EVER AFTER.

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Shooting Script Transcribe.

EXT. DAYTIME. A CASTLE:

The two Grimm brothers step out of a horse-drawn carriage draw into a castle entrance. They step inside amongst the beautiful rich tapestries, old oil artworks and magnificent statues.

INT. A CASTLE:

Butler:
The Brothers Grimm, Your Majesty.

Her Majesty:
Good day, gentlemen. Thank you so much for coming. I suppose you’re wondering why anyone my age would request an audience... with the authors of children's stories.

Grimm #1:
Your letter was most intriguing, madam.

Her Majesty:
I find your collection of folk tales quite brilliant actually.

Grimm#2:
Thank you.

Her Majesty:
But I must say I was terribly disturbed when I read your version of The Little Cinder Girl.

Grimm#2:
There are those who swear Perrault's telling... with its fairy godmother and magic pumpkins... would be closer to the truth.

Grimm #1:
Some claim the shoe was made of fur. Others insist it was glass. Well, I guess we'll never know.
Grimm #2:
Forgive me, Your Majesty. Might I enquire about the painting? She’s really quite... extraordinary.

Her Majesty:
Her name was Danielle de Barbarac. And this was her glass slipper. Perhaps you will allow me to set the record straight?

Grimm#1:
Then it’s true... the story?

Her Majesty:
Yes. Quite. Now then, what is that phrase you use? Oh, yes. Once upon a time... there lived a young girl... who loved her father very much.

CUT TO: EXT. DAYTIME. THE MANOR.
A carriage is returning to the Manor. It brings the Baroness, her two daughters and Auguste (papa) home.

Young Danielle:
Oh, Paulette, it feels just like Christmas! I get a mother and sisters all in one day!

Paulette:
Yes, it’s going to be very exciting here, what with the Baroness and all. Oh, hold still!

Louise:
The master deserves some happiness after all this time bringing up the child on his own. She must be lovely.

Young Danielle:
I hope she likes me.

Louise:
She’ll love you. Just be the little angel I know is in there somewhere.

Paulette:
And don’t chew on the bones at dinner and give yourself away.

Louise:
(Banging) (Child runs to window.) Child, your father arrives any moment!

Young Danielle:
Gustave, I told you! Not today!
**Young Gustave:**
You look like a girl!

**Young Danielle:**
That’s what I am, halfwit!

**Young Gustave:**
Yeah, but today you look it!

**Young Danielle:**
Boy or girl, I can still whip you.

**Young Gustave:**
Hah!

**Paulette & Louise (to each other):**
Look lively, it's the master.

**Maurice:**
Welcome home, Monsieur le Seigneur. I see you have brought us a baroness.

**Auguste:**
I have brought you an entire household, Maurice. But I seem to be missing a daughter.

**Baroness:**
(carriage door opens) Oh... Auguste. It’s absolutely charming, really.

**Young Danielle:**
Papa!

**Auguste:**
Oh ho ho! Oh, look at you, just as I left. I'll wager your friend Gustave is around here.

**Young Danielle:**
No, sir! I slaughtered him. He’s...

**Auguste:**
(Auguste laughs) Well, so you did.
I had hoped to present a little lady. I suppose you'll have to do.
Danielle...may I present the Baroness Rodmilla de Ghent... and her daughters, Marguerite and Jacqueline.

**Baroness:**
Hello, Danielle. At last we meet. Your father speaks of nothing else.
Ladies, say hello to your new stepsister.
Marguerite & Jacqueline:
Mademoiselle.

Young Danielle:
_Utopia._

Auguste:
It means paradise. This may be a bit thick for an eight-year-old. But we could add it to our library.

Danielle:
Will you read some?

Auguste:
It's been a very long day.

Young Danielle:
And you're a husband now.

Auguste:
Yes, I'm a husband. But a father first and forever. We've been two peas in a pod, you and I, for a long time. I suppose this will take some getting used to.

Young Danielle:
Did you see the way they ate their supper?

Auguste:
Yes.

Danielle:
It was perfect! Like a dance!

Auguste:
Do you like them?

Danielle:
Very much.

Auguste:
Good, good. Because I have to go to Avignon in a fortnight.

Danielle:
But you just got back!

Auguste:
I know.
Danielle:
For how long?

Auguste:
Only... three weeks.

Danielle
One.

Auguste:
Two.

Danielle:
One!

Auguste:
T... two. All right, one. Come on, go to sleep. Kiss. Sleep tight.

(Cock crows.)

Auguste:
(laughs) I’ve never seen so many gloomy faces around here. I shall be back in a week. Then go. The sooner you leave, the sooner we can celebrate your return. Perhaps by then, the three of you will know each other better. Huh? I’m counting on you to teach them the ropes around here. The Baroness isn’t used to getting her hands dirty. ...

(Pause) Thank you, Maurice.

Maurice:
Safe journey, master.

Baroness:
Come along, ladies. Back to your lessons.

Danielle:
Wait! It’s tradition. He always waves at the gate.

Auguste:
(Groans.) Agh!

Young Danielle:
Papa! Papa! (Danielle sobs) Papa!

Baroness:
Auguste!

Auguste:
I-I love you. I love you.
Baroness:

No.

Danielle:

Papa!

Baroness:

Auguste. You cannot leave me here. You cannot leave me here!

Young Danielle:

Leave me, leave me! Papa, please come back!

(Fade out to black.)

CUT TO: BLANK/BLACK SCREEN.

Her Majesty (Voiceover):

It would be ten years before another man would enter her life. A man who was still a boy... in many, many ways.

CUT TO: 10 YEARS LATER, INT. THE PALACE.

An argument is taking place between the King and Queen over the arranged marriage of Prince Henry to a Spanish Princess.

The King:

I signed a marriage treaty with the King of Spain...and that boy will obey me, or there will be hell to pay!

The Queen:

But he does not love her, my lord.

The King:

It's not about love!

The Queen:

Perhaps it should be.

The King:

If he is to become King, he must accept his responsibilities.
The Queen:
A sapling cannot grow in the shadow of a mighty oak, Francis. He needs sunlight.

The King:
He needs a good whipping.
(The King storms into Henry’s bedroom.)

The Queen:
Really, Francis! Can’t this wait till morning?

The King:
If I can’t sleep, neither shall he.
Henry, wake up!

The Queen:
Oh, no. Not again.

The King:
Call out the guard! Bring him back!

CUT TO: EXT. NIGHTTIME. THE PALACE.
Prince Henry is on horseback, leaving the palace.

Prince Henry:
Yah!

CUT TO: EXT.DAYTIME.THE MANOR
A cock crows, signalling morning. Danielle is already outside, picking fruit. Many horses are galloping past. They are the King’s men, looking for Prince Henry.

To one side, a lone rider jumps a fence. Danielle recognises her father’s horse immediately and hurries to stop the thief. She does not recognise the Prince.

Prince Henry:
Come on, you stupid beast! Come on! Yah!

Danielle:
Oh, no, you don’t. Thief! This will teach you to steal my father’s horse!
(She throws an apple, it topples him off his horse.)
Prince Henry:
Mine slipped his shoe. I have no choice.

Danielle:
And our choice is what? To let you?

Prince Henry:
I was borrowing it.

Danielle:
Get out, or I'll wake the house.

Prince Henry:
Ow!
(The Prince reveals himself.)

Danielle:
(Gasps) Forgive me, Your Highness. I did not see you.

Prince Henry:
Your aim would suggest otherwise.

Danielle:
And for that I know I must die.

Prince Henry:
Then er...speak of this to no-one and er...I shall be lenient.

Danielle:
We have other horses, Highness. Younger, if that is your wish.

Prince Henry:
I wish for nothing more than to be free of my gilded cage.
(The Prince tips out a bag of many gold francs.)
For your silence.

CUT TO: INT. THE MANOR. DINING ROOM.

Marguerite:
I asked for four-minute eggs, not four one-minute eggs. And where in God's name is our bread?!
Paulette:
It’s just coming out of the oven, my lady.

Baroness:
Marguerite, precious...what do I always say about tone?

Jacqueline:
A lady of breeding ought never to raise her voice... above the gentle hum of (whispers) a whispering wind.

Baroness:
Jacqueline, dear. Do not speak unless you can improve the silence.

Marguerite:
I was not shrill, I was resonant. A courtier knows the difference.

Baroness:
I very much doubt your style of resonance would be permitted in the Royal Court.

Marguerite:
I’m not going to the Royal Court, am I, Mother?
No-one is. Except some Spanish pig they have the nerve to call a princess.

Baroness:
Darling, nothing is final until you’re dead. And even then I’m sure God negotiates.
Why is there no salt on this table? Danielle!

CUT TO: INT. DAYTIME. THE MANOR, KITCHEN

Danielle:
Coming!

Louise:
She’s in one of her moods!
(Pause) Did the sun rise in the east?

Danielle:
Yes, Louise, it did. And it is going to be a beautiful day!

Paulette:
Look at all those feathers! (Looks at the money.) Child, where did you get this?
Danielle:
From an angel of mercy.
I know what to do with them.

Louise:
Maurice?

