

**THE LAST
GIFT**

by

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The Last Gift

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THE LAST GIFT

Cast List

QUEEN

PRINCESS

HERALD

FLOWER GIRL

BAKER

SEAMSTRESS

BANKER THE BANKER'S WIFE

BEGGAR GIRL

HAT MAKER

FLOWER GIRL

PRINCE CHARMING

PRINCE MORECASH

PRINCE VALIANT

Time Long, long, ago

Place In a castle far, far away

Sounds Trumpet flourish. Waltz and a
group dance music.

ACT I
Scene 1

AT RISE: The QUEEN is sitting on her throne. There is a short gift table with a basket for gifts downstage center and a few chairs around the room. A trumpet sounds. PRINCESS MARY ROSE enters and curtsies before the QUEEN.

QUEEN
Happy Sixteenth Birthday, Princess Mary Rose.

PRINCESS
Thank you, Your Majesty.

QUEEN
This is an important day in your life.

PRINCESS
Yes, my first ball.
(SHE does a waltz step, sways,
twirls and bows.)

QUEEN
(SHE smiles at the Princess' antics.)
That isn't exactly what I meant. Today is important,
because today you become a grown up.

PRINCESS
Is that why I feel so special? I'm all grown up! I'm all
grown up! I'm all grown up!
(SHE sings and skips around the room.)

QUEEN
(SHE shakes her head "no".)
I can see that you are too excited to be serious.

PRINCESS
I'm sorry, Mother. But I'm so happy today.
(SHE hugs herself.)
Prince Charming is coming to my ball.
(SHE speaks in a whispery tone.)
Prince Charming.
(SHE sighs.)

He'll have to ask me to dance since it IS my birthday.
(SHE dances around the room and sings.) Tra-la-la, Tra-la-
la, Tra-la-la.

QUEEN

And all this excitement is because of Prince Charming?

PRINCESS

(She's astonished.)

What? You are teasing me, aren't you, Mother?

QUEEN

Not really.

PRINCESS

But, Your Majesty, he's the handsomest, dashingest prince in the whole world! Anyone can see that.

QUEEN

What I can see, is that you truly need my birthday present.

PRINCESS

Oh! What is it, Mother? Is it something that will make me beautiful? I so want Prince Charming to notice me.

(SHE curtsies to a pretend prince, waves her hand like a fan, peeps over the top of her hand and bats her eyes flirtatiously.)

Good evening, Prince Charming. Nice weather we're having, isn't it?

QUEEN

No, your present is nothing to make you more beautiful. The gift is not something frivolous.

PRINCESS

(SHE approaches the Queen.)

You sound so solemn.

QUEEN

I am serious. This is an important day in your life and I want to commemorate it with an appropriate gift.

PRINCESS

(SHE clears her throat and stands up

straight.)

I'm ready.

QUEEN

(SHE stands up holding a small box.)

PRINCESS

(After a pause, SHE giggles.)

I'm sorry.

QUEEN

No, you are right. This should be a happy occasion. Enjoy your birthday and your first ball. I will save my gift until after the ball.

PRINCESS

(SHE runs to her mother and kisses her.) The last gift is always best.

HERALD

(HE enters and bows.)

Your Majesty, the people are here with birthday gifts for Princess Mary Rose.

QUEEN

Bring them in.

HERALD

(HE bows and exits.)

QUEEN

(SHE yawns.)

I need a nap if I'm to stay awake all night for your ball. I will leave you to accept your gifts, Mary Rose.

PRINCESS

(SHE curtsies.)

Good day, Your Majesty.

QUEEN

(The QUEEN exits.)

PRINCESS

(SHE skips over to sit on the throne. She sits up straight and arranges her skirt.)

HERALD

(HERALD enters and bows.)

PRINCESS

I am ready.

HERALD

Let the ceremony begin.

(TRUMPET FLOURISH)

FLOWER GIRL

(SHE enters and dances around the stage throwing petals as she goes. She then stands near the Princess, looking bored.)

HERALD

(HERALD announces each person in a loud voice.)

The Royal Baker.

(TRUMPET FLOURISH)

(EACH PERSON places their gift on the table.)

BAKER

(BAKER enters and bows.)

Many happy returns, Your Highness. I bring you my finest loaf.

(HE places the loaf on the table. He motions "so high" with his hands and pats his tummy.)

PRINCESS

Thank you, Royal Baker.

(The BAKER bows and exits.)

HERALD

The Royal Seamstress.

(TRUMPET FLOURISH)

SEAMSTRESS

(SEAMSTRESS enters and curtsies.)

Happy Birthday, Princess Mary Rose. I bring you this delicate shawl from far away India.

(SEAMSTRESS holds out the folded shawl.)

PRINCESS

Thank you, Seamstress.

SEAMSTRESS

(SHE unfolds the shawl to show the Princess before placing it in the basket. She touches her chin and then her nose.)

