

Act 1

Scene 1 – Village Square

[The curtain opens to reveal a medieval village square containing a number of small shops where a number of Villagers are going about their business. At the back is a windmill with stairs coming out of it. A large rock with an elaborate axe embedded in it lies at the centre of the square. A Villager is painting a large sign that says 'Welcome to (Town Name).']

Narrator Once upon a time there was a beautiful village named *[Town Name]*. The people there were a happy lot, for the town was a prosperous one. The numerous establishments included a dairy...

Villager 1 *[waving a milk carton]* Come get your fresh milk!

Narrator A bakery...

Villager 2 *[waving a large loaf]* Come get your fresh bread!

Narrator And a pantenery.

Villager 3 *[waving a large pair of y-fronts]* Come get your fresh underpants!

Narrator In the middle of *[Town Name]* there was a rock – and not just any old rock, oh no... This was the mighty Rock of Generations. They were going to call it the Rock of Ages but that was already taken. Embedded in this rock was the legendary Axe of Kings. According to legend, during the time of greatest need, a man will come who'll be able to pull the axe from out of the stone. This manly man will be the greatest hero of all, and will be crowned king of all the country.

Villager 4 *[approaching the Rock]* Today's the day – I can feel it in my body! *[He pulls the axe.]*

Narrator Many people have tried.

Villager 4 I can feel something moving!

Narrator And every single one of them has failed. *[A crack is heard.]*

Villager 4 Ooh, that was my back... Today was not the day – I can feel it in my body...

Narrator To date, the hero who was destined to wield the Axe of Kings has never materialised so the land is now governed by the wicked Lord *[Name]*. But enough about antique relics... Our story is about a young man. A young man with a dream. His name is Jack, and here he is now. *[Jack rushes in.]*

Jack Hey guys, what's up? How are you all doing on this beautiful day?

Villager 5 Oh no, look who's here.

Narrator Even though his family was the poorest in *[Town Name]*, for some reason Jack was always happy and cheerful.

Jack That's right!

Narrator Everyone found this very annoying and that's why nobody really liked him.

Jack What? That's not true. You guys all love me, don't you?

Villagers *[adlib: no, go away, we hate you, what gave you that idea, why do you even exist...]*

Jack See?

Narrator Right. However, he did have a dream. And the story you're about to see was borne out of this young man's foolish, foolish dream. *[He exits.]*

Jack Well... would you guys like to know what my dream is?

Audience Yes.

Jack Would you?

Audience Yes!

Jack You see, ever since I was very little I've always dreamed of becoming a mighty knight. *[The Villagers start laughing.]* What is it guys?

Villager 6 You? A knight? Ha, fat chance!

Villager 7 To be a knight, you need to be noble and rich.

Villager 8 Yeah, and you're a dirt-poor peasant!

Jack Wow, that's really harsh. What do you think guys; should I listen to them and give up on my dream?

Audience No!

Jack I'm glad you think so! Now if only there was some convenient way I can show them all that I could be a mighty knight... *[A gloomy fanfare is heard as Fleshcreep and Skincrawl skulk in holding pole-arms and a scroll.]* Oh boy, it's Lord *[Name]*'s spooky henchmen Fleshcreep and Skincrawl.

Skincrawl Greetings good cccitizens of *[Town Name]*.

Fleshcreep Have you all been behaving?

Villagers Yes, we have.

Skincrawl Good... And what about you out there? Have you been behaving as well?

Audience *[reacts]*

Skincrawl You'd better not be naughty. Otherwise, we have ways of making you sssuffer!

Audience *[reacts]*

Fleshcreep Don't you dare boo at us, you pathetic little worms!

Jack And to what might we owe the pleasure of your visit today?

Fleshcreep Ah well, you see, we have an important announcement to make.

Skincrawl Yesss, one that will sset the plot of this show in action.

Jack I suppose you'd better go ahead and make it then. We don't want people getting bored out of their minds. This isn't a *[topical reference]* project.

Fleshcreep *[unrolling the scroll]* Hear ye, hear ye: on behalf of the most benevolent, kind, and generally fantastic Lord Laghaqi – and to celebrate *[topical reference]* – we're pleased to announce a jousting tournament right here in the village square, tomorrow at noon.

Jack A jousting tournament, did you say?

Skincrawl Don't interrupt! *[She swings her pole-arm at him but he ducks and she hits Fleshcreep who falls over.]* The winner will receive a cash prize of two hundred gold coins and be proclaimed the greatest knight in all the land.

Jack The greatest knight!

Skincrawl Don't interrupt! *[She swings her pole-arm at him but he ducks and she hits Fleshcreep again who was just getting up.]*

Jack All I have to do is win this tournament and I'll finally be a knight!

Skincrawl Win the tournament? Win the tournament? Are you out of your mind? Thiss tournament will attract the bravest and most powerful knights in all the land – like *[celebrity 1]*, *[celebrity 2]*, and *[funny celebrity 3]*. You don't have the ssskill.

Fleshcreep Face it little man; you wouldn't stand a chance.

Jack Thankfully my mummy has always taught me to believe in myself. Your negativity is wasted on me.

Skincrawl And where isss she now?

Jack She's been hard at work all night so we can pay our rent for the month. Would you guys like to meet her?

Audience Yes.

Jack Would you?

Audience Yes!

Jack Then you're in luck; she finishes her shift in exactly ten seconds. Come on everyone, help me count them down!

All Ten – nine – eight – seven – six – five – four – three – two – one! *[There's a dramatic light change as music begins and Ladies of the Night emerge from the windmill.]*