

ENCHANTED

by

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1

OVER BLACK

1

We HEAR the opening strains of a lush classic orchestral theme...

AS WE FADE IN:

Slowly SPIRALLING DOWNWARD towards an ancient embossed STORY BOOK, its cover boasting the TITLE of the story we're about to tell:

"ENCHANTED"

The story book opens with a sudden SNAP, catching us off guard as we realize it's a POP-UP BOOK, an ornately detailed paper castle springing into view. A sonorous NARRATOR says the words...

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Once upon a time...

As we slowly DOLLY towards this modest cardboard castle it DISSOLVES with disarming vividness into a breathtakingly lush...

2

EXT. ANIMATED KINGDOM - DAY

2

ANIMATED WORLD! Soaring waterfalls circle the castle, the water feeding the hungry vegetation that climbs up towards its spires...

NARRATOR (V.O.)

In an enchanted kingdom known as Andaliasia, there ruled an evil queen named Narissa.

We MOVE further up the castle...

NARRATOR (V.O.) (cont'd)

Selfish and vain, her greatest fear was that one day she'd be forced to hand her crown over to her step-son Prince Edward.

Past the lush greenery and ancient stones to...

ROYAL GUARD! (O.S.)

Come back here you little thief!

3

EXT. A CASTLE SPIRE - CONTINUOUS

3

Chased by a ROYAL GUARD, a determined chipmunk, PIP, LEAPS out of a window holding a gold HAIR BRUSH, letting out a sudden SQUEAK!

As he's suddenly caught in MID-AIR by the Guard's beefy hand!

GUARD

Gotcha! That's the last knickknack you'll ever walk out with!

Pip looks up at him, fearless, his defiant voice more Brooklyn mobster than cute chipmunk!

PIP

Ah kiss my acorns, you dumb palooka!

GUARD

Who you calling dumb? You're the one who finally got caught!

PIP

Stuff it, meathooks! You couldn't catch a cold in January!

The guard SQUEEZES harder, smiling sadistically!

GUARD

You got a big mouth for a little guy! I'm gonna enjoy teaching you a lesson, Pip!

PIP

Me first, fat boy!

RAKING the HAIR out of the brush, Pip stuffs it in his cheeks...

PIP (cont'd)

Always use your head!

...and HURLS the brush at the Guard's HEAD with a BONK!

GUARD

Ow! You little vermin!

Pip JUMPS from his grip, the GUARD LUNGING in vain as Pip LEAPS on a nearby branch and into the forest, yelling with his mouth full!

PIP

See ya next time, Charlie! Kisses to the missus!

4 EXT. THE FOREST - CONTINUOUS 4

We ZOOM with Pip through the woods, the chipmunk moving so fast we soon lose him completely! Trying to catch up, we come to...

5 EXT. A FOREST CLEARING - CONTINUOUS 5

The branches PARTING to reveal a quaint TREE HOUSE with painted shutters and flower boxes. We DISSOLVE INTO...

6 INT. THE TREE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

6

A line of friendly forest animals, SKUNK, RABBIT, FAWN, POSSUM and BLUEBIRDS pass found forest items, nuts and pine cones and twigs, up to a beautiful young maiden propped on a stool, Giselle.

Gentle and sweet with sparkling eyes and long blonde hair, Giselle carefully GLUES the objects to a life-sized 'prince' statue. Pip suddenly appears, pushing his way to the front of the line!

PIP

Okay, okay. Step aside, you slobs. Coming through here. Special delivery!
(making his way up to Giselle)
Giselle, honey. You ain't gonna believe this. Sometimes I even amaze myself!

GISELLE

(hopefully)
Pip! You've been to the castle again?

Pip reaches in his mouth and COUGHS up the hairball, presenting it to her like it's gold. Giselle marvels at in thrilled disbelief!

GISELLE (cont'd)

Oh my goodness! Could this be?
Is it really...

PIP

The genuine article! Straight from da royal brush!

A delighted Giselle takes the bit of hair as if it's pure gold!

GISELLE

Oh, Pip! However did you...?

PIP

(a hush and a cautious hand)
Better maybe you don't know, honey.

GISELLE

The pine needles would have been just fine, but this is...wonderful!

PIP

Hey, Giselle! For you? Anything! You're family. And family takes care of family!

Giselle gives Pip an appreciative kiss on the head as she tugs on the 'prince' hair! SNAPPING it into a perfect CURL, she attaches the hair to the statue's forehead, smiling.

GISELLE
There we go! Perfect!

Her eyes suddenly wide in alarm as she realizes...

GISELLE (cont'd)
Oh my goodness!

PIP
What? What's the problem?

GISELLE
He hasn't any lips!

Pip quickly SNAPS at the other animals to come up with some ideas.

SKUNK
(handing her an acorn)
What about this?

GISELLE
Too small.

RABBIT
(passing up a pine cone)
How about this?

GISELLE
Too big.

FAWN
Does he have to have lips?

GISELLE
Of course! What kind of prince would he be
without lips?

PIP
Hungry?

GISELLE
I meant a prince needs lips for the most
important thing a prince can do...
(almost solemnly)
True love's kiss.

BLUEBIRDS (IN UNISON)
Are you going to kiss the prince?

GISELLE
Me?
(coyly)
Don't be silly! Prince Edward and I?
(MORE)

GISELLE (cont'd)
 (a yearning SIGH)
 It's almost too much to hope for! I
 couldn't even begin to dream of it!

WE PULL OUT WIDE to reveal that Giselle has indeed imagined it!

Her entire room is a testament to a teen-girl obsession with him: 'prince' needlepoints, heart-filled doodles, along with a lot of Pip's 'found' prince objects: hats, boots and chunks of armor.

GISELLE (cont'd)
 (smiling wistfully)
 Then again, you have to dream about
 something.

7 SONG #1 - TRUE LOVE'S KISS 7

Searching around her room for a suitable pair of 'lips', Giselle begins to sing about all the things she dreams and hopes for in her life: falling in love with the prince, marrying, living in the castle happily ever after (in whatever specifics and sequence that best serve the story and song).

Finding only an old sock, a dissatisfied Giselle SWINGS open her front door...

8 EXT. THE TREE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS 8

Still singing, she wanders into the meadow that surrounds her tree house, the animals in tow as she continues singing...

Twirling through the glen, Giselle picks up 'found' objects in search of her 'statue' prince's 'lips' (leaves, caterpillars, a flower...) perhaps comically "trying them on for size" as she sings to see if they'll work for Edward...

All of Giselle's specific hopes and dreams ultimately embodied (and validated) in the cohesive romantic theme that threads throughout our story...TRUE LOVE'S KISS.

As the music/chorus/singing continues we hear:

9 A NEARBY CHORUS OF ROYAL TRUMPETS! 9

Giselle's eyes light up!

GISELLE
 Do you hear that? It's him!

Before anyone can even notice, Giselle has already dashed into the woods. Pip takes off after her, admonishing the other animals!

PIP
 You heard her! Hurry it up ya mokes!

10

EXT. ANOTHER PART OF THE FOREST - A MOMENT LATER

10

A giant UGLY TROLL suddenly LANDS on the ground with a CRASH, hog-tied from feet to head! Riding the reigns on its lassoed head like a chariot is a handsome dashing young man, PRINCE EDWARD!

ROYAL TRUMPETERS flank the troll, blasting a triumphant herald as a smiling Edward tosses his hair, posing like a big game hunter!

A stubby Igor-like man RUNS up to join him, Edward's snivelling obsequious squire, NATHANIEL! A grand show of proclaiming...

NATHANIEL

All hail Prince Edward of Andalusia!

The trumpets echo their praise as Nathaniel fawns over the prince.

NATHANIEL (cont'd)

That's ten trolls this month! That's a new record! Your stepmother the queen will be so pleased! Deliriously happy!

PRINCE EDWARD

I suppose she will be. It was a grand hunt. A triumph as always and yet...

(sighing, he leans thoughtfully on the troll's nose)
Sometimes I long for a grander prize...

Turning away, an annoyed Nathaniel rolls his eyes, mocking the prince as he mouths along to the Prince's now familiar lament...

PRINCE EDWARD (cont'd)

A beautiful young maiden. My heart's one desire. My one and only.

Nathaniel quickly turning back in a display of fawning devotion...

NATHANIEL

Yes! Some gorgeous little thing's waiting on you in the hinterlands I'm sure. And we'll find her! Don't worry! No matter how impossibly far away she might be...

As if on cue, we suddenly HEAR Giselle singing very nearby.

GISELLE (O.S.)

"True love's kiss..."

PRINCE EDWARD

(cupping his hand to hear)
What a glorious sound! Do you hear that, Nathaniel?

NATHANIEL
 (suddenly pale with alarm)
 Me? No! All I hear is silence. Dead
 silence. Like a tomb.

Edward leaps onto his pure white steed!

PRINCE EDWARD
 I must find the maiden that belongs to that
 sweet voice! Ride Destiny!

Edward dives into the forest in search of this enchanting girl! A
 look of sheer panic crosses Nathaniel's face...

NATHANIEL
 Oh no! This is not happening!

Suddenly he hears an oafish melancholy voice echoing the song.

TROLL
 "Twoo...luvvvvv's...kissss..."

Nathaniel looks down to see the bound troll singing to himself.
 Inspired, he turns to the troll, nodding towards Giselle's voice.

NATHANIEL
 Do you hear that you hideous thing?

Glancing around, Nathaniel surreptitiously YANKS on the slip knot
 that keeps the troll hog tied!

NATHANIEL (cont'd)
 She's waiting for you! Lovely and soft.
 Yours for the taking!

As the bindings COLLAPSE around him, the troll stares cluelessly.

NATHANIEL (cont'd)
 Well?
 (off the troll's indifferent BELCH)
 Go get her!

TROLL
 (sniffing at the air)
 Girl smell pretty!

Finally getting it, the troll stands and the ropes fall off!
 Nathaniel watches him run away, filled with anxious anticipation!

11 EXT. THE FOREST - MOMENTS LATER

11

Still singing, Giselle runs through the woods, Pip and the animals
 in tow as she leaps with a natural agility onto a tall tree!

12 EXT. THE FOREST - CONTINUOUS 12

The prince rides quickly through the woods! We HEAR a LOUD THUMPING in time to Giselle's song! The STOMPING of large feet!

As the troll suddenly overtakes the prince, still singing...

TROLL

Twoooo...luvvvvv's....kissss....

Edward looks up to see the troll's large ASS overhead, the oblivious troll straddling him with his legs as he passes!

13 EXT. THE TOP OF THE TREE - CONTINUOUS 13

Still humming her song, Pip and Giselle climb higher and higher, the ground receding below as she stretches to glimpse the Prince!

PIP

Can you see him yet?

GISELLE

I'm trying! Maybe if I just climb a little higher.

Pip watches concerned, as she climbs higher, unaware that below...

14 EXT. THE BOTTOM OF THE TREE - CONTINUOUS 14

The troll eyes Giselle hungrily as he SCRAMBLES up towards her!

15 EXT. THE FOREST - CONTINUOUS 15

Edward rides to the rescue, leaping over STREAMS and RAVINES!

16 EXT. THE TREE - CONTINUOUS 16

Suddenly hearing an unsettling SNORTING sound behind her, Giselle turns back, shocked to see the troll reaching out for her feet!

DOWN BELOW, a galloping Prince Edward swiftly draws his sword!

Giselle SQUEAKS with alarm as Pip fearlessly LEAPS onto the troll, futilely pounding his tiny fists against the troll's thick head.

PIP

You are messing with the wrong chipmunk, chump! Back off before I hurt you!

As the troll gets closer, Giselle scrambles up even higher!

Just as the evil troll stretches out a MASSIVE HAND to grab her...

A spinning princely sword LANDS with a THWACK in a tree branch, PINNING the troll's SLEEVE, preventing him from reaching Giselle.

The sword also CRACKS the limb that Giselle is standing on and she SLIPS backwards, barely CATCHING onto another branch...

Where she finds herself face-to-face with the angry, snorting troll. Horrified, Giselle starts to LOSE HER HOLD on the branch!

FIVE fingers, FOUR fingers, THREE fingers, TWO...

GISELLE

Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!!!!

Giselle PLUMMETS past the troll! We FOLLOW her as she FALLS uncontrollably FAST through the branches towards earth! Giselle GASPS in terror, convinced of her doom, when suddenly...

She LANDS in the ARMS OF THE PRINCE!

GISELLE (cont'd)

Oh my gosh!

Catching her breath, Giselle looks in his eyes and he in hers. There's an instant electric connection between them.

GISELLE (cont'd)

It's you!

PRINCE EDWARD

I certainly hope so.

The moment is interrupted by leaves falling on them. Giselle and Edward follow the source of the leaves up to see...

The troll BENDING down into frame. Still holding onto the top branch, his weight has BENT the entire tree downward! Pip is still perched on top of his head as the troll leers at Giselle.

TROLL

Girl yummy!

Giselle and Edward recoil as Pip nimbly HOPS off of the troll. The troll's eyes go wide as he slowly realizes it was Pip's tiny bit of weight helping to hold him down. Before he can react...

BOINNNGGG!!!!

The tree BENDS violently back, sending the howling troll FLYING like a catapult into the next kingdom!

17 SONG 1 - REPRISE/DUET

17

Giselle swoons as Edward smiles, his feelings coming out in song. How after a life time of searching, he's finally found his love. How he can't wait for the two of them to be married with a grand wedding at the castle and to have their love forever sealed by the ultimate act and symbol of devotion...

Their faces inches away as Edward sings, "TRUE LOVE'S KISS!"

Giselle closes her eyes and puckers her lips, the Prince moving his face even closer to hers as suddenly...

Prince Edward PULLS BACK, startled by a troubling realization...

GISELLE

What? What is it darling?

PRINCE EDWARD

You never told me your name!

GISELLE

Giselle!

PRINCE EDWARD

Giselle!

They both smile as their faces come together to sing in harmony about finding each other, finding love...a sudden chaste shyness coming over them both as they sing the words, but refrain from the actual deed, TRUE LOVE'S KISS!

This romantic tableau starts to SHIMMER as we REVEAL we're watching it from inside...

18 INT. THE QUEEN'S SORCERY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

18

Where beautiful QUEEN NARISSA stands, arms raised high in a sorceress's pose, angrily conjuring the romantic tableau of Prince Edward and Giselle together in her MAGIC FOUNTAIN, a "crystal ball" that allows her to 'see' beyond the castle walls.

SONG 1 - CONTINUED

Queen Narissa, in a disturbing ending, sings one sinister dark line or couplet to this otherwise happy song, vowing that their happy ending, their TRUE LOVE'S KISS, will never come to pass!

Incensed by what she sees, Narissa SPLASHES the water, the happy image of Edward and Giselle DISAPPEARING in the angry ripples! Narissa lets out a furious blood curdling SCREAM!

19

INT. THE QUEEN'S THRONE ROOM - A LITTLE LATER

19

Cape flying an angry Narissa storms down a curving stairway past a cowering Nathaniel, who stares, clearly in awe of her icy beauty.

QUEEN NARISSA

This is all your fault!

NATHANIEL

Yes. Forgive me my queen! My empress! My beautiful goddess!

QUEEN NARISSA

Oh, stop would you? You disgust me!

NATHANIEL

I disgust myself! But I can't help it! You know I only want what's best for you, for...
(hesitantly, reaching)
...us?

QUEEN NARISSA

(coily hiding her contempt)
Us?

NATHANIEL

(nervously stammering)
I was just wondering, for a fleeting moment, if maybe there wasn't a good side to all this? Fate pointing us in a new direction?

QUEEN NARISSA

My stepson will be king! The only direction I'll be headed is out the door.

NATHANIEL

But we'll have more time together. Wouldn't that be grand? After all, there's not much to being Queen Mother...

Narissa's eyes light with fury, fuming at the mere mention...

QUEEN NARISSA

Don't say that! Don't ever say that!
(almost nauseous)
Yeech! Even the sound of it sickens me!

Nathaniel steps forward, eager to correct himself...

NATHANIEL

I'm sorry! That was wrong! Terribly wrong! Of course you'll always be queen...

...in the process, stepping on Narissa's long cape.

NATHANIEL (cont'd)
No matter how smitten your stepson is!

QUEEN NARISSA
Then he needs to be un-smitten!

Narissa angrily storms away, the stuck cape starting to FALL...

QUEEN NARISSA (cont'd)
Her little backwoods backside will never
touch my throne! I promise you!

Suddenly leaving her naked back EXPOSED! Her eyes widen at the sudden chill. Nathaniel's eyes go even wider, hungrily eying her.

As she suddenly SPINS around, catching him mid-peek. Nathaniel shoots his fingers up as if averting his gaze, but it's too late.

She stares a hole in him as his fingers fall, utterly busted.

NATHANIEL
Your majesty...I...

QUEEN NARISSA
(a lethally sensuous stare)
That's quite alright, Nathaniel...

Grabbing her cape, he hurries to return it to her shoulders. She purrs with a feigned helplessness that belies her sickened sneer.

QUEEN NARISSA (cont'd)
I can count on you, can't I?

NATHANIEL
(staring achingly at her nearness)
Whatever you require! No matter how evil,
how wicked, how deliciously despicable...

Her repulsion becomes a coy smile as she turns to him. Placing her slender fingers on his cheek, Nathaniel positively swoons.

QUEEN NARISSA
Sweet boy! Perhaps I'm overreacting.
(a wicked grin)
If they really want a nice wedding ball,
maybe we should give it to them!

Narissa's words are cut short by the sudden arrival of the Prince.

EDWARD
Mother, I have the most amazing news!

Narissa does an immediate 180, her visage now the picture of maternal kindness as she gives Edward a motherly embrace!

QUEEN NARISSA

Darling, I've heard! She's lovely! And don't worry! Mummy will take care of everything!

(a wicked smile)

It'll be a day she never forgets!

20

EXT. THE CASTLE - MORNING

20

ROYAL FOOTMEN stand at the landing of the castle's main marble staircase. Festive ballroom MUSIC plays as a dainty gold carriage pulls up and Nathaniel opens the door.

Giselle emerges looking radiant in a lavish WEDDING GOWN. A sparkling bell-shaped skirt tapers to her puffy white sleeves.

NATHANIEL

Oh, Miss. You look ravishing.

GISELLE

Why thank you!

Giselle starts her ascent up the stairs, Nathaniel behind her as Pip jumps out, calling to her.

PIP

Honey, wait up! We ain't done with ya yet!

An endless stream of animal friends, skunks, bunnies and deer, emerge from the impossibly small carriage, following Giselle up the stairs as they put the finishing touches on her ensemble...

Bunnies wrap a bow around her waist as bluebirds float a pretty tiara into her hair. The mice set her glass slippers to step in.

As Nathaniel leads an excited Giselle into the castle, he makes a point of SLAMMING the door on PIP and the rest of the animals.

PIP (cont'd)

What do we look like garbage?! Now who's gonna be on the bride's side?

21

EXT. THE CASTLE - CONTINUOUS

21

A slighted Pip scurries to the top of the castle, moving along the roof of the castle, looking down through the windows and atriums below as Nathaniel escorts Giselle towards the royal ballroom!

22

EXT. THE CASTLE COURTYARD - MOMENTS LATER

22

Nathaniel leads Giselle through the courtyard. She's suddenly taken aback to see a toothless OLD HAG step in her path.

OLD HAG

Hello, my dear! Quite the day for you!

GISELLE

It is. Thank you!

OLD HAG

Old granny has a wedding gift for you,
love. Lookee yonder!

The hag points to a glimmering golden WISHING WELL!

GISELLE

(fascinated)

Oh my!

OLD HAG

'Tis a wishing well, dear! You've only to
make a wish and your heart's desire will
come true!

An excited Giselle turns hesitantly to Nathaniel.

NATHANIEL

That would be fine. But quickly!

