

ST. GEORGE AND THE DRAGON

by

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## CHARACTERS

RED KNIGHT	Hero. All hero. Little brain.
UNA	Heroine. Sent to the Fairy Queen to ask for help killing the dragon.
BIG AL	Side-kick to Una and Red Knight.
FAIRY QUEEN	Gloriana. Sends the Red Knight on his quest. Knows his name.
BARD	Wrote the story. Simple lute/ukelele a plus
ARCHIMAGO	Evil wizard
DUESSA	Evil witch
DRAGON W 3 HEADS	saucy 3-headed monster
ERROR	monster
UNA'S MOTHER	Queen
UNA'S FATHER	King
SANSJOY	Wants revenge for brother Sansfoy's death
SANSFOY	Fights Red and is killed (can be double cast as Sansjoy)
PEASANT 1	Male or Female.
PEASANT 2	Male or Female.
LION	follows Una
<b>FAIRY QUEEN'S COURT</b>	
SIR GUNYON	temperance
SIR CAMPBELL	friendship
SIR TRIANMOND	friendship
SIR CALEDOR	courtesy
SIR ARTEGALL	justice

BRITOMART	girl-chastity through fierceness
FLORIMEL	too beautiful. Chastity through running
SCUDAMORE	Only interested in chasing his missing girlfriend
SIR OPERATIO	Good Works
SIR FIDES	Faithfulness

**PALACE OF PRIDE COURT**

LUCIFERA	ruler of the Palace of Pride
ENVY	Jealousy
AVARICE	Greed
GLUTTONY	excess in eating
IDLENESS	sloth...laziness
WRATH	anger
LECHERY	makes off color jokes
ACEDIA	spiritual apathy
VAINGLORY	boastful, unwarranted pride in accomplishments or qualities

**CHORUS PARTS**

LUCIFERA'S COURT	chorus
FAIRY QUEEN'S COURT	chorus
UNA'S COURT	chorus
ERROR'S BABIES	chorus
FOREST ANIMALS	chorus

29 SPEAKING PARTS, 5 CHORUSES

DOUBLE CASTING

Fairy Queen court, Lucifera court, and each of the choruses can be double cast with each other easily.

NOTE:

"Horses" are stick or hobby horses.

## SETTING

Medieval England, primarily in the woods.

## TIME

1100 AD. Monday

## ACT I

Scene 1	A glen in the Fairy Forest	Monday
Scene 2	The woods and Error's Cave	Monday

## ACT II

Scene 1	The road	Monday night
Scene 2	Archimango's house	Monday night
Scene 3	Road in the woods	Tuesday morning
Scene 4	Different road in the woods	Tuesday morning
Scene 5	Palace of Pride	Tuesday
Scene 6	The woods	Tuesday
Scene 7	Road where SJ and Red fought	Tuesday

## ACT III

Scene 1	Una's Kingdom, a clearing	Wednesday (or later)
Scene 2	A different clearing	Thursday
Scene 3	Different spot, same woods	Friday
Scene 4	Una's Castle	Friday night

## ACT I

## SCENE 1

(A glen in the fairy forest. A throne for the Fairy Queen is center stage. Music, frolicking.)

(The Fairy Queen's court. The BARD, FAIRY QUEEN, RED KNIGHT, GUNYON, BRITOMART, CAMPBELL, TRIAMON, CALEDOR ARTEGALL, FIDES, AND OPERATIO, and Fairies enter)

(Music ends.)

FAIRY QUEEN

Well, all that frolicking has tired me out. I think it's time for a story, don't you all? (General assent.) Well, are you going to start the tale now, Bard?

BARD

Of course! I just finished it and I'm rather proud, if I do say so myself...

FAIRY QUEEN

Just get on with it.

BARD

Of course. (Strikes chord and reads)

*Lo, I the one, whose Muse whilome did mask,  
As time her taught in lowly shepherds weeds,  
Am now enforced a far unfitter task,  
For trumpets stern to change my oaten reeds,  
And sing of Knights and Ladies gentle deeds.*

*(Fairy Queen laughs and then the rest of the court laughs, too.)*

FAIRY QUEEN

(laughing)

FAIRY QUEEN (Continued)

What on earth is that?

BARD

Well, it's the epic romantic poem you told me to write about the knights and ladies and dragons.

FAIRY QUEEN

I did not tell you to write it as so much gobbledeegook. Do it better. Now.

BARD

Well, um, okay. (Scribbles, strikes a chord, reads anew)

*Lo, I'm the one who, for a while did ask*

*My muse for aid writing shepherds' weeds*

*--That mean poetry, okay?--*

*But I'm now to be put to a harder task*

*For court trumpets to replace shepherds' reeds,*

*I'm now to write of knights and ladies's gentle deeds.*

FAIRY QUEEN

Now, was that so hard?

BARD

Immensely, yes.

FAIRY QUEEN

Pray continue.

(UNA and BIG AL enter and bow to the Queen)

FAIRY QUEEN

(cont)

Wait. What have we here? Come forth, pretty maiden and her little companion. Tell me what makes you risk a visit to the fairy forest at night?

BIG AL

(To Una)

Who's she calling "little"?

UNA

(Shushes him)

Oh, your majesty. I am Princess Una, and this is my friend, Big Al. We come from a land far away to humbly ask the great Fairy Queen for help. We're besieged by a dragon that has eaten every young person in our land...but me.

FAIRY QUEEN

A dragon, you say?

UNA

Yes. A big one.

FAIRY QUEEN

So, you require a knight or hero, fair Una?

UNA

Oh, yes. I can say that I really don't want to go home without someone who can kill the dragon. You know, since I'm next on the menu.

BIG AL

And I look like a kid, so...

FAIRY QUEEN

Indeed. Well, here are my knights. Knights, assemble!

(Fanfare. RED KNIGHT, GUNYON,  
BRITOMART, CAMPBELL, TRIAMON, CALEDOR,  
ARTEGALL, FLORIMEL, AND SCUDAMORE step  
forward)

FAIRY QUEEN

Introduce yourselves.

GUNYON

Sir Gunyon! Knight of Temperance!

FAIRY QUEEN

I don't know if moderation is of much use for fighting a dragon. Next.

BRITOMART

I am Britomart! The Knight of Chastity!

UNA

I don't see how being pure could help, either. The dragon likes to eat pure people.

CAMPBELL

I'm Sir Campbell.

TRIANMOND

And I'm Sir Trianmond.

CAMPBELL AND TRIANMOND  
TOGETHER

And we're knights of friendship!

BIG AL

Well, there's two of them at least. Kind of a matched set.

ARTEGALL

I am Sir Artegall, the knight of Justice.

UNA

That sounds promising.

FLORIMEL

I'm Florimel. All the boys chase me, but I'm too quick for them.

UNA

Quickness is good. Can you fight a dragon?

FLORIMEL

Oh, goodness, no.

FAIRY QUEEN

How about you, Scudamore?

SCUDAMORE

Fight a dragon? I'm afraid not. I'm too busy looking for my girlfriend. Is she over there?

(He looks behind Caledore.)

CALEDORE

She's not. Stop bothering me. (To Una, grandly) I'm Sir Caledore, the knight of Courtesy.

FAIRY QUEEN

I'm sure she doesn't want you to be nice to the dragon, Caledore.

SIR OPERATIO

(Has a tool belt)

I'm Sir Operatio! I'm the knight of good works. Do you have anything that needs fixing?

UNA

Uh, no.

SIR OPERATIO

Darn.

SIR FIDES

I'm Sir Fides, the faithful.

BIG AL

Faithful? Like a dog?

SIR FIDES

Not like a \*DOG\*. Well, maybe like a good dog. Yes. Faithful like a very good dog. You can count on me!

FAIRY QUEEN

That's an admirable quality, Fides, but maybe not one that we can use at the moment. Well, is that it? Are those all my knights? Red, how about you?

