

The Princess and the Moon

A Fairytale

by
T. James Belich

Copyright © 2008 by T. James Belich
James@Playwrighting.org
<http://www.playwrighting.org/>

The Princess and the Moon: A Fairytale

by T. James Belich

SYNOPSIS

Once upon a time, in a kingdom far, far away, there lived a princess named Lizzy...

Princess Lizzy wants to be a knight. Bored with the usual duties of a princess, she dreams of fighting in tournaments, slaying dragons, and doing all the things that good knights do. For what Princess Lizzy desires above all else is to be special – one-of-a-kind, absolutely unique! And so on her sixteenth birthday she becomes a knight... and is crushed to learn that she is not the first, but actually the ninety-sixth. Still determined to be special, Lizzy resolves for her quest to do the impossible: to go to the moon. She soon finds the magical Medallion of the Moon and thinks herself well on her way, but when she fires the storyteller in a fit of anger, he steals the medallion, becomes an all-powerful wizard, and takes over Lizzy's kingdom as the new villain! What begins as an ordinary fairytale takes Lizzy on a journey filled with danger and sacrifice where there is no promise of a "happily ever after."

CHARACTERS

LIZZY (F), *a naïve princess whose quest is to reach the moon*
HERALD (M), *Lizzy's herald who becomes the villainous MOON-WIZARD*
HERBERT (M), *Lizzy's timid but loyal dragon squire*
KING (M), *Lizzy's father, clueless but kind*
QUEEN (F), *Lizzy's mother, prim and proper but easy to please*
HARRIET (F), *a haughty princess from the Kingdom of Eternal Sunshine*
MARGARET (F), *Harriet's feisty dragon squire*
CLARA (F), *an insufferably cheerful princess*
ADELAIDE (F), *a princess who never backs down from a fight*
NADIA (F), *a princess who sees every glass as half empty*
PEASANT, *of Lizzy's kingdom*
LITTLE GIANT, *the runt of his litter*
WISE OLD WOMAN OF THE WELL (F), *cranky, all-seeing soothsayer*
SERVANT, *a pragmatic but spineless lackey*
GUARD 1, *who embraces his inner evil*
GUARD 2, *who tags along reluctantly*
TROLL CHIEF, *ferocious leader of the mountain trolls*
FIRST TROLL, *loyal guardian against intruders*
SECOND TROLL, *a mountain of raw brute force*
THIRD TROLL, *more thoughtful than the rest*
MANTICORE, *a cowardly but kind-hearted beast*
THE VOICE OF THE CREATURE, *a monster too terrifying to behold*
THE MAN IN THE MOON (M), *who has grown weary and distrustful of humans*
THE LADY OF THE SUN (F), *who still sees promise in those like Lizzy*

TOTAL ROLES: 24 (9 female, 4 male, 11 male or female)
Plus other SERVANTS, PRINCESSES, and TROLLS as desired

ACT 1

SCENE 1

(A fairytale palace. The HERALD is present.)

HERALD: Once upon a time, in a kingdom far, far away, there lived a princess named Elizabeth.

LIZZY: *(Entering)* But everyone calls me Lizzy.

HERALD: And everyone called her Lizzy. She grew up doing the things that princesses do, such as playing music and sewing, but she always found these things rather dull, and so one day she decided...

LIZZY: Mama, Papa, I want to be a knight!

HERALD: For she was always jealous of the boys who were out fighting in tournaments, slaying dragons, and generally doing the things that good knights do. So she learned how to use a sword...

LIZZY: ...and ride a horse...

HERALD: ...and one day even went to slay her very own dragon.

LIZZY: *(Anticipating the following line)* It was a ferocious battle.

HERALD: And no one said anything when they learned it was less than six feet tall.

LIZZY: We fought for days and days... until he stubbed his toe and we had to stop. *(HERBERT the dragon enters, hopping on one foot in pain. He is a short and slightly dopey dragon.)*

HERALD: For he was actually a very timid dragon which is why none of the other knights had bothered with him.

LIZZY: I call him Herbert.

HERALD: Who was, frankly, an embarrassment to his species.

HERBERT: Princess Lizzy, I think I'm catching a cold. *(He lets out a violent sneeze.)*

LIZZY: Bless you, Herbert. *(To the audience)* He's really very sweet.

HERALD: It took everyone awhile to get used to having a dragon around the castle... *(A couple of SERVANTS enter and don't see HERBERT.)*

HERBERT: *(To the SERVANTS, as if with a cold)* Pardon me, could I borrow your handkerchief? *(The SERVANTS see HERBERT, scream, and run away.)*
Nice to see you!

HERALD: ...though they soon grew quite fond of him. But while Lizzy's dragon-slaying didn't go off like she planned, she still had her heart set on being a knight. For you see, what she really wanted above all else was to be truly special.

LIZZY: One-of-a-kind.

HERALD: Absolutely unique.

LIZZY: After all, any princess can play or sew. But I will be different. I will be the first girl ever to become a knight!

HERBERT: Hear hear!

HERALD: Because having her own pet dragon wasn't already different. *(LIZZY glares at the HERALD.)* And so on her sixteenth birthday, her father the king... *(The KING enters with a sword.)*

KING: *(To the audience)* Hello, nice to see you all. *(The QUEEN and the rest of the court all enter to watch.)*

HERALD: ...knighted her in front of the entire court.

KING: Princess Elizabeth Abigail Madeline Lenora –

LIZZY: Just Lizzy, Papa.

KING: Lizzy, in honor of your bravery in, well, catching dragons I dub you Sir Lizzy, knight of the realm.

CROWD: Hooray! *(LIZZY stands and kisses the KING on the cheek.)*

LIZZY: Thank you, Papa. *(She hugs the QUEEN.)* Thank you, Mama. I promise to be a very good knight.

QUEEN: I'm sure you will be, dear. Do have fun on your quest. *(The KING and QUEEN exit.)*

HERALD: For it was customary that all new knights prove their worth by embarking upon a quest of some kind.

LIZZY: But first I shall need a squire. *(She surveys the crowd, as well as the audience, while HERBERT jumps up and down behind her raising his hand.)* Now let's see, anyone with prior squiring experience...

HERBERT: Ooh! Ooh! Pick me! Pick me!

LIZZY: Oh of course I'll pick you, Herbert. *(The rest of the crowd exits, disappointed.)*

HERBERT: Thank you, Princess Lizzy! *(He gives her a great big hug and kisses her hand several times.)*

LIZZY: Yes Herbert, that'll do.

HERALD: And so with her trustworthy... well, her squire, Princess – *(LIZZY coughs.)* I'm sorry, *Sir Lizzy* set off to begin her quest.

LIZZY: And when I'm done everyone will know just how special I am. Isn't that right, Herbert?

HERBERT: Absolutely, your highness. I mean, your knightness. I mean... Lizzy.

LIZZY: Now let's see, what sort of quest would be appropriate for the first girl to become a knight... *(As she thinks about this HARRIET enters.)*

HARRIET: I'm sorry, pardon me. I hate to interrupt your story, but...

LIZZY: Yes?

HARRIET: Did you say the *first* girl to become a knight?

LIZZY: That's right. I am Sir –

HARRIET: Yes, I'm sure that you are, but I'm afraid that *I* was the first girl to become a knight.

LIZZY: You were?

HARRIET: Sir Harriet, the Blue Knight.

LIZZY: Oh. Well, then I guess I shall be the second girl to become a knight. *(To HERBERT)* That's still special, isn't it?

HERBERT: Oh yes.

HERALD: Absolutely. *(CLARA enters.)*

CLARA: Actually, I'm afraid that I was next after Harriet.

LIZZY: What?

CLARA: Sir Clara, knight of the Crystal Kingdom.

LIZZY: Then the third...?

CLARA: *(To HARRIET)* Oh yes, was that Riona or Sibyl? I can never remember.

HARRIET: That was Sibyl. Riona was fifth.

LIZZY: Five?

HARRIET: Oh that's just in the next kingdom over. We've many more members than that.

LIZZY: Members? Members of what?

HARRIET: Well the club, of course.

CLARA: *(Proudly)* COAPALWAK!

HERBERT: Gesundheit.

LIZZY: COAPAL... what?

HARRIET: The "Club Of All the Princesses and Ladies Who Are Knights." We're working on the name. *(Aside, to LIZZY)* It was Clara's idea.

CLARA: We have nearly one hundred registered members across twelve kingdoms.

HARRIET: And we have tournaments and picnics and everything. Would you like to meet some of the others?

LIZZY: I suppose...

HARRIET: Come on in, girls! *(ADELAIDE and NADIA enter, along with additional princesses, if desired.)* This is Adelaide and Nadia. *(If there are additional princesses, she introduces them as well.)*

LIZZY: A pleasure to meet you. I'm Sir Lizzy, the... *(She looks to HARRIET.)*

HARRIET: Ninety-sixth.

LIZZY: ...ninety-sixth girl to become a knight.

CLARA: That we know of.

LIZZY: That we know of. *(To HERBERT and the HERALD)* Ninety-sixth isn't very special, is it?

HERBERT: Well... that is...

HERALD: No.

LIZZY: I had no idea that so many girls were knights already. I thought I'd be different.

NADIA: I know just how you feel.

ADELAIDE: But you'll love being a part of the club, Lizzy. We always beat the boys in tournaments.

CLARA: And you can tell us about your quest!

HERBERT: We're just getting started, actually.

ADELAIDE: And look at that, a dragon squire!

LIZZY: I caught him myself. His name is Herbert.

CLARA: He's adorable!

HERBERT: Well...

LIZZY: That's right, I'm the only girl knight who has a dragon –

HARRIET: *(Not listening and interrupting the above)* And doesn't he look just like my Margaret? *(A chorus of "Oh yes!" from the others.)*

LIZZY: Margaret?

HARRIET: She's my dragon squire.

HERBERT: I look like a girl dragon?

HARRIET: She can be quite ferocious, but deep down she's really very sweet.

LIZZY: I didn't know having a dragon was so common.

NADIA: Not so common. Some of us can't seem to find one.

CLARA: But your quest, Lizzy, what are you going to do?

LIZZY: Well, I thought that I might... that is... find the Holy Grail.

NADIA: But I've already done that one.

ADELAIDE: Don't listen to her, Lizzy, I'm the one who found it.

NADIA: You are not! I found it!

ADELAIDE: No you didn't, I did! *(They start bickering with each other.)*

LIZZY: They already found it? Both of them?

HARRIET: Well, we're not sure which is the real Grail. You could always look for another, just in case.

LIZZY: No, I'll try something else. I know, I'll slay the dreaded Black Dragon of the Smoldering Mountain!

CLARA: Oh he was tough. *(At LIZZY's dejected look.)* We slew him last week as part of our annual picnic.

HERBERT: *(To HERALD)* Poor Bill. I always knew he'd come to a bad end.

LIZZY: There doesn't seem to be much left for me to do, really. *(The bickering between ADELAIDE and NADIA escalates.)*

ADELAIDE: I found it!

NADIA: I did!

CLARA: Oh dear, we'd best get them separated. This always happens whenever someone brings up the Grail.

HARRIET: Come visit us when you've finished your quest, won't you?

LIZZY: Of course.

HARRIET: That's a good girl. Goodbye, Lizzy.

LIZZY: Goodbye. *(HARRIET and CLARA drag ADELAIDE and NADIA offstage and all the PRINCESSES exit. Dejected pause.)*

HERALD: And so Sir Lizzy set off to find her very own quest –

LIZZY: Oh do shut up.

HERALD: I'm sorry?

LIZZY: Just be quiet.

HERALD: Look, it's my job to tell your story.

LIZZY: Well there's no point now, is there?

HERALD: Just because you don't have a quest...

LIZZY: That's right. I don't have a quest and I don't have a story and it's all your fault!

HERALD: Excuse me?

LIZZY: You could have warned me there were others girls who were knights.

HERALD: That's not my job. I just tell your story as it happens.

HERBERT: He does have a point...

LIZZY: Well I don't think I like where my story is going.

HERALD: Not my problem. According to the herald's code –

HERBERT: There's a herald's code?

HERALD: Yes, and the Herald's Guild enforces it to the letter. I have to tell your story exactly as it is, or else.

LIZZY: You're fired.

HERALD: What?

LIZZY: I said you're fired.

HERALD: You can't fire me.

LIZZY: I'm the princess, it's my story, I can do anything I want.

HERALD: Is that so?

LIZZY: Yes!

HERBERT: She doesn't really mean that...

LIZZY: Yes I do. What do I need a herald for anyway?

HERALD: I'm one of the most important elements of the story.

LIZZY: I think not.

HERALD: I'm the one telling the story!

LIZZY: I don't need anyone to tell my story.

HERALD: Look, this is my job we're talking about. Not everyone gets to play the hero.

LIZZY: So?

HERALD: So what am I supposed to do if you fire me? The guild will be after me, and you've no idea how strict they can be.

LIZZY: I don't care about your stupid guild.

HERALD: Right, all you care about is your own story, it's all about what you want. Well let me tell you something, Lizzy, I've narrated a lot of stories and you are the worst, most selfish, sorry excuse for a heroine I've ever seen.

HERBERT: Now there's no need for name calling...

HERALD: And I'm frankly a little sick of all you prima donna princesses who think all of fairyland revolves around you.

LIZZY: Well I *am* the princess, so it does!

HERALD: Oh yes, you're the most special princess in all the land. Look here Lizzy, your story is the most boring one I've ever had to tell. In fact, all the other heralds fought *not* to have to tell it. So you know what? I don't want to be your herald anymore. I don't care about your ridiculous story, your quest, or the guild!

