

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 2
Castle corridor

FOT - enter Eleanor walking around looking lost a few servants hurry across the stage with various items of work i.e. laundry and tray full of plates.

Eleanor: Excuse me...*(to one of the servants, but they just look apologetic at her and move on quickly)* I seem to be... *(to another servant going the other way, same reaction)*

During this Prince Valiant enters looking fed up, he bumps into Eleanor

Valiant: Oh do forgive me Lady Eleanor I didn't see you there.

Eleanor: I seem to be lost. The castle is so big, and everyone is so busy, they can't help me.

Valiant: Yes the castle is on the large side isn't it? I remember as a child I once got lost and it took everyone all day to find me. To tell you the truth I was actually hiding as I was supposed to be doing my arithmetic with Dame Dolly. She'd asked me why I was doing my multiplication on the floor. And I said because she told me not to use tables, and then I ran off.

Eleanor: *(laughing)* Oh I can't imagine you being a mischievous little boy like that.

Valiant: *(also laughing)* If you had lessons with Dame Dolly you'd understand. I did grow out of it eventually. But I was rather lonely as a child, not many other children around to play with.

Eleanor: That's very sad. I was lucky, I had a large family; there were lots of children to play with.

Valiant: Where do you come from Lady Eleanor?

Eleanor: *(realising she may have said too much)* Nowhere very special.

Valiant: An unknown lady from an unknown place. You must agree it all sounds very mysterious.

Eleanor: Yes I suppose it does.

Valiant: Can't you tell me anything about yourself?

Eleanor: I'm sorry I can't, not yet. *(changing the subject)* But are you allowed to talk to me, I mean is it right to be seen alone with me before the competition is over.

Valiant: For me the competition was over the minute I set eyes on you. I really didn't want this challenge to take place but now I'm glad it has because it's brought you to me. I feel like I've known you for months not hours.

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Eleanor: So do I.

Song: That's what friends are for (Dionne Warwick) more than words, I knew you were waiting for me, just the way you are

Valiant: Have you ever been in love Eleanor?

Eleanor: No...I don't think so....have you?

Valiant: No.....I've never found the right person.... at least until now.

Eleanor: I hope I'm good enough to win the challenge.

Valiant: I have a feeling that you are. Compared to Lady Selena you are just about perfect.