

Fairy *(cont'd)* But this way they lived, as the years did unfold,
And with strength and patience her powers were controlled.
But boys and girls, wait, for my story's not through
Alas, there's still troubles, that I must tell you.

The King and Queen fade out of sight.

The King and the Queen sadly, passed on you see,
As their ship was destroyed by a huge storm at sea.

Florrie enters and ushers the princesses offstage.

So the sisters were raised by a nursemaid named Florrie,
You'll get to meet her as we pick up the story.
And so, we'll advance till we reach present day.
So band, play a song, and we'll start right away...

The scene bleeds through to reveal the castle, into opening number.

Scene 1

The village square, some years later.

MUSIC #1 : 'COLOUR MY WORLD' (VILLAGERS).

At the end of the number Dame Florrie enters.

Florrie Hello everyone... that wasn't very good. I said, hello everyone! *(She encourages a reply).* That's better. My name is Dame Florrie and I work here at the castle looking after the Princesses. Today is Coronation Day and it's even more special. For years the Princesses have stayed locked behind the castle walls. But today, they've decided to make a special trip down to the village. Oh, there's so many important people coming, there'll be more famous people than an episode of Celebrity Big Brother, which isn't hard I know, but still, we're very excited. They even say that the most handsome of all the Princes, Prince Anders, is on his way. Oooh, he's a looker.

Things haven't been good for me since my husband left. Oh, I miss him. We use to argue so much, you see, he hated me doing flamingo impressions so one day I decided to put my foot down. But, in the end it was his obsession with horoscopes that Taurus apart. He said: "You can't leave me, madam" and I told him: "I Cancer".

Now, aren't there a lot of you? All the mum's out there give me a cheer! *(She encourages the audience).* All the dad's give me a cheer! *(She encourages the audience).* All the boys and girls give me a cheer! *(She encourages the audience).* Any Pokémon hunters out there? I don't want to hear a peek-outta-chu! Now, boys and girls, I, ah, ah, AH... Oh, bother.

I think there might be a cold spell on the way and I've got a cold coming on. Trouble is, I can never finish my sneezes. I've an idea! Would you be able to help me? You would? That's great, well when you hear me going: 'ah, ah, AH', I need you all to shout out 'Choo'! As loud as you can. Do you think you can do that? You do? Well, let's give it a go. Ah, ah, AH *(She encourages their reply).* Oh, that's much better; thank you, boys and girls. *(The Herald enters).* Ooh, it looks like the first guests are starting to arrive.

Herald Ladies and Gentleman, please welcome his Excellency the Duke Jasper of Joysville. *(Everyone welcomes the arrivals and bows or curtsies).* Her supremeness the Lady Lyana of Lovelyville. Ooh, a surprise guest, David Beckham has decided to join us! *(Everyone reacts, excited that Beckham may have arrived).* Just kidding, it's Duke Weasel-ey.

Duke *(Offstage).* What!

Herald Sorry, Duke Wesley, everyone.

Everyone reacts disappointed not only that there is no David Beckham but also that it's the Duke who arrives in his place. Florrie heads over to The Duke as he enters.

Florrie Hello your Grace, it's ah, ah, AH... *(She encourages the audience)*. Oh thank you! It's wonderful to have you return, your Duke-nessship.

Duke Hmm, I wish I could say the same, but quite frankly this place disgusts me, it's more ghastly than *[Local Town]* on a Friday night.

Florrie You seemed to enjoy the magnificent dinner we laid on for you last time you were here?

Duke I remember the 'magnificent' dinner, it will always have a place in my heart burn. Still, I suppose, it's not as bad here as people say

Florrie Really?

Duke No... it's worse!

Florrie Well, the Princesses will be here any minute.

Duke Oh? Decided to grace us with their presence have they?

Florrie They have.

Duke It's the least they can do. It's awfully peculiar them both staying cooped up in that castle every day. I mean how does she expect to rule this kingdom if she's too afraid to set foot outside. It's preposterous.

Florrie If you feel like that, why are you here?

Duke Why? Contracts! Money. Why else would I come here? This place may disgust me, but it's rich! Your new queen will need supplies and lots of them. I'm here to make sure it's me who supplies them and gets all the cash.