RED KNIGHT

Me? Well, I'm the Red Crosse Knight. See my shield? It has a red cross on it. I don't have a name, the fairies here raised me. I don't have a cause, either. Not really. But I do try to do the right thing, and I can fight.

(Red and Una exchange a glance. She smiles)

UNA

Doing the right thing can be difficult.

RED KNIGHT

That's how I know it's the right thing to do.

FAIRY QUEEN

What do you think, Una. Like him?

UNA

I do. If he'll come with me, I think we might have a chance to beat the dragon!

RED KNIGHT

Lady, I will ride to the ends of the earth to rescue your kingdom and fight for your honor!

UNA

Well, it's not that far away...

FAIRY QUEEN

(to Una)

He always talks like that. You get used to it. (To all) A cheer for the Red Knight and his quest!

UNA

And me.

FAIRY QUEEN

And Una! Hip hip!

ALL

Hooray!

(exit all Big Al)

BIG AL

And me! Yay me! Aw nuts.

(Exit Big Al.)

## ACT I

## SCENE 2

(A road with a cave entrance upstage. Una and Red Knight and the Big Al the Dwarf are riding (stick) horses on a road in a wood. Bard enters with Fairy Queen.)

BARD

(Strikes chord)

*A Gentle Knight was pricking on the plain,  
He was clad in mighty arms and silver shield,  
Wherein old dents of deep wounds did remain,  
The cruel marks of many a bloody field  
Yet arms before that he did not wield,  
His angry steed did chide his foaming bit,*

RED KNIGHT

(To horse)

Easy Steve.

BIG AL

"Steed" not "Steve."

BARD

*As much disdainng to the curb to yield,  
Full jolly knight he seemed and fair did sit  
As one for knightly jousts and fierce encounters fit.*

FAIRY QUEEN

Bard! What did I say before about the poetic language?

BARD

(sighs)

That you wanted this story told as plainly as possible.

FAIRY QUEEN

That's right.

BARD

But...but did you like "pricking on the plain"? I rather liked that one.

FAIRY QUEEN

It's...quite an image.

BARD

Thank you.

FAIRY QUEEN

Do go on.

BARD

*Upon a great adventure he was bound,  
The greatest Gloriana to him gave.*

FAIRY QUEEN

"Gloriana?" Who's this Gloriana?

BARD

Why, that's you, milady!

FAIRY QUEEN

Oh! (Likes this a lot) Do go on!

BARD

*The greatest Glorious Queen of the fairy land  
To win him worship, another grace to have  
Which of all earthly things he most did crave.  
A lovely lady rode him fair besides*

UNA

(To Red Knight)

UNA (Continued)

I think that's me!

BARD

*Upon a lowly ass more white than snow.*

UNA

Wait, I'm riding a donkey? And why is your horse green?

RED KNIGHT

Beats me. (To horse) Steve, why are you green? (To Una) He doesn't know, either.

(Bard and Fairy Queen exit)

UNA

So...The fairies raised you?

RED KNIGHT

(Oblivious)

Yes.

(Beat while she waits for more. There isn't more.)

UNA

Well, I'm a princess.

RED KNIGHT

I know.

UNA

I am also next in line to be fed to the dragon if we can't figure out how to defeat it.

RED KNIGHT

I won't let you be eaten by a dragon.

UNA

That's comforting.

RED KNIGHT

Or by anything else, either.

UNA

What else would want to eat me?

RED KNIGHT

Oh, lots of things. Giants. Monsters. Bandits.

UNA

Bandits would want to eat me?

RED KNIGHT

Well, no, but I'd protect you from them.

UNA

You know I rode all the way here from my kingdom by myself and had no trouble, don't you?

BIG AL

(Snorts)

All by yourself?

UNA

Well, you hardly count, Big Al.

BIG AL

A little thanks is all I ask. I carried all your stuff, too.

UNA

Oh, whatever. At least the Fairy Queen gave you a horse and not a donkey.

BIG AL

This is a pony. I named her "Magic"!

UNA

Oh, shush. I can take care of myself, that's my point.

BIG AL

But you remember where we are, right?

RED KNIGHT

Where are we?

BIG AL

Right. You've never been out of the Fairyland, have you?

RED KNIGHT

No.

BIG AL

Do you remember, lady Una?

UNA

Oh, yeah. This is where the Error's Den is, isn't it?

RED KNIGHT

Error's Den?

BIG AL

Yeah. Let's just say we can't stop tonight. It's too dangerous to sleep in this wood.

UNA

He's right. (Yawns) We'll have to push on until morning.

RED KNIGHT

That will not do! The lady is tired!

UNA

I am not. That was just a little yawn.

RED KNIGHT

I insist that we stop for the night! I will not go a step further until the lady is well-rested and has regained her strength!

BIG AL

That's a mistake, Red.

RED KNIGHT

Am I not a valiant knight? Have I not sworn to protect the lady? She will be safe.

(Red dismounts and crosses his arms)

RED KNIGHT

I insist.

(Una and Big Al look at each other and shrug)

UNA

We need the big dumb oaf or none of this matters.

BIG AL

I wish chivalry were dead.

(They dismount.)

RED KNIGHT

I'm going to find a better spot to camp.

UNA

Don't go into the woods, Red.

RED KNIGHT

I shall explore!

BIG AL

No, really. Don't.

(Red Knight steps downstage)

RED KNIGHT

What's this, a cave?

(A terrible screeching. Then the monster ERROR enters. She is half woman and half snake. "Thousands" of her babies dance around her)

ERROR

What noise is this that disturbs my slumber? Ugh, who let all this light in?

RED KNIGHT

Stand back, Lady Una! It's a monster!

UNA

That's what I was trying to tell you!

RED KNIGHT

How did you defeat this wretched thing on your own?

BIG AL

I was there, too!

UNA

We didn't! We didn't stop, so she never woke up!

ERROR

Another knight? What do you say, children? Should we gobble him up, too?

MONSTER CHILDREN

Yeah!

ERROR

After we eat him, I'll let you practice hunting with the shortie and princess.

BIG AL

Hey! Hurtful short jokes. What a monster!

MONSTER CHILDREN

Oh boy! Yay, mommy! Let's get them!

RED KNIGHT

(Draws sword)

Oh, vile creature! You will fall beneath my fairy sword!

(Error and the Red Knight battle. Error manages to disarm him and wrap the Red Knight in her tail.)

ERROR

Get ready for dinner, children!

MONSTER CHILDREN

Yay!

UNA

Oh, Red! You'll have to strangle her with your hands!

(Red manages to get one hand free and tries to throttle Error, and she lets him go.)

RED KNIGHT

Now to finish her!

(He retrieves his sword and stabs Error, who dies.)

MONSTER CHILDREN

Mommy!

(They rush to the corpse and carry/drag it away)

(Una and Big Al rush to Red's side.)

UNA

Are you all right, Red?

BIG AL

Yeah, that was one heck of a monster.

RED KNIGHT

I'm all right. Just a...a little rattled. That was a monster, huh?

UNA

You've never fought a monster before?

RED KNIGHT

Well, no. I mean, the fairies fight the monsters in Fairyland, you know. I never had to...before.

BIG AL

Oh, boy. A knight who has never fought before. Great.

UNA

Oh, he did really well, Big Al. Maybe he is enchanted or something.

BIG AL

...Or lucky.

RED KNIGHT

(Nervous)

You know. Maybe we can keep talking about this as...as we ride away from this place.

BIG AL

Now he's making sense.

UNA

I agree. Let's go, Donkey.

(They gather their horses and exit.)

## ACT II

## SCENE 1

(A little further on in the wood. Archimango's house is upstage. Bard and Fairy Queen, and ARCHIMANGO enter. Archimango is dressed all in black rags)

BARD

(Chord)

*At length they chanced to meet upon the way  
An aged Sire, in long black weeds was clad,*

FAIRY QUEEN

"Weeds" as in "Poetry"?

BARD

No. "Weeds" as in clothes.

FAIRY QUEEN

Why is poetry so confusing?

