

FADE IN:

NARRATOR walks on stage and blows his trumpet. The characters appear as they are introduced.

NARRATOR

Our story begins the way all great stories begin; Once upon a time... In a land not too far from here there were two kingdoms, Lightwood and Darkbriar. These two kingdoms were separated by the Forbidden Forest, at the center of which was Willow Mountain. At the center of Willow Mountain was a deep, dark cave, and in the center of this cave lived a Troll. A troll of seemingly little consequence, though it would be this Troll who reunited the two Kingdoms of Lightwood and Darkbriar. Now as for the King of Lightwood, his name is King Bundeldorf. And unlike the Evil King of Darkbriar, King Thunderdash, King Bundeldorf was respected and dependable. If you don't believe me, just ask the locals.

Enter the locals, CHAUNCEY, and SAM

SAM

Say Chauncey, how about that King Bundeldorf?

CHAUNCEY

Well Sam, I sure do respect him.

SAM

Me too! He's a dependable guy!

They exit.

NARRATOR

See? Now our respectable and dependable King also has a beautiful and charming daughter, Princess Persephone. As our story

NARRATOR (CTND)

begins, the Princess is about to turn 21 years old. Which in Royal eyes means it is time to marry.

KING

My darling daughter, your 21st birthday is quickly approaching. It is time to discuss your marriage.

PRINCESS

But Daddy, I don't want to marry.

KING

Persephone, you know the rules. If you do not marry by the morning of your 21st birthday, then Lightwood and its surrounding lands will become the property of that evil King of Darkbriar, King Thunderdash.

PRINCESS

How can this be so?

KING

My darling daughter, I wanted to protect you from the truth, but now I have no choice. Years ago King Thunderdash lost his only son in the Forbidden Forest. I tried to help but to no avail. He blamed me for not finding his son and put a curse on our family, that if you are not married by your 21st birthday, all we have will become his. We must not let this happen.

PRINCESS

But father how am I supposed to find a husband in such a short period of time?

KING

Ah! I have brought to our castle the three most talented Noble Knights of the land. You will have

KING (CTND)

your pick of the litter. I'd marry any one of them. You know... if I were you. Let me bring out the Herald to introduce our suitors. I'll give you some privacy to make your decision. Herald!

The KING exits as the NARRATOR re-enters.

NARRATOR

Thank you King it's good to be here. Princess Persephone, your suitor number one reigns from the land of

the Oaks. That's right, Oakland. He is well renowned for being the handsomest Knight in the Forrest. His looks are enough to make Willows weep. Everyone give it up, for Sir Adam the Beef Cake.

BEEFCAKE struts on stage and flips his golden locks.

BEEFCAKE

Hellooooo Princess. Try not to stare too long into my blue eyes. You might melt.

PRINCESS rolls her eyes.

NARRATOR

Suitor number two is regarded as the Bravest Knight in the Land. Not only did he laugh in the face of the Fire Dragon, not only did he single handedly defeat the chipmunk army, but he is also three time defending champion of the Forest Dance Contest: "So you Think you Can Prance." Lets give it up for Sir Michael the Macho.

Macho moonwalks on stage.

MACHO

Good to be here everybody. Hey princess, forget these funky

MACHO (CTND)

chickens and come tango with a real man.

Princess rolls her eyes again. She's becoming anxious.

NARRATOR

And finally, suitor number three is renowned for being the wisest and smartest Knights of our Kingdom. After scoring a perfect 1600 on his SAT's, he wowed the people by solving the seemingly impossible question; "how much wood could a wood-chuck chuck if a wood-chuck would chuck wood. Welcome to the stage, Sir Albert The Einstein.

EINSTEIN enters doing calculations.

EINSTEIN

Good day Princess. You should be

pleased to know that if my calculations are correct, and they always are, you have an 87% chance of being happier with me than with these other nincompoops.

PRINCESS

87%? Is that all?

NARRATOR

Ladies and Gentleman! Our Knights. Princess, before you choose you may ask your suitors one question each.

PRINCESS

Okay. Suitor number one, what is your idea of a romantic outing?

BEEFCAKE

Well, first I would pack a picnic and bring you to the Crystal Lake. There, we'll lie under the sun and I'll let you brush my hair. Later, we'll go back to my place so I can

BEEFCAKE (CTND)

show off all my outfits. After that I'll fall asleep and let you stare at me all night long.

