

MIRROR AND THE BEAST

PLAY SCRIPT

Adapted from the Mirror and the Beast Story

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Characters

Narrator
King
Queen
Prince
Princess Amanda (later Queen of Mireneh)
Gardener
Cook
Watersprite
Sunsprite
Singing Rose Trees
Chirping Swallows
Father Swallow
Baby Swallows
Surgeon
2 Townsmen
2 Townswomen
Queen of Mireneh (Prince's twin sister, Amanda)
King of Mireneh
King of Mireneh's Servant
Beast
Bright Mirror
Dark Mirror
Dwarf Prince of Mireneh
Mountains (Echo Voices)

Hint: *Place a little star beside your character's name on the page each time he/she speaks. This will help you to read your dialogue aloud.*

SCENE 1: Narrator {**Inside the Castle**} Standing, in order from left to right: Princess Amanda (future Queen of Mireneh), the King, the Queen, the Prince. **NB:** LEFT, RIGHT stage directions refer to the audience's perspective.

Narrator: There once lived a young Prince. First his father died (the King closes his eyes, drops his head; exit the King, stage left) and then his mother died (the Queen closes her eyes, drops her head; exit the Queen, stage right) and then his twin sister, Amanda, went away to marry the King of Mireneh. (Princess Amanda waves a kiss to the Prince. Exit Princess Amanda, stage left). And so the Prince was left all alone.

SCENE 2: Narrator {**Inside the Castle Gardens, near the kitchen/ scullery**} The Prince, the Cook, the Gardener, Swallows, Singing Rose Trees, Fountain.

Narrator: Days and weeks passed. Everything was quiet. No one came visiting. The Prince liked to listen to the Singing Rose Trees. And watch the Swallows flying around the Fountain. It was so pleasant. After a while, the Prince liked being alone. ALL THE TIME. He hated anyone making noise. In fact, he thought that being alone was the best thing in the whole world.

The miserable looking Cook, banging a cooking pot, exits the stage on the left. The surly looking Gardener, stamping a hoe into the ground, exits the stage on the right.

Prince: (waving his arms) I said you may leave. Go away! I don't need you any more. This is MY Castle, go away, go away!

SCENE 3: A few days later. {**In the Castle Gardens**} The Prince, Swallows, Singing Rose Trees, Fountain, Watersprite, Sunsprite.

Prince: (approaching the Singing Rose Trees, as the Swallows fly away chirping noisily. Silence.) Hey, little swallows, where are you going? Come back. (The Prince wanders to the Fountain.)

Watersprite: (popping her head over the edge of the Fountain, speaking in a bright ringing voice) Hey, hello, Your Highness.

Prince: Who are you?

Watersprite: I'm the Watersprite, the spirit of the fountain.

Prince: What? What do you mean?

Watersprite: This is where I live, Your Highness. (The Watersprite makes a gurgling sound and disappears underwater.)

Prince: Hey, where are you going? Come back!

Watersprite: No, I have to go now.

Prince: But, little Watersprite, don't go. Come back and talk to me. *Pleeease!*

Watersprite: Sorry, I can't stay. I'll be back later, I promise.

Prince: (staring after the Watersprite, with a loud sigh; suddenly, the Prince sees a travelling flash of light—it's tiny old man Sunsprite.) Oh, there you are, little Sunsprite. Just stay still for ONE minute, please. Let me have a good look at you.

Sunsprite: (in a croaking voice) Sorry, Your Highness, I haven't a second to spare! Byeeeeee! (the Sunsprite disappears.)

Prince: Oh, he's gone again! Why won't he stay? (Loud sigh)

SCENE 4: {Outside the Castle; Early morning.} The Mayor, the Surgeon, 2 Townsmen and 2 Townswomen. {In the Castle Gardens} The Prince, Swallows, Singing Rose Trees, Fountain. {Inside the Castle} Dark Mirror, Bright Mirror.

The Prince is alone inside the Castle, sitting at the open window and listening to the Singing Rose Trees and the Chirping Swallows.

One Townsman: (walking beside the Townswoman, on the way toward the Castle) Perhaps the Prince is ill!

One Townswoman: (walking beside the Townsman, on the way to the Castle) No one ever sees him any more. We never hear from him. Perhaps he needs our help!

