

# BEAUTY AND THE

# PRINCE

BY

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## BEAUTY AND THE PRINCE

### Synopsis:

A cruel and selfish beast is turned into a prince by Florette, the enchantress of the woods, to teach him the value of compassion. If he should fall in love and be loved, however, true love's kiss will make him return to his beastly nature. Beauty's boundless love is so powerful that it overcomes the original spell and assures the happy ending.

### CHARACTERS

(6M, 3F, 4 either, 4 doublings, total: 13)

BEAUTY

BEAST (Fierce and boisterous.)

PRINCE

HARRY BEAUTY'S FATHER

ROSE HOUSEKEEPER

PASCAL SERVANT

HARE

FOX

WOLF

LARK

FLORETTE ENCHANTRESS (Wears a green flower patterned gown.)

BANDIT 1

BANDIT 2

SCENE 1 – The Woods

SCENE 2 - The Palace Hall

DURATION: 20 minutes

### PROPS:

Wand (Florette)

Hooded cloak, chain, purse, ring (Prince)

### PRODUCTION NOTES:

When Beast turns into Prince, he appears in a hooded cloak.

**SCENE 1**

At Rise:

*(HARE enters cautiously, looks around.)*

HARE: Hey, Fox, come along, the beast's not here.

*(FOX enters.)*

FOX: Oh my, he's such an evil creature, always ready to eat us up.

HARE: He believes himself to be the king of the forest.

*(WOLF enters.)*

FOX: Only because he's bigger and stronger than us all.

WOLF: Well said, Fox, well said.

FOX: Last night he almost caught us.

HARE: He eats all our berries, dries out the ponds,

FOX: Steals our eggs and picks all the flowers.

WOLF: A truly wicked heart.

*(Loud growls)*

HARE: Oh no, the beast!

WOLF: Better beat it, guys.

FOX: *(Loudly)* You won't catch us, Beast, you won't.

*(FOX, WOLF, HARE rush out. BEAST enters.)*

BEAST: *(Shouts.)* Where are you, chickens? All afraid of the beast? And you better be, for you know what I'll do if I get my claws on you.

*(LARK enters. Has a broken wing.)*

LARK: Hello there, will you be so kind to put me on that bough? My wing's broken and I can fly no more.

BEAST: *(Laughs.)* Put you on that bough? I'll eat you up, my dear.

LARK: *(Steps back.)* Oh no, no! Please have mercy, I am wounded.

BEAST: Too bad for you. (*Shows his claws.*)

LARK: Don't you have a heart, Beast?

BEAST: (*Scornfully*) Me a heart? You must be out of your mind. I have a stomach that is always very hungry.

LARK: So you won't help me?

BEAST: Absolutely. (*Growls loudly, is about to grab LARK.*)

(*Lights on and off. LARK turns into FLORETTE.*)

BEAST: (*Steps back.*) Good grief. What's this all about?

FLORETTE: Surprised, huh? I am Florette, the enchantress of these woods.

BEAST: And I am the Beast, the king of these woods.

FLORETTE: I've been told by my friends that a very hideous creature keeps frightening them out of their skins.

BEAST: That's me, the biggest and strongest of all.

FLORETTE: So you are big and strong...

(*BEAST shows his muscles.*)

FLORETTE: And also very, very scary...

BEAST: (*Grins.*) Modestly.

FLORETTE: And this gives you unlimited power, I presume. (*Harshly*) Too easy, Beast.

BEAST: Not my fault.

FLORETTE: What about my turning you into a human being, a weak and friable creature as all humans are? And since you are a king, you'll become a prince; a touch of humility won't hurt.

BEAST: You must be kidding, lady.

FLORETTE: That way only you'll learn to be kind and humble and perhaps, even love.

BEAST: Love? That's for fools.

FLORETTE: Mark my words, if ever you fall in love and your sweet maiden kisses you, you will turn back into the horrid beast you were.

BEAST: (*Sneers.*) Not bad, not bad at all.