PRINCESS
What an unusual color!

SEAMSTRESS
(SEAMSTRESS rubs her hands together.)

PRINCESS
It is very beautiful. Thank you, Seamstress.

SEAMSTRESS
You are welcome, Your Highness.
(SEAMSTRESS curtsies and leaves.)

HERALD
The Royal Banker and his wife.

(TRUMPET FLOURISH)
(THE WIFE enters one step behind
THE BANKER. HE bows and HIS WIFE
curtsies.)

BANKER
Many happy returns, Your Highness!
(HE walks towards the basket shaking
his bag of coins before placing them
on the table.)

PRINCESS
Thank you, Banker.

BANKER
(HE puffs out his chest and sways
slightly and rocks on his feet.)

HIS WIFE
(SHE motions with her hand for the
Banker to leave.)

(The BANKER and HIS WIFE bow and exit.)

HERALD
The Little Beggar Girl.

(TRUMPET FLOURISH)

BEGGAR GIRL
(GIRL enters the stage slowly and
pauses as though tired. She has a
stick crutch and is carrying a rose.)

Happy Birthday, PRINCESS Mary ROSE. I've brought you a wild rose from the riverside.

PRINCESS

Thank you. That was a far walk. You must be exhausted.

BEGGAR GIRL

Not at all, Your Highness.

(SHE takes another step forward.)

PRINCESS

Rest a moment. I will fetch the rose myself.

(SHE walks towards the Beggar Girl.)

BEGGAR GIRL

(After the BEGGAR GIRL hands the rose to the Princess, SHE watches the PRINCESS walk back.)

FLOWER GIRL

(SHE throws flower petals on the Princess. She looks bored.)

PRINCESS

(SHE holds up her hands with the rose as though to ward off the petals. SHE sits on the throne.)

BEGGAR GIRL

(BEGGAR GIRL bows and exits.)

FLOWER GIRL

(SHE throws flowers until the BEGGAR GIRL is offstage.)

HERALD

The Royal Hat Maker.

(TRUMPET FLOURISH)

HAT MAKER

(SHE enters and curtsies.)

Many happy returns, Your Highness. I bring you a bonnet decorated with spring flowers to frame your beautiful face.

PRINCESS

Thank you, Hat Maker. It's an enchanting confection.

HAT MAKER

(The HAT MAKER turns the hat to look

at it again. SHE puts the hat
on the table. SHE sighs, rubs
her chin, and pulls on her ear.
SHE curtsies and exits.)

HERALD

That was the last gift, Your Highness.

PRINCESS

Next-to-the-last gift. I will get the last gift after my
ball tonight.

(The PRINCESS stands and dances.)

My ball.

(Speaks directly to the audience.)

I can hardly wait!

ACT 1

Scene 2

AT RISE: The QUEEN sits on the throne
watching the others talk, including the BANKER and
HIS WIFE, the SEAMSTRESS, the BEGGAR GIRL, the HATMAKER,
and the FLOWER GIRL. Some are sitting, and others are
standing. The gift table has been moved. The PRINCESS is
standing center stage as the HERALD enters to announce the
Prince. EVERYONE stands except the Queen. THEY curtsey as the
PRINCE passes by. During the party, the guests take turns
speaking with the QUEEN.

HERALD

(HE enters to announce the Prince.)

His Royal Highness Prince Charming.

(TRUMPET FLOURISH)

PRINCE CHARMING

(PRINCE CHARMING enters and bows
first to the QUEEN and then
to the PRINCESS.)

PRINCESS

(The PRINCESS curtsies.)

PRINCE CHARMING

Best wishes on your sixteenth birthday, Your Highness. You
have never looked lovelier.

(HE poses and runs his fingers
through his hair. HE touches

his shoulder with his right hand.
He touches his chest with his left hand.)

(SOUND: Waltz music)

PRINCE CHARMING continued

(PRINCE CHARMING holds out his hand.)

May I have this dance?

(PRINCE CHARMING dances with the PRINCESS and another couple dance on each side of the stage until the next prince is announced. Then PRINCE CHARMING goes to stand upstage.)

(The PRINCESS regretfully watches PRINCE CHARMING walk away.)

HERALD

His Royal Highness Prince Morecash.

PRINCE MORECASH

(MORECASH enters and bows to the QUEEN and the PRINCESS.)

Many happy returns of the day, Princess Mary Rose. This is a happy occasion.

(SOUND: Waltz music)

PRINCE MORECASH continued

May I have this dance?

(THEY stumble while dancing.)

Sorry, my fault entirely.

(THEY stumble again.)

(MORECASH dances with the PRINCESS until the next prince is announced. Then HE goes to stand near the Banker.)

HERALD

His Royal Highness Prince Valiant.

(TRUMPET FLOURISH)

(After the HERALD announces the last prince, the HERALD exits.)