BARD

I don't know. May I continue?

(Fairy Queen nods.)

BARD

*His feet all bare, his beard all hoary gray,  
And by his belt his book he hanging had;  
Sober he seemd, and very sagely sad,  
And to the ground his eyes were lowly bent,  
Simple in show, and devoid of malice bad,  
And all the way he prayed, as he went,  
And often knocked his chest, as one that did repent.*

FAIRY QUEEN

Well, at least I understood most of that. But what's wrong with just telling the story?

BARD

What's wrong with some artistic freedom?

FAIRY QUEEN

Just do go on, please. Who's the old guy they meet?

BARD

Well, you may ask!

(Red Knight, Una, and Big Al enter.)

FAIRY QUEEN

I just did.

BARD

I mean, they did ask.

RED KNIGHT

How now, fellow? What news of the world?

ARCHIMANGO

(Disguised as a hermit)

What's that now?

BIG AL

He says, "Hi! Do you know any gossip?"

ARCHIMANGO

I see. I do not know any "news of the world," or "gossip" as I am a poor hermit who lives in a hovel.

UNA

You poor thing.

ARCHIMANGO

(Very taken with Una)

Oh, no matter, lovely lady!

RED KNIGHT

But, sir, I wonder if you know of any homebred evil that I might drive asunder?

ARCHIMANGO

Well, if it's evil you're after, I can tell you of a strange man who lays waste to the land and the people.

RED KNIGHT

Yes! That's what I require. An evil one to fight!

UNA

Perhaps, good knight, we can have a good night first? You'll be in better shape to fight if you sleep first.

ARCHIMANGO

Well, if it's sleep you need, you're in luck. My house is just down the road.

BIG AL

I thought you said you lived in a hovel?

ARCHIMANGO

My house is...well, maybe not a hovel, exactly. But I gotta describe it that way. You know...religious poverty and all that.

RED KNIGHT

Excellent! To the hermit's house!

UNA

(To Big Al)

Does this guy seem...off to you?

BIG AL

He sure does. But all hermits give me the willies.

(They wander upstage as the house is set up downstage. Bard and Fairy Queen enter.)

BARD

(Chord)

*A little lowly hermitage it was,  
Downe in a dale, nearby a forest's side,  
Far from other people, that did pass  
In travel to and fro : a little wide  
There was an holy chapel edified,  
Wherein the hermit duly went to say,  
His holy things each morning and eventide:  
Thereby a crystal stream did gently play,*

*Which from a sacred fountain welled forth always.*

FAIRY QUEEN

(A new tactic)

You know, Bard. You have proven your artistic prowess here.

BARD

Really?

FAIRY QUEEN

Oh, yes. Just art oozing everywhere. So, you know, I think we can save the rest of the art for, I don't know, maybe the end? Or when it's super confusing?

BARD

Oh. I see.

FAIRY QUEEN

But at those times, go crazy, okay?

BARD

(Hopeful)

Crazy words?

FAIRY QUEEN

Absolutely nutty, crazy arty words.

BARD

Deal!

(Fairy Queen and Bard Exit)

## ACT II

## SCENE 2

(Archimango's House. The bedrooms are set up so we can see into all of them. Archimango's magical study is visible, too.)

ARCHIMANGO

Here we are! Home sweet home.

(All dismount.)

UNA

(Skeptically)

I guess it's not so bad.

BIG AL

(To Una)

THIS is a hovel? I thought it would be a lean-to or something.

UNA

Hush!

ARCHIMANGO

You, my lady, can have this room, and gentlemen, you can have this one.

RED KNIGHT

Excellent! I'm looking forward to rest so I can vanquish a villain tomorrow!

ARCHIMANGO

(Kisses Una's hand)

Goodnight fair lady Una.

UNA

(Uncomfortably)

Uh, goodnight.

(Una crosses to Big Al.)

UNA

Well, good night, good Knight. Good night, Big Al.

RED KNIGHT

(Going into the other room)

Good e'en, milady!

BIG AL

(To Una)

This guy! Is Red for real?

UNA

I think so. Good night.

(She goes into her room)

BIG AL

Good night. Good night to this whole weird day.

(He goes into his room.)

(Archimango flings off his rags and puts on a black magician's robe.)

ARCHIMANGO

(Laughs evilly)

That was too easy. Now to separate that goody-goody knight from that lovely lady. She will be mine!

(Archimango casts some spells. Spooky spell music. As he does, Red Knight, Una, and Big Al have nightmares and thrash around on their beds. All these lines are said as they are "asleep.")

UNA

No! Go away!

RED KNIGHT

Evil doer! I will fight you!

BIG AL

No! That was the last sandwich? I'll starve!

(Archimango conjures up a spirit who looks like Una (2<sup>nd</sup> Una), but in a black cloak.)

ARCHIMANGO

This Red Cross Knight is so good-goody that he's allergic to anything that seems not pure.

ARCHIMANGO (Continued)

Let's see what he does when he thinks his virtuous lady is pitching woo at HIM. Go, spirit!

2ND UNA

You know my fee, Archie?

ARCHIMANGO

Of course! Now go!

(The spirit (2<sup>nd</sup> Una) goes to where Red Knight and Big Al sleep. 2<sup>nd</sup> Una tries to seduce Red Knight, but he does not understand)

2<sup>ND</sup> UNA

(Goes to the Red Knight)

Hey, big boy.

RED KNIGHT

(Starts awake)

Oh! Una. I had such strange dreams. Is it time to go already?

2ND UNA

No. Let's stay in bed a little longer.

RED KNIGHT

Oh, well, okay.

2ND UNA

(Flirting)

So, do you like my dress?

RED KNIGHT

(Barely glances)

I suppose so. Is it different from before?

2ND UNA

It's a night dress, so it's softer. Have a feel.

RED KNIGHT

Oh, that's all right. I believe you.

2ND UNA

(Leans over bed)

Do you? Do you believe that I love you passionately?

RED KNIGHT

(horrified, pulls sheets up to his chin)

Madam!

2ND UNA

(Kneels on bed)

I do! Passionately! Run away with me now!

RED KNIGHT

That's impossible! What about the dragon? What about your family? What about the quest?

2ND UNA

Forget them. Let's just leave, you and me. We'll find a little castle in the woods and be in love and live alone...

RED KNIGHT

(Slowly, thinking.)

But if we live alone, there won't be any more adventures.

2ND UNA

(Reaches for him)

But we'll have each other!

(Red Knight stands, throwing sheets aside and waking Big Al)

RED KNIGHT

(Cooties! Ew!)

Madam! I must protest!

BIG AL

What the fairy dust is going on? Una, what are you doing here?

RED KNIGHT

Albert! We must leave!

BIG AL

Who's "Albert"?

RED KNIGHT

We must abandon this person's company! She is no lady.

2ND UNA

You have no idea.

BIG AL

Una? What's going on?

2ND UNA

You'd better leave with this big oaf. I'm done hanging out with degenerates like you and prissy losers like him.

BIG AL

Una!

RED KNIGHT

Albert! We away now!

(Red Knight exits right without his armor, sword, etc. Big Al looks from Una to the exit, and finally gathers the Knight's kit.)

BIG AL

I have no idea what's going on here, Una. You sure you want me to go?

2ND UNA

I've never wanted anything more. Get out of here, shorty. You've only ever slowed me down.

BIG AL

(stung)

Ouch. Well, fine. Happy trails, milady.

2ND UNA

Hit the road, stumpy.

(Big Al exits, dejected. Archimango reenters)

ARCHIMANGO

Well done, my minion. Here's your reward.

(Gives a spa gift basket.)

2ND UNA

Ooo. Lavender scented! My favorite. You have the best little jobs, Archie.

(2<sup>nd</sup> Una exits)

ARCHIMANGO

Now to help myself to the real prize.

(He goes to Una's room and taps at the door)

ARCHIMANGO

Oh, Una! Princess Una, my little flower! Come out, won't you? I have some terrible news.

