

KINGDOM

by pam munson steadman

An interactive Royal Musical for Children and Childish Adults

a musical play in two acts

music by ben steifet

<https://offthewallplays.com>

Copyright © january 2022 pam munson steadman and Off the Wall play publishers

this script is provided for reading purposes only. professionals and amateurs are hereby advised that it is subject to royalty. it is fully protected under the laws of the United States of America, the british Empire, including the dominion of Canada, and all other countries of the Copyright Union. All rights, including but not limited to professional, amateur, film, radio, and all other media including use on the worldwide web and the rights of translation into foreign languages are strictly reserved; and any unauthorized use of the material may subject the user to any and all applicable civil and criminal penalties. for any information about royalties or to apply for a performance license please click the following link:

<https://offthewallplays.com/royalties-and-licensing-of-plays-sold-by-off-the-wall-plays/>

Synopsis: A shy dragon seeks only friendship and loyalty from his kingdom. He loses its fire after a torrential rain storm while sleeping with his mouth open. Hurt and disappointment set in when his best friend, the Knight, abandons him, fearing that his shining armor will rust. After an encounter with Flame Swallower and Wise Woman, Dragon decides to set out on a quest of his very own. Audience interaction is a must!

Characters

4 F 4M

DRAGON: Fiery, fun-loving, loyal, often seen carrying his little red wagon behind him.

KNIGHT: A man who would be king...if he gets his way

KING: Played by a Female. Strong worrier concerning his kingdom... *and* his daughter!

QUEEN: Played by a Male. Dramatic worrier... about her wrinkles.

PRINCESS IN PINK: Pretty in pink and torn between two hoverers.

FLAME SWALLOWER: Shish Kabobs are his favorite, even though he's often just burned out.

WISEWOMAN: Though not having a PHD in psychodrama, this crone knows how to counsel.

COURT JESTER WITH AUDIENCE CARDS: Can be played by a Male or a Female.
Introduces various cards instructing the audience as to how it should respond)

*EXTRAS (used in Moonbeam Festival scene...juggling, doing somersaults, etc.)

It is suggested that poetic lyrics in this play may be put to music; otherwise, just shout it them out!

*"*Night and Day*" is a popular song by Cole Porter. It was written for the 1932 musical play *Gay Divorce*. It is perhaps Porter's most popular contribution to the Great American Songbook and has been recorded by dozens of artists. Two lines are sung by the King and the Queen in this play. The playwright gives consent to omit this part if need be.

SETTING

Act 1

Scene 1. Outside of the Royal Palace

Scene 2. Inside of a Dragon's Lair

Act 2

Scene 1. Outside of the Royal Palace/Celebration of Moonbeam Festival

Scene 2. Outside of the Royal Palace

TIME

Somewhere Between Ages Ago and Almost Tomorrow.

ACT ONE

SCENE ONE

Outside of a Royal Palace

KING

(Heard in background, shouting loudly)

My horse! My horse! My kingdom for a.....DRAGON?

COURT JESTER

(Appears with large cards, asking audience participation on each)

All hail to thee, Ladies, Gentlemen, and Children!

You are now entering the Kingdom of Ages Ago and Almost Tomorrow!

We have rules that must be obeyed in this Kingdom!

I will appear with a special card that tells you what role YOU must play in our grand little musical. So, put on your listening ears...go ahead...I'm waiting! Just put your hands up to your ears and rub your ears...hurry up!

(Waits for audience to put imaginary ears onto their heads)

Now...do you see each card that I show you?

(Shows each card to audience)

This first card says you are to BOO! Let me hear you now!

(Audience Boos)

LOUDER PLEASE!

(Audience Boos again)

This second card says that you are to yell YAY! So, yell YAY!

(Audience yells YAY)

Well done. Just like I like my burgers!

On with our fairy tale...

Once upon a time in ‘The Kingdom of After Yesterday and Before Today’ there lived a playful, powerful, loyal, fiery, and oh-so-shy dragon named...well...Dragon!

(COURT JESTER exits stage)

(DRAGON appears to walk across stage, pulling his little red wagon full of toys/coloring book/crayons)

DRAGON

(Reciting OR singing):

“I’m tired of just draggin’ my little red wagon

And playing alone every day

The King is out hunting, the Queen is still grunting

‘Cause some things are not going her way

Oh where-oh, where-oh, is my good friend the Knight?

I hope he’s safe-oh, and does not get hurt in a fight.

I’m keeper and saver and never do waver

I breathe out bright flames through my nose

I face all the dangers and don’t talk to strangers

Whom I have been warned might be foes

Oh where-oh, where-oh, is my place in the sun?