Danielle:
If the Baroness can sell your husband to pay her taxes... then these can certainly bring him home.
The Court will have to let him go.

Louise:
But the King has sold him to Cartier. He's bound for the Americas.

Danielle:
This is our home, and I will not see it fall apart.

Baroness:
We are waiting!

Paulette:
Take heed, mistress... or these coins are as good as hers.

CUT TO: INT. DINING ROOM, THE MANOR

Danielle:
Morning, Madame... Marguerite, Jacqueline.
I trust you slept well.

Baroness:
What kept you?

Danielle:
I fell off the ladder in the orchard, but I am better now.

Marguerite:
Someone's been reading in the fireplace again.
Look at you. Ash and soot everywhere.

Baroness:
Some people read because they cannot think for themselves.
Marguerite:
Why don’t you sleep with the pigs, Cinder-Soot...if you insist on smelling like one?

Baroness:
That was harsh, Marguerite. Danielle, come here, child.
Your appearance does reflect a certain... crudeness, my dear. What can I do to make you try?

Danielle:
I do try, Stepmother. I do wish to please you.
Sometimes, I sit on my own...and try to think of what else I could do, how to act...

Baroness:
Oh, calm down, child. Relax.

Danielle:
Perhaps if we brought back Maurice, I would not offend you so.

Baroness:
It is your manner that offends, Danielle. Throughout these hard times, I have sheltered you, clothed you and cared for you. All that I ask in return is that you help me here without complaint. Is that such an extraordinary request?

Danielle:
No, my lady.

Baroness:
Very well. We shall have no more talk of servants coming back. Is that quite understood?

(Danielle)
Yes, my lady.

Baroness:
After all that I do! After all I have done! It’s never enough. Eggs are cold.

CUT TO: EXT. DAYTIME. FOREST.
Prince Henry is galloping through the forest, stumbles upon robbers stealing from a carriage. It is the carriage containing famed artist Leonardo Da Vinci.

Leonardo Da Vinci:
Oh, no, there’s nothing there!
There’s nothing!
I beg you, please leave us alone.
Please!
No, no, not that.

**Thieves:**
Out of the way, old man! *(whistles)*
Get on the horses!
It’s the Royal Guard! Run!

**Prince Henry:**
(Looks behind, sees the King’s guard.) God, I don’t believe this!

**Leonardo Da Vinci:**
The painting...
Please, for the love of God, the painting.

**Leonardo Da Vinci:**
(To Prince Henry) That man, he’s getting away.

**Prince Henry:**
The Guard will assist you. I cannot.

**Leonardo Da Vinci:**
Please, sir!
It is... my life.

**Prince Henry:**
*(Yells)* Aaagh! Ugly bastard! Fast! Yah! Give it to me! Give it to me! Got you! Give me that! Aaargh!

**CUT TO: EXT.DAYTIME.THE VILLAGE.**
The baroness and her daughters are looking at jewelry.

**Baroness:**
No. Too small. It needs to draw some attention.

**Jeweller:**
I fear, Baroness, anything larger might make her fall over.

**Baroness:**
Perhaps you are right. I shall have to look elsewhere.
Jeweler:
I have just the thing!

CUT TO: INT.DAYTIME.THE MANOR.

Gustave:
Have you lost your marbles? Do you know what the punishment is... for servants who
dress above their station? Five days in the stocks.

Danielle:
You’d do the same for me, admit it.

Gustave.
Me? Pretend to be a courtier? Prancing round like some nobleman when I've never been to
court. And neither have you!

Danielle:
Then I won’t be recognised. Hand me that gown so I can be on my way.

Gustave:
They'll never buy it. You are too sweet.

Danielle:
They’ll never buy a servant with gold francs either. I am Maurice's only hope.

Gustave:
And the Baroness, what did you tell her?

Danielle:
I am picking wildflowers. Gustave, can you still see her?

Gustave:
They’re buying a brooch.

Danielle:
Unbelievable. She ignores the manor, blames us for her debt... and still pretends to have
money to burn. Don't you dare laugh. I’m coming out. The shoes are too big.

Gustave:
Nobody will be looking at your feet.

Danielle:
Yards of fabric and I still feel naked.
Gustave:
If you're going to be a noblewoman... you must play the part. You look down to no-one.

Danielle:
I am just a servant in a nice dress.

Gustave:
Come. We have to do something with that hair.

**CUT TO: EXT. DAYTIME. FOREST**
Prince Henry, having successfully recovered Leonardo's painting from the thieves, is riding through the forest to return it to the artist.

Leonardo da Vinci:
Oh! Thank you.

Capt Laurent:
Henry, you promised.

Prince Henry:
I know. I lied. I thought I'd see the world before I gave up my life to God and country.

Leonardo da Vinci:
Why on earth did you stop?

Prince Henry:
I suppose I lack conviction. You seem to have it in spades. Besides, you claimed it was a matter of life and death.

Leonardo da Vinci:
A woman always is, Sire. (He unrolls the canvas of the Mona Lisa.)

Prince Henry:
She laughs at me, sir, as if she knows something I do not.

Leonardo:
The lady had many secrets. I merely painted one of them.

Capt. Laurent:
Signor da Vinci has been invited to the palace as the artist in residence.

Prince Henry:
Leonardo da Vinci?
Leonardo:
Michelangelo was trapped under a ceiling in Rome. I'm just a second choice.

Prince Henry:
I am on my way to Genoa and I find my salvation on the highway! Sir, you are the founder of forward thinking and my father is the king of backward. Could you talk him into the 17th century?

Leonardo:
Captain Laurent, do translate.

Capt. Laurent:
Prince Henry suffers from an arranged marriage, Signore among other things.

CUT TO: EXT. THE MANOR. THE FRONT DOOR.

Baroness:
Oh! Your Highness. What a lovely surprise. To what do we owe this great honour?

Prince Henry:
I'm returning your horse, Baroness.

Baroness:
Oh. Was it missing?

Prince Henry:
Yes. I took the liberty of borrowing it earlier. I'm afraid I scared your servant...
A young lady with a quite a good arm, actually.

Baroness:
She is mute, my lord.

Prince Henry:
Really? She spoke quite forcefully.

Baroness:
Well, it comes and goes. But as always Your Highness is welcome to anything he wishes. Anything at all.

(Gasps)

Jacqueline (inside the house somewhere):
Wait for me!

(The two daughters spill out of the front door.)
Baroness:
Oh, ladies. Here you are.

Marguerite & Jacqueline:
(They curtsey.)
Your Highness.
Your Highness, may I present Marguerite Francoise Louise...of the House of Ghent?
And Jacqueline.

Prince Henry:
You may indeed.
Ladies, forgive me, but you seem to have blossomed overnight.

Baroness:
We’re so looking forward to celebrating the engagement to your own Spanish rose.

Prince Henry:
Yes, well, there have been several new developments with regards to Spain.
I must say, Marguerite, that brooch is...stunning.

Marguerite:
This old thing?
You are too kind.

Baroness:
These developments... I trust are for the best?

Prince Henry:
Let us hope so.
Good day, ladies.

CUT TO: EXT. DAYTIME. TOWN
Danielle is in town, dressed as a courtier, to get back Maurice.

Soldier:
Make way for the lady.

Servant trader:
Come on, move it!

Danielle:
(To herself.) Lord, give me strength.
Servant trader:  
Come on, come on!

Danielle:  
I wish to address the issue of this gentleman. 
He is my servant and I am here to pay the debt against him.

Servant trader:  
You're too late, he's paid for.

Danielle:  
I can pay you gold francs. 

Servant trader:  
You can have me for gold francs. Drive on!

Danielle:  
I demand you release him at once...or I shall take this matter to the King.

Servant trader:  
The King is the one that sold him. He's now the property of Cartier.

Danielle:  
He is not property at all, you ill-mannered tub of guts. Do you think it right to chain people like chattel? I demand you release him at once!

Servant trader:  
Get out of my way!

Prince Henry:  
You dare raise your voice to a lady, sir? 
Your Highness... F-Forgive me, Sire. I meant no disrespect. It's just er... I'm following orders. It's my job to take these thieves to the coast.

Danielle:  
A servant is not a thief, Your Highness... and those who are cannot help themselves.

Prince Henry:  
Really? 
Well, then. By all means enlighten us.

Danielle:  
If you suffer your people to be ill-educated and their manners corrupted from infancy... then punish them for those crimes to which their first education disposed them... what else is to be concluded, Sire...but that you first make thieves and then punish them?
Prince Henry:
Well, there you have it. Release him.

Servant Trader:
But, Sire...

Prince Henry:
I said ...release him!

Servant Trader:
Yes, Sire.

Maurice:
I thought I was looking at your mother.

Danielle:
(Whispers to Maurice.) Meet me at the bridge.
(Calls out.) Prepare the horses! We will leave at once!
(To Prince.) I thank you, Your Highness.

Prince Henry:
Have we met?

Danielle:
I do not believe so, Your Highness.

Prince Henry:
I could have sworn I knew every courtier in the province.

Danielle:
Well... I'm visiting a cousin.

Prince Henry:
Who?

