

Red & Frog Prince

The townspeople continue to move in on her. She panics, and turns to run, almost stepping on The Frog Prince, who is crouched near her.

FROG PRINCE

Hey, hey, hey! One more step and I'm croaked!

RED

Oh! I'm so sorry! *(a beat)* Wait! Are you *talking* to me?

FROG PRINCE

From my lips to your ears, my lovely young lady.

The Frog Prince snaps out his fingers to mime catching a fly, looks it over, and pops it in his mouth.

FROG PRINCE

(to crowd) Now, now! Is that any way to treat a princess?

RED

(a little disturbed and disgusted) You're a...*frog*.

FROG PRINCE

(aside, to Red) Correction. *Frog Prince*. The frog part is just a phase. *(to crowd)* We'll figure this out, I promise. *(ushering people to disperse)* That's it, everything will turn out happy, I'm sure of it. Thanks, take care now.

The majority of the Townspeople shuffle off, mumbling questionably. A few stay behind, talking amongst themselves.

SCENE FOUR: THE BEGINNING OF AN ADVENTURE

RED

What's going on here? Did I fall and hit my head? Maybe it's a bad dream, and I need to wake myself up?

FROG PRINCE

I don't think that's it, princess.

RED

Will you stop calling me that?! I'm just a girl. *(a beat.)* No one would ever mistake me for a princess.

#5: A CHANGE IN THE AIR (UNDERScore)

Flickering lighting, almost like a slow thrumming or heartbeat. It throbs twice, like a dimming of power somehow. The Frog Prince and Red sense the change, looking around.

RED

Is that normal?

FROG PRINCE

No, that is decidedly not normal. I think that might be you.

RED
Me?

The remaining people begin to get a little rowdy. Their lines overlap.

TOWNSPERSON 1

You show up and now there's weird weather?

TOWNSPERSON 2

You're the reason the magic objects are gone!

TOWNSPERSON 3

It's all *your* fault!

FROG PRINCE

Okay, okay, everyone, calm down. (*looking*) See? There's a note. I'm sure whatever evil person is behind this, they'll tell us exactly what's going on.

RED

What? Why?

FROG PRINCE

They tend to do that.

TOWNSPERSON 4

(*carefully reading the note*) "To The Stupid People of This Stupid Town: I took the pen, the ink, and scroll. You'll never find me, not at all! It's time to take what's rightfully mine, so na na boo boo, you little swine. And don't look in the castle in the wood. We're not there. At all. So don't even look there. Look somewhere else. If you dare. Signed, The Little Man Who's Not in The Castle."

RED

Wow. You weren't kidding.

FROG PRINCE

The Little Man! No one knows his name, but he's been after the magic objects for ages. We think he's working for some pretty powerful people.

TOWNSPEOPLE 1-4

The witches!

RED

Witches?!

FROG PRINCE

I'm afraid so.

RED

I thought they were only in stories!

FROG PRINCE

Ever since Happily Ever After was created, the witches have wanted control of our little town, and control of the magic objects. We were all so caught up in your arrival, nobody noticed someone stole them.

RED

What's so important about a scroll, a pen and an inkwell?

The townspeople gasp.

RED

Do they do that a lot?

FROG PRINCE

The gasping? Oh yeah.

TOWNSPERSON 1

For a princess, you're not that bright.

RED

(pointing to herself) Not a princess!

FROG PRINCE

You see, the town of Happily Ever After came to be when the magic objects were used to write our stories.

TOWNSPERSON 2

And if those magic objects fall into the wrong hands, our stories can be. . .rewritten.

TOWNSPERSON 3

Everything could change—

TOWNSPERSON 4

And Happily Ever After will simply...disappear.

TOWNSPEOPLE 1-4

(All together) All because of you!

RED

(truly baffled) I don't even know how I got here! One minute I was talking to those old men in the bookshop, and then I pricked my finger on a spindle and ended up here!

FROG PRINCE

Ah. That explains it. The old spindle trick...they haven't used that one in a while.

RED

Trick? Who's they? What is even happening right now?

FROG PRINCE

(continuing without answering) There's only one thing any of us can do now. *(pause)* We have to go see the brothers.

The townspeople gasp. Red eye rolls at the Frog Prince, and the Frog Prince shrugs his shoulders and continues.

FROG PRINCE

It's the only way.

The townspeople, one by one, walk over to Red, look her up and down, and turn to leave. A few should remove their hats as if they're seeing someone off to die in a war. One hands her a flower, puts a hand on her shoulder, and takes a big sigh.

RED

Um. . .thanks?

Townsperson 4 takes out a tape measure and measures Red from head to feet. After measuring, he stands and hands her a small flower.

TOWNSPERSON 4

For the coffin.

RED

(throwing the flower back at him) For the what?!

FROG PRINCE

Hey, it's fine, everything will be fine. I'll be with you every step of the way.

RED

No, thanks, that's nice, but I'm going to have to figure this out for myself. I'm used to being. . .to working alone. *(beat)* Besides, I couldn't ask you to leave your. . .lily pad or *(winces, not wanting to sound offensive)* wherever it is you live.

FROG PRINCE

(pause, looking, a bit smitten) You're not asking. I'm offering. I've been waiting for a chance like this for years. Plus, I'm guessing you have no idea where to go.

RED

Well, there is that, yeah.

FROG PRINCE

(a wide bow) It would be my honor to accompany you on this adventure.

RED

(laughing a little) Well, thank you, then. I always wanted a frog to protect me.

FROG PRINCE

Really?

RED

No, but I do appreciate your help. *(pause)* But did you say something about witches?

FROG PRINCE

(leading her off stage) Yeah. . .about that. . .

#6: SOMETHING'S BREWING (SCENE CHANGE)

Blackout.