LIZZY: Good!

HERALD: But let me tell you something: you're going to regret this, I'll make sure of it.

LIZZY: Goodbye already! (*The HERALD exits.*)

HERBERT: I think you may have hurt his feelings. Maybe you should say you're sorry...

LIZZY: I am not apologizing to him. I don't need a herald.

HERBERT: But what about your story? And your quest?

LIZZY: I'm still going to do a quest, but it must be something no other knight has ever done, boy or girl. Now help me think. *(They think as HARRIET re-enters.)*

HARRIET: Lizzy?

LIZZY: Yes? Oh, it's you.

HARRIET: Still thinking of a quest, are you? Perhaps this will help. *(She hands LIZZY a piece of paper.)* It's a list, you see, of all the quests the girls have done.

LIZZY: *(Reading)* "Slayed a dragon," "Saved a kingdom," "Found lost treasure"... *(Continuing to look through the list)* But I don't want one that's already been done.

HARRIET: *(Exasperated)* Well everything possible *has* already been done!

LIZZY: Then I'll just have to do something impossible!

HERBERT: Oh dear...

HARRIET: Now you're just being foolish. You can't do something impossible, that's what makes it impossible.

LIZZY: Then I'll be the first to do it!

HARRIET: You can do any quest at all, you know, and once you're done you can come join the club.

LIZZY: I don't want to join your silly little club.

HARRIET: Silly! Far better than traipsing around trying to do the impossible. We have picnics!

LIZZY: I don't care. I'm going to do something extraordinary and then I'll start my own club.

HARRIET: And what impossible thing will you do, "Sir" Lizzy?

LIZZY: Well I'll... go to the end of the world!

HARRIET: The world is round, everyone knows that, even in fairytales.

HERBERT: Then she'll, uh... slay the immortal sphinx.

LIZZY: Or find the end of the rainbow.

HERBERT: Or go to the bottom of the sea.

LIZZY: Or go to the moon! (HERBERT and HARRIET gasp in astonishment. More slowly) Yes, I'll go to the moon.

HERBERT: But Princess Lizzy, that's –

LIZZY: Impossible. It's perfect!

HARRIET: And how are you going to get there?

LIZZY: If I knew, it wouldn't be much of a quest.

HARRIET: You're a silly little girl and you'll never make it, and see if we let you in our club then! (She stalks off in a huff and exits.)

LIZZY: Come on, Herbert. (She starts off with purpose.)

HERBERT: But where to?

LIZZY: It's very simple. We don't know how to get to the moon, so we need to find someone who does. And there's only one place to find such a person: the Forest of Mysteries.

HERBERT: But I don't like the Forest of Mysteries. It's mysterious.

LIZZY: Hence the name, Herbert. I've been there loads of times. It's quite nice in the summer. (She continues walking and HERBERT follows. Suddenly, LIZZY stops.) It's awfully quiet. Shouldn't a herald be saying something about me?

HERBERT: You fired the herald.

LIZZY: Oh! (She stamps her foot in frustration and, having nothing else to say, keeps walking. They exit and the lights go to black.)

SCENE 2

(LIZZY and HERBERT enter. They are now inside the Forest of Mysteries. It is dark and filled with strange noises.)

LIZZY: What did I tell you, Herbert? Lovely! *(Suddenly we hear a long scream that goes on and on. At last a PEASANT enters and runs smack into HERBERT.)*

PEASANT: Ah! Dragon!

HERBERT: Peasant! *(They each hide on opposite sides of LIZZY. They then peek out, scream again, and hide.)*

LIZZY: Will you please. *(She puts HERBERT and the PEASANT in sight of each other.)* Herbert, the Peasant. Peasant, Herbert. Really, he's very sweet.

PEASANT: Charmed. Who are you?

LIZZY: I am Sir Lizzy, princess and knight. Now, what was it you were screaming about? *(We hear a great roar.)*

PEASANT: That!

LIZZY: Yes, it does look very cranky. What exactly is the problem?

PEASANT: He's trying to eat me!

LIZZY: Then we shall help you. *(To HERBERT)* My first helpless peasant.

PEASANT: Thank you. If there's anything I can do...

LIZZY: Do you know how to get to the moon?

PEASANT: No, but if you get past that, take the second path on the right. It'll take you straight to the Wise Old Woman of the Well.

LIZZY: Thank you.

PEASANT: Good luck, and don't let it eat you. *(The PEASANT runs off.)*

LIZZY: Herbert, my sword.

HERBERT: Your what?

LIZZY: You didn't bring it?

HERBERT: Was I supposed to?

LIZZY: It's what a squire does! Need I ask about my armor?

HERBERT: *(Proudly)* All shined up and waiting in your chambers.

LIZZY: Very good, Herbert. We shall make do. En garde!

(She strikes a fighting stance, ready to meet whatever creature approaches. HERBERT does his best to strike an equally valiant pose. The roaring grows louder, and soon a GIANT enters. In reality the GIANT is only five or six feet tall; it is a very short GIANT. The GIANT is dressed in very simple, poorly-made clothing, as giants are very bad at sewing.)

LIZZY: Stop! *(The GIANT stops in surprise, then roars again.)*

GIANT: Me giant! Eat princess.

LIZZY: I should think not. *(The GIANT charges LIZZY. HERBERT bravely tries to intervene, but the GIANT catches him and shakes him around.)*

HERBERT: Sir Lizzy!

LIZZY: I'm coming, Herbert! *(She marches up to the GIANT and slaps him.)* Now, you let him go.

GIANT: Eat dragon! *(LIZZY grabs HERBERT and tries to pull him away.)*

LIZZY: I'm afraid he's my dragon. *(A tug of war over HERBERT ensues as the GIANT continues to roar.)*

HERBERT: Ow, ow, ow! *(LIZZY is forced to let go and the GIANT starts to drag HERBERT away.)* Sir Lizzy, can't you slay him or something?

LIZZY: Well, if I had a sword... There's only one way to settle this. *(She comes up behind the GIANT and taps it on the shoulder. The GIANT turns around and LIZZY pokes the GIANT in both eyes, a la the Three Stooges. The GIANT drops HERBERT.)*

GIANT: Ow! *(The GIANT starts to cry.)*

HERBERT: And I thought I was an embarrassment to my species.

LIZZY: Are you all right?

GIANT: Princess hurt giant. And me hungry! *(The GIANT continues to cry.)*

LIZZY: Is that why you tried to eat the peasant?

GIANT: Maybe.

LIZZY: It's not very nice to eat people.

GIANT: But giant hungry.

LIZZY: If I may say so, you look rather short for a giant.

GIANT: Me runt of litter.

HERBERT: Me too! Herbert. *(He offers a hand to the GIANT who shakes it.)*

GIANT: Little Giant.

LIZZY: It's very nice to meet you, Little Giant. I am Sir Lizzy. Now, normally a knight would slay a giant, but...

GIANT: No hurt Little Giant! Me give you present.

HERBERT: Oh I love presents! *(The GIANT takes out a medallion in the shape of a full moon.)*

LIZZY: How nice, and on my birthday too. Where did you get it?

GIANT: From person me, um, did not eat.

LIZZY: Thank you, Little Giant. *(She takes the medallion and puts it on.)* Now, I'm going to make you swear an oath. Raise your right hand. *(The GIANT raises the wrong hand.)* The other hand. *(The GIANT obeys.)* Say what I say: I promise never to eat another person ever again...

GIANT: Me promise not to eat people...

LIZZY: Or else the law of all fairyland shall be upon me.

GIANT: Or, um...

HERBERT: Something bad will happen to you.

GIANT: ...me have bad thing happen.

LIZZY: Close enough. Very good, Little Giant, you may be on your way.

GIANT: But me still hungry.

LIZZY: Just don't eat any people. Or dragons. Run along now. *(She tries to shove the LITTLE GIANT towards offstage, but it just scratches its head, confused.)* Shoo! *(The GIANT finally exits.)* Excellent! We are well on our way now. *(They start walking.)*

HERBERT: But we didn't really stop the giant.

LIZZY: It promised!

HERBERT: Giants don't really remember things that well. *(We hear the LITTLE GIANT roar offstage, followed by a scream.)*

LIZZY: Oh dear, you may be right. At any rate, we now have this. *(She holds up the medallion.)*

HERBERT: It's, um, very shiny.

LIZZY: It's clearly magic, Herbert, and look, it's a moon. That is fate of a very fairytale kind. In fact, I think I know what this is, it's the Moon Medallion given to Princess Mildred, so very long ago.

HERBERT: The what given to who?

LIZZY: Princess Mildred. Before she became queen a great army tried to invade the kingdom, so she asked the Man in the Moon for help. He gave her this and she was able to defeat the army once and for all.

HERBERT: So how'd the giant get it?

LIZZY: I'm sure I don't know, Herbert. *(She finds an imaginary well.)* Ah, a well! This must be where the Wise Old Woman of the Well lives. *(She calls down the imaginary well.)* Hello? Wise Woman? *(They listen.)* Hm, perhaps she's not at home.

HERBERT: Or maybe she doesn't actually live in the well.

LIZZY: Wise Woman? My name is Sir Lizzy and I wish to speak with you. *(An old WOMAN enters. She is wrapped up in a shawl such that her face is entirely covered.)* Hello?

WOMAN: *(While standing behind them)* Sir Lizzy, was it? *(LIZZY and HERBERT both jump.)* Well, I don't live in the well.

HERBERT: I knew it!

LIZZY: Wise Woman, can you tell us how to reach the moon?

WOMAN: Do not ask me, Sir Lizzy, for your quest is doomed to fail!

LIZZY: What? That's not right. Look, I have the Medallion of the Moon and everything.

WOMAN: *(Eagerly)* Let me see that. *(LIZZY gives the WOMAN the medallion.)* Ah yes, this once belonged to a great and terrible wizard who lived in this very forest.

LIZZY: You mean Great-Uncle Melville.

HERBERT: Your great-uncle was an evil wizard?

LIZZY: We don't talk about him much, he was rather a bad egg.

WOMAN: Yes, yes, well, with the medallion he became an all-powerful wizard with the power to control the moon.

HERBERT: Spooky.

LIZZY: Until Grampa Simon stopped him. *(Explaining, to HERBERT)* Uncle Melville's brother.

WOMAN: Who's telling this story, me or you? Anyway, King Simon stopped the wizard, but no one ever found the Moon Medallion.

LIZZY: *(Pleased)* Until me.

WOMAN: Legend says that the medallion can even bring the bearer to the moon itself.

LIZZY: Which is exactly where we want to go.

WOMAN: And you never will!

LIZZY: What are you talking about? That's not right at all.

HERBERT: *(Trying to peek under the WOMAN's shawl to see her face)* Something seems a little fishy here.

LIZZY: I agree. Who are you? I don't believe you're the Wise Old Woman at all. *(The WOMAN laughs, not sounding quite like a woman.)*

WOMAN: Not the Wise Woman indeed! *(The WOMAN keeps laughing and LIZZY pulls off the WOMAN's shawl.)*

LIZZY: *(Astonished)* You're not even a woman! *(In fact, it is the HERALD.)*

HERBERT: It's the herald!

HERALD: That's right.

LIZZY: My herald! Oh I am glad! *(She gives the surprised HERALD a great big hug.)*

HERALD: What? You fired me!

LIZZY: Yes, and I'm very sorry. Please tell my story again. It's very quiet without you.

HERALD: Forget it!

LIZZY: But you have to! What about the herald's code? And the guild, and all that?

HERALD: The Herald's Guild kicked me out. And they exiled me, and it's all your fault.

LIZZY: Oh dear, that sounds serious.

HERALD: So now I have to find a new job. And let me tell you, it's slim pickings in fairyland these days.

LIZZY: Yes, Papa's very concerned about it. Oh! We could help you find something!

HERALD: Actually, I've found something already, all because of you, Lizzy.

LIZZY: That's wonderful! Everything's all right then. Now, if I could have my medallion back... *(LIZZY reaches for the medallion, but the HERALD pulls it away.)*

HERALD: Not so fast. Wouldn't you like to know my new part in the story?

LIZZY: I would, but may I first have my medallion back please?

HERALD: You may not.

HERBERT: Oooh, I don't like where this is going.

HERALD: You see, Lizzy –

LIZZY: Sir Lizzy, if you please.

HERALD: Well I don't please! And you're a rotten knight, if you ask me.

LIZZY: I didn't! And you're not very nice. I can't imagine who would give you a new part in my story.

HERALD: I gave it to myself. I've decided to be the new villain.

HERBERT: Uh oh.

HERALD: I found the old wizard's castle with all its wizardy things inside, so I decided to take his place. And with this medallion I can.

LIZZY: But I need that for my quest!

HERALD: I know, I was telling your story, remember? With this you and your little dragon would have made it to the moon, finished your quest, and lived happily ever after, the end. No more, ha!

LIZZY: That's not fair!

HERALD: Tough luck, Lizzy. It's my story now, and soon it'll be my kingdom too.

LIZZY: Oh!

HERALD: Of course, if you were really a great knight, or at least if your squire could remember your sword...

HERBERT: Hey!

HERALD: ...you might be able to stop me.

LIZZY: I will! *(LIZZY charges the HERALD and they struggle for the medallion.)*
Give it back! *(She pulls the HERALD's hair while HERBERT hops into the fray and tries to take the medallion from him.)*

HERALD: Ow, ow! Stop it!

LIZZY: Not until you behave!