Danielle:
My cousin.

Prince Henry:
Yes, you said that. Which one?

Danielle:
The only one I have, Sire.

Prince Henry:
Are you coy on purpose...or do you honestly refuse to tell me your name?
Danielle:
No! And yes.

Prince Henry:
Then, pray, tell me your cousin’s name so I might call upon her to learn who you are. Anyone who can quote Thomas Moore is well worth the effort.

Danielle:
The Prince has read Utopia?

Prince Henry:
I found it sentimental and dull. I confess, the plight of the everyday rustic bores me.

Danielle:
I gather you do not converse with many peasants.

Prince Henry:
(Chuckles) Certainly not, no! Naturally.

Danielle:
Excuse me, Sire, but there is nothing natural about it.
A country’s character is defined by its everyday rustics, as you call them. They are the legs you stand on. That position demands respect, not...

Prince Henry:
Am I to understand that you find me arrogant?

Danielle:
Well, you gave one man back his life...but did you even glance at the others?

Prince Henry:
Please, I beg of you a name. Any name.

Danielle:
I fear that the only name to leave you with...is Comtesse Nicole de Lancret.

Prince Henry:
There now. That wasn’t so hard.

CUT TO: EXT. DAYTIME. TOWN.
The Queen arrives in town and sees Henry.

The Queen:
Oh, Henry! You’re back.
**Prince Henry:**
Hello, Mother.

**The Queen:**
The King would like a word with you. Several, in fact.

**Prince Henry:**
He usually does. I shall be right in.

(The Prince looks about, but Danielle has disappeared.)

**CUT TO: EXT.DAYTIME.THE MANOR**
Maurice and Danielle return to the Manor.

**Louise:**
Ooh! Oooh-ho-ho!

(Lots of hugs and tears at the reunion.)

**CUT TO: INT.THE PALACE**
The King, Queen and Prince Henry are arguing about his arranged marriage.

**The King:**
You, sir, are restricted to the grounds.

**Prince Henry:**
Are you putting me under house arrest?

**The King:**
Do not mock me, boy, for I am in a foul disposition. And I will have my way.

**Prince Henry:**
Or what? You'll send me to the Americas like some criminal?
All for the sake of your stupid contract.

**The King:**
You are the Crown Prince of France.

**Prince Henry:**
And it is my life.
The Queen:
(To The King) Francis, sit down before you have a stroke.
Really, the two of you.
(To the Prince) Sweetheart ...you were born to privilege, and with that comes specific obligations.

Prince Henry:
Forgive me, Mother, but marriage to a complete stranger never made anyone in this room very happy.

The King:
Marry Gabriela by the next full moon or I will strike at you in any way I can.

Prince Henry:
What's it to be, Father? Hot oil or the rack?

The King:
I will simply deny you the crown ...and... live forever!

Prince Henry:
Good. Agreed. I don't want it.

The King:
(Turns to the Queen) He's your son!

CUT TO: INT. THE MANOR.

Marguerite:
Somebody's in trouble!

Danielle:
What do you mean?

Baroness:
You stupid, stupid girl!
How dare you do this to me?
To Marguerite? Why the whole thing makes me sick!
It's deceitfulness Danielle and I will not have it in this house!

Danielle:
What did I do?
Marguerite:
Think, Danielle. Think really hard.

(Jacqueline motions the galloping of horses.)

Danielle:
Prince Henry stole our horse this morning?

Baroness:
Yes! And that would explain why he returned it this afternoon. How dare you let him surprise us like that?

Danielle:
I'm sorry.

Baroness:
Luckily for you, Marguerite turned in a beautiful performance. She and the Prince had quite an interlude.

Marguerite:
I shouldn't be surprised if he drops by again.

Baroness:
Come, come! I must know exactly what was said. The simplest phrase can have a thousand meanings. He said you were forceful. What did you say?

Baroness:
I called him a thief, madam. I did not recognise him.

Baroness:
(laughs) Oh, Danielle, you poor, little country girl.

Well, we must work extra hard to make sure the manor is spotless. We cannot have a royal bottom sitting on a dirty chaise, can we?

Danielle:
No.

Marguerite:
What is he doing here?

Maurice:
I have worked off your... my debts, madame. They told me I could go home.

Baroness:
Fine. Go... catch a chicken!
CUT TO: EXT. DAYTIME. THE CASTLE.
The Prince is walking with his mother. The King will join them.

The Queen:
Who, dear?

Prince Henry:
Comtesse Nicole de Lancret. She's a cousin of...
Actually, I don't know who her cousin is.
Surely you have heard of her?

The Queen:
Oh, darling... there are simply too many courtiers to remember them all by name.
Why do you ask?

Prince Henry:
Mm? Oh, never mind.

The King:
In honour of Signor da Vinci...I have decided to throw a ball. A masked ball.
At which point, you and I will strike a compromise.

Prince Henry:
Compromise? You?

The King:
If love is what you seek  ...then I suggest you find it before then.
For five days hence, at the stroke of midnight... you will announce your engagement to the
girl of your choice...or... I will announce it for you. Are we agreed?

Prince Henry:
What of your treaty?

The King:
Let me worry about Spain. You've got bigger problems.

The Queen:
Choose wisely, Henry. Divorce is only something they do in England.

CUT TO: EXT. DAYTIME. THE MANOR.
The Baroness is talking to a Royal Page to solicit information about the Prince’s
engagement. She is bribing him with money.
Baroness:
What news of the engagement?

Royal Page:
Cancelled.
Rumour has it he must find himself a bride before that very night.

Baroness:
Well, that doesn't give us very much time.
I shall need to know who the competition is, every move he makes...his agenda...and any other titbits you might pick up.

Royal Page:
He's playing tennis with the Marquis de Limoges tomorrow at noon.

Baroness:
(She touches the Page's face.)
A skin of such... elegance...concealing such... ruthlessness.
I've grown rather fond of our intrigues together.
Surely you must know that.

Royal Page:
I'm having an inkling, my lady.

Baroness:
When my daughter is Queen... perhaps we might come to a new arrangement.
(She squeezes Royal Page's nose and leaves.)

CUT TO: EXT. DAYTIME. MANOR BEE HIVES.
Paulette and Danielle are retrieving the honey from hives.

Paulette:
I'd have given anything to see you all dressed up like a courtier.
Speaking to the Prince like a lady.

Danielle:
Scolding him is more like it. I cannot believe I gave him my mother's name.
The man is insufferable.
Paulette:
Yes. You've been saying that ...all day.

Danielle:
Well, it's as true now as it was this morning.

Paulette:
Oh! Darling, he's royalty. They're born like that.

Danielle:
Then I suppose the penalty for being wealthy is having to live with the rich.

Paulette:
I'll bet he's quite charming ... once you get to know him.

Danielle:
Honestly, I think he and Marguerite deserve each other.

Paulette:
Oh! Bite your tongue!
The only throne I want her sitting on is the one I have to clean every day.

CUT TO: INT. THE MANOR.
The Baroness and Marguerite are selecting gowns for the masked ball.

Baroness:
What's wrong with this one?

Marguerite:
It's blue.

Baroness:
Henry loves blue!

Marguerite:
And 50 other girls will be wearing the same colour.

Baroness:
Very good, Marguerite.

Jacqueline:
This one is too small.

Baroness:
We shall just have to get you a tighter cinch.
Jacqueline:
I cannot breathe as it is.

Baroness:
If one cannot breathe, one cannot eat.

Marguerite:
Mother, focus, please!

Baroness:
Perhaps if I knew what you were looking for!

Marguerite:
Something fit for a queen!

Baroness:
Come, ladies. I have just the thing.
But we must speak of this to no-one.

Marguerite:
Oh, I do love a good intrigue!

Baroness:
Waste not ... want not.

Marguerite:
Oh, perfect!

Jacqueline:
Oh, look at these shoes.
Where did you get these?

Baroness:
They’re Danielle’s dowry, for her wedding.

Marguerita:
Cinderella? Married?
To who, the chimney sweep?

Jacqueline:
Mother, if that dress is hers, perhaps she’ll want to wear it to the ball.

Marguerite:
Since when does a royal function include commoners?

Jacqueline:
Well, never.
But she is our stepsister...and the invitation did say, "To the ladies of the house".

**Marguerite:**
She’s not of noble blood.

**Baroness:**
Besides, who would notice? No-one.

**Marguerita:**
Honestly, Jacqueline, whose side are you on?

(Danielle enters the room.)

**Danielle:**
What are you doing?

**Baroness:**
Airing out your dress... for the masque.

**Jacqueline:**
Her dress? But you just said...

**Marguerita:**
I suppose for a commoner, it’ll have to do. I mean, look at it.
It’s practically an antique.

**Danielle:**
You wish me... to go to a masque?

**Marguerita:**
Mm.

**Baroness:**
Of course.

**Danielle:**
I don’t know what to say.

**Baroness:**
Say? Honestly, Danielle. It hurts me you don’t feel like one of my daughters.

**Danielle:**
I only meant...

**Baroness:**
I thought we could all go as one big happy family.
That is, if you complete your chores in time, mind your manners till then.
Jacqueline:
What's the matter with her?