UNA

(Waking up)

What? It's the middle of the night. What's so important?

ARCHIMANGO

That knave the Red Knight has left! He snuck off into the night and that awful dwarf left with him!

UNA

What? Red is gone? And Big Al? They'd never leave me. You're lying.

ARCHIMANGO

(Pretends to be stung)

I am not. Check their room. They took all their things and left you here all by yourself. Well, not entirely. I'm still here.

UNA

(Checks Red's room)

Oh, they are gone! Why would they leave me? Oh, woe is me! My poor kingdom! My poor self! They are going to feed me to a dragon!

ARCHIMANGO

Now, now, my dove. I'll take care of you.

UNA

(Ignoring him)

I must go after them! Red! Big Al! Wait!

(Una exits left, opposite of where Red and Al went)

## ARCHIMANGO

Well, that didn't go as planned. Still. I drove them apart. Now all I have to do is follow her. I know! I'll transform myself to look like that knight, and she'll love me. I can't fail!

(Exits left, after Una)

## ACT II

## SCENE 3

(On the road later that morning. Red Knight and Big Al enter on horses on one side. Sansfoy and Duessa enter on on horses on the other, but they don't notice each other at first.)

BIG AL

(Looking over shoulder longingly)

So, what happened back there, Red?

RED KNIGHT

I prefer not to speak of it.

BIG AL

Una's a great gal. I've known her since she was a wee princess. Whatever she did to make you mad, I'm sure it was a mistake.

RED KNIGHT

She sent you away, too, did she not?

BIG AL

Yeah. I don't get it. It's like she was a different person all of a sudden.

Duessa spies the Red Knight and stops dead.

SANSFOY

My lady, are you well?

DUESSA

Why, very well, Sir Sansfoy. Look! See that strapping knight over there?

SANSFOY

He seems a little on the short side, Duessa...

DUESSA

Not that one! The big one!

SANSFOY

Oh, him. What of him?

DUESSA

Go kill him...nobly. That will earn you more of my love.

SANSFOY

Kill him?

DUESSA

It will make me very, very fond of you.

(Sprinkles some potion on him when he is not looking)

SANSFOY

If he displeases you, milady, I shall dispatch him.  
(To Red) Sir! I challenge you!

RED KNIGHT

A challenge! Accepted!

BIG AL

But you don't even know that guy!

RED KNIGHT

I know he has challenged me! That is enough. Engage!

(They joust two or three times on horseback. Big Al and Duessa cheer after each pass. Red kills Sansfoy.)

RED KNIGHT

I am victorious!

DUESSA

(aside)

That didn't go as planned. Time to change sides. Hope my "damsel in distress" spell is still working.

(Duessa runs to Red's side)

DUESSA

Oh, great, noble knight! Take pity on a princess in need of rescue!

RED KNIGHT

Princess?

BIG AL

She doesn't smell like a princess. She smells like a rat.

RED KNIGHT

Have no fear, dear lady. It is my duty to assist any lady who requires it.

DUESSA

Oh, thank you. I am a princess from...ah...far away. Take me home and you'll be richly rewarded.

RED KNIGHT

I require no reward.

BIG AL

What about Una?

RED KNIGHT

She is not a virtuous lady, and we owe her nothing. Come lady, what is your name?

DUESSA

Duessa. Come with me. I'll show you a fine palace near here.

(Red "helps" Duessa onto the back of his horse.)

RED KNIGHT

Onward!

BIG AL

(Looks around hopelessly)

Well, at least a palace should be a safe place, right?

(They exit.)

## ACT II

## SCENE 4

(The forest. Lots of forest animal noises at first. When Una enters, they stop.)

(Una enters alone on her donkey.)

UNA

(Calling for them)

Red! Big Al! Where are you guys? Oh, it's no use.

(She dismounts and sits on a log)

UNA

(To donkey)

I've been searching for hours, and now I'm so tired. It's so hot, too. I'll just take a little nap, I guess.

(She lies down and sleeps.)

(As she sleeps, the forest sounds begin again as all the forest creatures come out and surround her. Then a Lion comes out and lies next to her. It playfully bumps her and she wakes up.)

UNA

Oh my goodness! A lion!

(She begins to scramble away, but the lion roars and pounces on her and begins to lick her and purr.)

UNA

(Realizing she's not in danger)

Okay, this is not the weirdest thing that's happened this week, but it's maybe number two on the list. Nice Kitty?

(More purring and begging for belly rubs.)

(Just then, Archimango disguised as Red appears. As Una is overjoyed, the Lion snarls at him)

UNA

Red! Oh, I'm so glad you're here!

ARCHIMANGO

(As Red Cross)

My lady! I'm so glad to have found you.

(Lion snarls)

ARCHIMANGO

Uh, who's your friend?

UNA

Right now I'm calling him "Kitty." Kitty, this is my friend, Red Cross. Be nice.

(Lion pouts)

UNA

I'm so happy you're here! But, where's Al? And why did you leave me?

ARCHIMANGO

My lady, there is a very good reason for that, which I will explain after you kiss me.

UNA

Excuse me?

(As he reaches for her, SANSJOY appears SR and the two PEASANTS enter SL and watch.)

SANSJOY

Red Cross Knight!

(Archimango doesn't respond)

SANSJOY

I said, sir knight! I challenge thee!

UNA

Red. He means you.

ARCHIMANGO

What now? Oh. OH! Um. Good sir. You're challenging me?  
Why?

PEASANT 2

A challenge!?! Huzzah! Let's watch.

SANSJOY

You, sir, have just this day killed my brother,  
Sansfoy.

PEASANT 1

OOOoooo! He killed his brother!

ARCHIMANGO

I did? I don't think so. I would have remembered that.

SANSJOY

You do me dishonor to deny it! Draw, sir knight!

PEASANT 1 AND 2

Yay! A fight!

ARCHIMANGO

(aside)

I should have also cast a fighting ability spell. Oh,  
boy.

(They fight. Critters and Una and the  
Peasants are the cheering section.  
Sansjoy easily wins and stands over  
Archimango.)

PEASANT 1

Oh, crickey. We'd better get out of here.

PEASANT 2

Yeah. Someone always wants a peasant to clean up after  
a fight.

(The two Peasants hurry  
away.)

SANSJOY

I have vanquished you! Although that was somewhat  
easier than I expected. What do you have to say before  
I kill you?

ARCHIMANGO

Don't kill me! I'm not who you think I am! I'm Archimago, the wizard!

(Archimango takes off his disguise. The critters gasp in surprise. Una and Sansjoy are surprised, but not very)

UNA AND SANSJOY

(Together)

Oh. That explains it.

SANSJOY

So you did not kill my brother, but are merely dressed as mine enemy who did?

ARCHIMANGO

Something like that.

SANSJOY

Begone, wizard. I tire of you.

(Archimango can't believe his luck. He scrambles to his feet and grabs Una's arm.)

ARCHIMANGO

Una, come on. Let's get out of here.

UNA

(Shakes him off)

Ugh, no way.

SANSJOY

Lady. You are mine now. Come along.

UNA

Ew, no way.

SANSJOY

That was not a request.

(As Sansjoy tries to kidnap Una, Archimango scurries away)

UNA

Help! Get your hands off me. Oh, help!

(At her cries of help, the lion leaps onto Sansjoy. Sansjoy gets a lucky shot and knocks the lion out.)

UNA

Kitty! No!

SANSJOY

Come with me, lady, or I'll kill the beast!

UNA

You wouldn't!

(As Sansjoy raises his sword, all the forest animals come out of the forest and attack him.)

SANSJOY

What magic is this?

UNA

(As she runs)

Thank you, friends!

(She exits one side, and Sansjoy and animal attackers exit the other)

## ACT II

## SCENE 5

(Palace of Pride. Enter Red, Duessa, and Big Al on their horses. The palace is very fancy, but flimsy, and Red is awestruck...he has lived in the woods his whole life, after all. They encounter the court members. )

(Enter Bard and Fairy Queen behind.)

