still sleeping. They are in different sleeping positions than before. Standing over them in a circle are, CINDI 13-15, JASMINE, 13-15 ARIEL 10-12, and RU, 10-12. The girls wear nice pretty dresses each in a different color. They tip toe around the sleeping boys. One gently kicks them to see if they’re alive. The boys toss and turn. Cindi picks up some leaves and hands one to Jasmine. They tickle the boys’ noses with the leaves while giggling with their hands over their mouths. Jesse and Ben slowly awaken. They wipe their eyes then...

JESSE & BEN

Aaaaaahhhh!

CINDI, JASMINE, ARIEL, and RU

Aaaaaahhhh!

The boys jump to their feet.

JESSE

Who are you?

CINDI

Who are you?

JESSE

I asked you first.

CINDI

So.

JESSE

That means, you’re supposed to say your name.

CINDI

Says who?

JESSE

Me.

CINDI

And who are you?

Jesse almost says his name then catches himself.
I’m J...Oh, no you don’t.  

(Snaps fingers) I thought, I had you there.

Nice try.

Ben pushes Jesse out of the way.

Hi, I’m Benjamin. Ben for short.

Hi, Benjamin Ben for short.

No, no. Instead of calling me Benjamin, you can call me Ben. Bennie. Benji. Ben-Ben--

Alright already. I think, she gets it.

Sorry Jess.

(Punches Ben in the arm) Don’t tell her my name, stupid.

Ouch. Sorry.

So, we have Ben and Jesse. I’m Cindi with an “i” not a y.

Does that really matter?

Ahhh yeah.

I don’t see why. It’s not like they sound different.
So, I could spell your name with “ie” instead of just the “e”.

JESSE
Uhhh...that would make it a girl’s name.

CINDI
So.

JESSE
That’s my point. You know what? Never mind.

CINDI
Like I was saying, I’m Cindi with an “i”. That’s Jasmine (she waves). Ariel (she waves). And Ru (she waves).

JESSE
Do any of you have a weird way of spelling your name that I should know about?

CINDI
Ahh why would their names be spelled differently?

JESSE
I mean...you see..you could spell...nevermind.

BEN
Can they speak?

CINDI
Of course they can. Here in the Enchanted Forest--

JESSE
Whoa. Whoa. Here where?

CINDI
The Enchanted Forest.

JESSE
What?

BEN
The Enchanted Forest, Jesse.

JESSE
There must be some kind of mistake. This isn’t an Enchanted Forest or whatever you called it. It’s the back of Mr. Benson’s yard.
CINDI

Who is this Mr. Benson?

BEN

He’s our scout leader. He’s like the coolest guy ever. He knows everything there is to know about being a boy scout.

CINDI

What’s a boy scout?

BEN

You don’t know what a boy scout is?

CINDI

Nope.

BEN

Well, a boy scout is--

*Jesse moves Ben out of the way.*

JESSE

I’m the higher ranking scout here. I’ll tell her.

*He takes a deep breath. Stands upright. Straightens his clothes. Becomes quite regal. Like a king talking to his loyal subjects. The others stand watching trying not to laugh.*

JESSE

A boy scout is person who is trusted with some of world’s greatest problems. He must rely on countless hours of training in order to complete certain challenges. He uses his smarts, bravery, and strength to figure out things that other mere mortals cannot.

CINDI

Hmmm. Boy scouts sound like they’re out of this world.

JESSE

You can say that.

CINDI

Is that why you wear those funny clothes?

JESSE

*(Points at their dresses.)* Look who’s talking.
JASMINE

You’re funny.

BEN

You can talk?

JASMINE

Cindi told you we could.

ARIEL

Yeah, just because we don’t doesn’t mean, we can’t.

JASMINE

You’d be surprise what you can learn just by listening.

ARIEL

That’s why you have two ears and one mouth.

JASMINE & ARIEL

So you can listen twice as much as you talk.

Jasmine and Ariel point at each other.

JASMINE & ARIEL

Jinx.

Jasmine and Ariel begin playing a hand clapping game. They aren’t heard by everyone else.

BEN

You seem like you know more than us. You think, you can show us the way back to Mr. Benson’s house. We don’t want to be out too late.

CINDI

We do not know a Mr. Benson.

BEN

He’s called scout master.

CINDI

Sorry it does not ring a bell.

JESSE
I told, you we’re not lost. *(Reveals his badges)* I wouldn’t have these if I didn’t earn them.

