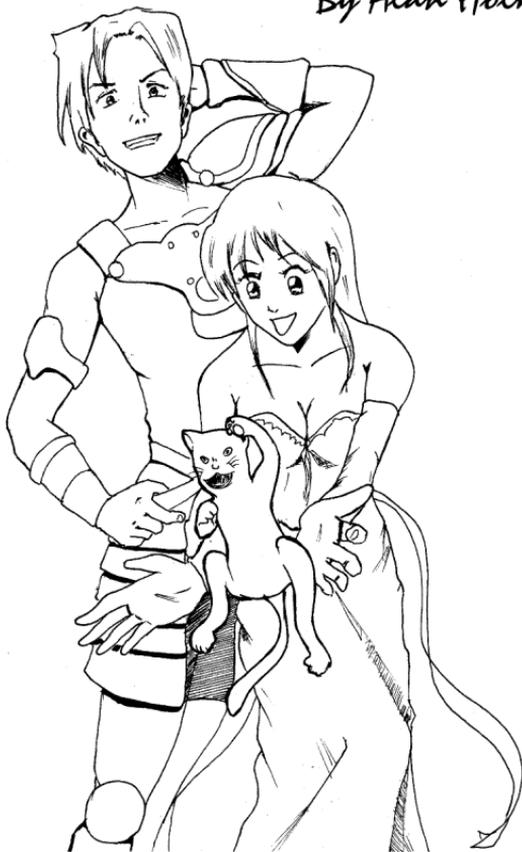


The Adventures of Ah Who Cares

By Alan Holman



The Adventures of ...ah who cares?

*I mean, who really gives a care?
It's not like anyone's gonna ever ...*

A stage-play by:
Alan Holman

Art:
Yudhianto Bambang

This play won the Saskatchewan Playwright's Centre's 24 Hour Playwriting Contest in 2006. The original draft was completed in 13 hours. Only minor adjustments have been made.



DRAMATIS PERSONAE

KNIGHT STANLEY	-----	<i>A brave knight.</i>
CHORUS	-----	<i>Singing children.</i>
THE WHOLE WORLD	-----	<i>A globe.</i>
SOXX AND CHICO	-----	<i>Two cats.</i>
PRINCESS REBECCA	-----	<i>The princess.</i>
ROSENFRAUTZ AND GULDENWHAFTNOT	-----	<i>Friends.</i>
ROY MONTALBONBON	-----	<i>Eccentric professor.</i>
FORTY STUDENTS	-----	<i>Forty pupils.</i>
NARRATOR	-----	<i>Voice.</i>
ANGEL	-----	<i>Winged unicorn.</i>
NINE ALGONQUIN CHIEFTAINS	-----	<i>Literally.</i>
DRAGON	-----	<i>Dragon.</i>
THREE TROLLS	-----	<i>Three Trolls.</i>
ARNOLD	-----	<i>Winged unicorn.</i>
CARAVAN	-----	<i>Winged unicorns.</i>
SQUID SPIRIT	-----	<i>Giant squid.</i>
MASTER SAMURAI	-----	<i>Swordsman.</i>

PROLOGUE

KNIGHT STANLEY – wearing a full suit-of-armor – stands on a bare stage, grinning sadly.

KNIGHT STANLEY

The world adores me, but yet I'm sad. You don't believe me that I've got the world cheering me on. You don't think I'm the person standing at the center of the world, looking at cheering crowds of adoring multitudes, all shouting my name from the highest peaks. You don't believe me that the sky turns colors for me, always trying to accommodate for my comfort. You don't believe me. Well, it's true. Let me show you a few convenient examples.

A platform – carrying a **CHORUS** of one thousand young children – descends onto the stage.

CHORUS

(singing)

Knight Stanley – you are awesome!

The children ascend with the platform, as it raises leaving **KNIGHT STANLEY** alone again on the bare stage.

KNIGHT STANLEY

If you still don't believe me, that everyone thinks I'm awesome ... -- well, they don't think it – they know it. But yeah, it's true – they know it. Still, I cannot even begin to think that way about myself. I have no ego. I have no pride. I'm unhappy. Still, the whole world adores me.

Hanging on a string, and rotating, **THE WHOLE WORLD** descends from above.

THE WHOLE WORLD

I love you, Knight Stanley.

THE WHOLE WORLD exits ... rising to above.

KNIGHT STANLEY

But still, I'm sad. And I'm sure it's a story that's been told millions of times, by millions of other brave Knights, but the reason I'm sad is because ... well, I'm a bit embarrassed about it, actually. So yeah, I'm a brave knight, who slays all sorts of dragons and such, but yeah, I still get embarrassed. But what gives me this courage to save the universe every day and night without end? And why am I still sad even though I'm loved world-wide for my deeds? Well, I'll tell you what I can tell you.

ACT 1, SCENE 1

A doorway and a door-step.

Two cats – **SOXX** and **CHICO** – sit on either side of the doorstep.

KNIGHT STANLEY approaches. The cats look at him curiously.

SOXX

Hi.

KNIGHT STANLEY

Hey.

CHICO

She's pretending to not be home.

KNIGHT STANLEY

Again?

SOXX

Maybe you should have phoned first.

KNIGHT STANLEY

Perhaps.

SOXX

I see you didn't bring your man-friend.

KNIGHT STANLEY

I don't like it when you call him my "man-friend."

SOXX

Well, that's what he is. He's a human male, he's a man, and he's your friend. "Man-friend."

KNIGHT STANLEY

Don't say that, okay?

SOXX

Well, I don't remember his name.

KNIGHT STANLEY

But you always say "Cat's know all."

SOXX

Have I said that?

KNIGHT STANLEY

No, that was another cat. But he didn't say it either.

CHICO

Was it me?

KNIGHT STANLEY

No.

SOXX

So ... are you going to knock, or ring the bell?

KNIGHT STANLEY

No, I think I'll just stand here, and continue to pretend that cats can talk.

CHICO

She's pretending she's not here.

KNIGHT STANLEY

I should just go.

The door opens, and **PRINCESS REBECCA** emerges onto the step.

PRINCESS REBECCA

What are you doing here?

KNIGHT STANLEY

Talking to your cats.

PRINCESS REBECCA

(smiles) About what?

KNIGHT STANLEY

You look nice today.

PRINCESS REBECCA

Okay.

KNIGHT STANLEY

So I came here wondering if we could chat at the bistro on the corner.

PRINCESS REBECCA

Okay, but if you need to do this again, call first next time, okay?

KNIGHT STANLEY

Yeah. Sorry.

PRINCESS REBECCA

S'okay. Just a second, I'll get my coat.

KNIGHT STANLEY

It's warm.

PRINCESS REBECCA

Okay.