HERALD: Oh, I'll show you. *(He shakes the medallion.)* Come on, come on... *(There is a loud crack, like thunder, and LIZZY and HERBERT are thrown backwards.)* Ha! And watch this! *(The HERALD holds up the medallion.)*
Obey me, O Moon, and plunge all the kingdom into eternal darkness.
Darkness, darkness! *(The stage starts to grow very dark and the HERALD laughs a very evil-villain laugh.)*

HERBERT: Wow, he made the moon block out the sun. Impressive.

LIZZY: Mama and Papa won't be very pleased when they see this.

HERALD: And that's just the start, Lizzy, unless your father makes me king.

LIZZY: He wouldn't!

HERBERT: *(Still watching the moon)* He might. That's pretty evil.

HERALD: And when I'm in charge, Lizzy, you'll be the worst knight who's *not* a princess.

LIZZY: Oh, let me at him, Herbert! *(She runs at the HERALD, but the HERALD holds up the medallion, there is another loud crack, and LIZZY is knocked down again.)*

HERALD: Ha! Let that be a lesson to you, Lizzy: never mess with the storyteller. *(Laughing, the HERALD exits.)*

HERBERT: Come on, Sir Lizzy, if we can just get the medallion back... *(LIZZY starts to cry.)* Princess Lizzy?

LIZZY: Just Lizzy, Herbert. Oh, I am the worst knight in the world! I suppose that's special, but not in the way I wanted.

HERBERT: But aren't we going to stop the herald? Wizard... herald-wizard... whatever.

LIZZY: Look at me. I don't even have a sword.

HERBERT: But your quest...

LIZZY: You might as well fly on back to your cave, Herbert. I'll be looking for a new part in the story too, I guess, along with Mama and Papa. Oh! *(She cries. HERBERT tries to comfort her.)*

HERBERT: It's just a bad day, that's all. Um, happy birthday?

LIZZY: And all on my birthday!

(LIZZY cries louder. An OLD WOMAN, tied up and gagged, hops onstage behind LIZZY and HERBERT. The WOMAN tries to get their attention, but LIZZY cries so loudly that they don't hear her. Finally the WOMAN frees herself from her gag and yells at them.)

WISE WOMAN: Will you please stop all that racket!

LIZZY: Who are you?

WISE WOMAN: I'm the Wise Old Woman of the Well, that's who. Are you going to untie me or not?

LIZZY: Of course, I'm very sorry. *(She and HERBERT untie the WISE WOMAN.)*
May I ask what happened to you?

WISE WOMAN: Your herald happened, that's what! Have you any idea what you've done?

LIZZY: Yes, which is why we need your help.

WISE WOMAN: Are you kidding me?!? You've upset all the natural laws of fairyland. I'm getting out of here while the getting's good.

LIZZY: But we need you... *(We hear a sound like an earthquake and they all act as if the ground is shaking.)* Oh!

HERBERT: I don't like the sound of that.

WISE WOMAN: That's *your* herald taking over *your* kingdom. Good luck to you.

LIZZY: There must be some way to stop him.

HERBERT: *(To LIZZY)* Maybe if we finished your quest...

WISE WOMAN: *(Laughing unkindly)* Finished your quest? You gave away the only thing in all of fairyland that could have taken you to the moon. You've messed up good.

LIZZY: Now just a minute, you're the Wise Old Woman of the Well. You must know something we can do.

WISE WOMAN: Forget it, it's not the sort of quest for a knight whose squire can't remember her sword.

LIZZY: Just tell us.

WISE WOMAN: All right, all right. If you want to defeat your herald, then you'll need to find the Medallion of the Sun.

LIZZY: There's a second medallion?

WISE WOMAN: Of course! And it's the only power that can hope to match that of the Moon Medallion. The Lady of the Sun gave it to Prince Ichabod, Mildred's brother, to help defeat the invading army.

LIZZY: I didn't know that.

WISE WOMAN: Don't know much about your own history, do you? Well once the army was gone Ichabod and Mildred started fighting each other so he left to start his own kingdom. And that's where you have to go to find the other medallion: the Kingdom of Eternal Sunshine.

HERBERT: That shouldn't be so hard. We found the first one pretty quick.

WISE WOMAN: Silly lizard! You've no idea the dangers you'll face there, and if you get past them I'll be impressed.

LIZZY: We will, and we'll take care of the herald too. So what do we do with the Sun Medallion once we find it?

WISE WOMAN: Beats me, that's your problem. But you'd better figure it out, I don't like the dark.

HERBERT: You live in the Forest of Mysteries. It's always dark in here.

WISE WOMAN: Not this dark! Besides, it's very nice in the summer. Well, go on, hurry up. If you're going to save the kingdom then you'd better get moving. Go on now, go, go! *(She shoos them offstage.)*

LIZZY: We're going! *(She and HERBERT exit and the lights go to black.)*

SCENE 3

(The palace. The KING and QUEEN are looking out at the moon.)

KING: Dearie, would you look at this.

QUEEN: How very peculiar. I wonder what it means.

KING: Is that what they call a solar eclipse, dear?

QUEEN: You know, I think it is, how very exciting. Perhaps it's a good omen, for Lizzy.

KING: How nice. *(Pause as they watch the moon.)* How long do these usually last? It is quite dark.

QUEEN: There, there, dear. I'll hold your hand, if you like. *(A SERVANT enters.)*

SERVANT: Your majesties...

QUEEN: Yes?

SERVANT: I hate to intrude, but I think you're being deposed.

KING: I beg your pardon?

QUEEN: It means someone wants to take your place, dear, as king.

KING: Oh yes, that does happen in these stories, doesn't it?

QUEEN: *(To the SERVANT)* Who's doing the deposing? An ogre? Or a black knight, perhaps?

KING: I defeated one of those once, you know.

QUEEN: Yes, we're all quite proud, dear.

SERVANT: He says he's the Moon-Wizard from the Forest of Mysteries.

QUEEN: How original.

KING: Reminds me of Uncle Melville. *(To the SERVANT)* Do tell him to come in.

SERVANT: I'm sorry?

KING: He can't do much deposing waiting out there, can he?

SERVANT: I don't think you quite understand, sire...

KING: Oh it's quite all right. These things happen in fairytales.

QUEEN: Of course they do. Now show him in.

SERVANT: As you wish. *(The SERVANT exits.)*

KING: I must say, no one's tried to depose me in years. I almost feel I'm getting rusty.

QUEEN: You'll do fine, dear. Just like when you defeated the Ice-Witch of the Frozen Waste.

KING: Oh nothing like when you thwarted the Desert-Queen of the South.

QUEEN: Well, one doesn't wish to brag. *(The SERVANT re-enters with the HERALD, now the MOON-WIZARD.)*

SERVANT: Your majesties, the Moon-Wizard. *(The SERVANT exits.)*

KING: *(Turning to look)* Why, it's Lizzy's herald!

WIZARD: I am *not* Lizzy's herald.

KING: No, I'm sure you're the one. How good to see you.

WIZARD: I'm not her herald anymore.

KING: Oh, did they send another?

WIZARD: No they did not send another.

KING: *(To the QUEEN)* I'm confused, isn't there always a herald?

QUEEN: Of course there is. *(To the WIZARD)* Do give our love to Lizzy. How is her story getting on?

WIZARD: It's not. It's my story now, and my kingdom.

KING: Oh yes, the deposing.

WIZARD: You will surrender the crown to me or else... *(He holds up the medallion in what is intended to be a menacing gesture, but isn't.)*

QUEEN: Yes?

WIZARD: I'll destroy the kingdom! Who do you think did that? *(He points to the moon.)*

KING: Was it you? Quite remarkable, really.

WIZARD: So just give me the crown and no one gets hurt.

KING: That's not quite how these things are done, I'm afraid. We must have a duel, or a contest of wits... *(The WIZARD holds up his hands and we hear the sound of an earthquake. The others act as if the ground is shaking.)* Well, exceptions can be made...

WIZARD: The crown.

KING: *(As he hands it over)* This is not quite proper, you know.

WIZARD: Neither is firing your herald.

KING: *(To the WIZARD)* Well you will take good care of the kingdom, won't you? We always like to have it back how we left it.

WIZARD: You don't get it, do you? You won't be getting the kingdom back this time. Guards! *(Two ROYAL GUARDS enter.)* Take them to the dungeon!

GUARD 1: Begging your pardon?

WIZARD: Take them to the dungeon!

GUARD 2: I say, I don't think we can do that, can we? It's the King and Queen, after all.

GUARD 1: *(Offering a hand to the WIZARD)* Sorry, I don't think we've met.

WIZARD: I'm your new king: the Moon-Wizard of the Forest of Mysteries.

GUARD 2: Never heard of him. *(To the QUEEN)* Is this right, m'lady?

QUEEN: Just temporary.

WIZARD: No it isn't temporary!

GUARD 1: Should we be obeying him then? I mean, for the moment?

QUEEN: If you like.

WIZARD: No! Not "if you like," you will!

KING: My, he takes it rather personally, don't you think?

QUEEN: Absolutely, dear.

GUARD 2: *(To the WIZARD)* I say there, aren't you Lizzy's herald? Does this mean we're in the story? *(To the audience)* Hi Mom! Look, I made it in the story!

WIZARD: You people are ridiculous! You don't seem get that this time there won't be a "happily ever after." *(To the GUARDS)* Now take those two to the dungeon. You're now my evil cronies. *(He waves the medallion at the two GUARDS overdramatically.)*

GUARD 1: I've never gotten to be evil before. What fun!

GUARD 2: *(To the KING and QUEEN)* May we?

KING: Of course, do enjoy yourselves while we're gone. *(The GUARDS escort the KING and QUEEN offstage.)*

QUEEN: And make sure he keeps the palace nice and neat.

GUARD 2: *(To the audience)* Bye Mom! *(The GUARDS exit with the KING and QUEEN.)*

WIZARD: This is the most ridiculous kingdom I have ever seen! Just wait 'til I'm through with them, then they'll know what a real villain is. *(The SERVANT enters.)* You! *(The SERVANT tries to sneak away.)* Get over here! You're going to go through the whole kingdom and tell everyone that I'm king and that Lizzy's been banished. *(The SERVANT appears hesitant.)* Or I can toss you in the dungeon too, or worse.

SERVANT: Understood... your majesty.

WIZARD: Good. Now, as for Lizzy...

SERVANT: She's already off on her quest.

WIZARD: What? How?

SERVANT: The Wise Woman sent her to the Kingdom of Eternal Sunshine to find the Medallion of the Sun. That's the rumor, anyway.

WIZARD: So she thinks she can finish her quest, does she? Go after her and –

SERVANT: Me? I can't stop Lizzy. I don't even know how to use a sword.

WIZARD: Is no one in this kingdom evil but me? *(A roar is heard from offstage.)* What is that?

SERVANT: Ah yes, I almost forgot. There's a giant running around trying to eat people. *(The LITTLE GIANT enters, roaring.)*

WIZARD: That's a giant? *(The SERVANT shrugs.)*

GIANT: Giant hungry, eat princess!

WIZARD: Well at least it's evil. *(The LITTLE GIANT roars again and the WIZARD roars back. The LITTLE GIANT stops, surprised. Talking down to the GIANT)* Giant get princess.

GIANT: Bad princess, hurt giant.

WIZARD: Catch princess, then eat dragon.

GIANT: Mmmmm, dragon!

WIZARD: That's right, now go! *(Roaring, the LITTLE GIANT runs offstage.)*

SERVANT: I don't think it's going to find them...

WIZARD: Not on its own. Guards!

SERVANT: You know they're not really evil, they're just pretending.

WIZARD: We'll see about that. Guards! *(GUARD 1 enters.)*

GUARD 1: You bellowed, your majesty?

WIZARD: Where's that other guard? Don't I have two evil cronies? *(GUARD 2 enters.)*

GUARD 2: Anyone for cookies and milk?

WIZARD: Are you kidding me?

GUARD 1: *(To GUARD 2)* Not now, his majesty's a little testy.

GUARD 2: Right. What's your evil bidding, sire?

WIZARD: You're going to help that giant capture Lizzy and her dragon.

GUARD 1: But what about her quest?

WIZARD: You're going to stop it.

GUARD 2: Then how will she stop you?

WIZARD: She won't! Are you my evil cronies or not?

GUARD 1: Well, not *really*.

SERVANT: Told you so. *(Frustrated, the WIZARD waves his hands around overdramatically and the lights become very eerie as the WIZARD weaves his spell.)*

WIZARD: You are my evil henchmen of darkness, darkness! *(Slight pause. Aside, to the SERVANT)* Did it work?

SERVANT: How should I know?

GUARD 1: You know it's funny, but I have this sudden desire to do dastardly things. What about you?

GUARD 2: *(Morosely)* I suppose.

GUARD 1: What's wrong?

GUARD 2: Have you seen how dark it is outside? I find it very depressing.

GUARD 1: Well cheer up, we're evil cronies. Think of all the diabolical things we'll get to do.

GUARD 2: I guess.

WIZARD: Come, my evil minions, and do my bidding!

GUARD 1: Right!

GUARD 2: If we must.

WIZARD: Take the giant, go to the Kingdom of the Eternal Sunshine, and capture Lizzy and the dragon.

GUARD 1: Yes, sire! *(The GUARDS march off and exit.)*

SERVANT: That's your evil plan?

WIZARD: Yes, now get out there and proclaim to everyone how great I am.

SERVANT: No one's going to buy that. *(The WIZARD holds up his hands in a threatening gesture and the SERVANT runs off.)* At once, your majesty!