Florrie *(Sarcastically)*. You've got a heart of gold.

Duke Perhaps not gold, but I always say, there's space in my heart for one thing only, and that's cash.

Florrie Well, I must get on, I can't stand talking to you.

Duke What?

Florrie I said, I can't just stand here talking to you. Bye Weasley.

Duke It's Wesley!

Florrie Whoops, I mean Wesley.

Herald Ladies, please welcome His Royal Handsomeness, Prince Anders of Chippendalia

All of the women swoon ahead of his arrival. He enters, flanked by Sinestra. The ladies start fawning over him.

Anders Hello everyone; hello ladies.

Ladies Hello Prince!

Lady 1 Oh, your highness, it's so wonderful to meet you.

Lady 2 Will you be staying long?

Lady 3 Please say you are.

Anders Well, I'm here to see the Coronation and then... maybe, baby?

Ladies Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha... *(swoon)*, ah.

Scoop Prince Anders, would it be possible to ask you a few questions for the *[Local Town]* gazette, our readers are very keen to find out more about you.

Anders I'm sure they are, I am fascinating after all, but, some other time, once I've had a chance to settle in?

Scoop Ok! Sure thing.

The ladies gaze at him lovingly. Florrie makes her way over pushing, through the huddle of women.

Florrie Excuse me! Hello Princey, allow me to introduce myself. I'm your future wife, Dame Florrie. Just so you know, I'm not cheap, but I am on special this week. *(Anders is lost for words)*. I can you see you like me. What do you like most? My pretty face or my sexy body?

Anders Your sense of humour.

Florrie Thank you very much.

Sinestra What did you say you were?

Florrie Future wife, clean your ears out.

Florrie (To the audience). Ladies and Gentlemen, earlier I was offered a large sum of money to advertise some sort of bathroom cleaner at the Coronation. Of course I said: No! I can't do that sort of thing people will expect a grand event and not something spoiled by advertising. They offered me more money but I refused because I have morals and incredibly strong willpower. (She reads from a card). "Will power which is just as strong as 'Ajox', the super strong bathroom cleaner, available from all good stockists in lemon sparkle or citrus sunbeam".

Herald Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls, heads of state, lords and ladies, dignitaries, royal subjects, other people of note, people of no note, those of disregard, peasants, farm animals, the animals what live on farm animals, fings what live on little bits of bogies and of course, the Duke Weasley.

Duke I swear, I'm going to...

He is stopped by Prince Anders

Herald Please, pray silence for the arrival of her Highness and 'soon-to-be' Queen of [Local Town]onia. (Everyone bows and curtsies and Ella is led on ready for her coronation). It gives me great pleasure to welcome you here today to witness the coronation of our new queen. I am honoured to stand before you...

The Herald mimes as if still talking to the crowd as Florrie whispers to Ella.

Florrie How are you feeling?
Ella More nervous than ever.
Florrie Don't fret, it'll all be fine.
Ella Everyone's looking at me?
Florrie Imagine they've got no clothes on. (Ella pulls an agonised face). What's wrong?
Ella I looked at the Duke.
Florrie Oh, imagine everyone else, except him.

The Herald start speaking aloud again.

Herald ... do you all solemnly swear to honour and obey our new Queen and of course, support her in all she does?
All We do!
Herald (To Ella). And do you solemnly swear to honour and protect the Kingdom and to serve the people of [Local town]onia to the very best of your abilities?
Ella I do.
Herald Well then, through the power vested in me by the scriptwriter. I do declare that you are our new Queen!
All Hurray!
Duke Now that's over let's talk business.

Florrie pulls the Duke away from Ella and takes him aside.

Hannah Oh, Ella! Come on, let's celebrate.
Ella Please, calm down.
Hannah Lighten up sister, if you can't enjoy yourself now, when can you?
Ella Just let me be, please?
Hannah Ella, you can't live like this anymore, shying away from people. You used to be so happy. It's like you're someone else.
Ella If you don't like it, then leave!
Hannah No! Why do you shut me out? Why do you shut everybody out?
Ella That's enough.
Hannah What are you so afraid of?
Ella I said enough!