They walk ...

ACT 1, SCENE 2

BISTRO. Not too many people, not too few people. Warm, inviting place.

PRINCESS REBECCA and **KNIGHT STANLEY** sit near a table in an open space.

PRINCESS REBECCA
S'wadge ya wanna talk about?

KNIGHT STANLEY
Take that smile off your face. I have something very sad to report. Two of your brothers ...

PRINCESS REBECCA
No ... you're ... slow down. Wait.

KNIGHT STANLEY
I'm sorry.

PRINCESS REBECCA
Stan. If this is actual news about my brothers, and not just another of your stories, you can't be so fast.

KNIGHT STANLEY

It is another of my stories. And it was leading to a joke. And I'm kicking myself for telling you to take that smile off of your face. It's ... (points randomly) HEY LOOK! – A DISTRACTION!

She laughs.

PRINCESS REBECCA

I don't mean to be rude, but please don't finish telling me that joke about my brothers. I don't like how it started, and I don't think I'd appreciate where I think it's going. Sorry.

KNIGHT STANLEY

No, I can understand.

PRINCESS REBECCA

Hey, how far are you in ...

KNIGHT STANLEY

Still Chapter 88. You?

PRINCESS REBECCA

(laughs) Chapter 292.

KNIGHT STANLEY

Can't they just say: "Long story short, here's his true identity ..."? I mean we already know that he's a fuse between ...

PRINCESS REBECCA

Yeah, it's quite obvious, but we don't know that for a fact, and I have a few ideas of my own.

KNIGHT STANLEY

Still, we can agree that he's one of literature's two best ...

PRINCESS REBECCA

I know, but I'm actually reading it now. I was in the middle of a chapter when I heard you talking with the cats in the front yard. You actually dragged me away from it, and I want to continue reading as soon as possible, so – I don't mean to sound rude, but can you get to the point of why you brought me out here soon?

KNIGHT STANLEY

Well, I really just brought you out here to talk with you. Haven't seen you in a while. I'm sure we've got some good potential conversational stuffs still ... let's chat!

PRINCESS REBECCA

Okay. Ten or fifteen minuets I guess.

KNIGHT STANLEY

We read the same things, but we never stop to just chat.

PRINCESS REBECCA

I don't like you in that way, I've told you this. We're just friends.

KNIGHT STANLEY

Friends chat.

PRINCESS REBECCA

We have the ...

KNIGHT STANLEY

I know, but in-person is vital. Humans are social creatures. You can't just sit inside and read all day and think you're human. I fell in love with you during a brief in-person chat, and that's how these feelings are going to be sorted out, by hanging out together, and doing things that friends do. If I'm right, and things sort out in a way which makes it apparent that nature meant for us to be a couple, then that's great. But if I'm wrong, and you're right, and we weren't meant to be a couple, then hanging out together, and doing stuff as friends, will sort out my feelings for you until we're friends with no bad feelings towards each-other, and you'll marry

some other guy and have kids, and I'll be happy for you because you're my friend.

PRINCESS REBECCA

Why not quit pressuring me, okay?

KNIGHT STANLEY

It's pressure to fall in love so deeply when the person you love stays inside and reads all day. It's pressure to think that the feelings will never get resolved because the person keeps saying she'll be my friend, but we only talk when we have to, or in the ...

PRINCESS REBECCA

Drop it, okay?

KNIGHT STANLEY

No. The only thing I'm pressuring you to do is to be within my company, somewhere in-person, for the fun of it, and it can be with groups even ... people you're comfortable with. Just leisure activities, whatever, until my feelings sort themselves out, or ... God-willing ... nature takes its course and you ...

PRINCESS REBECCA

You know I don't know too many people. No one has time or logical reason for leisure with me because I ...

KNIGHT STANLEY

Partly because you stay in and read all day. But other partly because ... because it seems everyone in this neighborhood has become distant.

PRINCESS REBECCA

No. I hang out socially with people from work.

KNIGHT STANLEY

Work relationships have nothing to do with what I'm talking about. You met those people because the same person hired them for the same job. You've gotta spend that time together, so you hang out with them for extra things because it's only practical that your team gels. But this is different. We met because of random nature, not because of some employer who hired us both. And my feelings for you were triggered because of randomness as well. We've gotta sort this out, and it can't be ...

PRINCESS REBECCA

I've told you, I don't have anything like that for you, so drop it, okay?

KNIGHT STANLEY

It's the purest love I've ever felt. I just want to protect you, and make sure you laugh often enough. I can't drop it, because ... because in all the years I've been alive, I've never felt anything like it, and I don't want to drop it because I might not feel anything like it again. So if we hang out more often, and do stuff as friends, maybe you'll magically smell a male equivalent to a pheromone or something, and perhaps then you'll also fall in love with me.

PRINCESS REBECCA

Sometimes, you're just too unsure of yourself. You've gotta relax more often, and maybe show me that you mean what ... I'm saying, by making a move.

KNIGHT STANLEY

My fear is that you'll reject that move, and destroy me in the process.

PRINCESS REBECCA

I don't know if I will. I don't know if I won't. The only thing I can promise you is that you should wear a cup, because I might kick you ... hard.

KNIGHT STANLEY

Thank you for being so blunt.

PRINCESS REBECCA

The key word is “might”. I “might” kick you hard ... in the place where the sun don’t shine ... but I also might not. Remember, you’re a friend. I’ve treated you nicely before, and given you a wide berth about lots of things. You just have to take that chance. We can’t keep going around in circles like this, and getting to moments where you can take chances, but you don’t take chances. I swear, after maybe two or three of these circles, I’m going to give up and find someone else.

KNIGHT STANLEY

Are you saying what I think you’re saying?

PRINCESS REBECCA

I’m saying exactly what you think I’m saying.

KNIGHT STANLEY

Someday, we’ll actually come to this bistro.

PRINCESS REBECCA vanishes in a puff of smoke.

Onto the stage enters **ROSENFRANTZ** and **GILDENWHATNOT** – or rather, actors portraying **ROSENFRANTZ** and **GILDENWHATNOT**; they sit with **KNIGHT STANLEY**.

KNIGHT STANLEY

Sit with me, you two.

ROSENFRANTZ

And who exactly are you?

GULDENWHATNOT

Yeah, we don't even recognize you ... anymore.

KNIGHT STANLEY

It's nice to see you again, both of you. You were trustworthy companions when we adventured to the fire caverns, and defeated the Dragon of Mi'Lena. I could use brave, battle-hardened souls for companions as I try this even more dangerous trek.

ROSENFRANTZ

We gave up danger after that trek. It was too dangerous. A trek more dangerous than our Dragon Quest will not be included in the journey of my life.