The girls all stop and stare at the badges. Ru steps forward and reaches out to touch them. Jesse looks around like “What is she doing?”

RU

Medals. Bravery.

*She gives Jesse a big hug.*

JESSE

(Gasping for air) You’re hurting me.

CINDI

Let him go Ru.

RU

Sorry.

JESSE

What’s her problem? *(Scratches neck and arms)* Your hair has me itching.

CINDI

We have told her to cut it a thousand times. Hey, where did you get those medals?

JESSE

These? I earned them.

CINDI

How?

JESSE

By completing certain tasks. You know, all that stuff I mentioned that boy scouts do. I pretty much did that times ten. You know, all in a day’s work.

JASMINE

You fought for them?

JESSE

Oh yeah. It was a real battle for these things. Let me tell ya’.

ARIEL

Does anyone have more than you?
No way. I’m the best of the best.

(To Ben) Is this true what he says?

Unfortunately.

The girls huddle together. They whisper to each other. Their words are unheard. Jesse and Ben look at each other and shrug. After a moment, Cindi steps forward.

We have decide that your medals mean more than you think.

Huh?

We have decided that you can help us with our story.

Story?

Here’s what happened. We all belong in a fairy tale--

Un-huh.

And the way it works, as long as our stories get told, there is order and balance in the fairy verse.

Okay.

Our stories used to always be told by this sweet angelic voice. She would even give us different voices.

Really.
Oh yeah. She’d spend hours upon hours just telling the story. I often wondered if she ever got tired.

_Ben tugs on Jesse’s arm, but he ignores him._

JESSE

What happened?

ARIEL

We’re not sure. It all stopped about twelve moons ago.

JESSE

Twelve moons?

BEN

I know. I know. I know.

_Ben takes a notebook from his backpack._

JESSE

You do?

BEN

Yeah, when I got my Astronomy badge, I learned about the moons. Alright here we go. (Reads) In one solar year, we experience just over twelve lunar months. So you will have twelve most years and occasionally 13. In the years with 13, you will have one month with two full moons in which case the second full moon is called a blue moon.

JESSE

So a year?

BEN

Yeah

CINDI

That sounds about right. So, will you help us?

JESSE

I don’t know anything about fairy tales.

BEN

Sure you do, Jess. When we were--

_Jesse covers Ben’s mouth._
JESSE
What my brother was trying to say is we really can’t remember how the stories go.

CINDI
Are you sure?

JESSE
Yep. Sorry.

CINDI
Alright. I guess, we will try to remember it ourselves.

JESSE
Good luck with that.

*With their heads lowered, the girls turn and begins to walk away. Jesse and Ben argue, but they aren’t heard. Jesse looks up and see Ru tossing an object in the air.*  
*He recognizes it.*

JESSE
Hey, hey. Wait.

The girls turn around.

CINDI
You changed your mind?

JESSE
No.

CINDI
Oh.

JESSE
*(To Ru)* What’s that?

RU
Mine.

*He reaches for it, but Ru taps his hand.*

JESSE
Ouch. I just wanted to see it.

JASMINE
She does not let anyone touch that medal.

ARIEL
It is the only thing that reminds her of her story.

BEN
Jesse, do you know what that looks like?

JESSE
Yes.

BEN
Is it the final one?

CINDI
What are you talking about, Ben?

BEN
You see, my brother really wants to be an eagle scout. And the medal Ru has would make him one.

CINDI
Can’t you get it from your scout master?

JESSE
Actually anyone can give it to me.

BEN
Long as he provides--

*Jesse covers Ben’s mouth. Ben bites him.*

JESSE
Ouch.

BEN
He has to provide a service.

CINDI
Oh really?

JESSE
Yeah.

CINDI
I have an idea.

JESSE
Let me guess. Help you guys tell your stories and I get the medal.

CINDI
I did not know you could read minds.

JASMINE
Wait a minute. Ru, would you part with your medal if Jesse helps us get back to our stories.

Ru nods.

JESSE
Alright fine. First, we have to find out how you got out of your stories.

JASMINE
Well once that lady from the sky stop telling our stories, the wicked witch took over and stole our princes.

JESSE
There’s always a witch and a prince. Whatever. Let’s get started.

CINDI
So you’re going to help?

JESSE
I guess so.

CINDI
I have to tell everyone.

JESSE
Whoa. Whoa. Everyone?

CINDI
Of course. You didn’t think we were the only ones with lost stories, did you?

JESSE
(Sighs) Fine. Fine.