PRINCESS

Gee, romantic. Suitor number two, if you were my King how would you rule?

MACHO

With an iron fist my lady. I would demand a dance contest every day for the whole Kingdom. And anyone who chooses not to partake will taste the steely tinge of my sword until they twist and shout.

PRINCESS

You will do harm to those who disobey you?

MACHO

All in the name of Love Milady.

PRINCESS

That's sweet. Love for me.

MACHO

No. Love for dancing.

PRINCESS

I see. Suitor number three, if you were a flower, what flower would you be?

EINSTEIN

Lets see, I would be the type of flower that uses integral equations with kernels involving exponential functions.

PRINCESS

What kind of flower is that?

EINSTEIN

Uh duh. A rose.

PRINCESS

Great. Thank you suitors I think I've seen enough.

NARRATOR

Thank you suitors indeed. If you will all please step behind that curtain while we deliberate.

The Knights exit and the KING re-enters.

KING

Well my love what do you think?

PRINCESS

Daddy, they're all horrible.

KING

No, no, no. They're wonderful. So handsome, so brave, and so wise.

PRINCESS

All they care about is themselves. They don't care about me. They just want to be King. I want to be with someone who loves me for me.

KING

But my darling, you must marry one of them we'll lose our Kingdom.

PRINCESS

I don't care. I won't marry any of them. I rather run away. FOREVER!

KING

PERSEPHONE! Oh poo.

The KING walks to his thrown and slumps into it to think. The NARRATOR re-enters.

NARRATOR

And that's exactly what the Princess did. She stormed out of the castle leaving the King devastated, alone, and on the brink of losing his Kingdom. It was then that the aforementioned

NARRATOR (CTND)

Evil King of Darkbriar, King Thunderdash, visited him. This King was so loathsome, so reviled; that when ever you see him you can't help but boo.

THUNDERDASH enters and everyone boo's.

THUNDERDASH

You dare boo me? Pah! It is music to my ears.

NARRATOR

The Evil King was not always evil though. There was a time he was happy. Until that fateful day his only son went missing in the Forbidden Forest, never to be found again.

THUNDERDASH

Don't you dare talk of my past you foul dog. I am here to discuss my future. Good day King Bundeldorf. I have come to offer your daughter my hand in marriage. As you know her 21st birthday quickly approaches, and if she is not married by then, you will lose it all. To me.

KING

I know, I know. Don't remind me.

THUNDERDASH

However, if you give her to me our kingdoms will be united. Then my children, your grandchildren, will inherit them both.

KING

You don't understand. I can't give you my daughter's hand in marriage. She's gone. She's run away.

THUNDERDASH

Where?

KING

Who know? She's probably lost
somewhere in the Forbidden Forest.
My god, those woods are full of
danger. What if she's cursed by the
witch of the woods? Or worse yet,
what if she's eaten by the Troll?

THUNDERDASH

The Troll you say? That gives me an
idea. You'll have to excuse me
Bundeldorf, I have an important
meeting to get to. Good luck getting
your daughter back...You'll need it.
And now, it is time to put my plan
to action! Muh-wah-wah-wah.

THUNDERDASH exits. Narrator re-enters.

NARRATOR

Wait a minute. Did the Evil King
Thunderdash just say he had a plan?

THUNDERDASH pokes his head back in.

THUNDERCLAP

Of course I have a plan. But you'll
have to wait to find out what it is!
Muh-wha-wha-wha.

NARRATOR

Meanwhile, at the center of the deep
dark cave in the center of Willow
Mountain sits our Troll.

Enter Troll

TROLL

Hello! I'm the Troll. Have you seen
any squirrels around here? I love
squirrels. They're so...nutty.

Enter THUNDERDASH. Everyone boos.

THUNDERDASH

Troll! Troll? Where are you?

TROLL

I am here master. Do you bring me
squirrels? I'm very hungry.

THUNDERDASH

We don't have time for squirrels
right now you stupid troll. I have a

job for you.

TROLL

A job? Oh boy I love that. Wait.
What's a job?

THUNDERDASH

A job is when I tell you to do
something and you do it.

TROLL

Oh never mind. I don't like jobs. I
like squirrels.

THUNDERDASH

Enough about the squirrels. Do you
know Troll, why you are free to roam
about these woods?

TROLL

Because I have no family and no
place to call home?

THUNDERDASH

That's right. No one could love
something as ugly as you. But the
reason you are free is because I
allow you to be free.

