

The Reality Show of Prince Absurdly Handsome

A Play in One Act

by Eddie Zipperer

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Princess Beauteous is the ultimate grand prize winner and gets to marry Prince Absurdly Handsome on his reality TV show. On the journey to the prince's kingdom, she and her lazy servant, Falada, get hijacked by Repulsa, a hideous, desperate-to-be-famous peasant girl. Repulsa tricks the princess, switches places with her, and even has Falada's head cut off. (But don't worry, he's okay. He's just a little decapitated.) The arrival of the horrid new fiancée and her beautiful servant throws the reality show into a hilarious fiasco and nearly gets the prince killed with a vial of poison. But all ends well...at least for most of them!

PROPS

TV camera(s) / optional headphones, clipboard
Hat with slips of paper
Two suitcases
Newspaper
Cart, or wheelbarrow, or wagon to hold two actors
Cup
Golden goblet
Cola can
Table which only shows actor's head
Broom
Note pad and pen
Dinner platter and related items
Vial of poison

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(3 m, 4 w, 8 flexible, some doubling possible)

PRINCE ABSURDLY HANDSOME: A handsome, egotistical prince who stars in his own reality show.

SERVANT: *(Flex.)* Serves whoever needs serving.

CAMERA OPERATOR: *(Flex.)* Films the reality show.

CAMERA OPERATOR #2: *(Flex.)* Another.

PRINCESS BEAUTEOUS: A beautiful young princess who's betrothed to Prince Absurdly Handsome.

FALADA: Princess Beauteous' lazy servant.

MOTHER: Beauteous' mother, the Queen.

FATHER: Beauteous' father, the King.

REPULSA: A horrible witch.

GLORIA: Repulsa's mother, desperate to please Repulsa.

COURT MEMBER #1: *(Flex.)* A court member.

COURT MEMBER #2: *(Flex.)* Another.

ROYAL FOOD TASTER: *(Flex.)* Makes sure the Prince's food isn't poisoned.

GUARD #1: *(Flex.)* Performs Guard #1 type duties.

GUARD #2: *(Flex.)* Performs Guard #2 type duties.

DOUBLING: *Both Father and Mother, who only appear in Scene 2, could also play the Royal Food Taster, a Court Member, or a Guard.*

SETTING

Princess Beauteous' house, Repulsa's house, and the castle of the Prince.

TIME

A time long ago, but happily with TV and reality shows!

Scene 1

(AT RISE: The Castle of Prince Absurdly Handsome. Two CAMERA OPERATORS are filming PRINCE ABSURDLY HANDSOME.)

CAMERA OPERATOR: Okay, Reality Show of Prince Absurdly Handsome, Episode 9F10, Take One, and...action!

ABSURDLY HANDSOME: *(Into camera.)* Hello, all you peasants out there in the kingdom. It's me again, your much beloved prince. And this is the episode you've all been waiting for. That's right. Today we find out which lovely lady out there is the ultimate grand prize winner! So without further ado. Servant!

(A SERVANT enters carrying a hat.)

ABSURDLY HANDSOME: *(Cont'd.)* In this hat are a hundred tiny pieces of paper. And on each piece of paper is the name of a princess. Now, for your edification, I'm going to reach my beautiful, freshly manicured hand into the hat and pull out a name. And that lucky, lucky girl will be our ultimate grand prize winner.

SERVANT: *(Doing an awful job of pretending not to know.)* But, Your Highness, what is the ultimate grand prize?

ABSURDLY HANDSOME: I'm glad you asked, lowly servant. The grand prize winner gets to travel here to the richest, loveliest, most prosperous kingdom in the world and marry me, Prince Absurdly Handsome.

SERVANT: *(More bad acting.)* Wow! What a lucky girl!

ABSURDLY HANDSOME: Tell me about it! Just look at this fabulous prize. *(HE flexes his muscles.)* And the winner is... *(Pulls a slip of paper out of the hat.)*

CAMERA OPERATOR: Cut!

(Stops filming for a moment.)

CAMERA OPERATOR 2: And before you read the name, we'll add in some flashing lights and some sirens. That way the viewers at home will know what a great and fabulous prize this is.

ABSURDLY HANDSOME: Can we do another take of me pulling the name out?

CAMERA OPERATOR 2: No need. That looked great.

ABSURDLY HANDSOME: Right, but I drew Princess Mildred.

CAMERA OPERATOR: So?

ABSURDLY HANDSOME: Isn't she the one with, you know, that thing on her chin?

CAMERA OPERATOR: What?

ABSURDLY HANDSOME: I think it's a wart or a pimple on a rampage or something.

CAMERA OPERATOR: Does it matter?

ABSURDLY HANDSOME: Just one more please.

CAMERA OPERATOR 2: Okay. Drawing the name! Take two!

(THEY start filming again. The PRINCE pulls out a new name and looks at it.)

ABSURDLY HANDSOME: Wait! Cut!

CAMERA OPERATOR: What is it now?

ABSURDLY HANDSOME: Princess Eschima.

CAMERA OPERATOR: Never heard of her.

ABSURDLY HANDSOME: Me either, but *Eschima*? I don't like the sound of that. Sounds more like a skin disease than a princess. This isn't a medical show. Better draw one more.

CAMERA OPERATOR 2: Okay. Drawing the name! Take three!

ABSURDLY HANDSOME: *(Draws another name and looks at it.)* Ewww! *(Wads the piece of paper up and throws it.)* Oops! The wind got that one! *(He draws another one.)* Nope. Weird haircut. *(Tosses it and draws another one.)*

ABSURDLY HANDSOME: *(Cont'd.)* I heard this girl has an obnoxious squeaky laugh. *(Tosses it and draws another one.)* Bad breath. *(He tosses it and draws another one.)* Athlete's foot. *(He tosses it and draws another.)* When did she get out of prison? *(He tosses it and draws another one.)* Aha! Princess Beauteous! Anybody ever seen her?

CAMERA OPERATORS: Nope.

SERVANT: No, Your Highness.

ABSURDLY HANDSOME: Well, she has to be pretty or I'll lock her up for false advertising. It's right there in the name. Everyone should have a name that describes them. Just like me.

CAMERA OPERATOR 2: Can we finish now?

ABSURDLY HANDSOME: Yes.

(THEY start filming again.)

CAMERA OPERATOR 2: Drawing the name! Take ten!

ABSURDLY HANDSOME: *(Holds up the slip of paper.)* And the winner is... Princess Beauteous! Can't wait to meet her! Princess Beauteous, bring your bound-to-be-beautiful self down to my castle. We've got a wedding to plan!

CAMERA OPERATOR: And... cut.

(THEY stop filming.)

ABSURDLY HANDSOME: Let me know when Princess Beauteous arrives. I can't believe I'm getting married. This is why I love reality TV. It's so unpredictable.

End of Scene

End of Freeview

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