

Fractured

A Fairy Tale Parody

By
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DEDICATION

*To my elementary school teacher Sue Wills. You made me
fall in love with reading. Thank you for that gift.*

– Eddie McPherson

STORY OF THE PLAY

Get ready to break the fourth wall in this outrageously silly parody. Fairy tale princess Esmeralda has fallen in love with Lance A. Lot, a mortal from the real world. However, in her Kingdom of Aluminum a princess must marry a fairy tale Prince Charming after a series of one-minute dates. When the uptight King and Queen learn of their daughter's affection for this human, they banish him and strip Esmeralda's Fairy Godmother of her powers. In the meantime, everyone in the kingdom is stuck in limbo because no one in the real world is reading fairy tales anymore. Cinderella can never have her glass slipper, Jack can never climb his beanstalk, Beauty's beau will always be a beast ... and, well, you get the picture, bleak as it is.

Esmeralda must come up with a plan that will somehow bring Lance back, and get everyone else's stories back on track. That way they all can finally reach their happily ever afters and, just as importantly, perform a magnificent curtain call! Throw in a wizard who loves stealing the spotlight and a line-up of dysfunctional Prince Charmings, and you have the craziest culmination of fractured fairy tale characters in the history of the world!

CAST OF CHARACTERS

25 to 33 total

8 - 14 m; 9 - 11 w; 8 either; optional extras.

ESMERALDA: Fairy tale princess who falls in love with a mortal from the real world.

KING: Esmeralda's overbearing father who forgets sometimes that he's in a play.

QUEEN: Esmeralda's mother who forbids her daughter's love to a mortal. Dreams of starring in her own fairy tale someday.

FIRST PRINCE: Appears in the daydreams of a princess.

SECOND PRINCE: Another.

THIRD PRINCE: Another.

LANCE A. LOT: Esmeralda's love interest. Tall, dark and a little nerdy.

CIJI: A stalker from the real world who also loves Lance. She's a proud antagonist.

ZELDA: Esmeralda's Fairy Godmother who was rescued from the Royal Bug Zapper outside the castle.

SNOW WHITE: Can't finish her story until humans read again. Esmeralda's friend.

BEAUTY: The same.

CINDERELLA: The same.

JACK BEAN: From beanstalk fame. Aids the Queen but has a short attention span.

JACK B. NIMBLE: Jumps candlesticks in his spare time. Also aids the Queen.

JACK N. JILL: While Jill's away, Jack will play. Also aids the Queen.

WIZARD: Runs on and off the stage hungry for attention.

FIRST GUARD: Announces things and blows a toy bugle.

SECOND GUARD: Tries to outdo First Guard.

FIRST JESTER: Attempts to entertain but isn't funny.

SECOND JESTER: Just as untalented as First Jester.

DOROTHY: Has lost her way off the yellow brick road because no one is reading her story.

(Continued)

TIN MAN: Is forced by Dorothy to hang out in Aluminumium for a while.

GEORGIE PORGIE: Is mistakenly conjured up by Zelda.

FIRST GUEST: Guest at the royal ball.

SECOND GUEST: Another.

THIRD GUEST: Another.

PRINCE BRAGGART: A prince who thinks highly of himself, however, Esmeralda doesn't.

PRINCE TIMOROUS: A shy prince whose social skills need work.

PRINCE NAMBY-PAMBY: A mama's boy who brings his mother along on his date.

MAMA: Prince Namby-Pamby's mother who is a queen in her own country.

PRINCE LEWD: A prince with a bad French accent and an eye for the ladies.

MOTHER: Reads bedtime stories to her little girl

LITTLE GIRL: Has bedtime stories read to her, therefore, falls in love with fairy tales.

Options for Doubling

The three Prince Charmings in Act I may be played by the same actor or three separate actors. They can return as the other Prince Charmings in Act II. Georgie Porgie can be played by any of the other actors in the play. The Guards can double as Jesters with a couple of simple line changes. Other easy doubling can be accomplished if needed.

PRODUCTION NOTES

The play takes place in the Kingdom of Aluminum so decorating your set with aluminum foil seems appropriate. Two thrones sit USC. You may want to wrap them entirely in aluminum foil or just parts of them. You may hang aluminum foil banners on the back wall of your stage. You could choose to have a back wall of the castle or simply decorate your back curtain. A free-standing door stands SR which leads to the front foyer of the castle. Another free-standing door is SL and a sign beside it states it leads to the castle's dungeon. A small table sits somewhere on stage. This is used by the Queen on which to write the ball invitations in Act I and for the one-minute dates in Act II.