Marguerita:
Oh... She doesn't want you to go.

CUT TO: EXT. DAYTIME. THE RIVER

Prince Henry:
Do you really think there is only one perfect mate?

Leonardo da Vinci:
As a matter of fact, I do.

Prince Henry:
How can you be certain to find them?
And if you find them, are they really the one for you...or do you only think they are?
What happens if the person you're meant to be with never appears?
Or she does, but... but you're too distracted to notice?

Leonardo:
You learn to pay attention.

Prince Henry:
Then, let's say...God puts two people on earth...and they are lucky enough to find one another. But... one of them gets hit by lightning. Well, then what?
Is that it? Or perchance you meet someone new and marry again.
Is that the lady you should be with? Or was it the first?
And if so, if the two of them were walking side by side, were they both the one for you...and you just met the first one first?
Or is the second one supposed to be first?
And is everything just chance...or are some things meant to be?

Leonardo:
You cannot leave everything to fate, boy.
She's got a lot to do. Sometimes you must give her a hand.

Prince Henry:
What's this project?
Leonardo:
Would you care to see if they work?

CUT TO: EXT.DAYTIME.FOREST.

(A pig grunts.)
Danielle is walking through the forest with a pig.
She is collecting roots from the ground. She notices her hands are filthy.
She decides to swim on her back in the river.

CUT TO: LEONARDO WALKING ON WATER.

Leonardo da Vinci:
(To Danielle) It looks like rain.
(Danielle looks up and screams and Leonardo falls over. They come in to shore.)
Prince Henry:
Signor da Vinci! Are you all right?
Leonardo:
I should leave walking on water to the Son of God. Fortunately, I tripped over an angel.
Prince Henry:
Comtesse!
Danielle:
(She slips over.)
Your Highness! Oh! Oh, careful, it's very slippery right there.
Prince Henry:
(Places a coat around Danielle.)
Here, please. Allow me.
Danielle:
Oh! Thank you.
Prince Henry:
Where are your attendants?
Danielle:
I decided to give them the day off.
Prince Henry:

(Laughs) Day off? From what? Life?

Danielle:

Don’t you tire of people waiting on you all the time?

Prince Henry:

Yes, but... they’re servants. It’s what they do.

Danielle:

I wish I could dismiss mine as easily as you do yours. I must be going.

Prince Henry:

You’re angry with me.

Danielle:

No.

Prince Henry:

Admit it.

Danielle:

Well, yes, if you must know.

Prince Henry:

Why?

Danielle:

Because you are trying to bait me with your snobbery.

Prince Henry:

I’m afraid, mademoiselle, you are a walking contradiction and I find that rather fascinating.

Danielle:

Me?

Prince:

Yes, you. You spout the ideals of a Utopian society, yet you live the life of a courtier.

Danielle:

You own all the land there is, yet you take no pride in working it. Is that not also a contradiction?

Prince Henry:

First I’m arrogant, and now I have no pride. However do I manage that?

Danielle:

You have everything and still the world holds no joy.
You make fun of those who would see it for its possibilities.

**Prince Henry:**
How do you do it?

**Danielle:**
What?

**Prince Henry:**
Live each day with this kind of passion? Don't you find it exhausting?

**Danielle:**
Only when I'm around you. Why do you like to irritate me so?

**Prince Henry:**
Why do you rise to the occasion?

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**CUT TO: EXT. FOREST. JACQUELINE.**
Jacqueline is looking for Danielle. She is calling out for her.

**Jacqueline:**
Danielle!

**Danielle:**
(To Prince.) Er... Forgive me, Your Highness, I've lost track of the hour.

**Leonardo:**
But the wind...
It's perfect!

**Danielle:**
I am sorry.

**Prince Henry:**
I'm playing tennis tomorrow.
Will you come?

**Danielle:**
I must go.
(Danielle runs off.)

**Prince Henry:**
Why does she keep doing that?
CUT TO: INT. THE MANOR, DINING ROOM.

Baroness:
Paulette.
Where are the candlesticks? We can hardly see our plates.

Paulette:
They're missing, my lady. I've searched high and low.

Marguerita:
The painting in the hall is gone too.
It seems we have a thief in our midst.

Baroness:
Hmm. So this is how I'm treated after all our years together.
My husband's prize possessions!
Well, I shall just garnish your wages until the pilfered items are returned.
Is that quite understood?

Paulette and Louise:
Yes, ma'am.

Baroness:
Perhaps I shall ship you to the Americas with all the rest of the thieves.

Jacqueline:
Oh. Didn't you hear? The Prince asked the King to release all those men.

Danielle:
He didn't!

Jacqueline:
Mmm.
Now, by... By royal decree, any man who sails must be compensated.

Baroness:
Compensated!
Honestly! What is the world coming to?
Marguerite:
I want to know who this Comtesse is everyone keeps talking about.
There must have been ten courtiers speaking of her today and how the Prince fell all over himself.

Baroness:
We should find out who she is and bury her.

(Danielle is shocked and leaves the room quickly.)

CUT TO: EXT. DAYTIME. TENNIS COURT.

(Cheering) (Chattering)
Prince Henry is playing tennis. After a big whack, with the Prince landing amongst a group of women, Marguerite ends up holding the tennis ball, which he needs to get back.

Prince Henry:
You're looking well, Marguerite.

Marguerite:
You're welcome to look, Your Highness.

Prince Henry:
(Laughs)

CUT TO: EXT. DAYTIME. TOWN
Danielle is working at the market, selling Manor produce.

Monsieur le Pieu:
Danielle de Barbarac. You get prettier every week.

Danielle:
And you, Monsieur le Pieu, are wasting your flattery.

Monsieur le Pieu:
It's a pity your soil's the best in the province...and yet so poorly tended.

Paulette:
We have limited resources, sir. We do the best we can.
**Monsieur le Pieu:**
Anything I can do?

**Louise:**
Perhaps you should bring it up with the Baroness and stick to shopping.

**Monsieur le Pieu:**
I’d rather discuss it with Danielle, if you don’t mind. I may be twice your age, child, but I’m well-endowed. As evidenced by my estate. I’ve always had a soft spot for the less fortunate. You need a wealthy benefactor. And I need a young lady with spirit.

**Danielle:**
Prunes?

**Monsieur le Pieu:**
No. I’ll buy nothing this week. And you’d do well to remember that without my generosity... your pathetic little farm would cease to exist. So I’d be very, very careful if I were you.

**Paulette:**
Ooh! Horrible man! If he didn’t buy a bushel of vegetables every week...I’d spit on him.

**CUT TO: EXT. DAYTIME. TOWN.**
After his tennis match, the Prince is walking through town with the Baroness and her two daughters.

**Prince Henry:**
Here. Never have you tasted anything so...delicious. Mmm.

**Baroness:**
(To Jacqueline.) Don’t even think about it.

**Prince Henry:**
Like it?

**Marguerite:**
Like it? Why, it’s positively sinful. What’s it called?

**Prince Henry:**
Er... chocolate. The Spanish monks keep sending bricks of it.

**Marguerite:**
(Pointing) These are our servants, Your Highness.
**Prince Henry:**
Really? Oh, I’d love to meet them. Good day, ladies.

(Danielle pops up, gets surprised, she lets a chicken go, it flies in the face of the Prince. The chicken squawks.)

**Baroness:**
(Crossly.) What are you doing? Trying to scare the Prince to death?

**Louise:**
We were startled, that’s all.

**Prince Henry:**
(Confused, Danielle has vanished.) Were there just the two of you?

**Louise:**
And the chicken, Your Highness.

**CUT TO: INT. THE MANOR. BEDROOM.**
The Baroness is in her bedroom speaking to Danielle.

**Baroness:**
We must press for a quick engagement. Paris at Christmas. Can you imagine? No. I don’t suppose you can. My mother was hard on me too, you know. She taught me that cleanliness was next to godliness. She forced me to wash my face at least 20 times a day...convinced it was never clean enough. I was very grateful to her. She wanted me to be all that I could be. And here I am...a baroness. And Marguerite shall be Queen.

(Pause.) It's a pity you never knew your mother. There must be a little bit of her in you somewhere.

**Danielle:**
I wish I knew what she looked like.

**Baroness:**
Yes. Well, we must never feel sorry for ourselves, must we? No matter how bad things get, they can always get worse.

**Danielle:**
Yes, madam.
Baroness:
You have so much of your father in you. Sometimes I can almost see him looking out through your eyes.

Danielle:
Really?

Baroness:
Yes, well... Your features are so... masculine. Well... to be raised by a man... No wonder you're built for hard labour.

Danielle:
Did you love my father?

Baroness:
Well, I barely knew him. Now go away. I'm tired. *(flapping)*

**CUT TO: EXT. THE MANOR.**
Maurice is working in the garden. Gustave & Danielle are flying kites in the fields.

Danielle:
Look, Gustave! It's floating!

Gustave:
I don't know what you're so happy about. You're going to be swimming in manure if they get married.

Danielle:
I don't know why it bothers you so. I couldn't care less.