The hag leads Giselle into the magical light of the well.

OLD HAG

Just look into the well, close your eyes,
and make your wish!

(as Giselle peers down into the deep, dark well)
That's right. Lean in closer. Are you
wishing for something?

GISELLE

Yes I am.

(closing her eyes as she smiles and whispers)
And they both lived happily ever af...

Before Giselle can finish her wish, the hag PUSHES HER IN!
Giselle FALLS, SCREAMING, until her voice FADES AWAY!

But we never HEAR her land!

- 23 EXT. A TREE OVERLOOKING THE COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS 23
 Having witnessed this terrible treachery, Pip's eyes go wide in shock! Frightened he'll be discovered, he runs into the forest!
- 24 EXT. THE COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS 24
 Turning away, the Old Hag laughs wickedly! Her face suddenly **MELTS** and **SHIFTS** as she **TRANSFORMS** back into Queen Narissa! Nathaniel emerges from the shadows, peering down into the well.
- NATHANIEL
 Where did you send her, my queen?
- QUEEN NARISSA
 I've sent her far, far away!
 (smiling at her own wickedness)
 To a place where there are no "happily ever
 afters"!
- Nathaniel **SHUDDERS** as Narissa laughs, a gleeful diabolical **CACKLE!**
- 25 INT. A VORTEX - CONTINUOUS 25
 The queen's evil laugh **ECHOES** with a nightmarish reverberance!
 As Giselle helplessly **TWIRLS** and **TUMBLES** through a swirling **VORTEX** of shimmering cosmic energy. A blizzard of twinkling, magical **DUST** attaches to her skin as she falls.
 Running her hands over her arms as she falls, Giselle is startled to see a strange **TRANSFORMATION** taking place, the sparkling dust changing her from an animated girl into a **REAL WOMAN!**
 Looking up, Giselle glimpses the dust converging to form a **DANCING COUPLE**, gliding and spinning like a vision from a wonderful dream.
 Just as her metamorphosis is complete, Giselle's journey comes to an abrupt end as she suddenly lands with a none too gentle...
- 26 INT. A VERY DARK SPACE - **LIVE ACTION** - CONTINUOUS 26
THUMP!
 She takes a deep, frightened breath. All is quiet save for the distant echo of dripping water.
 Slowly lifting her head from her hands, Giselle looks around for some sense of where she could possibly be. All she sees next to her are **FIVE SMALL HOLES...**

Out of which shoot five dusty SHAFTS OF LIGHT! Confused, Giselle studies this strange sight.

GISELLE

Oh my!

Anxious to escape this dark, scary place, Giselle slowly crawls over and peers through one of the holes.

27

EXT. A CITY STREET, NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

27

A REVERSE CLOSE-UP on Giselle's EYE, BLINKING UP at us through the hole.

SLOWLY PULLING BACK, Giselle curiously pokes her fingers out of the other four holes as we start to realize...

She's looking UP AT US through a MANHOLE COVER! We continue PULLING BACK, Giselle emitting a dainty GRUNT of exertion...

As she manages to PUSH the cover up and SLIDE it to the side.

Giselle slowly, tentatively raises her head from the darkness, filled with a nervous apprehension...

Giselle lets out a GASP of absolute and utter amazement as she cranes her head in a slow twirling circle to see...

A dramatic forced perspective of TIMES SQUARE in the very heart of NEW YORK CITY! An overwhelming vista of skyscrapers, giant TVs, theme stores, theatres and throngs of strangely dressed people! Her ears are assaulted by a deafening cacophony of honking traffic, yelling pedestrians and thumping music...

Her eyes wide as saucers, Giselle's at a mind-numbing loss. She has no frame of reference for this place.

GISELLE

Oh my goodness!

Slowly, hesitantly, Giselle lifts herself out of the manhole cover. Her progress is almost immediately impeded by her wide hoop skirt WEDGING in the hole. Giselle pushes harder, the skirt SQUEEZING out like a mushroom cloud until it SNAPS back into its original shape!

No sooner does Giselle slowly rise to her feet when...

HHHHHHOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOONNNNNNNNNNNNKKKKKKKKKKKK!!!!

She's startled by a chorus of CAR HORNS as four separate vehicles SCREECH on their brakes to avoid hitting her...

Their efforts resulting in a deafening CRASH!!!

A shocked Giselle looking around to see she's standing in the center of the four wedged vehicles, amazingly untouched.

As the DRIVERS exit their cars in a flurry of muffled obscenities, a frightened GISELLE throws her arms up in alarm, daintily picking up her skirt...

And SCURRYING away from the crash site onto the crowded sidewalk.

28

EXT. THE SIDEWALK - CONTINUOUS

28

Falling into the throngs of hurrying PEDESTRIANS, a confused Giselle suddenly finds herself twisted around in the flow of strangely dressed people! Quickly stumbling backwards, Giselle shouts out to them, a panicked inquiry!

GISELLE

Hello! Excuse me! Pardon me! I wonder if one of you kind people might direct me to the castle?

As the jaded New Yorkers march indifferently around her, Giselle tries to explain further...

GISELLE (cont'd)

I'm supposed to be at the ball to wed my one true love, Prince Edward...
(off their non-response)
Please! If you could just point me towards the castle?

Giselle doesn't notice as she BUMPS into someone...

MAN (O.S.)

Hey! Watch it!

Looking down, Giselle notices next to her, way down...

A VERY SHORT MAN IN A BUSINESS SUIT

The man scowls up at Giselle, his angry expression triggering a hint of recognition in Giselle. Could it possibly be...?

GISELLE

Grumpy?!

The little man's scowl turns to fury as he pushes past Giselle. Startled, Giselle steps backwards, directly into...

A human wall of oncoming FOOT TRAFFIC! Before she can get her bearings, Giselle is PRESSED by the crowd of determined commuters

DOWN THE SUBWAY STAIRWAY!

Disappearing from view as she calls out in a small anxious voice.

GISELLE (cont'd)
Edward!!!

29 EXT. ANOTHER SUBWAY ENTRANCE - LATER 29

Located in a desolate, seedy part of town. Black storm clouds loom over the dark skyline.

We see a hesitant head pop up out of the subway entrance as a frazzled and tousled Giselle slowly emerges from the subway. Her initially hopeful expression turns to disappointment as she realizes she's still nowhere near the castle.

30 EXT. A NEW YORK STREET - A FEW MOMENTS LATER 30

Giselle wanders down this dirty street of strewn garbage, money exchanges and pawn shops. Her stacked-up hair is developing a Pisa-like lean and her white dress is looking increasingly dirty.

More discouraged than ever, Giselle walks past PROFESSIONAL LADIES working the street in short skirts and halter tops. Her attempts at a friendly smile are met with icy competitive glares.

Until finally Giselle arrives at a derelict OLD MAN slumped over on a stoop. Weary and discouraged, she offers a pleading smile.

GISELLE
Hello, old man. May I sit with you?

The old man stares, Giselle taking this as invitation to sit down for a much needed rest. She lets out a long SIGH..

GISELLE (cont'd)
(a wistful lament)
I'm so tired and scared and hungry.
I've never been this far from home and I'm not at all sure where I'm at.
(turning to the old man)
If someone were to show me just a small bit of kindness, a friendly hello or even a smile, I think that would lift my spirits so much.

The old man suddenly opens his mouth in a wide, decayed and near toothless grin. Giselle politely tries to hide her revulsion.

GISELLE (cont'd)
(a forced smile)
My...what a lovely smile you have.

Still smiling the old man reaches out and GRABS the diamond tiara from her hair! Giselle gives a shocked INHALE as he RUNS AWAY!

GISELLE (cont'd)
Oh my gosh!

As her pile-up hair COLLAPSES like a condemned building, Giselle quickly stands and chases after him...

GISELLE (cont'd)
Come back! Please!

But her long blinding hair almost causes her to trip as she comes to a frustrated stop!

GISELLE (cont'd)
(shouting after him)
You're not very kind, you know that?!

As suddenly it begins to RAIN!

Giselle STUMBLES down the street, trying to avoid the down pour and failing miserably.

31 EXT. A CHINA TOWN MARTIAL ARTS STUDIOS - LATER 31

The Youth Kung Fu Class lets out as ROBERT MCKENZIE shields his 6 year-old daughter MORGAN from the rain with an umbrella.

A handsome man in his late 20s/early 30s, Robert's thoughtful expression matches his serious business suit, though a softer side of him reveals itself when he smiles down at Morgan.

Dressed in a little martial arts uniform, Morgan's bright, pretty and growing up faster than perhaps even she would like.

Hailing a passing cab, Robert quickly opens the door for Morgan...

32 INT. THE TAXI - CONTINUOUS 32

They both buckle up as Robert closes the taxi door...

ROBERT
(to the driver)
26 West 77th Street, please.

The cab takes off and Robert excitedly hands a gift wrapped package to Morgan.

MORGAN
(eyeing it suspiciously)
What's this?

ROBERT
Just a present.

MORGAN
What for?

ROBERT
No reason.

Morgan looks suspiciously at the present and back up at her dad.

MORGAN
What's the news?

ROBERT
News?

MORGAN
Whenever you have something to tell me you
always get me a present.

ROBERT
(dismissively)
Oh, that's not true.

MORGAN
(a quiet litany)
When the divorce went through you bought me
an iguana. When I had to change schools
you got me an iPod.

ROBERT
(eager to segue)
Why don't you just open it?

Morgan TEARS at the store-wrapped gift to reveal a very somber
looking BOOK. She tries to conceal her clear disappointment.

MORGAN
What is it?

ROBERT
(enthused)
It's the Famous Women Biography series.
All about smart pioneering women who've
made important contributions in the 20th
Century!

Morgan manages a look of gratitude at this achingly boring gift.

MORGAN
Great.

ROBERT
 See this pull-out sheet here?
 (pointing in the book)
 You can fill in your own time line to test
 your knowledge of how much you retained
 from your reading.

MORGAN
 Thank you.

ROBERT
 I thought it'd be interesting. Real
 stories about real people. Exciting.

MORGAN
 (looking up, unconvinced)
 So there's no news?

Robert looks at her, a guilty expression as he quietly admits...

ROBERT
 Well...there is a little news.

33 EXT. A NEW YORK STREET - CONTINUOUS 33

As the taxi turns a corner, the rain still coming down hard. We
 HEAR the sound of Robert's Blackberry RINGING.

34 INT. THE TAXI - CONTINUOUS 34

Robert looks down at the Blackberry message, CLICKING it off.

ROBERT
 It's Nancy. I'll call her back.

MORGAN
 (looking up, suddenly realizing)
 You're going to ask her to marry you,
 aren't you?

Robert shrugs self-consciously, taken aback by her insight.

ROBERT
 Well...yeah.

MORGAN
 I knew it.

ROBERT
 Well we've dated for two years. She and I
 have talked about it. This would be a good
 time. She'll be through with Fashion Week.
 You'll be out of school.

(MORE)

ROBERT (cont'd)
 I think it'll be great for all of us.
 (wondering what Morgan's thinking)
 You like her, right?

MORGAN
 (noncommittal)
 She's good.

ROBERT
 She is, isn't she? She's a lot of fun.
 (off Morgan's serious expression)
 Look, I don't want you to worry. It's not
 like she's going to try and be your mother.

MORGAN
 I know. Stepmother.

ROBERT
 A nice stepmother. She even wants to take
 you to school tomorrow. Have you guys
 share some "grown-up girl" bonding time?

MORGAN
 I'm only six.

ROBERT
 (a thoughtful smile)
 We all grow up sometime, sweetie.

35 EXT. ANOTHER NEW YORK STREET - A LITTLE LATER

35

The rain's still pouring as Giselle staggers along. Hungry, distraught and soaked to the skin, she's in a near delirious state of exhaustion!

Just as she's about to collapse where she stands, Giselle looks up and sees what in her fevered mind appears to be her salvation!

A 3-D BILLBOARD OF A LARGE CASTLE

It is in fact, the "DISNEYLAND CASTLE", a fairy tale banner beckoning Giselle with the prescient slogan, "COME HOME".

Giselle smiles at this beautiful mirage like a thirsty person discovering an oasis in the desert! She can almost hear a heavenly choir singing an ethereal chorus of celebration!

Quickening her step, Giselle finds the renewed energy to almost run as she hurries towards the billboard.

Running to an adjacent tree, Giselle starts climbing to reach the billboard, moving with the same agility we saw in Andalusia!

WHILE DOWN THE STREET

A TAXI approaches. Robert and Morgan are inside.

36

INT. THE TAXI - CONTINUOUS

36

Robert reads excerpts from Morgan's new Famous Women Biography Series. Morgan tries not to roll her eyes at this serious tome.

ROBERT

"So even though she died an excruciatingly painful death of radiation poisoning, Madam Curie made great scientific strides that we benefit from to this day."

Morgan looks up at him, troubled.

MORGAN

She died?

ROBERT

Well, yes. But it was in the name of science.

Morgan nods politely, thoroughly unconvinced. As the taxi stops at a light, Morgan's eyes drift out her window.

ROBERT (cont'd)

(to the TAXI DRIVER)

We're up here on the right.

...where she sees a strange woman in a white dress climbing onto the Disneyland Castle Billboard!

MORGAN

Daddy!

ROBERT

(taking out his wallet)

Huh?

MORGAN

Why's there a lady out there?

ROBERT

(sorting through his bills)

Where?

MORGAN

There's a princess on the castle billboard!

ROBERT

(shaking his head, not looking up)

Honey.

MORGAN

Yes?

ROBERT

(firmly)

You know we've talked about all this. There's no such thing as princesses and enchanted kingdoms and glass slippers that don't fit anyone, okay? That's all just made up stuff. You understand that, right?

MORGAN

(solemnly)

Right.

ROBERT

Good.

MORGAN

But she's still there.

ROBERT

Where?

Finally looking up himself, Robert sees the crazy girl slipping along the billboard, only barely managing to maintain her balance.

ROBERT (cont'd)

What in the...?!

Morgan suddenly opens her door and runs out to see Giselle! A panicked Robert tosses the cash to the Taxi Driver and follows, taking Morgan's hand as he quickly leads her across the street.

37

EXT. THE BILLBOARD - CONTINUOUS

37

Giselle teeters precariously as her princess slippers slide on the wet metal of the narrow billboard catwalk. Giselle pulls violently on the castle's door handles, but they refuse to open!

As Robert and Morgan appear beneath her under the billboard.

ROBERT

(shouting up at Giselle)

Hey you! Miss!

MORGAN

Hey!

A confused Giselle follows the voices in the rain down to the pavement, where she sees Robert and Morgan frantically waving!

GISELLE
 (a weak smile)
 Oh. Hello!

Giselle's foot slides again and she tumbles back, her body caught in that terrible tipping point between recovery and disaster...

ROBERT
 Uh-oh!

MORGAN
 Daddy!

Giselle FALLS OFF THE CATWALK, barely managing to GRAB the edge of the 'doorknob' with one hand! Robert and Morgan watch breathlessly as a dangling Giselle slowly starts to lose her grip!

FIVE fingers, FOUR fingers, THREE fingers, TWO...

GISELLE
 (falling off)
 Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!!!!

MORGAN
Catch her, Daddy!!

Caught completely off guard, Robert RUNS forward...

ROBERT
 Oh no! Wait...!

Quickly curling his arms in something approximating a 'catching' position...

CRASH!!!

She SLAMS into his arms with a velocity that's unfortunately all too consistent with the real world laws of physics. Unprepared, Robert's arms COLLAPSE in a distinctly un-prince-like manner, jamming his thumb as Giselle lands butt-first on the wet pavement!

GISELLE
 (groaning)
 Owwwwww!!!!

Robert hops in a pained circle, holding onto his jammed thumb.

ROBERT
 Damn it! That hurts!

Morgan runs over to Giselle, helping her up.

MORGAN
Are you okay?

GISELLE
I'm fine.

Robert still grimacing with intense pain from his thumb!

ROBERT
Oh good! I'm glad you're okay!

Rubbing her bruised backside, Giselle smiles gratefully, thrilled that someone's actually talking to her. Robert notices her grin.

ROBERT (cont'd)
Why are you smiling like that?

GISELLE
You're both so kind. I've been wandering so far and long today. I'm afraid nobody's been very nice.

ROBERT
Yeah, well...welcome to New York.

GISELLE
(thrilled to be welcomed)
Thank you!

Robert looks at her suspiciously. Morgan looks at her and smiles.

38

INT. ROBERT'S HALLWAY - A FEW MINUTES LATER

38

The elevator doors OPEN and everyone emerges into the hallway. Robert leads the way as Morgan glances back, amazed by Giselle's ball dress. A soaking wet Giselle trails behind, thrilled to share her grand adventure with a pair of "friendly ears".

GISELLE
...and then the old hag said I should look in the well and wish for my heart's desire, but I must have looked in so far that I fell. Down and down and down! And then I climbed out of the round hole and here I am.

Robert nods curiously, trying to reconcile this strange tale. Meanwhile, Morgan can't take her eyes off Giselle.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
That's some story.

GISELLE
 (almost apologetic)
 It's not a very nice one.

MORGAN
 I liked it!

Giselle looks at Morgan and smiles.

GISELLE
 I'm certain Edward's already searching for
 me. No doubt by morning he'll come and
 rescue me from this strange land and take
 me home.
 (suddenly concerned)
 If I could just find a place to rest my
 head for the night.

Robert's defenses go up.

ROBERT
 What sort of place?

GISELLE
 Oh, I don't know. Maybe a nearby meadow or
 a hollow tree?

ROBERT
 A "hollow tree"?

GISELLE
 (smiling)
 Or a house full of dwarfs.

MORGAN
 (helpfully)
 I bet they'd let you sleep with them!

Robert tries to ignore Morgan's comment, eying Giselle warily.

ROBERT
 All I can really do is let you in for a few
 minutes if you want to dry off, use the
 phone.
 (putting the key in the lock)
 We have our own bedtime to stick to.

Robert looks back at her incredulously as he opens the door,
 leading Morgan inside. Giselle follows behind when suddenly...

...she GRINDS to a halt, her giant hoop skirt WEDGED in the door! Giselle pushes hard against it to try and SQUISH her way through.

ROBERT
(surveying her 'situation')
What's with the dress?

GISELLE
(proudly explaining as she THRUSTS forward)
I gathered all the berries for the dye out
in the meadow and I crushed them with a
mortar and I made the sparkles out of tiny
bits of polished rocks...

Morgan helps out, grabbing Giselle's hands and PULLING...

MORGAN
You made it all by yourself?

Robert grabs her hands as well, helping PULL as...

GISELLE
Well...not all of it. The mice and rabbits
did help with the sewing!

MORGAN
They're good!

...Giselle finally POPS THROUGH! Robert CLOSES the door and Giselle steps forward, suddenly LUNGING BACK as we see...

GISELLE (CONT'D)
Oh my!

Her ridiculously long hair is TRAPPED in the front door! She TUGS like a trapped animal trying to chew off its own leg until...

Robert OPENS the door and Giselle ROLLS backward into their apartment, a sweet smile as she daintily pulls her wet skirt down from over her head. Robert checks his watch, troubled.

ROBERT
So did you want to give someone a call?

GISELLE
(smiling at this absurdity)
I doubt anyone would hear me from here!

ROBERT
(pulling his phone book out of the end table)
Why don't we see about getting you a car.

Standing, Giselle warms herself as she wanders to the couch...

MORGAN
 Couldn't she sleep here, Daddy?

...FLOPPING down into the cushions with her wet hair and dress.

ROBERT
 Um. No. That's a big 'no'.

Giselle stretches like a cat, yawning with utter exhaustion. As Robert searches for the number, Morgan leans in and whispers.

MORGAN
 Are you really a princess?

GISELLE
 (softly)
 Not yet...almost.

