

## Scene 1(B) – The Village Square – “A Chance Meeting”

*A traditional village square, houses, villagers, carts selling fruit and veg.*

### **Musical Number – Don’t Stop Believing**

**Buttons** Hi Everyone I’m Buttons. It’s a very common name. All the Buttons in the house say HEEYY! (*Silence hopefully*) No it’s not that common is it. Actually my real name is Freddie but everyone calls me Buttons because of the big shiny buttons on my uniform. Yes my uniform. Nice isn’t it. (*To a lady in the audience*) Calm down madam it’s not that sort of a show. Oh the ladies love a man in uniform. Yes as you can tell I’m a fireman. No I’m not I’m a member of the Gardai. (*Country accent*) “Could you step out of the vehicle please sir, will you blow into this, actually don’t bother I’ll just say you did”

Haaa! No seriously I am Buttons and I’m a footman. (*To a man in the audience*) “I’m more of a breast man myself” says he. Ha. I know by looking at you (*Aside*) and your wife. Yes I’m footman to Lady Truncheon up at the big house. I work for her and her two daughters, horrible creatures they are I can tell you, they didn’t just fall out of the ugly tree, they hit every branch on the way down and then the ugly tree fell on them. “They may be ugly but they are beautiful on the inside” I hear you say! WRONG! These girls are ugly through and through and they treat their stepsister Ella terrible and she’s my best mate. Here she is now.

*Enter Cinderella, she wears a cloak that covers her face.*

**Ella** Buttons.

**Buttons** Ella what are you doing out of the house. Your Stepmother will be furious.

**Ella** If she finds out.

**Buttons** What you’re on the run?

**Ella** Oh Buttons you’re so dramatic. I’ve just snuck out for a little while I’ve done all my chores. I’ll be back before she even notices.

**Buttons** But what if you run into her?

**Ella** Oh no she never comes to the village on Tuesdays.

*Thunder role, lightning flash and enter The Evil Stepmother.*

**Stepmother** We never come to the village on Tuesdays!

*Cinderella runs and leaves one of her shoes behind her.*

**Buttons** Ella? Where did she go? (*Sees the shoe*) She’s left her shoe behind her, how clumsy.

*Enter Griselda and Amnesia, Griselda is wheeling a shopping trolley.*

**Amnesia** Yes but we had to come today Mummsie.

**Stepmother** Whys that?

**Amnesia** I can't remember.

**Griselda** We are here Mother because the sales start today and I am going to shop until I drop and drop anyone who gets in my way.

**Amnesia** Oh ya the sales.

**Griselda** Retail therapy.

**Buttons** Looking at the hump on your back you'd be better looking into physio therapy.

**Griselda** Well well look who it is: Butt head. I mean Buttons.

**Amnesia** Ha ha Butt head! I must remember that.

**Buttons** You won't.

**Stepmother** Why aren't you working?

**Buttons** I'm on my break.

**Stepmother** Speak back to me like that again and I'll break your arm.

**Griselda** Actually it's handy you're here. You can push the trolley.

*She pushes the trolley at him.*

**Buttons** What about my break.

**Amnesia** BREAK OVER! Do not pass go, do not collect two hundred pounds.

**Stepmother** *(Spotting the shoe in Buttons hand)* What's with the shoe boy?

**Buttons** Shoe boy! I'm a foot man I'll have you know!

**Stepmother** Idiot, why do you have a shoe in your hand?

**Buttons** Eh it's a spare. Eh in case I get a flat....soul.

**Stepmother** What?

**Buttons** Eh did someone say shopping!

**Griselda** Exactly we've wasted enough time.

*She climbs into the shopping trolley, Amnesia jumps on the front.*

**Griselda** To hell or to Shaws!

*Buttons begins to push them off.*

**Stepmother** Buttons.

*He stops and looks around letting the shopping trolley roll off into the wing to the screams of the Ugly Sisters and a huge off stage crash.*