BEN
This is so cool.
JESSE
Alright. Here we go. Where are the rest?

ARIEL
There they are.

*Two girls stick their heads out.*

JESSE
Should they come a little bit closer?

ARIEL
Come on you all. These two are going to help us.

*The girls shake their heads.*

JASMINE
They are scared. They are not sure if you’re a good person.

JESSE
Can’t you tell them?

JASMINE
Doesn’t matter.

JESSE
How can I prove to them that I’m good?

JASMINE
I wish, I could tell you.

CINDI
The lady in the sky always started stories off with the same phrase.

JASMINE
Yeah it was like magic how our stories came to life with those words.

JESSE
Okay. Magic words. How about Abracadabra?

*The girls’ eyes widen.*

JESSE
No? Hocus Pocus?

_They slowly start to retreat._  
JESSE

Sim sim Sala Bim?

BEN

I don’t think that’s it either, Jesse.

JESSE

I know that. I’m running out of magic words. Ummmm—

BEN

Think fairy tale.

JESSE

I’m thinking. I’m thinking.

_The girls are almost gone when Jesse yells out..._

JESSE

ONCE UPON A TIME!

LIGHTS FADE.
Act 1 scene 3

*Jesse sits on the ground with a pen and paper. There is a stake of paper next to him. He is writing. Ben hovers around his shoulder. Pacing back and forth are Cindi, Jasmine, Ariel, Ru, Snow 10-12 and Belle, 10-12.*

**CINDI**

Why is it taking him so long to figure out the glass slipper fits my foot? If he doesn’t get here soon, I’ll be cleaning for the rest of my life. Is that right?

**JESSE**

Yep.

**CINDI**

This is good. Keep writing.

**SNOW**

Wait a minute. I bit an apple, right?

**JESSE**

Yep.

**SNOW**

And fell asleep, but I’m not sleepy.

**BEN**

Because the story is messed up, things aren’t in order.

**SNOW**

Oh. Well, I don’t want to be asleep.

**BEN**

It’s a part of your story.

**SNOW**

Well, why can’t he just write something different? I mean, I don’t particularly like apples. I think strawberries or mangos would make a better story.

**BEN**

I don’t think that’s going to work.

**SNOW**

Why not?
BEN
Because...because...because--

JESSE
BECAUSE THAT’S NOT THE STORY! The story specifically says you eat an apple and fall asleep. So, I’m going to write that you eat an apple, not a strawberry, not a mango, not a plum, not a peach, an apple.

SNOW
I only mentioned the strawberry and mango. But hey, I get your point.

BEN
I’ve been meaning to ask. Why do you go by the name Snow?

CINDI
Ahh duh. *(Points to Snow’s hair)* Look at the hair.

BEN
Oh okay. Your hair is white like snow.

SNOW
Yeah.

BEN
Then why not call yourself snow white?

SNOW

JESSE
Guys, I’m writing as fast as I can.

JASMINE
I don’t mean to interrupt. And please don’t yell at me. *(Jesse looks up in frustration)* On second thought, Ben I have a question. Now, this Aladdin guy. Is he cute?

BEN
Ummmm...I guess.

JASMINE
If I like him, like you say, then he has to be cute. Otherwise, it doesn’t make much sense.
In the story it does.

JESSE

A little help here Ben.

BEN

What do you need?

JESSE

I’m trying to remember stuff about Aladdin.

BEN

You know Aladdin was mom’s--

JESSE

Never mind. I got it.

CINDI

Tell us about your mom.

BEN

She was the best. I mean, talking about fairy tales. She always said it’s where anything is possible.

CINDI

Where is she now?

BEN

Well, she’s--

JESSE

We’re supposed to be helping with your story. Not anything else. Jasmine, Aladdin rides a magic carpet.

JASMINE

A magic carpet? Hmmmmm pretty fancy. I like him even more now.

JESSE

He got it from a genie.

JASMINE

A genie? Like the kind who does magic and you get three wishes?

JESSE

Yeah, that’s the kind.
JASMINE

I’m sold.  

_She sinks down to the ground and hugs herself._

BELLE

I’m still confused here. (To Ariel) You’re a fish?

ARIEL

A mermaid.

BELLE

With fins?

ARIEL

Yes, but my prince has to take me back to the ocean. I guess, that’s why I feel so homesick. Does that sound about right, Jesse?

JESSE

Un-huh.

BEN

But you’re going to get to visit him and your ocean family.