Extreme SL or SR is where the "mini set" can be located. It consists of two small round tables and three chairs for Act I (the coffee shop scene); and a rocking chair for Act II (where the Mother reads stories to her Little Girl). You don't need a lot of room for these scenes.

Be creative and use as much or as little aluminum foil as you want. With a silly play such as this one, it's hard to go wrong using any amount on the set and even in costumes.

PROPS

Sleeping bags; bowl of popcorn; nail polish brush; 2 empty cans with strings attached; 2 scepters; magazine; a script of the play; shoe; 2 cheap-looking monster masks; stick horse; ball cap; pizza box; small basket with handle; small stuffed black dog; 2 magic wands; bottle of breath spray; a sack; 3 skinny dowel rods; bandanna; a box of "invitations"; pen; children's inner tube; bag of "gold"; tissue or handkerchief; lap top; small hand mirror; menu; unpublished manuscript; piece of parchment with spell written on it; ugly wig; pail; large piece of fabric; bathrobe; shower cap; yellow rubber ducky; Jack-in-the-box toy (*optional*); small sand timer; Thesaurus; whistle; cut-out of a thought bubble; paper chain; black balloon; small rubber or plastic balls; sign reading "The Next Evening"; sign reading "Royal Ball Tonight"; small plastic funnels (*optional*); fake mustache; scroll; pillow; manila envelope; fishing line to pull the manila envelope; sign reading "One Year Later"; storybook.

ACT I

(AT RISE: The throne room. CINDERELLA, SNOW WHITE and BEAUTY sit on unzipped sleeping bags CS for Esmeralda's slumber party. Cinderella is doing Snow White's nails. Beauty is reading "Fairy Tale People" magazine.)

SNOW WHITE: *(Calling off.)* Hurry, Esmeralda, the play's starting.

BEAUTY: *(Shielding her eyes from the lights and looking past the fourth wall.)* Yeah, there's an audience and everything.

(ESMERALDA runs in carrying a bowl.)

ESMERALDA: Popcorn for everybody! *(SHE plops down.)*

CINDERELLA: I couldn't eat another bite.

BEAUTY: Me either.

SNOW WHITE: *(Referring to her nails.)* Don't color outside the lines.

ESMERALDA: Okay, let's see. We've played "Truth or Dare," told ghost stories, now what?

CINDERELLA: Let's prank call somebody.

ESMERALDA: Okay. *(SHE grabs a can with a string attached which runs offstage. She speaks into the can.)*
Ring, ring.

(The WIZARD enters on the other side of the stage with his own string can.)

WIZARD: *(With "phone" to his ear.)* Hello?

ESMERALDA: *(Changing her voice.)* Hello? Is your refrigerator running?

WIZARD: We don't have refrigerators in fairy tale stories.

ESMERALDA: Then you'd better go catch it. *(Snickers.)*

WIZARD: Esmeralda, what are you doing?

ESMERALDA: I'm not Esmeralda.

WIZARD: Yes you are. I can see you on the other side of the stage.

ESMERALDA: Oh. *(Looks at him.)* Hello.

WIZARD: Actually, I'm glad you called. I have a small role in this play and it gave me another chance to be seen. *(HE waves at the audience.)*

ESMERALDA: Okay, well, I'm going now.

(WIZARD rolls his eyes and exits with his can.)

ESMERALDA: *(Cont'd.)* That was fun, now what?

SNOW WHITE: I think we should talk about boys.

(THEY giggle.)

ESMERALDA: *(Runs and checks the door.)* Shhhhhh, Snow White, do you want my parents to hear?

SNOW WHITE: You said they were on the other side of the castle.

ESMERALDA: Don't count on it. They've been doing an awful lot of spying on me lately.

BEAUTY: Why?

ESMERALDA: *(Reluctant.)* I might as well spill the beans.

CINDERELLA: Spill what beans!

ESMERALDA: I mean I'll let the cat out of the bag.

SNOW WHITE: When did you get a cat?

ESMERALDA: I'm trying to tell you a secret. I met someone.

CINDERELLA: You met someone?

SNOW WHITE: *(Holding up her nails.)* Cinderella, look what you did.

CINDERELLA: Sorry.

BEAUTY: *(To ESMERALDA.)* Don't just sit there, spill the cat!

ESMERALDA: Hold on a minute.

(SHE crosses, opens the door. There stands her mother, the QUEEN, with a funnel up to her ear.)

ESMERALDA: *(Cont'd.)* Mother!

End of Freeview

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