Mayor: (followed by 2 Townsmen and 2 Townswomen and the Surgeon, who is carrying a black bag. They all walk across the Castle drawbridge over the moat. The Mayor knocks at the Castle door and listens intently. No answer. The Mayor knocks again, more loudly.) **Your Highness, are you feeling ill?**

Prince: (slamming the window shut, looking around, and talking to himself) **Why is everyone bothering me today? I won't answer. Maybe they'll all just go away.**

Mayor: (thumping louder, placing his ear against the door) **Your Highness? Are you there? May we come in?**

Silence. Time passes. There is no answer from the Prince. The 2 Townsmen and 2 Townswomen grumble loudly. Then they wander away. The Mayor and the Surgeon, looking anxious and puzzled, also walk away. Silence returns.

Prince: (looking relieved) **Thank goodness they're all gone. I'm really hungry now. It's way past my breakfast time.**

The Prince wanders into the kitchen/scullery and picks up a hunk of bread and a fistful of prunes. As he wanders around the Palace, he glances at a Bright Mirror beside a Dark Mirror on the wall.

Bright Mirror: **You're very handsome, Your Highness.**

The Prince smiles.

Dark Mirror: **But you haven't even combed your hair today.**

Prince: (frowning into the Dark Mirror and smoothing his hair) **Good riddance to that noisy crowd! How dare they disturb me? Thank goodness they've all gone. (Sigh)**

SCENE 5: {Outside the Castle; Early morning.} The Mayor, the Surgeon, 2 Townsmen and 2 Townswomen carrying a battering ram. **{In the Castle gardens}** The Prince, Swallows, Singing Rose Trees, Fountain. **{Inside the Castle}** Dark Mirror, Bright Mirror.

Sitting inside the Castle, listening to the Singing Rose Trees and the Chirping Swallows, the Prince hears the sound of BOOM, BOOM, BOOM (a battering ram crashing against at the Castle door). Then silence.

Mayor: (calling loudly at the Castle door) Your Highness, are you ill?

Prince: I said I shall see no one! Go away all of you!

One Townsman: That's him! The Prince! I heard him, didn't you?

One Townswoman: Yes, he's in there! It's the Prince, all right. But whatever's wrong with him?

Mayor: (calling loudly at the Castle door) The surgeon is here and your sister, the Queen of Mireneh, is coming too.

The Prince frowns, looking stubborn.

Mayor: (calling loudly at the Castle door) Please, Your Highness, if we may just come in—

Prince: (loudly) No, no, NO! I'm all right. Just go away, I said.

The 2 Townsmen and 2 Townswomen grumble loudly. They carry the battering ram back across the drawbridge and over the moat. A thundercloud appears overhead. It starts to rain. The pelting raindrops splash and resound like drumbeats over Castle roof.

Prince: (angrily) Now I've missed seeing the Sunsprite again, and the little Watersprite's gone away too. I call and call, but she won't come and talk to me. Why don't those nosy—noisy—people leave me alone?

The Prince wanders over toward the Bright Mirror.

Bright Mirror: You are a very handsome—a very special Prince.

Dark Mirror: Humph! A very grouchy Prince, you mean.

Prince: (in a whining tone) But I only wanted to be alone.

SCENE 6: {Outside the Castle; Early morning.}

2 Townsmen and 2 Townswomen, the Mayor, the Surgeon, Queen Amanda of Mireneh. **{In the Castle gardens}** The Prince, Swallows, Singing Rose Trees, Fountain, Echo Voices.

The Prince, sitting alone in the Castle gardens, listening to the Singing Rose Trees and the Chirping Swallows, hears the sound of galloping horses approaching.

Prince: (in a loud voice) This time, I won't let anyone near my Castle.

The Prince struggles to wind the heavy iron chain (on a huge wheel) that lifts up the drawbridge and seals the entrance to the Castle. On the opposite side of the moat, the 2 Townsmen and 2 Townswomen, the Mayor, the Surgeon, and Queen Amanda of Mireneh are all staring at the Castle in dismay:

Prince: I said I won't see anyone today. GO AWAY! (The Prince's voice is followed by Echo Voices that can be heard all the way across the moat to the other side.) *Go away, go away, go away...*

Queen Amanda of Mireneh throws off her cape and shoes, dives into the moat, and swims toward the Castle. As soon as the Prince sees this, he runs inside the Castle and bolts the Castle door. Shivering with cold, Queen Amanda of Mireneh approaches the Castle walls.

Queen Amanda of Mireneh: (peeping through the Castle window) Please, brother, dear brother, let me in.

Scowling, the Prince refuses to answer. Queen Amanda of Mireneh waits, shivering.

Queen Amanda of Mireneh: Brother dear? Speak to me. What's the matter? Where are you?

Silence. Moments pass. Finally, Queen Amanda of Mireneh, looking shocked and sad, swims back across the moat to the other side.