TROLL

Oh. I get it.

THUNDERDASH

Yes. So unless you want to spend the
rest of your days locked up in
THUNDERDASH (CTND)
my dungeon, I suggest you do as I
say.

TROLL

Yes master.

THUNDERDASH

There is a princess lost in these
woods.

TROLL

Princess Persephone?

THUNDERDASH

Yes Princess Persephone. I need you
to find her and take her prisoner.
Keep her until I arrive and then
turn her over to me.

TROLL

But what's in it for me?

THUNDERDASH

How about your freedom!

TROLL

My freedom and? My freedom and?

THUNDERDASH

Your freedom and all the squirrels
you can eat.

TROLL

Oh boy. I love squirrels.

THUNDERDASH

Then you'll do it?

TROLL

Kidnap the princess, keep her here
for you, eat squirrels. I can do
that.

THUNDERDASH

Excellent! Now my Troll, now is the
time that years of plotting and
rotting, coiling and toiling,

THUNDERDASH (CTND)

finally pays off. All of Lightwood
will be MINE! Muh-wha-wha-wha-wha!

TROLL

You have a nasty laugh.

THUNDERDASH

Just go and get the Princess

TROLL

And you go and get my Squirrels.

THUNDERDASH

Enough about the squirrels! Be off!

They exit as the NARRATOR enters.

NARRATOR

And so, the Evil King Thunderdash's
plan was under way. But what of our
fair Princess Persephone? She
wanders alone in the woods, unaware
of the danger about to befall her.

Enter the PRINCESS walking carefully.

PRINCESS

Oh what have I done? Perhaps I acted to hastily with my departure. I wish my father understood. I don't care about looks, or brains or brawn. I care about what someone has on the inside. He should have a good heart. He should love me for me, not for my kingdom. But wait! I hear something. Perhaps it is true love here to find me. Oh let that be so, and my dreams will cease to be such and my reality reborn a dream. Hark! Who goes there!

TROLL (O.S.)

It is I princess. I come to rescue you.

PRINCESS

Oh such poetry. I shall kiss you good sir, with my eyes shut tight in good faith of your soul. Come to me and let us live happily ever after.

The TROLL approaches as the Princess is puckering with her eyes closed.

PRINCESS

My oh my. True love smells funny.

She opens her eyes and sees the Troll.

TROLL

Hello Princess.

The Princess screams. The Troll screams.

PRINCESS

Help! Help! It's a horrible Troll. Save me! Ye gats your ugly.

The Troll starts to cry.

TROLL

I can't help the way I look.

PRINCESS

Oh I'm sorry Troll. I didn't mean to make you cry.

TROLL

Yes you did. You called me ugly and said I smelled funny.

PRINCESS

What I meant to say was you look...
unique. And that you
smell...different.

TROLL

Oh. Well that's not so bad.

PRINCESS

Also I thought you were going to
kidnap me or eat me.

TROLL

Eat you? Yuk. I don't much like the
taste of girls. If you were a
squirrel it would be a different
story. But I will have to kidnap you
princess.

PRINCESS

You will?

TROLL

Afraid so. Sorry. Under orders. Come
to think of it, I don't much like
orders.

PRINCESS

Me neither. That's why I ran away
from home. My father was forcing me
to marry someone I don't love.

TROLL

Oh no that's terrible. I've been
told I have to kidnap you or I won't
be free and then can't eat
squirrels.

PRINCESS

Who gave you these horrible orders?
Was it your father too?

TROLL

I don't have a father. Actually, I
don't have any family at all.

PRINCESS

You must have a family. Everyone has
a family.

TROLL

Not me.

PRINCESS

But then who loves you?

TROLL

I don't know. Squirrels I guess. But then I eat them. We have a funny relationship.

PRINCESS

I am truly sorry to hear that Troll.

TROLL

You're very kind Princess. You will make a great Queen. But I am sorry. I still have to kidnap you.

PRINCESS

And under whose orders do you kidnap royalty?

TROLL

King Thunderdash of course.

PRINCESS

I knew it. That evil king wants my kingdom all to himself.

TROLL

Whoops. I don't think I should have told you that part.

PRINCESS

Troll, how could you work for such an evil man?

TROLL

He's all I've ever known really. I like people it's just they don't like me. King Thunderdash is the only one who'll talk to me. He's my only friend.

PRINCESS

Not anymore.