BARD

Can I describe the Palace of Pride?

FAIRY QUEEN

Very well.

BARD

Oh boy.

(Chord)

*A stately palace built of squared brick,  
Which cunningly was without mortar laid,  
Whose walls were high, but not strong nor thick,  
And golden foil all over them displayed,  
That purest sky with brightness they dismayed.*

*It was a goodly heap for to behold,  
And spake the praises of the workman's wit;  
But full great pity, that so fair a mold  
Did on so weak foundation ever sit:  
For on a sandy hill, that still did flit  
And fall away, the castle stood shakily:  
That every wind of heaven shook it;  
And all the hidden parts, that few could spy,  
Were ruinous and old, but painted cunningly.  
(joke on the rhyme of "spy" and "cunning-ly")*

FAIRY QUEEN

Oh, that was an awful rhyme.

BARD

(Very disappointed)

BARD (Continued)

I'm sorry.

FAIRY QUEEN

But, the imagery was lovely. I can almost picture it.

BARD

Oh, thank you.

(Bard and Queen exit. She shakes her head behind him as they go.)

RED KNIGHT

(dismounting)

What is this wondrous place, lady?

DUESSA

This is the Palace of Pride, good Knight.

BIG AL

Una's palace is at least this nice, and built better, I think.

(He fiddles with a loose bit of the castle wall.)

DUESSA

(Slaps his hand away.)

Hush, you.

RED KNIGHT

I am struck speechless at its beauty and majesty.

DUESSA

Really?

BIG AL

Uh, he grew up in the woods with a bunch of fairies. They only other building he's seen is a hermit's hut in the woods.

DUESSA

Ah. That explains a lot, actually.

(Lucifera enters)

DUESSA

Hello! Lucifera! My lady!

LUCIFERA

Why, Duessa! Welcome to my..ahem...humble abode.

DUESSA

(laughs)

Oh, you're so funny! These are my...ahem...friends, the Red Cross Knight and Big Al. They "rescued" me from Sansjoy the knight.

LUCIFERA

Did they now? Well, you are more than welcome here, good knight and...short one.

BIG AL

Hey.

RED KNIGHT

I am in awe of the grace and loveliness of your home, madam.

LUCIFERA

Oh, I like him, Duessa. Would you like to see more, Red Knight?

RED KNIGHT

Oh, yes.

(Lucifera claps her hands, and her counselors bring in her couch and her treasure.)

LUCIFERA

Here is my couch, made of the finest unicorn leather and stuffed with spun gold. My counselors Envy and Avarice carry it. Thank you, friends.

ENVY

Don't know why I don't get to sit on the couch.

AVARICE

Someday I'm going to have a thousand couches like this.

(Gluttony and Idleness carry in a table of food.)

LUCIFERA

Here is a table with a feast for us to...Gluttony!  
Stop sneaking food. That's for later!

GLUTTONY

(Stuffing its mouth)

Not sorry.

IDLENESS

(Whines)

Can I stop now?

LUCIFERA

No, Idleness. I need it over there.

IDLENESS

Uuuuugh.

(Drags table partway to the spot she  
pointed at and sneaks under it to nap.)

(Wrath, Lechery, Acedia and Vainglory  
bring in treasure.)

LUCIFERA

And here are only some of my riches, only the tip of  
the pile, you know. Way too much to carry around don't  
you know? Wrath? Lechery? Put it over there.

WRATH

(Flings treasure at her feet and stomps  
off)

Put it there yourself! I get no respect!

LECHERY

(Snickers rudely to Wrath)

You said "Put it there!" Wrath! Hee hee hee. "*Put it  
there!*"

VAINGLORY

(Flexing)

Did you see how awesome I was carrying in the  
treasure? I'm kinda god-like, aren't I, Acedia?

ACEDIA

Pfft. You're not god-like, Vainglory. Not that I would  
know. Haven't been to church in like, FOREVER.

LUCIFERA

(To Duessa)

It's a chore to find good help around here.

DUESSA

Oh, but look at how rich you are!

LUCIFERA

I am rich, aren't I?

DUESSA

And pretty. Isn't she pretty, Red Knight?

RED KNIGHT

She is a most lovely lady.

BIG AL

Oh my goodness. If her head swells any more with pride it'll pop.

LUCIFERA

Oh, now I just have to show you the rest of the palace. I built it with my own hands, you know.

DUESSA

(In mock awe)

No!

LUCIFERA

Yes!

(Enter Sansjoy on his horse. He's tracking the Red Knight.)

SANSJOY

And then all three sets of prints stop...here! (First, he finds the horses. Then he "finds" them) Aha! I've found you!

RED KNIGHT

Found who, good knight?

SANSJOY

You! You knave! I challenge you to a battle to the death. You murdered my brother!

RED KNIGHT

I've only murdered a hideous monster and a rogue who was mistreating this lady and challenged me. Was your brother the monster?

SANSJOY

(Draws sword)

You dare insult me, too? Come! Draw your sword!

BIG AL

(To Red)

You certainly bring out the best in people. You don't even know his name!

RED KNIGHT

(Drawing sword)

True. What is your name, foolish man?

SANSJOY

I am Sansjoy, brother of Sansfoy, whom you slew while he was under the spell of this witch!

RED KNIGHT

Which witch?

BIG AL

Yeah, which witch?

SANSJOY

(Points to Duessa)

This witch!

(Red and Al gasp in surprise. Others murmur, "Well, duh.")

DUESSA

I'm not a witch!

SANSJOY

You are! You captivated my brother with a spell and made him your slave!

DUESSA

(To Red )

Lies! You don't believe him, do you?

RED KNIGHT

(Brushes her aside)

RED KNIGHT (Continued)

It is no matter now. This man has challenged me for revenge of the death of his brother whom I slew because you bade him challenge me. I will face you, sir. (To Duessa) I will deal with you later.

SANSJOY

Or I will, if I survive.

(The company stands back to give them room to battle. They use long swords.)

SANSJOY

Are you prepared, knave?

RED KNIGHT

I am if you are, sir.

(They battle. Sansjoy disappears in a puff of smoke just as Red is about to kill him.)

RED KNIGHT

Wait, what happened?

BIG AL

What magic is this?

(They look at Duessa who tries unsuccessfully to look nonchalant.)

DUESSA

(Gives up charade)

All right. I am a witch. I like the Sans-boys, and I didn't want you to kill another one. They're so easy to control.

(She sidles up to Red)

DUESSA

But I like you, too. We could make a great team! Your muscle and my magic.

LUCIFERA

It's true. I can see how strong you are. How brave. How skilled. You must be very proud of your accomplishments.

RED KNIGHT

Pride is a sin.

LUCIFERA

Excessive pride is a sin, you mean. Justified pride is not.

RED KNIGHT

Humility is far better than pride, milady. And with that, I take my leave of you both and of this place. It reeks with pride and anger and lechery.

GLUTTONY AND SLOTH

Hey! What about us?

LUCIFERA

My palace does not "reek!"

BIG AL

Let's get out of here, Red.

RED KNIGHT

Yes. Away!

(They gather the horses and start to go)

DUESSA

No! Don't leave!

RED KNIGHT

Lady, with your magic, you hardly need my protection anymore. Goodbye!

BIG AL

Besides, you have a "Sans Boy" somewhere.

(Red and Big Al exit)

DUESSA

No! Wait!

LUCIFERA

Why are you upset? You have Sansjoy.

DUESSA

Ugh. "Sansjoy" means "No Fun" in bad French. Wait!

LUCIFERA

NO fun is right. Let's away!

(They exit.)

## ACT II

## SCENE 6

(The woods. Una enters, trailed by woodland animals, her donkey, and the lion.)

UNA

(To the critters)

What a day. Abandoned by the Red Knight and Big Al, befriended by a lion, tricked by a wizard, attacked by a knight, my lion friend hurt, and you guys saving me. Ugh, and I haven't had a decent meal since the hermit's hovel.

