

TOPHER - Scene 3

II - 6 - 70

SEBASTIAN

Very well, sire, but be warned this party is a pack of gossips. I'd hurry it along if I were you.

(SEBASTIAN goes into the palace. A moment, then TOPHER turns to go up the stairs. ELLA runs on in her gold dress, holding the book.)

ELLA

↓
START
Prince Topher!

TOPHER

You're here!

ELLA

I'm sorry I'm late, I'm so glad—

TOPHER

I knew if I had a banquet you would come!

ELLA

And I'm sorry I ran away before—

TOPHER

And you're even more beautiful than I remembered.

ELLA

Did you really have this banquet just for me?

TOPHER

I would have a hundred banquets to find you.

ELLA

Really? And the thing about me being more beautiful than you remember, that's real, too?

TOPHER

Yes, yes, of course.

ELLA

Wow. What do you know about that?

TOPHER

I've been thinking about you. And I've been thinking of what you were saying about the people having their homes taken away. The court tells me I should just ignore such talk but—

ELLA

But, you know that if you're going to be king, you have to pay attention to things that people tell you to ignore.

TOPHER

Yes, yes. I want to meet all of my people, not only the ones that Sebastian lets me see. I just don't know how, it's impossible.

ELLA

Oh, that's going to be more possible than you can even imagine. My friend Jean-Michel and my sister Gabrielle are headed here right now with some of your people.

TOPHER

Talk to me? But—if things are as bad as you say they are then they'll be angry with me.

ELLA

I think if you can do battle with a giant or a dragon, you can handle a person who just wants to talk to you.

TOPHER

Okay, you're good.

ELLA

Just be yourself. They'll see the man that I see—

(The sound of the group approaching.)

MUSIC 23A: NOW IS THE TIME (UNDERScore)

ELLA (CONT'D)

They're coming!

TOPHER

Wait, what's your name?

ELLA

Just trust me, because I am your one true friend.

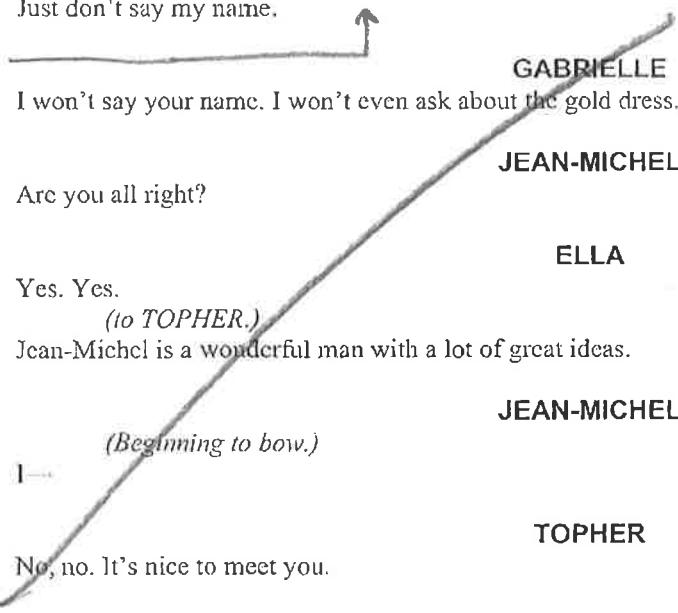
(The CROWD, led by JEAN-MICHEL and GABRIELLE, enters.)

Friends, come meet Prince Topher.

(to GABRIELLE and JEAN-MICHEL)

Just don't say my name.

END



GABRIELLE

I won't say your name. I won't even ask about the gold dress.

JEAN-MICHEL

Are you all right?

ELLA

Yes. Yes.

(to TOPHER.)

Jean-Michel is a wonderful man with a lot of great ideas.

JEAN-MICHEL

(Beginning to bow.)

TOPHER

No, no. It's nice to meet you.