TROLL

Really? Let me count. Lets see we have Thunderdash and...Thunderdash and...Thunderdash and...

PRINCESS

Thunderdash and me.

TROLL

You're my friend?

PRINCESS

Sure I am. We have a lot more in

common than you think.

TROLL

But I have to take you prisoner.

PRINCESS

Not if I come with you willingly.

TROLL

You'll try to escape.

PRINCESS

If you promise not to let any harm come to me, I'll stay with you.

TROLL

Oh boy, this is better than I could have hoped. Thank you Princess.

PRINCESS

So, where to now?

TROLL

I guess we go back to my cave. It's at the center of Willow Mountain. Don't worry. You can have the bed and I'll sleep on the couch. After all, you are my guest.

PRINCESS

That sounds lovely. Lead the way.

The Princess and the Troll exit and the NARRATOR enters.

NARRATOR

And so, the Princess and the Troll went off to his cave. Meanwhile,

NARRATOR (CTND)

our three Knights, impatient to discover who will win the Princess' hand in marriage, come to demand an answer from the King.

Enter the Knights.

BEEFCAKE

King Bundeldorf! We've come to demand and answer from you.

MACHO

That's right. We've waited long enough. Hurry up with her choice. Lets go, put a little boogie in it.

EINSTEIN

I've done the math your highness. In

all probability a decision should
have been made. Where are you King?

King Bundeldorf is crying off stage.

EISNTEIN

Judging by the ratio of sobs to
sniffs, I should say King Bundeldorf
is crying.

BEEFCAKE

Why, what ever could be the matter?

Enter the Narrator (herald)

EINSTEIN

Ahh Herald. You bring an answer no
doubt.

NARRATOR

Unfortunately, Before the Princess
could make her decision, she had run
away into the Forbidden Forest. King
Bundeldorf is taking it hard, as you
can see. He has full confidence in
your skills as

NARRATOR (CTND)

Knights however, and has declared a
Quest.

BEEFCAKE

A Quest!

MACHO

A Quest!

EINSTEIN

A Quest!

NARRATOR

Yes. A Quest! That whomever should
rescue the Princess from the jaws of
the Forbidden Forrest first, shall
win her hand in marriage and become
King of Lightwood. That is the Kings
wish. Also, he wants to know if any
of you have a hanky.

BEEFCAKE gives him a handkerchief.

NARRATOR

Thank you. Good luck to all of you.
Now Quest!

KNIGHTS

We Quest!

Narrator exits. A nose is blown very loudly.

EINSTEIN

Look here fellows; though we are in competition with each other, it might be prudent to join forces.

MACHO

Fine, but since I'm the strongest of us all, I should lead the charge.

BEEFCAKE

Actually I should be the one to lead. First impressions are everything. And what could be a

BEEFCAKE (CTND)

better first impression than seeing me?

EINSTEIN

You're both fools. Clearly I should be the one leading the charge. Brains over brawn after all. Also, I have a map.

MACHO

Map?

EINSTEIN

That's right. Do you know how to read a map? Do you even know how to read?

MACHO

Who do you think you are, some kind of wise guy?

EINSTEIN

Yes, exactly.

MACHO

Exactly what?

EINSTEIN

I'm a wise guy.

MACHO

That's not what I meant.

EINSTEIN

But that's what you said.

MACHO

Why I outta-

MACHO takes a slap at EINSTEIN who ducks leaving BEEFCAKE absorb the blow.

BEEFCAKE

Not the hair! Not the Hair!

Beefcake goes to slap Macho who ducks leaving Einstein to absorb the blow.

EINSTEIN

That was not a very wise thing to do.

He goes to slap Beefcake but ends up slapping Macho. Now they've all been slapped and start to slap each other like girls. They get tired. Take a breather, and then start slapping each other again. They get tired, pull out their swords, stare menacingly at each other, then put their swords away and slap fight again.

EINSTIEN

Forget it. We'll just all go our separate ways. May the smartest Knight win. And according to the formula of conditional probability, that winner will be me.

MACHO

May the bravest Knight win. This challenge will take courage, and agility. Clearly the winner will be me.

BEEFCAKE

May the Knight with straightest teeth win. Clearly...That will be me. Let us be off!

They exit heroically. The NARRATOR enters

NARRATOR

Three Knights. Three separate journeys. One goal. Which Knight will reach the Princess first? Let us first follow the path of Sir Adam the Beefcake, for he was the first to meet a challenge. Also, he's easy on my eyes.