Gustave:
You're lying! The Prince would be your brother-in-law and you, Comtesse de Lancret, would be bringing them breakfast in bed.

Danielle:
But they would move into the palace...and I could stay with the Manor and turn things around. That's all that matters.

Gustave:
You like him. Admit it.

Danielle:
Nope.
**Gustave:**
And I-I suppose if you saw him again...y- y-you'd simply...

**Danielle:**
I'd walk right up to him and say ... "Your Highness, my family is your family."
"Please, take them away."

**Gustave:**
Good. Because here's your big chance. He's headed this way.

**Prince Henry:**
I'm looking for Signor da Vinci.
We're to go to the monastery. Have you seen him?

**Gustave:**
Da Vinci? No, Your Highness.

**Prince Henry:**
Well, is that not his flying contraption?
Where did you get it?

**Gustave:**
From er...the Comtesse de Lancret.
She is a friend of his.

**Prince Henry:**
You know her?
Please, I must find her. Where is she staying?

**Gustave:**
Er... I believe, Your Highness ...that she is staying with a cousin.
The erm ...Baroness Rodmilla de Ghent.

**Danielle:**
(Groans)

**Prince Henry:**
Hmm.
That does present a problem.

**Gustave:**
But ...I do know that she is there...alone, by herself ...at this very moment.

**Prince Henry:**
Excellent. Nice painting. (He gallops off.)
Danielle:
Gustave!
You horrible little snipe!

Gustave:
Did you hear? He likes my work!

Danielle:
And he is headed toward my house!

Gustave:
Then I suggest you run.

Danielle:
Paulette! Louise! Quick!
Your Highness.
What an unexpected surprise.

Prince Henry:
Why, Comtesse.
Do you not attend church?

Danielle:
My faith is better served away from the rabid crowd.

Prince Henry:
(Panting) Yes, I’m afraid my father’s edict has created quite a um …a phenomenon.
Which is why I am bound for the monastery. The Franciscans have an astonishing library.
Since you are so fond of reading, I thought you might join me?

Danielle:
It is not fair, Sire.
You have found my weakness …but I have yet to learn yours.

Prince Henry:
I should think it was quite obvious.
Captain Laurent!
I shall not need my horse or your services.
Today, I am simply …Henry.
CUT TO: EXT. DAYTIME. TOWN

(Church bell rings)

Royal Page:
Prince Henry left early this morning, Baroness. No-one seems to know where he went. But... I've brought you something...that will brighten up your day. It's a... (whispers)

Baroness:
Oh, you vicious, vicious man!

CUT TO: INT. THE MONASTERY.

The Prince and Danielle are walking admiringly through the monastery’s huge library. In the background, the choir sings "Veni, Creator Spiritus". They stop to look at books.

Danielle:
It makes me want to cry.

Prince Henry:
Pick one.

Danielle:
I could no sooner choose a favourite star in the heavens.

Prince Henry:
What is it that touches you so?

Danielle:
I guess it's because when I was young, my father would stay up late and read to me. He was addicted to the written word. I would fall asleep listening to the sound of his voice.

Prince Henry:
What sort of books?

Danielle:
Science, philosophy. I suppose they remind me of him. He died when I was eight. Utopia was the last book he brought home.

Prince Henry:
Which explains why you quote it.
Danielle:
I would rather hear his voice again than any sound in the world.
Is something wrong?

Prince Henry:
In all my years of study ...not one tutor ever demonstrated ...the passion you have shown me in the last two days. You have more conviction in one memory ...than I have in my entire being.

Danielle:
Your Highness...if there is anything I have said...

Prince Henry:
Please! Don't. It's not you.

CUT TO: EXT. TOWN. THE ROYAL CARRIAGE.
The royal party are seated inside their carriage, waiting to depart from church.

Baroness:
Make haste, Marguerite. It's now or never.

The Queen:
(To her party.) Lovely service.

Marguerite:
(Interrupting) Forgive me ...Your Majesty.
I think you dropped this on your way out.

The Queen:
My goodness! I do not even remember putting it on. Thank you, child.
It is a rare person indeed who would return such a valuable keepsake.

Marguerite:
You are too magnanimous, Your Majesty.

The Queen:
How very kind.
(To her companions.) Her name?
(Woman in carriage.)
Marguerite de Ghent.
The Queen:
Er... er... Marguerite.
We shall have a chat tomorrow, you and I.
Bring your mother.
Marguerite:
As you wish.

CUT TO: EXT. FOREST. CARRIAGE.
The carriage to take Prince Henry & Danielle home has broken down.

Prince Henry:
Well, this is terribly embarrassing.
Royal Guard:
We'll head back to the monastery at once.
Danielle:
And we shall continue on foot.
Prince Henry:
But it's half a day's walk!
Danielle:
Honestly, Your Highness. Where is your sense of adventure?
Prince Henry:
Well, I guess if you put it that way...

CUT TO: EXT. DAYTIME. THE MANOR.
The Baroness and her daughters arrive back at the Manor from church.

Baroness:
Now we can't be too confident, ladies.
The Prince wasn't in church today and we need to know why.
Jacqueline:
Marguerite gets to do everything.
Marguerite:
Don't be daft, Jacqueline. The Queen doesn't know you exist.
Baroness:
What Marguerite does is for all of us.
We are counting on you to help her get ready.

Jacqueline:
Lovely. Next thing you know, I shall soon be cleaning the fireplace with Danielle!

Baroness:
Where is that girl?

Marguerite:
Probably off catching rabbits with her teeth.

Paulette:
Begging your pardon, my lady, but that mirror in your bedchamber ...did you move it?

Baroness:
Of course not. Why?

Paulette:
It's also missing.

Baroness:
Then it too shall come out of your pay.

CUT TO: INT. MANOR
The servants discuss the missing chattels.

Louise:
Either you stop telling her when things go missing, or we'll be paying her to work.

Paulette:
Good thing I didn't mention the tapestries.

CUT TO: EXT. DAYTIME. THE FOREST.
The Prince and Danielle are walking through the forest, but are lost. Danielle climbs a high tree in order to see where the castle is. The Gypsies arrive and an altercation takes place.

Prince Henry:
You would think I would know the way to my own castle!
Danielle:
Why is it men never stop for directions?
Ah! There it is! It is back that way.

Prince Henry:
And I still can't believe I'm down here while you're up there!
And in your undergarments, no less!

Danielle:
I couldn't very well climb up here in that gown, could I?
Besides, if you broke your royal neck, where would we be?

Prince Henry:
You swim alone, climb rocks, rescue servants. Is there anything you don't do?

Danielle:
Fly.
Now turn around so I can climb back down.
(The Prince hears an evil laugh.)

Prince Henry:
Oh, no. It's you again.
Stay aloft, madam.
There are games afoot.

Gypsy:
(Taking Danielle's dress.)
My wife thanks you for this fine garment, mademoiselle.

Danielle:
You will give me back my dress, sir.

Prince Henry:
Let her go!
Your quarrel... is with me.
Release her.

Danielle:
I insist you return my things at once. And since you deprive me of my escort, I demand a horse as well.

Gypsy:
Milady, you may have anything you can carry.
Danielle:
May I have your word on that, sir?

Gypsy:
On my honour as a Gypsy, whatever you can carry.
(Danielle picks up the Prince and carries him out.)
(groans) (laughing) Please, come back. I’ll give you a horse.

CUT TO: INT. THE MANOR.

Baroness:
I want to be informed the minute she gets home. Understood?

Paulette & Louise:
Yes, ma’am.

CUT TO: EXT. THE FOREST. A BONFIRE.
Prince Henry and Danielle play Papers, Scissors, Rock. The gypsies are also there.

Danielle:
(giggling) You are reading my thoughts, milord.

Prince Henry:
And they’re as fuzzy as my own, Comtesse.

Danielle:
Then France concedes?

Prince Henry:
Never! My next choice...will be paper.

Danielle:
It is your turn. And it had better be good.

Prince Henry:
I have no desire to be King.

Danielle:
But think of all the wonderful things you could do for your country, for the world.
Prince Henry:
Yes, but to be so defined by your position. To only be seen as what you are. You don’t know how insufferable that is!

Danielle:
You might be surprised.

Prince Henry:
Really?

Danielle:
A Gypsy, for example, is rarely painted as anything else. They’re defined by their status as your title defines you, yet it is not who they are. You have been born to privilege, and with that come specific obligations. (Pause.) I am sorry. My mouth has run away with me again.

Prince Henry:
No, my lady. It is your mouth that has me hypnotised.

(The Prince and Danielle kiss. The gypsies laugh and cheer at them.)
(Later, riding back to the Manor on horseback.)

Danielle:
I don’t want to wake anybody up.

Prince Henry:
You saved my life, you know...back there, in the woods.

Danielle:
A girl does what she can, Sire.

Prince Henry:
Henry.

Danielle:
Henry.

Prince Henry:
Nicole. Do you know the ruins at Amboise? Yes. I often go there to ...be alone. Would you meet me there tomorrow?

Danielle:
I shall try.