(She sits)

UNA

How could this day get worse?

(Two PEASANTS enter and Una stands)

PEASANT 1

Oh, hello, young lady. Why are you in the woods?

PEASANT 2

Surrounded by little animals...and a lion. That's weird.

(They take a nervous, big step backward.)

UNA

It's a very long story. The short version is that I'm looking for someone. Have you seen a knight with a red cross on his shield? Maybe he has a little friend with him?

PEASANT 1

Oh, yes! I watched that very knight fight another knight several miles down the road early this morning.

UNA

Fighting? Well, that sounds like him. Is he okay?

PEASANT 2

Oh, I am sorry to say, I saw your friend die at the end of the battle.

UNA

Red is dead?

(She sits down again in shock)

UNA

What about Big Al? The little man?

PEASANT 1

I did not see what happened to him. I was in a hurry.

UNA

(Cries)

Oh, no! All my hopes die with the knight! And my friend, Al! What has become of you?

PEASANT 2

I am sorry to bring you such bad news, lady.

UNA

Take me to where the Red Knight lies, then, sir. Please. I need to care for him.

PEASANT 1 AND 2

Of course.

(They exit)

## ACT II

## SCENE 7

(Maybe less an exit and more a meander to...Another part of the woods. The Peasants and Una, her animal friends and, lion enter from one side. From the other enters Sansjoy, somewhat bewildered.)

PEASANT 1

The battle took place right over here, milady.

UNA

(Weeping, desperate)

Oh, Red! Red? RED? Where is he?

PEASANT 2

I don't know. I saw him lying slain right here.

(Peasant looks up)

PEASANT 1

I saw that rogue kill him!

SANSJOY

Who? Me?

(Lion Roars)

UNA

(To lion)

Down, Kitty. Sansjoy? You didn't kill the Red Knight. That was the wizard, Archimango. I watched you.

SANSJOY

(Draws self up)

That red devil. I tried to kill him again just now so I could avenge my brother. He was besting me, though, and then, POOF! I was somehow transported here.

UNA

Well, you keep your hands off of me and my friend...this person here, or I'll let Kitty take care of you.

(Lion snarls)

SANSJOY

You needn't worry, lady. I am too amazed by the events of today to fight anymore. You said there was a hermit hut somewhere?

(Una points offstage.)

UNA

Yes, but an evil wizard lives there.

SANSJOY

Maybe he'll be better than the evil witch that's currently after me. God speed you both.

(He exits. Una is amazed.)

PEASANT 1

You know that guy?

UNA

Yes, but apparently not very well.

PEASANT 2

I am sorry we did not find your friend.

UNA

At least we didn't find him dead. Thank you for your help, sir/madam.

PEASANT 1

Good luck.

PEASANT 2

We'll be on my way.

UNA

Thank you. I cannot call upon your kindness any longer.

(Peasant exits.)

UNA

(To critters and lion)

Well. Now what? I need the Red Knight to come to my kingdom and kill the dragon. I can't go home until the dragon is dead or else it will eat me. Maybe I should just stay here in the woods with you?

(The animals seem to like this idea.  
The Lion Purrs)

UNA

Well, I'm glad you like the idea, but I'm a princess,  
not a wood nymph.

(Red Knight and Big Al enter and  
dismount.)

RED KNIGHT

You are more lovely than a wood nymph I've known.  
Mossy creatures.

UNA

Red! Big Al! Oh, I've missed you!

(She rushes to hug them, but Red holds  
her at arm's length)

RED KNIGHT

Lady, I was wrong to leave your company as your quest  
is true. But you have wronged us and I am not your  
friend.

UNA

Really? Big Al, do you feel this way, too?

BIG AL

You did tell me to leave with the Knight last night.

UNA

I never said that!

BIG AL

You didn't?

UNA

NO!

RED KNIGHT

Well, you did say to me that we should run away and  
live in the woods together.

UNA

(Truly aghast)

I would never say something like that! Abandon my  
parents and kingdom to that dragon?

RED KNIGHT

It was dreadful to hear, so we departed.

UNA

I swear I didn't talk to you last night, and I would never say those things. You believe me, right Big Al?

BIG AL

I couldn't believe it, but you were right in front of me saying it.

UNA

(Figuring it out)

Wait. You guys left before you found out about the hermit, right?

RED KNIGHT

What about the hermit?

UNA

He is an evil sorcerer named "Archimango."

BIG AL

Ar-chi-man-go?

UNA

Yeah. He could change his appearance. For a while, I thought he was you, Red, until he lost a fight with another knight...long story. Anyway, I'll bet somehow he tricked you into thinking I was saying those awful things!

RED KNIGHT

It did seem uncharacteristic of you, milady.

BIG AL

Of course it wasn't you, Una! I should have known better!

(Big Al and Una hug. Red Knight puts his arms across their shoulders)

BIG AL

So, uh, Una. Who are your friends? Are they coming, too?

UNA

Oh, that's a good point.

RED KNIGHT

They do look like dragon snacks to me.

(Animals recoil at "Dragon Snacks")

UNA

Yes, little, and big, friends. I appreciate all of your help when I was lonely and in need, but I think this part of the journey will be too dangerous for you.

(Lion goes "rowr?")

UNA

Oh, Kitty. You can go, too. Red Knight is strong enough to protect me, I promise. Go back to your mate and your babies!

(To all critters)

UNA

Thank you, my friends!

RED KNIGHT

This is most excellent! Now we can continue the quest to kill the dragon!

UNA

Yes!

BIG AL

(Reluctantly)

Oh, yeah. The dragon.

RED KNIGHT

Come, Una! Al! Mighty Steve! On to Adventure!

(Red Knight, Una, Big Al mount and exit. Animals and lion wave goodbye and exit opposite.)

## ACT III

## SCENE 1

(A clearing outside the woods in Una's kingdom. There is some dragon damage and the "dragon wagon" and magic well onstage)

(Fairy Queen and Bard enter.)

BARD

Your Majesty. I think I need to set the scene here since many days and miles separate this part from the last.

FAIRY QUEEN

Very well. I admit, I don't know anything about Una's kingdom.

BARD

High time now again it was for Una fair  
 To think of those her captive parents dear,  
 And their now wasted kingdom to repair;  
 After many days' travel, they approached near,  
 And in her modest manner thus bespake;  
 "Dear knight, as dear as ever knight was dear,  
 That all these sorrows suffer for my sake,  
 High heaven behold the tedious toil, ye for me take!"

FAIRY QUEEN

"Tedious toil" is right. Did you really just say,  
 "Dear knight, as dear as ever knight was dear"?

BARD

I did. I thought it sounded good.

FAIRY QUEEN

Way to many "dears." Less art. More story.

BARD

Very well.

(They exit.)

(Una, Red, Big Al, and horses, enter)

UNA

Oh my goodness it's good to be home!

BIG AL

Oh, it sure is! Ah, smell that air!

RED KNIGHT

(sniffing)

Smells...smokey.

UNA

Oh, yes. I suppose it does. Anymore, dragon smoke just smells like home, doesn't it, Al?

BIG AL

Unfortunately, yes.

RED KNIGHT

And does charred wreckage remind you of home as well?

UNA

Kinda?

BIG AL

A little bit?

RED KNIGHT

The dragon did this, correct?

BIG AL

(Nodding)

Oh, surely. This is prime dragon territory. You can even follow its burn trail to where it lives. As kids, we used to dare each other to fun up and touch the wagon.

RED KNIGHT

"Dragon."

BIG AL

What? Where?

RED KNIGHT

No, you said, "wagon," but you meant "dragon."

BIG AL

No, I didn't.

RED KNIGHT

You did.

BIG AL

Didn't.

UNA

Wait, Red. Al did say "wagon," but he meant "wagon."

RED KNIGHT

What? Why?

UNA

This dragon likes to change shape. Sometimes he's a stone. Often he's a wagon.