One Townsman: Beware! Some evil Sorceress must have cast a spell on our young Prince. We fear he is lost forever! (The Townsman's voice is followed by Echo Voices) *Forever, forever, forever...*

The 2 Townsmen and 2 Townswomen, the Mayor, the Surgeon, and the Queen of Mireneh slowly wander away. Silence settles over the Prince's Castle.

SCENE 7: {Inside the Castle} The Prince, Dark Mirror, Bright Mirror.

The Prince passes by the Dark Mirror.

Dark Mirror: What an untidy beard you have. Change your robe. You don't look like a prince at all.

Prince: (looking into the Bright Mirror) That's not true.

Bright Mirror: What a handsome Prince you are!

Dark Mirror: But one day you will be old and ugly.

Prince: (glancing into the Dark Mirror, and smoothing his hair) No, I will not.

Dark Mirror: Some day your face will be wrinkled, your shoulders bent, your hair grey.

Prince: That's not true.

Dark Mirror: It is true, unless you perform the impossible task.

Prince: What task?

Dark Mirror: A task that no one has ever accomplished before.

Prince: What is it?

Dark Mirror: Capture the Watersprite, the spirit of the fountain. Then you shall live forever... *The Dark Mirror's voice is followed by Echo Voices.) Forever, Forever, Forever...*

SCENE 8: {In the Castle Gardens; Early morning.} The Prince, Watersprite, Swallows, Singing Rose Trees, Fountain. {In the Castle} The Prince, Watersprite.

Passing the Singing Rose Trees and Chirping Swallows, the Prince hurries to the Fountain to find the Watersprite. Under his robe he hides a small crystal jar.

Prince: Hey, little Watersprite, there you are!

Watersprite: Hello, Your Highness, I said I'd be back, didn't I?

The tiny Watersprite climbs onto the Prince's palm.

Prince: Oh, you are so beautiful!

The Watersprite laughs in ringing tones, and then she dives back into the Fountain.

Prince: (putting his fingers into the water) Come back, little Sprite. (The Prince puts the Watersprite carefully onto his palm.) Will you come and live with me in my Castle?

Watersprite: (shaking her head) No, I cannot.

Prince: But my Castle is huge and grand—and lonely.

Watersprite: Sorry, I can't do that.

Prince: But—you shall be mistress of my kingdom, and I shall be your slave.

Watersprite: (laughing, shaking her head) Thank you kindly, Your Highness, but still, I cannot.

Prince: (catching her by her silver braid) Well then, I must take you prisoner.

The Prince takes out the crystal jar from under his robe and pops the tiny Watersprite inside. He quickly snaps shut the lid of the jar. The Watersprite starts to cry.

Watersprite: Let me out. I must trickle freely in the fountain, or else I'll die.

Prince: You'll never die, beautiful Watersprite; and if you stay with me forever, neither will I.

Watersprite: (in a weepy voice) I promise, you'll be sorry.

Prince: Don't be silly.

The Prince carries the crystal jar into the Castle and sets it down in front of the Bright Mirror and the Dark Mirror.

Prince: Isn't this the grandest palace you have ever seen? (Anxiously staring into the jar). I shall open the

lid, little Watersprite, if you promise me you'll stay.

Watersprite: (whispering) Go away. It is too late. I am dying—

The Prince opens the jar and peeps inside.

Prince: Oh, she's disappeared. Where has she gone?

SCENE 9: {Inside the Castle} The Prince, Dark Mirror, Bright Mirror.

The Prince looks up and sees something in the Dark Mirror. It has tangled hair and a beard full of grass and straw.

Prince: Who's that? Is that me?

Dark Mirror: It is you.

Prince: (turning away) Of course not. How can it be? I will *not* look at you any more. (He stares into the Bright Mirror.)

Bright Mirror: You're so handsome, Your Highness!

Dark Mirror: But you have failed your task.

Prince: (turning back to the Dark Mirror) What?

Dark Mirror: You did not capture the Watersprite.

Prince: But I tried. What shall I do now?

Dark Mirror: Something even more difficult than catching the Watersprite.

Prince: What can that be?

Dark Mirror: (with a mocking laugh) Capture the Sunsprite— if you can. (The Dark Mirror's voice is echoed by Echo Voices.) *If you can, can, can...*

SCENE 10: {In the Castle Gardens; Early morning.} The Prince, Watersprite, Swallows, Singing Rose Trees, Fountain.

Prince: (excited, seeing the Watersprite in the Fountain) Hey, I thought you were dead, little Watersprite. Where did you go?

Watersprite: The Sunsprite saved my life, Your Highness. He wrapped me into a blanket of mist and carried me back into the fountain.

The Prince tries to catch the Watersprite again, but she slips out of his fingers.

