

# Half Frozen

*By Craig Sodaro*

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### **STORY OF THE PLAY**

Poor King Augustus and Queen Regina! Their kingdom is half frozen because of a curse placed on their daughter, Princess Mirabelle, and nobody seems to know how to break the spell. When the Princess's latest suitor, Prince Tomaso from a neighboring kingdom, is frozen by her touch, matters are no longer inconvenient—they're downright dangerous. Tomaso's father threatens war if his son is not returned safely!

As a last resort, the Queen texts a writer who gives advice in her "Leave It to Lilith" daily column. Lilith says the easiest way to break the curse is to go to the source. She and a handyman, Ned, make their way to the top of the highest mountain to the cottage of sorceress Genetta. She clues the two in to why she cursed the eight-year-old Princess, and then makes a deal—if she can be shown a reformed spoiled brat, she'll reveal how to undo the curse. It's a tall order because the Princess hasn't reformed at all, but Lilith and Ned agree.

Lilith suddenly gets inspired! Couldn't the Princess's lady-in-waiting, Elspeth, dress up as the Princess and take her part? The King and Queen agree readily, but Princess Mirabelle is so angered by the ruse she runs away. While racing from the castle, the Princess is forced into actually helping an old lady who has been hurt in an accident.

Genetta is hardly fooled by the princess substitution. But at that moment, Princess Mirabelle arrives with the hobbling old lady. Satisfied that the girl has changed, Genetta says the only elixir is the first kiss of love. Very generic, but who would be brave enough to kiss Princess Mirabelle and risk turning into a block of ice? Hmm...but the kiss, when it comes, is not what you think!

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(3 m, 7 w, 2 flexible)*

**NED:** The castle handyman who recently took the job after Princess Mirabelle froze his uncle.

**KING AUGUSTUS:** Princess Mirabelle's father.

**QUEEN REGINA:** Princess Mirabelle's mother.

**PRINCESS MIRABELLE:** Self-centered and frustrated by her curse.

**ELSPETH:** A lady-in-waiting.

**LILITH:** A young advice columnist.

**PRINCE TOMASO:** Egocentric. From the neighboring kingdom.

**WINKI:** Genetta's unhelpful helper.

**DINKI:** Another.

**GENETTA:** A tough and disheveled sorceress.

**YOUNG PRINCESS:** Mirabelle at age eight.

**GRANNY:** Genetta's opinionated grandmother.

## **SETTING**

There are two onstage sets, the throne room of the castle and Genetta's cottage. The throne room consists of two thrones at center with a bench right and another left. Decorations as desired. The cottage consists of a cauldron bubbling over a wood fire at center stage (lighted from inside is always a nice effect). A small table nearby is set with bottles, feathers, bits of fur, and other oddities.

The other scenes are played before the curtain and require nothing.

## **SYNOPSIS OF SCENES:**

Scene 1: The throne room of the palace, afternoon.

Scene 2: Near the top of Mega Mountain, the following morning, played before the curtain.

Scene 3: Genetta's cottage atop Mega Mountain, an hour later.

Scene 4: The garden at the palace, several hours later, played before the curtain.

Scene 5: The throne room of the palace, a short time later.

Scene 6: A road leading away from the palace, immediately after, played before the curtain.

Scene 7: The throne room of the palace, several hours later.

**Scene 1**

*(AT RISE: The throne room of the palace. NED polishes the throne. He works his way behind throne, then disappears behind it. KING enters left. Shocked, Ned drops behind the King's throne.)*

**KING:** Is she ready, Gina? *(HE looks behind him.)* Gina! Where are you, old girl?

**QUEEN:** *(Rushing on left.)* Right here, Gus, and I'm not an old girl!

**KING:** That's true. You don't look a day older than the day I married you, my dear. Why, you look like a queen!

**QUEEN:** I am a queen. And you're a king. And we're in trouble.

**KING:** *(Glumly, sitting in his throne.)* Tell me about it. Is she ready?

**QUEEN:** *(Sitting on her throne.)* So she says.

**KING:** You know what will happen if this goes south.

**QUEEN:** It will probably mean war!

**KING:** Guns, bombs, explosions, shooting! All that icky stuff!

*(NED'S hand appears behind KING with dusting cloth. He begins to polish the King's arm.)*

**QUEEN:** Now, now, Gus...we can always...hope.

**KING:** Sometimes I wish I were just a mere peasant, a complete dimwit with no responsibilities. *(KING grabs NED'S hand and pulls Ned forward.)* Like this idiot!

**NED:** I'm not an idiot, Your Highness. I'm Ned, the handyman.

**QUEEN:** Well, Ned, keep your handy hands off his royal highness.

**NED:** I meant no harm, Your Majesty.

**KING:** What happened to Jasper, the old handyman?

**NED:** My uncle, sir. He...well, he...

**QUEEN:** *(Hopefully.)* Found a better job?

**NED:** No, Your Highness.

**KING:** Ran off with a milkmaid?

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**NED:** Oh, no, Your Majesty.

**QUEEN:** Oh, no! He didn't...

**NED:** Aye, he did, sure as you're sitting there.

**KING:** He's frozen.

**NED:** Like a block of ice.

**QUEEN:** How'd it happen, Ned?

**NED:** Well, he was loading some lumber for the new wing you're having built, and the princess came along and spied the piece of wood he was holding and she said, ever so sweetly, "Why, that's a lovely board," and she touched it with her bare hands.

**KING:** *(Sadly.)* Oh, my boy.

**NED:** But don't worry. My uncle taught me everything he knew, so you can trust me to carry on, Your Highness, through thick and thin.

**QUEEN:** More like through snow and ice!

**PRINCESS:** *(Off left.)* Mother! Mother!

**NED:** Excuse me, Your Highness! Excuse me!

*(NED bows and hustles off right as PRINCESS enters left. Her lipstick is smeared.)*

**PRINCESS:** Who was that running away?

**QUEEN:** Ned somebody.

**KING:** New handyman.

**QUEEN:** You, apparently, froze the other one.

**PRINCESS:** Sure, blame me for everything!

**KING:** Did you ride by a wagon being loaded with lumber yesterday?

**PRINCESS:** I might have.

**QUEEN:** Did you see a board you thought you liked?

**PRINCESS:** I could have.

**KING:** Did you touch the board without your gloves?

**PRINCESS:** So what if I did?

**QUEEN:** Where are your gloves now, darling?

**PRINCESS:** They were making my hands all scratchy.

**QUEEN:** You're not to wander about without your gloves! You know what happens when you do.

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