WIZARD: That's better. *(Addressing the audience)* Excuse me, if I can have your attention for just a moment. As you are aware, the kingdom is now under new management. I promise to rule with an iron fist, a cruel whim, and eternal darkness, keeping the land forever barren and desolate. Thank you, thank you! *(Waving to the audience the WIZARD exits. Lights to black.)*

SCENE 4

(LIZZY and HERBERT enter under a blazing sun. LIZZY now carries a sword and looks more the wandering knight than fairytale princess. Towards the edge of the stage lies a sleeping DRAGON, about HERBERT's size, that they do not see.)

HERBERT: OK, when they say Kingdom of Eternal Sunshine, they aren't kidding.

LIZZY: It is very warm. But at least we've arrived.

HERBERT: Yeah, and it is nice to be someplace bright. Maybe a little too bright. *(He puts on a pair of sunglasses.)* Much better. *(Slight pause, to the audience)* Anyone got sunscreen?

LIZZY: Strange, I don't see anyone around.

HERBERT: If it's this hot all the time, people probably don't stay outside much. *(He sees the sleeping DRAGON.)* Lizzy, look! A sand dragon! I've always wanted to meet one. *(He crosses to the DRAGON.)* Excuse me... *(He pokes the DRAGON to wake her up.)*

LIZZY: Herbert, I'm not so sure that's a good idea...

HERBERT: Excuse me, miss? *(Suddenly the DRAGON wakes up and jumps up at HERBERT with a ferocious roar.)* Ah! *(He runs and hides behind LIZZY. The DRAGON advances menacingly upon both of them.)*

LIZZY: Hello, perhaps you can help us... *(The DRAGON growls as it advances.)* Oh dear, we may have to fight this one.

HERBERT: But it's a girl dragon! I can't beat up a girl.

LIZZY: I'm not sure that will be our problem. *(HARRIET enters, also wearing a sword.)*

HARRIET: Margaret? What's going on? *(She shields her eyes from the bright sunlight.)* Why, it's Lizzy, isn't it?

LIZZY: Yes, have we met?

HARRIET: Don't you remember? When you were looking for a quest? How'd it come off, by the way?

LIZZY: Still in progress, actually.

HARRIET: Trouble getting to the moon, hm?

LIZZY: That and a small problem with my herald.

HERBERT: I'll say, he took over the whole kingdom.

LIZZY: Herbert!

HARRIET: Do you mean to say you're the princess who fired her herald?

LIZZY: You heard about that?

HARRIET: I think all of fairyland has heard about it. I've never heard of anyone doing anything so foolish. It's been quite the talk amongst our club.

LIZZY: Yes, about your club, I may have been a little hasty...

HARRIET: Well you're not welcome anymore. You were rather rude to all of us.

MARGARET: And we have enough dragons already.

HERBERT: Well!

LIZZY: I am sorry, I should have been nicer.

HARRIET: Besides, we don't allow knights who haven't finished their quest. (*Before LIZZY can speak*) But I suppose you can always try again when you're a little older. What do you want, anyway?

LIZZY: We're looking for the Medallion of the Sun.

HARRIET: What for?

LIZZY: We need it to fight the Medallion of the Moon.

HERBERT: Which the herald stole.

MARGARET: And how's that going to help you get to the moon, huh?

LIZZY: I don't really know.

HARRIET: Yes, I can see you have this well thought out.

LIZZY: Do you know where to find the Sun Medallion?

HARRIET: Yes...

LIZZY: You do?

HARRIET: ...but I'm not so sure I'm going to tell you.

LIZZY: Why not?

HARRIET: You were *very* rude to me, if you recall. After I tried to help you find a nice quest and everything.

MARGARET: Yeah, so buzz off!

HERBERT: Why you little lizard...

MARGARET: Watch who you're calling little, Mr. Scaredy-Pants.

HERBERT: Who's scared?

MARGARET: Oh, I all know about you: Herbert, the yellow dragon.

HARRIET: Is that what the other dragons call him?

MARGARET: Yeah! *(She and HARRIET laugh.)*

LIZZY: If you please!

HARRIET: Sorry, Lizzy, you'll just have to find some other way to get to the moon.

LIZZY: But I can't! It's –

HARRIET: Impossible? Told you so, didn't I? *(MARGARET sticks her tongue out at HERBERT.)*

LIZZY: But –

HARRIET: Goodbye, Lizzy. I'll be sure to tell the other girls how you are. *(She starts to exit, followed by MARGARET, but HERBERT blocks their path.)*

HERBERT: *(Firmly)* Not so fast.

MARGARET: Out of my way, pipsqueak.

HERBERT: Not until you tell us where to find the medallion.

MARGARET: And if we won't?

HERBERT: Then Sir Lizzy challenges Princess Harriet to a duel!

LIZZY: But Herbert, I've never fought a real duel before.

HARRIET: I accept.

HERBERT: *(To MARGARET)* Ha!

HARRIET: But...

HERBERT: Uh oh.

HARRIET: It will be Margaret and Herbert who will duel.

MARGARET: *(To HERBERT)* Ha!

HERBERT: Me?

LIZZY: But Herbert's not a knight.

HARRIET: It'll be a dragon duel, of course.

MARGARET: All right! *(She starts moving around to limber up.)*

HERBERT: Oh boy...

LIZZY: What's a dragon duel, Herbert?

HERBERT: It's not pretty. And besides, I told you, I can't beat up a girl.

HARRIET: *(To LIZZY)* Do you accept or not?

MARGARET: *(To HARRIET)* It's not really fair though, is it? Me beating up on such a scrawny little dragon?

HERBERT: I'll do it.

LIZZY: Then we accept. Go on, Herbert.

HARRIET: Excuse me, that's not how it works. We must first determine the stakes. If Herbert wins, I'll tell you where to find the medallion, but if Margaret wins then you, Lizzy, must give up being a knight.

LIZZY: Oh!

HERBERT: Isn't that a little extreme?

MARGARET: Sounds fair to me.

HARRIET: You hurt my feelings, Lizzy, with what you said about our club. So if you lose, your quest is finished.

LIZZY: But my kingdom!

HARRIET: You should have thought of that before.

LIZZY: All right, I accept. Herbert, it's up to you.

HERBERT: Maybe this isn't a good idea... *(MARGARET adopts a boxing stance, hopping around and making the occasional swing.)*

MARGARET: Come on you runt of an iguana, I'm ready for you!

(HERBERT also adopts a boxing stance and he and MARGARET start to circle each other. They start by making a swing or a punch here and there, hitting only air, in order to test each other's defenses. MARGARET then gets in a hit and while HERBERT is distracted she bites his arm and doesn't let go.)

HERBERT: Ow! Get off, get off! *(The DRAGONS continue to wrestle.)*

LIZZY: Get her Herbert! Get her! *(MARGARET swipes at HERBERT several times with her claws and forces him to retreat.)* Oh dear, this is not going well.

HERBERT: You're telling me.

LIZZY: Do something, Herbert! You can beat this short little gecko.

MARGARET: Who's short? *(She is distracted and HERBERT swings at MARGARET a couple of times and almost hits her.)*

HERBERT: Ha!

LIZZY: Good job, Herbert!

HARRIET: *(To LIZZY)* That wasn't fair. You distracted her.

LIZZY: You're just jealous that Herbert's winning. *(MARGARET puts HERBERT in a headlock and HERBERT tries to pull her off.)*

HARRIET: I'd hardly call that winning.

HERBERT: Let go! Let go! *(MARGARET and HERBERT break apart and circle each other again.)*

LIZZY: Oh this is ridiculous! How long does a dragon duel take?

HARRIET: The record is five months and eleven days.

LIZZY: Well I don't have that long.

HARRIET: Neither do I. Finish him off, Margaret.

MARGARET: You bet! *(She charges HERBERT with a loud roar. He yelps and runs away as she chases him.)* Get back here, charcoal breath! *(MARGARET continues to chase him. Then, suddenly distracted, HERBERT stops and bends over to pick something up.)*

HERBERT: Ooh! *(MARGARET, unable to stop, trips over HERBERT and falls flat on the ground, dazed.)*

HARRIET: Margaret!

HERBERT: Look Lizzy, I found a coin.

LIZZY: Herbert! The duel!

HERBERT: Oh right. *(He tackles MARGARET and puts her in a headlock.)* Say "Uncle Herbert."

MARGARET: Never! *(HERBERT bites her in the arm.)* Ow! Uncle Herbert! Uncle Herbert!

LIZZY: *(To HARRIET)* Do you yield?

MARGARET: Ow!

HARRIET: Yes.

LIZZY: That's enough, Herbert. *(HERBERT lets MARGARET go and LIZZY gives him a big hug.)* Well done!

HERBERT: Thanks, Sir Lizzy.

MARGARET: I can't believe I lost to that embarrassment.

LIZZY: Well you did.

HARRIET: Not that it matters.

LIZZY: What do you mean?

HARRIET: I'll tell you where to find the medallion, but that won't help you. What you want is guarded by the Three Dreaded Dangers of the Deep.

HERBERT: There's always something.

HARRIET: You see, the Medallion of the Sun has been handed down in our family for generations. The Lady of the Sun first gave it to Prince Ichabod, who founded our kingdom...

LIZZY: ...after he fought with Princess Mildred, who had the Medallion of the Moon.

HARRIET: I know that.

LIZZY: Sorry.

HARRIET: Anyhow, years ago we used the medallion to save us from a terrible winter, but the Dreaded Dangers then stole it from us. Without it we can't get the sun to leave, so now it's always this hot and our kingdom has turned into a desert.

LIZZY: That's awful! How do you grow food or anything?

HARRIET: We don't. We have to buy it from all the other kingdoms.

LIZZY: How can you afford to?

HARRIET: Tourists. We have great beaches.

LIZZY: But why don't you just take the medallion back?

HARRIET: Don't you think we've tried? Mother and Father have sent a hundred knights to find it but none of them have ever returned. I suppose you'll be number a hundred and one.

HERBERT: *(To LIZZY)* Maybe there's another way we can stop the herald.

LIZZY: *(To HARRIET)* We'll get it back. Just tell us where to find the...?

HARRIET: Dreaded Dangers of the Deep.

HERBERT: What does that even mean?

HARRIET: *(Pointing)* There, to the left of the Smoking Desert and next to the Desolate Valley of Desolation.

HERBERT: Isn't that a little redundant?

MARGARET: We ran out of names, all right? Everything here is a desert or desolate valley.

LIZZY: Thank you, Harriet. Please tell the other girls I'm sorry, and if we ever finish our quest Herbert and I would love to join the club.

HARRIET: You'll never make it, you know.

LIZZY: Well, I've got to try, haven't I? Goodbye, Harriet. *(LIZZY and HERBERT start to leave.)*

HARRIET: Wait. *(LIZZY and HERBERT stop.)* I'll make you a deal, Lizzy. I'll help you get the medallion...

LIZZY: Yes?

HARRIET: ...if you promise to give it to me when you're done so I can put things right here. We'd love to have a little nighttime for a change.

MARGARET: Oh come on, princess, you want us to go on a quest with them?

HARRIET: We could save both our kingdoms, Margaret. I'm not fond of the idea, but there we are.

LIZZY: I think that sounds very fair.

HARRIET: Do I have your word then?

LIZZY: Of course. *(HARRIET takes her sword and holds it out towards LIZZY with the point down. LIZZY is unsure what she's supposed to do.)*

HARRIET: *(A little exasperated)* Don't they teach you anything in your kingdom? Just put your hand on the sword. *(LIZZY does so such that she and HARRIET are both holding the hilt of the sword.)* On your honor as a knight.

LIZZY: On my honor as a knight. *(HARRIET takes the sword back.)*

HARRIET: Follow me. *(They all follow HARRIET.)*

HERBERT: I don't suppose you've got any sunscreen.

HARRIET: Oh we won't need it once we're inside the Mountain of a Thousand Deaths.

HERBERT: I should just keep my mouth shut, shouldn't I?

MARGARET: Please! I'm tired of your yapping already.

HERBERT: Just because I won.

MARGARET: You got lucky.

HERBERT: Did not!

LIZZY: Herbert!

HERBERT: She started it.

LIZZY: Just come on!

(They all come to the entrance of the Mountain of a Thousand Deaths and stop. The lights have become darker.)

HERBERT: Is this...?

HARRIET: The Mountain of a Thousand Deaths.

HERBERT: Creepy.

MARGARET: Scaredy-pants.

LIZZY: It doesn't look so bad. *(We hear a long and menacing roar from inside the mountain.)* Well, if we must, we must. *(She exits into the mountain followed by the others. The lights fade to black.)*

ACT 2

SCENE 1

(Inside the Mountain of a Thousand Deaths. The roar from the end of Act One is heard again as LIZZY, HARRIET, HERBERT, and MARGARET cautiously enter.)

LIZZY: What do you think it is?

HARRIET: The First Deadly Danger, of course.

LIZZY: Of course. *(There is another roar and they continue on.)* Harriet?

HARRIET: What?

LIZZY: What was your kingdom like before it became a desert?

HARRIET: Oh. It was beautiful. We used to have the most wonderful gardens, the most famous in all of fairyland. Of course, I don't remember them, it was all long before I was born.

LIZZY: How awful. I'd hate to think of someone growing up in my kingdom like that, only ever knowing the darkness. *(The roar is heard again.)* Definitely louder. Although I think this "thousand deaths" is something of an exaggeration. *(Two mountain TROLLS enter.)*

TROLLS: Arrrgh!!!

HERBERT: Trolls! *(The TROLLS grab HERBERT and start to drag him away.)* Help!