Giselle lays her head down on the edge of the couch. In the very next moment she's sound asleep, breathing deeply.

MORGAN
 (amazed)
 Wow. She is out!

Robert glances up from the yellow pages, aghast.

ROBERT
 Oh, no! This is not acceptable!

Morgan looks up with pleading eyes.

MORGAN
 You're not really gonna make her go, are you Daddy?

ROBERT
 (turning to Morgan)
 Go to bed, you!

MORGAN
 (studying Giselle as she sleeps)
 I think she might be a real princess!

ROBERT
 Okay, Morgan? Remember our talk?

MORGAN
 But Daddy...

ROBERT
 A big funny dress does not make her a princess!

(MORE)

ROBERT (cont'd)
 She's obviously running away from some
 bizarre traumatizing wedding fiasco,
 including all these strange claims of
 royalty. And real or not, all that makes
 her is a seriously confused woman who's
 somehow been dumped in our laps. She needs
 our sympathy more than our fascination!

MORGAN
 So are we gonna be sympathetic and let her
 stay?

ROBERT
 (a little annoyed)
 Bedtime!

Morgan gives Robert a hug as he watches her paddle back to her
 room. The moment her door CLOSES Robert dials the phone...

DISPATCHER (O.S.)
 Mid-town Car.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
 (into the phone)
 Hi, I need a car at 26 West 77th Street.

DISPATCHER (O.S.)
 Can you hold, please?

Sighing, Robert's gaze turns to his front window, the heavy rain
 PELTING unrelentingly against the glass. He tries to resist an
 overwhelming feeling of 'sympathy'...

As his eyes turn back to Giselle, sleeping...

With her lovely face and perfect skin bathed in the gentle glow of
 the dimmed track lighting, she's absolutely beautiful!

And though he'd never admit it to himself, let alone out loud...

She does look like a princess!

Robert waits on the phone. Despite his better judgement, he just
 can't bring himself to send her back out into the night.

DISPATCHER (O.S.) (cont'd)
 Hello, sir. Destination please?

But Robert doesn't answer, his eyes still on Giselle as he quietly
 clicks off the phone.

Robert peeps in her door, whispering in a clandestine hush.

ROBERT
Morgan?

MORGAN
(sleepily in her bed)
Huh?

ROBERT
Lock your door!

MORGAN
Why?

ROBERT
(a loud whisper)
Just do it!

DISSOLVE TO:

41 EXT. TIMES SQUARE - MORNING

41

We're back at the same manhole where Giselle emerged, a trio of SEWER WORKERS replacing the cover. We HEAR a sudden HISSING as...

SWOOSH!!!

Prince Edward SHOOTs out of the hole, the force of gravity landing him on the street in a dashing swashbuckling pose! ..

ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZTTT!!!

Before the workers can even figure out where he came from Edward's sword is already pressed against the terrified SUPERVISOR'S neck!

PRINCE EDWARD
(a quiet urgency)
Who are you? Are you in league with the wicked old hag who sent my poor Giselle to this foul place?

SWOOSH!!!

Pip suddenly FLIES out of the manhole and Edward PLUCKS him in mid-air like he's stopping a fast ball, turning to him...

PRINCE EDWARD (cont'd)
Is this man party to this evil plot, chipmunk?

Pip tries to answer, when he suddenly discovers an unpleasant reality about this world...

HE CAN'T SPEAK HERE! Instead he's reduced to clutching at his throat, gasping and chirping, incapable of forming a single word!

PRINCE EDWARD (cont'd)
 (an understanding smile)
 Poor chipmunk. Speechless in my presence?
 (turning intensely back to the Supervisor)
 What say you, sir? Don't try my patience!

SUPERVISOR
 (frightened, gasping)
 I don't even know who you're looking for!

PRINCE EDWARD
 (his voice suddenly softening)
 I search for a beautiful young woman, her hair like spun gold, her skin like alabaster. Pleasing of form and lovely of spirit, I long to find her more than life itself!

SUPERVISOR
 (his eye still on Edward's sword)
 I'd like to find one of those too.

PRINCE EDWARD
 (a royal command)
 Then keep a wary eye out, peasant!

Turning towards the street, Prince Edward energetically LEAPS onto a TAXI, Pip joining him as they stomp across the stalled cars like stepping stones, oblivious to the angry pissed-off DRIVERS!

42 INT. ROBERT'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING

42

Giselle wakes with a demure sleepy stretch on the couch. Slowly batting her eyes awake, she looks around the room to realize...

The home of her newfound friends is an untidy mess (the sloth of a busy single parent)! Dirty clothes are strewn about, magazines litter the floor and the sink is full of dirty dishes.

Slowly standing, Giselle puts her hands to her waist as she gives a disapproving "Tsk! Tsk!"

GISELLE
 This just won't do!

43 EXT. ROBERT'S WINDOW - A MOMENT LATER

43

Craning out the window, Giselle sings out in a clear voice.

GISELLE
Ha-ha-ha-haaaaaaa...

44 EXT. VARIOUS SHOTS AT STREET LEVEL - CONTINUOUS 44

Giselle's pretty voice echoes downward as the animals of the city hear her siren call.

This being New York however, cuddly bunnies and cute fawns are in short supply. Instead the city's natural inhabitants respond: RATS emerge up the subway stairs, PIGEONS take leave of the statue they're defecating on, all hurrying towards Robert's apartment!

45 INT. ROBERT'S LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 45

The vermin stream en masse into the apartment via the WINDOW and HEATING VENTS, COCKROACHES scurry out of the SINK. Giselle's eyes go wide as she takes in these "alternate species" of 'friends', but appreciating their help, she manages a grateful smile.

GISELLE
Well it's always nice to make new friends!
(clapping her hands together: CLAP, CLAP, CLAP!)
Alright, everyone! Let's tidy things up!

46 INT. ROBERT'S LIVING ROOM - A LITTLE LATER 46

An upbeat "Whistle While You Work" sort of tune plays, Giselle singing and supervising as the rats lick the dirty dishes clean, the cockroaches take out the trash bags en masse and the pigeons flap their wings to 'herd' the "dust bunnies" out the window!

47 INT. ROBERT'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS 47

Asleep in bed, Robert has a half smile on his face as he dreams that he hears a lovely young woman SINGING.

Opening his eyes, he remembers he's not dreaming! Sitting up, Robert springs out of bed...

48 INT. THE HALLWAY - A MOMENT LATER 48

The 'pretty' singing continues as Robert emerges from his bedroom, pulling on his robe as he walks down the hallway. Morgan comes out of her room a moment later.

49 INT. ROBERT'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS 49

Robert's eyes go wide in shock as he steps from the hallway to see:

Their entire apartment is filled with VERMIN! Pink tailed sewer rats, armies of cockroaches, flea-ridden pigeons! Before he even notices they're all engaged in 'chores'...

A horrified, disgusted Robert charges into the room, SWATTING and SWEARING at these invading hordes!

ROBERT

What in the...?! Get the hell out of here!

As Morgan walks out a moment later, she SCREAMS in terror!

50 INT. ROBERT'S FRONT HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER 50

As Robert SWEEPS the vermin towards the front door, he yells...

ROBERT

Morgan, quick! Open it!

A creeped-out Morgan swings the door open as Robert sends them all fleeing. As Morgan SLAMS the door shut they HEAR the sound of happy SINGING and running water coming from the bathroom.

ROBERT (cont'd)

(to Morgan, eyeing the bathroom)

Wait here!

Robert hesitantly follows the singing to the open bathroom door...

51 INT. THE BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS 51

Robert cautiously peers in the open door just as Giselle steps out of the shower, his eyes wide as he realizes she's completely...

SWOOSH!!!

A pair of PIGEONS grab a towel and quickly wrap it around Giselle!

ROBERT

(quickly shielding his gaze)

Oh my...! Excuse me. I...

GISELLE

(smiling, unaffected)

Good morning, Robert! Did you have nice dreams?

ROBERT

No!

GISELLE

(shaking out her massive mane like a dog)
This room is magic! Where does the water
come from?

ROBERT

Um...from the pipes.

GISELLE

(looking up through her parted hair)
Where do the pipes get it?

ROBERT

I don't know. From...wherever the pipes
get it.

GISELLE

It is magic!

52

INT. THE FRONT HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

52

The front door BUZZES and Morgan opens it to see Robert's
girlfriend, NANCY DUBOIS. An attractive professional woman, Nancy
is sexy, smart and dressed even smarter. She's also busy, her
Blackberry glued to her ear as she smiles at Morgan.

NANCY

Hey, 'girlfriend'!
(into her Blackberry)
No, May. That isn't gonna work!

MORGAN

(woodenly)
Hi, Ms. Dubois.

NANCY

(cradling the Blackberry)
Honey, how many times have I told you?
Call me Nancy!

MORGAN

Yes, Ms. Dubois.

NANCY

Just find out what time they can meet!
(covering the Blackberry, to Morgan)
Listen, I'm running a little late! So,
we're gonna have to make this a twenty
minute half-hour, okay?

Nancy lets herself in, a suspicious expression as she notices
almost immediately...

NANCY (cont'd)
It's so neat in here. You guys get a maid?

MORGAN
(hesitantly)
Um...no. Not exactly.

Hearing voices in the rest of the apartment, Nancy keeps walking!

53 INT. THE BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS 53

A smiling Giselle OPENS the bathroom door, squeezing past Robert as he squeezes in, checking to make sure nothing's flooded...

As one last Pigeon FLIES up at him like a flushed grouse!

ROBERT
Aaaaaaaahhhhh!!!

A startled Robert falls BACKWARDS right on top of Giselle, the two of them falling limbs akimbo right out into...

54 INT. THE HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 54

Robert falling first and Giselle a moment later right on top of him, her towel only barely on at this point! They stare at each other a moment, both gulping hard at this unsettling intimacy.

NANCY (O.S.)
What the hell is going on here!

They both look up to see Nancy standing over them. Robert LEAPS from the floor, thrusting Giselle into a standing position.

ROBERT
(stunned)
Nancy!

NANCY
Who is this...?

GISELLE
(smiling sweetly as she adjusts her towel)
Hello! I'm Giselle! I was on my way to the castle to get married and...

NANCY
(turning to Robert)
She's married?

ROBERT
No! She's not! Not yet!

NANCY
 (to Robert, incensed)
 What do you mean 'yet'?

ROBERT
 Nancy! She was lost! I was helping her...

NANCY
 With what? Finding the shower?

GISELLE
 (smiling)
 That shower is wonderful! You should try
 it, Nancy!

NANCY
 Oh, I'm sure it is.

ROBERT
 Nancy, calm down! Let's talk at least.

But Nancy is beside herself, her sense of betrayal pouring out!

NANCY
 About what, Robert? How I never took a
 shower here? How you never had me over
 because Morgan was here, "I have
boundaries!" you said, "I have to move
 slowly!" I thought, "I'm so lucky. He's
sensitive!"
 (eyeing Giselle)
 I didn't realize you were worried about
 crowd control!

ROBERT
 (quietly)
 We could talk later.

NANCY
 (turning to go)
 Don't bet on it!

ROBERT
 But what about taking Morgan to school?
 Grown-up girl bonding time?

NANCY
 (looking at Giselle)
 So you can have some grown-up girl bonding
 time? I don't think so!

As her anger reaches its zenith fever pitch, Nancy's Blackberry RINGS! Angrily turning it off, she storms out in a furious huff, hurrying past Morgan! Robert runs after Nancy out the door!

55 EXT. ROBERT'S APARTMENT BUILDING - A MOMENT LATER 55

Robert runs onto the sidewalk...

ROBERT
Nancy, wait!

Just as Nancy slams the door on the cab and it pulls away! A deflated Robert watches her go before storming back inside.

56 INT. ROBERT'S APARTMENT - A LITTLE LATER 56

An extremely irate Robert is KNOCKING impatiently on his own bedroom door as Giselle brightly answers.

GISELLE (O.S.)
Hello?

ROBERT
Okay, you know what? You gotta go! Now!
I don't know what your deal is. If you're
waiting on Prince Charming or...

GISELLE (O.S.)
Prince Edward!

ROBERT
Whatever! I can't have you here, alright?
(softening despite himself)
So I'll get you to the bus depot, train
station, airport, wherever, and then that
is it! I can't get involved after that!

As Giselle emerges from the bedroom wearing a blindingly bright aqua-green PEASANT FROCK.

ROBERT (cont'd)
Where'd you get that?

GISELLE
I made it!
(smiling)
Do you like it?

Robert's eyes go to the CURTAINS in his living room, still hanging even though the various sections of a DRESS PATTERN have been neatly cut out of them. He shakes his head, incredulous.

GISELLE (cont'd)
 (off his reaction)
 You're unhappy?

ROBERT
 You made a dress out of my curtains.

GISELLE
 You are unhappy!

Robert looks at her. His short fuse is down to a mere nub.

ROBERT
 I'm not 'unhappy'. I'm angry!

GISELLE
 Angry?

ROBERT
 Yeah. It's an unpleasant emotion. You've heard of it?

GISELLE
 I've heard of it, but...

ROBERT
 (letting her have it)
 Look, you have created a completely unnecessary problem with Nancy that I now have to resolve. The fact is I was just getting ready to take a very serious step forward with her. A proposal, actually...

At the mention of a 'proposal' Giselle gives an excited INHALE!

ROBERT (cont'd)
 ...but now she has it in her mind that you and I, well...

GISELLE
 (horrified)
 Kissed?

ROBERT
 Something like that.

GISELLE
 (suddenly inspired)
 Why don't you sing to her? Maybe that would reassure her of your affections!

ROBERT
 'Sing' to her?

GISELLE

(effusively)

You could rush to her side and take her in your arms. Pour your heart out in a beautiful ballad. Then she'll know for sure.

(feeling his stare)

Why are you looking at me?

ROBERT

I don't know. It's like you escaped from a Hallmark card or something.

GISELLE

Is that bad?

Robert is about to answer but Morgan exits her room, dressed for school with her Little Mermaid backpack.

ROBERT

(checking his watch, panicked)

Damn! School! Okay, we're late! We gotta run!

He runs into his room to get dressed. Morgan whispers to Giselle.

MORGAN

Don't worry. Daddy's a little cranky, but he's smart. I'm sure he'll help you get back to your Prince.

Giselle smiles, giving Morgan a warm hug she's happy to return.

57

EXT. TIMES SQUARE - LATER

57

Just as the crew sets the manhole cover back they HEAR a loud...

BONK!!! The sound of flesh against cast iron as a man SCREAMS...

MAN (O.S.)

Owwwwwww!!!!

Startled, the workers reticently lift the cover to see a man dressed like a Renaissance Fair escapee, Nathaniel...

SUPERVISOR

(peeking into the hole)

You looking for a beautiful girl too?

...as he climbs out of the hole, fussily dusting off his garments.

NATHANIEL

I'm looking for a prince.

SUPERVISOR
 (curiously looking over Nathaniel)
 Right.

PRINCE EDWARD (O.S.)
 You've met your match, foul bellowing
 beast!

They turn towards the sound of Edward's booming voice!

58 EXT. THE BUS - CONTINUOUS 58

Approaching POLICE SIRENS wail as Edward violently PLUNGES his sword into the roof of a crosstown BUS!

59 INT. THE BUS - CONTINUOUS 59

Edward's BLADE juts through, barely missing the panicked COMMUTERS! The blade starts to pull back, PEELING open the top of the bus until it SKEWERS an OLD LADY's bag of birdfeed. Tearing back the sheet metal, Edward and Pip peek inside, looking around.

Seeing no sign of Giselle, Edward instead boldly proclaims...

PRINCE EDWARD
 The beast is dead! I set you all free!

60 EXT. THE BUS - CONTINUOUS 60

Edward's startled to see Nathaniel has climbed up next to him. He smiles warmly at his trusted valet!

PRINCE EDWARD
 Loyal Nathaniel! Always looking over my
 shoulder, aren't you?

DOWN THE STREET, SQUAD CARS turn the corner and COPS start exiting their cars. Nathaniel senses trouble...

NATHANIEL
 (a devilish smile)
 Oh, if you only knew!
 (noticing the police exiting their vehicles)
 Perhaps we should search elsewhere for your
 lovely bride?

PRINCE EDWARD
 (considering it)
 Perhaps.

Withdrawing his sword, an agreeable Edward JUMPS down with Nathaniel from the bus, Pip scurrying along with them...

As the COPS shout for them to 'STOP', they break into a run! The three of them quickly disappear into the nearest alley!

61 EXT. TAYLOR, WHITE & ASSOCIATES - A LITTLE LATER 61

Giselle at his side, Robert runs up to the front doors, but as they AUTOMATICALLY OPEN, Giselle steps back, startled...

As Robert turns back, wondering what she's waiting for. Grabbing her hand, he quickly tugs her through the doors to the elevators!

62 EXT. TAYLOR, WHITE & ASSOCIATES RECEPTION - MOMENTS LATER 62

Robert hurries into his office, Giselle in tow. His cherubic secretary SANDY looks up as Robert approaches in a state of panic.

ROBERT

Please don't tell me Mrs. Schumer's already here.

SUSAN

Mrs. Schumer's already here.

ROBERT

(nervously)
Oh no!

SUSAN

Along with Mr. Schumer and his lawyer.

ROBERT

Oh no!
(panicked)
How long have they been waiting?

SUSAN

Do you really want to know?

ROBERT

(anxiously)
No. Listen. I need you to deal with something for me.
(whispering towards Giselle)
This girl...

Seeking to quench her thirst, Giselle picks up a COFFEE MUG, glancing right past the alien looking Sparkletts dispenser.

SUSAN

Who is she?

ROBERT

I have no idea.

Susan follows Robert's stare to Giselle, who's smiling at a different source of bubbly fresh spring water: the OFFICE AQUARIUM. She happily SCOOPS her cup full and takes a yummy sip.

ROBERT (cont'd)
I'm pretty sure she's from out of town.

SUSAN
Well what did you want me to...?

ROBERT
I don't know! Just...find out where she's from and get her there. And make it cheap. I'm probably going to end up paying for it.
(suddenly remembering)
Oh and if Nancy calls, let me know. I have to talk with her!

Susan's eyes go from Robert to Giselle and back again.

SUSAN
I bet.

ROBERT
(to Giselle)
'Kay, Giselle? I have a critically important meeting here. Susan's gonna help you get home.

GISELLE
(her mouth full)
Mmm-hmmm!

ROBERT
Just please, try and keep things low key.

Giselle nods agreeably, waiting until Robert turns to politely SPIT out a tropical fish she accidentally drank back into her cup.

We slowly WIDEN to INCLUDE the aquarium just over her shoulder.

Giselle completely unaware as next to her an eerie glowing WATER IMAGE of Queen Narissa's FACE suddenly forms inside the aquarium, glowering at her with absolute hatred!

A REVERSE ANGLE

OVER Narissa's shoulder as she looks at Giselle, fish swimming nervously past Narissa's face as she TURNS BACK towards us...

QUEEN NARISSA
(nodding towards Giselle)
Now you know where she is!

We PULL OUT TO REVEAL we're watching the Queen from inside...

63

INT. A BURGER KING REST ROOM - CONTINUOUS

63

...the clairvoyant waters of a men's room TOILET! The stall is dark save for the sickly green light from the toilet reflecting on Nathaniel's face as he stares adoringly at his mistress.

QUEEN NARISSA

(speaking up from the water)

I don't want the prince coming anywhere near her, do you hear me?

NATHANIEL

Don't worry, my queen! He's clueless. He doesn't possess your amazing powers of sorcery and clairvoyance! Your extraordinary gift for precognition...

QUEEN NARISSA

Would you stop with the boot licking, you toady! All I want to hear from your snivelling lips is that dear sweet Giselle is dead!

On which note Nathaniel HEARS a churning GLUG! GLUG! GLUG!