BEEFCAKE re-enters treading carefully into the woods. He addresses the audience.

BEEFCAKE

These woods sure are quite. I usually never ride at night. It's

BEEFCAKE (CTND)

harder for people to see my beauty.
By the way, how do I look? I hope
that tussle with those foul Knights
did nothing to upset my facial
structure. Just between you and me
it is so good being so good looking.
But seriously, how do I
look? Hark! A mirror! That's just
what I need.

BEEFCAKE approaches the MIRROR, which can talk.

MIRROR

You may ask me ONE question, and I
will tell you no lies.

BEEFCAKE

A talking mirror? Capital! I can ask
only one question. Perhaps I should
ask were I may find the princess, so
that I will be King. Or better
yet... Mirror of the Wood, tell me
the truth. Am I the handsomest
Knight in the world or what? Though
I know the answer, it's always nice
to be sure.

MIRROR

That is your question?

BEEFCAKE

Indeed it is.

MIRROR

Then no. There is indeed one more
handsome than you.

BEEFCAKE

Impossible!

MIRROR

The mirror never lies.

BEEFCAKE

Who is this imposter?

MIRROR

One question only.

BEEFCAKE

But I need to know.

MIRROR

One. Question. Only.

BEEFCAKE

Then I have a new quest. I will find this wanna-be and run my sword right through him. Then we'll see who's the most handsome Knight in the world. Away!

MIRROR

That should do the trick. Adam the Beefcake loved himself so much; he chose to forgo a chance at being King and finding true love just to satisfy his own vanity. A weakness indeed. One Knight down, two to go.

The MIRROR vanishes as the NARRATOR re-enters.

NARRATOR

That was a strange mirror indeed. Unless... Of course! The Witch of the Woods. She is an almighty spirit. An enchanted being who takes many forms. But why is she interfering in our story? Why does she want to divert the Knights? Who will she distract next? What does it all mean?

The MIRROR re-appears.

MIRROR

Calm down, calm down. You found me out. I am indeed the Witch of the Woods. As for my intentions, they will soon be clear. Herald, tell me; Where is our Brave Knight Michael the Macho?

NARRATOR

I cannot tell you. I'm not allowed to get involved. I'm just the Narrator.

MIRROR

Fine, I'll just wait. Eventually you'll have to tell them.

NARRATOR

Phooey you're right. As for the brave Knight Sir Michael the Macho, he now finds himself at the outskirts of Pine Town.

MIRROR

Perfect. I'll be right there.

NARRATOR

What? It's not my fault. She's a very clever witch. Please don't look at me like that. Lets get back to the story.

The Narrator exits as MACHO enters confidently.

MACHO

Ha! This is no journey for a weakling. Surely these other "Knights" have already met their doom. Soon I shall find the Princess and we shall dance our lives away. But hark! What is this? A cliff? There's not supposed to be a cliff here.

A BIRD flies in.

BIRD

There's not supposed to be, but there is.

MACHO

Look here bird; I'm on a very important mission. How do I cross these cliffs?

BIRD

You fly silly.

MACHO

But I am a man. Men do not fly.

BIRD

Have you ever tried to fly?

MACHO

Well...No.

BIRD

Then how do you know?

MACHO

It's science. Men do not fly.

BIRD

What is your name Knight?

MACHO

I am Michael the Macho, the best dancing and Bravest Knight of the land.

The Bird laughs.

MACHO

You dare laugh at me? I could crush you with my bare hands.

BIRD

Truly there must be braver Knights than you.

MACHO

Truly there are not.

BIRD

You don't seem very brave to me.

MACHO

And how is that?

BIRD

You're afraid to fly.

MACHO

Am not!

BIRD

Am too.

MACHO

AM NOT!

BIRD

You know I may be a bird, but you're acting like a chicken.

MACHO

Nobody, but nobody calls me chicken. I'll show you bird. I'll fly right across these cliffs.

BIRD

Excellent. I'll meet you on the other side.

MACHO

Wait Bird. How do I fly?

BIRD

It's easy, you just spread your wings and...Fly.

Bird flies off.

MACHO

Well, they don't call me the bravest

Knight for nothing. I should get a good start. A ballet pirouette should do the trick.

Macho backs away, does a few ballet spins, and soars of the cliff. He Goofy screams down the cliff and is never seen again. The Bird flies back on.