I get so lonely; sometimes I just feel I should run...

Away to new places and find me new faces

Who’ll appreciate all that I do

Who'll show me adventure and no more this censure

Oh really, they don't have a clue!

I know I could go-oh, but somehow it never seems right

So I will just stay here...My cloudier days must turn bright!

(Cupping his hand up to his ear)

I think I hear horses and this kingdom's forces...

Ah ha, they are heading this way

The trumpets are blaring and I feel like sharing

My toys with the brave KNIGHT today...

HOORAY!"

(The KING enters; a pouting PRINCESS follows in distress)

KING

(Agitated)

Your mother, the Queen, is in charge of The Moonbeam Festival. You shall obey her orders. The Knight cannot attend and that is final, young lady!

PRINCESS

But Father, I so need a dance partner! The Knight thinks that I am a fine dancer indeed.

KING

(Spinning around in annoyance)

Bite your tongue! You shall dance with the Lords of the Court then. Knights are not dancers! They fight... they slay... they win!

(Walks over to the audience, rolling his eyes)

Truly, have any of YOU ever seen a knight-in-shining armor dancing?

(Improv the audience response or go back to dialogue)

PRINCESS

(Arms crossed)

I shall be terribly hurt and perhaps not attend at all. The Lords can dance with the Ladies, yet a pretty-in-pink princess cannot choose a dance partner? I shan't dance whatsoever then...so there!

KING

That is *your* choice dear daughter. Perhaps you should have been born a serf! You do not appreciate your heritage and the royal surroundings and riches that life has bestowed upon you. A spoiled princess...a whiny princess...a stubborn princess!

PRINCESS

But Father, even Rapunzel was allowed to let down her hair now and then.

KING

Enough my child!

(DRAGON walks over to the PRINCESS)

DRAGON

If I could dance, I would most certainly be your royal escort to the festival Princess.

(PRINCESS smiles slightly. KING addresses the DRAGON sternly)

KING

Bite your long tongue! A large green bug-eyed scaly creature who spits fire upon the derelicts of the earth... dancing? I think not! You were not meant to accompany royalty at festivals, Dragon. You were meant to breathe fire in and out...to spit at the enemy and melt the armor of wicked clans in the East, South, and West...to warn us with your fiery roar when our castle is endangered...to whip out your tail and slam every demon who attacks from every corner of the earth...

DRAGON

(Meekly)

I know. But I so want to learn something interesting and exciting besides breathing out fire and flame all day long.

KING

I was *born* unto this kingdom...to rule this castle and all in it. Yet I have no power anymore... whatsoever!

(To the audience)

Pray tell, do you perchance think that something is very very wrong with this entire picture?

DRAGON

(Prancing around the PRINCESS)

Would you want to color with me today? I have a lovely coloring book with connect-the-dots."

KING

(Throwing up his arms in disgust)

And so now Dragon disobeys my commands? What is happening to my Kingdom? How I long for the good old days when dragons *protected* kingdoms, when princesses *obeyed* their fathers, when queens only wore crowns when they truly *needed* them, when knights *worried less* about shining armor and *more* about the enemy, and when men were men were men!

(KING breaks into song)

KING

"This DRAGON wants to color

My PRINCESS wants to dance

The QUEEN...more fancy crowns to wear

Hoy! I have no chance!

The KNIGHT wants shiny armor

'Presumes he'll take my place

And run this kingdom HIS way?

He doesn't have MY grace!

BUT! Best you all remember, 'round here I wear the pants

I won't give into silliness; Your wishes? Not a chance!

I've ruled this place for many years; I won't back down, you hear?

This Kingdom still is MINE of course... I hope I've made that clear!

(KING storms off the stage).

DRAGON

I think the King needs a Man Cave. I could always share my lair.

PRINCESS

(Trying to tap dance)

I don't have time to color today. Do you dance at least a little Dragon? I'm really into tap and jazz. Mother, the Queen of Mean, thinks I should take piano lessons because I have long fingers. Can you imagine? I'd so rather dance the night away...

DRAGON

I don't know how to dance. Perhaps Knight can teach me. He's my best friend in the kingdom.

PRINCESS

Knight and I shall marry one day I suppose... and move to another kingdom. I'm tired of this one.

DRAGON

But you *can't* take Knight away. I'd be so lonely. He tells me grand stories of great battles.

PRINCESS

(Rolling her eyes now)

You are the silliest dragon I've ever known. Come to think of it, the ONLY dragon I've ever known. Please correct me if I am misinformed, but aren't knights supposed to slay creatures like you?