KNIGHT STANLEY

Okay, whatever Rosenfrantz. Guildenwhatnot, will you join me on my trek?

GULDENWHATNOT

Where Rosenfrantz goes, I go. Sorry bud. I can't join you on a

quest if Rosenfrantz doesn't go. We're committed to each-other.

KNIGHT STANLEY

Does this mean – Guildenwhatnot – that you don't make any of your own decisions anymore?

GULDENWHATNOT

Yes.

ROSENFRAANTZ

However, brave Sir Knight. If you tell me the details or goals of your quest, I might change our mind ... or his (indicating Guildenwhatnot) if it's something I'd be afraid of.

GULDENWHATNOT sighs.

KNIGHT STANLEY

The goal is simple: Do something even more dangerous than anything that we've ever done, and then come back to tell Princess Rebecca about it, so that maybe she'll think I'm a really swell and cool guy, and then ... all that good stuff.

ROSENFRAANTZ and GULDENWHATNOT

(weeping) We'll join you in your affair of the heart!

KNIGHT STANLEY

Great! Thanks, you guys. I knew I could count on you. But do you know of any dangerous things in the world that we still haven't done?

ROSENFRANTZ and GULDENWHATNOT

No.

KNIGHT STANLEY

Thought not. Yeah, the world's been at peace since all of those adventures we used to have. I still can't figure out why they only used to happen Saturday mornings ... and only from fall to spring ... second week of September, to first week of April ... except for two weeks each December ... exactly twenty-six adventures each year, for seven years straight, and we never aged during that time. And no one ever swore or fell in love during those seasons either. Just a lot of battles to protect stuff, and no one ever died. No one on the side of good, that is. I mean, no one we'd see. We'd hear of the terror, and we'd see the destruction, but we'd never actually see any of the deaths.

ROSENFRANTZ

The only reason we didn't see any deaths was because we were on the front lines. We were defending the people, saving them, not killing them.

KNIGHT STANLEY

That both makes perfect sense, and absolutely no sense, at the same time.

GULDENWHATNOT

We don't think about it.

ROSENFRAANTZ

Instead, we think about blue skies, white fluffy clouds, and we always remember that above all, the only thing that matters is teamwork! But ever since that Dragon Quest, well ... then ... nothing ever added up to that level of excitement, and then suddenly dangers stopped appearing in our world, and Guildenwhatnot kissed me, things changed, and now we pick our own battles, and we no longer get that urge to defend anything, because nothing ever needs to be defended anymore. Like that mysterious voice said as we took our poses for the last time, after the last danger, "All is peaceful in the world now, and its heroes are legendary, hailed by choirs and the whole world." We've gradually become wimpy after that. Domestic. But you said that you've got a quest, and yeah I guess that intrigues me. And an affair of the heart no less. So yeah, we'll join you.

GULDENWHATNOT

You said that already, honey.

KNIGHT STANLEY

I remember when our conversations were so much tighter and more to the point. Those were the days we fought monsters! I think the thing I miss most is all the fire. Things burned to the ground many times. Even though we fought the bad guys who burned all that stuff, what I miss most was the fire; it was exciting!

GILDENWHATNOT

I don't think we're supposed to talk like that, Stanley.

ROSENFRAITZ

We agree with you, Stanley. We also miss the fire.

GILDENWHATNOT

(Excited) Yeah! It was burny!

KNIGHT STANLEY

But we're no longer worried about danger and fire. We no longer fear it. It gives us nightmares no longer, and no one cries about all that turmoil and destruction. Now, people just sit in bistros and everyone's happy and festive.

GILDENWHATNOT

(Excited) Yay! Festive!

KNIGHT STANLEY

Nothing major happens anymore. No “main events”, so to say. We’ve gotta run from things again! We’ve gotta get frightened! Besides, it motivated us. It excited us!

ROSENFRAANTZ

Speak for yourself.

GULDENWHATNOT

We were always clumsy and falling down and hiding, and eating food that we’d stuffed on our person earlier ... while you did all the work!

KNIGHT STANLEY

But you miss it, right?

ROSENFRAANTZ and GULDENWHATNOT

Darn right!

KNIGHT STANLEY

Then let’s find a new danger!

ROSENFRAANTZ and GULDENWHATNOT

DARN RIGHT!

KNIGHT STANLEY

And if that fails, we’ll create the most elaborate hoax of faux heroics

that this world has ever seen!

ROSENFRANTZ

Sure! Why not?

GULDENWHATNOT

Could be fun!

KNIGHT STANLEY

That'll win her heart! She won't reject me! And I won't cry!

ROSENFRANTZ and GULDENWHATNOT

(Pointing and laughing at KNIGHT STANLEY)

Cry-baby!

(Afraid)

Please don't hurt us.

KNIGHT STANLEY

I won't hurt you, like she hurts me every time she says "Stay at least four hundred and twenty meters away from me at all times, or I'll call the King's Cityguards!" Actually, she's never said that, but if I keep visiting her without calling first, she might.

ROSENFRANTZ and GULDENWHATNOT

Oh.

ACT 1, SCENE 3

ROY MONTALBONBON stands upon an empty stage.

Beethoven's **MOONLIGHT SONATA** plays on a loop, as ROY walks in between forty of his STUDENTS, who are lying on mats, while Roy says the following monologue.

ROY

(Enthusiastic and excited – strong emphasis on random words)
Sail away in a small canoe that you painted with an animal of your choice – your guide – as your guide guides you, always guiding you where to go! Remember your guide! You must always, in life, remember who your guide is, regardless of if you know why your guide is who and what it is; it is your guide. That guide wants what is best for you. It is a spirit, an animal spirit. Your animal guide is warming you, comforting you, energizing you, as you journey into the depth! You're encapsulated in a bubble in your up-turned canoe as you see no light, but back-float on the bottom of that bubble, yet you're warm, you're comforted, you're energized, you're water! Now, my students, other professors don't think we can pull this off, but I get a good vibration from our group, our family. This is our shot. We can not let this teamwork vibration I feel get distorted by the contrasting imagination known as their opinions. We are a symphony of opportunity, atonal (it's not a spelling mistake. He

said “atonal”) against their preconceived notions, their unfounded assumptions, their bias presumptions, about us. I get a good vibration from this family. You are a family when we work together on this, when we walk together to our unified destination!

STUDENT 1

Excuse me, Professor Montalbonbon. I don't mean to interrupt, however ...

ROY

I encourage this moment! We – myself, and all of you – we have all just experienced a moment. Everyone take time to be. Be. React. Observe. Watch as I ... watch as I “be.” I will incorporate my being until this interaction reaches its curtain call!

STUDENT 1

I'm sorry, Professor Montalbonbon, but if I may interrupt ...