FLORETTE: Wouldn't be too sure, for you'll be whining and pining after your lost love forever, and the deepest despair shall dwell in your heart.

BEAST: Hey, that's not fair.

FLORETTE: Evil has its price, Beast.

*(Thunder and lightning.)*

*(FLORETTE takes out her wand.)*

FLORETTE: May pain pursue you,  
May woes possess you,  
Till humility tames you  
And love transforms you.

*(Lights on and off as BEAST growls and turns into PRINCE.)*

FLORETTE: Welcome to the world of humans, Your Highness.

*(FLORETTE exits.)*

PRINCE: *(Loudly)* Hey, lady, hold it... *(Lowers his hood, touches his face.)* Good grief, I've got no more fur... and these are hands and arms... Oh my, what will happen to me?

*(WOLF, FOX, HARE enter.)*

WOLF: Why, what a tasty lunch is waiting for us, my dear friends.

PRINCE: *(Tries to growl.)* No, no, wait, I'm the beast.

HARE: The beast?

FOX: That's neat.

PRINCE: Florette, your friend, has transformed me into a... a prince.

FOX: Should it be true, we have a good chance of getting rid of you at last.

PRINCE: Please, believe me, I'll never hurt you when I turn back into a beast, cross my heart.

HARE: What shall we do, friends?

*(FLORETTE enters.)*

FLORETTE: Come on, guys, our beast... err, I mean, our prince here has a long way to go; we want him to learn some good manners, don't we?

FOX: We'll let him be, but we'll keep watch on him, be sure of that.

*(WOLF, FOX, HARE exit.)*

*(Sound of hooves.)*

FLORETTE: And now your challenge continues, my dear prince, bandits are on their way.

*(FLORETTE exits.)*

PRINCE: Bandits? They don't scare me. *(Tries to growl in vain.)*

*(BANDITS enter.)*

BANDIT 1: Hey, you, better start handing us that chain of yours if you want to walk out of here with your own legs.

PRINCE: You don't know who you're dealing with, man.

BANDIT 2: No one but a silly guy wandering all alone in the woods. *(Tears off his chain.)*

PRINCE: Give that back to me! I am the Beast of the forest and I'll eat you up in the wink of an eye.

BANDIT 1: A beast? Oh my, we have a lunatic here.

BANDIT 2: *(Laughs.)* We sure do.

BANDIT 1: *(Laughs.)* Show me your claws, Beast.

*(PRINCE is about to show them, but withdraws his hands.)*

BANDIT 1: Give us that purse too, it's surely full of golden coins.

BANDIT 2: And the ring. It looks like a ring fit for a prince.

PRINCE: *(Gives them the purse, ring.)* It's easy to defeat who is much weaker than you.

BANDIT 1: *(Sneers.)* Seems you know something about that.

*(Loud howls.)*

BANDIT 2: Hey, that sounds like a howl.

BANDIT 1: There must be wolves around.  
*(WOLF enters, howls.)*

BANDIT 2: Oh my, one is right here!

BANDIT 1: Let's beat it, man.

*(FOX, HARE enter.)*

FOX: Wait a minute, guys, got to leave the loot before going.

BANDIT 2: Good gracious, a talking fox!

BANDIT 1: These woods must be haunted.

*(BANDITS drop the chain, purse and ring.)*

BANDIT 2: Come on, buddy, no time to waste.

*(BANDITS run out.)*

PRINCE: Wolf, Fox... Why?

WOLF: We felt sorry for you.

FOX: Better start learning a few tips of survival, you're pretty vulnerable now.

PRINCE: Whew, never thought it could be so hard.

HARE: We've already had a good taste of it thanks to you.

WOLF: Go to the palace, Prince, it's your home now.

HARE: The woods are dangerous at night time.

PRINCE: Say, do you think you can escort me out?

FOX: Have to find your way by yourself, Your Highness.

PRINCE: Well, thanks for your help, guys. I really appreciated it.

*(FOX, HARE, WOLF bow as PRINCE exits.)*

*(Lights fade.)*