DRAGON

Oh no. Knights and dragons go together like peanut butter and jelly...like cream cheese and bagels...like strawberries and cream...like maple syrup and pancakes...like chocolate chips and cookies...like pizza and pepperoni...like...

PRINCESS

I GET IT ALREADY! Well, I suppose you *do* help protect our Kingdom when we are all away on holiday.

DRAGON

I try, Princess. But my favorite thing in the whole wide world is pulling my red wagon and having Knight tell me tales of long ago. Can you tell me a story now please?

PRINCESS

Nope. I have no time for stories. Fairy tales don't come true for me. If I can't have my way, then I'm going to have to chase more toads about the pond so that I can zap them into handsome princes who will dance with me at the Moonbeam Festival! So, put that in your fire and smoke away at it Dragon!

(COURT JESTER appears on the sideline with a card that tells the audience to BOO!)

(PRINCESS exits)

(Enter the QUEEN, holding a hand mirror in front of her and looking agitated)

QUEEN

Tell me Dragon, am I *still* the fairest in the kingdom?

DRAGON

You are a most fine and lovely queen.

QUEEN

(Snapping at DRAGON)

Don't you dare feed me your fiery lies, Dragon! If I am not the fairest, I shall just die of mortification. Look at these lines around my face! Hmmm...perhaps I shall wear a very tight pony-tail for The Moonbeam Festival...it will pull back my years indeed!

DRAGON

Your ears look fine to me, even if they are pointed at the top a bit.

QUEEN

Ears? Ears? I said *YEARS*! My ears are pointed? How DARE you say such a thing to me!

(QUEEN pulls up her hair to look and then puts her hand mirror in front of DRAGON).

QUEEN

(Angrily)

You have some nerve telling me that I look just fine and lovely...with pointed ears! Look at the saggy jowls and deep crevices that *YOU* have! Do you use face or body creams? I think not! Your scales do not behoove you one iota may I add? Perhaps you are good for protecting the kingdom, but your lineage has much to be desired, Dragon.

DRAGON

I'm very sorry. You *did* ask me.

QUEEN

Of course I asked! I need everybody's...every thing's...opinion. I'm running out of *Kingdom Cream* and that old crone, WISE WOMAN, tells me that "my insides should appear as my outsides." What in tarnation does that mean? I take 600 mg of vitamin D, 1200 mg of calcium citrate, enough fish oil to fill the seas, horse-hoof glue in paste-form for my aches and pains...I could go on...

(QUEEN walks across the stage with her hand upon her heart and addresses the audience.)

QUEEN

I just know you think that I'm the most beautiful creature ever created, do you not? Raise your hands if you think I'm just gorgeous?

HELLO! Aw, never mind. My mirror tells me differently!

(Singing)

This getting older... is starting to get old

I swallow "C," yet...I still get the cold

My bones are aching...I know it's not the flu

And while I'm at it...add "worried" to just "blue".

KING once adored me...and now he's never 'round

I swear he'd ra-ther...be cuddling with his hound

PRIN-CESS is gorgeous...a slender, younger thing

And KNIGHT is showing... his longing to be king

*They soon may marry... and I shall fade away
With nothing showing...except perhaps my gray?
That's why I do own... a large array of crowns
Trying to bal-ance... my up-moods with my downs.*

*My time is ending...and soon it will run out
A kingdom's downfall...its queen is getting stout
With constant work-outs...I'm praying to be trim
No pies nor pastries...I'm teetering on the brim*

*My song is tragic... and yet it must be sung
On life's tall ladder...I'm clinging to a rung
Perhaps one day I...shall be worry-free
Until that day comes... please hold this mirror for me...*

(QUEEN hands the mirror to Dragon)

QUEEN

Lower, Dragon, so I can see how thick my ankles are!

(The QUEEN exits)

(The KNIGHT enters)

KNIGHT

(Beaming and thrusting his sword about)

Good afternoon my fiery friend! The battle is won and I'm still top dog.

DRAGON

You're not a dog, you're a Knight.

KNIGHT

(Rolling his eyes)

You've come a long way, baby!

DRAGON

I'm not a baby, I'm a Dragon!

KNIGHT

Oh, what a fierce battle it was, Dragon! All of the King's horses and all of the King's men will *never* put *that* kingdom together again! Do you realize that our kingdom's score is now 6-1? One more battle to go and we are on top of our game!

DRAGON

Speaking of games, will you play hop scotch with me? I have pastel chalk!

(Knight goes over to look at the contents inside of the red wagon)

KNIGHT

Did you bring me a sandwich today Dragon?

DRAGON

Oops. I forgot.

KNIGHT

AN ABOMINATION!

