

SCENE FOUR: The Queen's Palace

SERVANT 1 rushes on in a panic. SERVANT 2 enters slowly behind.

SERVANT 1: *(Running around the stage frantically)* Her Majesty is coming!

SERVANT 2: *(Standing and watching SERVANT 1 with puzzled amusement)* Her Majesty is coming? Why are you running around like that? What's all the panic? How many times do I have to tell you that she's a NICE Queen?!

SERVANT 1: *(Still running around)* I HAVE to run around in a panic like this, it's a servant's job! *(Shouting)* HER MAJESTY IS COMING! HER MAJESTY IS COMING! MAKE WAY FOR HER MAJESTY!!

SERVANT 2: *(To SERVANT 1)* Will you stop shouting and running around like that? You're giving me a really bad headache and, if I'm not careful, it could turn into a very nasty migraine.

The QUEEN enters. She is wearing a pair of glasses. SERVANT 2 bows to her.

SERVANT 1: *(Bowing to the QUEEN)* Bow low for Her Majesty.

SERVANT 2: *(Straightens up)* What?

SERVANT 1: *(Pushing Servant 2 into bowing position again)* Bow low for Her Majesty!

SERVANT 2: *(In bowing position)* I WAS bowing until... Oh, never mind.

Both SERVANTS remain in a bowing position.

SERVANT 1: Welcome, Your Majesty, is there anything we can do to be of service to Your Majesty? Can we cook you anything? Clean your clothes? Polish your silver? Anything at all?

SERVANT 2: *(To SERVANT 1)* Oh, do stop grovelling, it's embarrassing and pathetic.

QUEEN: *(Also bending over into a bowing position to talk to them)* No, thank you, it's very nice of you to offer but everything's been seen to, I've sorted most of it out myself.

SERVANT 1: *(Still bowing)* Would Your Majesty like us to read you a story or...

SERVANT 2: *(Still bowing)* ...Oh, for heaven's sake!

They are ALL still bowing.

QUEEN: No thank you. *(Pause)* Um, why are we all bending over like this?

SERVANT 1: We're bowing to you, Your Majesty. You haven't told us to "arise" yet.

QUEEN: *(Straightening up)* Oh, I see! Right! Arise then, please.

SERVANT 1 and SERVANT 2 straighten up. SERVANT 2 rubs his back as if in pain.

QUEEN: I think I'll take a little walk into the Large and Spooky Forest. I seem to have lost my glasses again and think I might have left them there when I went in for that picnic. See you later.

The QUEEN exits towards the Large and Spooky Forest.

SERVANT 2: *(To SERVANT 1)* Do you think we should have told her that she was wearing them?

SERVANT 1: No, no! We're just servants. It's not in our job description to tell the Queen things like that.

SERVANT 2: Oh, I just thought it might make her feel less of an idiot when she realises, that's all.

SERVANT 1: It's not our job to make Her Majesty feel less of an idiot. She is entitled to feel how she likes.

SERVANT 2: Oh, righto. *(Pause)* Fancy a game of chess?

SERVANT 1: All right, but only if you let me keep score this time.

SERVANT 2: Well just you make sure that you do the adding up and taking away properly then!

SERVANT 1 and SERVANT 2 exit, chatting to each other.

SCENE FIVE: *In the Large and Spooky Forest*

The NARRATOR enters. JACK enters, looking very afraid and walking slowly and cautiously, looking around him in fear.

NARRATOR: In the Large and Spooky Forest, poor Jack was wandering around cold, hungry and very, very frightened. He still hadn't quite got over his family's reaction to his SATs results and was beginning to wonder just how long he'd be able to survive.

The NARRATOR exits.

JACK: *(Looking down)* Oh! Ants! Thank goodness! My first proper meal since being cast out into the Large and Spooky Forest.

JACK crouches down by the 'ant hill'. GOBLINS 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9 enter and creep up behind him.

ALL GOBLINS: *(Together)* Who are you and what are you doing in our forest?

JACK jumps violently and stands up.

JACK: *(Nervously)* What! Who said that?! *(Looking down, unhappily)* Oh no! You've made me stand on my dinner.

GOBLIN 1: *(Nastily)* I am the leader of the Goblins and this is OUR forest. What are you doing here?

JACK: I'm Jack and I've been cast out by my family. I'm cold and hungry. Do you have anything to eat?

GOBLIN 1: *(Thoughtfully)* We might have. Just a minute, please, we've got to have a meeting.

GOBLIN 6: *(Excited)* A meeting! A meeting! We've got to have a meeting!