BIRD

Poor, poor Knight. If he wasn't so concerned with what others thought of him, he might have easily been our King. But alas, though bravery is a virtue, blind courage is a vice. Two down, one to go.

Enter NARRATOR

NARRATOR

Two down, one to go? Wait a minute. Birds don't talk. That was no bird, that must have been-

NARRATOR & BIRD

The Witch of the Woods.

NARRATOR

But why are you thwarting our heroes?

BIRD

Our hero's are thwarting themselves. As for why, I could tell you but that would ruin our story.

NARRATOR

True witch. Best not say anything more.

BIRD

That's all right. I've got to get going. Three Knights in one day is a lot. Even for me.

The bird flies off.

NARRATOR

What is this witch up to? Is she a good witch? A bad witch? A sandwich? Hmmm. I'm hungry. Lets see how our Wise Knight fares while I enjoy my Luncheon wares.

Narrator exits as EINSTEIN enters.

EINSTEIN

No doubt in my mind that my would be companions have met their doom, for if there is one thing you need in these woods it is your wits. And in that regard I most certainly have the upper hand.

EINSTEIN (CTND)

Though some like to use the term genius to describe me, I prefer brilliant. What can I say? I'm humble. Ah! A bridge. I can see that on the other side of that bridge is the Troll's lair. If my calculations are correct, and they always are, the Troll will have now captured Milady holding her captive in his cave. It is there that I will find her, rescue her, marry her, and then I, sir Albert the Einstein, become the wisest King in the entire world. Pack your things folks. This story's almost over.

The bridges TOLL KEEPER enters the scene.

TOLL KEEPER

Toll please. 5 gold trinkets.

EINSTEIN

I have no money.

TOLL KEEPER

Then you may not cross the bridge.

EINSTEIN

Look, I'm trying to save the princess. She is held hostage by the Troll so I must cross this bridge.

TOLL KEEPER

Look I don't make the rules. No toll, no troll.

EINSTEIN

If I save the princess I will be crowned King. Your King. Let me pass and I will shower you with favor and gold.

TOLL KEEPER

Keep your golden shower. You're not king yet, and if you can't pay my

toll, you never will be.

EINSTEIN

I already told you I have no money.
All I have are my wits.

TOLL KEEPER

So you fancy yourself smart eh?

EINSTEIN

Indubitably. I'm sure you've heard
of me. My name is Sir Albert the
Einstein, the wisest Knight in the
land.

TOLL KEEPER

No, that can't be you.

EINSTEIN

What are you saying?

TOLL KEEPER

Well, walking around the woods at
night and trying to cross bridges
without money doesn't seem very wise
to me. I tell you what though; I'm
feeling very generous today. Since
you have it in mind to become King,
you can repay your debt to me at a
later time.

EINSTEIN

Thank you Toll Keeper. You shan't
regret this. Now stand aside.

TOLL KEEPER

Hold your horses. I can't just let
you cross the bridge for nothing. I
wouldn't be doing my job.

EINSTEIN

But you just told me I may pass.

TOLL KEEPER

You may pass if...you can answer me
one question.

EINSTEIN

Ha! Ask your question. And prepared
to be wowed by my wisdom.

TOLL KEEPER

Your question Wise Knight is this:
Why, did the chicken, cross the

road?

EINSTEIN

Why did the chicken cross the road?
It could be for any number of
reasons.

TOLL KEEPER

Like I said, I'm feeling generous.
I'll give you one lifeline. You may
ask the audience.

EINSTEIN

Ask for help? From them? I think
not. I can figure this out on my own
thank you very much. Let's see. "Why
did the chicken cross the road?" Or
essentially, "what caused the
chicken to cross the road?" For that
I can use the equation of cause and
effect. So we take the cause,
multiply it by the 14th power,
divide by 3, and carry the one. Aha!
The chicken crossed the road to
borrow milk from a cow. No, that
can't be right. Let's see, divide by
3, carry the one, and subtract the
difference. Ah yes. The chicken
crossed the road to bark at other
dogs.

TOLL KEEPER

Is that your final answer?

EINSTEIN

My math never lies.

TOLL KEEPER

In this case, you are wrong.

EINSTEIN

Wait! No! It's an unfair question.
Whether the chicken crossed the road
or the road moved beneath the
chicken is a matter of relativity.

TOLL KEEPER

It's really not that difficult at
all. Watch. Excuse me! You out
there! Why did the chicken cross the
road?