**S.F.X. - Crash.**

**Buttons** Ouch I'm going to pay for that. *(To the evil stepmother)* Yes madam.

**Stepmother** You are up to something and when I find out what it is things will get ugly....

**Buttons** .....ier!

**Stepmother** What?

**Buttons** Uglier

*She starts to leave.*

**Buttons** *(To audience)* If things get much uglier we'll have to rate this panto eighteens.

*Exit the Stepmother, enter Ella.*

**Buttons** She is one B I T C... HHHHHHello Ella.

**Ella** Oh my, thanks for covering for me Buttons.

**Buttons** No worries Ella, I got your back.

**Griselda** BUTTONS!

**Buttons** Gots to go!

*Exit Buttons one way and Ella the other.*

*Enter Dandini followed by Benjamin, Barny and Sid*

*Sid sounds the trumpet as they enter.*

*S.F.X. – Trumpet*

**Benjamin** Will you knock it off with the trumpet already.

**Sid** Dude, as Royal Trumpeter it is my duty to sound the trumpet for royal entrances.

**Barny** That would be fine Sid if there was any royalty here.

**Sid** What! Dude where's the prince?

**Dandini** That's a very good question. You three were meant to be watching him, you are hired as the Prince's royal aides. To aid the Prince and stop him getting into trouble. Now that would be very difficult if none of you know where he is.

**Benjamin** Dandini, as advisor to the King this is out of your domain, so don't worry your fancy tights about it, me and the boys shall sort it.

**Dandini** Yes I am Royal advisor to the King and how happy do you think his majesty will be when I advise him that his son has absconded from the palace again.

**Sid** He's done what now?

**Barny** He's flown the coop.

**Benjamin** Ok ok let's calm down and look at the facts here. Yes the Prince is missing. And yes he may be in danger and yes heads are going to roll. The facts don't look so good.

**Barny** No but we got a plan right Benjamin?

**Benjamin** Of course we do.

**Dandini** Well that's just spiffing, might I ask what it is?

**Benjamin** A noble question sir, and I shall give you a straight answer. Sid please.

*Sid sounds his trumpet*

**Benjamin** The plan is..... we find the Prince!

**Barny** Genius.

**Benjamin** Let's go.

*They exit followed by Dandini*

**Dandini** When you pay peanuts you get monkeys.

**Barny** We get paid now?

*Enter Prince Will Charming he wears a cloak that covers his face. Ella runs on from the opposite side and runs straight into the Prince.*

**Ella** Oh I'm so sorry.

**Will** Are you ok?

**Ella** Yes I'm fine

*They look into each other's eyes.*

*Romantic music fills the air.*

*Ella breaks away embarrassed.*

**Will** You're sure I didn't hurt you?

**Ella** No honestly I'm fine. *(Pause)* Do I know you?

**Will** Me! No! I'm new in town.

**Ella** Oh well you are very welcome, it's a lovely place to live. The king and Queen are great and kind rulers.

**Will** So I believe. And what of their son the Prince.

**Ella** I here he is very handsome.

**Will** Really.

**Ella** Yes and brave.

**Will** Go on...

**Ella** They say he will be a great leader, if he ever finds a wife.

**Will** Really, he delays picking a wife?  
**Ella** So I believe. Much to his parent's annoyance.  
**Will** That's true.  
**Ella** Sorry?  
**Will** Nothing.  
**Ella** I wonder what he is waiting for?  
**Will** Love.  
**Ella** Sorry?  
**Will** I imagine he is waiting to fall in love? To one day randomly meet a beautiful young lady in the street and know the minute he sees her that she is the one.  
**Ella** Sounds magical.

*They have been drawn closer to each other during this and are now nearly face to face.*

*Enter the Evil Stepmother*

**Stepmother** Cinderella!  
**Ella** Stepmother!  
**Stepmother** I knew that Buttons was covering up something.

*Enter Buttons*

**Buttons** Ella scatter your stepmother is.... *(Sees the Stepmother)* A lovely lady.  
**Stepmother** I'll deal with you later. *(Turning to Cinderella)* As for you young lady, I am disgusted by your behaviour. You know you are not allowed to leave the house without my permission. How can I protect you as I promised your father on his death bed I would if you are out running about town talking to common peasants in the street?  
**Ella** I am sorry Stepmother.  
**Stepmother** You're always sorry Cinderella but you still disobey me.  
**Will** Please madam it was my fault she was just on her way home when I delayed her.  
**Stepmother** Away peasant.

