

# **INCANTATION:**

## The Frog Prince Fairy Tale

By Sybil St. Claire

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PUBLISHED BY  
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**STORY OF THE PLAY**

No standard endings need apply in this unpredictable, exhilarating leap into the richly woven realm of the Frog Prince fairy tale. Farcical, poignant and smartly updated, this Frog Prince will keep actors and audiences hopping.

The tale is told from three different points of view - that of the witch, the princess and the frog! Whose version is correct? You decide. Ultimately, the prince learns that a kiss given freely and with love is to be his only salvation, but it isn't the kiss he is given - it is the kiss he must give. Every role is a gem; from the deadpan royal bodyguard and the little girl frog who lives in the pond to the Witch's fast-talking apprentices and a pack of storytellers who are not above taking bribes. Great fun for actors who must play the same character three very different ways!

An internationally produced play, audiences around the world have found *Incantation* simply bewitching.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

A career theatre educator, Sybil St. Claire, Ph.D., is the Founder/Director of All Children's Theatre in Gainesville, Florida. With degrees in Theatre, Child Drama and Theatre Education, Sybil is a published author, and an internationally produced playwright/lyricist who has been acting, directing, writing and teaching in the theatre for 17 years. Although she has served as the program coordinator for the internationally recognized Arts in Medicine Program at Shands Hospital/University of Florida, and is a Professor of Theatre at Antioch University and Santa Fe Community College, her first love has always been sharing the magic and the lessons of the stage with young people.

*The author wishes to thank the following people for their input:*

*Jennifer McClure for costume ideas.*

*Angel Allen for costume drawings.*

*Keith Gretter for the frog design.*

*Dan LeBlanc original set design.*

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**CAST OF CHARACTERS**  
*(2 m, 4 w, 6 flexible)*

**PRINCE TED:** The Frog Prince. Ted is alternately a vain fop; a wildly over-acted “nice guy”; and a sad, lonely frog. Upper-crust English accent.

**PRINCESS BLISS:** The beautiful princess who adopts Ted. She is respectively the kind princess of fairy tale lore; an obnoxious, love-struck giggler; and a spoiled brat. She too has an uppercrust English accent.

**SOLITAIRE:** The true hero of our story. In the first two versions, she is the cackling, evil crone we love to hate. In the final installment, Solitaire appears as a beautiful young woman with magical abilities and a refined English accent. It is her incantation that is instrumental in teaching Ted a lesson in love.

**VITO:** Ted’s bodyguard. An Italian thug with an impressive vocabulary. Deadpan in delivery. Thick Brooklyn accent.

**DITTO:** Solitaire’s apprentice. Overly friendly “yes person.” Speaks quickly and nervously with rapid-fire exchanges. Gender flexible.

**IBID:** Another.

**BELLE:** Bliss’ maid. Thick cockney accent. Brash and non-sense.

**NARRATOR 1:** Although rarely interacting directly with the actors, s/he often walk right into the middle of scenes. Gender flexible.

**NARRATOR 2:** Another.

**NARRATOR 3:** Another.

**NARRATOR 4:** Another.

**MARCIE:** A shy, somewhat “nerdy” girl frog. Speaks with a slight, endearing lisp.

Note: All accents are merely suggestions, not necessities.

**TIME:** A long, long, time ago.

**SETTING:** The woods and the palace grounds.

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**SET DESCRIPTION**

*Incantation* may be staged as elaborately or as simply as desired. The descriptions and design herein are merely suggestions. The play takes place entirely in the forest and on the palace grounds. USR sits a wooden or stone bridge, CS the forest, DSL the palace grounds. In keeping with the outdoor theme, the palace grounds are represented by a gazebo. The gazebo may be dressed with real plants and hanging baskets as well as plastic flowers and vines. The forest offers an undefined, all-purpose playing area that can also be used to stage scenes that spill over from either the palace grounds or the bridge. The bridge itself should be representative of something one might find in the forest.

**PROPS**

Hand mirror, rubber duckie, script, paper money, dog's leash, child's playground ball, fake fly, serving tray with brush, Barbie and Ken dolls, bowl, spoon, soft food (applesauce?), blanket, small basket, curlers, cold cream/facial mask.

**SOUND EFFECTS**

A crash of bodies, a big kiss, magic music, organ stinger.

**Additional production notes may be found at the end of  
the script.**

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**Scene 1**

*(AT RISE: A gazebo sitting DSL. A bridge USR. Four NARRATORS enter.)*

NARRATOR 1: Once upon a time, there lived a handsome young prince.

*(Enter TED and VITO.)*

NARRATOR 2: Whose name was Ted.

NARRATOR 3: Prince Ted was a kind young man.

NARRATOR 4: And much beloved by the honest people of his land.

*(TED offers his hand for VITO to kiss. Enter BLISS. She whispers quickly to the NARRATORS, hands them a new script and slips them some money. They refuse at first; she hands them more money. The Narrators have a quick consultation wherein they count the money and look over the script Bliss has given them. Having reached an agreement, they turn back to Bliss and hold out their hands for even more money. She stomps her foot in frustration but gives it to them. Exit Bliss. It is obvious from the exchange that she has bribed them to tell her version of the story. They shoo TED and VITO off stage and begin the story anew.)*

NARRATOR 1: Once upon a time, there lived a handsome young prince.

*(Enter TED and VITO.)*

NARRATOR 2: Whose name was Ted.

NARRATOR 3: Prince Ted was a kind young man.

NARRATOR 4: And much beloved by the honest people of his land.

*(TED offers his hand for VITO to kiss.)*

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NARRATOR 1: But he had one flaw.

NARRATOR 4: He was terribly vain.

*(VITO holds a mirror up for TED.)*

TED: Mirror, mirror, on the wall, who's the fairest of them all? *(In a falsetto voice.)* You are, you strapping, young buck. *(Sighing, then in HIS own voice.)* I thought so. *(TED kisses his own reflection in the mirror. To the NARRATORS.)* Are you sure that's how the story goes?

NARRATOR 2: It is now.

*(Exit NARRATORS 3 and 4, counting their money.)*

NARRATOR 1: As fate would have it, one day while Ted was admiring himself in the mirror, he happened upon an ugly and cruel witch, named Solitaire.

*(Enter SOLITAIRE followed closely by DITTO and IBID.)*

NARRATOR 2: Now, Solitaire hated everything that was beautiful and when she saw Prince Ted flush with the beauty and strength of youth, her heart was filled with venom.

SOLITAIRE: Hello.

NARRATOR 1: She lied.

SOLITAIRE: How are you today, my beauty?

NARRATOR 2: She hissed.

SOLITAIRE: Hisssssss.

TED: I am fine, good hag.

SOLITAIRE: My name is Solitaire.

DITTO: What about us, boss?

DITTO and IBID: Us, us, us! What about us?

SOLITAIRE: Patience! My apprentices, Ditto and Ibid.

TED: Good tidings.

DITTO: Hey, how ya doin'?

IBID: What's happenin'?

DITTO: Slap me five, dude.

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