

THE TROUBLE WITH FROGS

by Shawn Deal

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THE TROUBLE WITH FROGS

A Comedic Monologue

by Shawn Deal

SYNOPSIS: When you are in charge of your own kingdom, there are many troubles that can arise. For example, a dragon could rampage over your lands, a witch could be casting evil spells, or a walking rock monster could be crushing your kingdom. Yet trouble comes in all shapes and sizes, and for Princess Araminta, it comes in the very small shape of an overly-determined frog.

TIME: Medieval times.

SETTING: A fairy tale land, medieval times.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(1 female)

Princess Araminta Gleexe (f).....A princess in the forest,
surveying her kingdom.

SET: Can be performed on a bare stage.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Princess Araminta is running her own kingdom, making her a strong and empowered young woman. It's best to play her that way. Dress the part but make it something, a princess could walk through the forest wearing. Use as much of the stage as you can to convey the forest and the kingdom, don't be stuck in one place, actually walk through the forest. Anything that can make it look like a forest is worthwhile. Good luck.

PRINCESS: My name is Princess Araminta Gleexe and I am the ruler of this vast forest kingdom, from the sea of Abisend to the mountainous region of Obia. It's a duty I take very seriously. So I come out to a different part of my forest every day and walk it, to make sure that everything is wonderful for all the forest creatures that inhabit it.

I love all my forest creatures. The birds, which there are many, big and small. I love to hear the songs they whistle. The deer, which run and dart among the trees. The bear, my great protectors of the forest, I love to hear their mighty growls. The chipmunks and the squirrels, who like to share their nuts with me. There are so many wonderful creatures in my forest and I love them all.

(Makes a kind of sour face.) Okay... maybe, not all... I struggle with one particular creature. I struggle with the various, tailless, amphibians belonging to the order of Anura and the family of Ranidae.

(Beat.)

I have trouble with frogs. Okay, I will freely admit some of the trouble is because of me and some is because of them. I don't mean to be speciesist. But frogs kind of creep me out. They are kind of gross looking with all the warts and not pleasant to touch or hold because of all the slime that covers them. *(Makes a face.)* Yuck.

Frogs can be useful. They are very sensitive to the environment, so if they have something wrong with them... for example, if they were sick, or grew extra legs, or have mucus covering their eyes... that immediately tells me somewhere in my forest there is a problem—that somewhere my forest is sick. So they are useful, in that sense, as an early warning system.

The problem is that they are too useful because they are also useful to witches. Do you realize how many parts of a frog are used in potions? Frog's breath can disguise other ingredients in a potion. Frog's brains can cause amnesia. Frog's skin can cause paralysis

and there are hundreds of other uses and none of them good. Okay, good for witches I guess, but bad for princesses trying to take care of their forest. Witches can send frogs as spies to do their evil bidding. How am I going to know if one frog here does not belong to my forest? They kind of all look alike. Oh, sorry I shouldn't say that. I'm being speciesist again. Witches can also send a whole plague of frogs on to someone's land—millions and millions of them—and they will destroy everything. No surprise there. They're frogs... that's what they do. Oops, being speciesist again. I really need to stop that.

Needless to say, I'm a little leery when it comes to frogs. I'm a little more cautious than I should be. I mean, not all frogs are bad, obviously. There are good frogs out there. I know that Princess Zenobia of the Southern Isles has a pet frog she absolutely adores and talks to every day—of course, she's stuck in a tower, with no visitors. Still, it's hard to tell the good frogs from the bad.

So the other day, this frog comes up to me... well, kind of saunters up and hops over in my general direction. As I've said before, I'm not super fond of frogs, so I ignored it. Well, I kind of gave it a sideways glance. You know I kept an eye on it without looking like I was keeping an eye on it. And, it starts hopping closer in sort of a pugnacious manner. I sensibly took a step or two back, but the frog keeps hopping towards me, as is its plucky nature.

Well, I wrapped up what I was doing and just left. Not to be rude or anything, but it was beginning to freak me out.

Later on that evening, I went out for a stroll, hoping to watch the moon rise over the horizon. I know that everyone likes a sunrise but I think that a moonrise is so much more majestic, especially when the full moon reflects upon the great pond in the middle of my forest. I try to come out every full moon to watch it.

Anyways, as I was walking to the pond, I see this frog again. And I can just tell it's the same one as before, due to the rather leisurely way it was hopping along. I now have concerns that this could be a stalker frog.

However, I stay calm. I'm a princess and that is what princesses do. I reach into my pocket, and wouldn't you know, I've forgotten my little spray can of frog repellent. Thankfully, I knew that cranes, the national bird of my kingdom, eat frogs. If they eat frogs, naturally, frogs must be scared of them. So instantly, I assume the position (*Does the crane karate position, like in the "Karate Kid" movie.*) ...and readied for its attack.

This rather impertinent frog hops over to me, sits down and says "Hello Princess."

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