

*Once Upon a Mattress Audition Sides –*

*Please pick one of the 6 following scenes to prepare for auditions. High school students, we would prefer for you to find your own 1-2 minute monologue to memorize and perform.*

### **Prince Dauntless, the Drab**

***(Dauntless is a timid, but excitable young man, who just really wants to fall in love and get married.)***

No, wait! \*I\* am Prince Dauntless the Drab. Please don't go. I like you. Everybody does. *(Queen scowls and laughs.)* Well, almost everybody.

I really like you... You swam the moat! *(Fred falls in the moat. Dauntless excitedly goes to the Queen.)*

You ought to see her swim, Mama. She's wonderful! I like her. She swam the moat – twice! Can I marry her, Mama, can I? *(No response.)* Mama, sometimes I get the funniest feeling that you don't want me to get married...

### **Queen Aggravain**

***(The Queen is a powerful woman who has no time for nonsense, and just wants to be the ruler.)***

Don't want you to get married? Don't *want* you to get married? Dauntless – don't you trust me?

Of course I want you to get married! How many times have I said to you, "I want you to get married?" Only this morning, I was saying to your father, I said "Sextimus, I want that boy to get married. It just isn't normal for a boy that age to stay single! And after all, he is the prince," I said, "Don't forget that. He's next in line to the throne. I mean we're not exactly the oldest people in the world; but on the other hand we're not going to live forever, and I just know that I'd feel much better, much easier and more relaxed in my mind if the boy were married, and settled and set!" And that is absolutely verbatim, *exactly* what I said to your father this morning.

He may be a mean, stupid, dreadful, selfish, rotten man, but he is your father and I want you to respect him. But, there is only one person who really cares about you.

You are a prince and you must marry someone suitable, someone who's good enough and smart enough, and fine enough for my nice, sweet, beautiful baby boy.

### **The Minstrel**

***(The Minstrel acts as a kind of narrator, telling the story and being a part of it.)***

There are many versions of this story; I sing them all. The one I have just shared is the prettiest, but it is not quite accurate.

I happen to know the true story of "The Princess and the Pea" for the very good reason that I was there. It was a small kingdom ruled over by a talkative queen and a mute king.

The princess in the true story was not the only girl put to the test. Actually, she was one of the 13 girls – girls who came to the castle hoping to wed the Prince, but who, for one reason or another, more found to be unsuitable. As a matter of fact, the day I arrived at the court, they were testing Princess Number 12. I wished her success. She was a pretty little thing – But it was not to be.

## Sir Harry

***(Sir Harry is a very proud, brave knight. Perhaps too proud, and too brave.)***

Madame, I have the honor to request a Perilous Labor. I wish to search for a true princess, a princess of the Royal Blood: one who will suit both Your Majesty and Prince Dauntless. I plan to head North, over the mountains ... across the Badlands ... and into the marsh land where the beautiful Swamp Lily grows.

*(Turning to Lady Larken)* Don't be afraid, little Larken. I'll bring back a princess who is not only a real princess, but one who will be able to pass the Queen's test. Don't be afraid. I shan't be away long.

## Princess Winnifred

***(Princess Winnifred, who goes by Fred, doesn't care to act the way "a princess should", but is more interested in being kind, caring, and her own quirky self.)***

Actually, I swam the moat. But never mind. If I just stand right here, there's a nice draft. I'll be dry in no time! *(Wringing out the hem of her gown.)*

All right, I was a little anxious. My friend, Sir Harry—uh, he's still out there—he told me you had an opening for a princess. Any princess. I figured: the Early Bird . . . Anyway, here I am. Who's the lucky man?

*(The queen reacts angrily, the wizard tries to show her a magic trick, the crowd looks at her strangely.)*

It's a nut house! *(Prince Dauntless steps forward.)* You're the one, I guess. Well, glad to have met you. I'd like to stay here, but I wouldn't want to come between you and your mother. So, I guess I'll just face the facts, cut my losses, and head back to the swamps.

*(Dauntless says: But I \*really\* like you.)*

You do? Why?

*(Dauntless says: You swam the moat!)*

Dauntless: I know I swam the moat, but that's not the real me. I'm not like that. Actually . . . *(edging away)* . . . I'm . . . *(She falls in the moat)* . . . SHYYYYYYYYYYY . . . *(splash)* I don't need any help!

## **The Silent King**

***(The King has been under a curse for a long time, and so cannot speak. He communicates everything through pantomime.)***

KING: (Worried)

JESTER: You're worried?

KING: (Yes)

JESTER: About what? Who?

KING: (Lady)

JESTER: Some lady? Which lady?

KING: (Two syllables)

JESTER: Two syllables.

KING: (First syllable)

JESTER: First syllable.

KING: (Bird)

JESTER: Bird . . . some kind of bird. Auk, bluebird, catbird, dove, eagle, lark, marten

KING: (Claps hands on "lark")

JESTER: Lady Larken!

KING: (Right! Small word: "And")

JESTER: And?

KING: (A knight)

JESTER: A knight? Which knight?

KING: (Sir Harry)

JESTER: Sir Harry!

KING: (She's in trouble)

JESTER: She's in trouble. What kind of trouble?

KING: (Big!)

JESTER: Big trouble!