*Enter Griselda and Amnesia*

**Amnesia** What's she doing here?  
**Griselda** Cinderella if you're here who's ironing my socks!  
**Stepmother** Cinderella was just leaving. *(To Cinderella)* And you haven't heard the end of this yet girl.  
**Will** Please wait!

**Amnesia** Who's the head in the hood?

**Stepmother** Some young rogue who was trying to take advantage of Cinderella, she's lucky she has a Stepmother as kind and caring as me to protect her.

**Griselda** Beat it freak, before I set Buttons on ya, Buttons sort him.

*Amnesia pushes Buttons forward.*

**Buttons** Eh actually I'm more of a lover than a fighter, I'm a pacifist.

**Amnesia** How about you pass a fist into this jerks face.

**Griselda** Go on "Cinderella run from the fella", get your butt home, you're in so much trouble.

**Will** WAIT!

*As Will throws back his hood Sid runs in and sounds the royal trumpet.*

*SFX – Trumpet*

**Sid** Found the Prince

*Enter Benjamin and Barny*

**Barny** Nice one Sid.

**Benjamin** Alright your Maj

**Griselda** It's the bleedin Prince in it?

**Amnesia** And he is hooooooooot.

**Will** Please madam do not be too hard on your daughter we were only talking briefly and she has done no wrong.

*Ella runs off embarrassed leaving her shoe again.*

**Will** *(Picking up the shoe)* Please wait!

*He goes to follow but the Stepmother steps into his path takes the shoe of him and throws it to Griselda who pegs it after Ella.*

**Stepmother** Your Majesty an honour to meet you finally face to face.

**Will** Was she your daughter?

**Stepmother** Step daughter, these are my daughters.

**Amnesia** You're Majesty *(Silly laugh)*

*Griselda fires her out of the way.*

**Griselda** The pleasure is all mine I'm sure. *(Snorts in his face)*

**Amnesia** Oh your highness, how lovely to see you see you back in the kingdom, how were your adventures?

**Will** Oh you know, seen one dragon seen them all.

**Barny** He's certainly seen them all now.

**Griselda** Oh you are brave your highness.

**Amnesia** Brave and strong.

**Griselda** Brave and strong and sexy.

**Will** *(To his aides)* Help me.

**Benjamin** Alright Sid let them have it.

*Sid sounds the trumpet*

*SFX – Trumpet*

**Benjamin** Thank you ladies that will be all for today, his highness has a hospital wing or something to open.

**Barny** He does more openings a year than Lee Chin.

**Stepmother** Come along girls. Lovely to meet you your highness.

**Will** The pleasure was all mine.

**Griselda** Damn right.

**Stepmother** Girls! Come!

*Exit the Stepmother followed by Griselda and Amnesia*

**Will** Who would have guessed Dandini was right, it is dangerous out here.

*Enter Dandini*

**Dandini** I'm seldom wrong sir, now maybe you will listen to my warnings in future.

**Will** Seriously Dandini I think I had it in hand.

**Barny** I think you had your hands full.

**Benjamin** More than full.

**Dandini** Well your highness I do hope you will make your way back to the castle now. Your Father the King would like a word.

*Sid blows the trumpet three times.*

*SFX – Duh Duh Duuuuuhhhhhh*

*Exit Dandini*

**Benjamin** Cripes Willy boy your for it now.

**Will** I know. My father will be livid.

**Barny** Worse than that he'll be furious.

**Sid** And none too happy at that.

**Will** He's already on my back about getting married.

**Barny** You should introduce him to those two what we just meet. They're enough to put anyone off marriage.

**Benjamin** I wouldn't blame you if you never got married if they are the type of girls on offer.

**Will** As it happens I'm in love.

**Sid** Dude!?!

**Will** Not with those two? With their Stepsister. She's incredible.

**Benjamin** Excellent! A peasant girl with no father, your Dad and Dandini will love this.

**Will** I don't care what anyone thinks, she's the one for me. I'm in love.

*Musical Number – Accidentally in Love*

**End of scene 1.**