DRAGON

Say, what does that mean?

KNIGHT

(Annoyed)

Look it up in the dictionary!

DRAGON

I had a late breakfast and I'm not very hungry.

KNIGHT

Hmm... You want me to play hopscotch with you, yet you don't think very highly of me if you cannot bring along a simple kidney...or tongue... inside of two slabs of bread for a very brave, courageous, dashing, shining...

DRAGON

I'm sorry Knight. All I had was some tuna fish that I grabbed out of the castle's moat. I ate it all.

KNIGHT

EW! Don't get too close to me then. The stench that comes from the moat, combined with the smell of tuna-breath on a dragon, somehow is not very appetizing now.

DRAGON

Perhaps I could fire up some rats for you...or help myself to the grain and salted pork that is in the castle bins?

KNIGHT

Good grief my scaly friend! The last time you roamed the halls and corridors of this castle, you almost set fire to it! Never you mind. Just stay in your lair. I need to work out in the gym later and stay fit and trim; so, I shall wait for the banquet this evening in my honor.

DRAGON

Can I get you a soda pop? You must be thirsty.

KNIGHT

Most horribly sweet... and too many calories!

DRAGON

Some wine maybe?

KNIGHT

(Grinning)

I get enough “*whine*” from the Princess...get it? W-H-I-N-E. Ha Ha! That’s a good one if I do say so myself. Perhaps her father, our King, ought to put the pretty-in-pink spoiled little brat into a bottle and cork her!

DRAGON

That’s not very nice, Knight. Why would he do that?

KNIGHT

So we can all share a bottle of Princess Pink Whine! Oh never mind...

(Thunder and lightning can be heard. Dragon cowers behind Knight)

DRAGON

I’m scared. I don’t like sounds like that. Come to my lair so that we can color.

KNIGHT

Lightening IS FIRE, you silly beast! ALL dragons like fire. Well, maybe not in *your* case...

(Stage turns dark and lightning and thunder sound continue. KNIGHT and DRAGON exit stage)

ACT ONE

SCENE TWO

(Lights on)

(Inside of the DRAGON’S LAIR, KNIGHT and DRAGON are sitting on the floor playing cards)

DRAGON

UNO! Let’s play again.

KNIGHT

I’ve had enough card games and coloring pages for now, my scaly friend. I must go and prepare for the royal banquet...in my honor, of course. Word is out that the King went squirreling and caught more than a dozen!

DRAGON

Did I just hear your stomach growl Knight?

KNIGHT

I haven't *eaten*, DRAGON. You never fixed me a sandwich. I've told you a thousand times how to get up the hill to visit the Earl of Sandwich, have I not? His specialty this week is "*Egg Salad on Rye*"...loaded with mayo, mustard, cream cheese, capers, relish, sweet pickle...
hmmm...or is that dill pickle?

DRAGON

How about some of my fired up beans and gophers? I have a little bit left and you can have it.

(DRAGON walks over to KNIGHT and puts his head down to KNIGHT'S stomach)

DRAGON

Wowee! You sure *are* hungry!

KNIGHT

It's roaring, DRAGON, roaring....

(KNIGHT breaks into song)

KNIGHT

*"My stomach is a roarin', for some peach sauce over squirrel
It's something that's so fitting for a King, Prince, and an Earl
There's venison and mutton, hedgehogs, capers, and some goat
And if a royal can bear it, there is dead fish in the moat*

Food, food, castle food...best in all the land...

Food, food, castle food...I've had enough of bland!

When I was just a young man, I started as a Page

But now it's Middle Ages and this Knight is all the rage!

I'm owed a glorious dinner 'cause I fought a battle brave

And I'm a shining sample of the many lives I save...

Food, food, castle food...best in all the land...

Food, food, castle food...come on, take my hand...

(Knight continues singing while dancing with Dragon now)

I'm hoping to taste "Norman," the king of recipes...

The French know how to cook so well, it's ME they have to please

Forget about the Vikings, and we English cannot cook

We so need newer recipes...Oh me! Oh my! Just look!

(The Knight stops dancing with Dragon and points upward)

KNIGHT

(Horrified)

IT'S RAINING IN HERE! It's dripping onto my shining armor!

DRAGON

Would you like a towel?

KNIGHT

I'm completely overwhelmed! I'm getting soaked inside a dirty, dingy lair of a Dragon! Me!
The Knight!

DRAGON

You're not all wet...yet.

KNIGHT

Not wet? NOT WET? Look at me carefully, wily creature in green. It took me ages in this
Dark Age of ours to shine this proud armor that I wear in the name of His and Her Majesty, our
King and Queen.