ROY

You may interrupt if to interrupt is true to what you are. You are who interrupted, therefore you may because you did. I'm very excited that we've, as a class, reached this level together.

STUDENT 1

Yes, quite so, Professor Montalbonbon. But I must tell you that ...

ROY

Interjections are the CORE of what this moment has become, and we are sharing this moment, class!

STUDENT 1

Speaking of interjections, Professor Montalbonbon, I've finally gathered up the courage to tell you what several of us gave up on trying to tell you a few minutes ago, which is simply the fact that ...

ROY

Courage! It takes courage to admit that you lacked it until this moment. And it takes both courage and moments to form an actor! You have become! Now, you are! You are! It takes people who have become, people who are, and especially people who are what they've become, to form a cast of actors! You ... my student ... are ready. It gives me great knowledge to have known you.

STUDENT 1

Precisely. However ...

ROY

For suspense, keep us unknowing of why you're interrupting. An actor must milk it.

STUDENT 1

You're the only one in this class who doesn't know what I'm trying

to tell you. Everyone else noticed it.

ROY

Theatrics is built on a foundation of suspense – suspense about who we are as individuals, where we’re going. Defining one’s existence, and the struggles to define one’s existence, and fight for the right to exist as you are, and as you want to be, and as you should be, and ... and such battles are to be fought not in the battlefield of politics or religion, but inside that place where who you are develops for as long as you are. For as long as you are a source of energy in the universe, such battles are to be fought in the theatre, on the stage. The theatre, to watch actors on a stage, is where and why people gather ... people gather in the theatre to find meaning, to find moments, to find. People come to find. They go because they’ve found. Or they stay because they are a light-house, an actor, a beacon for others who need to find. An actor is a helper. An actor helps people, guides people, and shows people.

STUDENT 1

HOW CAN I GET YOUR ATTENTION!?

ROY

(Applauds)

Bravo. You’ve cut through the ignorance, and found a stage whereupon you may act. I will take my place amidst the audience, as you take action in this moment.

ROY takes a seat among the audience of this play.

STUDENT 1 takes center stage, and says ...

STUDENT 1

Drama is across the hall. This is a testicular cancer support group.

ROY

What luck! Please share your stories with my class across the hall!

The forty **STUDENTS** exit.

ROY walks to center-stage ... contemplates ... shakes his head ... slumps foreword ... and wrinkles his face, distraught.

A **CUBE** descends from above, and lands upon center stage.

ROY notices the cube ... approaches the cube ... considers the cube ... whistles a happy song ... slumps forward ... and wrinkles his face, distraught.

KNIGHT STANLEY enters.

KNIGHT STANLEY

Roy! There you are!

ROY MONTALBONBON

Yes. Hi.

KNIGHT STANLEY

Hello! Nice cube!

ROY MONTALBONBON

Yes, it is. How's everything?

KNIGHT STANLEY

Fine, I guess. So, let me guess ... are you using the cube for an improv game?

ROY MONTALBONBON

Perhaps. Can you tell me the time?

KNIGHT STANLEY

No, not exactly. In fact, I thought I'd be interrupting a drama class, but it seems you're alone here. Are you early?

ROY MONTALBONBON

I don't know. Don't you have a watch?

KNIGHT STANLEY

No, not on me. Hey, does it count as plagiarism when you ... ?

ROY MONTALBONBON

No.

Pause.

KNIGHT STANLEY

Well? – I ask.

ROY MONTALBONBON

Well what? -- I reply to your question with a question.

KNIGHT STANLEY

What did you do last night? -- is my question.

ROY MONTALBONBON

I created smoke-signals with only the vibrations of my voice, in order to summon a drum-circle of Algonquin chieftains, and we sculpted boats with material from fallen weather balloons. And with those boats, we sailed to the Far East, a land called Japan. They liked our boats, and hired us to build boats for a shrine, to honor the Squid Spirit. They offered to pay us, but we would not be paid. We could not accept their Yen for that; it had too much spiritual significance. Instead, we did service to their temple – airing out books from their library, and sweeping. The priests of Squid Temple, and the Buddhists who visit their shrine to pray, and to

honor the Squid Spirit with offerings, gave us many low bows. We received much respect from them. When night fell, they taught us a new way to dance with our hands, and we returned the favor with lessons in the lost art of throat-singing. As we placed our Tanabota wishes into our lanterns, and set them afloat on the river, cradles descended from the sky, carrying blue-bottomed infants, blessed children whom Squid Spirit sent to earth for receiving tutelage in all lost arts, by the world's seven original cultures. The dragon granted my Tanobota wish . . . he sent me to fly on the wind, with the birds in the clouds, so that I would be home in time to teach my class.

KNIGHT STANLEY

Did you say dragon?

ROY MONTALBONBON

I said a lot of things. But whether any of it is true or not, that doesn't matter. What matters is that I said it, and you enjoyed listening to it. It distracted you pleasantly. A pleasant distraction doesn't have to be true; it only has to be created. It is interesting, and it is dramatic. In drama, the truth is irrelevant.

KNIGHT STANLEY

Precisely. The truth is irrelevant. All that matters is that it's interesting.

ROY MONTALBONBON

Exactly. You were my brightest student.

KNIGHT STANLEY

Really?

ROY MONTALBONBON

The truth is irrelevant. The only thing that matters is that I said something which you enjoyed hearing. That is what acting is for; it is for making people enjoy their time.

KNIGHT STANLEY

You gave everyone “B”s.

ROY MONTALBONBON

Because everyone “was”. How can you not “be”?

KNIGHT STANLEY

So ... under your premise ... someone who isn't, fails. Therefore, if we're all not, we all fail.

ROY MONTALBONBON

Precisely.

KNIGHT STANLEY

But characters in a play technically aren't, so they'd fail.

ROY MONTALBONBON

Characters get acted. The actors are, so they pass.

KNIGHT STANLEY

I'm here because you're the biggest load of bullcrap I've ever met; therefore, you're the best acting teacher in the world, and you're also the best director, in the world. I need your skills. Your talents at bullcraping are important, because I'm pulling off a hoax the likes of which no one has ever seen. I need you to help me.

ROY MONTALBONBON

My schedule is packed.

KNIGHT STANLEY

I'm trying to get a girl to like me. Defeating the biggest dragon in the world didn't work. I need you to help me pull off a hoax that will make her like me.

ROY MONTALBONBON

Acting is all about pulling off hoaxes, in order to make people like you!

KNIGHT STANLEY

Part of me says it'd be lying, so it's wrong morally, but the rest of me says I've tried everything else, so why not this, you know?

ROY MONTALBONBON

Sure. I'm with you. I'll clear my schedule to accommodate for participating in your diabolical and legendary production!