ARIEL

Oooo I can’t wait until we get to that part.

The girls huddle around Ariel to console her. They have a real “Awww moment”.

RU

Hey, someone is standing on my hair. You mind not doing that please

BEN

You said more than a couple of words.

RU

I did? I did. I did.

CINDI

That must mean it’s working.

RU

I’m so glad I never cut my hair. How else was my prince going to climb into that tower?
SFX: Thunder and lightning.

JESSE

Is it about to rain?

BEN

Sounds like it.

SNOW

Rain? What’s rain?

BEN

Rain is when tiny drops of water fall from the sky really really fast.

SNOW

That’s never happened here.

JASMINE

Oh, my. That could mean only one thing.

The girls quickly hide behind Jesse and Ben. Lights dim. The WICKED WITCH enters with three of her MINIONS (who have an annoying giggle) by her side. She’s accompanied by music. Something really outrageous that’s abnormal but befitting a person of her meanness. She gestures for the music to stop.

WICKED WITCH

You all think you’re so smart?

MINIONS

You all think you’re so smart?

WICKED WITCH

Don’t hide now. It’s too late for that.

MINIONS

Too late for that.

WICKED WITCH

So you want to rewrite the fairy tales. Trying to put me out my misery, are you? I’m not going back to the underworld.

MINIONS

Not going back to the underworld.
Jesse raise his hand.

WICKED WITCH
What?

JESSE
Who are you?

WICKED WITCH
What?! What?! He doesn’t know who I am.

The Minions run around in a circle.

MINIONS
He doesn’t know who she is. He doesn’t know who she is. He doesn’t know who she is.

Wicked Witch walks towards Jesse.

WICKED WITCH

JESSE
Right. I thought, you’d be showing up soon.

Ben creeps up behind the Wicked Witch and picks up the tail of her dress. She quickly pulls away.

BEN
(Extending hand for handshake) Benjamin Harris at your service.

WICKED WITCH
I’m not touching you.

MINIONS
She’s not touching you.

BEN
That’s rather rude of you.

WICKED WITCH
I’m a witch. What do you expect?

MINIONS
She’s a witch. What do you expect?

BEN
Do you always have to repeat what she says? It gets pretty annoying after a while.

The Minions look at each other then to the Wicked Witch who nods.

WICKED WITCH
You know, he’s actually right. I never said anything because I wanted to spare your feelings. A little variety would help guys. Change it up a little bit, you know?

The Minions lower their heads and fade backwards but still in sight.

WICKED WITCH
See what you did.

BEN
Me?

WICKED WITCH
Yeah, you litter bugger. Let’s cut to the chase. Which one of you is responsible for telling this fairy tale?

BEN
Oh that would be my big brother Jesse.

WICKED WITCH
Oh really? Move out of my way.

Still looking up to her, Ben slides out of the way. The Wicked Witch stares down Jesse. She walks towards him.

WICKED WITCH
I’ll say this once and only once. Stop writing.

JESSE
I’d like to. You have no idea how much I’d like to, but I can’t.

WICKED WITCH
(To Minions) Did he just tell me no? (Minions nod continuously) NOBODY TELLS ME NO!

JESSE
(Cleans ears) Wow. You’ve got some pipes there lady.
WICKED WITCH
If you don’t stop, I’ll surely bring a lot pain into your life.

JESSE
Right. Like you really can do that.

BEN
Ahh Jesse. Actually she can. You see, we’re in their world. Pretty much anything goes.

JESSE
Oh. (Slight laugh) We’ve gotten off to a bad start. Wouldn’t you say?

WICKED WITCH
Little boy. Little boy. You have no idea how much of a bad start I can cause. BRING ME MY HOUR GLASS!

*The Minions bring her an hourglass.*

WICKED WITCH
You think you’re so smart, don’t you?

JESSE
Being that I’m almost an Eagle, I’d say I’m smarter than the average bear.

WICKED WITCH
We’ll see about that. *(Flips hourglass over)* If you don’t finish the story by the time this hourglass empties, not only will they never make it back, but neither will you. *(To princesses)* And you can kiss those sweet princes goodbye.

JESSE
You can’t do that.

BEN
Actually she can. Remember--

JESSE
I got it, Ben. I remember. Their world. Their rules.

WICKED WITCH
Gosh. I almost forgot. You all will be my slaves.

BEN
Hey, that’s not fair.

WICKED WITCH
Tough luck. Handing down all that evil made me work up a sweat. BRING OUT MY MAGIC MIRROR!