LIZZY: I'm coming, Herbert! *(She runs to him and starts smacking one TROLL with the flat of her sword. HARRIET grabs the second TROLL and tries to pull it away.)*

MARGARET: Oh, let me! *(She swipes at one TROLL with her claws.)*

FIRST TROLL: Rararagh! *(The TROLL kicks MARGARET away. LIZZY starts pulling at the TROLL and HERBERT is now being pulled in opposite directions by the two TROLLS, each with a princess trying to pull a TROLL off.)*

HERBERT: Ow, ow, ow! This is not helping!

LIZZY: Then you think of something! *(The tug of war continues for a moment.)*

HERBERT: Um... ah! *(HERBERT gets an idea, takes a deep breath, and breathes "fire" on the FIRST TROLL. The TROLL cries out and lets go of HERBERT. Everyone goes flying and falls about the stage. The TROLLS leap up first.)*

TROLLS: Aaarrgh!!! *(The SECOND TROLL goes after LIZZY who, without even thinking about it, stabs it with her sword. Pause. Whimpering the TROLL limps offstage. The FIRST TROLL follows, after a determined look from LIZZY.)*

MARGARET: Are they gone?

LIZZY: Yes. Good thinking, Herbert.

HERBERT: It helps to be a dragon sometimes.

HARRIET: Lizzy... I think you might have killed it.

LIZZY: Well, we are knights, aren't we?

HARRIET: One doesn't usually think of things dying in a fairytale, does one?

LIZZY: This isn't quite a normal fairytale any longer. And this is the Mountain of a Thousand Deaths.

HERBERT: So what are the other nine hundred and ninety-nine?

MARGARET: No one's ever come out alive to tell!

HERBERT: You just like being scary, don't you?

MARGARET: Yep. *(HERBERT shakes his head and turns away.)* Boo! *(HERBERT jumps and MARGARET laughs.)* Scaredy dragon!

HERBERT: Yeah, well, way to help with the trolls.

MARGARET: It kicked me!

LIZZY: Can we just keep going?

HARRIET: We'd best before anything else shows up. *(The roar of many voices is heard and becomes steadily louder.)*

LIZZY: Oh! Do you think...?

HARRIET: I do.

MARGARET: I bet it is.

HERBERT: What? What is it?

LIZZY, HARRIET, and MARGARET: Troll chief.

LIZZY: Definitely a Deadly Danger.

HERBERT: I thought we just got rid of the trolls. (*LIZZY and HARRIET draw their swords and stand back to back. MARGARET bares her claws and stands ready.*) Oh great. (*He reluctantly stands at the ready as the roaring grows louder. Suddenly several TROLLS enter. The others try and fight them off, but the TROLLS overwhelm them, take their swords, and drag them before the TROLL CHIEF.*)

TROLL CHIEF: Gargahh! Harghaharghahooooo!!! (*Etc.*)

LIZZY: I'm sorry, I don't speak troll.

TROLL CHIEF: Urgahgargahhh!!!! (*The other TROLLS cheer.*)

MARGARET: I don't like the sound of that.

FIRST TROLL: (*To TROLL CHIEF*) Hartoograh mahgroghah rorgmorg hoonuragughrooh trahrar. (*The FIRST TROLL continues to jabber with the TROLL CHIEF, pointing furiously at the PRINCESSES and DRAGONS. Other TROLLS bring out the SECOND TROLL, who is wounded.*)

TROLL CHIEF: (*To LIZZY, pointing at the SECOND TROLL*) Guggagerharrgh?

LIZZY: Yes I did. And I'd do it again.

TROLL CHIEF: (*Angry*) Nuragugh troggrar moogah troogah!

LIZZY: So?

SECOND TROLL: (*Struggling to speak*) Gughah... ragugh... (*The other TROLLS fall silent.*)

HARRIET: Oh dear. (*The SECOND TROLL tries to speak, convulses violently, and dies.*)

HERBERT: Is that bad?

TROLL CHIEF: Gaaaaarrrrrggghhh!!!! (*The TROLLS roar in agreement.*)

HARRIET: Very bad. (*The TROLLS pull LIZZY to the center of the stage where the TROLL CHIEF faces her.*)

TROLL CHIEF: Kargagurrrgh!!

LIZZY: If that's a challenge, I accept.

HARRIET: Lizzy, don't be silly. You can't fight a troll chief without even a sword. We've got two dragons.

MARGARET: Well, one anyway.

HERBERT: Hey!

HARRIET: If we can just think of a plan...

TROLL CHIEF: *(To LIZZY) Gurghgurghnarrgehrrrr!!!!*

LIZZY: Yes, yes, to the death, then you eat the other prisoners, I know how this works. Can we get on with this, please? *(The TROLL CHIEF makes a gorilla-like show of being as threatening as possible.)*

TROLL CHIEF: *Haurghagraaaahhhh!!!! (The other TROLLS roar in excitement, jump up and down, and echo the TROLL CHIEF's cry. LIZZY raises her arms and echoes the TROLL CHIEF's display, only bigger.)*

LIZZY: *Raaahhhgggg!!!!!! (All of the TROLLS fall silent. LIZZY marches right up to the TROLL CHIEF and jumps up and down.) Haargagurrrrgaaahhhh!!! (The TROLL CHIEF backs away and LIZZY addresses the other TROLLS.) Roograhhh! Arrgaahhhugargg!!!! (The other TROLLS agree.)*

TROLLS: *Gargalersgahh!!! (LIZZY points at the TROLL CHIEF.)*

LIZZY: *Roogah. (The TROLLS are confused.) Gargahh? (The TROLLS roar with glee, let their prisoners go, and grab hold of the TROLL CHIEF. Continuing to cheer they drag the TROLL CHIEF away, who struggles to break free, and they exit.) Much better.*

HERBERT: That was amazing!

HARRIET: *(Surprised) Yes. (The THIRD TROLL returns with the two swords.)*

THIRD TROLL: *(To LIZZY) Googalersrugh, rarghh. (The TROLL hands LIZZY and HARRIET their swords.)*

LIZZY: Thank you. Do be nice to the chief now. No, uh... no ragugh.

THIRD TROLL: *Nuragugh? (The TROLL runs off after the others, excited.) Nuragugh! Nuragugh!*

LIZZY: I'm not sure that had the meaning I intended.

MARGARET: Good riddance to them! I hate trolls.

HERBERT: Yeah, me too. Smelly, stinky things. They taste really rubbery too.

MARGARET: I know! I think the secret is slow roasting.

HARRIET: Ew! Margaret!

MARGARET: Well, we're dragons, we eat trolls. *(To HERBERT)* Barbeque sauce is a must, of course.

HERBERT: Yeah, with a nice side of gnome.

MARGARET: I love gnome!

HERBERT: Hey, I should give you my grandma's recipe for it. She made gnome like nobody's business.

LIZZY: Herbert, is this really necessary?

HERBERT: Sorry. *(To MARGARET)* We'll talk later.

MARGARET: Definitely. And we'll talk griffin too.

HERBERT: Oooh, those are good.

LIZZY: Herbert!

HERBERT: Sorry!

HARRIET: We really should be finding the next Deadly Danger.

MARGARET: Yeah, what do you think it is? *(There is a growling sound from offstage and HERBERT hides behind MARGARET.)* Hey, get out there and face it, gnome-for-brains! *(She pushes him in front. The MANTICORE enters: a beast with the face of a person, the body of a lion, and a tail like a dragon.)*

MANTICORE: *(Roaring)* I am the Second Deadly Danger in the Mountain of a Thousand Deaths, the great and all-powerful mantichore! *(It continues to roar.)*

LIZZY: Why must everything in here be so loud? *(To the MANTICORE)* I am Sir Lizzy and we have come for the Medallion of the Sun. Let us pass.

MANTICORE: Never! *(The MANTICORE continues roaring.)*

LIZZY: Then you leave us no choice but to vanquish you. *(She brandishes her sword and lunges at the MANTICORE, but it knocks the sword out of her hand.)* Oh dear. *(The MANTICORE swipes at LIZZY with its claws and knocks her down.)*

HARRIET: Lizzy! *(She tries to attack the MANTICORE with her sword, but suffers the same fate as LIZZY.)*

MANTICORE: No one has ever defeated the mighty manticore! *(It towers over LIZZY and HARRIET and prepares to attack.)*

HERBERT: Hey! You leave them alone! *(He blocks the MANTICORE's path.)*

MANTICORE: *(Laughing)* Puny little dragon!

MARGARET: I know, he's kind of a wimp too.

HERBERT: Whose side are you on?

MARGARET: Do I have to choose? *(The MANTICORE grabs HERBERT and tosses him aside.)*

MARGARET: Do I have to do everything? *(She charges the MANTICORE and pushes it to the ground.)* Ha! Come on, gecko-face, let's get it!

HERBERT: All right! *(He and MARGARET pounce on the MANTICORE and try to wrestle it to the ground.)*

MANTICORE: How dare you defy the manticore. For this I shall eat you all!

HERBERT: Oh yeah? *(He grabs the MANTICORE's tail and bites down hard.)*

MANTICORE: Owww! My tail! *(HERBERT and MARGARET hold the MANTICORE down on the ground.)* Get off! Get off! *(LIZZY has picked up her sword and holds it to the MANTICORE.)*

LIZZY: Do you yield, oh mighty manticore?

MANTICORE: Mmm... maybe... *(HERBERT bites its tail again.)* Ow! Yes! Yes!

LIZZY: Wonderful! I never expected to defeat a manticore.

MANTICORE: Pardon me, but I think the dragons were the ones to defeat me.

LIZZY: Well...

HERBERT: (*To the MANTICORE*) Herbert.

MARGARET: Margaret.

MANTICORE: Manticore. Pleased to meet you both.

HARRIET: You seem much more social now, if you don't mind my saying so.

MANTICORE: Not at all. Being so ferocious all the time is very tiring. I'm actually relieved to be defeated. You will finish me off, won't you?

LIZZY: Of course not!

MANTICORE: (*Afraid*) What? But you must! Do you have any idea what will happen to me otherwise?

HARRIET: What do you mean? We're sparing your life!

MANTICORE: But *it* won't! I'm not supposed to let anything get to it.

LIZZY: I don't understand.

MANTICORE: (*Lowering its voice*) The Final Deadly Danger, of course, who rules this mountain and holds the Medallion of the Sun.

HARRIET: But what will it do to you?

MANTICORE: Something so terrible, you can't even imagine. If you won't kill me, then you must protect me!

HERBERT: Wait, now the mighty manticore is on our side? This adventure just keeps getting weirder.

LIZZY: What is the last Deadly Danger?

MANTICORE: It doesn't have a name. But if you were to see it... Oh! It's terrible.

LIZZY: Will you help us defeat it?

MANTICORE: No! Please, you can't let it find me!

HARRIET: And you call yourself a Deadly Danger.

MARGARET: Yeah, you're nothing but a coward.

MANTICORE: I'm not a coward, I'm –

(We hear the VOICE OF THE CREATURE, the Final Deadly Danger, from offstage. While we never see it, it is clearly something large and terrifying. If desired, the sound of a great beast moving around may also be heard from time to time.)

VOICE: Mmmmm, I hear voices...

MANTICORE: Oh, there it is! *(The MANTICORE cowers in fear.)*

VOICE: Tasty, delicious sounding voices...

HERBERT: Maybe we should've listened to the Manticore...

LIZZY: Show yourself.

VOICE: Who dares challenge the Final Deadly Danger in the Mountain of a Thousand Deaths?

LIZZY: I do. *(The VOICE laughs.)*

VOICE: You? A bite, a snack, that is all you are.

LIZZY: I am Sir Lizzy and I have come for the Medallion of the Sun.

VOICE: The Medallion of the Sun is mine, and you are mine, and I am hungry...

MANTICORE: What did I tell you? There's no getting away from it now. *(It continues to cower and whimper in fear.)*

VOICE: ...very, very hungry... *(LIZZY and HARRIET look offstage in different directions trying to see what the VOICE belongs to.)*

LIZZY: Can you see what it is?

HARRIET: I'm trying, I – *(Suddenly she sees it and draws back in fear.)*

LIZZY: Did you see it? *(HARRIET nods, unable to speak.)* Let me. *(She crosses to look, but HARRIET stops her.)*

HARRIET: No, don't.

LIZZY: But why, I –

HARRIET: *(Firmly)* Just don't look. *(She looks as if she might be sick.)*

MARGARET: Oh come on, how bad can it be?

VOICE: Mmmmm, and dragon... I haven't had dragon in ages and ages...

MARGARET: All right, that's enough. Let's take care of this thing, get the medallion, and get out of here. *(She marches towards the edge of the stage.)*

HARRIET: Margaret, don't! *(MARGARET reaches the edge of the stage and then suddenly draws back.)*

VOICE: Yes, yes, this will be a feast... *(MARGARET backs away and clings to HARRIET.)*

HARRIET: Lizzy, the Manticore's right, we must get away from it.

LIZZY: Not without the medallion. *(She raises her sword.)* Come and face us, Deadly Danger. I'm not afraid.

MANTICORE: No, no, she is! We all are! Please, if you let me go I promise to be twice as ferocious as I ever was.

VOICE: But manticore... such a lovely sounding snack...

MANTICORE: Oh, I knew it would end like this... *(The lights become darker as the creature approaches them.)*

VOICE: Now which one to eat first...

HERBERT: I'm scared, Lizzy.

LIZZY: I know. Me too.

(LIZZY and HERBERT prepare themselves and stand ready to fight, HERBERT with his eyes closed tight. LIZZY faces front and suddenly begins to tremble with fear as she "sees" what the VOICE belongs to.)