KNIGHT STANLEY

Thank you, but I have no idea what to do. I defeated the biggest dragon in the world. Where do I go from there?

ROY MONTALBONBON

Make everyone think you defeated not one biggest dragon in the world, but two biggest dragons in the world!

KNIGHT STANLEY

Amazing idea! I knew I could count on you!

ROY MONTALBONBON

The funny thing about ideas is they become reality!

ACT 2

ACT 2, SCENE 1

CLOSED CURTAINS.

NARRATOR

I spoke too soon years ago, when I said all was fine in the land of Bywater, kids! Our heroes have a new challenge: love!

CURTAINS OPEN, revealing **PRINCESS REBECCA** in her ROOM at the top of the castle tower, standing at the big window, talking out that window, to her friend ANGEL the WINGED UNICORN.

PRINCESS REBECCA

Oh, Angel! These last few years, time has passed, and I've sung the same old songs, always wondering what lies beyond what I can see from the windows in the castle tower.

ANGEL

I always offer to fly you above the river, beyond the city, and ...

PRINCESS REBECCA

We go beyond the city with our caravan.

ANGEL

Fill your heart with an un-chaperoned journey! Share with me an adventure! Go for it!!

PRINCESS REBECCA

We tell each-other stories, from, and inspired by, the books we read; that is enough adventure for us.

ANGEL

Remember that phrase we were told in Physics class? We were always told to “actualize our potential”. It means go out and do stuff!

PRINCESS REBECCA

Now you sound like that incorrigible Knight Stanley.

ANGEL

He rescued you from the biggest dragon in the world. You gave him a kiss, and we all thought that was the end. But after all the attention dyed away, you just ran back to the castle crying. That’s the part that no one but me saw. Knight Stanley was devastated. How can you kiss a guy, implying to everyone that you’ll both live happily ever after, and then run back to the castle crying?

PRINCESS REBECCA

We will live happily ever after, just as friends, no more!

ANGEL

But you don't even talk to him aside for when you must, or when you're using the ...

PRINCESS REBECCA

We communicate, and we're on good terms. We're friends.

ANGEL

You're selfish.

PRINCESS REBECCA

It's not selfish to want to be left alone.

ANGEL

Yes, it is. Humans are meant to be together. You're stealing a valuable person from the race she's a part of. You are that valuable person, and the human race is what I'm talking about.

PRINCESS REBECCA

Leave me at once, Angel.

ANGEL

Let love into your life.

PRINCESS REBECCA

I have my animals. Send in the cat Soxx.

ANGEL

Chico will get jealous.

PRINCESS REBECCA

(Laughs) That's why.

ANGEL

You know I can't get your cats. I fly outside this window.

PRINCESS REBECCA

Yeah, I know. I'm sorry. Yeah, I get confused and forgetful when I'm stressed. And you're putting a lot of pressure on me. Everyone is, from every side.

ANGEL

It's because everyone wants you to grow up. You don't take blame for anything, you shrug off all of your problems, and you won't allow yourself to accept that Knight Stanley loves you.

PRINCESS REBECCA

I wish he'd just drop it.

ANGEL

He can't. That's not how it works. He thinks you're "the one", and you're doing nothing to prove otherwise.

PRINCESS REBECCA

I'm ignoring him, and being rude to him; that should prove it.

ANGEL

It proves nothing. You've never really met him, and ...

PRINCESS REBECCA

I've met him. He doesn't interest me.

ANGEL

He may not be the most confident guy when he talks to you, or the most cool, but I assure you that he's got a great character. He'd never lie or anything. I mean, he especially wouldn't create any sort of elaborate hoax, like two dragons, just to win your love!

ACT 2, SCENE 2

BISTRO.

KNIGHT STANLEY and **ROY MONTALBONBON** sit at a table.

KNIGHT STANLEY

Eggs?

ROY MONTALBONBON

Doesn't work. I've tried.

KNIGHT STANLEY

Well, then I'm out of ideas.

ROY MONTALBONBON

So am I.

KNIGHT STANLEY

If we can't fake two dragons, then we'll just have to find two dragons.

ROY MONTALBONBON

In that case, I'm out of the project. My expertise is not required.

KNIGHT STANLEY

Well, thanks for your company.

ROY MONTALBONBON

Sure thing, Stanley. It was very fun. Now, if you'll excuse me ...

KNIGHT STANLEY

Wait! Tell me about this years' crop of Montalbonbonian productions!

ROY MONTALBONBON

Okay! Well, we spent billions to have the finest silk in all the world flown-in from the Far East, for a high school production of a student-written, modern adaptation of Teddy Ruxpin.

KNIGHT STANLEY

Ooh, the classics are always good.

ROY MONTALBONBON

At one point, we cover the entire stage with cotton candy. And – by the end of the scene – we invite the audience to eat the parts that haven't been melted by the actor's sweat. It's a battle scene.

KNIGHT STANLEY

You always have the best swords.

ROY MONTALBONBON

We have the finest steel flown in from Master Samurai, and we train our students in the most sacred of Nin-Jutsu; namely, the amazing Funky Disco No-Jutsu.

KNIGHT STANLEY

I'll bet you fly in masters to teach them.

ROY MONTALBONBON

Yes. But the masters are under my supervision at all times. And it is literally super-vision, because the only infallible master is I. I fix the few mistakes which are made sometimes, by the greatest Master Samurai of our time. What they teach my drama students is but a crystal emerging from within a stone. I make sure – I completely see to it that the entire crystal emerges from within the stone known as the actor.

KNIGHT STANLEY

And that's why you're the greatest.

ROY MONTALBONBON

Yes, I am. I'm the greatest at what I do. And you're the greatest at what you do.

KNIGHT STANLEY

Not that it matters.

ROY MONTALBONBON

You've gotta stop letting her depress you like this.

KNIGHT STANLEY

No, I don't. It's my choice how I live my life. Well, it was until I met her. Then nature chose for me to love her, and ...

ROY MONTALBONBON

Sorry. Excuse me – I could go for a good crunchy drum circle right about now.

KNIGHT STANLEY

I'll talk to you later!

ROY makes smoke-signals with the vibrations of his voice.

NINE ALGONQUIN CHIEFTAINS enter; they nod at **ROY**; **ROY** nods at them – and he exits with them.

KNIGHT STANLEY

I need a ...

PRINCESS REBECCA appears in a puff of smoke, beside **KNIGHT STANLEY**.

KNIGHT STANLEY

Oh hey, imaginary version of Princess Rebecca. How goes?

PRINCESS REBECCA

Can't complain – it'd be unpleasant to complain. And I was brought up to be pleasant.

KNIGHT STANLEY

I need a monster that can't be defeated.

PRINCESS REBECCA

There already is a monster that can't be defeated; it's called religion.