BIG ALL

We think it likes the rhyme.

RED KNIGHT

Really?

(Una and Big Al shrug)

BIG AL

Wagon/Dragon? It makes as much sense as anything.

RED KNIGHT

And you used to tough it? And escape unharmed?

BIG AL

Well, almost always.

RED KNIGHT

"Almost?"

BIG AL

Let's just say the name "Big Al" wasn't ironic before...

RED KNIGHT

(impressed)

My, my. (Draws sword) Well, I dare to fight this dragon! You say you can follow the burns to its lair? I shall explore!

(Una and Big Al look at each other in horror)

BIG AL

I didn't mean that you should...Right now...

UNA

Haven't you learned anything?

RED KNIGHT

Do you not have faith in me?

UNA

You're nuts.

RED KNIGHT

Maybe so! Dragon! Prepare yourself!

UNA

Oh, we have to follow him!

(The three of them run around the stage as Red "looks" for the dragon. Eventually, Red stops by the wagon.)

RED KNIGHT

The trail stops here.

(He draws his sword as they catch up. Una and Al are out of breath)

UNA

Oh, thank heavens.

BIG AL

You think the dragon is close?

RED KNIGHT

Undoubtedly. He's so close I can smell him.

UNA

You can smell a dragon over (waves arms) the general smokiness?

RED KNIGHT

The fairies say that dragons stink of brimstone and sulfur.

UNA

And what does that smell like?

BIG AL

Rotten eggs. He says dragons stink of rotten eggs.

UNA

Oh, well, I smell that.

BIG AL

(Alarmed)

Oh, no! Una! A Wagon!

UNA

Not a Wagon!

RED KNIGHT

A what?

DRAGON

(Emerging from the wagon, roaring. Then sudden switch to dialogue.)

I do not stink of rotten eggs!

(The three people leap/cry out in surprise. Red recovers and stands forward while Una and Big Al cower back)

UNA

Oh! The dragon!

BIG AL

Oh, the stench is unbearable.

DRAGON

I say. I'm standing right here. So rude!

RED KNIGHT

Vile worm! I challenge you to a fight to the death!

DRAGON

Another one? I just ate a knight a week ago. Still picking his shield out from between my teeth. But if you insist.

RED KNIGHT

I do insist. Ready yourself to meet your maker.

DRAGON

So tiresome. Very well.

(They battle. It is a struggle, as Red is more capable than the dragon expects. Ultimately, the dragon scorches Red with its fire breath. He staggers around, on fire. Una and Big Al try to help, but can't get close.)

UNA

Red! You're on fire!

BIG AL

Oh, no!

DRAGON

You fought well, sir Knight, and I am still full from last week, so I'll give you time to die before I eat you.

(As the Dragon begins to exit, Red Knight falls down the Magic Well. SFX slide whistle...comically long. The other three characters peer down the well until they hear a splash. )

DRAGON

Bother. Now I'll have to find something else to eat.

(Una and Big Al leap backwards.)

DRAGON

Just kidding. I'm not hungry. I'll come for you two later.

(Dragon exits. Una and Big Al rush to the well and look down.)

(Una cries and he comforts her. They walk away from the well.)

UNA

Oh. Oh, he's dead, isn't he, Big Al?

BIG AL

I'm so sorry, Una. After all this time, and he couldn't defeat the dragon.

RED KNIGHT

(From inside the well..echoing)

I'll get him next time.

(Una and Big Al look at each other.)

UNA

(Sad)

I can still hear his voice.

BIG AL

Funny. So can I.

(Beat. They rush back to the well and help Red climb out.)

UNA

Red! You're alive! How are you alive?

BIG AL

Are you hurt?

RED KNIGHT

I'm not burned anymore. I don't know how.

UNA

I wonder.

(She pulls a branch away from a sign on the well that reads "Well of Life")

UNA

Oh. Well. That explains it. You fell into the Well of Life.

RED KNIGHT

What's that?

BIG AL

It's a magic well that restores health to any who drink from it.

UNA

Apparently, it also restores life to someone who dunks in it.

RED KNIGHT

Lucky for me.

UNA

Unbelievably lucky.

BIG AL

Miraculous, you might say.

RED KNIGHT

Well, which way did the dragon go?

BIG AL

You're not thinking of fighting that big lizard again?

RED KNIGHT

I certainly am. I wasn't healed just to run away. Onward!

(He takes a step and immediately falls)

UNA

The well seems to have restored your health, but not your strength. You need to rest.

RED KNIGHT

'Tis but a scratch.

BIG AL

Come to the castle, Red. Get strong again before you fight the dragon again. You can't defeat it like this.

RED KNIGHT

I think maybe you speak truth. I shall rest tonight at the castle.

(Exit.)

## ACT III

## SCENE 2

(Same woods. Next morning. Instead of a magic well, there is a magic tree with an obscured sign.)

(Bard, Fairy Queen, Una, Red, Big Al enter on horses, Red in the lead. He's stronger, but not 100%.)

FAIRY QUEEN

That dragon nearly killed him!

BARD

Yes.

FAIRY QUEEN

It was a miracle that he fell down a magic well.

BARD

Yes. A miracle is what they called it.

FAIRY QUEEN

I do say, this is exciting. I assume he went back to fight it?

BARD

Indeed he did, my Queen.

FAIRY QUEEN

When?

BARD

The next day.

FAIRY QUEEN

The next day?! Did he have a fairy doctor to magic him well again?

BARD

No, not at all. In fact he was barely healed.

FAIRY QUEEN

Why, that's crazy!

BARD

You could say that. Una said that, even.

UNA

Red, you're crazy!

FAIRY QUEEN

I see. I hope he doesn't get himself killed this time.

BARD

I'll tell it as well as I can.

(They exit.)

UNA

I said "you're crazy," Red.

RED KNIGHT

The vile beast is this way. I can hear it!

BIG AL

I hope it's not the rumbling of his tummy we're hearing.

UNA

Red, you are not strong enough yet to fight this monster. Come back to the castle and restore your health!

BIG AL

Yeah, buddy. The dragon isn't going anywhere. Take a rest until you're fully charged up.

RED KNIGHT

Nonsense. I am on the side of righteousness.

UNA

Righteously stubborn, you mean.

RED KNIGHT

I cannot fail.

BIG AL

You already failed once.

RED KNIGHT

I will not get caught in the flame again. I shall be victorious. You must have faith in me.

(Dragon enters. [[Or maybe is a rock already on stage]])

BIG AL

I sure hope you're right! Here's the dragon now!

DRAGON

You again? I thought I fried you by the well.

RED KNIGHT

This time, vile fiend, I shall fight you atop my horse with my lance. Prepare to make your maker, demon! Onward, valiant Steve!

(They battle. Red and the "horse" move too fast for the dragon to flame them. So the dragon swats them with its tail, knocking them flat under the tree.)

DRAGON

(Sniffs them from a little distance)

Well, this time you smell dead. Horse too. But I can't touch the shade this tree, so I'll just leave all of you here to ripen until it's dark.

(Dragon exits smacking its lips. Una and Big Al rush to Red's side)

UNA

(Weeping)

Oh, Red! I knew we should have kept him from fighting!

BIG AL

Aw, big guy. I was sure you'd get the lizard this time.

RED KNIGHT

I was pretty sure we had it, too.

(Una and Big Al jump up in surprise as Red and the "horse" stand up.)

UNA

Holy moly! Another miracle?

RED KNIGHT

Apparently. I am pretty sure Steve and I were dead.

BIG AL

Wait a second.

(He clears the sign so we can read  
"Tree of Life.")

UNA

Oh! You were in the shade of the Tree of Life. That explains it.

BIG AL

What are the odds that you'd fall into the shade of the only magic tree in the forest?

UNA

You are unbelievably lucky.

RED KNIGHT

Perhaps it is not luck. Perhaps I am destined to fight this devil one more time. I am sure I will be victorious!

(He takes a step and immediately falls down again. Una and Big Al help him up. He's weaker this time.)