VOICE: Lizzy, was it?

LIZZY: Yes.

VOICE: Do you still wish to face me?

LIZZY: Y... yes. I have to.

HARRIET: I can't look. *(She, MARGARET, and the MANTICORE cower in the background, paralyzed by fear.)*

VOICE: And you think you can defeat me?

LIZZY: Well...

VOICE: You are very, very small.

LIZZY: And you are very big, but I won't give up. May I please have the medallion?

VOICE: No. Shall I eat you first?

LIZZY: If you must. Oh! *(She thrusts her sword towards the creature several times.)*

VOICE: No more of that, or I shall get angry. *(LIZZY stabs at it with her sword a few more times and HERBERT makes a few weak swipes, his eyes still closed. The VOICE starts to growl.)* I am getting angry...

MANTICORE: Whatever you do, don't upset it! Best to be eaten quickly.

HARRIET: *(To the MANTICORE)* If you know so much about it then help us. It must have a weakness, everything does, you know.

MARGARET: Yeah!

MANTICORE: Well, it does like to trade...

MARGARET: Then let's trade it for the medallion.

MANTICORE: No! When it makes a trade it's a terrible, terrible thing. *(In the meantime LIZZY has been vainly trying to hold the VOICE off while HERBERT has overheard the MANTICORE.)*

HERBERT: Um, Mr. Danger?

VOICE: What?

HERBERT: I'd like to make a trade. *(The VOICE stops growling and LIZZY stops attacking it.)*

VOICE: *(Pleased)* You would?

MANTICORE: Oh no...

VOICE: And what do you wish to trade?

HERBERT: Well, the Medallion of the Sun for, um, me.

LIZZY: Herbert, no!

VOICE: Hmmmm, you know I will eat you, don't you?

HERBERT: Well, I was hoping not, but... yeah.

VOICE: A trade... it's been so long. I shall have to think...

LIZZY: Herbert, you can't!

HERBERT: You'll get the medallion, you can save both kingdoms.

LIZZY: I know, but... didn't you see it?

HERBERT: Actually no, I had my eyes closed.

LIZZY: It's –

VOICE: I accept. The dragon...

LIZZY: No!

VOICE: ...bring me the dragon...

HERBERT: First the medallion.

VOICE: Very well. *(The Medallion of the Sun is tossed on from offstage and HERBERT catches it. He gives the medallion to LIZZY.)*

LIZZY: It's beautiful.

HERBERT: Yeah. *(Slight pause)*

LIZZY: Oh Herbert, I can't let you do this, I just can't. *(She cries.)*

HERBERT: It's all right, Lizzy. It's best this way. You'll stop the herald and, well, I'll get to be a hero. I never was a hero before.

LIZZY: *(Sniffing)* I know, you were always the scrawny one.

HERBERT: Yeah.

LIZZY: I really messed up the story, didn't I?

HERBERT: I don't know. It's a lot more interesting this way.

VOICE: Now, the dragon, my dragon... *(HERBERT tries to leave but LIZZY refuses to let go of him.)*

LIZZY: No, no, no! I won't give you up, I won't. Don't go, Herbert, please.

HERBERT: I've got to, Lizzy, it's the only way.

LIZZY: But he's going to eat you!

HERBERT: It's a dragon-eat-dragon world out there. Sometimes that's just the way it goes. Goodbye, Lizzy. You were the best friend I ever had. *(LIZZY gives HERBERT a great big hug and then he pulls away.)*

LIZZY: Herbert... *(HERBERT crosses to the edge of the stage and sees what the VOICE belongs to for the first time. He is afraid but tries not to show it.)*

HERBERT: Well, would you look at that. *(After a brief pause, he exits. LIZZY turns away and cries. The lights become a warmer color, though still dim, but none of them notice. HARRIET crosses to comfort LIZZY. MARGARET watches after HERBERT.)*

VOICE: Mmmmmmm... *(Pause)*

LIZZY: Is he...?

MARGARET: Yeah.

HARRIET: I'm so sorry, Lizzy.

MARGARET: Me too. The little runt was kinda growing on me.

HARRIET: What now?

LIZZY: We have the medallion. Let's fix your kingdom and then see what we can do about mine. *(They start to leave, but the VOICE stops them.)*

VOICE: Not so fast. I am still hungry...

LIZZY: That's not fair, you made a trade! *(In her anger the lights briefly flash a brighter gold.)*

VOICE: For the medallion, not for you.

MANTICORE: I told you, didn't I?

VOICE: Though the dragon was tasty... *(It laughs a long laugh.)*

LIZZY: No. I didn't give up Herbert for nothing, so let us go.

VOICE: But you'll make such a lovely snack... *(LIZZY raises her sword defiantly. HARRIET does the same and MARGARET also readies for battle. The VOICE growls and everyone braces for the worst, and in LIZZY's defiance the lights suddenly grow very bright and gold.)*

LIZZY: Oh! *(The VOICE cries out.)*

VOICE: Stop that! *(Determined, LIZZY raises the medallion and the lights grow even brighter. The VOICE shrieks in pain.)* Stop, stop! *(LIZZY holds her ground.)* I am the Final Deadly Danger in the Mountain of a Thousand... *(It screams again and the sound dies away as the creature flees.)*

MARGARET: Is it gone?

LIZZY: I think so.

HARRIET: *(To LIZZY)* How did you do that?

MANTICORE: The sun, that's its weakness, I remember now.

MARGARET: Yeah, thanks.

HARRIET: Well done, Lizzy.

LIZZY: Thank you, Harriet.

MANTICORE: Lizzy, I'm sorry I chickened out.

LIZZY: You were frightened, I understand. You do seem like a nice manticore, deep down.

HARRIET: I agree. In fact, I think you should be king, king of the mountain.

MANTICORE: Me? King?

HARRIET: Of course. You could make the mountain a nice place for everyone.

MARGARET: Yeah, and watch over those stinky trolls.

MANTICORE: Oh yes! I'll make sure they don't cause any more trouble, you'll see. Thank you, thank you! *(The MANTICORE exits and the others start walking back out of the mountain.)*

LIZZY: *(Looking after HERBERT)* Well, I guess we have what we came for.

HARRIET: Thank you, Lizzy. It will mean the world to my kingdom.

MARGARET: Yeah, but I'll miss the beaches. *(There is a roar from offstage.)* Now what? I thought we already beat everything in this mountain. *(The LITTLE GIANT continues to roar and charges onstage.)*

LIZZY: The giant? What are you doing here?

GIANT: Me eat princess, catch dragon! *(The GUARDS enter.)*

GUARD 1: I think that's the other way 'round, actually.

GIANT: *(Thinks about it, then)* Catch dragon, eat princess!

GUARD 1: Never mind.

MARGARET: Wait, that's a giant? It's kinda little...

GIANT: No call me little! *(The LITTLE GIANT rushes at MARGARET and tries to attack her.)*

MARGARET: Hey, knock it off! *(They struggle and MARGARET swipes at the LITTLE GIANT with her claws. She hits the GIANT and it sits down and cries.)* Are you kidding me?

GUARD 2: I told you it wouldn't be any help.

GUARD 1: Let's just get on with it, shall we?

GUARD 2: Right. Princess Lizzy, we're here to... *(To GUARD 1)* Sorry, what are we supposed to be doing again?

GUARD 1: Catching the princess! Don't you remember?

GUARD 2: Well, I've been feeling a little down. It's just so dark all the time. Hard to keep my mind on my work, you know?

GUARD 1: Well buck up, it could be worse. *(Referring to the audience)* I mean, they've been stuck in the dark this whole time.

LIZZY: Wait, aren't you my palace guards?

GUARD 1: We were. Now we're the Moon-Wizard's evil cronies.

GUARD 2: With our very own giant. *(The GIANT cries louder.)*

LIZZY: But why? You were always such nice guards.

GUARD 2: We tried to resist, but there didn't seem to be much point really.

GUARD 1: Sorry about him. The wizard taking over, eternal darkness, it's all a little depressing.

LIZZY: Oh, this is all my herald's doing. Just wait 'til I get back!

GUARD 1: Glad you brought that up. We're here to capture you and bring you back to the Moon-Wizard.

GUARD 2: And the dragon too.

GUARD 1: Right!

MARGARET: I don't think so! *(She starts to chase GUARD 2 around the stage.)*

GUARD 2: You stop that now!

HARRIET: And let that teach you to mess with the members of COAPALWAK.

GUARD 1: That's the most ridiculous name I've ever heard.

HARRIET: We're trying to change it, but it keeps getting stuck in committee.

GUARD 1: Committees. Now those are depressing. *(GUARD 1 throws a big sack over MARGARET's head and starts to tie her up.)* That takes care of that.

HARRIET: Not so fast. *(She draws her sword.)* Ready...

LIZZY: *(Drawing her sword)* Set...

TOGETHER: Charge! *(HARRIET and LIZZY charge the GUARDS who, clearly outmatched, run away.)*

GUARDS: Ahhhh! *(They run offstage.)*

HARRIET: Some evil cronies.

LIZZY: They're really very sweet.

MARGARET: *(Muffled)* A little help here. *(HARRIET crosses to help MARGARET, but the LITTLE GIANT grabs HARRIET from behind and pins her arms to her sides such that she drops her sword.)*

GIANT: Bad princess!

HARRIET: Let go! *(The LITTLE GIANT throws a sack over HARRIET's head.)*

GIANT: Catch dragon, eat princess!

GUARD 1: *(Offstage)* Other way 'round!

LIZZY: *(Sternly)* Bad giant. You stop that right now.

GIANT: You no boss of me.

LIZZY: *(Frustrated)* Oh... *(She charges the LITTLE GIANT and tries to body check it. The GIANT doesn't move and LIZZY stumbles back. Giants are, after all, built like bricks.)* That wasn't nearly as effective as I thought it would be. *(As she stands the LITTLE GIANT charges LIZZY and body checks her, sending her flying and leaving her dazed on the far side of the stage.)*

GIANT: *(Proudly, as the GUARDS peek back on)* Giant catch princess.

GUARD 1: What do you know, it got it right. *(GUARD 1 takes HARRIET from the LITTLE GIANT and gives it MARGARET to hold on to.)*

GUARD 2: *(To the audience)* Is it over? *(To one audience member in particular)* Don't look at me like that. I'd like to see you up here doing the wizard's evil bidding. It's not easy, you know.

GIANT: Mmm, yummy dragon.

MARGARET: *(Muffled)* You just try it, runt!

HARRIET: *(Muffled)* Let me go!

GUARD 1: Not bad for an evil day's work, wouldn't you say?

GUARD 2: Another day, another evil plan, it all gets a little monotonous.

GUARD 1: Now don't start that again. *(The GUARDS exit with HARRIET and MARGARET. The LITTLE GIANT follows.)*

GIANT: But giant still hungry... *(It exits.)*

LIZZY: *(Coming to)* Harriet! Margaret! Oh, now what am I going to do? *(We hear the voice of the MANTICORE as it enters with the TROLLS.)*

MANTICORE: *(Humming)* Oh I'm the king of the mountain, the mountain, the mountain! Oh I'm the king of the mountain, hooray, hooray for me! *(The TROLLS politely applaud.)*

LIZZY: Manticore!

MANTICORE: Oh hello Lizzy. How are you getting on?

LIZZY: Harriet and Margaret have been captured!

MANTICORE: Oh, is that so? Well...

LIZZY: You must help me!

MANTICORE: Well, that is, I'm not really sure what I could do...

LIZZY: What? After all we did for you?

MANTICORE: Being king is very time consuming. You've no idea how much these trolls need looking after. *(The TROLLS nod and grunt in agreement.)*

LIZZY: *(Upset)* I should have known. You are nothing but a coward after all. *(As she speaks the lights briefly glow bright and gold again, but LIZZY doesn't notice.)*

MANTICORE: That's not exactly true...

LIZZY: And if you won't help me save Harriet and Margaret I'll just have to do it on my own. Goodbye! *(She exits in a huff. The TROLLS chew out the MANTICORE in a series of grunts.)*

THIRD TROLL: Gurr, gargaraherghoo! Raggaroog trahgargh! *(Etc., and the other TROLLS join in.)*

MANTICORE: Now that's not fair! After all, I'm not really *that* fierce, what could I possibly do?

THIRD TROLL: *(To the other TROLLS)* Moharghagahur, gooha. *(The other TROLLS agree and they all exit after LIZZY.)*

MANTICORE: Wait, where are you all going? I'm your king, the king of the mountain! *(Humming again)* Oh I'm the king of the mountain, the mountain, the

mountain. Oh I'm the king of the mountain... *(By this time all of the TROLLS have gone.)* ...hooray, hooray for me... *(The lights fade to black.)*

SCENE 2

(A dark forest lit only by moonlight. The MAN IN THE MOON and the LADY OF THE SUN are both present, but LIZZY does not recognize who they are. Their appearance clearly sets them apart from the rest of the characters and they each epitomize their respective realms.

LIZZY enters.)

LIZZY: Hello? Hello? Oh, I seem to have lost myself rather well this time. *(She looks up at the moon.)* And to think I always liked the moon. You've caused me quite a bit of trouble, you know.

MOON: That's not very kind of you.

LIZZY: I know, but... Well it's just not fair!

SUN: It so rarely is. That's true even in fairytales.

LIZZY: I've lost Herbert, Harriet and Margaret are prisoners, and I still don't know what to do about that rotten herald... wizard... whatever.

MOON: He's nothing but a villain of your own making.