KNIGHT STANLEY

Knights like me don't discuss such things in public.

PRINCESS REBECCA

You mean a real monster?

KNIGHT STANLEY

That's right. Something that can't be defeated. Something I can just continue fighting every week, for a long time, so that I can be distracted from this goddamned thing called unrequited love.

PRINCESS REBECCA

I told you to drop it.

KNIGHT STANLEY

You say it as if that's possible. Mother Nature made me love you. If I defeat Mother Nature, then I'll defeat this warm feeling I get when I think about you.

PRINCESS REBECCA

Well then there's your monster: Mother Nature. Find her, and defeat her. In fact, I'll help you, if it means you'll quit bothering me afterwards.

KNIGHT STANLEY

You know I wouldn't destroy Mother Nature. That would make me evil. Besides, even if I had an explosive power awesome enough, I'd search for a way to contain it, and I'd use its force as a means to generate electricity, to power cities.

PRINCESS REBECCA

Yeah, that sounds like a good idea!

KNIGHT STANLEY

I wish that I could turn back time, and make it so that we never met.

PRINCESS REBECCA

You and me both, bub.

KNIGHT STANLEY

Because I believe so truly that my emotions aren't lying to me, I don't even look at other women since I met you. I just hope for a day when you'll be with me. So if you keep saying that it's not going to happen, I'll just have to become a hermit, or a priest, or someone who can re-assure others that such strong love, such strong care for another person's well-being, such strong need to be of service to another person, such strong care for another person's health, safety, comfort, and such strong desire to make that other person laugh as often as possible ... I want to be someone who can do something for the world which assures people that true love is – in fact – possible.

PRINCESS REBECCA

You did that already, when you saved the real me from that big dragon. You showed the world that you loved me. You proved your point, now move on.

KNIGHT STANLEY

You did not understand the point.

PRINCESS REBECCA

You're just another Goblin-man. You tell me that you love me, but all you want to do is ... unspeakable, gross things to me. Pointless things.

KNIGHT STANLEY

That's not *all* I want to do. But that particular thing does have a point, a very specific and important point: The point is children.

PRINCESS REBECCA

Babies are cute, but – you know what – puppies are also cute!

KNIGHT STANLEY

It's not about how cute they are. It's about the ultimate art, the ultimate creative endeavor ... with the one you love.

PRINCESS REBECCA

You're talking to yourself again, because I'm not listening.

KNIGHT STANLEY

I know you're not. You're not even here.

PRINCESS REBECCA

And you're not here either – your head's in the clouds, in a dream-world where you have a chance with me! But you don't! You're just going to have to drop it, okay?

KNIGHT STANLEY

You've never given me any reason to.

PRINCESS REBECCA

Rudeness. You're the only person I'm ever unpleasant towards.

KNIGHT STANLEY

Angel told me otherwise.

PRINCESS REBECCA

She did!?

KNIGHT STANLEY

She told me you've been unpleasant towards her and snappish towards other people often lately. She told me it all started after our kiss when I saved you from the dragon.

PRINCESS REBECCA

I've had just about enough of this fake conversation. Leave me the hell alone!

KNIGHT STANLEY

I am. I'm talking to a fake you, when the real one is up there in the castle tower. Your only companions are your parents, brothers, two cats, a dog, and a winged unicorn. And the winged unicorn is not even a good friend, really; she uses you too much, for things that require you to be quite selfless towards her. You've made many sacrifices for her, because you're a push-over when it comes to her, not because of friendship, but because she's actually quite a bully to you sometimes.

PRINCESS REBECCA

Now you've crossed a line. Don't talk rudely about Angel. She's my best friend.

KNIGHT STANLEY

More like your only friend. She forced her way into your life when you two were very young, and then she forced you to join that caravan thingy with her brother, just because her parents forced her to join it, and she wanted you to be there so that she'd have company. She's ran your life ever since then!

PRINCESS REBECCA

It's not like that!

KNIGHT STANLEY

You're a push-over! When her parents sent her to that kingdom up north for three quarters of a year that one time, you were the one whose life she interrupted. She pulled you there with her.

PRINCESS REBECCA

It's not like that!

KNIGHT STANLEY

Just because she's forced to do these things doesn't mean you have to live her captivity with her. Her duties to those things are something that adolescent rebellion should have emancipated her from, and — you know what — her parents would have respected that. But instead she always brings you along, so that she can be good to her parents, and unburden her stresses to you. You're just a pincushion. You're her escape. She's defined you since she met you.

PRINCESS REBECCA

You're wrong about a lot of that. So Stanley, it seems like you're the one who's trying to "define" me.

KNIGHT STANLEY

No. In fact, the exact opposite – I want to be with you as you grow into yourself, and figure out who you are. I want to be by your side and watch you and guide you to become yourself. The few things I do know about who you actually are, I am in complete love with those few things. And each time I see more of your growth, I'm completely in love with who you're becoming. I've been in the real world more often than you have, and I want to be with you and help you as you get your footing. Get out of those books you're always reading – or at least, don't let them take over your life. And really spend time with people.

PRINCESS REBECCA

No thank you.

PRINCESS REBECCA vanishes in a puff of smoke.

ACT 2, SCENE 3

PRINCESS REBECCA, in her room, at the top of the castle tower.

PRINCESS REBECCA looks out the window, and says ...

PRINCESS REBECCA

That note – the one where he told me that he hasn't had an appetite to eat since the last time I told him the words "just friends". I wish I hadn't read that note. He's the noblest knight in all the land, and I know he'd protect me, and make me laugh until the end of my days. He's great at making me laugh. I know he'd be perfect. But I just don't feel an emotion as fantastic as what people describe. I don't want to settle for anything less than what poets describe, anything less than what he described about the feeling he gets when he so much as thinks of me. I deserve that capacity. I've never felt inspired to write poetry about a guy. I've never felt inspired to sing about a guy. I've felt physical attraction for men, but no one I'd love. Love isn't only physical attraction, and I know that what he has includes that physical part, but I also know that it runs much deeper. I know this from the little things he's done for me, the tiny extra considerations he's taken at times when we're in each-other's company. But it's embarrassing. It wouldn't embarrass me if I felt that way, or if I had any idea what way it's supposed to feel. They

say it's a warmth. They say it's an awe. They say so many things, but I've never felt those things about him. He acts as if he's controlled by it, and I do not want to be controlled by anything, even an emotion. I have goals, and they'll be destroyed if I allow myself to be overtaken by such emotions. And yet, I wonder if nature made it so those emotions overtake people because ...

SUDDENLY, a large **DRAGON** peeks its head in through her window ...

DRAGON

I don't know about overtaking people, but I know a heck of a lot about taking people!