Watersprite: (tossing a few drops of water at the Prince's beard) Oh, no, Your Highness—*here* is where I belong.

Prince: (sighing) All right, then, just promise to live here in my fountain forever.

Watersprite: Well, I promise I shall be here sometimes—
The Prince smiles.

Watersprite: —but sometimes I shall not.

Prince: (with another deep sigh) Then can you tell me how to catch the Sunsprite?

Watersprite: (giggling) Catch the Sunsprite? You'll never do that.

Prince: Oh, yes I will.

Watersprite: You'd better hurry. The days are getting short. The Sunsprite doesn't like to stay too long.

Prince: But I must catch him! Be a good friend, little Watersprite. Tell me what to do.

Watersprite: Be more polite, Your Highness.

Prince: Yes, yes—all right.

Watersprite: And I shall ask the Sunsprite to slow down—only for a moment.

Prince: I promise, I promise, a moment is all I ask!

SCENE 11: {In the Castle Gardens; Early morning;} The Prince, Watersprite, Sunsprite, Swallows, Singing Rose Trees, Fountain, Father Swallow and Baby Swallows.

The Prince hurries toward the Fountain, hiding a crystal jar under his robe.

Sunsprite: (glittering on top of the Fountain) Good morning, Your Highness, what's that you're hiding under your robe?

The Prince grabs at the tiny Sunsprite. The Sunsprite twinkles all by himself into the Prince's crystal jar.

Sunsprite: How do I look?

Prince: Wonderful! (The Prince snaps the lid shut.) You're perfect to brighten the corners of my Castle. I shall keep you forever.

The Prince carries the crystal jar into the Castle and sets it down in front of the Bright Mirror and the Dark Mirror.

Prince: Where are you? Little Sunsprite—I can't see you any more.

Sunsprite: You've made me very late, I must go now.

The Sunsprite escapes from crystal jar and disappears.

Prince: Oh, no! He's gone again. There must be a better way to catch him, there *must*.

The sky darkens. There is the sound of Swallows chirping anxiously, noisily.

Father Swallow: Come away, children! Winter's coming! We must all fly away now. (All the Swallows fly away.)

Snow begins to fall. The wind blows. The Castle becomes buried under the snow.

Prince: (shivering) When will the Sunsprite come back?

Watersprite: (in a cracked frosty voice) I don't know; I'm still waiting for him.

SCENE 12: {**Inside the Castle**} The Prince, Bright Mirror, Dark Mirror, the Prince/Beast.

The Prince wanders around the Castle. He stands in front of the Dark Mirror. He sees a Beast staring back at him from inside the Dark Mirror.

Prince: Who's that?

Beast: (opening its mouth to make a low croaking sound) *Ah-Ahh!*
(But no words can be heard).

Prince: This can't be me. I'm not a Beast.

Dark Mirror: It is you.

Prince: No, I don't want to look at you.

The Prince looks for his reflection in the Bright Mirror. With a CRASHING SOUND, the Bright Mirror shatters to pieces.

Prince/Beast: (beginning to cry) *What!* Am I a Beast? How did I become so ugly?

Dark Mirror: Do you remember, dear Beast, how you sent away everyone that loved you!

Prince/Beast: Did I?

Dark Mirror: And that's why—now—we are all alone together. I am your only friend and—your dearest enemy.

Prince/Beast: (still crying, as a trickle of tears collects around his feet) What is *this*? I must stop crying, I must...

SCENE 13: Narrator {**The faraway Castle of Mireneh**} The Queen Amanda of Mireneh, the King of Mireneh, the Surgeon, King of Mireneh's Servant.

Narrator: Meanwhile the Prince's twin sister, Queen Amanda of Mireneh, was very ill in the faraway Castle of Mireneh.

King of Mireneh: What is the matter with her?

Surgeon: (carrying his black bag) Queen Amanda of Mireneh is very ill, Sire.

King of Mireneh: Why? What happened? I remember it all started the day she went to her brother's Castle—

Surgeon: (sighing) I cannot tell, Sire!

King of Mireneh: But my Queen is no longer beautiful. And our son is a blind Dwarf Prince. I'm sure he'll never grow tall and strong enough to be a King!

Surgeon: (looking sombre) I am sorry, Your Majesty. We can do nothing.

King of Mireneh: Enough! Enough! Where is my servant?

King of Mireneh's Servant: (coming into the room) Sire?

King of Mireneh: I have a task for you. Come closer! (He speaks quietly to his Servant.)

King of Mireneh's Servant: (bowing his head to hide his tears) Yes, Your Highness.