LIZZY: Who's taken over my kingdom, my story... But you're right, it is my fault. So how do I *unmake* him? *(She holds the Sun Medallion and concentrates, but nothing happens.)* I can't even seem to make this work when I want. I tried to put things right in Harriet's kingdom, but I couldn't.

SUN: It will take time to master.

MOON: Time she doesn't have.

LIZZY: When I get back I suppose I'll just have to hope for the best. *(The MAN IN THE MOON stifles a laugh.)* Well what else am I supposed to do?

MOON: The wizard has reached the peak of his power. You'll never learn to defeat his enchantments in time.

LIZZY: You're right of course. It seems I've gotten myself nowhere.

SUN: The Medallion of the Sun is still the more powerful.

LIZZY: That doesn't do me much good if I don't know how to use it.

SUN: For what is moonlight but sunlight reflected?

LIZZY: I'm sorry, I don't know what you mean.

MOON: *(To the LADY OF THE SUN)* So I'm just a reflection of your glory, is that it?

SUN: She should know the wizard's weakness.

MOON: We shouldn't interfere. That's how this all started to begin with.

LIZZY: I'm sorry, but who are you? I feel as if I should know you.

MOON: Careful, we tell her too much as it is. It's her mess to fix.

SUN: And ours, for giving them away at the start.

MOON: Do you really think she'll give it back?

LIZZY: You mean the medallion?

MOON: It doesn't belong to you.

LIZZY: It was a gift, I know, but right now I need it. It's my only chance.

MOON: *(To the LADY OF THE SUN)* You see? She'll abuse your gift too, just like all the others.

LIZZY: *(To the LADY OF THE SUN)* What does he mean?

SUN: The medallions were given to save your kingdom.

LIZZY: I know, the Man in the Moon and the Lady of the Sun gave them to Princess Mildred and Prince Ichabod.

MOON: Who promised to give them back once their kingdom was safe.

LIZZY: But they didn't, did they? I think I'm starting to understand.

MOON: At first they feared the army would come back, so they kept them. Then they just wanted to use their power to rebuild their kingdom, so they kept them. The Sun and the Moon begged them to make good on their promise, but each time there was always some excuse.

LIZZY: Why didn't they just take them back?

MOON: They couldn't, for that is the nature of such magic.

SUN: They meant only good, at first, but when the prince and princess turned to fighting each other it was a terrible thing.

LIZZY: I've never heard that before.

MOON: Not exactly a bedtime story, is it? And it's been the same ever since. Nothing but excuses, followed by the abuse of a power not rightfully yours. *(To the LADY OF THE SUN)* She'll be no different.

LIZZY: I will be! I won't be like the wizard at all.

MOON: Then give the medallion back.

LIZZY: I can't!

MOON: You see?

LIZZY: I need it to fight the wizard. When he's gone –

MOON: You'll find yet another need for it. It's all been said before. *(To the LADY OF THE SUN)* Why do you bother?

SUN: You say it is hopeless, but you are here the same as I.

MOON: *(With resentment)* Yes, for what am I but your reflection. *(He crosses away.)*

LIZZY: *(To the LADY OF THE SUN)* I do need it, for now at least.

SUN: I know.

LIZZY: He doesn't like me much, does he?

SUN: He is old and tired.

LIZZY: Is he your friend?

SUN: *(Laughing kindly)* We have danced together a long, long time.

LIZZY: He reminds me of something... *(She looks up at the moon.)* It's just all gone so wrong. And I'm all alone now.

SUN: Are you?

LIZZY: I sent word to the other princesses, that I needed their help, but I'm not so sure they'll come. I wasn't very nice to them. In that way I suppose he's right, I'm not so different.

SUN: I am not so sure. (*LIZZY looks at the medallion.*) Keep it, for now.

LIZZY: Will it be enough?

SUN: If you use it wisely.

LIZZY: I still don't know what to do.

SUN: You will. (*Slight pause*)

LIZZY: I miss Herbert.

SUN: I know.

LIZZY: But if he could be so brave... I just wish I knew the way.

SUN: (*Pointing*) There. (*LIZZY looks.*)

LIZZY: It's my kingdom! Then I'm not as lost as I thought. Thank you.

SUN: Go on now.

LIZZY: Goodbye. (*LIZZY exits.*)

MOON: We never should have given them the medallions in the first place. It's too much power for them.

SUN: We only thought to do good.

MOON: And you see the result. Each one of them has been the same. They begin as saviors and end as tyrants, their kingdoms worse off than they were before.

SUN: I know.

MOON: Even if Lizzy defeats the wizard, how do you know she won't just take his place?

SUN: I think this one will find her way. (*The lights fade to black.*)

SCENE 3

(The palace. The GUARDS enter, leading on HARRIET who still has a sack over her head.)

GUARD 1: Now, to interrogate the prisoner.

GUARD 2: We're going to what?

GUARD 1: Interrogate her, ask her questions. You know, who she is, why she's here, that sort of thing.

GUARD 2: But we know who she is. And she's here because we captured her.

GUARD 1: Are you trying to be difficult?

GUARD 2: I just don't see the point, that's all.

GUARD 1: Fine then, I'll do it. *(He crosses to HARRIET to remove the sack.)*

GUARD 2: *(To the audience)* Don't know why he wants me to ask her who she is. I know who she is, she's –

GUARD 1: Not Lizzy!

GUARD 2: She's not?

HARRIET: Of course not. I'm Harriet.

GUARD 2: *(To GUARD 1)* And you thought we didn't need to ask.

GUARD 1: That was you!

GUARD 2: *(To HARRIET)* Come on now, tell us, why are you here?

HARRIET: I'm here because you kidnapped me!

GUARD 2: *(To GUARD 1)* Told you, didn't I?

HARRIET: You're new at this, aren't you? You're supposed to ask me things that you don't already know.

GUARD 1: Where's Lizzy?

HARRIET: I don't know.

GUARD 2: That wasn't very helpful, was it?

HARRIET: I am Princess Harriet, knight of the Kingdom of Eternal Sunshine. *(She receives only blank looks from the GUARDS.)* Where you captured me.

GUARD 1: Right, with the beaches.

GUARD 2: Does this mean we kidnapped the wrong princess?

GUARD 1: I'm afraid it does. And when the wizard finds out...

GUARD 2: ...he won't be very pleased, will he?

HARRIET: Yes, you'll be in terrible trouble, so you may as well release me.

GUARD 1: Not so fast. We still have the dragon. Bring in the dragon! *(The LITTLE GIANT runs on, chased by MARGARET who is roaring and still has a sack over her own head.)*

MARGARET: *(Muffled)* Get back here runt!

GIANT: Save little giant! *(The GIANT cowers behind GUARD 1.)*

MARGARET: I'll teach you to try and eat me!

GUARD 1: Why couldn't you have just eaten the dragon?

GIANT: Dragon scary.

GUARD 1: Oh brother. *(The GUARDS restrain MARGARET who resists.)* Now to interrogate the dragon. *(He takes the sack off of MARGARET's head. Slight pause)*

GUARD 2: We caught the wrong dragon, didn't we?

GUARD 1: Yes we did.

GUARD 2: Our lives aren't going to be worth living, are they?

GUARD 1: Most certainly not.

GUARD 2: Should we run for it?

GUARD 1: It's worth a try. *(The GUARDS bolt, but before they can exit it becomes harder and harder for them to move forward and soon they are running in place.)* This does not bode well.

GUARD 2: I hate my job. *(They continue to try and run. The MOON-WIZARD enters, dressed more the part now, and holds one hand out towards the GUARDS. The MOON-WIZARD then pulls his hand back and the GUARDS start moving backwards as they run. The SERVANT enters and tags along with the WIZARD.)*

WIZARD: Kneel.

GUARD 1: I'm sorry, what? *(The MOON-WIZARD pushes his hand towards the ground and the GUARDS are forced to kneel.)* I don't remember him being able to do that.

WIZARD: Where's Lizzy?

GUARD 1: I'm sorry, but how exactly did you do that?

WIZARD: The power of the tides. *(The GUARDS look blank.)*

HARRIET: The moon controls the tides, you see. And if he can control them... well, we're all a bit smaller, aren't we?

WIZARD: We can do without the commentary, thank you. Where is Lizzy?

GUARD 1: An excellent question, your wizardness, which we were just putting to ourselves... *(The WIZARD makes a magical-looking gesture and GUARD 1 freezes.)*

HARRIET: You've turned him to stone!

WIZARD: Moonstone, to be precise.

SERVANT: Wow, that really is evil.

HARRIET: And stretching things just a bit, don't you think? Moonstone doesn't really have anything to do with the moon... *(The WIZARD repeats his magical gesture and HARRIET freezes.)*

MARGARET: Princess!

WIZARD: Know-it-all. *(To GUARD 2)* Now what happened to Lizzy?

GUARD 2: Well, there was a bit of a complication there. It seems the giant put the bag on the wrong head. *(The LITTLE GIANT shrugs. The WIZARD looks as if he's about to do something terrible to GUARD 2, but then stops.)*

WIZARD: Can't argue with that one. Does that also explain why you caught the wrong dragon?

GUARD 2: Now that's not really our fault. There was only one dragon to catch and you weren't very specific... *(The WIZARD turns GUARD 2 to stone.)*

WIZARD: *(To MARGARET)* Your turn. Did Lizzy find the Medallion of the Sun?

MARGARET: Yeah, and when she gets here –

WIZARD: Then she's on her way now?

MARGARET: You bet, and she's gonna kick your wizard butt all the way to –

WIZARD: You don't think I'm ready for her? And once I have both medallions let's see any of you stop me then.

MARGARET: Oh yeah? Just let me get my claws on you... *(The WIZARD mimes squeezing something with one hand and MARGARET acts as if she is the one being squeezed.)* Hey! Cut it out!

WIZARD: I've had all the time I need to learn how to use this power, thanks to Lizzy's pointless quest. And when she gets here... *(LIZZY enters, wearing the Medallion of the Sun.)*

LIZZY: You'll what? *(The WIZARD lets MARGARET go.)*

WIZARD: Well, well, well, if it isn't the worst knight in the world. *(LIZZY sees HARRIET.)*

LIZZY: What have you done to her?

WIZARD: Same as I'll do to you unless you give me the Sun Medallion.

LIZZY: Never.

WIZARD: Then go ahead, stop me. *(LIZZY concentrates, but nothing happens. The WIZARD laughs.)* That's it? Well, we're not all cut out for the part of all-powerful wizard, are we? *(He prepares to attack LIZZY as we hear a trumpet sound a charge.)* Now what? *(The rest of the PRINCESSES enter, all armed, followed by the TROLLS.)*

ADELAIDE: Surrender, vile fiend, or face the wrath of... *(She doesn't want to say it.)*

CLARA: *(Proudly)* COAPALWAK!

WIZARD: I'm not even going to ask.

LIZZY: You came! I didn't think you would.

ADELAIDE: What, and miss a chance to smite a villain?

NADIA: I didn't want to come, but they made me.

CLARA: And look who else we found, your trolls. They were dying to help. *(The TROLLS jabber excitedly.)*

LIZZY: How good of you. *(The MANTICORE enters, struggling to keep up with the TROLLS.)*

MANTICORE: And don't forget me. *(The TROLLS jabber to each other, confused.)* Oh I couldn't stay behind, knowing Lizzy was in trouble.

LIZZY: I knew you really were a brave manticore, deep down. Thank you.

WIZARD: If we're through with the reunions... *(To the LITTLE GIANT and the SERVANT)* Don't just stand there, get them! *(The GIANT hides behind LIZZY and the others.)*

GIANT: Wizard bad. Giant be good now.

SERVANT: Don't look at me.

LIZZY: Surrender.

WIZARD: Never. *(LIZZY and the PRINCESSES all draw their swords. The TROLLS and MANTICORE all growl.)* Go ahead, give it your best shot. I'm not afraid of any of you. *(We hear the sound of a mighty winter wind.)*

MANTICORE: Now that's not fair... *(Suddenly all the PRINCESSES, except LIZZY, drop their swords.)*

CLARA: Oh! It got so cold.

WIZARD: As cold as the moon.

SERVANT: You've got to hand it to him, he knows evil. *(The TROLLS grunt a war cry and charge the WIZARD, but he makes a gesture, there is a loud crack, and all the TROLLS fall back.)*

WIZARD: What did I tell you, Lizzy? You never should have messed with me.

LIZZY: How many times do I have to say I'm sorry?

WIZARD: It's too late for that. You had a good story going, but you just had to ruin my part, didn't you? Well it's going to be my story from now on.

ADELAIDE: You can't do that.

WIZARD: Technically, I'm still a herald. The story is whatever I say it is. And I say it's the story of "The Wizard and the Moon."

MANTICORE: Is there a manticore in it? (MARGARET *elbows the* MANTICORE.)

WIZARD: (*To the audience*) Once upon a time there was a great and benevolent wizard who everyone loved and who ruled the kingdom fairly and justly... You're not buying this, are you? All right, how about this: once upon a time there was a cruel wizard who devastated the kingdom and ruled evilly ever after. Happy?

LIZZY: Are you going to surrender or not?

WIZARD: No, and if you don't give me the Sun Medallion I'll reduce your kingdom to rubble.

CLARA: He's bluffing. (*The WIZARD raises both hands and we hear another earthquake.*)

NADIA: Or not.

WIZARD: Face it, whatever you do I'll still have more power than you.

LIZZY: (*Understanding*) Yes, but I think I know where it comes from. (*She concentrates but nothing happens.*) Please, just this once... (*She tries again.*)

WIZARD: Too bad, Lizzy, I guess you just weren't cut out to be a knight.