DRAGON

(Pondering)

Dark Age you say? I'm mixed up. I thought we are in The Middle Age. Although our Queen says she's middle age and does not like it one bit. She definitely is Dark Age. Her moods are very dark indeed!

KNIGHT

You need to brush up on your history, Dragon. It is most certainly The Middle Ages, although between our whining Princess and our wrinkle-worried Queen, I must admit that it *does* feel much more like the Dark Ages. Oh for Pete's sake, what a silly thing to dwell upon! Do you realize that it's raining on me and that I'm rusting!

DRAGON

Who is Pete Sake? Does he like to play cards and color too?

KNIGHT

I GIVE UP! I'm rusting and you're playing word games, Dragon!

DRAGON

I LOVE word games! I have "*Find the Goat on the Moat*" somewhere around here. Please stay and we can play...and maybe your friend Pete Sake will turn up too!

KNIGHT

You simpleton! I'm rusting if I stay here with you. I'm your friend... but not when it's raining!

(COURT JESTER appears with a BOO sign)

KNIGHT

(Walks over to the audience)

EXCUSE ME PLEASE! Did I just get BOOED?

(Improvs as audience reacts, then exits stage)

DRAGON

(Pouting now)

Knight is more of a *fair-weather friend* if you ask me!

(The sound of torrential rain is heard in the background as DRAGON lies down, trying to get comfortable in his lair. He soon can be heard snoring very loudly with his mouth open wide)

(The stage darkens...lights then gradually come back on).

DRAGON

(Choking and coughing...holding onto his throat and sounding quite scratchy)

My throat hurts! My nose is so stuffed up! My body aches! Oh my, what has happened to me?

(Dragon runs around the stage, sneezing, coughing, and blowing his nose. A trumpet is heard in the background).

DRAGON

(Sputtering and choking)

That means the King is going hunting. It also means that my alarm clock didn't go off!

(DRAGON tries to snort and blow out of its mouth)

DRAGON

I have no fire and yet my throat is hot. It burns something awful. Woe is me! I just feel sooo tired...

(DRAGON lies down in a little ball and starts to snore again)

(Enter the KING, QUEEN, PRINCESS, and KNIGHT)

KING

Wake up Dragon! You overslept and that's going to cost you a ticket to The Moonbeam Festival! NO Dragon ever sleeps very long in MY kingdom and actually gets away with the foul deed! I'm going hunting and my hounds are calling me. Is it not your bound duty to protect us all? Straighten up and fly right!

DRAGON

(Stretching, yawning, and standing at attention!)

Your highness, I did not sleep very well last night. Where do you want me to fly?

KING

I don't want you to fly anywhere you silly goose!

DRAGON

(His entire body is shaking)

I'm not a goose...I'm a Dragon! I have no fire left within me. What shall I do?

KING

No fire? NO FIRE?

QUEEN

No fire?

PRINCESS

No fire?

KNIGHT

No fire?

DRAGON

Not even a puff. Watch me. Nothing comes out of my nose or my mouth!

(He snorts and makes all kinds of weird sounds)

KING

AN ABOMINATION!

QUEEN

Simply, just horrible!

PRINCESS

It's really so awful

KNIGHT

Terrible. Just terrible.

KING

AN ABOMINATION...again!

DRAGON

I'm smart 'because I looked that word up in the dictionary...it means *anything abominable; anything greatly disliked or abhorred. OR a vile, shameful, or detestable action, condition, habit, etc.: Spitting in public is an abomination.*

KING

(Yelling more loudly now)

Our Kingdom needs a dragon with fire and fight, not a bloody know-it-all!

DRAGON

Alas, 'tis all true. And now I'm so blue...and wet. I'm sick and need some more sleep. But how can I protect the Kingdom if I cannot spit out fire?

(Everyone shakes their heads in disbelief)

KING

Humiliation is my middle name. I'm off and hunting!

(Exits stage)

QUEEN

(To PRINCESS)

I'm due for a facial, pedicure...and manicure. Come along, we must look decent for the festival, dearie.

PRINCESS

But Mummy, my nails are just the color that I want right now. PINK! So are my toes. You promised me that we could have tea and crumpets over at Lord and Lady Lowgrove's castle later this afternoon.

QUEEN

You will obey me and come along now. There is no time today for even a spot of tea. Come come. I MUST be *the fairest* at the festival this year!

PRINCESS

But you promised me that we could visit The Lowgroves! You are so mean mother! You never do what you promise. You promised me a pink rose for my hair, and when the gardener told you that the pink ones were not in full bloom, you told him to give me a red one. I don't like the