

SCENE THREE: THE CASTLE INTERIOR

(The castle interior is revealed. Maurice steps inside, awed by size and scale of the place. It appears hollow, lifeless, and empty, like a deserted cathedral.)

(MAURICE)

Hello?

(His voice echoes in the vastness.)

Hello!

(Maurice proceeds cautiously, looking around. As he does, the lights come up to reveal an ornate human-sized Candelabra and a mantle clock. The Candelabra, Monsieur Lumiere, is a charming, very French Maitre D' who fancies himself a ladies man. Cogsworth, the mantle clock, is an officious manic English Major Domo. Someone wound him up way too tight and he's never wound down. Lumiere and Cogsworth stand side-by-side, motionless, but whispering feverishly, as Maurice wanders past them.)

COGSWORTH

Well, now you've done it! I told you not to let him in!

LUMIERE

We could not leave him for the wolves!

MAURICE

Is anyone home?

COGSWORTH

If we keep quiet, maybe he'll go away.

MAURICE

Is someone here?

COGSWORTH

Not a word, Lumiere, not one word!

MAURICE

I don't mean to intrude, but I've lost my way in the woods and I need a place to stay for the night.

LUMIERE

Poor fellow. Oh, Cogsworth, have a heart. Monsieur, you are welcome here!

(Lumiere flicks on one of his candle hands. It bursts into flame. Cogsworth quickly steps forward and blows the flame out.)

MAURICE

I heard that! I know there's someone here and I'll thank you to step out where I can see you!

(Lumiere steps out.)

LUMIERE

Allo!

MAURICE

AH!

(Startled, Maurice jumps back.)

COGSWORTH

And good-bye!

(Cogsworth starts pushing him toward the door.)

MAURICE

Wait...wait...wait! You're a clock! And you're talking!

COGSWORTH

Astonishing, isn't it? And quite inexplicable. Good-bye.

(He continues pushing him toward the door.)

LUMIERE

Cogsworth! I'm surprised at you. Where are your manners...?

COGSWORTH

We've got to get him out of here before the Master finds out!

MAURICE

This is incredible! How is this accomplished?

(He pokes and prods Cogsworth curiously.)

COGSWORTH

Really sir...if you'd just...

(Maurice pokes him in the eye.)

Ow!

Stop that! Hee-hee...stop it...stop it, I say!

(Maurice opens Cogsworth's pendulum door.)

Really, sir...do you mind?

(He slams the doors shut. Maurice stops his investigation and scratches his head.)

MAURICE

Well, I'm stumped. Maybe it's some kind of new-fangled, scientific gadget.

COGSWORTH

I...sir...am not a gadget!

MAURICE

I beg your pardon. I don't mean to be rude. It's just that I've never seen a ta...a tal...a talking... AAAACHOOO!

COGSWORTH

(arch)

Bless you.

LUMIERE

You're a chilled to the bone, Monsieur. Come. Warm yourself by the fire.

COGSWORTH

No, I forbid it!

(Ignoring him, Lumiere takes Maurice's arm and leads him across the stage to a large overstuffed chair. Cogsworth rushes after them.)

Lumiere...as head of this household, I demand that you stop right there!

(Maurice sinks into the overstuffed chair.)

Ohhhhh, not the Master's chair! I'm not seeing this. I'm not seeing this!

(Babette, the Featherduster enters.)

BABETTE

Oooh la la...what have we here? Do my eyes deceive me or is this a man? It's been so long since I've seen a real man.

(aside)

No offense, Lumiere. Bonjour Monsieur.

(She plops into Maurice's lap)

Mind if I sit here?

MAURICE

(embarrassed)

Oh! well! Hello!

COGSWORTH

All right! This has gone far enough! I'm in charge here and...!

MRS. POTTS

Coming through!

(Cogsworth turns around to find a teacart rolling right toward him pushed by Mrs. Potts. Mrs. Potts pushes the teacart next to Maurice. She's a sweet, kind-hearted teapot. Her son, Chip, is a Teacup riding on the cart.)

(MRS. POTTS)

How would you like a nice spot of tea, sir? It will warm you up in no time.

MAURICE

Oh, yes please!

COGSWORTH

No! No tea! He'll be here all night...no tea!

(Mrs. Potts pours into Chip. Cogsworth throws up his arms in dismay)

MRS. POTTS

There you are.

MAURICE

This is just what I need...AH!

(Maurice moves to pick up the teacup and gasps.)

CHIP

I think I scared him Mama.

MAURICE

Hey there, little fella! What's your name?

CHIP

Chip.

MAURICE

Figures.

BABETTE

Care for a blanket, monsieur?

(She throws a blanket over his shoulder and giggles flirtatiously.)

I just love older men.

LUMIERE

Babette, you are always trying to make me jealous. Well, it's not going to work this time.

BABETTE

Me! What about you? With Simone?

LUMIERE

Jacques?

BABETTE

Michelle?

LUMIERE

Pierre?

BABETTE

Veronique?

LUMIERE

Veronique!

COGSWORTH

Lumiere! Listen to me! We've got to get him out of here! Do you have any idea what the Master will do if he finds out we let a stranger in...

LUMIERE

Calm yourself, Cogsworth. The Master will never have to know.

#4a - Maurice & the Beast

Orchestra

(Suddenly, we hear a loud roar. Everyone gasps.)

(a nervous laugh)

As I was saying, he is bound to find out sooner or later.

CHIP

Should we hide, Mama?

LUMIERE

No...no...remain calm. There is absolutely no reason to panic.

COGSWORTH

Lumiere's right. There's absolutely no reason to panic.

(to Maurice)

May I borrow this?

(He takes Maurice's blanket and throws it over his own head.)

BEAST

There's a stranger here!

LUMIERE

Master, allow me to explain, the gentleman was set upon by wolves...

BEAST

Who let him in?

(Everyone quakes in fear. Cogsworth peeks out from under his blanket.)

COGSWORTH

M...Master...May I take this opportunity to say, I was against it from the start!

BEAST

Who dared to disobey me?

MRS. POTTS

Oh dear!

BEAST

You have all betrayed me!

(Beast enters. Maurice is frozen with fear in his chair.)

Who are you?

MAURICE

M...Maurice.

BEAST

What are you doing in my castle?

MAURICE

I lost my way in the woods...

BEAST

You're not welcome here!

MAURICE

I'm sorry. I...I'll just be on my way.

(He looks up and for the first time, he gets a good look at the Beast's face. It's a gruesome sight. Maurice gasps with horror.)

BEAST

It's hideous, isn't it?

MAURICE

Oh no, I wasn't...

BEAST

You've come to stare at the Beast, haven't you?

MAURICE

No, No! I meant no harm! I was merely looking for a place to stay!

BEAST

I'll give you a place to stay

(He raises his huge claw. Blackout.)

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Orchestra