UNA

Not a chance. We are going back to the castle and I'm making you actually rest this time. You have no chance of winning if you're weak.

RED KNIGHT

No. 'Tis but a flesh wound.

BIG AL

No, you're lucky. There can't be any more magic healing things in this woods. Next time you'll be on your own.

RED KNIGHT

Then, to rest. I shall be victorious!

UNA

I hope so, or the rest of us will be lunch.

(They exit.)

## ACT III

## SCENE 3

(Same woods as before, but no well and no tree. Bard, Fairy Queen, Red, Una, and Big Al and horses enter. Red looks pretty beat up and tired. )

## FAIRY QUEEN

How long did the big idiot wait to fight after this last miracle?

## BARD

Merely over night.

## FAIRY QUEEN

(Shakes head)

I mean, there's being lucky, there's fairy luck, then there's the Red Cross Knight.

## BARD

Each miracle simply cemented his resolve.

## FAIRY QUEEN

Did what now?

## BARD

It made him really think he was indestructible.

## RED KNIGHT

I'm indestructable!

## UNA

No, really, Red. The doctor at the castle said you should rest at least a week before exerting yourself.

## BIG AL

Yeah, man. You should just chill a bit. Dragon isn't going anywhere.

## RED KNIGHT

Nonsense. I will defeat the evildoer this time.

## UNA

No, you'll get eaten this time, and this whole adventure will be for nothing.

RED KNIGHT

Be comforted, Princess Una. I know not to be in the dragon's fire, and now I know to beware the creature's mighty tail. I shall be victorious. My pure heart and intentions will prevail. Have faith.

UNA

Weirdly, I do have faith in you.

(Dragon enters)

BIG AL

I sure hope you're right! Here comes the dragon!

UNA

Whoa! Deja vu!

BIG AL

Yeah. Weird.

DRAGON

Okay, so I'm very confused. First, I flamed you, and you survived. Then I flattened you with my tail, and you smelled very dead. Yet here you are today. What kind of sorcery is this?

RED KNIGHT

No sorcery, evil doer! Only the good grace of the good is helping me! I am on the right side of the right and the righteous! I cannot fail! It will take one final miracle to defeat you, and I have faith I will get a miracle!

DRAGON

Oh, it will take a miracle, and I'm sure you won't get one. I've defeated you twice, you little pink sack of meat.

RED KNIGHT

Ha ha! Jokes on you, evil serpent! I'm not pink. I'm red. The Red Cross Knight!

(They battle. It is a most epic struggle, but eventually, the dragon pins Red to the ground with a foot.)

DRAGON

Where's your miracle now, pink boy? This time I'll eat you to make sure you stay dead.

(Una cries and Big Al holds her back. The dragon opens its jaws. At that moment, Red thrusts his sword down the dragon's throat.)

RED KNIGHT

Take that, you evil smelly lizard!

DRAGON

(Mumbles with sword in mouth)

Not...smelly.

(The dragon dies.)

(Everyone else cheers and celebrates.)

UNA

Red! You did it! You killed the dragon!

BIG AL

Yay! That was really amazing! I was sure you were a goner, but then you were like Whack! And Pow!

RED KNIGHT

(Stands akimbo)

I was like that, wasn't I?

(Red poses for a moment, then collapses)

UNA

Red! You're hurt!

BIG AL

(Helping Red up)

Come on big guy. Let's get you fixed up at the castle.

RED KNIGHT

(weakly)

Flesh wound...Invincible...

BIG AL

Yeah, we know. You're invincible. Let's get you back to the castle.

(They exit.)

## ACT III

## SCENE 4

(Una's parent's castle courtyard. Members of the court, the King and Queen (Una's parents), and Una, Big Al and Red enter from opposite sides)

(Red leans on a makeshift crutch.)

KING

You're back, and he's hurt again? What miracle kept him from dying this time?

UNA

Oh, Daddy! He killed the dragon this time! That's the miracle!

QUEEN

He killed the dragon! Oh, hooray!

ALL

Hip hip hooray! Hip hip hooray!

KING

My good sir! We owe you our lives, and the lives of our children, especially that of our Una. What can we do to ever repay you?

RED KNIGHT

(Still weak)

Sire, I was only doing my duty as a knight to serve the good and protect those who needed it. I require no reward.

UNA

Can we get him a chair? He took quite the beating...again.

KING

Oh, yes! Bring the Knight a chair!

(Court members give Red a chair and he sit down gingerly.)

QUEEN

Now that that is sorted, you deserve a reward, Red Crosse Knight. Let us give you something. What do you really want?

UNA

Yes, Red. Let us give you something for all your trouble.

BIG AL

I know what I'd ask for.

RED KNIGHT

What is that?

BIG AL

Oh, I'd ask for a house in the country with lots of servants and money, and really low countertops.

RED KNIGHT

I'd have no use for low countertops, or money, or servants.

UNA

Well, there must be something that's missing in your life.

RED KNIGHT

There is, but you cannot provide it.

UNA

Let us try, Red.

RED KNIGHT

That's it.

UNA

What is it, Red?

RED KNIGHT

That. My name isn't Red.

KING

What is your name?

RED KNIGHT

I don't know. That's the one thing I'm really missing. I don't have a name.

(Flourish and suddenly there are  
fairies everywhere. Fairy Queen and  
Bard enter)

KING

What's all this?

QUEEN

Who are all these...people?

(Red Knight stands, wobbles, and bows  
to the Fairy Queen)

RED KNIGHT

My Queen!

UNA

Mom, Dad? May I present the Fairy Queen?

(King, Queen, and Fairy Queen bow to  
each other.)

KING

Your highness.

QUEEN

Your highness.

FAIRY QUEEN

You highnesses.

KING

What brings you to our country?

FAIRY QUEEN

I heard what the Red Crosse Knight said about not  
having a name.

RED KNIGHT

You know I don't have a name.

FAIRY QUEEN

I do. I know that we found you in the woods and raised  
you without a name. However, you do have a name.

RED KNIGHT

I do?

ALL

He does?

FAIRY QUEEN

Red Crosse Knight, you had to earn your name by showing yourself to be brave, true, strong, and noble. You defeated the dragon with your faith in miracles. This you have done throughout your trials on the way to this kingdom, and by battling and eliminating the dragon once you were here. You have earned your name.

RED KNIGHT

Oh, I have? Tell me, please, your highness. What is my name?

FAIRY QUEEN

Your name, sir knight, is...George.

ALL

(A little disappointed)

George? Really? George?

RED KNIGHT

(In awe)

George. Oh, it's lovely.

UNA

It suits you...George.

FAIRY QUEEN

There is more.

RED KNIGHT

Oh, what could be better than learning your name is George?

FAIRY QUEEN

I know the future, George. You will have many, many more adventures and eventually, you will become a saint.

RED KNIGHT

A saint?

UNA

A saint?

BIG AL  
A saint? This guy?

BARD  
It is written.

RED KNIGHT  
Saint George.

UNA  
...the dragon killer.

BIG AL  
Whoever said church is boring hasn't heard this story.

KING  
Well, we need to celebrate this. A naming!

QUEEN  
And a future saint!

UNA  
A hero!

BIG AL  
A real nice guy!

KING  
(Indicating Fairy Queen)  
Our visiting dignitary.

QUEEN  
And her court.

ALL  
And the dragon killer!

BIG AL  
(To Una)  
Don't you have to be dead to be a saint?

UNA  
Shhhh!

(Everyone but Bard withdraws upstage to  
have a celebration.)

BARD

(Steps forward)

And that's the tale of the Red Crosse Knight, who killed the fearsome dragon on his third try, and was brought back to life with two miracles. He vanquished pride and vanity, he learned to listen to his friends, have faith in himself, and gained a name. It's an epic tale for the ages.

FAIRY QUEEN

Oh, do shush and come to the party.

BARD

Yes, your highness.

(Party. Dance. Exit. )

(END)