

SCENE 2 *ON THE WAY TO THE TOPMOST TURRET (TEN YEARS LATER)*

(The scene takes place in a palace corridor with windows that look out on the grounds.)

MUSIC PLAY ON

(Ten years later. FAIRY STARLIGHT enters)

STARLIGHT Now ten years have passed since last you saw our gang.
Our Aurora, and her cousin have made friends with a young man.
His name of course is Arthur, he's a royal prince as well.
His family often stay here in the palace but don't dwell.

As for our young Princess I'm sure you'll barely recognise,
She's changed a lot since crying while the archbishop baptised.
Here they come now, playing a game with energy aplenty.
Before too long, their youth's long gone, and they'll be hitting twenty!

MUSIC PLAY ON

(YOUNG AURORA, YOUNG AVARICE and YOUNG ARTHUR enter. They are 10 years old, and full of energy and playing a game of 'tag'. YOUNG AVARICE enters last chasing YOUNG AURORA and YOUNG ARTHUR)

Y. AVARICE Aurora wait!

(YOUNG AURORA slows to stop)

Y. ARTHUR You never keep up with us.

(The others stop too. They are all panting, out of breath. YOUNG AURORA seems distracting. Daydreaming.)

Y. AVARICE Because you're so much faster than me.

Y. ARTHUR You just need more practice. Right Aurora?

(YOUNG AURORA doesn't seem to hear him. She is in her own world.)

Aurora?

(YOUNG AURORA snaps out of her daydream)

Y. AURORA Yeah that's right.

Y. AVARICE Where were you just then?

Y. ARTHUR Daydreaming again.

Y. AURORA Don't you ever wonder if there's more to life than just holding receptions, and carrying out royal visits? It's so boring!

Y. ARTHUR Like climbing mountains?

Y. AVARICE Swimming across the ocean?

(YOUNG AVARICE and YOUNG ARTHUR laugh)

Y. AURORA What's wrong with that?

(They look blank, they don't get it.)

SONG SUGGEST 'DAYDREAM BELIEVER' BY THE MONKEES

(YOUNG AURORA rushes over to the window. She's seen something.)

Y. AURORA Hey! Come and look at this.

Y. ARTHUR What is it?

Y. AVARICE Looks like a pile of -

ALL THREE - spinning wheels!

Y. ARTHUR And it looks like he's going to -

(We hear the noise of a bonfire being lit and beginning to burn)

SOUND BONFIRE LIT AND BURNING

- set them on fire.

ALL THREE Woah.

Y. AURORA Grown ups make lots of funny decisions.

Y. ARTHUR I wonder if we'll make funny decisions when we're grown ups.

Y. AVARICE Probably. Aurora, Arthur, promise me whatever happens when we grow up, we'll always be the best of friends?

(YOUNG AVARICE puts her arms around the others.)

Y. ARTHUR Always.

Y. AURORA Always.

MUSIC PLAY ON

(The three friends hug. CARABOSSE enters to find the three children embracing.)

CARAB. Shouldn't you be in class?

Y. AURORA Aunty Carabosse.

Y. ARTHUR I thought the Queen banned you from entering the castle.

Y. AVARICE Mum!

CARAB. The Queen can't stop me entering this castle any more than she can burn all the spinning wheels in the kingdom.

Y. AURORA It was my mother than burned all those spinning wheels?

CARAB. Oh yes dear.

Y. AVARICE But why?

CARAB. Never you mind. Now off you go to class.

(They begin to leave)

Avarice, wait.

Y. AVARICE See you later?

MUSIC PLAY OFF

(YOUNG AURORA and YOUNG ARTHUR nod and exit.)

Mum! We were only having a bit of fun.

CARAB. Tough! Life isn't fun. I've told you before about spending time with those two.

Y. AVARICE But they're my friends.

CARAB. Not anymore. I don't want to hear you've been anywhere near them ever again. No playing together in the castle, no sitting next to them at school, and no singing! Do I make myself clear?

(YOUNG AVARICE is upset, and stares at her mother in defiance.)

Avarice.

(YOUNG AVARICE toughens her stare)

Y. AVARICE What?

CARAB. Promise your mother. Or I can make your life very difficult.

Y. AVARICE *(Through gritted teeth)* Fine.

CARAB. Fine what?

Y. AVARICE I promise.

CARAB. Good girl. Now off you go, you're late enough as it is.

MUSIC PLAY OFF

(YOUNG AVARICE exits)

Stupid girl. She has no idea what she's doing. That family have never accepted her, and neither will that idiot boy Prince Arthur when he grows up. I have worked tirelessly to give Avarice the future she deserves and this is how she repays me. So be it. I will ensure she disobeys me no longer.

(CARABOSSE waves her arms summoning a curse)

SOUND CURSE BEGINS

This curse shall block my daughter from conversing with those fools
She may not feel it's fair, but tough luck daughter, that's the rules.
Except with my permission, she'll not consider friends again,
Princess Aurora, or Prince Arthur, both shan't cross her brain.

(CARABOSSE pushes the curse towards where YOUNG AVARICE exited. The casting of the spell ends.)