LIZZY: Oh do shut up! (*Suddenly the lights become very pale, perhaps a dull red, with no trace of even moonlight.*) It worked! (*The WIZARD lets the earthquake fade away.*)

WIZARD: What did you do?

LIZZY: I put the sun where the moon can't see it.

CLARA: That's called a lunar eclipse.

WIZARD: I know what it's called. What's it supposed to accomplish?

SERVANT: Well it's darker.

ADELAIDE: *(Picking up a sword)* Don't just stand there, girls, let's run him through!
(ADELAIDE starts to lead a charge but the WIZARD strikes out at her.) Oh! I can't see! *(She clutches at NADIA. CLARA grabs a sword.)*

CLARA: Come on! *(She tries to attack but is turned to stone.)*

LIZZY: Clara!

NADIA: Our club's getting rather small that way, isn't it?

WIZARD: Whatever you meant to do, Lizzy, you failed. I've as much power as ever.
(LIZZY strikes out at the WIZARD and the lights flash gold, but he reacts as if he's received no more than a slight sting.) That's the best you can do? *(He strikes out at LIZZY, we hear a loud crack, and LIZZY falls to the ground.)*

MANTICORE: That's it. *(To the TROLLS, MARGARET, and the LITTLE GIANT)* For Lizzy.

MARGARET: All right! *(MARGARET, the MANTICORE, the TROLLS and the GIANT all roar and charge the WIZARD. He turns them all to stone, but it takes more effort than before.)*

ADELAIDE: *(Still unable to see)* Are we winning?

WIZARD: Hardly.

LIZZY: *(To NADIA and the SERVANT)* Help me!

NADIA: Oh all right. *(NADIA and the SERVANT pick up swords and with LIZZY face the WIZARD.)*

ADELAIDE: Let me know what I can do to help. *(LIZZY, NADIA, and the SERVANT try to charge the WIZARD but he holds his hands towards them and they are not able to move forward.)*

SERVANT: A little of that sun power might help right about now.

LIZZY: I'm trying! *(The WIZARD turns NADIA, ADELAIDE, and the SERVANT to stone. Again, this time it takes more effort.)*

WIZARD: You're all out of friends now, Lizzy. *(LIZZY concentrates and pushes on the WIZARD from a distance, as he has been doing.)* Oh very good. *(They fight from across the stage, each trying to push the other back through the power of the moon's and sun's gravitational forces.)* But even if we fight forever, you'll

never, ever stop me. *(The WIZARD gains the upper hand and LIZZY falls to the ground. However, his magic continues to require more and more effort.)*
You see? *(The WIZARD advances on LIZZY.)* The Sun Medallion or else.

LIZZY: No.

WIZARD: Then I'm going to crush your kingdom once and for all. *(He raises his hands, summons a great effort, and we hear a deep rumbling sound which slowly grows louder.)*

LIZZY: What have you done?

WIZARD: Your quest is to go to the moon, right? Well I'm bringing the moon to you.

LIZZY: You can't, my kingdom!

WIZARD: You should've thought of that before. Last chance, Lizzy. *(Slight pause)* So be it. *(The rumbling sound becomes very loud, the lights go to black, and we hear a loud crash. A pale light then fades up downstage, which has now become the surface of the moon.)*

LIZZY: Look what you've done, you've crashed the moon into my kingdom!

WIZARD: I'm sorry, Lizzy, I thought you'd be pleased. Didn't you want to go to the moon? Well now you can. *(Angry, LIZZY strikes out at the WIZARD. The lights flash gold and he is knocked backwards.)* Guess I deserved that one. But look at the bright side, now you can finish your quest. *(The lights become very moon-like as LIZZY crosses downstage. The WIZARD follows her.)*

LIZZY: So this is the moon...

WIZARD: Cold, barren and lifeless. Not exactly the vacation spot I would have picked, but if it's what you want...

LIZZY: This isn't what I wanted!

WIZARD: Then I guess you should have stuck to the script. *(To the audience)* Sorry if this isn't the story you came to see, folks, but hey, let's be realistic, sometimes the villain wins. All right, Lizzy, you had your moment, you did what you set out to do. Now it's my turn. *(LIZZY braces herself for the worst as the WIZARD tries to use his magic on her, but nothing happens. He tries again.)* What's happening? What did you do?

LIZZY: I took away your power.

WIZARD: Impossible.

LIZZY: No it isn't. All of your power, like moonlight, comes from the sun. *(The LADY OF THE SUN enters.)*

SUN: For what is moonlight but sunlight reflected?

LIZZY: So long as the moon is eclipsed you have no power, now that you've used up all you had.

SUN: Very good, Lizzy.

LIZZY: You're the Lady of the Sun, aren't you? *(The LADY OF THE SUN nods.)* I thought so, you're so beautiful. *(The WIZARD tries to start another earthquake, but can't.)*

WIZARD: If you think I'm going down like this... *(LIZZY advances on the WIZARD with her sword.)* Now let's not be hasty...

LIZZY: And why not? After everything you've done.

WIZARD: Don't forget who got me started. *(LIZZY holds the point of her sword to the WIZARD's chest.)* So that's how it's going to be, is it?

LIZZY: You were going to do the same to me.

WIZARD: Then go ahead. *(By this point the MAN IN THE MOON has entered.)*

MOON: *(Quietly, to the LADY OF THE SUN)* What did I tell you?

LIZZY: *(To the WIZARD)* I should, you know. It's what you deserve. *(She snatches the Moon Medallion from the WIZARD.)* I didn't mean for all this to happen, you know. I just wanted –

MOON: To be special? Was it worth the price? *(LIZZY looks at the WIZARD, upset, and the lights glow brightly. Slight pause, and the gold lights fade away.)*

LIZZY: You're right, it's too much for us. Take the medallions back, both of them.

SUN: It will take a long time to rebuild your kingdom without them.

LIZZY: I know, but it's best we do that ourselves. Just put the sun and moon back where they belong, please.

SUN: Most certainly. *(LIZZY gives the medallions to the MAN IN THE MOON and the LADY OF THE SUN.)*

LIZZY: *(To the MAN IN THE MOON)* I thought your moon was beautiful. I hope it'll be all right.

MOON: It will be. But the scar on your kingdom will always remain.

LIZZY: I'm not so sure a reminder would be such a bad thing.

MOON: Farewell, Lizzy. *(He exits.)*

SUN: You have done well, Lizzy. Now go home, and be a good queen.

LIZZY: I'll do my best. Goodbye.

(LIZZY and the WIZARD cross upstage and leave the moon, while all those who were turned to stone are restored to normal. The lights also return to normal, and as the LADY OF THE SUN exits we see the light of a beautiful sunrise shine from offstage. As LIZZY and the WIZARD return to the palace the GUARDS take hold of the WIZARD and the KING and QUEEN enter.)

LIZZY: Mama! Papa! *(She runs to them and hugs them.)*

QUEEN: Well done, dear.

KING: Yes, good show, Lizzy.

GUARD 2: Princess Lizzy, so sorry about the trying to kidnap you and everything. Can't think why we were helping him in the first place.

GUARD 1: Well we were under an evil spell.

LIZZY: It's all right, I know you didn't mean it. *(To HARRIET)* Your kingdom should be all right now, though it looks like mine is going to need a lot of fixing up.

WIZARD: What are you all looking at me for? What do you think villains do, sit around and plant flowers?

QUEEN: *(To the GUARDS)* To the dungeon with him, please.

LIZZY: Wait.

WIZARD: Yes, all's well that ends well, right? If you let me go –

LIZZY: I'm not letting you go, but you're not going to the dungeon.

WIZARD: Ha! I knew you'd cave, I mean, show mercy.

LIZZY: You're going to help us clean up the kingdom and fix everything you've ruined.

QUEEN: Why that's a marvelous idea, Lizzy.

WIZARD: I'm not doing that. I'm an all-powerful wizard! Or at least I was. And I will be again, just you watch!

LIZZY: And if you *do* behave, I'll have a word with the Herald's Guild and see if I can get them to let you back in.

WIZARD: Oh yeah, like I'd want to go back to those losers.

LIZZY: *(To the GUARDS)* Why don't you take him away and I'll come find him as soon as I have something for him to do.

GUARD 1: Our pleasure, Princess Lizzy. *(They exit with the MOON-WIZARD.)*

MANTICORE: Lizzy, if you'd like, the trolls and I would be happy to lend a hand. It's the least we can do. *(The TROLLS jabber in agreement and LIZZY pats one on the head.)*

LIZZY: Thank you. They really are very sweet, aren't they? *(The TROLLS excitedly run offstage and the MANTICORE chases after them.)*

MANTICORE: Wait for me! *(The TROLLS and the MANTICORE all exit.)*

GIANT: Giant help too! *(It exits after the MANTICORE.)*

LIZZY: Harriet, Margaret, girls, I can't thank you enough for everything you've done.

ADELAIDE: We never let a fellow knight down.

HARRIET: And now that you've finished your quest you will join our club, won't you?

LIZZY: Of course. *(She pauses as if waiting for something.)*

CLARA: What's wrong, Lizzy?

LIZZY: Oh nothing. I just forgot that I don't have a herald to end the story. But everything's all right now, that's all that really matters.

HARRIET: *(Maternally)* Now Lizzy, surely you know your story *must* have an ending.

LIZZY: *(Annoyed)* Well what am I supposed to do, I –

HARRIET: So we'll finish your story.

CLARA: Of course we will. *(The other PRINCESSES agree.)* After you, Harriet.

HARRIET: *(To the audience)* And so, after she defeated the Moon-Wizard, Princess Lizzy worked to put her kingdom right again.

LIZZY: Oh yes, and I planted trees everywhere I could. The Moon-Wizard had destroyed so many.

CLARA: And she gathered the whole kingdom together to help rebuild everyone's houses.

LIZZY: All those earthquakes had damaged quite a few, you see.

MANTICORE: *(Entering)* And I organized all the trolls to help. They're surprisingly good at carpentry. *(Two TROLLS enter squabbling over a piece of lumber.)* But they take a lot of looking after. No, no! Not like that! *(The MANTICORE chases after the TROLLS and they exit.)*

HARRIET: But the Manticore had some help from the Little Giant who had quite reformed his behavior. *(The LITTLE GIANT enters wearing a construction helmet.)*

GIANT: *(Proudly)* Me only eat one troll today.

QUEEN: What a good little giant.

ADELAIDE: Lizzy also turned the Forest of Mysteries into a beautiful wooded park, the best in all of fairyland.

LIZZY: It's not nearly as mysterious as it used to be. Herbert would have liked it.

CLARA: In fact, it became known as the Forest of Wonders. The Wise Old Woman of the Well still lived there, though she didn't always appreciate the extra company. *(The WISE WOMAN enters, chasing a couple of PEASANTS.)*

WISE WOMAN: Get out of my forest! Go, go, go! *(She chases the PEASANTS offstage.)*

CLARA: Though everyone else loved it.

HARRIET: And with all she did for the kingdom, the people thought that Lizzy was the best princess they had ever had.

NADIA: She tried to remind them that the Moon-Wizard was all her fault to begin with...

ADELAIDE: ...but everyone agreed Lizzy had more than made up for it.

CROWD: Hooray for Princess Lizzy!

HARRIET: And one day, when her father decided that he was too old to rule any longer, she became queen. *(The KING gives his crown to LIZZY.)*

KING: I'm sure you'll do very well.

LIZZY: Thank you, Papa.

ADELAIDE: And of course she joined the club and fought with us in all our tournaments against the boys.

LIZZY: They try so hard, it's almost a shame to beat them every time. Almost.

MARGARET: As for Herbert... Lizzy never found herself another dragon-squire and she didn't talk about him much.

HARRIET: But she had a gold statue of Herbert built in the palace courtyard.

MARGARET: And anyone who called him an embarrassment to the species again... well, let's just say I took care of them. *(She dances on her feet and punches the air; as if shadow-boxing.)* Ha! Take that!

ADELAIDE: As for the Herald-turned-Moon-Wizard... *(The WIZARD enters with a broom, sweeping the stage.)* Lizzy meant it when she said the wizard would have to help clean up the kingdom.

LIZZY: And he did clean every inch.

WIZARD: *(To himself)* Stupid princess. Making me sweep and scrub and polish all day long. I'll show her. *(He continues to grumble under his breath.)*

LIZZY: You missed a spot. Right there. No, there. *(Grumbling, the WIZARD sweeps the spot and continues on.)*

NADIA: And everyone thought it was a fair and just punishment.

MARGARET: But even though the Herald's Guild offered, Lizzy never had another herald. I offered, but the guild doesn't take dragons. *(To the PEASANT, now a GUILD REPRESENTATIVE)* And what's wrong with dragons, huh?

GUILD REP: Nothing!

MARGARET: Yeah, there'd better be nothing. Don't make me come over there.

HARRIET: Which is why you don't often hear the story of "The Princess and the Moon."

LIZZY: I don't really like to make a big deal of it.

NADIA: Some people said it was because their queen was so modest.

MARGARET: Others said it was because of Herbert.

ADELAIDE: But her people were proud of their story, so they told it to their children...

CLARA: ...and their children's children...

HARRIET: ...so it was never, ever forgotten. As for Lizzy herself, while things didn't go exactly the way she had planned, she did live very, very happily ever after.

LIZZY: Which is all one can really ask for, isn't it? *(By this point any actor not already onstage has entered.)*

EVERYONE: The end! *(Led by LIZZY, everyone takes their bows.)*