King of Mireneh: (sternly) Take them both far away into the forest. Just make sure that I *never* see them again.

SCENE 14: {In the wintry forest} Queen Amanda of Mireneh, the Dwarf Prince of Mireneh.

Inside the wintry forest Queen Amanda of Mireneh walks along a path. The blind Dwarf Prince of Mireneh follows, hanging onto her long dress.

Dwarf Prince of Mireneh: Where are we going, Mother?

Queen Amanda of Mireneh: To find shelter at my brother's Castle.

Dwarf Prince of Mireneh: Is it far?

Queen Amanda of Mireneh: No, not very far.

Dwarf Prince of Mireneh: Are you sure?

Queen Amanda of Mireneh: Look, I think I see it over there in the distance.

Dwarf Prince of Mireneh: You know I can see nothing! But, Mother, listen, someone is sobbing.

Queen Amanda of Mireneh: (looking around, sighing) I hear nothing, nothing at all.

At the edge of the Castle moat, Queen Amanda of Mireneh and the Dwarf Prince of Mireneh step onto the ice. They walk a short distance, slipping at every step. Further on, the ice cracks under their feet. Queen Amanda of Mireneh slips into the water.

Dwarf Prince of Mireneh: (clinging onto her back) Mother! Can you swim?

Queen Amanda of Mireneh: Oh, my son, I can hardly carry you.

Queen Amanda of Mireneh struggles to swim across the ice-cold moat with the Dwarf Prince of Mireneh on her back.

Dwarf Prince of Mireneh: Mother, mother, look, we're almost there!

Finally, Queen Amanda of Mireneh reaches the shore, then she pushes the Dwarf Prince of Mireneh onto the bank. Having no more strength to save herself, Queen Amanda of Mireneh slowly sinks beneath the water.

SCENE 15: Narrator {**Inside the Castle**} The Beast, Dark Mirror. {**Outside the Castle**} The Dwarf Prince of Mireneh.

Inside the Castle, the Beast is standing alone in its rising pool of tears.

Beast: Who's there?

Dwarf Prince of Mireneh: (shivering, thumping on the window pane) Let me in!

Beast: Who are you?

Dwarf Prince of Mireneh: I am the Prince of Mireneh. Let me into your Castle, please, or I will die!

The Beast tries to move but it can't. Its paws are rooted to the floor. The rising pool of tears has reached all the way to its knees.

Beast: (to the Dark Mirror) My friend, dearest enemy, how can I get out of this prison?

Dark Mirror: I can't help you and it's all your fault. You've made me a prisoner, just as you are.

The Dwarf Prince of Mireneh taps on the Castle window again and again. The Dwarf Prince of Mireneh sinks into the snow.

Beast: (to the Dark Mirror) Please—tell me what to do.

The Dark Mirror laughs

Beast: I must get out! I *must!*

The Beast tugs and tugs, trying to pull free.

Beast: *Let me out!*

Dark Mirror: Poor *poor* Beast, we are chained together forever.

Eerie echoes of the Beast's cries are heard all through the Castle.

Beast: *No—I don't believe you!*

Finally, with a great roar of pain, the Beast manages to pull itself free. It smashes through its own beastly image in the Dark Mirror.

SCENE 16: Narrator {**Inside the Castle**} The Beast/Prince.
{**Outside the Castle**} The Dwarf Prince of Mireneh, Queen Amanda of Mireneh, Watersprite, Sunsprite.

The wind roars. The Castle door blows open. The Beast sashes through the pool of tears, hobbles into the garden, and picks up the shivering Dwarf Prince of Mireneh.

Narrator: And suddenly it's springtime again. The hot sun melts the ice on the water. Trees begin to blossom.

Beast/Prince: (gazing into the water) I am a Prince again!

Mountains (Echo Voices): (laughing) *Again—again—again!*

Prince: Oh, is that you, little Watersprite?

Watersprite: Yes, it's me.

Prince: So you've come back?

Watersprite: Of course. It's springtime again and I promise to stay with you for as long as I can.

Prince: Oh, thank you, thank you! But where's the Sunsprite? Is he coming back too?

Sunsprite: Greetings, Your Highness, sorry, I won't be able to stay too long.

The Sunsprite waves to the Prince, then twinkles to the other side of the moat. The Watersprite swims away as well.

Prince: Oh, come back, little Watersprite, please, *PLEASE*. Won't you promise to stay with me forever?

Watersprite: (laughing, disappearing from view) *Forever?*

Prince: I can't hear you. What did you say, little Watersprite? What did you say?

Watersprite: Forever? I said: Never ... (sound of echoing voices) ... *ever—ever—ever—ever ...*

THE END

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