

## BLACKOUT

HOWARD. (*Offstage, via the intercom.*) Attention cast and crew members. Stage Manager Howard, giving you your 30 minute call to opening night. And news flash: this is my first show here, so I am *really excited* to introduce what I call the ShowNight Challenge. You are going to love it. At the 10 minute to curtain up each night, your stage management team (that's Earl – when he's here – and myself, Howard) will pose three questions from the year our play takes place. In our case it's that awesome year, 1536. And then at the five minute call, we reveal all. So stay tuned as they say. (*Giggles. Pause.*) Oh yes, we are still missing Arthur.

Scene 3

~~(Props area downstage left. As lights come up – only on that area – THOMAS is nowhere to be seen and JANE and HENRY rush towards the area. If there is a door to the props area, it is closed.)~~

~~JANE. (*Knocking frantically on the props door.*) Thomas? (*No answer. JANE pushes the door open.*) Thomas? Where on earth is he? (*To HENRY.*) The head of props *has* to be here, doesn't he?~~

~~HENRY. He should be. But you know Thomas, always popping out to the corner store for something for props. Sometimes he just arrives a bit late.~~

~~JANE. (*Desperately looking around, points to an elaborate, partially constructed prop sitting on the main table.*) Did you know that Thomas calls these things his "little beauties"? (*She moves to pick it up, as THOMAS enters.*)~~

~~THOMAS. (*Quite anxious.*) Ah please Jane, don't touch. It's not finished yet and it's really quite fragile. Hello Henry.~~

~~HENRY. Hi Thomas.~~

~~JANE. Sorry. (*Gesturing to the "little beauty".*) Very impressive. Thomas, can we have a quick talk?~~

~~THOMAS. Sure. I hope you haven't been waiting long. Of all nights, my car wouldn't start. What can I do for you? (*This establishes that THOMAS is unaware of the crisis, which is important in Scene 8, when THOMAS removes the script. During this conversation, HENRY tries occasionally to work at the costume to make it fit better. He fails.*)~~