PRINCESS REBECCA shrieks, and falls over.

The **DRAGON** picks her up in his big mouth, but does not eat her ... he carries her out the window, as she screams.

-=ACT 3=-

ACT 3, SCENE 1

BARE STAGE.

A platform – carrying a **CHORUS** of one thousand young children
– descends onto the stage.

CHORUS

(singing)

Knight Stanley – Where are you?!

KNIGHT STANLEY enters.

KNIGHT STANLEY

I was brushing my teeth. I had just eaten popcorn. Before that, I
was shaving. Why? What's up?

CHORUS

(singing)

Knight Stanley –Princess Rebecca has been kidnapped!

KNIGHT STANLEY

So what? Yeah, she'll kiss me when I save her; that's what she does. But she's such a tease. It never escalates. It has meaning to me, but she just implies a meaning that she doesn't intend ... and she doesn't even understand it either. What's the use of saving a princess I love, who doesn't love me back?

CHORUS

(singing)

Knight Stanley –If you love her, you'll save her anyway!

KNIGHT STANLEY

She's a bitch!

CHORUS

(singing)

Knight Stanley –You can't say that in this time-slot!

KNIGHT STANLEY

No, that's not true. I couldn't say that in our old time-slot. Our original audience grew up; they're watching this reunion special, and it's on Prime-Time. I can say bitch, because that's what she is. I'm only being honest. I can't believe I said it! And I can't believe it took so long to say it! But there, I said it! I almost muttered that word about her so many times recently, actually. God, she'd put me through such cold neglect, and yet she continues to call me a

friend. She doesn't burn that bridge, because sometimes I amuse her. But damn it, she destroys me internally. I'd never treat a friend to a serving of unrequited love. It burns like Hell.

CHORUS

(singing)

Knight Stanley – Rescue her! She could die at the hands of her captor!

KNIGHT STANLEY

You idiot. No one ever dies ... oh hell! Time-slot!

CHORUS

(singing)

Knight Stanley – Rescue her! She will die! She will die at the hands of her captor, if you don't rescue her!

KNIGHT STANLEY

SHIT! YOU'RE RIGHT!

KNIGHT STANLEY runs away.

The children ascend with the platform.

Hanging on a string, and rotating, **THE WHOLE WORLD** descends from above.

THE WHOLE WORLD

I love you, Knight Stanley! Forget about the stupid Princess!

THE WHOLE WORLD's string breaks, and he falls to the stage.

THE WHOLE WORLD

Oww.

ACT 3, SCENE 2

A doorway and a door-step. Two cats – **SOXX** and **CHICO** – sit on either side of the doorstep. Between them, **ROY MONTALBONBON** pretends to be a cat.

SOXX

Meow.

ROY MONTALBONBON

Meow.

CHICO

Meow.

KNIGHT STANLEY approaches.

KNIGHT STANLEY

Did you see the kidnapper?

SOXX

No.

ROY MONTALBONBON

HOLY SHIT! THAT CAT SPOKE!

ROY MONTALBONBON runs away.

CHICO

You mean, that wasn't a cat?

KNIGHT STANLEY

No. He's a human. He teaches drama, and directs.

SOXX

Fooled us.

KNIGHT STANLEY

He's the only guy I know who can blow candles out with his mind.

CHICO

Wow, really?

SOXX

He doesn't lie, so he's gotta be telling the truth.

KNIGHT STANLEY

That's right. I never lie, and I am telling the truth. He blows candles out with his mind. It scared the hell out of me the first time I saw it. But it happens. It's about as real as real gets ... which isn't very real when you consider that we're all just characters in a fictional story. But none of that is important right now. What's important is that you tell me if you saw the kidnapper, or know anything at all about the events surrounding the kidnapping of the fair and sometimes foul princess who I happen to love with all my heart, and that's the truth. I love her with all my heart, even though she's, more often than not, a cold bitch who disregards that I even have feelings, and that such feelings can even exist from a person, and for a person. So, about the kidnapping: clues – you got any?

SOXX

The kidnapper was a really, really big dragon. Just a bit huger than the dragon you had that epic battle with shortly before our series of episodic mayhem ended years ago.

KNIGHT STANLEY

So that explains the really huge footprints which lead to the Cave of Despair! I was wondering what caused those really huge footprints, and why they lead directly to the Cave of Despair! Thank you!

SOXX and CHICO

Anytime, boss!

KNIGHT STANLEY exits.

CHICO

I really thought he was a cat.

SOXX

Yeah, so did I. Biggest firkin pussy I'd ever seen.

ACT 3, SCENE 3

ROSENFRANTZ and **GULDENWHATNOT** stand in the giant footprint of a dragon.

GULDENWHATNOT

Hey, Rosenfrantz.

ROSENFRANTZ

Yeah, Guildenwhatnot?

GULDENWHATNOT

(Laughs) We have funny names.

ROSENFRANTZ

You know, people tell me that, but I just don't see it ... or hear it, I guess. I don't get the joke.

GULDENWHATNOT

(Laughing) I don't know what's funnier – our names, or the fact that you don't see what's funny about them!

ROSENFRANTZ

Explain it to me once and for all. What's funny about the names Rosenfrantz and Guildenwhatnot?

GULDENWHATNOT

Haven't you ever read Shakespeare's Hamlet?

ROSENFRAANTZ

I hear it's good, but no – I've never read it.

GULDENWHATNOT

Really? That's odd. I find it amazing that you've never read it. I've always thought it's a required thing for everyone.

ROSENFRAANTZ

We didn't read that one. We read Romeo & Juliette, The Merchant of Venice, Macbe ... err ... The Scottish Play.

GULDENWHATNOT

Why'd you stop during the word Macbeth?

ROSENFRAANTZ

Oh shit. Now you've done it.

GULDENWHATNOT

Done what? What have I done? I only said Macbeth.

ROY MONTALBONBON runs onto the stage, and gives an angry look at **ROSENFRAANTZ**.

ROSENFRAANTZ

Don't give that look to me! He's the one who said it, not me!

ROY MONTALBONBON

You had an opportunity to stop him. You could have told him about the curse immediately within the same speech as when you said the term "The Scottish Play". But you didn't. You chose to allow the possibility of him to ask about it. And he did. I have no respect for you at all. You didn't stop him. You're the one who made the mistake. He said the words, but you could have prevented it. I have no respect for you. You are not even a human, in my opinion. I will tear you up now.

ROY MONTALBONBON angrily beats **ROSENFRAITZ** to a bloody pulp. Then **ROY** looks angrily at **GULDENWHATNOT**.

GULDENWHATNOT

What the hell, man!?! What the hell!?!

ROY MONTALBONBON

It's the curse of The Scottish Play.

