

REIGN OF THE PURPLE DRESS

by Kelly Meadows

Copyright © 2018 by Kelly Meadows, All rights reserved.

ISBN: 978-1-64479-012-0

CAUTION: Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that this Work is subject to a royalty. This Work is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America and all countries with which the United States has reciprocal copyright relations, whether through bilateral or multilateral treaties or otherwise, and including, but not limited to, all countries covered by the Pan-American Copyright Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention and the Berne Convention.

RIGHTS RESERVED: All rights to this Work are strictly reserved, including professional and amateur stage performance rights. Also reserved are: motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video or sound recording, all forms of mechanical or electronic reproduction, such as CD-ROM, CD-I, DVD, information and storage retrieval systems and photocopying, and the rights of translation into non-English languages.

PERFORMANCE RIGHTS AND ROYALTY PAYMENTS: All amateur and stock performance rights to this Work are controlled exclusively by Brooklyn Publishers LLC. No amateur or stock production groups or individuals may perform this play without securing license and royalty arrangements in advance from Brooklyn Publishers LLC. Questions concerning other rights should be addressed to Brooklyn Publishers LLC. Royalty fees are subject to change without notice. Professional and stock fees will be set upon application in accordance with your producing circumstances. Any licensing requests and inquiries relating to amateur and stock (professional) performance rights should be addressed to Brooklyn Publishers LLC.

Royalty of the required amount must be paid, whether the play is presented for charity or profit and whether or not admission is charged.

AUTHOR CREDIT: All groups or individuals receiving permission to produce this Work must give the author(s) credit in any and all advertisement and publicity relating to the production of this Work. The author's billing must appear directly below the title on a separate line where no other written matter appears. The name of the author(s) must be at least 50% as large as the title of the Work. No person or entity may receive larger or more prominent credit than that which is given to the author(s).

PUBLISHER CREDIT: Whenever this Work is produced, all programs, advertisements, flyers or other printed material must include the following notice: ***Produced by special arrangement with Brooklyn Publishers LLC.***

COPYING: Any unauthorized copying of this Work or excerpts from this Work is strictly forbidden by law. No part of this Work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, by any means now known or yet to be invented, including photocopying or scanning, without prior permission from Brooklyn Publishers LLC.

BROOKLYN PUBLISHERS LLC
P.O. BOX 248 • CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 52406
TOLL FREE (888) 473-8521 • FAX (319) 368-8011

REIGN OF THE PURPLE DRESS

A Comedy Monologue

by Kelly Meadows

SYNOPSIS: A fairy tale kingdom doesn't always mean happily ever after. A disgruntled sorceress casts a spell over the land giving power to whoever wears a certain purple dress, and Princess Darlena enjoys putting it on and wielding her youthful authority. When the dress gets into the wrong hands, creating havoc, Darlena has to take action!

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(1 female)

DARLENA (f) A princess.

SETTING: The most opulent palace in all the land or a bare stage.

COSTUMES: A torn, tattered purple dress would be awesome!

SOUND EFFECTS

- ☐ Thunder (Optional)
- ☐ Wind/Wind Chimes as the speaker describes the sorceress' entrances and exits. (Optional)

AUTHOR'S NOTE

This play parodies the saturation of movies about princesses and the fascination with putting them in purple. Darlena is looking back on an episode in her life where she realizes that having the power to do whatever she wanted leads her to selfish decisions that wound up hurting her as well as her entire nation. But, she came out of it more or less OK, so, she thinks, not so much harm done. To be most effective, lure in the audience by connecting to them with some common fairy tale tropes, but also taking it in a unique direction.

AT RISE: *Make it clear you are starting off the piece as another character, the Sorceress, by mocking her attitude.*

DARLENA: *(As Sorceress.)* No, it isn't. I'm not a witch, I'm a sorceress. There's a difference.

The difference is witchcraft can be used for good, but sorcery is usually employed for evil. No one ever says "How nice, the sorceress created a public library system!" and if she did, it would probably be filled with long untranslated Russian novels. It's all about vengeance. Power.

(As Sorceress.) Sorcery is poetic – enchanting, even. The spells are longer and more floral. Witches are like "heehheeh, now you're a tree." Sorcery is like *(Grand and cinematic.)*

Let the canyon's coyote howl
To match the screech and belch of owl
And all the melodious waterfowl
Revenge is at my beck and call
I mock your pain and cheer your fall
Even if you've done nothing wrong at all.... *(Evil laugh.)*

You try growing up with that around the house. I'm Darlena, the princess. Dad was king, Mom was queen. There were always a lot of courtiers hanging around trying to gain favor and influence, and the sorceress was no exception. "My son is such a great artist," she said. "I entreat you to hire him to paint mythological figures in the royal dinette."

And so we did. He put up an homage to Rock and Roll, but the king didn't see what was mythological about Little Richard or the Rolling Stones. Mom was a Sinatra fan so she was pushed over the edge. I thought it was cool, but I was just a princess. So dad hired a hack artist for cheap and buried it under a painting of a quiet sunset: purple, orange, and a dollop of red.

The sorceress was angry and took audience with the queen. "Thou hast eradicated my son's mythos and blasphemed the gods of rock and roll!" she growled.

(Offhanded, in a tone to make someone angry.) "My husband prefers purple," said the queen, "so purple it shall be."

So...when someone with evil magical power butts up against someone with absolute political power, it can create a conflict as to who is the true ruler of the nation. That was settled when the insulted enchantress cast a spell...

(As Sorceress.) You made my son embarrassed
You made my little boy cry
Squelched his artistic prowess
And replaced it with a sky.
I hereby squelch your power,
For this be my behest
The ruler of the kingdom be
Who wears my purple dress.

She conjured up a purple dress to hang on the back of the throne, spun around three times for whatever reason – she just liked to spin, I guess – and took her exit with an evil laugh and a puff of smoke.

Dad wasn't about to put it on, but it fit mom perfectly. Suddenly, she wasn't only the queen, she was the supreme ruler of the land, and what she said, went. She was having a field day until at night when she changed into a sleeping gown and left her power source on the bedpost. By then, the king was too tired to undo her decrees.

"This is fun!" Mom said to Dad. "I have some things I want to change, and you can't stop me unless you put on the dress. And if you do I'm going to take photos and post them on Instagram™ [or current social media site] and you'll be the laughingstock of the kingdom!"

When Mom went to sleep, I snuck into her room and put it on, because...well as a princess I was going to be auctioned off to a foreign country in an arranged marriage and have no power whatever except as a diplomatic pawn. So I tried on the dress and tried on the absolute power that came with it. Power to find the best-looking husband I could. (*Defending her decision.*) I was young, and it was the best idea I could come up with.

If there was a handsome husband to be found, I wanted him to come compete for my hand. I wanted to be preemptive so I wouldn't be married to some old geezer just to keep the peace between countries I'd never heard of. Oh, and I asked for ice cream, which was delivered on the spot. Plus, I lowered taxes because I wanted my dad to be popular. (*Contrite.*) I had no idea that would affect our lifestyle, so yeah I got in trouble for that.

For a while, Mom wore the dress during the day, and I snuck it out and put it on at night. Between us we ruled with an iron fist. A civil war started brewing but because I lowered taxes, we couldn't do much about it.

Thank you for reading this free excerpt from REIGN OF THE PURPLE DRESS by Kelly Meadows. For performance rights and/or a complete copy of the script, please contact us at:

**Brooklyn Publishers, LLC
P.O. Box 248 • Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406
Toll Free: 1-888-473-8521 • Fax (319) 368-8011
www.brookpub.com**