Prince Henry:
Then I shall wait all day.
**CUT TO: INT. NIGHT. THE PALACE. BEDROOM.**

The King and Queen are asleep in bed. Prince Henry bursts in.

**The King:**

Off... with his head.

**The Queen:**

Francis, wake up. Our son has something to tell us.

**Prince Henry:**

Mother, Father. I want to build a university...with the largest library in Europe, where people of any station can study.

**The King:**

All right. Who are you and what have you done with our son?

**Prince Henry:**

Oh. And I want to invite the Gypsies to the ball.

---

**CUT TO: INT. THE MANOR. CINDERELLA'S BEDROOM.**

The Baroness and her daughters have entered into Cinderella's bedroom where she is awoken with a start.

**Danielle:**

*(gasps)*

**Baroness:**

Are you ill?

**Danielle:**

No. Uh. Yes.

**Baroness:**

Where were you?

**Danielle:**

I got lost.

**Baroness:**

I don't believe you. You're hiding something from me.

I demand to know what it is.
Danielle:
Why don’t you tell me so I can get back to sleep?

Marguerite:
What about our breakfast?

Danielle:
You have two hands.
Make it yourself.

Marguerite:
Why you lazy little leech!

Baroness:
Jacqueline! Go and boil some water.

Jacqueline:
Me? Boil water?
(Sighs) Oh, I knew it. I just knew it.

CUT TO: EXT. THE MANOR. GARDEN.
Danielle is working in the garden. Louise the servant calls her from a window.

Louise:
Mistress, you’d better get in here quick.

CUT TO: INT. THE MANOR.
The Baroness and her daughters are rifling through Danielle's dowry, which includes a beautiful white dress and glass shoes that belonged to her dead mother.

Baroness:
Oh, look who finally decided to grace us with her presence.

Danielle:
What do you think you are doing?

Marguerite:
Trying on my dress.

Baroness:
Do you think that after this morning I’d let you go anywhere?
Danielle:

*(sighs)* Do you honestly think these games, this intrigues, are going to win you a crown?

To hunt royalty like some sport, it’s disgusting!

**Marguerite:**

You’re just jealous.

**Danielle:**

These are my mother’s.

**Marguerite:**

Yes. And she’s dead.

**Danielle:**

(Punches Marguerite in the face.)

I am going to rip your hair out!

(Danielle begins to chase Marguerite around the house.)

**Marguerite:**

Mother! Mother, do something! *(screams) (shrieks)*

(Marguerite grabs Danielle’s copy of the book *Utopia* and threatens to throw it into the burning fireplace.)

Get away from me or so help me, God...

**Danielle:**

No, Marguerite, don’t!

Put it down!

**Marguerite:**

Give me the shoes.

**Danielle:**

Put it down.

**Baroness:**

Consider carefully, Danielle.

Your father’s book or your mother’s shoes.

Though neither will save you from a lashing.

**Danielle:**

No! No! No! No, No! No.
**CUT TO: INT. DANIELLE’S BEDROOM.**

Danielle is lying, face down on her bed, while her stepsister Jacqueline is tending to wounds that have been caused by a lashing she has received from the Baroness.

**Danielle:**
(Winces and gasps.)

**Jacqueline:**
Oh! Now, you really brought this upon yourself, you know.

**Danielle:**
Hmm?

**Jacqueline:**
First with breakfast ...then that horrid display downstairs.

**Danielle:**
I don’t know what’s come over me.

**Jacqueline:**
Of course, I shall never forget ...the way Marguerite’s feet went up over her head like that!

(*Giggling*)
She should not have said that about your mother.

**Danielle:**
Thank you.

**CUT TO: EXT. THE PALACE.**

The Baroness and Marguerite are having tea with the Queen at the Palace. Marguerite has a black eye from her fight with Danielle.

**The Queen:**
You really must let my doctor look at that. To think you saved that baby from a runaway horse!

**Marguerite:**
It was a maternal instinct, Your Majesty.

**The Queen:**
I’m so sorry my son can’t join us. He seems to have disappeared again.
Baroness:
Again?

The Queen:
Yes. He was gone all day yesterday and did not return until dawn.

Baroness:
Well! It must be marvellous to have that kind of stamina.

The Queen:
Perhaps you could help solve a mystery for me. Do you know the Comtesse de Lancret? Apparently she's staying with a cousin, but nobody seems to know who.

Baroness:
Nicole... de Lancret?

The Queen:
Yes. Oh, how wonderful! I was beginning to think she was a ghost. (laughing)

Baroness:
No. I'm afraid she's been around for years. Yes. And erm...staying with us, as a matter of fact. Isn't that right, darling?

Marguerite:
Yes! Of course. Our cousin.

Baroness:
Whom you like to call Cinderella.

Marguerite:
(Gets up and walks a short distance away.)
Hmmpf! (yells)

The Queen:
Good heavens, child. Are you all right?

Marguerite:
(Calmly.) There was a bee.

Baroness:
(laughs)
CUT TO: EXT. DAYTIME. THE FOREST, THE OLD RUINS

Prince Henry is there, looking through a book. Danielle arrives. She is sore from the lashing.

**Prince Henry:**
Hello.

**Danielle:**
Hello.

**Prince Henry:**
Are you well?

**Danielle:**
I fear that I am not myself today.

**Prince Henry:**
I feel as if my skin is the only thing keeping me from going everywhere at once.

**Danielle:**
There is something I must tell you.

**Prince Henry:**
And I you.
Oh, here. Your book, you left it in the carriage yesterday.

**Danielle:**
Your Highness...

**Prince Henry:**
Henry.

**Danielle:**
I cannot stay long, but I had to see you. There is much to say.

**Prince Henry:**
Come. I want to show you something. I used to play here as a boy. It was my father’s most cherished retreat before the war.

(*Birds twittering.*)

**Danielle:**
It’s beautiful.
Prince Henry:
I’ve measured my life by these trees...starting here...all the way up there. And still they grow. So much life to live ...but I no longer imagine it alone.

Danielle:
You’re not making this easy.

Prince Henry:
I have not slept for fear I would wake to find all this a dream. Oh, last night, I had a revelation. I used to think, if I cared about anything, I would have to care about everything...and I’d go stark raving mad. But... now I’ve found my purpose. It’s a project actually inspired by you. I feel the most wonderful ...freedom.

Danielle:
It wasn’t me.

Prince Henry:
(Laughs) Nicole. You are unlike any courtier I have ever met. Tomorrow, at the masque...I shall make it known to the world.

Danielle:
Why did you have to be so wonderful?

Prince Henry:
Now, then. What was it you wanted to tell me?

Danielle:
(Sobs) Simply that...last night was the happiest night of my life.

(The Prince hugs her, it hurts.)

Ow! I must go.

(She runs off.)

Prince Henry:
Nicole! No.

CUT TO: INT. THE MANOR.

Danielle arrives back at the Manor. The Baroness is waiting for her.

Baroness:
Of all the insidious jokes, making your mother a Comtesse. It's almost as absurd as a prince who spends his day with a servant who sleeps with pigs!
Danielle:
What bothers you more, stepmother? That I am common or that I am competition?

Baroness:
Where is the dress, Danielle?

Danielle:
I don't know what you're talking about.

Marguerite:
The gown. The slippers? They were in my room and now they're gone. You hid them, I know it!

Baroness:
Where did you put the gown, Danielle?

Danielle:
(Upset and angry.) Where are the candlesticks and the tapestries...and the silver? Perhaps the dress is with them!

Baroness:
You produce that gown!

Danielle:
(Yelling.) I would rather die a thousand deaths ...than to see my mother's dress on that spoiled, selfish cow!

Baroness:
Hmm. Perhaps we can arrange that. (Danielle is pushed into a downstairs room.)
Get in there. (The Baroness locks door.)
(To the servants.) Open this door and you'll wish you never set foot in this house.
Marguerite, Jacqueline, gather everything that will fetch a price. We're going to town first thing in the morning.

Jacqueline:
Mother... it's only a ball.

Baroness:
Yes and you're only going for the food.
CUT TO: EXT. DAYTIME. THE PALACE.

Prince Henry:
Engaged? To a Belgian?

The Queen:
I'm afraid so.

Prince Henry:
That's impossible. There has to be some mistake.

The Queen:
She was travelling by boat this afternoon. Baroness Rodmilla was quite reluctant to talk about it.

Prince Henry:
It's no wonder, with tidings such as these. If she was betrothed, she should have damn well had the decency to say something!

The Queen:
Would you have listened?

Prince Henry:
Of course not! I would have... Oh, God. How could I have been so blind? There I was, pouring my royal heart out...and she was simply trying to bid me farewell.

The Queen:
It is a strong woman who can keep her wits about her... with you trying to steal her heart.

Prince Henry:
Yes. And what a clumsy thief I turned out to be.

The Queen:
Come now, Henry. Any choice is better than Spain.

CUT TO: TOWN, EXT. DAYTIME.

Maurice and Gustave are talking in a concealed doorway.

Maurice:
Go to the Prince, tell him what's happened.
Gustav:
B-But I'm nobody. The Prince would never see me.

Maurice:
You are her friend, Gustave. She needs your help. The Prince expects to see her.