ALL

To get to the other side.

EINSTEIN

That's it? For no other reason than
to get to the other side?

TOLL KEEPER

That's it. Some times things are
much simpler than they look.

EINSTEIN

An interesting theory Toll Keeper. A
most interesting theory that gives
me an idea on a new equation of
simplicity. I must be off, for my
mind can't rest until the puzzle is
untangled. So long Toll keeper. Let
us hope for your sake that we never
meet again.

Einstein storms off.

TOLL KEEPER

Ooh. I'm shaking in my witch boots.

Enter NARRATOR

NARRATOR

Witch boots? No Toll keeper I know
wears witch boots unless...

TOLL KEEPER

Didn't you know? I am none other
than the Witch of the Woods. Like
you said, I take many forms.

NARRATOR

But when will you tell us why you
interfere?

TOLL KEEPER

In good time sir. In good time.

NARRATOR

Hot dog this story's getting good.
With all of our Knights now
sidetracked what will be the fate of
our princess? How does she fare with
the feared Troll? Is that laughter I
hear?

The Narrator exit as the PRINCESS and the TROLL enter scene
laughing.

TROLL

So I says to the tree frog, "that's
no cricket!"

PRINCESS

Oh Troll. How can you be so hated and feared? If only people got to know you.

TROLL

They probably hate me because I'm ugly.

PRINCESS

I don't think you're ugly. You may be a little rough in the features but I think you're a lovely human being.

TROLL

But I'm a troll. I'm not a human being at all.

PRINCESS

I don't believe that for a second. You have more humanity in your little pinky than all those men my father wanted me to marry combined.

TROLL

Thank you Princess. You're very kind to say so. If I am human, can I still eat squirrels?

PRINCESS

Ha ha. Sure you can.

THUNDERDASH (o.s.)

Troll? Where are you Troll?

TROLL

It's my master. Quick, hide.

PRINCESS

Please help me.

TROLL

I'll try, I promise. Just hide.

Enter EVIL KING THUNDERDASH. Everyone Boo's.

THUNDERDASH

Well? Where is she?

TROLL

Where is who?

THUNDERDASH

Don't play dumb with me. Where is

Princess Persephone?

TROLL

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

THUNDERDASH

I see. I guess I'll have to eat all these squirrels by myself.

TROLL

Squirrels? You have some?

THUNDERDASH

Of course I have squirrels. That was our deal. I give you squirrels, and you give me the Princess. You do remember our deal don't you?

TROLL

- Uh-

THUNDERDASH

You're forgetting I see. Maybe I too should forget. About housing you. About protecting you. About feeding you squirrels.

TROLL

No. Please.

THUNDERCLAP

Give me the Princess.

TROLL

I...I...

PRINCESS

I'm right here.

THUNDERDASH

Ahhh. Hello Princess. My name is King Thunderdash. Perhaps you've heard of me?

PRINCESS

I've certainly heard all the boo's that follow you.

THUNDERDASH

Soon those boo's will turn to cheers. You see, you gave up your Kingdom of Lightwood the moment you ran away from home. That was a very dangerous thing to do Princess. The Forbidden Forest can

be...unforgiving. Lucky for us

THUNDERDASH (CTND)

both, I own the Troll, and now I own you. You fell right into my trap. Your 21st birthday will pass without a wedding and I will be ruler of it all. From Lightwood to Darkbriar and all that is in between. Muh-wha-wha-wha-

PRINCESS

You have a very nasty laugh.

TROLL

That's what I said.

THUNDERCLAP

Enough of this. Kneel before me Persephone, and let my long and happy rule begin today.

PRINCESS

No Please! Help me Troll. You promised.

She runs towards the Troll. Just then KING BUNDELDORFF enters. He surveys the room.

KING

Thunderdash, I knew you were behind all this. First I will vanquish the Troll, and then I shall vanquish you.

PRINCESS

No daddy please don't hurt the Troll. He's not my captor. He's my protector.

KING

Is this true Troll? Have you been protecting my daughter?

TROLL

Yes. I suppose it is.

KING

Then we have all misjudged you. I owe you an apology. But more

KING (CTND)

importantly I owe you a mighty thanks for keeping my daughter safe.

TROLL

That's very kind of you your highness.

KING

Perhaps one day I will be able to
repay you.

PRINCESS

He likes squirrels.