*The Minions brings her a mirror and holds it in front of her. The mirror can be an actual person or a voice over.*

WICKED WITCH
Mirror Mirror from my wall. Who’s still the meanest of them all?

MIRROR
*(Big Yawn)* You are my queen.

WICKED WITCH
What did you think of my ruling?

MIRROR
Not bad. Could be better.

WICKED WITCH
How so?

MIRROR
We’ll, they’ve already started on the fairy tale, right?

WICKED WITCH
Yeah.

MIRROR
Why don’t you do something with what they’ve already written? That way, they have to work even hard.

WICKED WITCH
You’re right.

MIRROR
That’s why you hired me.

*SFX: Swirling winds.*


MIRROR
No one is more wicked than you, my queen.
WICKED WITCH
Why thank you.

MINIONS
Yes, yes, queen. You’re the best.

WICKED WITCH

MIRROR
Now their journey is virtually impossible.

WICKED WITCH
Ah my loyal servants, soon I will rule all. Mirror, who is the most beautiful woman in the enchanted forest.

MIRROR
Without question it is you my queen.

MINIONS
(Mumbles) Those girls behind that tree look pretty.

WICKED WITCH
What?

MINIONS
Nothing your highness.

WICKED WITCH
That’s what I thought. Looks like my work here is done.

_Wicked Witch gestures for her music to play. She exits. Jesse looks up and rushes over to the scattered papers. The girls slowly come from behind the tree._

JESSE
No, no, no.

BEN
What?

JESSE
All of my work.

BEN
We can just piece them back in order. No big deal.

JESSE
We can’t.

BEN

Why not?

JESSE

(Picks up a bundle of papers) Because she erased all that I wrote.

Everyone surrounds Jesse.

LIGHTS FADE

END OF ACT 1
**Act 2 scene 1**

*A short time has passed by. Everyone is in their own world. The girls are on their knees huddled in a silent prayer. Jesses sits with his head in his hands. Ben paces back and forth.*

BEN

We can’t just sit here and do nothing.

JESSE

I don’t see why not.

BEN

Because we have to help the princesses.

JESSE

I tried that and see where that got us.

BEN

But look at them.

JESSE

It’s not our problem.

BEN

You heard what the Wicked Witch said. If we don’t finish the story--

JESSE

I know. I know. We’re stuck here for life. Be her slaves. Yada, yada, yada.

BEN

That’s pretty serious if you ask me.

JESSE

That’s just it, Ben. I didn’t. Besides, this is make believe. Nothing can really happen to us here.

BEN

What are you saying?

JESSE

I think you know.

BEN
JESSE
Look, the princess are going to have to figure this out on their own. You and I have better things to do.

BEN
Like?

JESSE
Ahh getting back to Scout Master Benson’s house. I’m not getting in trouble for you.

BEN
I’m not going anywhere.

JESSE
What?

BEN
You heard me.

JESSE
You’d better listen to me.

BEN
I will not as long as you’re acting insane.

JESSE
What’s your problem? It’s just a fairy tale. None of this stuff is actually real. Make believe. Pretend. You know this.

BEN
Why would you say something like that?

JESSE
What? It’s true.

BEN
I can’t believe you.

JESSE
What?

BEN
Mom always said--
JESSE
Don’t bring her into this.

BEN
Why not? She’s my mom too.

JESSE
Don’t you think I know that?

BEN
Well act like it. She always told us that if we truly believe in something, it’ll come true.

JESSE
That didn’t include fairy tales.

BEN
Yes, it did. Because it starts with the heart. I see, you don’t have that anymore.

Ben runs off.

JESSE
(Calling) Ben come back. Ben.

The girls congregate around.

CINDI
Is everything okay?

JESSE
Yeah, he’s just a little upset.

CINDI
Why?

JESSE
Look, I’m sorry, but I’m not going to be able to help you all.

JASMINE
You’re not?

JESSE
It’s just not enough time.

JASMINE
So, you’re going to give up?
JESSE
It’s not giving up. It’s just knowing when you’ve done all you can.
ARIEL
Sounds like giving up, if you ask me.
RU
Me too.
JESSE
Call it what you want, but that’s the way it is.
CINDI
You didn’t seem like this earlier.
JESSE
That was before the Wicked Witch came into play.
CINDI
I see.
JESSE
Maybe if we reason with her--

*All at once the girls jump back and say...*

THE GIRLS
REASON WITH HER?!
SNOW
Are you crazy?