PRINCE VALIANT

(HE enters and bows to the Princess. He stares at her before speaking. HE nervously clears his throat.)

Many best wishes . . . returns . . . happy

WISHES, YOUR PRINCESS. . . I HEAR YOUR HIGHNESS.

PRINCESS

Thank you, Prince Valiant.

PRINCE VALIANT

Your dress . . . is . . . blue.

PRINCESS

Yes, it's my favorite color.

(The PRINCESS smiles kindly at him.)

PRINCE VALIANT

(VALIANT touches his chest.)

Sighs.

(SOUND: Waltz music)

PRINCE VALIANT continued

(HE notices the Princess swaying
to the music.)

Have I . . . may I this dance?

(PRINCE VALIANT and the PRINCESS
dance until PRINCE CHARMING cuts in.
PRINCE VALIANT puts her hand into
PRINCE CHARMING'S hand as the waltz

ends. PRINCE CHARMING and the PRINCESS
hold hands and gaze into each other's
eyes.)

(SOUND: Group dance music.)

(EVERYONE DANCES to a music.)

(PRINCE VALIANT, PRINCE MORECASH, and
the BANKER dance with the LADIES.)

(The song ends and PRINCESS MARY ROSE
stands next to PRINCE CHARMING as the
guests exit. HE is the last to leave.)

BANKER & WIFE

Happy birthday, Princess Mary Rose.

(BANKER and WIFE bow and exit.)

OTHER LADIES

Happy birthday, Princess Mary Rose.

(LADIES curtsey and exit.)

PRINCE MORECASH

Happy birthday, Princess Mary Rose.

(MORECASH bows and exits.)

PRINCE VALIANT

Happy birthday, my Rose . . . Mary Princess my Rose . .
Princess Mary Rose.

(VALIANT bows and exits.)

PRINCE CHARMING

(PRINCE CHARMING kisses the PRINCESS'
hand and holds it a moment.)

Happy birthday, Princess Mary Rose.

(HE bows and exits.)

PRINCESS

(The Princess sighs and with arms
open wide she twirls around..)

Isn't Prince Charming wonderful? Oh, Mother, I think I'm in
love.

(SHE sighs again, twirls, and then
walks towards the Queen.)

I am in love. Thank you for giving me a birthday ball.

QUEEN

So the ball was everything you expected it to be?

PRINCESS

Oh, yes! It was heavenly! Do you think Prince Charming
feels the same way about me that I do about him?

QUEEN

Ask me again after you open your present and find the three
lessons it holds.

(The QUEEN holds out a small box.)

PRINCESS

Three lessons? In this one little box?

(The PRINCESS takes the box and
shakes it near her ear.)

QUEEN

Yes, three lessons. Go ahead and open it up.

PRINCESS

What a beautiful ring! Thank you, Mother.

QUEEN

It's more than a ring. It was given to me by a magician.

PRINCESS

(The PRINCESS starts to put on the ring.)

QUEEN

No, wait! Don't put it on yet. When you put on the ring, you will relive the day past. You can choose any day you want to relive.

PRINCESS

(SHE puts on ring.)

I want to relive TODAY! This was the happiest day of my life!

QUEEN

You didn't let me finish telling you about the ring. I hope your memories of this special day won't be ruined.

PRINCESS

What do you mean?

QUEEN

This ring will teach you three lessons about life. It might have been better to learn them on another day.

PRINCESS

Don't worry. Nothing could ruin today for me.

QUEEN

I hope you are right.

PRINCESS

How does the ring work? Do I say a magic spell?

QUEEN

No, it's very easy. When you touch the ring, you can hear the thoughts of the person you're looking at.

PRINCESS

As though they were speaking aloud?

QUEEN

Yes, but you are the only one who can hear them.

HERALD

(HERALD enters and bows.)

Your Majesty, the people are here with birthday gifts for Princess Mary Rose.

QUEEN
Bring them in.

(The HERALD bows and exits.)

QUEEN continued

(The QUEEN yawns.)

I need a nap if I'm to stay awake all night for your ball. I will leave you to accept your gifts, Mary Rose.

PRINCESS

(She curtsies.)

Good day, Your Majesty.

(The PRINCESS skips over to sit on the throne. She sits up straight and arranges her dress.)

HERALD

(HERALD enters and bows.)

PRINCESS

I am ready.

HERALD

Let the ceremony begin.

FLOWER GIRL

(SHE enters and dances around the stage throwing petals as she goes. She then stands near the Princess.)

HERALD

(HERALD announces each person in a loud voice.)

The Royal Baker.

BAKER

(BAKER enters and bows.)

Many happy returns, Your Highness. I bring you my finest loaf.

(The BAKER places the loaf on the table.)

(The PRINCESS touches the ring.)

(ACTORS move downstage & speak directly to the audience.)

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Script**