KING

Ah. Wonderful. The Kingdom is full
of them. They're all yours.

TROLL

All mine? Yummy!

THUNDERDASH

Wrong. The Kingdom will soon be
mine, including all the squirrels in
it.

PRINCESS

Why are you so mean?

TUNDERDASH

I'm an evil King. It's what I do.

KING

My Goodness he's right Persephone.
You never chose a husband.

PRINCESS

I've made my choice now. I would
like to marry...The Troll.

There is a stunned silence, followed by laughter between the two Kings, which escalates into hysterics. The Troll starts laughing too, though he doesn't really get the joke. The Princess stares back defiantly.

KING

My dear Persephone, you can't marry
a Troll.

PRINCESS

Why on earth not? They did it in
Shrek.

KING

Yes but this is real life. You must
marry a man of noble blood.

PRINCESS

This Troll is more noble than any
man I've ever met. He's sweet,
honest, well meaning, humble, and

loyal.

THUNDERDASH

But he eats squirrels!

PRINCESS

So what? Have you ever tried one?
They're quite delicious.

TROLL

I think they taste nutty.

KING

Darling, he may be a noble creature,
but he doesn't have noble blood.

WITCH OF THE WOODS (O.S.)

Oh yes he does.

Enter the WITCH OF THE WOODS.

ALL

The Witch of the Woods.

WITCH

In the flesh. My own flesh, finally.
I am here to tell you that indeed
this Troll is of noble character and
of noble birth. He is a Prince.

THUNDERDASH

Impossible!

WITCH

The son of a King.

THUNDERDASH

Inconceivable!

WITCH

Your son, Thunderdash.

THUNDERDASH

IMPOSSIBLY INCONCEIVABLE!! My son
is dead.

WITCH

No. Your son was cursed.

THUNDERDASH

It can't be. Who would curse my son?

WITCH

I would. You are an Evil King. And
you deserved to be punished.

THUNDERDASH

So you turned my son into a Troll?

WITCH

Yes. I made him look on the outside the way you are on the inside. Ugly. But as I watched him grow into the gentle heart he truly is, I knew I was wrong to punish the son for the sins of the father. For that Troll, I am eternally sorry.

TROLL

Wait a minute. I have a father?

THUNDERDASH

My son is still alive?

TROLL

Daddy?

THUNDERDASH

Son!

They embrace.

THUNDERDASH

Oh son. I never ever wanted to lose you. I'll change, I promise.

TROLL

You wont be mean to me anymore?

THUNDERDASH

Be mean to my son? Never! I've been mean enough for 5 lifetimes. I'm happy just to be your father.

TROLL

Did you hear that Persephone? I have a father! I have a family! Just like I always wanted.

WITCH

As for you Princess Persephone, your heart is true. You refused to live a life of lies, going so far as to jeopardize your whole kingdom. I honor you, and give you my word to protect you and your children.

KING

Perhaps good Witch, now would be an opportune time to break the curse on the Troll and turn him back into a handsome Prince.

PRINCESS

There's no need. Regardless of how he looks, I see him for the handsome Prince he is, and the strong King he will be.

TROLL

Me? King? Do you really think I could do it?

PRINCESS

Yes I do. I believe in you.

KING

If she does, so do I.

WITCH

I don't just believe you can do it. I know you can.

THUNDERDASH

Son. My Son. You can do whatever you set your heart to doing.

TROLL

Thanks everyone. You're the best family a Troll could ever have.

They all embrace. The NARRATOR enters for the last time.

NARRATOR

And so it was. The Princess found her Prince in a most unlikely place, uniting the kingdoms of Light Wood and Darkbriar. Even more unlikely, the Evil King found his son, and then wasn't so evil anymore. As for the witch, she was as good as her word in blessing the Princess and her family. Indeed, our story ends the way all great stories end. And they lived happily, ever after.

KING

Wait a minute. What ever happened to our Knights?

WITCH

I dispatched your Knights, or should I say, they dispatched themselves. As you know each of those Knights had qualities that elevated them above the average man. However, they all over indulged in their singular talents making them just as low as

the Evil King.

THUNDERDASH

The Ex-Evil King.

WITCH

These Knights are alive and well,
but as a punishment I have banished
them to a life of comedy. They are
better suited to entertain nobility
than to sit among it. See for
yourself.

All exit as the 3 Knights re-enter for a comedy song and dance bit
ending the show.

THE END: