

Finding the Cursed Prince Edward

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Oct 22, 2022

CHARACTERS:

EVE: A loyal knight tasked with finding Prince Edward. Interacts with the audience.

CROWSTER: Eve's companion and fellow soldier. He too is a knight.

WITCH: Ecstatic and brash, very sadistic and quite lonely. Her power makes her happy.

EDWARD: A royal prince with all the pomp but gets carried away in the throws of passion.

Gender is not specific to this play. Pronouns and names may be switched accordingly.

Eve-Evan, Edward-Eliza, Crowster and Witch can remain the same.

SETTING AND TIME:

Picture a fantasy medieval time period with swords, armor and magic.

The set should be minimal and implied: the inside of a witch's domain. Allow the actors to use their imagination to create the set itself. Less is more. This set could have up to two locations but it could also just be implied that everywhere we are on this set is somewhere inside the witch's domain. Prince Edward will be hidden on stage during most of the performance so keep in mind that the set needs to be able to camouflage him until he is revealed later on. There needs to be a place for Eve to hide behind and there is a requirement for an implied dungeon cell at one point in the play. This could be made using lights, simple boards, or other techniques.

NOTES:

This play requires a puppet rat. A simple hand puppet should suffice but if there is a strong desire for a more elaborate puppet, feel free to go crazy. The rat itself should be in constant motion. Motion does not have to be big, just obvious in showing that it is alive and moving in order to contrast the moments when it gets frozen and then unfrozen. This is necessary to keep the illusion of the Witch's cursing magic.

This piece is intended for younger audiences but meant to be enjoyed by all ages. Things should be kept simplistic but be performed with all the true realism of the heart.

Lights up on the WITCH. Prince EDWARD is on stage hidden by some kind of set device such as a blanket covering or box. He should blend into the scenery. The Witch pulls out a crystal ball and looks through it.

WITCH

Crystal ball, crystal ball, Reveal the light, show me all

Lights up on EVE and CROWSTER as they now enter. To the audience it should be implied that the Witch can see Eve and Crowster through the crystal ball. Eve and Crowster are scared but they gather courage. They look directly at the audience, acknowledge that they are there, perhaps even have a short wordless interaction all while the Witch recites her lines.

WITCH

Such deliciously ignorant souls, to impudently walk into MY domain. Ha! Should I curse them now or wait till they cower in fear. Oh! I'll catch them first. Mother said not to play with your prey before you curse it, but I never did listen to mother. Let the hunt begin!

The Witch exits (or hides). Eve and Crowster take over the attention.

EVE

Here we are, the Witch's cave. For the sake of the kingdom we must find Prince Edward, break his curse, and come back out alive.

CROWSTER

No kidding, that Witch is dangerous. We could get caught in one of her traps. Or worse, she could curse us. What if she curses me so I can't walk, what if I never see my family again? What if she—I could be turned into a newt! I don't think we can do this alone.

EVE

Perhaps we don't have to. *(Turns to the audience)* Hello, while it may be dangerous and risky, we will need your help to defeat the Witch. Please keep your eyes and ears open. The Witch could drop a clue at any moment.

CROWSTER

Maybe it's not too late to turn back... Oh, no!

The Witch enters and starts chasing Eve and Crowster. (Perhaps she uses some magic in the chase as well. Feel free to devise and be creative.) In the chase Eve and Crowster get separated. Eve hides onstage and Crowster gets captured. Witch

WITCH

Don't worry my precious. I'm just taking you to your cell to lock you up until I can prepare the curse. Then I'll go hunting for your little companion.

CROWSTER

Curse?!?

The Witch gives an evil cackle while she and Crowster exit. Eve comes out of hiding.

EVE

Poor Crowster. Such a coward. Well, he needed to face his fears sometime, but don't worry, we'll rescue him. I've got your help. The Witch is approaching, she might give away information that could be useful. I'll hide and find out.

Eve hides. The Witch enters.

WITCH

Did you see the look of fear on his cowering face? Just delicious. It's been so long since I last practiced my magic. Not since I cursed that Prince. Oh what fun fun fun that was! Let's see if I have the necessary ingredients...

WITCH gets the spell book, some ingredients and a pot. A Rat puppet enters, controlled by the Witch's hand. This rat is the Witch's only friend. The Witch opens the book.

WITCH

Ratty? Ah yes. Dear Ratty. See here, Ratty, the frozen spell! The one who is cursed becomes stuck frozen, unable to move for as long as they live. It's one of my favorites! I love it when they freeze with terror on their face! How laughable! But it's so easy to break. No matter. It can only be broken if you know the secret words.

The Witch throws the ingredients inside the pot, grabs the Rat and holds it in place.

WITCH

Now don't get too anxious Ratty. Dear Ratty. I need to practise on something.
To me, to you, you now are chosen, This curse will leave you eternally frozen!
Worry not Ratty dear. It's just a practice spell, I'll simply unfreeze you.
To you, to us, a curse undone, Melt the frozen, free the one
As good as new. Now it's time to go curse that poor chap that I just caught.

The Witch (and the rat puppet) exit. Eve emerges from her hiding spot.

EVE

To break the spell all we have to say is...

To you, to us, a curse undone, Melt the frozen, free the one

Say it with me.

To you, to us, a curse undone, Melt the frozen, free the one

When you see Crowster, you must chant this verse to him. Let's practise once more.

To you, to us, a curse undone, Melt the frozen, free the one

Eve makes sure she's confident that the audience can say the phrase without her. If she needs to do the chant a few more times with the audience, this is acceptable.

EVE

Good luck! I must go search the cave to find Prince Edward.

Eve exits as Crowster enters bringing his dungeon cell onstage and the scene transitions to inside the cell.

CROWSTER

So I'm doomed.

Crowster leans against Prince EDWARD. (This part may be done and ad-libbed in a fashion to invite the audience to discover Prince EDWARD and point it out to Crowster.)

CROWSTER

What's this?

Crowster takes off the curtain revealing Prince EDWARD.

CROWSTER

It's Prince Edward! I found Prince Edward! But what does it matter? I'm still so doomed. That Witch could be back any second. And where is Eve? What is she doing? (*Crowster addresses audience*) Has she even found a way to break the spell?

AUDIENCE

Yes!

CROWSTER

Yes? She has? How? When? Do you know it?

AUDIENCE

Yes!

CROWSTER

Please, recite it now if you can!

Crowster signals to the audience to start reciting the spell.

AUDIENCE

To you, to us, a curse undone, Melt the frozen, free the one

As the audience recites the spell Prince Edward's frozen position starts to break and he begins to move. When the words finish he is completely free.

EDWARD

I'm free! *(Starts groveling to the audience.)* Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

CROWSTER

Sir, it is quite unseemly for a member of the royal family to act in such a way.

EDWARD

Right. Of course. Is that you, Crowster?

CROWSTER

It is. Me and Eve have come to rescue you. You won't believe how much has changed since you were first cursed.

EDWARD

Indeed. Well I haven't changed have I? Tell me, do I look the same as when I was first frozen?

CROWSTER

Um... you do.

EDWARD

Of course I do. Nothing could age these heavy lifters.

Prince Edward flexes his princely muscles.

CROWSTER

As invigorating as this is, the Witch is on her way.

EDWARD

Oh, that's no matter. I know her weakness.

Edward uses his sword, breaks through the cell and they escape.

EDWARD

This sword is blessed of the Holy order. It has all power in the domain of the witch. Now that I'm free I can finally finish my quest to kill the witch!

The Witch enters. She sees that Edward has been freed. She screams.

EDWARD

Prepare to meet your fate!

Edward chases the Witch off stage. Eve enters.

EVE

Crowster, there you are! This place is a maze, it has taken me forever to reach your location. Did you find Prince Edward?

CROWSTER

Yup, he's chasing after the Witch right now.

Only a moment later Edward comes back.

EDWARD

That Witch won't be bothering anyone else anymore.

EVE

Prince Edward. It's good to see you again. And the curse, you're free!

EDWARD

It's good to be free! Your heroism will be renowned throughout the kingdom.

EVE

It wasn't ALL us. We had a little help. *(Winks at audience.)*

EDWARD

Excellent. Let us return to my country! Where we will probably live happily ever after.

Eve, Edward and Crowster say goodbye to the audience exit.

End Scene.