

Scene 2

Gypsy Encampment

Scene opens – gypsy camp, few bushes around, logs to sit on round a fire.

Gypsy dance – *dancers exit at end of dance*

Rosebud and Eleanor on stage with a trunk full of Eleanor's clothes.

Rosebud: Have you packed everything dear? Dancing shoes, that beautiful ball gown we had made especially for you.

Eleanor: Yes it's all here, Rosebud.

Rosebud: Now remember Eleanor no one must know who you are. Not yet anyway. We can't risk the Ogres finding out and trying to take you away.

Eleanor: Yes I remember; don't worry I won't tell anyone.

Rosebud: Good girl.

Eleanor: Are you sure I will win this challenge Rosebud? It's a little unfair, with you getting the Chamberlain of Grande Florentia to **arrange** everything. It's like I've got an unfair advantage.

Rosebud: Rubbish, I'm not fixing it so that you win. I just helped get the ball rolling along. You're the most dignified and charming young woman, everything a Princess is supposed to be. No one else could be half as perfect a Queen as you will be. Your parents the King and Queen would have been very proud of you. *(Rosebud starts to cry)*

Eleanor: Now, now Rosebud, don't upset yourself. If it hadn't been for you protecting me from the Ogre's when they raided our country, and bringing me here to live with my wonderful adopted gypsy family, I would have perished with everyone else at the royal court.

Rosebud: I know. Once we have you safely married to royalty and protected by another kingdom then everyone can know who you really are.

A group of gypsies come on, carrying gifts for Eleanor

Gypsy 1: Eleanor, we are all going to miss you terribly.

Gypsy 2: Can we visit you when you are married to the King and living in the castle.

Eleanor: Hang on, I don't even know if I shall win the competition yet.

All: Of course you will, don't be silly ... *(and such like)*

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Eleanor: Thank you for your confidence in me. But we don't know who else is going to be there.

Gypsy 1: Oh no one can hold a light to our Eleanor, whoever turns up we know you will beat them hands down.

Gypsy 3: We've got some gifts for you so you won't forget us. *(she gives Eleanor long necklace)*

Eleanor: I'm never going to forget you all, you've been my family since I was a baby and you always will be whether I marry a Prince or not.

Gypsy 2: This is from me, I made it myself. *(hands over a shawl)*

Eleanor: Thank you it's beautiful.

Gypsy 1: And this is from me, so you can keep your precious things safe. *(hands over an elaborate little wooden box)*

(Gypsy 4 goes off stage and comes back on carrying with difficulty a very large hamper full of food)

Eleanor: You're all so very kind. I'm sure I don't deserve these.

Gypsy 4: We didn't want you to go hungry on your journey so we packed some food for you.

Rosebud: I'm starving, I feel as if I haven't eaten for days.

Gypsy 4: It's just a little picnic.

Rosebud: It looks like she's packed up half of Morrison's.

Gypsy 4: It's only a few sandwiches.

Gypsy 3: A few sandwiches, in a dirty great big basket like that.

Gypsy 4: Yes well I used thick sliced bread.

Rosebud: I'm on a diet you know, I only eat salad oil, vegetable oil and sunflower oil.

Eleanor: Have you lost weight?

Rosebud: No but I don't squeak anymore. What else have you got in there?

Gypsy 4: Well there's *(here gypsy proceeds to take food out of the basket and hand to Eleanor)* a loaf of bread, roasted chicken, cabbage, a cuddly toy *(everyone pauses)* meat pie, sherry trifle, cabbage, lobster, crab, cabbage, cake, bottle of wine

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Rosebud: I'll have that, Eleanor's far too young to be drinking alcohol. What sort is it anyway?

Gypsy 4: It's a cross between muscatel and hock.

Rosebud: What's it called?

Gypsy 2: Muck.

Everyone laughs

Gypsy 4: Here's some plates and cutlery and a table cloth, oh and a cabbage.

(Eleanor's can't hold them anymore and drops them all. Everyone helps pick everything up and put it back into basket again)

Eleanor: Thank you all so very much.

Gypsy 3: Sing a song for us Eleanor.

Gypsy 2: One last time before you go.

All: Yes, please, say you will ... *(etc)*

Eleanor: Do I have time Rosebud?

All: Say yes, Rosebud. Let her please ... *(etc...)*

Rosebud: Well, I'm not sure there's time, but.....alright, just one song.

Everyone cheers

Song **Reach or Shine** *gypsies play instruments while the dancers dance & Eleanor sings*

Rosebud: Come along Eleanor, if you don't set off now the bad weather will hit before you reach Grande Florentia.

Eleanor: Ok, goodbye everyone *(she hugs a few dancers, everyone waves as Eleanor & Fairy exit)*

All: Goodbye, bye, ... *(etc – just like the munchkins say to Dorothy when she sets off down the yellow brick road)*

Blackout

Scene 5
Ballroom – that evening

Chorus on as gentry, dancers as servants.

Song **Be our guest** – *with the dancers serving trays of drinks and food*

Chamberlain, Dame Dolly, Prince Valiant, Duchess, Travis and the 4 ladies on after. Lots of general background talking & acting as Fairy Rosebud enters in another disguise. Servants mingle with trays of drinks and food, throughout the scene.

Rosebud: Hello boys & girls, here I am in disguise again, just keeping an eye on what's going on. Sshhhh (*finger to her lips to show the audience to be quiet about her presence*) Ohh I say what's this over here? (*She moves over to the side of stage with the bell and goes to push it – hopefully the audience will remember to shout for Chester*)

Chester: (*running on*) Don't push that button. (*Fairy stops just before she touches the button*) Thanks boys and girls.

Chorus chatting over a glass of wine

Ch2: Do you know it cost me 2 pounds 3 shilling and 4 pence the other day to have the wheels changed on my carriage. (*shocked gasps from fellow gentry*)

Ch1: Money doesn't go as far as it used to these days does it? When I was younger some of us decided to have a really good night out and we went to Hanley. We saw a show then had a slap up supper, 4 courses, with wine, and then we all went home in handsome cabs. Do you know we still had change left out of a pound.

Ch2: You know what the trouble with you is my dear friend, you've always been a spend thrift.

Ch3: I don't think prices are too bad. Young ???? here and me went to the Rosemary cafe in the village the other day for lunch didn't we? (*ch4 nods in agreement*) You know what we had? (*counting on fingers*) brown Windsor soup, whale meat cutlets, mashed potatoes, swedes, tapioca pudding and a cup of tea. (*smacking lips together remembering the taste*)
(*Pause*)
9 pence. (*said with a sense of satisfaction*)
(*Pause*)
Mind you it wasn't very good. (*looking despondent*)

Ch4: I was sick.

Chamberlain moving forward from a different part of the stage.