GULDENWHATNOT

What, you mean MacBeth?

ROY MONTALBONBON

You've just put everyone in danger!

The footfall of a passing **DRAGON** squashes them, and blood squirts from below the passing dragon's foot. When the foot rises, all that's left is a bloody mess.

KNIGHT STANLEY enters the area.

KNIGHT STANLEY

Eww. Gross! And I mean, totally grody. Grodies to the maximum. Maximum yuckage right there. There's no excuse for such senseless violence like that. But at least I know I'm on the right track! Of course, it's the only trail of dragon footprints. Well, at least no one said Macbeth. OH NOES! I'VE JUST PUT PRINCESS REBECCA, NOT TO MENTION MYSELF, IN THE MOST GRAVEST OF GRAVE DANGER! I'LL SAVE YOU, MY LOVE!

KNIGHT STANLEY exits, RUNNING.

ACT 4, SCENE 1

UNDER A BRIDGE. THAR BE TROLLS HERE! – THREE
o'THEM!

KNIGHT STANLEY enters the area.

TROLL 1

Stop! You canna go any farther!

KNIGHT STANLEY

I canna if I wanna!

TROLL 2

Aye, we gots us a fearless horny-toad, don't we?

KNIGHT STANLEY

I don't even want to know what you meant by that. Move out of
the way, or beware of pain.

TROLL 3

Awe. So he thinks he can be threatsinin' us, ders he?

KNIGHT STANLEY

I's bees doins whats-severs yous be sayins! And I apologize on behalf of everyone involved, for any racial stereotypes which might be implied by this dialogue which is meant to be just for the fun of it.

TROLL 1

Aye.

TROLL 2

Aye.

TROLL 3

Awe.

KNIGHT STANLEY

You really should get that checked.

TROLL 3 angrily punches **KNIGHT STANLEY** in the face.

KNIGHT STANLEY makes a fist, and a vengeful face, and he says

...

KNIGHT STANLEY

Oh, it's time for me to bring the pain to the maximum levels of intensity on your three ugly faces!

A choreographed battle in which **KNIGHT STANLEY** says several

quotes from characters played by actor Bruce Campbell.

When the **TROLLS** lay on the ground, defeated, **KNIGHT STANLEY** salutes them while saying ...

KNIGHT STANLEY

Those guys had a bad day. Now to save the Princess and get my sweet, sweet, mandatory-for-this-type-of-story, kiss!

KNIGHT STANLEY swaggers away.

ACT 4, SCENE 2

A DUSTY TRAIL.

TWO **WINGED UNICORNS** – **ANGEL**, and her brother **ARNOLD** – block the path. They look grumpy.

KNIGHT STANLEY approaches.

ANGEL

Princess Rebecca told us that you said some really rude things about us.

ARNOLD

Yeah.

KNIGHT STANLEY

I said that stuff to an imaginary version of her, so get out of the way.

ANGEL

I'm talking about a different time.

ARNOLD

Yeah.

KNIGHT STANLEY

Oh, well I don't recall it. However, I don't doubt it happened either.

ANGEL

So you admit it?

ARNOLD

Yeah.

KNIGHT STANLEY

Yeah.

ANGEL

Yeah.

They laugh.

ANGEL

Apologize.

ARNOLD

Yeah.

KNIGHT STANLEY

The Princess is in danger.

ANGEL

Yeah right.

ARNOLD

Yeah.

KNIGHT STANLEY

Yeah she is.

ANGEL

Yeah?

ARNOLD

Yeah.

KNIGHT STANLEY

Yeah.

ANGEL

Yeah.

They laugh.

A tumbleweed rolls past them.

ANGEL

Well, good luck!

ARNOLD

Yeah.

KNIGHT STANLEY

Thank you.

ANGEL and ARNOLD

Yeah.

KNIGHT STANLEY

Yeah.

They laugh.

ANGEL and ARNOLD fly away.

A large **CARAVAN** of winged unicorns flies across the stage, and then they are gone.

A **SQUID SPIRIT** approaches.

KNIGHT STANLEY

Eek! A giant squid! I summon a Master Samurai!

SQUID SPIRIT

Wait! I come in peace, to grant you one ...

A **MASTER SAMURAI** enters, slices the **SQUID SPIRIT** in half, exchanges low bows with **KNIGHT STANLEY**, and then exits.

ACT 4, SCENE 3

MOUTH OF CAVE.

THE DRAGON PEEKS ITS HEAD OUT OF THE MOUTH OF THE CAVE.

DRAGON

Who dares make noises outside my cave wherein I keep the princess prisoner?

KNIGHT STANLEY enters the area.

KNIGHT STANLEY

Lo and behold, it is I: Knight Stanley of Kubrick and Bywater! I will vanquish ye olde dragon here and now, for today is gonna be the day that I'm gonna slice the head off of ye. And then the princess will marry me, and I'm gonna be a mighty ... a hell of a mighty king!

DRAGON

Well, be quiet about it. The princess is in a comfy little corner of my dungeon, reading a book.

KNIGHT STANLEY

And why would you care about accommodating for her comfort as she reads, if she's your prisoner?

DRAGON

Because I wrote the book, and it'll be an instant hit! A classic!

KNIGHT STANLEY

Hey – just a sec ... is she enjoying that book?

DRAGON

Yes. She's said she adores it so far.

KNIGHT STANLEY

Go in there, and give her a message for me, okay?

DRAGON

No. Go away. She likes authors and we're getting married!

KNIGHT STANLEY

Now you've done it. You've made me angry.

KNIGHT STANLEY charges towards the dragon, as the lights
BLACK OUT.

ACT 5, SCENE 1

BED-ROOM.

The head of the dragon hangs over the fireplace.

KNIGHT STANLEY and **PRINCESS REBECCA** lay on a bed together, scantily clad.

KNIGHT STANLEY is reading from a book called “The Adventures of . . . ah who cares?”

KNIGHT STANLEY

(Reading)

And then I said, “Now you’ve done it. You made me angry.” And I charged at him. I considered calling the Master Samurai, but instead, I ripped that dragon’s firkin head off with my tiny fingernails! It took a long time, and it involved a lot of wriggling, but the head of the dragon now hangs over our fireplace.

PRINCESS REBECCA

Lay down your sweet head upon my breast, and fall asleep, my love.

KNIGHT STANLEY rests his head upon her chest, and falls asleep peacefully.

EPILOGUE

KNIGHT STANLEY – wearing a full suit-of-armor – stands on a bare stage, smirking gladly.

KNIGHT STANLEY

My Princess adores me, thus you have hope! The world is cheering me on, but the cheering crowds of adoring multitudes, who shout my name from the highest peaks, do not affect me. All that matters is that I am glad in my life at this moment.

THE END

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