

# Act One

## Scene One

*[We open in the city of Derward, during the Middle Ages. As the music starts, the population raise their heads to see the King, Queen and Prince of Derward standing on a high platform. They sing...]*

### 1. Prologue: The Kingdom

CHORUS:

In the kingdom of Derward,  
We live happy and free.  
Under rule of the Monarchs,  
There is nought that we need.  
It is good that our kingdom is safe;  
Defended from crook, thief and knave

The kingdom of many  
Has King, Prince and Queen.  
We thank God that life here  
Is simply a breeze.  
To afar,  
To abroad,  
The call goes on out  
Praise the King!  
Praise the Queen!  
Praise the Prince, give a shout  
For the kingdom

Of Derward!

*[The royal family exits, and the tone of the population changes.]*

## 2. Once Upon A Time

ONE SINGER:

Don't believe everything you hear!

ANOTHER SINGER:

Don't believe everything you see!

ANOTHER SINGER:

On the outside it's well and good

ANOTHER SINGER:

But in the kingdom nothing's as it seems

ONE SINGER:

By the day there are smirks and smiles

ANOTHER SINGER:

By the night there are tales and lies

ANOTHER SINGER:

See the shadows make their move

ANOTHER SINGER:

Hear the whispers telling you to choose

CHORUS:

Something's wrong, you can smell it in the air  
Something's bad, but to say we wouldn't dare!

Once upon a time so the story goes  
But there's no happy ever after when you search below  
You can read the book, that's good and fine  
Here's is truth – once upon a time

In a lie there's no black or white

Something only happens when you stand and fight  
Take your pick and take your side  
Here and now – once upon a time!

ONE SINGER:

Rotten is the word to describe the scene

ANOTHER SINGER:

Bitchy is the word to describe the Queen

ANOTHER SINGER:

The King's not strong, but he's good to us

ANOTHER SINGER:

The Prince is the one we really trust

ONE SINGER:

There's a lot we know and a lot we don't

ANOTHER SINGER:

But something in the dirt keeps the facts afloat

ANOTHER SINGER:

So settle in and enjoy the ride

ANOTHER SINGER:

Just don't forget that there's more than meets the eye

CHORUS:

Something's up, because the Queen is mad  
Insane, and greedy and just plain bad!

Once upon a time so the story goes  
There's no happy ever after when you search below  
You can read the book, that's good and fine  
But here's is truth – once upon a time

In a lie there's no black or white  
Something only happens if you stand and fight  
Take your pick and take your side  
Here and now – once upon a time!

*[Prince Lorenzo enters and greets the people.]*

See the Prince, he comes now  
The poor boy's lumbered with a right old cow  
She's determined to marry him quick  
To a rich and powerful royal chick

*[Now the Queen enters and tries to escort her son away from the people.]*

GROUP ONE:

See the Prince, he comes now  
The poor boy's lumbered with a  
Right old cow  
She's determined to marry him quick  
To a rich and powerful royal chick

GROUP TWO:

See the prince  
Mum's a cow  
Marry quick  
Rich, power chick!

*[Lorenzo and the Queen exit.]*

ALL:

Once upon a time, hold onto your seats  
You might know the tale, but we've the inside sweep  
It's a tale of deception, daring and crime  
It's about to begin – once upon a time

Here it is, let's get set and go  
Nothing's quite the same when you search below  
You can read the story, that's good and fine  
But here's is truth -  
Once upon a ...  
Once upon a ...  
Once upon a ...  
Once upon a time!

*[Again, Queen Hilary enters with her son in tow. The townsfolk bow as they enter and then continue with their lives.]*

Queen Hilary: Lorenzo! Today is the day! Today you will find the one who will be your wife!

Lorenzo: Mother, please. I wish you'd call me Wren.

Queen Hilary: My dear son, Lorenzo is the name I gave you, and it is the name I shall call you.  
Lorenzo: That doesn't mean I have to like it.  
Queen Hilary: You should be proud of your heritage. My father's name was Lorenzo – and he was a mighty man.  
Lorenzo: A mighty *dead* man.  
Queen Hilary: Killed by a rampant goat, it's true. But he was mighty nonetheless...  
Lorenzo: Who, the goat?  
Queen Hilary: My father!  
Lorenzo: Maybe you should've named me after the goat.