Gustave:
I cannot. Besides, my master has me working tonight.

Maurice:
Then go to da Vinci. Surely a painter can see another painter?

Gustave:
I am but an apprentice, and he is the greatest painter in the world. I could no sooner talk to God.

Maurice:
For once in your life, man, be bold.

(Maurice leaves.)

CUT TO: INT. PALACE. NIGHT OF THE BALL.
The Baroness and her daughters have arrived. So too has Gustave, wondering how he can get in to see Leonardo Da Vinci.

Party Usher:
This way, sir. Straight up there, madam. (hums)

Gustave spots the Royal Page. He immediately thinks the Page uniform will give him entry to the ball.

Gustave:
Yoo-hoo!
(The Page looks up, a flowerpot lands on his head, knocking him out.)
CUT TO: INT. THE PALACE. STAIRWELL.

Jacqueline:
I wanted to be the peacock.

Baroness:
Honestly Jacqueline, the horse is one of God's noblest creatures.

Jacqueline:
Why don't I just pull the carriage?

Baroness:
If you think it will get us there any faster.

CUT TO: EXT. THE PALACE. TERRACE.

Gustave is inside. He is looking for Leonardo. He asks a guest for help.

Gustave:
I'm looking for Signor da Vinci.

(The guest points out Leonardo. He walks up to the wrong person.)

Signor da Vinci! (Faints.)

Leonardo:
(Hearing his name, turns.)

Yes?

CUT TO: INT. THE MANOR.

The servants are trying to help Danielle to escape, but the door is locked and their efforts are proving fruitless. Gustave arrives with Leonardo.

Paulette:
Oh! Oh, mistress, it's no use!

Leonardo:
Allow me.

Louise:
Oh, brilliant!
**Paulette:**
Why, that was pure genius.

**Leonardo:**
Yes. I shall go down in history as the man who opened a door. *(Chuckles.)*

**Danielle:**
Gustave! How?

**Gustave:**
Maurice said the Prince was expecting you.

**Danielle:**
He is expecting someone who does not exist.
Signor, my name is Danielle de Barbarac and I am but a servant.

**Leonardo:**
I am the bastard son of a peasant. What does that matter?

**Danielle:**
I have deceived him.

**Leonardo:**
The Prince will understand.

**Paulette:**
The night is young. We must get you ready for the ball.

**Danielle:**
I do not wish to go.

**Louise:**
If you stay the Baroness wins.

**Danielle:**
How can I face him?

**Leonardo:**
Because he deserves to hear the truth from the one he loves.

**Danielle:**
A bird may love a fish, Signore...but where would they live?

**Leonardo:**
Then I shall have to make you wings.

**Paulette:**
Ooh, come on! No time to waste. Louise, get the dress!
CUT TO: INT. THE PALACE. A CORRIDOR.

Prince Henry is heartbroken over Danielle’s Belgian fiancé who is now in a boat, going to Belgium. He has asked to speak to his father.

The King:
I understand you wanted to see me.

Prince Henry:
Yes, Father. I did.

The King:
Listen, Henry.
Perhaps it was unfair of me to put so much pressure on you as I did...about the marriage contract. I just thought it was time to make some changes in your life.
You seemed to be a bit... floundering.
And ah... Well, I-I just wanted to say...that this university thing ...is a brilliant idea.
We don’t have to announce anything tonight.

Prince Henry:
I’ve made my decision.

The King:
Oh.

CUT TO: EXT. NIGHTTIME. THE MANOR

Danielle has been dressed in her mother’s clothes. She leaves the house and climbs into a carriage.

Gustave:
She looks like a masterpiece.

Louise:
She looks like her mother.

Leonardo:
Come, let us go and see these paintings of yours.

Gustave:
Now?
Leonardo:
When you're as old as I am, now is all you've got.

Paulette:
Wait! It’s tradition.

CUT TO: INT. PALACE. PARTY.
Captain and Laurent and Jacqueline, both dressed in horse outfits, discover one another at the feast table.

Capt. Laurent.
Whoa!

Jacqueline:
Neigh!

Capt. Laurent.
(Bites a carrot.)
(Whinnies)

CUT TO: EXT. PALACE. TERRACE. PARTY CROWD.
(Fanfare.)

Baroness:
This is it, my darling.

The King:
Friends... honoured guests.
It gives us great pleasure... on this festive occasion... not only to honour Signor da Vinci, who seems to have disappeared... but also to tell you of a long-awaited decision. So, without further ado...

Danielle:
(To herself.) Breathe, just breathe...

The King (continues):
it is my great privilege to announce the engagement of our son... Prince Henry... to...
(The prince looks up, he says Danielle standing there.)
Baroness:
Well, well, well.
What have we here?
Prince Henry:
My mother said you were getting married.
Danielle:
She was misinformed.
But there is something I must tell you now, before another word is spoken.
Prince Henry:
Then you’re not engaged?
Danielle:
No, I’m not.
Prince Henry:
I was about to make the worst mistake of my life.
The King:
Who is she?
The Queen:
My guess would be the Comtesse de Lancret.
The King:
The who?
Prince Henry:
Come. I want you to meet someone.
Danielle:
Oh, I must speak with you.
Prince Henry:
Whatever it is, my answer is yes.
Danielle:
No, wait, please.
Prince Henry:
Oh, look. I invited the Gypsies.
Danielle:
What are you doing?
Prince Henry:
Making you a princess.

Baroness:
(Gasps) How dare you!

Prince Henry:
Madame, contain yourself!

Baroness:
She is an impostor, Sire!

No!

Baroness:
Her name is Danielle de Barbarac.
She has been my servant for ten years.

The King:
A servant, Henry? Is this some kind of joke?

Prince Henry:
Baroness, you are on dangerous ground!

Baroness:
Ask her yourself! She's a grasping, devious little pretender... and it is my duty to expose her as the covetous hoax she is. Tell these women who you are. Tell them!

(Pause). Bow before royalty, you insolent fraud!

Prince Henry:
My God, it can't be true.

Nicole?

Danielle:
Nicole de Lancret was my mother.
I am what she says.

Prince Henry:
The apple?
That was you?

Danielle:
I can explain.

The King:
Well, someone had better!
**Prince Henry:**
First, you're engaged... and now you're a servant?
I've heard enough.

**Danielle:**
Henry, please!

**Prince Henry:**

*murmuring* Do not address me so informal, madam. I am a Prince of France. And you... are just like them.

(Danielle sobbing, runs from the palace. Leonardo, arriving back at the palace, sees her running off. She has lost her shoe.)

**Leonardo:**

*sobs* Danielle? Danielle!

(To the Prince) What have you done?

**Prince Henry:**
I was born to privilege and with that come specific obligations.

**Leonardo:**
Horseshit.

**Prince Henry:**
You are out of line, old man.

**Leonardo:**
No, you are out of line.
Have you any idea what that girl went through to get here tonight?

**Prince Henry:**
She lied to me.

**Leonardo:**
She came to tell you the truth and you fed her to the wolves.

**Leonardo:**
What do you know? You build flying machines and you walk on water. And yet you know nothing about life.

**Leonardo:**
I know that a life without love... is no life at all.

**Prince Henry:**
And love without trust? What of that?
Leonardo:  
She's your match, Henry.

Prince Henry:  
I am but a servant to my crown and I have made my decision. I will not yield!

Leonardo:  
(Thunder.) Then you don't deserve her.

CUT TO: EXT. NIGHTTIME. THE MANOR  
It's raining heavily. Danielle has run home, she sits on an external doorstep as the rain drenches her.

Danielle:  
(Sobbing)

CUT TO: EXT. DAYTIME. THE MANOR  

Baroness:  
I have it on good authority... that before your rather embarrassing debut... the Prince was about to choose Marguerite to be his bride. Men are so fickle, aren't they? One minute, they're spouting sonnets... and the next you're back to being a hired help. Although I must say, I've never seen you quite this dedicated in your chores.

Danielle:  
What makes you think I do any of this for you?

Baroness:  
Well, my, my, my. Aren't we feisty this morning?

Danielle:  
Let me pass.

Baroness:  
You've brought this on yourself, you know.

Danielle:  
I have work to do.

Baroness:  
Let the others handle it.
Danielle:
Don’t you understand?
You've won!
Go and move into your palace...and leave us be!

Baroness:
You are not my problem any more.

Danielle:
Is that what I am? Your problem?
I have done everything you've ever asked me to do...and still you've denied me the only thing I ever wanted.

Baroness:
And what was that?

Danielle:
What do you think?
You are the only mother I have ever known.
Was there a time, even in its smallest measurement... that you loved me at all?

Baroness:
How can anyone love a pebble in their shoe?
(Paulette rushes in. Speaks to them from the balcony.)

Paulette:
Danielle! My lady, come and see! It's back, all of it! You, take that chair.

CUT TO: EXT. DAYTIME. THE MANOR.
Monsieur Le Pieu returns all of the chattels from the Manor, which the Baroness has sold to Monsieur Le Pieu. In return, the Baroness has given him Danielle.

Baroness:
Ah, Monsieur le Pieu. Right on time.

