

BELLE/BEAST SCENE

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

- 65 -

ACT TWO

#11 – Entr'acte

Orchestra

SCENE ONE: THE FOREST

#11a – Wolf Chase #2

Orchestra

(We are in the Forest. Belle runs in, fleeing from the castle. She stops to catch her breath and looks around. She sees wolves who advance on her. In desperation, She breaks off a tree branch and swings it at them. They leap at her, snarling, snapping, tugging at her cloak. She falls...They have her now! Suddenly, we hear a thunderous roar! The Beast leaps in...flinging the wolf off of Belle. He stands over her, defending her from the wolves who attack him from all sides. With a final roar...he hurls the wolves away...The Beast staggers forward and collapses. Belle looks off for a moment. If she made her break now... She looks back at the Beast, lying wounded on the ground...and runs to his side. She tries to help him up. He moans painfully.)

SCENE TWO: FIREPLACE/CASTLE INTERIOR

(We are in the castle. Belle helps the Beast to his chair. He holds one arm painfully. Mrs. Potts, Lumiere and Cogsworth enter. Cogsworth carries a bowl and cloth to wash the Beast's wounds. Mrs. Potts pours steaming water into the bowl. Belle dips a clean cloth into the hot water and wrings it out. She reaches for the Beast's wounded arm. But he growls and pulls away.)

BELLE

Let me see. Don't do that!

(She reaches for him again, but he won't let her touch his arm.)

Just hold still.

(She gently dabs at the wound. He cringes and howls painfully.)

BEAST

OW! That hurts!

BELLE

If you'd hold still, it wouldn't hurt as much.

BEAST

If you hadn't run away, this wouldn't have happened.

BELLE

If you hadn't frightened me, I wouldn't have run away!

(This gives him pause. It's a moment before he can come up with a retort.)

BEAST

Well, you shouldn't have been in the West Wing!

BELLE

And you should learn to control your temper!

(He doesn't have an answer for that. They glare at each other in a silent battle of wills. The Beast looks to Mrs. Potts and Lumiere who avert their eyes. Belle dips the cloth in hot water again and wrings it out.)

Now hold still, this may sting a little.

(She dabs gently at the wound on his arm. He winces but doesn't pull away.)

BELLE

By the way...thank you for saving my life.

BEAST

You're welcome.

(Mrs. Potts, Lumiere and Cogsworth look at each other with happy surprise.)

MRS. POTTS

Well, that's more like it. I knew they could get along if they tried.

LUMIERE

So, the ice is broken...at last.

COGSWORTH

And not a moment too soon either. Have you taken a good look at the Rose lately? It's losing petals at an alarming rate!

MRS. POTTS

Not to mention the fact that I can hardly bend over at all any more.

LUMIERE

Clearly, it's time for us to give them a little push. We must find a nice romantic way to draw them closer together.

MRS. POTTS

I have just the thing!

(She speaks to the Beast and Belle.)

How about we warm you two up a bit with a nice bowl of soup?

(Lumiere and Cogsworth look at each other.)

LUMIERE/COGSWORTH

Soup?

MRS. POTTS

Trust me

BEAST

Uh...Belle...I uh...have something to show you.

(He leads her upstage.)

But first you have to close your eyes. It's a surprise.

(Belle closes her eyes)

~~LUMIERRE~~

~~Get the girl~~

BELLE

Can I open them?

(A swag opens to reveal a beautiful Library with stacks and stacks of books.)

BEAST

All right...now!

(Belle opens her eyes and gasps with wonder.)

BELLE

I can't believe it! I've never seen so many books in my whole life!

BEAST

You...like it?

BELLE

It's wonderful!

BEAST

Then...it's yours!

(Belle runs to look at the books. She dashes from stack to stack...giddy with delight.)

~~BELLE~~

~~NEW AND BIT ALARMING~~

~~WHO'D HAVE EVER THOUGHT THAT THIS COULD BE~~

~~*(Beast enters the library)*~~

~~TRUE THAT HE'S NO PRINCE CHARMING~~

~~BUT THERE'S SOMETHING IN HIM THAT~~

~~THAT I SIMPLY DIDN'T SEE~~

~~*(Musical underscoring continues. Belle shows the Beast a book.)*~~

~~This is one of my favorites. King Arthur. Have you ever read it?~~

~~BEAST~~

~~No.~~

BELLE

Then you don't know what you're missing. I'd love to read it again. Wait! You can read it first.

BEAST

(He pushes it back to her)

That's all right.

BELLE

(She pushes it back to him)

No, really...you read it.

BEAST

No...you.

(He pushes it back to her.)

BELLE

No...you.

(She pushes it back to him. Finally, in frustration, he confesses.)

BEAST

No! I can't!

BELLE

You never learned to read?

BEAST

Only a little and long ago.

(He goes to leave)

BELLE

Well, it just so happens, this is the perfect book to read aloud. Come here, sit by me.

(They sit down to read. Lumiere, Cogsworth, and Mrs. Potts enter. Mrs. Potts pushes her tea cart with Chip.)

LUMIERE

WELL, WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT

MRS. POTTS

WELL, BLESS MY SOUL

COGSWORTH

WELL, WHO'D HAVE KNOWN

MRS. POTTS

WELL, WHO INDED