*[King Darien enters.]*

King Darien: Ah, my dear wife. How are you on this fine day, filled with the promises of tomorrow?  
Queen Hilary: Darien, you know I'm not one for poetry.  
King Darien: I only praise my beloved to make her happy.  
Queen Hilary: It would make me happier if you would stop.  
King Darien: Whatever you wish.

*[The King freezes on his spot – literally stopped.]*

Queen Hilary: Really Darien, you're unbearable.  
Lorenzo: Better than being killed by a goat!  
Queen Hilary: Enough! We are here to welcome a bevy of beauties. Ladies!

*[The Queen claps her hands and five women, dressed in exotic and expensive clothing enter and form a line.]*

Queen Hilary: Lorenzo, what do you think?  
Lorenzo: Do we have to go through this *again*?  
Queen Hilary: Until you have chosen a woman to be your wife.  
Lorenzo: But I don't know any of them!  
Queen Hilary: Why spoil all the fun before you get married? Besides, I have a new way for you to meet them. It's called "Speed Dating" – two minutes is plenty for you to choose a bride. I invented it myself.  
King Darien: Really Hilary – what's the rush? Wren has his whole life to decide.

Queen Hilary: It is only right that *Lorenzo* has someone to journey through his life with. I long to see the day when my boy walks down the aisle, a woman by his side; the whole country cheering and applauding. And to have a grandchild! Oh, what a day that will be!

Lorenzo: I think I'm going to be sick.

Drunk: Me too!

King Darien: Well, she does have a point Wren. You will need a son to carry on the family name, and become heir to your throne. We all die someday, you know.

Lorenzo: Marriage! Children! Death would be an escape!

*[Lorenzo walks away and past the would-be-princesses, who all bow in sequence.]*

Lorenzo: Look at them! They bow to me when they don't even know my name! They want to *marry* me and they have no idea what I like!

Queen: Let the speed dating begin!

Lorenzo: *[Turning to one princess]* Excuse me...

Julianne: Oui monsieur?

Lorenzo: What is your name, m'lady?

Julianne: Julianne, monsieur.

Lorenzo: What is my favourite meal?

Julianne: I ... I do not know, monsieur.

Lorenzo: And why is that, Julianne?

Julianne: I have only just made your acquaintance, monsieur.

Lorenzo: And you wouldn't want to marry someone you only just met, would you?

Julianne: Monsieur, I ...

Lorenzo: It's okay. You don't need to answer.

*[The Prince walks away from Julianne and past the others.]*

King Darien: He is proving his point, my dear.

Queen Hilary: Nonsense. They are fine examples of womanhood. All worthy - and wealthy I might add. Time is up – next princess please!

Lorenzo: Step forward if you are from a rich family.

*[All the would-be princesses step forward.]*

Queen Hilary: Lorenzo, you're ruining my speed dating!  
Lorenzo: Step forward if you own property of great value.

*[Again they all step forward.]*

Lorenzo: And step forward if you would choose the life of a peasant over a princess.

*[Three of them step backwards, leaving Kylie by herself.]*

Lorenzo: Honestly?  
Kylie: *[In a broad accent.]* Aw, yeah!  
Lorenzo: Really?  
Kylie: *[Pause, then...]* Nah!  
Prince Lorenzo: What is your name m'lady?  
Kylie: My name's Kylie.  
Lorenzo: Kylie, I admire your gutsiness.  
Queen Hilary: Lorenzo, that was hardly fair.  
Lorenzo: Mother, *this* is hardly fair!  
Queen Hilary: We've been through this. *[Cue song.]* All these pretty girls are standing before you. All you have to do is choose. It's really very simple!

### 3. Bride To Be

QUEEN HILARY:  
From every city  
From every town  
Look at the darlings  
Gathered around

Look at their faces  
Look at their dress  
Which one of these  
Is fit to impress?

Pretty girls they are indeed  
But which one of them is what you need?