Pierre Le Pieu:
It's all here, Baroness... right down to the very last candlestick.

Jacqueline:
Father’s books? His paintings? You sold them to him?
Baroness:
Yes. And now they're back. I couldn't have us looking like paupers when the King arrives.

Danielle:
Thank you, Monsieur. This means the world to us.

Pierre Le Pieu:
I'm a businessman, Danielle, not a philanthropist.

Danielle:
I don't understand.

Baroness:
I couldn't have you around distracting the Prince.

Pierre Le Pieu:
The Baroness and I have come to er... an arrangement.

Baroness:
You, for all this... although I do think I'm getting the better end of the deal.

Danielle:
No! No! No!

Servants:
Danielle!

CUT TO: INT. THE CATHEDRAL.
The Prince is about to marry the Spanish Princess. The Spanish Princess is sobbing uncontrollably.

(Choir sings) (choir continues) (sobbing) (sobs) Dios, perdon!
(bride sobs) (sobbing) (wails) # In nomine Patris
# Et Filii et Spiritus Sancti
(wailing increases) (yelps) (all) Amen.
(Prince Henry starts laughing.)

Spanish Princess:
(chokes) (wails) No, por favor, no, por favor. No te cases conmigo.

Prince Henry:
Madame, madame. I know exactly how you feel.
Spanish Princess:
(laughs) Don Pepito! Don Pepito!

Spanish King:
Si, pero me da verguenza.

The King:
And I thought I had problems.

The Spanish King & Queen:
Que verguenza! Es tu culpa! Es la tuya!

(Prince Henry hurries out of the church.)

CUT TO: EXT. DAYTIME. OUTSIDE THE CATHEDRAL.

Prince Henry is looking for anyone who knows where Danielle is. He spots Maurice, waiting for the Baroness and her daughters to return to the carriage.

The Prince:
Where is she?

Maurice:
The Baroness?

The Prince:
Ni... Danielle.

Maurice:
But she has been sold, Sire.

Prince:
Sold? To whom?

Jacqueline:
Pierre le Pieu, Your Highness. Just after the masque.

Prince:
Tell no-one we have spoken. For all shall reveal itself in due course. Come, Laurent. There is much to be done.
CUT TO: INT. PIERRE LE PIEU’S CASTLE.

(Knocking on the door.)

Pierre le Pieu:
Enter! Oh, I do so hate to see you in irons. I’d remove them... if only you’d promise not to run away again. I have no reason to stay. You belong to me now. I belong to no-one... least of all you. Oh, I do wish you’d reconsider my offer. I would rather rot. I had a horse like you once. A magnificent creature. Stubborn, just like you. Wilful to a fault. It, too, just needed to be... broken.

Danielle:
You will maintain your distance, sir.

Pierre le Pieu:
Oh, you didn’t say please.

(Danielle gets a knife. She holds it to his throat.)

Danielle:
Please.

Pierre le Pieu:
I could hang you for this.

Danielle:
Not if you are dead.

Pierre le Pieu:
I do love your spirit.

(Danielle slashes his cheek with a knife.)

Aagh!

Danielle:
My father was an expert swordsman, Monsieur. He taught me well. Now hand me that key or I swear on his grave I will slit you from navel to nose.

Pierre le Pieu:
Your freedom my lady.
CUT TO: EXT. PIERRE LE PIEU’S CASTLE.

Prince Henry:
Hello.

Danielle:
Hello.

What are you doing here?

Prince:
I erm... I came to rescue you.

Danielle:
Rescue me? A commoner?

Prince:
Actually, I came to beg your forgiveness. I offered you the world and at the first test of honour I betrayed you. Please, Danielle.

Danielle:
Say it again.

Prince:
I'm sorry.

Danielle:
No. The part where you said my name.

Prince Henry:
Danielle. Perhaps you would be so kind... as to help me find the owner of this... rather remarkable shoe?

Danielle:
Where did you find that?

Prince:
She is my match in every way. Please tell me I haven't lost her.

Danielle:
It belongs to a peasant, Your Highness who only pretended to be a courtier to save a man's life.
**Prince:**
Yes, I know. And the name's Henry, if you don't mind. I kneel before you not as a prince... but as a man in love. But I would feel like a king if you, Danielle de Barbarac would be my wife.

**CUT TO: INT. MANOR. DINING ROOM.**
The Baroness and her two daughters are eating soup.

**Jacqueline:**
How was I to know he'd run out of the side door? He was supposed to be getting married!

**Marguerite:**
I heard the Prince talked to you. What did he say?

**Jacqueline:**
Well, I can't be sure. It all happened so quickly. But I think what he said was "It serves me right for choosing a foreigner over your sister."

* (The Baroness and Marguerite giggle.)

**Baroness:**
Well, very good. Perhaps we should just let him fret about it for a few days.

* (The front doorbell rings.)

**All:**
I'll get it!

**CUT TO: EXT. DAYTIME. MANOR. THE FRONT DOOR.**
Captain Laurent has arrived in a magnificent carriage. The front door is opened. The Baroness and her two daughters are there.

**Capt. Laurent:**
His Supreme Majesty, King Francis requests an audience with the Baroness Rodmilla de Ghent and her daughters immediately.

**Baroness:**
Oh. Is anything wrong?
Capt. Laurent:
No, milady. The King demanded that you arrive in style.

Baroness:
Hmm! In style we shall be.
(Marguerite squeals)

CUT TO: INT. THE PALACE.
A large crowd of courtiers has gathered around. The King and Queen sit on thrones, with Prince Henry standing to one side. The Baroness and her daughters hurry into the room, they curtsey.

The King:
Baroness did you or did you not lie to Her Majesty the Queen of France?

The Queen:
Choose your words wisely, Madame for they may be your last.

Baroness:
(Nervously.) A woman would do practically anything for the love of her daughter, Your Majesties. (Pause.) Perhaps I did get a little carried away.

Marguerite:
Mother, what have you done? Your Majesty, like you, I am just a victim here. She has lied to us both and I am ashamed to call her family!

Baroness:
How dare you turn on me, you ingrate!

Marguerite:
You see what I have to put with!

The King:
Silence, both of you! Good Lord! Are they always like this?

Jacqueline:
Worse Your Majesty.

Baroness:
Jacqueline, darling I’d hate to think you had anything to do with this.

Jacqueline:
Of course not, Mother. I'm only here for the food.
(Captain Laurent smiles.)

**The Queen:**
Baroness de Ghent. You are forthwith stripped of your title. You and your horrible daughter are to be shipped to the Americas on the first boat. Unless, by some miracle, someone here will speak for you.

**Baroness:**
There seem to be quite a few people out of town.

**Danielle:**
I will speak for her.

She is, after all, my stepmother.

**Baroness:**
(Turns, sees Danielle in royal clothing, sinks to the ground.)
Your Highness.

(Marguerite stands there, mouth open, dumbstruck.)

**The Prince:**
Marguerite, I don't believe you've met my wife.

**Danielle:**
(To Baroness) I want you to know that I will forget you after this moment and never think of you again. But you, I am quite certain will think about me every single day for the rest of your life.

**Baroness:**
How long might that be?

**Danielle:**
(Turns to the King & Queen.) All I ask, Your Majesties, is that you show her the same courtesy that she has bestowed upon me.

**CUT TO: INT. PALACE LAUNDRIES:**
It's hot and grimy in the palace laundries. Many women servants work there.

**Head Laundress:**
After you've washed the tablecloths, start on the napkins and move those over there.

**Baroness:**
Marguerite.
Marguerite:
What?
Baroness:
You heard the woman.
Marguerite:
So did you.
Baroness:
Yes, but I'm management.
Marguerite:
Like hell you are! You're just the same as me, a big nobody!
Baroness:
How dare you speak that way! I am of noble blood.
Head Laundress:
And you are getting on my nerves!
(She pushes them both, they land in a washing tub, full of purple water.)
(The Baroness and Marguerite gasp.) (The head laundress laughs.) Now get to work.

CUT TO: INT. DAYLIGHT. THE PALACE.
A group are gathered in a room in the palace where Leonardo is unveiling a new painting.

Danielle:
(Screams) (Cries) Leonardo. It's wonderful.
Leonardo:
Think of it as a belated wedding present, Your Highness
Gustave:
(Laughing.)
Danielle:
What?
Gustave:
I just can't get over it, that's all... Your Highness.
Danielle:
Yes, well, royalty or not I can still whip you.
The Prince:
I must say, Leonardo for a man of your talents it doesn't look a thing like her.

Danielle:
You, sir, are supposed to be charming.

The Prince:
And we, Princess, are supposed to live happily ever after.

Danielle:
Says who?

The Prince:
Do you know, I don't know.

(They kiss at a window. Beyond, green rolling fields.)

CUT TO: INT. A CASTLE.
Her Majesty is talking to the Grimm Brothers.

Her Majesty:
My great-great-grandmother's portrait hung in the university up until the revolution.
By then, the truth of the romance had been reduced to a simple fairy tale.
And while Cinderella and her Prince did live happily ever after, the point, gentlemen is that they lived.

----- ENDS ----