

PROLOGUE: A Castle

(#1 PROLOGUE)

ETHAN: Once upon a time in a faraway land, a young prince lived in a shining castle. Although he had everything his heart desired, the Prince was spoiled, selfish and unkind. (An OLD BEGGAR WOMAN enters.)

SAMANTHAH: But then, one winter's night, an old beggar woman came to the castle and offered him a single rose in return for shelter from the bitter cold. Repulsed by her haggard appearance, the Prince sneered at the gift and turned the old woman away.

LUCY: But she warned him not to be deceived by appearances, for beauty is found within. And when he dismissed her again, the old woman's ugliness melted away to reveal a beautiful enchantress.

ETHAN: The Prince tried to apologize, but it was too late, for she had seen that there was no love in his heart. As punishment, she transformed him into a hideous beast and placed a powerful spell on the castle and all who lived there.

SAMANTHA: Ashamed of his monstrous form, the Beast concealed himself inside his castle with a magic mirror as his only window to the outside world. (The rose appears.) The rose she had offered him was truly an enchanted rose, which would bloom for many years.

LUCY: If he could learn to love another and earn her love in return by the time the last petal fell, then the spell would be broken. If not... he would be doomed to remain a beast for all time. As the years passed, he fell into despair and lost all hope.

NARRATORS: For who could ever learn to love a beast? (The BEAST and the NARRATORS exit.)

SCENE 2: The Forest

(#5 INTO THE FOREST)

NOAH: On his way to the fair to show off his new invention, Maurice entered a dark forest.

MAURICE: Now let's see, is it this way... or this way... (MAURICE becomes nervous. He looks around, concerned. A wolf howls.) Oh, dear! (Another howl.) Wolves! (WOLVES enter and pantomime the following action with MAURICE.)

NOAH: Suddenly, a pack of hungry wolves appeared and began to circle Maurice.

MAURICE Stay back... back! Help! Someone help me! Get back! Help!

NOAH: Fearing for his life, Maurice raced toward a nearby castle. A wolf lunged for Maurice... and grabbed the scarf right off his neck! (MAURICE approaches and knocks on the castle door. The NARRATORS exit.)

MAURICE Let me in! Let me in! (The door opens.)

SCENE 8: The Forest

(#18 WOLF ATTACK)

RYDER: Belle ran into the forest as fast as she could. Night was falling, a storm was approaching and it was getting hard to see.

BRIGHAM: When she stopped to catch her breath, Belle heard the low and menacing growling of wolves! One wolf charged Belle head-on, and she grabbed a branch to defend herself.

ELLE: Suddenly, the Beast leaped out of nowhere and pulled the wolves off of Belle. Belle took cover as the wolves turned and attacked the Beast.

RYDER: One grabbed hold of the Beast's forearm, wounding him. The Beast struggled to stay on his feet. Once the Beast hurled the last wolf away... he collapsed, exhausted and in pain.

BRIGHAM: Belle knew that this was her chance to get away... to go home. But as she looked at the Beast, that hideous creature... who saved her life, she could not leave.

ELLE: Belle approached the Beast and helped him to his feet. Then Belle and the Beast slowly made their way back to the castle.

SCENE 10: The Village

(#21 D'ARQUE PLAN)

ETHAN: Meanwhile, back in a dark alley of the village, Gaston held a secret meeting.

SCENE 13: The Castle

NOAH: The angry mob of villagers marched through the forest, waving torches and weapons. Once gathered in front of the Beast's castle, they carefully made their way inside.

(#26 FIGHT IN THE WEST WING.)

NOAH: While the Beast's servants battled the villagers, Gaston made his way to the west wing.