THREE putrid, boil-covered red APPLES suddenly POPPING UP...

NATHANIEL

(inspired despite his revulsion)

Poison apples? How lusciously perverse!

The pulsing, noxious apples circle the queen's smiling face, her voice low and evil and wicked.

QUEEN NARISSA

It won't be difficult. Just one bite. That's all it takes. One small bite to drag her down into a deep and troubled sleep! And when the hands of the clock strike twelve, the claws of death will clutch at her heart...

(a sadistic smile)

And that precious little pretender to my throne will be gone!

NATHANIEL

But your most serene highness! How will a wretched servant like me ever get her to...?

Nathaniel squeamishly reaches in to grab the apples...

QUEEN NARISSA
 (dripping contempt)
 Oh stop whining and figure it out, you
 dullard! I just want it done!

Fighting his gag reflex as he wipes them off, Nathaniel laments his plight as he gazes adoringly at Narissa's lingering visage.

NATHANIEL
 My God, why do you have to be so beautiful?

Narissa's face disappears, leaving only the reflection in the water of a shocked chipmunk eavesdropping from atop the stall!

NATHANIEL (cont'd)
 You!

Nathaniel LEAPS at Pip, who deftly JUMPS out of reach, Nathaniel chases after him...

64 INT. BURGER KING'S DINING AREA - CONTINUOUS

64

Sitting at a table, Edward takes his first curious bite of a french fry as the washroom door suddenly BURSTS open! Pip pops out and races to Edward. A frantic Nathaniel follows a moment later, imploring the prince...

NATHANIEL
Please don't listen to this insane little vermin. He's obviously ate some bad nuts! We should put him down for his own good!

PRINCE EDWARD
 Nathaniel, please! Let him talk!

NATHANIEL
 But sire...

PRINCE EDWARD
 (silencing him with his hand)
 Go ahead, Pip. What is it you want to say?

Reduced to 'acting' his message, Pip points to Nathaniel, doing a perfect impression of him smiling and scheming with the apple!

PRINCE EDWARD (cont'd)
 Nathaniel's glad to have me near?

Pip shakes his head, frustrated. He "switches roles" to 'Giselle' choking, dying a tragic death from the poison!

PRINCE EDWARD (cont'd)
 You feel you'd die without me here?
 (Pip vamps the prince 'heroically' rescuing Giselle)
 You think me brave and cavalier?

Pip fumes at the Prince's complete misunderstanding, clinching his little fists. The prince looks down at Pip, gently chiding him.

PRINCE EDWARD (cont'd)
 All of that might be well and true, Pip.
 But we really have more important things to
 worry about right now.

The prince walks away as a relieved Nathaniel smiles, giving Pip a condescending head pat. Pip SCREECHES angrily!

65

INT. NANCY'S FASHION DESIGN STUDIO - CONTINUOUS

65

A large fashionable loft space, a room full of SEAMSTRESSES toiling at their sewing machines. A still upset Nancy walks the room reviewing dresses, her older assistant MAY beside her. Nancy's Blackberry RINGS and she CHECKS it...

MAY
 Robert again?

NANCY
 (reading it, nodding)
 Another text message apology.

MAY
 How many does that make?

NANCY
 I'm not sure exactly.
 (quietly, trying to stay strong)
 I'm pretty sure not enough.

MAY
 So what are you saying? You're never going
 to forgive him?

Nancy picks up a blouse, deftly inspecting the seams as she talks.

NANCY
 I'm sure I will...at some point. I mean,
 it's not like I'm one of those women who
 sit around their entire lives waiting for
 some perfect Prince in shining armor to
 take me off to his castle in the Hamptons.
 I got over that fantasy a long time ago!

Biting her lip, Nancy suddenly RIPS the blouse in half, a calming breath as she apologetically hands it back to the poor SEAMSTRESS.

NANCY (cont'd)

With Robert and I, it's real, you know? I can count on him. At least I thought I could.

MAY

(eyeing her knowingly)
You wanna know what I think?

NANCY

Is that a multiple choice question?

MAY

I think you're a hopeless romantic who's discovered romance is hopeless.

NANCY

(not wanting to engage this theory)
You can't find anything else to do?

66

INT. TAYLOR, WHITE & ASSOCIATES RECEPTION - LATER

66

Robert emerges from his office with KATHERINE SCHUMER, her ex-to-be, quirkily handsome 40ish STEPHEN SCHUMER and his older attorney HENRY. Robert smiles, pleased by the results of their meeting.

ROBERT

Well, I think this went well. I always say, there's no reason not to be reasonable.

HENRY

Great. I think we might actually be in the neighborhood of a settlement.

Robert notices Susan frantically waving him over to her desk.

ROBERT

One second, folks!
(leaning over to Susan)
What? What is it?

SUSAN

(nodding towards Giselle, a nervous whisper)
She has no driver's license! No passport.
I can't even find this place she's talking about!

ROBERT

What place?

SUSAN

Andalasia? I've called every travel agent!
Every air line! I don't know if it's a
country. A city...

ROBERT

(weakly)
...a state?

Robert and Susan look over to Giselle, a dreamy smile on her face as she dances in happy circles to the easy listening station.

SUSAN

More like a state of mind.
(leaning in, under her breath)
She told me it's just beyond the "Meadows
of Joy" and "The Valley of the Pixies."
(nervously eyeing Giselle)
I mean, what's that all about?

Across the room, Giselle's twirls land her next to Mrs. Schumer. She touches her short styled hair with unabashed admiration.

GISELLE

Oh my goodness! Your hair is lovely!
You're beautiful!

KATHERINE

(taken aback, flattered)
Oh. Well thank you!

GISELLE

The man who holds your heart is a lucky
fellow indeed.

KATHERINE

(eyeing her ex-to-be)
Try telling him that.

GISELLE

(brightly)
Oh, I'm sure he already knows!

Talking to Henry, Stephen's still close enough to OVERHEAR them.

STEPHEN

Excuse me?

Giselle breaks into a smile at 'meeting' Stephen.

GISELLE

Oh are you him? You must be so happy! The way her eyes sparkle! No wonder you're in love!

STEPHEN

(confused, looking around the room)
Is this a joke?

GISELLE

I would never joke about love. You make such a handsome couple.

Giselle takes hold of each of their hands, Stephen and Katherine sharing an awkward glance before quickly pulling them away. A horrified Robert quickly moves between them to intervene!

ROBERT

(a polite hiss)
Giselle? Please?

Stephen and Katherine watch in confusion as Robert explains.

ROBERT (cont'd)

It's not like that, alright?
(quietly)
They're not together anymore.

GISELLE

(mystified)
I don't understand.

ROBERT

They're getting a divorce.
(off Giselle's confusion)
They're separating from one another.

GISELLE

(troubled)
Separating? For how long?

ROBERT

(quietly)
Forever.

GISELLE

(aghast)
You mean forever and ever?

Giselle's lower lip starts to tremble as she contemplates the awfulness of this notion. Shameless tears start to roll.

STEPHEN
(to Giselle, incredulous)
Are you crying?
(turning to Robert)
Is she actually 'crying'?

Giselle SINKS in a sad little heap and indeed starts to cry. She looks up at them, apologetic.

GISELLE
(sniffling)
I'm sorry. I can't help it. That's so
sad!

Despite her cool facade, Katherine also starts to get upset, doing her damndest not to give Stephen the satisfaction of seeing it.

KATHERINE
(to Robert, angrily)
What kind of place are you running here?
This is so unprofessional!

Katherine turns towards the door before she loses it completely.

ROBERT
(taking a step after her)
Katherine, wait!

Robert's older boss CARL walks in, totally unaware of this mess...

CARL
Good morning, Katherine. How are you...?

...as Katherine hurries past him. Henry angrily turns to Robert and Carl as Stephen fights back his own emotions beside him.

HENRY
If you guys are trying to manipulate us,
you can throw this whole deal out.

The two of them quickly walk out. A very displeased Carl takes Robert aside as Giselle waves goodbye to the Schumers.

CARL
What was that all about? Who's she?

ROBERT
She's a friend. An acquaintance. I...

CARL

You know Robert, we pride ourselves on the clients severing their personal bonds in a calm, polite manner. And when I walk in here and see people getting emotional...

ROBERT

I'm gonna fix this, Carl. I swear to you.

Robert stares, unnerved, into Carl's stern expression, the consequences of his failure etched in his boss's unyielding gaze.

67 INT. TAYLOR, WHITE & ASSOCIATES RECEPTION - MOMENTS LATER 67

Robert tugs Giselle by the arm out of the reception area towards the elevators. Just out of earshot, he furiously lays into her.

ROBERT

(pressing the elevator button)
What is wrong with you?

GISELLE

Me?

ROBERT

This whole Kumbaya, Up With People, Good Morning Mary Sunshine, Happy Talk routine of yours? Those people are in real pain! They have major issues! And you come along and talk to them like that?

GISELLE

(still upset)
Well no wonder they're in pain! Separated forever? Married one day and the next day they're not? What kind of awful place is this?

The elevator opens and Robert practically PULLS Giselle in.

ROBERT

(pushing the down button)
It's called 'reality'!

GISELLE

I think I'd rather be in Andalusia.

ROBERT

I think I'd like that too!

The elevator doors close on Robert's extremely unhappy expression.

68 EXT. CENTRAL PARK - LATER

68

Three heads slowly rise over the wall surrounding the park, Edward, Nathaniel and Pip, all searching for some sign of Giselle! Spying Robert's office, Nathaniel whispers deviously to Edward.

NATHANIEL

I wonder if we might cover more ground separately. Me by myself and you with...
(a sneering nod to Pip)
...it?

As Nathaniel engages the prince, Pip suddenly notices...

PRINCE EDWARD

An excellent plan, Nathaniel!

...ACROSS THE STREET! An upset Robert leads Giselle from his office to the park! Pip SQUEAKS loudly and Nathaniel notices too!

PRINCE EDWARD (cont'd)

Which way do you propose we...?

Nathaniel SNATCHES Pip up in his fist before he can alert the prince, quickly pointing over Edward's shoulder at a passing GIRL!

NATHANIEL

Look! Do you see her? Over there!

PRINCE EDWARD

Giselle? Where?

NATHANIEL

(practically pushing the prince)
Hurry! Run to her! Not a moment to lose!

The prince takes off in the opposite direction! As Pip CHIRPS muffled cries of protest, Nathaniel ducks behind the wall!

69 EXT. CENTRAL PARK - CONTINUOUS

69

As Robert angrily leads Giselle by the arm into the park.

ROBERT

...I mean, I tried to do the right thing here. To be nice...

GISELLE

(as he pulls her along)
You've been very nice!

Nathaniel PEEKS through the bushes. We stay on Robert and Giselle.

ROBERT

And I've been severely punished for it!
Between jamming my thumb, which really
hurts, a house full of rats! My girlfriend
thinking...whatever. And now I almost get
fired? I just...

His patience is exhausted as he suddenly reaches for his wallet.

GISELLE

What?

ROBERT

I can't help you anymore, Giselle!
(handing her some money)
Just...take this. Call up your prince.
Have him pick you up, bring his horse,
whatever, 'cause I honestly don't think I
can handle this!

GISELLE

(feeling badly)
Robert?

ROBERT

Just go! Please!

Robert takes a deep breath and starts to turn.

GISELLE

I'm so sorry, Robert.

He turns back to her despite himself. Giselle looks at him with total contrition; her voice soft, her words simple and heartfelt.

GISELLE (cont'd)

You've been a kind friend to me when I had
none. I'd never want to make you unhappy
or cause you trouble. So I'll go now. I
wish you every happiness.

Giselle forces a brave smile as she turns away, a swoosh of her dress as she lightly steps into the park.

Feeling terrible already, a guilty Robert tries to walk back to his office, but stops, looking over his shoulder...

As Giselle saunters down the park path. Robert stares curiously as she stops to have a friendly talk with an old bag lady. Almost immediately, Giselle starts to hand her money over to the woman.

Robert rolls his eyes in frustration, running out after her...

70

EXT. THE BAG LADY'S BENCH - MOMENTS LATER

70

Robert hurries up to Giselle and the old bag lady, surrounded by a flock of hungry pigeons that she's been feeding...

ROBERT

Giselle, what are you doing?

Giselle turns to him, thrilled that they're 'reunited'!

GISELLE

Robert! This is Emma. She says she saw Edward!

Looking closer, we realize she's the same bag lady FROM THE BUS!

EMMA

He was on a bus this morning! He tried to kill me!

ROBERT

(a patronizing nod)

Really? That's great. Thank you...

Taking Giselle by the arm, Robert immediately leads Giselle away, leaning in with a chastising whisper...

ROBERT (cont'd)

What are you thinking? You can't just give people money.

GISELLE

You gave me money.

(off Robert's frustrated expression)

Besides she was so nice and so helpful about Edward!

ROBERT

She didn't see Edward. I promise!

Robert shakes his head at her, inexplicably bothered by the unrelenting certainty of her convictions.

ROBERT (cont'd)

Jeez, what is it with you and this 'prince' of yours?

GISELLE

What about him?

ROBERT

I mean what are you telling me? He's a
'real' prince? You've been like
'betrothed' since childhood?

GISELLE

Edward and I? No.
(brightly)
But we fell in love the moment we met..

ROBERT

Of course. That's beautiful.
(turning to her)
And how long have you two been together?

GISELLE

Oh, about a day.

Robert and Giselle walk onto one of the park's FOOT PATHS...

ROBERT

You mean it feels like a day? Because
you're so in love?

GISELLE

No. It's been a day.

ROBERT

You're kidding me. A day? One day?

GISELLE

Tomorrow it will be two days.

ROBERT

You're joking.

GISELLE

I'm not.

ROBERT

Yes you are.

GISELLE

But I'm not.

ROBERT

(incredulous)
You're getting married to someone after one
day? Because you fell in 'love' with him?

GISELLE

Yes.

71

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - THE MALL - A LITTLE LATER

71

Robert and Giselle finish off hot dogs at a hot dog stand, Giselle daintily gorging on this culinary delight as Robert inquires...

ROBERT

How can you talk about loving some guy you don't even know?

GISELLE

I know what's in his heart.

ROBERT

Oh. Right. Of course.

(watching as she devours the last of her hot dog)
You really like the hot dog, huh? Good sauerkraut?

GISELLE

Very yummy!

Nodding, Robert takes their wrappers and tosses them in the trash. Giselle studies Robert curiously as they continue their walk.

GISELLE (cont'd)

And what about you? How long have you known your Nancy?

ROBERT

Five years.

GISELLE

And you haven't proposed?

ROBERT

Well...no. I...

GISELLE

No wonder she's angry!

Suddenly, a tempting caramel covered APPLE appears in frame in front of Giselle's face.

VENDOR (O.S.)

Care for a succulently sweet Caramel Apple?

Robert and Giselle stop walking, following the apple to REVEAL...

Nathaniel in a shabby but convincing ethnic disguise, standing at a CONCESSIONS CART (a konked-out VENDOR lies hidden at his feet).

NATHANIEL (CONT'D)

(an oily smile)

No charge for the lovely lady with the long locks!

We HEAR a loud RIP in Nathaniel's clothing, Nathaniel's eyes wide as Pip appears, eyeing the lethal fruit in Nathaniel's hand!

Pip LEAPS out to grab the apple. Spying the chipmunk, Nathaniel SWATS him to the pavement before Giselle ever realizes he's there.

GISELLE

(taking the apple)

Well thank you, kind sir!

AS UNDER THE CART, Pip takes a vicious bite of Nathaniel's ankle.

NATHANIEL

(forcing a smile through excruciating pain)

My pleasure, Miss!

Robert and Giselle continue along, while behind them Nathaniel STUFFS Pip in the glass popcorn maker! Pip POUNDS his fists, SHAKING the entire cart! Nathaniel eyes Robert and Giselle!

ROBERT

I'm just saying, normal people spend time getting to know each other before they get married. They date.

GISELLE

Date?

ROBERT

Yeah, you know? A date! You go out. Dinner? Bowling? A movie? Talk?

Giselle brings the apple to her mouth, readying to take a bite...

ROBERT (cont'd)

You know that apple's pure poison, don't you?

(off Giselle's startled expression)

All the preservatives in that caramel could kill you!

Giselle pulls the apple down, eyeing Robert curiously.

GISELLE

What kind of things do you talk about?

ROBERT

About each other. About yourself. What you like. What you don't like. Your job. Your interests.

GISELLE

(shaking her head)

You have such strange ideas about love!

Giselle brings the poison caramel apple to her mouth again...

ROBERT

Oh. Maybe I should do it your way. Meet. Have lunch. Get married...

She brings the apple down again just before biting...

GISELLE

You forgot about "happily ever after".

ROBERT

Newsflash! No relationship ends in "happily ever after"!

Giselle looks up at this ridiculous statement...

GISELLE

Of course they do!

72

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - THE NAUMBURG BANDSHELL - CONTINUOUS 72

Full of STREET VENDORS, OFFICE WORKERS eating lunch, MOTHERS with KIDS and STROLLERS and miscellaneous VISITORS.

ROBERT

(coming to a stop)

Believe me. They don't! Most marriages are considered a success if they manage to not end period. Forget about happiness.

GISELLE

How can anybody forget about happiness?

ROBERT

(quietly)

It happens.

Giselle stares at Robert, as if she can't quite believe what she's hearing. She can't.

GISELLE

But you and Nancy? You two will live happily ever after. You know that, right?

ROBERT

Look, I don't know if we'll make it through today, let alone a whole lifetime.

Giselle shakes her head, unwilling to accept this grim scenario.

ROBERT (cont'd)

That's what I'm trying to tell you, Giselle. It's complicated.

GISELLE

Oh but it's not.

ROBERT

Oh but it is!

GISELLE

(frustrated)

Only because you make it that way...

Giselle pauses, her emotions suddenly rising inside her, flowing out of her in an unself-conscious a cappella...

GISELLE (cont'd)

(singing)

"If you always want to be in love forever, or maybe forever and a day..."

ROBERT

(taken aback)

What are you doing?

GISELLE

"Just listen to the words I give you..."

All around them, PEOPLE start to look up, smiling at her singing.

GISELLE (cont'd)

"And then do every little thing I say..."

ROBERT

(self-conscious at their stares)

Hey, don't sing, okay?

But Giselle KEEPS singing, her voice stronger and more certain! In the grand tradition of "Under the Sea" or "Be My Guest" her song is upbeat, euphoric and more than slightly irresistible!

GISELLE

"Let me give my heart to you! She needs to know, those words are true."

A nearby Caribbean STEEL BAND starts to pick up on her infectious melody. Giselle's smile invites them to play along!

GISELLE (cont'd)
 "When she feels you're here to stay..."

As she's joined by other MINSTRELS: a FOLK SINGER, a FLAUTIST, an ACCORDION PLAYER. Horrified, Robert tries to pull her away...

GISELLE (cont'd)
 "Then happy ever after..."

But Giselle is already swept up in the moment. Taking Robert's hand, she TWIRLS around like Julie Andrews in the Austrian Alps...

GISELLE (cont'd)
 "Will be every single day..."

Giselle joyously THROWS up her arms, unconsciously sending the poison apple FLYING into the square. Nathaniel appears on the edge of the square, unhappily watching his plan unravel...

As Giselle spots a quaint wooden flower cart, running to it!

GISELLE (cont'd)
 "So send her flowers for no reason,
 regardless of the season..."

ROBERT
 (flush with embarrassment)
 Please don't do this!

Plucking and sorting and arranging until in mere moments...

GISELLE (CONT'D)
 "When she sees them in her room, she'll see
 your face in every bloom..."

Giselle emerges with a beautiful bouquet; pretty and simple and romantic! She lets out a WHISTLE and two DOVES fly down!

GISELLE (cont'd)
 (giving the birds instructions)
 Could you take these to Nancy please?

ROBERT
 Are you crazy? They don't know where she
 is! They're birds!

Robert runs after Giselle, trying to reign her in, but he's distracted, incredulous, as the DOVES fly the bouquet away...

ROBERT (cont'd)
Hey, how'd you get them to...?

Robert runs right into a group of ROLLERBLADERS as they join Giselle in an improvised carefree dance!

GISELLE
"You, you take my heart away!"

Little KIDS and MOMS with strollers start to dance and sway along!

GISELLE (cont'd)
"She needs to hear that every day!"

All the while, the poison apple's been unknowingly tossed around by the dancing people like a game of kick the can. Nathaniel scrambles on his knees through the tangle of legs to find it!

73

EXT. AN ARCH IN THE PARK - CONTINUOUS

73

Prince Edward is conscientiously scouring the park when he HEARS Giselle's voice. He curiously CUPS his hand to his ear.

GISELLE (O.S.)
(her voice echoing...)
"You take my heart away..."

PRINCE EDWARD
My lovely Giselle!

Nodding to the music, he takes a moment to pick up the melody, a quick study as he sings his own a capella lyrics!

PRINCE EDWARD (cont'd)
(singing)
"As you do mine, my love..."

Edward deftly leaps from the ARCH, landing in front of a tunnel.

CRAAAASSSSHH!!!

A pack of RACING BICYCLISTS KNOCK the prince straight on his royal ass, leaving him a twisted mess, legs akimbo, moaning in pain.

74

EXT. THE CENTRAL PARK PLAZA - CONTINUOUS

74

Leading her growing entourage of "back-up dancers" like a blonde Pied Piper, Giselle's passes a POSTER: 25th ANNUAL LOVE TRIUMPHANT RENAISSANCE BALL, CHRYSLER BUILDING BALLROOM, FRIDAY: 8pm.

GISELLE (CONT'D)
"So take her dancing in the moonlight,
twirl her well past midnight..."

Excited, Giselle pulls the poster down and hands it to Robert...

GISELLE (cont'd)
 "When her heart beats close to hers, she'll
 know your love's for sure!"

Robert follows after her, skeptically studying the poster.

ROBERT
 A Renaissance ball?

Giselle approaches an ELDERLY MAN, thrilled to be swept up in her song as the two of them twirl, the old man spinning her away...

GISELLE
 (as the old man 'dips' her)
 Sounds wonderful, doesn't it?

ROBERT
 I don't dance!

The ROLLERBLADERS lift Robert by the arms and twirl him around! He smiles in spite of his every effort not to!

GISELLE
 If you don't dance there's only one thing
 left you can do.
 (a sober look)
 You'll have to go all the way with her!

ROBERT
 Excuse me?

Giselle leans in close, singing to him with an unnerving intimacy.

GISELLE
 "When she starts to feel uncertain, that
 your love is hit and miss, remember
 nothing's greater, then the strength of
 true love's kiss."

ROBERT
 True love's kiss?

GISELLE
 (almost a whisper)
 There's nothing more powerful in the world.

Breaking apart, Giselle stands and twirls, arms outstretched!

GISELLE (cont'd)
 "Let me give my heart to you..."

Giving a ballerina's KICK, Giselle unknowingly SENDS the poison apple into a nearby pond. Nathaniel DIVES in the water after it!

As we see an OVERHEAD BUSBY BERKELEY VIEW of the plaza!

GISELLE (cont'd)

"She needs to know those words are true!"

As Giselle sings her heart out, a flock of snow white PIGEONS swoop down, swirling in joyfully fluid circles around her.

GISELLE (cont'd)

"When she feels that love is here to stay."

The SQUIRRELS and RABBITS, fancy sweatered DOGS out on their walks, all perk at the sound of her song! The HORSES in the hansom cabs sway their heads like so many equine Rockettes!

GISELLE (cont'd)

"Then happy ever after..."

Robert stares at her, at all this crazy joyous pandemonium!

GISELLE (cont'd)

"Will be every single day!"

There can be no doubt that Giselle's singing is profoundly saccharine, ridiculously sweet, and despite Robert's conscious efforts not to succumb, completely enchanting!

CLOSE ON ROBERT'S BLACKBERRY

As it starts to RING, he CLICKS it on, surprised to find it's...

ROBERT

Nancy?

NANCY (O.S.)

Robert?

(suddenly)

I love the flowers!

Robert's eyes go wide in shock! They actually got there? Giselle smiles, pleased. She didn't expect anything less.

75

EXT. THE POND - MOMENTS LATER

75

A sizzling NOXIOUS GREEN SMOKE appears in the water as a gasping Nathaniel surfaces holding the tiny shriveled poison apple. A moment later, a school of DEAD FISH rise up around him...

Nathaniel looks out into the square. Robert and Giselle are gone!

76 INT. NANCY'S OFFICE - A LITTLE LATER

76

Robert stares dumbfounded at Giselle's flower arrangement, the two 'delivery' doves COOING sweet.

ROBERT
(still incredulous)
So you really like them?

NANCY
I loved them! Usually you just send me those e-mail cards with the digital flowers...
(breathing in the flowers)
But these?
(holding up a pair of gilded 'ball' tickets)
And the ball?

ROBERT
We don't have to go. I just thought...

NANCY
Are you kidding me? This is so romantic!
So spontaneous! I can't wait!

ROBERT
(pleasantly surprised)
Good. Well...that's good.
(apologetic)
Listen, as far as the mix-up with Giselle...

Nancy puts up a hand, waving his apology away.

NANCY
If you say nothing happened, then nothing happened. I trust you.

ROBERT
(slowly standing)
So tomorrow night then?

NANCY
(smiling)
This is so unlike you!

Nancy throws her arms around Robert, catching him off guard.

77 EXT. THE ROYAL INN - LATER

77

A scuzzy run-down "no-tell, motel" with a burned-out buzzing neon 'crown'. Underneath the sign says, "LUXURY FIT FOR A KING!"

MOTEL CLERK (O.S.)
It's eighty-three fifty a night.

78 INT. THE ROYAL INN OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

78

The glassy-eyed CLERK stares at these two grown men dressed in lace, britches and gold lame...

MOTEL CLERK
Unless you want it by...the hour?

NATHANIEL
(smiling)
My prince will definitely need the entire night!

MOTEL CLERK
(withholding comment)
Right. Cash or major credit card?

Nathaniel squints, not sure what he's talking about.

A MOMENT LATER

Edward SPLAYS an array of precious GEMS from his satchel, their collective worth easily ten times more than the entire motel.

The Motel Clerk's eyes go wide at this small king's ransom!

79 INT. A MOTEL ROOM - A LITTLE LATER

79

A disgusting motel room. Musty carpets, bad art and a locked phone. His leg badly injured from his 'accident', Edward lies on the bed, hopelessly fumbling with a roll of QUARTERS as he tries to figure out how to make the bed's MAGIC FINGERS work.

As Nathaniel curiously studies the bolted-down TV, FLIPPING through the channels: ESPN, CNN, TELEMUNDO.

NATHANIEL
Perhaps it's a magic glass box, filled with wisdom. Maybe if you watch it long enough it will tell you where Giselle is.

The prince finally gets a quarter in the Magic Fingers. The bed starts to shake violently!

PRINCE EDWARD
(startled, his voice WARBLING from the bed)
Do you really think so?

Pip ROLLS his eyes. Even he can tell how ridiculous this is.

NATHANIEL

Oh I'm almost certain. If I were you I
wouldn't move from that spot.

As the prince leans in even closer, determined not to miss a word from the magic box...

Pip JUMPS up on the bed, warning Edward with an impression of Nathaniel running out with another poison apple.

PRINCE EDWARD

(looking up from the TV)
Nathaniel likes the way I leap?
(Pip imitates a somnolent unconscious Giselle)
I'm handsome even when I sleep?
(as Pip grits his teeth in frustration)
Pip, if you don't mind. I need to pay
attention to the magic box!

Pip's eyes go wide as he's suddenly SWOOPED up by Nathaniel.

NATHANIEL

Cute little chipmunk! So tired! Maybe
you'd like to snuggle in a nice little nook
for the night!

Nathaniel glances back at the distracted prince as he carries a terrified Pip towards the hotel closet.

80

INSIDE THE CLOSET - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

80

We see Pip HANGING between the metal clip of a WOODEN PANTS HANGER as if he's in a stockade, a DO NOT DISTURB sign over his head.

NATHANIEL (O.S.)

I think I need some fresh air, my lord...

Pip watches wide-eyed through the open crack in the closet door as Nathaniel sneaks out of the room.

Wiggling his feet, Pip SWINGS the entire hanger in a 360 degree gymnastic SPIN over the closet rod, FLYING down onto the floor. Scurrying like a hanger 'muppet' past the bed to the window, he HOPS, hanger-and-all, up to the motel window ledge.

81

EXT. THE ROYAL INN - MOMENTS LATER

81

Pip watches Nathaniel hurry out towards the parking lot. Panicked, Pip USES the hanger to WEDGE the sliding window open! The hanger finally SNAPS off and Pip scrambles after Nathaniel!

82 EXT. MANHATTAN - LATER 82

The stars are shining on a warm, picture perfect New York night.

83 INT. ITALIAN FAMILY RESTAURANT DINING ROOM - A LITTLE LATER

Replete with red leather booths and chianti bottle candles. The walls boast a corny cardboard diorama of Ancient Rome. Morgan's at the waitress stand helping the old Italian MAMA fold napkins. This is clearly a family place she and Robert come to a lot.

At a nearby table, Giselle struggles to eat pizza 'daintily' and fails, Robert smiling at her attempt. Giselle follows his gaze as he turns to watch Morgan. She smiles appreciatively.

GISELLE

She's such a wonderful girl. So sweet and kind and gentle.

ROBERT

Yeah. She's great.

Giselle stares at Robert, something clearly weighing on her mind.

ROBERT (cont'd)

(off her curious look)

What?

GISELLE

I'm afraid to ask you.

ROBERT

You want to know about her mom?

GISELLE

How'd you know?

ROBERT

It's what everybody wants to know.

GISELLE

Where is she?

ROBERT

(a rueful smile)

Now that's a depressing story. I don't even like hearing that one.

GISELLE

I'm sorry. I shouldn't ask...

ROBERT

No. It's okay. If you want the very Grimm Brothers version...

(bittersweet)

Once upon a time we had a mother and a wife. But after a while...I don't know...she wanted a different life.

(suddenly self-conscious as he realizes)

Oh no. That rhymes.

(a half-smile at her)

You're a dangerous influence.

Robert quietly continues his story as Giselle listens.

ROBERT (cont'd)

What can I tell you? Two people in law school? Young. Idealistic. Romantic.

(thoughtfully)

Baby comes. Bills. Fights. Exhaustion.

(a rueful smile)

I guess she was expecting your version of "happily ever after".

Giselle finds herself unable to smile back. For the first time ever she's experiencing a very fragile, very human pain up close...close enough to touch. Her voice is heavy with sympathy.

GISELLE

I'm so sorry for you both.

ROBERT

Thanks. I'm a big boy.

(nodding towards Morgan)

It's her I worry about.

(thoughtfully)

That's why I try to keep her away from all these fairy tale stories, you know?

Unrealistic expectations, ridiculous wishes. I figure if she never gets her hopes up too high, she'll never have too far to fall.

GISELLE

That's sad.

ROBERT

That's life.

GISELLE

But dreams do come true! Maybe something wonderful could happen?

Robert looks at her, caving in to her indefatigable optimism.

ROBERT
I forgot who I'm talking to.

GISELLE
I hope you don't forget!
(smiling, her voice soft)
I like talking to you.

Giselle suddenly realizes that her words, or rather the tone of them, reveal more than she was aware of herself.

Robert senses it as well. He smiles back, both of them momentary prisoners to an awkward silence that's suddenly broken by...

WAITER (O.S.)
(a bad Italian accent)
Fora the nice lady! From a secret admirer.

They both look up to see a WAITER, Nathaniel, in yet another hapless disguise that nonetheless manages to fool both Robert and Giselle. He's holding a cool green cocktail in a martini glass!

ROBERT
(glancing around)
Secret admirer?

GISELLE
Oh really? What is it?

Nathaniel sets the drink down in front of her, a toxic steam rising almost imperceptibly from the sliced green apple inside.

NATHANIEL
An apple martini, Miss!

GISELLE
Pretty. It looks yummy.

Robert smiles, offering up a cautionary warning.

ROBERT
Careful. Those things are lethal!

Giselle looks up at Robert. Nathaniel fights an annoyed sneer.

ROBERT (cont'd)
They have a way of sneaking up on you.

GISELLE
I'll just take a sip.

NATHANIEL
A sip is all it takes!

Nathaniel watches breathlessly, a mix of anticipation and dread.

As Giselle brings the icy deadly drink up to her mouth. Her lips are just about to make contact with the glass when suddenly...

A small furry animal suddenly LEAPS out of nowhere onto the checkered table cloth...PIP!

Everyone watching in shock as Pip KNOCKS the lethal libation out of Giselle's hand with a Ninja-like sweep of his tail! Sending it CRASHING to the floor, the glass smashing into pieces!

Nathaniel fumes with fury at seeing his plot foiled!

As Pip LEAPS up onto Giselle and plants a happy kiss on her!

GISELLE

Pip? You're here!

Robert's aghast to see this vermin at his table...

ROBERT

What the...?!

Pip turns towards Robert, baring his teeth in an animal HISS at this intruder to Giselle's affections! Meanwhile, Morgan has wandered back to the table, suddenly wondering as she sees Pip...

MORGAN

Daddy, why is Giselle talking to a...?

Robert pulls Morgan back...

ROBERT

Don't touch it, Morgan. They're loaded with disease!

Morgan and Robert watch cluelessly as Giselle tries to talk with the chirping nonverbal Pip, but all he can do is squeak!

GISELLE

I don't understand what you're saying.

Reverting to pantomime, Pip pushes his hair back into a "Prince Edward" pompadour, striking a heroic 'Prince' pose!

GISELLE (CONT'D) (cont'd)

What? The prince? Here?

(smiling)

That's wonderful!

WHAAAAMMMMM!!!

Nathaniel suddenly SMASHES a BROOM down on the table, almost crushing Pip and igniting the broom on the table candle! Giselle, Robert and Morgan leap back, startled!

NATHANIEL
(yelling out to the restaurant)
So sorry! There's a rat in here!

The PATRONS and WAITERS react with horror at this news, a commotion breaking out as Nathaniel looks at the table to see...

Pip has vanished! Frantically waving his broom to extinguish it, he ENDS up fanning it into a burning torch! Spotting Pip smirking at him, Nathaniel runs after him...

SMASHING every checkered table Pip hops on and igniting them with his broom torch until soon half the restaurant's on fire!

As the patrons flee in panic, Robert quickly picks up Morgan. Turning to see Giselle still looking for Pip, he hands Morgan to the Italian Mama on her way out, running back for Giselle...

As Pip runs through people's legs, trying to escape Nathaniel, also crawling through people's legs. As Pip LEAPS into a surprised Giselle's arms, Nathaniel swipes at them with his broom!

Robert LEAPING into the fray to wrestle the burning broom away. Jumping on Nathaniel, Pip POUNDS away on Nathaniel's head (just like the troll earlier), but Nathaniel manages to break free! As the plastic GRAPES and IVY ignite...

Robert drags an unwilling Giselle out the door, leaving Pip not only frustrated that he couldn't connect with her, but alone with the still vengeance-crazed Nathaniel, literally hot on his tail!

84 EXT. THE ITALIAN RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS 84

Robert and Giselle hurry outside, Fire trucks pulling up and crowds gathering as Morgan runs up to greet them. Giselle stares into the burning restaurant, worried and wondering about Pip.

A moment later, a NEWS VAN pulls up...

85 INT. THE ITALIAN RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS 85

The fire has spread to the cardboard mural of Rome, THE BASILICA, THE COLOSSEUM and THE PANTHEON all in flames...

An angry Nathaniel appears against the backdrop of the burning empire! Scanning the room, he sees Pip TRAPPED at the last table!

SMASH! Nathaniel's burning broom almost lands on top of him!

Pip JUMPS to the floor as Nathaniel chases the chipmunk into a corner, raising his burning torch to finally smother his little foe! Just as Pip is waiting to be 'extinguished'...

Nathaniel's KNOCKED OVER by the high pressure BLAST of a FIRE HOSE from the Firemen entering the building. Laid down FLAT on his face from the hose, Nathaniel rolls over, unsettled to feel his mouth filled with some unknown substance...

His gag reflex pushes him to spit out the offending matter, Pip!

As a disgusted Pip tries to wipe off the saliva, he looks up to see Nathaniel TRAPPING him from above with an upside-down glass!

86

INT. THE ROYAL INN MOTEL - CONTINUOUS

86

Prince Edward is still channel surfing for some word of Giselle.

PARTY LINE GIRL

(on the TV)

Hey there all you single guys! Hot local women in your area are waiting to meet you on the Party Phone Line!

Edward flips the channel, coming to a NEWS BREAK in progress.

TV REPORTER

Apparently an altercation with a rodent led to this four alarm fire...

He spots Giselle! Standing behind yellow tape, she mouths the words 'Pip' as she scans the street. Robert appears behind her, Morgan beside him as he leads Giselle into his apartment building.

Horrified, the prince leaps with his sword to his feet at the sight of his damsel in distress, suddenly GASPING with pain from his injuries!

PRINCE EDWARD

Giselle! What villainry is this?!
(falling to his knees, he clutches the TV)
Magic box, I beg you. Tell me where she is that I might affect her rescue!

TV REPORTER

...the restaurant, located at 77th and Columbus...

PRINCE EDWARD

(gratefully embracing the TV)
Thank you!
(LEAPING to his feet, sword raised)
77th and Columbus!

As Edward LIMPS from the room we STAY ON THE TV. Nathaniel emerges from the crowd looking for Giselle, holding a wiggling TO GO BOX with Pip trapped inside as he walks past the TV Reporter.

NATHANIEL

(shouting into the to go box at Pip)
Silence, you hairy little toad!

TV REPORTER

(looking up, annoyed)
Excuse me?

87 INT. ROBERT'S APARTMENT - LATER

87

Giselle sits on Morgan's bed with her, talking, her spirits clearly buoyed by the knowledge that Edward's coming for her.

GISELLE

Were you scared back there?

MORGAN

A little. Do you think Pip will be okay?

GISELLE

Oh, I wouldn't worry about Pip. He's very brave. I remember one time that poor wolf was being chased by Little Red Riding Hood in his grandmother's house! And she had an axe!

(off Morgan's wide-eyed reaction)
If Pip hadn't been walking past to help...

MORGAN

(confused)
I don't remember that version.

GISELLE

(holding her tongue)
That's because Red tells it a little differently!

PULLING BACK we REVEAL Robert at the door, listening to this strange tale and smiling in spite of it.

88 EXT. THE ITALIAN RESTAURANT - LATER

88

The last of the fire trucks roar away, leaving the burned-out bistro surrounded by yellow tape. Edward steps into frame.

Surveying these surroundings, he counts the doors from the restaurant, setting off towards Robert's Apartment.

89 EXT. ROBERT'S APARTMENT - LATER

89

Robert's DOOR MAN stands at the front desk as we PULL OUT beyond the open FRONT DOOR to see Edward pressed stealthily against the building, sword at the ready, on a mission of daring as...

RING! The Doorman picks up the phone, setting it down a moment later as he walks into the back room.

Edward seizing on this moment to sneak inside and up the stairs!

90 INT. ROBERT'S APARTMENT BUILDING FIRST FLOOR HALLWAY - ~~LATER~~

Edward stares at a row of identical doors that seems to stretch to infinity. He tentatively KNOCKS on the first door...

As a middle-age FLOOZY answers, drink in hand, a cigarette voice!

FLOOZY
Where's my pizza, doll?

Edward's eyes go wide as WE CUT TO a few more 'MYSTERY' DOORS...

- An OLD ASIAN MAN, his Siamese cat HISSING at Edward...

- A FAT MAN in leather, his initial scowl turning to a smile.

91 INT. ROBERT'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

91

Unable to sleep, Giselle is curiously making her way through Morgan's "Famous Women Biography Series" book, utterly fascinated by the lives of these accomplished women. Giselle turns to see a boxer clad Robert emerging from the shower, his hair still wet...

ROBERT
Listen, Giselle. That was a nice story.
About your chipmunk friend and all, but...

GISELLE
Um...yes?

ROBERT
I know what it's like when someone
disappoints you. It's tempting to want to
see things how you wish they were, instead
of how they are.

GISELLE
I don't 'wish' that he's coming, Robert.
He is.

ROBERT
Right. Because the chipmunk told you...

GISELLE
That's right. Pip said that actually he...

ROBERT
(putting up a hand)
Listen, Giselle. I don't know if you're being funny or ironic, but chipmunks can't talk.

GISELLE
(thoughtfully)
Apparently not here.

ROBERT
(gently)
So...in lieu of taking advice from a forest rodent, I just wanted to tell you. If it did turn out you decided to stay in New York, I could help you. If you needed to talk to an immigration lawyer, or get a job, find a place. I'd like to help...

But Robert's generous offer only leaves Giselle more confused.

GISELLE
That's very kind, Robert, but Edward is coming for me.

While Robert's increasingly troubled by her refusal to face facts.

ROBERT
Yeah, but if he doesn't...

Giselle's confusion turns to actual annoyance at his 'rude' tone.

GISELLE
Why do you keep saying that?

ROBERT
Because! I deal with this stuff every day! Usually when a relationship has 'issues' from the get-go, things don't get much better!

GISELLE
He is coming!

ROBERT
Giselle, I don't think so. I...

GISELLE
Yes!

ROBERT
I'd have to disagree. No!

Until quite, unexpectedly, Giselle suddenly explodes!

GISELLE
Is that the only word you know? 'No'?

ROBERT
(caught off guard by her outburst)
No!
(catching himself)
I...I mean...no.

GISELLE
(a full blown tirade, clinching her fists!)
No! No! No! Over and over again! Every
word you say! Robert, sometimes you just
make me so...

ROBERT
Make you so...what?

Giselle suddenly pauses, wondering what exactly she is feeling?
Her face fills with a sudden epiphany as the word comes out...

GISELLE
'Angry!'
(slowly turning to Robert, amazed)
I think I'm 'angry'!

ROBERT
(confused)
Really?

Giselle nods, her breathing suddenly ragged as this inexplicable
'feeling', her face flush with excitement.

GISELLE
Yes. I feel very...
(struggling to find the words)
Um...very...

ROBERT
(stepping forward)
Are you okay?

Concerned, Robert lightly touches Giselle's shoulder and Giselle
inhales sharply, glancing at his hand and back again.

GISELLE

Oh, yes.

(suddenly noticing his well built chest)
I'm fine!

ROBERT

You sure?

GISELLE

Uh-huh.

(trying not to stare, staring anyway)
Fit as a fiddle!

ROBERT

Okay. 'Night.

Robert turns and walks back to his room, Giselle helplessly taking in the view from the other side, flustered as she swallows hard.

DISSOLVE TO:

92 EXT. NEW YORK CITY - MORNING 92

A burning sun backlights the skyline like a halo.

93 INT. ROBERT'S APARTMENT BUILDING HALLWAY - MORNING 93

Bright light floods the hallway as an exhausted Edward drags himself down the hall, ringing the last bell on the last door!

94 INT. THE FRONT HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 94

Morgan opens the door and goes wide-eyed.

PRINCE EDWARD

Hello, little girl.

MORGAN

Um...hi.

95 INT. ROBERT'S KITCHENETTE - CONTINUOUS 95

Giselle stands at the counter, her eyes wide as the toast suddenly POPS UP from the toaster like a jack-in-the-box.

GISELLE

(smiling, delighted)
Magic!

MORGAN (O.S.)

Daddy! Someone's here.

Robert looks up from the scrambled eggs he's making at the stove.

ROBERT
Who is it?

They hear a boisterous royal male voice from the front hall.

PRINCE EDWARD (O.S.)
It is I! Prince Edward of Andalusia!

Robert slowly turns around. This can't be real!

PRINCE EDWARD (cont'd)
Come to seek my lovely bride, the fair
Giselle!

ROBERT
(quietly)
Oh my...

GISELLE
(looking up at Robert)
He's here!

ROBERT
Apparently.

Giselle anxiously leaps up, a bundle of nerves!

GISELLE
Oh my! Oh my goodness! How do I look?

ROBERT
(candidly)
Slightly stunned?

GISELLE
I meant how do I look?

ROBERT
(taking a longer look)
You look...beautiful.

Staring wistfully at her, Robert realizes his remark was much more honest than he intended. Giselle realizes it as well. Before either has a chance to respond...

PRINCE EDWARD
Giselle!

Giselle and Robert walk from the kitchenette into the LIVING ROOM just as Morgan escorts Prince Edward in. Edward beams as he finally sees the object of his quest. Giselle beams back.

GISELLE

Edward!

Stepping towards each other, the prince lifts Giselle high in the air in an exuberantly romantic TWIRL! His feelings swell until suddenly he breaks into a heartfelt a cappella.

PRINCE EDWARD (CONT'D)

(singing)

"It seems like forever we've been apart."

ROBERT

(looking to Giselle)

He sings too?

Edward's sword KNOCKS several knickknacks off the coffee table! Robert quickly picks them up and places them back on the table.

ROBERT (cont'd)

No problem. Nothing broken.

PRINCE EDWARD

"But now here you are, close to my..."

As Prince Edward SWINGS Giselle back around counter-clockwise, KNOCKING them off all over again.

ROBERT

(cutting him off as he CATCHES them)

...heart. Right. Could you please be careful?

Suddenly taking note of Robert, Edward angrily draws his sword and brandishes it at Robert, who steps back, slightly terrified.

PRINCE EDWARD

You! You're the one who's been holding my Giselle captive?

(taking out his sword)

Do you have any last words before I dispatch you?

ROBERT

What the hell?

PRINCE EDWARD

Strange words.

Giselle quickly steps in front of Robert, blocking the sword.

GISELLE
 No, it's alright, Edward.
 (taking Morgan's hand as well)
 These are my friends.

PRINCE EDWARD
 Oh.
 (resheathing his sword, he continues singing)
 "Take my hand and show me your smile, we'll
 be home in a very short while..."

But as Edward keeps singing, Giselle's looks at him, inexplicably
 distracted...

PRINCE EDWARD (cont'd)
 "And all in the kingdom will sing along, as
 we share in our joyous wedding..."

The prince suddenly stops mid-lyric, staring at Giselle, confused.

GISELLE
 What's wrong?

PRINCE EDWARD
 (troubled)
 You're not singing.

Giselle's suddenly self-conscious as she realizes...

GISELLE
 Oh. I'm not.
 (apologetic)
 I'm sorry. I was just thinking.

PRINCE EDWARD
 Thinking?

GISELLE
 (a little nervously)
 Before we leave, there was just one thing I
 was hoping to do. It's a strange exotic
 custom they partake of here.

PRINCE EDWARD
 Name it, my love and it is done!

GISELLE
 I want to go on a date.

PRINCE EDWARD
 (clueless)
 A date?

Giselle hesitates as she nervously explains.

GISELLE

Um...yes.

(a wary glance at Robert)

You know. We could go out to dinner? Talk about ourselves? What we like? What we don't like? Interests?

(an uncertain smile)

A date!

96

EXT. ROBERT'S BUILDING - A LITTLE LATER

96

Prince Edward stands at the street, striking a self-aggrandizing 'prince' poses as he impatiently waits for...

Giselle, standing at the front stoop with Robert and Morgan, this sudden and unexpected goodbye having caught them all off guard.

GISELLE

And remember! Any time you'd like to visit Andalusia...

ROBERT

(trying to sound positive)

Sure. Maybe if you ever come to town we could all go out for dinner.

GISELLE

That would be lovely.

But their hopefulness sounds a bit forced, a sense in their voices that neither believes this.

ROBERT

We'll all see each other soon. It's not like we're talking about, you know, forever...

GISELLE

(an unconvincing smile)

...and ever.

ROBERT

So...um...good luck on your date.

GISELLE

And you with Nancy.

Giselle kneels next to Morgan, taking her small face in her hands.

GISELLE (cont'd)

It's been wonderful spending time with you,
Morgan. I...

Giselle's words are suddenly cut short as Morgan wraps her arms tightly around Giselle's neck, squeezing her tight.

Giselle tightly hugs Morgan back as Robert watches their embrace...

Edward gently taps Giselle's shoulder. Giselle gives a last brave backward wave as Edward leads her away with a parting salvo.

PRINCE EDWARD

Thank you for taking care of her peasants!

MORGAN

(an aside to Robert)
Peasants?

ROBERT

(quietly)
He meant it in a nice way...I think.

Walking to the curb, Edward and Giselle are nearly knocked over by a large JUG OF WATER carried by a SPARKLETT'S DELIVERY GUY, each dodging the other. As the Delivery guy passes them we see...

Narissa's angry FACE suddenly appears in the bottom of the container, glaring at Edward and Giselle!

97

INT. AN UPSCALE MANHATTAN BAR - MOMENTS LATER

97

A terrified Nathaniel stares down into his large Martini as a fuming Queen Narissa GLARES up from between the olives!

NATHANIEL

I don't know how they found each other, my sweet goddess! I know how much her untimely death would have cheered you up and I was trying so hard. Perhaps if you could see your way to giving me one more chance?

QUEEN NARISSA

Another chance? There's only one apple left you spineless slug! You're out of chances!

Nathaniel nervously CLAMPS down on his WIGGLING to-go box, Pip!
The BARTENDER nervously eyes the drunk talking to his drink!

NATHANIEL

Your majesty. You don't mean...?

QUEEN NARISSA

I'm coming there!

(screaming out in anger)

I'LL KILL THAT LITTLE WRETCH MYSELF!

CRACKKK!!!!

Nathaniel's martini glass suddenly EXPLODES from Narissa's VOICE!
Followed a moment later by...

KABLLLOOOOMMMMMMMMMMMM!!!!

All the PATRONS hit the floor as every single liquor bottle over
the bar EXPLODES like a string of firecrackers!

DISSOLVE TO:

98 EXT. NEW YORK CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY - LATER THAT AFTERNOON 98

The late afternoon sun hangs high over the library as we MOVE DOWN
to the sidewalk, Edward and Giselle walking into view.

Wearing a green foam Statue of Liberty crown, an unkempt exhausted
Edward clutches the hard won trophies of their all-day 'date', a
Central Park Zoo balloon and a cardboard model of the Empire State
Building, listening cluelessly as Giselle chatters away.

GISELLE

...I want to stay busy after the wedding.
Of course there's the ceremonial duties
which I'm quite happy to do. But with all
my spare time I thought I could do other
things. Maybe some volunteer work?

PRINCE EDWARD

(confused)

What about our happily ever after?

GISELLE

Oh, I'm very excited about that. I was
thinking more about the "day after happily
ever after."

(suddenly brightening as she spots)

Oh, look! Hot dogs!

Giselle hurries to the stand as a tired Edward follows after, a
lost expression as Giselle orders in some odd foreign language.

GISELLE (cont'd)

I need two dogs. Kraut. Mustard. The works. And a couple of root beers to wash 'em down.

(turning to Edward, still talking)

I thought we could do a soup kitchen for the peasants? Or maybe even a small business? I mean besides the butcher, the baker and the candlestick maker, there's really nothing in the way of shopping.

Edward smiles patiently, not understanding a word she's saying.

As a small family of stubby Midwestern TOURISTS suddenly approach, HARRY KLEEBERG of Canton, Ohio, with his wife DORIS and two kids, sullen pre-teen LEN and his asthmatic little sister DIEDRA.

HARRY KLEEBERG

Hey, you guys look great! Can we get a picture with you?

Before they can answer, Giselle and Edward are jostled into a group pose by the Kleebergs. Giselle's taken aback as she looks into their eyes, feeling them staring back as if she and Edward are some sort of curiosity for their passing entertainment.

DORIS KLEEBURG

(squeezing between Giselle and Edward)
Well aren't you two the cutest couple?

PRINCE EDWARD

(pleased)
Thank you! We're to be wed tomorrow!

Mrs. Kleeberg brays with nasally delight to her daughter.

DORIS KLEEBURG

Did you hear that, Diedra? The prince and princess are going to fairyland to get married!

Giselle looks at Doris, not at all liking the way that sounds.

HARRY KLEEBERG

Say cheese sandwich!

FLASH!!!

The camera captures Giselle's forced smile, the mocking nature of this moment clearly not lost on her.

99

INT. ROBERT'S OFFICE - LATER

99

A stunned Robert sits across from Katherine and Stephen, watching disturbed as they hold hands and trade loving glances.

STEPHEN

I was thinking about what that girl said. About Katherine's eyes' sparkling. You know that's the first thing I noticed when we met.

(turning adoringly to Katherine)

I mean look at her! It's true! They really do sparkle!

KATHERINE

(a blushing smile)

Stephen...

They share a spontaneously loving kiss, Robert framed between them as he shakes his head in disbelief, his voice grave with concern.

ROBERT

Look. I have to say as your attorney Katherine, and Stephen, I'm sure Henry will back me up, you're both acting very impetuously here. This sounds like a purely emotional reaction...

STEPHEN

I know. Isn't it wonderful?

ROBERT

(insistently)

I mean you shouldn't let a chance meeting with one admittedly somewhat charming but very headstrong and definitely misguided girl cause you to alter the course of your entire life.

KATHERINE

Maybe it wasn't a 'chance'. Maybe it was no accident we met her.

ROBERT

(shaking his head, resistant to this idea)

I'm sorry. I find that very hard to believe.

STEPHEN

Maybe you need to try harder?

ROBERT

Look, you guys had problems!
 (lifting up a heavy file)
 I have hundreds of pages of depositions
 here.

KATHERINE

Everyone has problems! Everyone has bad
 times. Do we sacrifice all of the good
 times because of it?

Robert stares, at a loss, no longer certain of this question.

ROBERT

You're not making me feel like a very good
 divorce attorney.

KATHERINE

Maybe you're not.

100

EXT. NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY - LATER

100

Giselle and Edward are perched upon the library lions, finishing
 their hot dogs. There's an awkward 'first date' silence between
 them, the kind that suggests there isn't going to be a 'second'.
 Giselle tries her best to keep the conversation going.

GISELLE

Did you like your hot dog?

PRINCE EDWARD

Oh. Yes. Very good... 'dog'.

GISELLE

And the "sour" kraut?

PRINCE EDWARD

Quite excellent.

Regally stuffing the last bit of bun in his mouth, Edward grandly
 announces...

PRINCE EDWARD (cont'd)

Well that was a splendid 'date'.
 (chivalrously extending his arm)
 Shall we go?

GISELLE

Where?

PRINCE EDWARD

Back to Andalusia. To be married and live together happily ever after forever and ever.

Giselle's face tightens at the mention of 'forever'. She unconsciously hears herself suddenly stalling for time.

GISELLE

Well we don't have to go right away...

PRINCE EDWARD

How long do these 'dates' usually last?

GISELLE

(vamping)

As long as you want them to. They can just keep going and going, if you keep thinking of things to do. There's all sorts of activities...

(an enthusiastic litany)

We could go bowling? Or to a movie?

(suddenly remembering)

There's even this ball...

PRINCE EDWARD

(something he actually recognizes)

A ball?

GISELLE

You'd like that? Dancing? Music?

PRINCE EDWARD

Well, I suppose, but...

GISELLE

Wonderful! We have to go!

Edward sighs, this 'date' business starting to wear on him.

PRINCE EDWARD

And then home to Andalusia?

GISELLE

Of course!

(forcing a smile)

The moment it's over!

Standing, Giselle enthusiastically squeezes Edward's hands, climbing down from the library lions as they continue to talk.

GISELLE (cont'd)

Oh I have so much to do to get ready! I have to figure out what to wear...my hair.

PRINCE EDWARD

And what shall I do?

GISELLE

(politely looking him over)

There's something really magical here I think you should probably try.

PRINCE EDWARD

What is it?

GISELLE

A 'shower.'

101 INT. MORGAN'S BEDROOM - LATER

101

Morgan stands alone in her bedroom, staring at her full length mirror, a wistful expression on her face as we realize...

She's dressed in a 'princess' outfit not dissimilar to Giselle's wedding gown. Spying something in the corner of the mirror, Morgan looks closer, suddenly delighted to see...

The reflection of Giselle, standing in the room with her! Morgan turns and runs to her, the both of them embracing.

MORGAN

Giselle! You're back!

Giselle kneels down frantically before Morgan.

GISELLE

I need your help! I'm going to the ball and I'm not sure what to do or what I should wear and I don't even know where to find a fairy godmother at this late hour!

MORGAN

(confidently)

I have something better than a fairy godmother!

102 INT. ROBERT'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

102

Morgan's older BABY-SITTER is framed through the open doorway in the living room, totally engrossed in the Yankee game...

Morgan takes a VISA GOLD CARD out of Robert's sock drawer.

MORGAN (O.S.)

Daddy says it's only for emergencies.
This is definitely an emergency!

103 EXT. MADISON AVENUE - LATER 103

A glorious, mind-numbing vista of this shopping paradise!

104 INT. A GLAMOROUS DRESS STORE - CONTINUOUS 104

Morgan tugs Giselle by the hand along the aisles. Giselle gasps in wonder at this warehouse sized crop of chic designer fashions.

GISELLE

It's amazing! Who sewed all these dresses?

MORGAN

Probably some ten-year-old girl in a Third World sweatshop.

GISELLE

She's good!

105 INT. A WOMEN'S SHOE STORE - LATER 105

Giselle walks in with Morgan, amazed by the walls and walls of shoes, from stilettos and flats to pumps and platforms.

GISELLE

You mean people have more than one pair?

106 INT. AN UPSCALE MAKE-UP COUNTER - LATER 106

Giselle sits patiently at the make-up counter, Morgan sharing her prepubescent pearls of wisdom with Giselle as she slathers a frighteningly thick layer of make-up on her.

MORGAN

You don't want to wear too much make-up 'cause otherwise boys get the wrong idea and you know how they are. They're only after one thing.

GISELLE

(curiously)

What is it?

MORGAN

I'm not sure.

(almost embarrassed to admit it)

Nobody will tell me.

107 INT. A HIP HAIR SALON - LATER

107

Giselle sits in a smock, her wet hair in a towel as she readies to get it cut. Morgan sits next to her, both of them reading glossy fashion magazines. Giselle leans in to Morgan, smiling.

GISELLE

You know I couldn't have done this without you. You were such a big help.

MORGAN

(flattered)
Really?

GISELLE

Really.

MORGAN

Thanks.

GISELLE

You're welcome.

Morgan returns to her magazine, turning back to Giselle a moment later as she asks in an uncertain whisper.

MORGAN

So is this what it's like?

GISELLE

What, sweetie?

Morgan hesitates, softly answering.

MORGAN

Going shopping with your mother?

GISELLE

I don't know. I never went shopping with my mother.

MORGAN

Me either.

There's a long silent beat between them. Giselle smiles.

GISELLE

But I like it.

MORGAN

(smiling back)
Me too.

Giselle wraps her arm around Morgan, an encouraging hug.

GISELLE

Just think. Soon you'll have a new mother.

MORGAN

You mean stepmother?

GISELLE

(leaning in, her voice soft and reassuring)
That's not true, what they say. I've known
so many kind wonderful stepmothers.

(suddenly remembering)

You know Edward's got a stepmother. I've
never met her, but I hear she's just
lovely.

108 EXT. TIMES SQUARE - CONTINUOUS

108

As the sewer crew puts back the manhole cover, readying to finish
the job, they're suddenly HURLED backwards by a deafening...

BOOOOMMMMM!!!!!!

The manhole BLOWS UP like it's been rigged with explosives!
Twirling like a cast iron frisbee, it FLIES into the air...

EXPLODING into Times Square's giant lighted COCA-COLA SIGN!

SPARKS shower down as the Queen, dressed in skin tight black
leather and a matching cowl, rises up from the manhole, with a
slow lipstick twirl!

Hands on her hips, she surveys these alien climes with cultivated
contempt. Extending a long lithe leg, she starts to STRUT!

109 EXT. THE SIDEWALKS - CONTINUOUS

109

Hardened, jaded NEW YORKERS spreading like the Red Sea before her,
instinctively stepping aside at her commanding bad ass presence!

Narissa passes a series of DISCOUNT ELECTRONICS STORES. A RADIO
TALK show blasts onto the sidewalk...

NATHANIEL (O.S.)

I'm ready to kill for her and still she
treats me like dirt! No matter how hard I
try. She constantly yells at me. Calls me
horrible names...

We follow Narissa as she arrives at a waiting CAB.

RADIO CALL-IN HOST (O.S.)
 Sounds like you need to ask yourself how
 this is affecting your sense of self-worth.

Where a turbaned SIKH CAB DRIVER sits at the wheel, a cell phone
 to his ear as he listens to the host.

QUEEN NARISSA
 (reaching for the passenger door)
 Hello, worthless!

The startled Sikh Cab driver turns to us, revealing it's a
 panicked Nathaniel in disguise.

110 INT. ROBERT'S OFFICE - NIGHT 110

Robert is finishing getting dressed in his gold lamé PRINCE
 COSTUME, unconsciously still HUMMING the song from the park. He
 HEARS a snide voice behind him, Carl.

CARL
 Hey! Prince Charming.

ROBERT
 (noticing his unhappy expression)
 I guess you heard about the Schumers...

CARL
 I smelled it actually. The stench of
 misguided sentiment.
 (coolly)
 Starting Monday you're back on depositions,
 Romeo.

Robert nods, not nearly as upset as he probably should be.

111 EXT. THE CHRYSLER BUILDING - LATER 111

Limos and town cars drop off GUESTS for the charity ball in front
 of one of Gotham's signature skyscrapers.

112 INT. THE CHRYSLER BUILDING BALLROOM - CONTINUOUS 112

Located high atop the Chrysler Building's crown, the windows boast
 dizzying views of the imposing stainless steel Art Deco EAGLE
 GARGOYLES and a dazzling 360 vista overlooking the city at night.
 The ballroom's been lavishly converted into a 16th Century Palace.

An ORCHESTRA plays courtly minuets while Accountants, Lawyers,
 Doctors and other sundry white collar executives masquerade as
 LORDS and LADIES of the kingdom!

Out on the dance floor, 'Prince' Robert dances with 'Lady' Nancy. Despite the romantic atmosphere, Robert seems very distracted.

NANCY

What are you thinking about?

ROBERT

(trying to sound cheery)
Everything I guess. You and I. The future.

NANCY

I like the way you think.

113 EXT. NEW YORK STREET - CONTINUOUS

113

Nathaniel stands holding Pip inside a plastic HAMSTER BALL as a black-clad Narissa stares into a large 'crystal ball' shaped CIRCULAR FOUNTAIN. She raises her arms in a magical arch...

As a splintered IMAGE slowly appears in the water's spray:

A sweeping TILT DOWN from the top of the Chrysler building to the front doors as Giselle and Prince Edward (now cleaned up and sparkling) walk into the lobby.

A smile of absolute evil spreads across the queen's face!

Her delight suddenly interrupted by Nathaniel's anxious voice.

NATHANIEL

When you have a chance, I really need to speak to you about our relationship.

Narissa's eyes go wide in indignant outrage at this presumption!

Throwing her black hood over her head, she turns backwards, both Nathaniel and Pip reacting with mute horror at what they see!

114 INT. THE CHRYSLER BALLROOM - A LITTLE LATER

114

Robert and Nancy dance cheek-to-cheek to a slow song.

NANCY

So. Anything specific you want to talk about?

ROBERT

(awkwardly)
I guess. I've been mulling the two of us over. These last few days especially...

Robert's suddenly CUT OFF by an audible GASP of wonder from the crowd. Robert and Nancy turn to the source of this amazement:

AT THE TOP OF THE GRAND STAIR CASE

Stands a young woman, the princely gentlemen next to her helping her off with coat to reveal...

GISELLE

Utterly resplendent in a stunning, modern dress!

Elegant, svelte and strikingly sexy; her hair now short and styled, the height of sophistication!

She's even wearing a fabulous pair of clear GLASS designer heels!

Giselle looks around, suddenly conscious of the fact that she's the only modern woman in a room full of fairy tale characters. Glancing down at her ensemble, she takes a breath and bravely takes her first step down the stairs.

And while every eye in the room is on Giselle, her eyes can't help but fall on...

Robert, staring back at her, helplessly overwhelmed.

NANCY

(off Robert's stare)
What is she doing here?

ROBERT

I have no idea.

Robert looks at Nancy and then Giselle, not at all sure himself!

Edward follows a step behind as Giselle floats like a vision down the stairs.

Robert stepping forward to greet her at the landing, each sharing a poorly concealed delight at seeing the other.

ROBERT (cont'd)

I'm a little surprised to see you.

GISELLE

I'm surprised too. You told me you couldn't dance.

ROBERT

I said I didn't. I never said I can't.

Standing behind Giselle, Edward takes in Giselle's inexplicable 'rapport' with this peasant. He conspicuously clears his throat.

GISELLE
 Oh, excuse me. This is Edward.
 (by now a tad self-conscious)
 He's my...prince.

Robert extends his hand in cordial greeting.

ROBERT
 We met earlier. You pulled a sword on me.
 (turning to Nancy)
 This is Nancy. She's my...

Before Robert can describe exactly what Nancy is, the ORCHESTRA LEADER announces over the microphone...

ORCHESTRA LEADER
 Change of partners for our next dance,
 please!

Unflinchingly polite, Edward gives Nancy a courtly bow and extends his hand...

PRINCE EDWARD
 May I have the pleasure?

Leaving Nancy little choice but to accept, the two of them dancing away, Nancy craning her head back at Robert...

As Robert and Giselle are left standing alone.

Staring in each others eyes as Robert offers his hand. Giselle gives a slight curtsy as she takes it.

The two of them slipping into the flow of the other dancers on the floor. Thrown together in this intimate embrace, Giselle self-consciously admits...

GISELLE
 I feel so foolish. Dressed like this.

Robert looks at her, the words pouring out of him.

ROBERT
 You look beautiful.

GISELLE
 (shyly)
 Thank you.

ROBERT
 (a little shy too)
 How's your date?

GISELLE
 I'm sorry?

ROBERT
 Your date? With the prince?

GISELLE
 (suddenly remembering)
 Oh. It's going...splendidly.

ROBERT
 That's good. I'm glad.

GISELLE
 I'm glad too. And you and Nancy?
 Congratulations are in order?

ROBERT
 (weakly)
 Well, practically. I guess I have you to
 thank for bringing us back together.

GISELLE
 (a brave smile)
 Well...congratulations.

Their eyes locked on one another, Robert and Giselle slowly dance out into the center of the ballroom.

The rest of the room FALLING away as we stay on this beautiful couple...

"Beauty and the Beast", "Cinderella", "The King and I", all the greatest romantic dancing moments in the history of great romantic dance moments suddenly finding their successor in these two!

The music SWELLING to a lush crescendo which culminates in...

A sparkling shower of golden GLITTER falling from the ceiling...

Raining gentle clouds of magic dust on the dancing couples below!

115 WHILE ACROSS THE ROOM

115

Nancy dances with Prince Edward, each casting jealous glances over at Robert and Giselle.

NANCY
 So you two are like an item?

PRINCE EDWARD
Giselle is the love of my life, my
intended, my heart's true desire!

NANCY
Wow.

PRINCE EDWARD
Is something wrong?

NANCY
Just the way you said that. So
straightforward and unself-conscious. Not
a hint of irony.
(smiling)
It's very...romantic.

PRINCE EDWARD
Well thank you.

Both of them suddenly looking up in surprise to see...

116 ROBERT AND GISELLE GLIDING PAST THEM

116

Her emotions swelling, Giselle presses her head to Robert's
shoulder. He holds her tight as she speaks in a breathless voice.

GISELLE
You really are a lovely dancer.

ROBERT
It was your suggestion.

GISELLE
I guess it was...

We CUT between their expressions of unspoken yearning. They've
never been this close to one another, and yet at the same time,
never further apart.

Suddenly leaning in, Robert speaks to Giselle in the only way he
possibly can in this stolen moment.

He sings.

A soft, sweet, almost awkward half-whisper, following along with
the SINGER in the band. A declaration of profound affection
safely hidden in the words of this sweet melody...

Giselle closes her eyes, feeling a rush of inner delight. Opening
them again, she smiles at Robert, their faces now close enough to
kiss...

The moment shattered as Giselle feels a TAP on her shoulder. She turns to see Nancy behind her, nodding towards Robert.

NANCY
You don't mind, do you?

GISELLE
(stepping back)
Oh no! Not at all.

Giselle's face fills with surprise at their sudden separation...

Robert offering a sad parting glance as Nancy twirls him away.

Leaving Giselle standing by herself at the grand staircase, looking as alone as when she first arrived in New York.

Gone is the happy girl from the Fairy Tale. In her place is a grown-up 'woman', her heart half-lost to a new world she knows holds no place for her. As she fights her welling tears...

A light rain starts to fall outside, mirroring Giselle's mood.

PRINCE EDWARD (O.S.)
Are you ready to go home now?

Giselle turns to Edward, who casts a jealous glance at Robert.

GISELLE
(quietly resigned)
Yes, Edward. Finally I am.

Taking Giselle's hand, Edward escorts her...

117 UP THE BALLROOM'S GRAND STAIRCASE 117

Gently lifting Giselle's chin as they climb...

PRINCE EDWARD
You're crying?

Stealing a backwards glance down at Robert and Nancy, Giselle forces a smile, telling the first lie in her life.

GISELLE
Only with happiness!

Edward's pleased to hear this as they arrive at...

118 INT. THE UPPER LEVEL OF THE BALLROOM - CONTINUOUS 118

He sets her by one of the upstairs pillars, reassuring her...

PRINCE EDWARD

I'll get your wrap. We can finally leave
this madness behind!

Edward hurries away, leaving a forlorn Giselle alone, half of her
in the light, the other half in the darkness of the alcove.

The thunder of the approaching storm echoes in the distance, the
increasingly heavy rain pounding against the windows behind her.

Feeling an inexplicable chill, Giselle suddenly turns, startled to
see...

The dark SILHOUETTE of a female figure standing by the pillars.
Giselle watches unnerved as the woman steps forward, slowly taking
off her hood to reveal...

It's the OLD HAG!

More hideous than ever in this 'live' incarnation! Her pale skin
glows with a sickly corpse-like pallor. She smiles at Giselle.

OLD HAG

Hello, my dear!

GISELLE

You?!

OLD HAG

I'm so glad to see you, child. I've been
so worried! Such a terrible accident,
you're coming to this place.

The hag's eyes move knowingly past Giselle to Robert and Nancy
dancing in the ballroom below. Somehow, Giselle knows this woman
sees right through, her deepest feelings lay bare before her.

OLD HAG (cont'd)

(her voice soft with empathy)

So much sadness here. So much pain. To
never be with the one you love, doomed to
spend eternity with another.

(a toothless, yet eerily tender smile)

It doesn't have to be like that. I can
help you forget all this hurt, make all the
bad memories disappear.

The old hag reaches into her robes and presents a perfect glossy
SHINY RED APPLE. Giselle stares at it, ripe and red and luscious.

OLD HAG (cont'd)

One bite, my love, and all this will go
away. New York, your time here.

(MORE)

OLD HAG (cont'd)

You won't remember anything. Just sweet dreams and happy endings. But you must hurry! The magic won't work unless you take a bite before the clock strikes twelve.

Giselle looks at the apple; so easy, so tempting. Tortured and torn, she turns her gaze down to the dance floor just in time to see...

Nancy lean in and kiss Robert!

The most powerful force on earth!

Giselle exhales, all her hopes and dreams pouring out of her like a last breath. She closes her eyes in torment and lifts the apple to her lips.

CLOSE ON THE OLD HAG

A THUNDERBOLT CRASHES as the hag lets out a peeling CACKLE of wicked TRIUMPH! Her evil eyes follow Giselle as she FALLS to the floor! We HEAR the THUMP of a body and see...

119 GISELLE'S HAND 119

Landing on the floor! The bitten apple ROLLS from her fingers...
DOWN THE GRAND STAIRCASE...

120 INT. THE BALLROOM - CONTINUOUS 120

ACROSS THE DANCE FLOOR, past oblivious guests, through the feet of dancing partners until it comes to rest next to a man's foot.

Robert's.

He picks up the apple, confused, suddenly hearing a vicious LAUGH! Following the sound, Robert looks up, startled to see...

ON THE UPPER BALCONY

An old hag throwing Giselle over her shoulder and hurrying away!

BACK ON THE DANCE FLOOR

A shocked Robert doesn't hesitate, leaving Nancy in his wake as he pushes into the throng of gawking guests towards the stairs.

A confused Nancy wading into the crowds after him!

121 INT. THE UPPER LEVEL OF THE BALLROOM - CONTINUOUS 121

Giselle on her shoulder, the hag PUSHES her way through the crowd.

OLD HAG
Out of my way!

The hag rushes with Giselle into an OPEN BALLROOM ELEVATOR!

122 INT. THE BALLROOM ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS 122

The OLD HAG quickly presses the DOWN BUTTON as the elevator doors begin to CLOSE! We HEAR her supremely self-pleased LAUGHTER!

As the Hag's cowl FALLS to REVEAL that she is once again Queen Narissa, giddily triumphant at the success of her evil plan!

But just as the elevator doors are almost closed...

SLASSSSHHHH!!!

A SWORD BLADE rips through the crack in the doors!

Narissa looks down in shock and surprise...

As the sword WEDGES the doors back OPEN! She looks up to see...

Prince Edward staring at her, his eyes wide in shock.

PRINCE EDWARD
Mother?

Narissa looks back, startled to have been found out! A fuming fury starts to overtake the prince as he begins to realize...

PRINCE EDWARD (cont'd)
You did this?

QUEEN NARISSA
Edward! No!

Wedging the elevator doors open with his feet, a seething Edward directs at the point of his blade OUT of the elevator...

123 INT. THE UPPER LEVEL OF THE BALLROOM - CONTINUOUS 123

Still carrying Giselle, Narissa backpedals as Prince Edward BACKS her up towards the ballroom!

QUEEN NARISSA
You don't understand! I was only trying to help her!

As they arrive at the balcony's edge, Narissa makes a show of gently setting Giselle down.

PRINCE EDWARD
You evil wretch!

QUEEN NARISSA
(indignantly)
Don't take that tone with me young man!
I'm your mother!

PRINCE EDWARD
Stepmother!

Unconvinced, Edward presses his blade to her neck. Her guilt exposed, Narissa HISSES indignantly!

QUEEN NARISSA
You fool! Who else was going to save you
from your lack of judgement?

124 INT. THE BALLROOM - CONTINUOUS 124

All of the crowd below now turned to watch this unfolding 'drama' on the UPPER LEVEL with rapt attention!

125 INT. THE BALLROOM CATWALK - CONTINUOUS 125

Seeing this unfolding 'theatre' the LIGHTING GUYS shift their spotlights from the 'band' up to the "damsel in distress".

126 INT. THE UPPER LEVEL OF THE BALLROOM - CONTINUOUS 126

Robert finally makes his way to the top of the stairs, Nancy at his heels as he rushes to Giselle. Kneeling down, he urgently feels her pulse!

ROBERT
Oh no!
(looking up at Nancy)
Call 911!

Nancy quickly reaches for her Blackberry, dialing.

NANCY
(into the phone)
Hello? We have a young woman here...

QUEEN NARISSA
You'll never save her now!

Staring at Giselle's fallen form, Edward turns angrily to Narissa!

PRINCE EDWARD
I am the future King! Your wickedness will
not stand!

QUEEN NARISSA
 (aghast at this challenge to her)
 How dare you speak to me like that!

The Queen raises her arms high in a sorceress's arc to cast a spell on Edward, but he grabs her and locks them around her back. She SQUEALS in pain!

NANCY
 (urgently to Robert)
 They're asking what's wrong?

ROBERT
 I'm not sure!
 (looking at the apple, realizing...)
 I think it's some kind of poison!

127 DONNNNGGGG!!!!

127

We HEAR the low RUMBLE of a CHURCH BELL in the distance. We CUT between this tense tableau and grand old CLOCKS around the city, sounding out the TWELVE CHIMES before the STROKE OF MIDNIGHT!

Narissa laughs wickedly!

QUEEN NARISSA (CONT'D)
 There's nothing you can do! When the clock strikes twelve she'll be dead!

Edward angrily covers Narissa's mouth with his hand, leaving her gasping with muffled indignation.

PRINCE EDWARD
 You're finished, Narissa! You will never return to the throne!

128 DONNNNGGGG!!!!

128

Robert presses his hand against Giselle's skin. Cold to the touch, her pallor is turning a deadly white.

ROBERT
 We're losing her! She's fading!

129 DONNNNGGGG!!!!

129

PRINCE EDWARD
 (panicked)
 We've got to help her! What can we do?

130 DONNNNGGGG!!!! 130

Robert looks into Giselle's face, his intense feelings for her reflected in his own.

ROBERT
I don't know. I...

PRINCE EDWARD
(pleading)
No, Giselle! My love...

131 DONNNNGGGG!!!! 131

As the bells chime, a quiet epiphany overtakes Robert. Suddenly he remembers. The one thing that Giselle told him and him alone.

132 DONNNNGGGG!!!! 132

Their panicked silence broken as Robert quietly says the words...

ROBERT
True love's kiss...
(playing it back in his mind)
There's nothing more powerful in the world...

The prince looks over at Robert, quickly nodding.

PRINCE EDWARD
Yes. Of course! I knew that!

The Prince quickly steps towards Giselle...

Leaving Narissa to quietly step back...

As Edward gently kisses Giselle, waiting for her to wake...

133 DONNNNGGGG!!!! 133

Nothing. Giselle doesn't move.

Everyone waits expectantly on Giselle's reaction. Edward frantically kisses her again.

Still nothing!

134 DONNNNGGGG!!!! 134

PRINCE EDWARD
(frantic)
It's not working!

Robert puts his head to her chest, desperately listening.

ROBERT

It has to work! There's no other answer!

135 DONNNNGGGG!!!!

135

Edward stares at Giselle, knowing she's dying, desperate to save her. A transformation moves like a wave across his face, his vanity suddenly dissolving to reveal a far more nobler man within. An idea forms as Edward turns his gaze from Giselle to Robert.

PRINCE EDWARD

Unless...

ROBERT

Unless what?

And now it's Edward's turn to have an epiphany, chivalrously thinking only of Giselle's survival as the possibility occurs...

PRINCE EDWARD

I'm not the one...

Edward stares intently at Robert, his meaning immediately clear to him.

ROBERT

No! That's not possible!
(fighting him)
It couldn't be me!

136 DONNNNGGGG!!!! TEN STROKES!

136

PRINCE EDWARD

Don't you see? It has to be!

ROBERT

Are you crazy?! I just met her a few days ago. She and I...

NANCY (O.S.)

Kiss her, Robert!

Robert turns, surprised to hear Nancy echoing Edward. She looks at him, pleading with a soft urgency.

NANCY (cont'd)

You may be her only hope.

Robert slowly looks at Giselle. Taking in her angelic face, all his doubts seem to come into doubt.

- 137 DONNNNGGGG!!!! ONLY ONE STROKE LEFT... 137
- Robert hesitantly leans forward. Summoning all the long dormant faith and hope and love inside him...
- He tenderly, gently, presses his lips to Giselle's.
- 138 DONNNNGGGG!!!! THE STROKE OF MIDNIGHT... 138
- As almost instantly, the flush of life rushes back to her cheeks. Suddenly Giselle starts to blink...
- Until she slowly opens her eyes.
- Looking up adoringly into the face of the one man who adores her more than any other. Her one true love! She slowly smiles...
- GISELLE
I knew it was you.
- 139 INT. THE BALLROOM - CONTINUOUS 139
- The GUESTS break into unanimous APPLAUSE at this fabulous piece of "Party Theatre".
- AN OLDER WOMAN
(clapping and smiling)
Marvelous! What did you think?
- AN OLDER MAN
(also clapping)
Wonderful! Much better than last year's show.
- 140 INT. THE UPPER LEVEL OF THE BALLROOM - CONTINUOUS 140
- Robert and Giselle's sweet moment of reunion is cut short as the entire room is plunged into darkness!
- 141 INT. THE BALLROOM CATWALK - CONTINUOUS 141
- The spotlights EXPLODE into sparks as the LIGHTING GUYS jump away!
- 142 INT. ANOTHER ALCOVE - CONTINUOUS 142
- In the shadow of the BURNED OUT ELECTRICAL PANEL we see Narissa's slender HAND pull away from the object of its destruction!
- The hand suddenly starting to grotesquely ELONGATE and CURL.

143

INT. THE UPPER LEVEL OF THE BALLROOM - CONTINUOUS

143

Narissa's disembodied VOICE, bitter and defeated, suddenly starts to RICOCHET around the room in the blackness!

QUEEN NARISSA (O.S.)
I have nothing now, girly!

We FOLLOW her voice as it moves throughout the crowd...

QUEEN NARISSA (O.S.) (cont'd)
And it's all because of you!

The unsettling effect of her vitriolic words playing on the anxious faces of the guests, their initial nervous giggles that this might be "part of the show" soon devolving into quiet panic.

QUEEN NARISSA (O.S.) (cont'd)
Did you really believe...

Narissa's voice starts to change and bend, growing deeper and darker, an unseen metamorphosis taking place!

QUEEN NARISSA (O.S.) (cont'd)
That I was going to idly sit by?

The crowd GASPS as they sense something moving and forming beneath their feet. We catch shadowy GLIMPSES of something sinister slithering in the darkness...scales and claws and teeth...more frightening for what they suggest than what they show!

QUEEN NARISSA (O.S.) (cont'd)
And endure this humiliation?

Narissa's bitter diatribe builds to a frightening crescendo as she screams out in a low, almost animalistic voice...

QUEEN NARISSA (O.S.) (cont'd)
Someone has to suffer the consequences!

Her threatening words punctuated by a deafening CRASH of THUNDER!

A series of violent LIGHTNING FLASHES reveal:

A large, lean, muscular reptilian NARISSA BEAST, looming menacing directly over Robert and Giselle!

Narissa's inner ugliness and evil now externalized!

A slithering tail leads to a sinewy scaled body and clawed talon-like HANDS, only a trace of Narissa's beautiful face now visible in her rapacious animal visage!

The guests SCREAM in collective horror as the Narissa Beast SCOOPS up Robert in its claws and LEAPS down into...

144 INT. THE BALLROOM - CONTINUOUS 144

Its tail SMASHING the fountains on either side of the staircase, the panicked crowd parting as the beast runs through the lightning flashes with its prey, SCREECHING its way across the ballroom!

145 INT. A TAXI - CONTINUOUS 145

The RAIN is POURING DOWN HARD onto the pavement!

Nathaniel's parked next to the Chrysler Building. Pip repeatedly BANGS his hamster ball against the car door to escape and help Giselle as Nathaniel conducts a thoughtful "self-help" inventory.

NATHANIEL

I mean, I'm a person too. I have feelings.
I deserve better than this.

CRRRRRASSSSSHHHH!!

146 EXT. THE TAXI - CONTINUOUS 146

Nathaniel steps out of the taxi, following this jarring sound upward to see the TAIL END of the huge Narissa beast BURSTING out OVER THE SIDE of the Chrysler Building crown, huge CHARDS of glass FALLING down towards the street!

NATHANIEL

(horrified)
What's she done now?

147 EXT. THE CHRYSLER BUILDING - CONTINUOUS 147

Nathaniel runs from the taxi towards the Chrysler Building! Pip immediately starts 'pushing' his hamster wheel out of the car!

148 INT. THE BALLROOM - CONTINUOUS 148

As the ballroom SAFETY LIGHTS illuminate to a dim glow...

The guests stare in horror at the GAPING HOLE left in the building by the escaping beast, the howling WIND and RAIN blowing past the band stand, now a smashed up stage of broken chairs and abandoned instruments left from the beast's rampage out of the building!

As most of the panicked guests hurry towards the stairs!

149 INT. THE UPPER LEVEL OF THE BALLROOM - CONTINUOUS 149

Giselle looks out over all this devastation in utter shock.

Mere moments ago she had her happy ending! Now she only has a very bad beginning, her true love suddenly stolen from her!

Prince Edward steps gallantly forward, grandly announcing...

PRINCE EDWARD

The beast must be stopped and the young man rescued! Fear not, Giselle! I will devise a plan and...

SWOOSH!!!

Edward looks down to see Giselle has impatiently GRABBED his sword and is sliding down the staircase banister past the fleeing crowd!

150 INT. THE BALLROOM - CONTINUOUS 150

Leaping OVER a smashed fountain until she lands in a run (losing a glass shoes in the process) bounding in giant steps towards the gaping hole!

151 INT. THE CHRYSLER BUILDING LOBBY - CONTINUOUS 151

Nathaniel RUNS hellbent into an open elevator. Pip, rolling his Hamster Ball, enters the elevator a moment after him!

152 INT. THE UPPER LEVEL OF THE BALLROOM - CONTINUOUS 152

Struggling to chase after Giselle, Edward is held back by the throngs of party guests pressing against him trying to get out!

PRINCE EDWARD

Excuse me! Pardon me! Excuse me!

Despite Edward's polite entreaties, he's knocked to the floor by the crowd. Nancy tries to help him up before he's trampled...

153 EXT. THE CHRYSLER BUILDING CROWN - CONTINUOUS 153

As the wind and rain and thunder HOWL high above the city...

The Narissa Beast rapidly climbs the side of the slippery stainless steel, holding onto Robert as he pleads for his release!

ROBERT

(gasping with fear at the 77 stories below!)
What are you doing? Are you crazy?

NARISSA BEAST

No. Vengeful. Spiteful. Vindictive.
Never 'crazy'.

GISELLE (O.S.)
Hold on, Robert!

The Narissa Beast turns back, shocked to see Giselle is actually FOLLOWING along below with her sword. Robert's just as surprised!

ROBERT
Giselle?

Fiercely determined, Giselle GRABS at the small antennae jutting out of the building to try and keep up! She SHOUTS over the rain!

GISELLE
You're going to be okay, Robert!

NARISSA BEAST
My, my. Quite the brave display!
(pulling Robert up even higher, she yells down)
Unfortunately you've been reading the wrong
story! This one ends with a rather
pronounced 'SPLAT'!

Narissa effortlessly LEAPS with an animal agility up another tier of the crown. Determined not to lose her man...

GISELLE
No!

Giselle KICKS off her remaining heel, watching horrified as it soundlessly drops 77 stories below.

Turning back to her task, she uses the climbing skills we first saw in the forest to scurry up after them!

Down below at street level, we catch dizzying glimpses of arriving paramedics and emergency vehicles, their sirens blaring!

154 EXT. THE CHRYSLER BUILDING CROWN BALCONY - CONTINUOUS 154

A crowd of curious guests has moved out of the ballroom onto the balcony to witness this bizarre unworldly spectacle!

Edward and Nancy emerge as well, looking up at Giselle, Robert and the beast. Pinned in by the crowd, they're helpless to help!

155 EXT. THE CHRYSLER BUILDING CROWN - CONTINUOUS 155

The Narissa beast's claw-like hand REACHES the spire, a terrified Robert hanging precariously in the other.

156 EXT. THE BASE OF THE CROWN - CONTINUOUS 156

The unrelenting wind and rain making her footing even more slippery, Giselle grittily keeps climbing with her sword up towards them!

157 EXT. THE CHRYSLER BUILDING CROWN BALCONY - CONTINUOUS 157

Nathaniel emerges to join Edward and Nancy among the crowd of helpless spectators. He looks up in horror as the Narissa Beast cruelly dangles Robert from the spire! A moment later...

Pip ROLLS between Nathaniel's legs, POUNDING at the plastic Hamster ball, desperate to get out and help! Nathaniel picks up the ball, knowingly shaking his head at his tiny foe!

NATHANIEL

You just can't wait to get out, can you?
Cause trouble for the queen just like you
did for me?

Pip nods a frantic 'yes'! Nathaniel takes one last pointed look up at the Narissa beast before suddenly OPENING the plastic ball!

NATHANIEL (cont'd)

Well get to it!

Nathaniel and Pip share a smile of mutual purpose as Pip nimbly scrambles over the heads of the party guests onto the building.

158 EXT. THE CHRYSLER BUILDING CROWN - CONTINUOUS 158

Hanging by one claw from the spire, swinging Robert with the other, Narissa taunts Giselle, still fighting to reach them!

NARISSA BEAST

Do you really think you're any match for
me? You and your quaint romantic notions?
"Happily ever after?" "True love's kiss?"
You're nothing but a silly naive girl!

Finally catching her footing, Giselle stands, shouting up to her!

GISELLE

Let him go! He means nothing to you!

NARISSA BEAST

No, but he means everything to you!

Giselle's suddenly caught off guard as Pip surreptitiously runs past her to 'help.' He scurries up the crown, sneaking to the spire behind the oblivious, still-taunting Narissa Beast!

- 159 EXT. THE CHRYSLER BUILDING SPIRE - CONTINUOUS 159
 The Narissa Beast laughs at Giselle's 'show' of bravery. Leaning in even closer, she continues to scathingly mock her!
- NARISSA BEAST
 You took away my happy ending, little girl!
 I'll be damned if you see one day of yours!
- 160 EXT. THE BASE OF THE CROWN - CONTINUOUS 160
 Fiercely gritting her teeth, Giselle fights her own uncertainties as she raises the sword, aiming it towards the beast!
- 161 EXT. THE CHRYSLER BUILDING SPIRE - CONTINUOUS 161
 As Pip JUMPS from the spire onto the Narissa beast's head (exactly like our opening animation sequence) angrily pounding his little fists into her scaly skull!
- The miniscule addition of Pip's tiny body mass adding just enough extra weight to Narissa's bulk...
- To suddenly cause the spire to BEND forward!
- Caught off guard, the beast suddenly loses its equilibrium, its panicked SCRAMBLE to regain its hold causing the beast to lose its balance altogether!
- The spire BENDING forward even MORE...
- As the beast starts to SLIP OFF IT!
- 162 EXT. THE BASE OF THE CROWN - CONTINUOUS 162
 Summoning all her courage and strength, Giselle suddenly HURLS the sword with all her might!
- 163 EXT. THE CHRYSLER BUILDING SPIRE - CONTINUOUS 163
 The sword BYPASSING the Narissa beast just as it LOSES its grip!
- Instead PINNING Robert's sleeve to the spire!
- As the Narissa beast FALLS off the spire, HOWLING in panic as it RUSHES past Giselle...
- 164 EXT. THE CHRYSLER BUILDING GARGOYLE - CONTINUOUS 164
 THUMMMPP!!!!
- The beast just barely LANDS on one of the building's EAGLE GARGOYLES. The onlookers on the adjacent balcony GASP!

As Pip quickly LEAPS off the beast's head...

Landing safely in a surprised Nathaniel's arms at the edge of the balcony. Finally embracing their 'relationship', Nathaniel holds Pip tight as they turn back, along with Edward and Nancy to see...

The Narissa beast grappling to hold on to the gargoyle!

165 EXT. THE CHRYSLER BUILDING CROWN - CONTINUOUS 165

Giselle's eyes go wide in shock as she realizes...

166 EXT. THE CHRYSLER BUILDING GARGOYLE - CONTINUOUS 166

The frightened beast has REVERTED to the now all-too human Queen! Desperately clinging to the wet metal, she struggles to hold on...

Narissa glances imploringly up at Nathaniel, begging for sympathy with her eyes. Nathaniel stares back helpless to help. Suddenly losing her grip, Queen Narissa SLIPS OFF completely...

PLUNGING screaming to her death!

167 EXT. THE CHRYSLER BUILDING SPIRE - CONTINUOUS 167

As Robert's sleeve suddenly RIPS away from the sword, he frantically GRABS hold of the slippery spire with his hand...

GISELLE
(panicked)
Hold on, Robert!

His face filled with panic as his hand starts to slip on the slick spire! FIVE fingers, FOUR fingers, THREE fingers, TWO...

ROBERT
(falling backward)
Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!!!!

Robert TUMBLES through the dark night, hands and legs FLAILING in an uncontrolled FREE FALL over the side of the steel crown...

As Robert FALLS in black space, by now too scared to scream!

Suddenly, in the limbo of the dark night...

Two strong yet FEMININE ARMS appear!

CATCHING Robert with a fierce determination and PULLING HIM BACK!

As we quickly DOLLY OUT to REVEAL...

Giselle, holding on tight to Robert as she FALLS BACK ONTO the slippery CURVE she's precariously balanced on!

The two of them suddenly SLIDING down and OFF the curve...

LANDING on a LOWER LEVEL, where Giselle quickly braces her feet against the tiny antennae to stop their fall!

Robert looks at her with undisguised joy and amazement! She gives him a self-satisfied smile.

GISELLE

Is this a big habit with you? Falling off stuff?

Robert turns to Giselle, his face filled with adoration.

ROBERT

Only when you're around to catch me.

They embrace in an absolutely unapologetically romantic storybook KISS! We HEAR an upbeat pop version of our original TRUE LOVE'S KISS THEME!

DISSOLVE TO:

168

INT. MORGAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

168

As Robert turns down her bed, Morgan throws a blue shawl over her bedside lamp...

ROBERT

Well basically, what happened was...

Creating a cozy 'night time' glow in the room as Morgan begs...

MORGAN

No! No! Do it like a fairy tale!

Robert smiles, giving in at last to her persistent request.

ROBERT

I guess I could give it a try.
(clearing his throat)
Once upon a time, in an enchanted kingdom
known as Andalasia...

MORGAN

(impatiently)
I know all that! Skip to the end!

ROBERT

Okay. After Giselle saved the day at the Chrysler Building...

169 INT. THE CHRYSLER BUILDING BALLROOM - NIGHT 169

The MUSICIANS pack up as the BALLROOM STAFF starts to clean.

ROBERT (V.O.)

All the other guests had already gone home.
Well...almost all of them.

Standing all by herself in the ballroom is Nancy, a bittersweet expression on her face as she readies to go home alone.

Giselle's LOST GLASS SHOE. Reaching down she picks it up, the irony of the "lone slipper" not lost on her. Tears start to fall as Nancy SINKS like a fairy tale heroine and starts to cry.

PRINCE EDWARD (O.S.)

Why the tears beautiful lady?

Nancy looks up from her tears to see Prince Edward standing above her, offering a chivalrous handkerchief. She sniffles gratefully as they start to talk, their sadness quickly turning to smiles.

NANCY

(holding up Giselle's 'shoe')
I think Giselle forgot her shoe.
(letting out a small laugh, she smiles)
Figures.

Looking into each others eyes, Edward and Nancy suddenly share the same unspoken thought. Without saying a word, Edward takes off one of Nancy's own dress shoes and hesitantly slips on Giselle's.

PRINCE EDWARD

(smiling)
It's a perfect fit.

Nancy's eyes go from the 'princess' shoe on her foot and up to the prince himself. Their smiles ignite as invisible sparks fly!

170 EXT. TIMES SQUARE - DAY 170

Prince Edward escorts Nancy back down the manhole cover.

171 **EXT. ANDALASIA, THE PALACE - ANIMATED** 171

It's a glorious royal ceremony with all the trimmings. We see the Prince getting married to Nancy, who's radiantly happy at the prospect of being a spoiled queen in a never-ending fairy tale!

ROBERT (V.O.)

And so in the end Prince Edward did return
to Andalusia and was crowned king,
alongside his beautiful new queen.

In mid-ceremony, Nancy's Blackberry RINGS! Taking it out, she
HURLS it over her shoulder and it SMASHES down the palace steps.

172 INT. MORGAN'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

172

Morgan's sitting up in bed beaming, listening and craving more!

MORGAN

And Giselle? What happened to her?

ROBERT

You already know that...

MORGAN

Tell me again!

173 INT. FAIRY TALE FASHIONS - DAY

173

Nancy's former studio, now redecorated for "ANDALASIA FASHIONS".
Lavish 'princessy' curtains cover the floor-to-ceiling windows.

ROBERT (V.O.)

Inspired by the story of Coco Chanel in The
Young Women Biography Series, Giselle took
her flair for sewing and design...

A stylishly dressed Giselle stands in smart little glasses
surrounded by MODELS, overseeing her new clothing line.

ROBERT (V.O.) (cont'd)

And with the help of her savvy new business
partner and legal counsel, started a
successful line of princess clothing,
merchandizing and branding.

Robert works at her side, his Blackberry cradled to his ear.
Still working there, May smiles at the irony of this tableau.

As an Armani-clad Nathaniel emerges from the throng of models,
this bevy of nubile beauties all vying for his attention! Over
squeals of 'Nathaniel!' and 'Natey!', a gorgeous REDHEAD begs...

GORGEOUS REDHEAD

Oh, Nathaniel! Could you zip me up
please!?

NATHANIEL

(rallying the troops as he zips her up)
 Okay, let's remember out there, girls!
 Confidence! You can do it! You're worthy!
 You never get anywhere in this world by
 being a snivelling self-loathing weasel!

As the girls smother him with appreciative hugs and kisses,
 Nathaniel can't help but smile.

NATHANIEL (cont'd)

Well...almost never.

174 INT. A BOWLING ALLEY - NIGHT 174

Robert shows Giselle how to bowl, the both of them laughing.

ROBERT (V.O.)

And another one...

175 INT. A MOVIE - NIGHT 175

Giselle is crying her eyes out, Robert patiently comforting her.

ROBERT (V.O.)

And another.

176 EXT. TAVERN ON THE GREEN - NIGHT 176

Robert and Giselle laugh and smile under twinkling white lights.

ROBERT (V.O.)

And we've been going out ever since.

177 INT. MORGAN'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS 177

Giselle appears in the doorway, smiling, Pip at her side.

MORGAN

So did everyone live happily ever after?

ROBERT

Well today was very happy. As far as
 tomorrow. With a little bit of effort...

Robert and Morgan look up at her, happy to see her. As Giselle
 walks in and takes a seat with Robert on Morgan's bed...

WE DOLLY BACK OUT OF MORGAN'S WINDOW TO ROBERT'S BUILDING

As we see Pip follow Giselle in and hop on Morgan's bed...

GISELLE
Anything's possible.

The three of them laughing as we DOLLY BACK EVEN FURTHER...

TILTING UP to the stars over Manhattan...

The disparate constellations suddenly twisting and converging,
coming together like so much magic dust to form a dancing COUPLE,
gliding and spinning like a vision from a wonderful dream...

FADE OUT

THE END