

JANE. *(Not really listening.)* Yes, yes, thank you so much Thomas

THOMAS. So what's going on? Henry, why are you dressed like that? That looks like a really badly fitting version of Arthur's costume for Act I...

HENRY. It is Thomas, and unfortunately it's all that was avail...

JANE. Thomas, I promise I will explain everything to you at intermission. Right now we have to fly. Thanks again. *(They leave hastily through the door and off centre left stage.)*

THOMAS. Now, where was I last night? *(Looking at the piece on the main table.)* Ah yes, with you, my little beauty. *(Pause.)* And I forgot to pick up the glue. Rats. *(Exits through the door and off left.)*

BLACKOUT

JANE. *(Heard but not seen.)* So Henry, you get back to the costume room with that script. I'll put the magnifying glass onstage and I'll keep looking for Arthur's copy of the script. It has all of the King's lines already highlighted. And in case Arthur *does* show up, maybe you should just focus on Act I for now.

HENRY. What could possibly go wrong?

Scene 4

(HENRY enters the costume room, to find ANNE sitting there alone and upset.)

HENRY. Oh. Hi. I was told the room would be empty now. I need to – you know – work on my lines a bit. I like to call it the initial polish. Maybe you could give me...

ANNE. Henry, I was hoping to see you before the show started, so I could apologize for...for what happened.

HENRY. Anne, it's ancient history now. There's no need. More importantly, there's no time...

ANNE. No *(Pause.)* please Henry. It all went so out of control so fast when you came home early that awful day. I know it sounds really lame, but we *had* been drifting apart. Maybe it's just that I keep mistaking a calm, successful relationship for a boring one. God knows they never seem to last. *(Pause.)* Funny, but I'm considered a real success in my job, but I'm a complete failure with dating. You know, I originally got involved in the theatre because I thought it would be a good way to meet men. Except for you, they have all turned out badly,

and now it looks as if history is repeating itself. Today Arthur sounded so violent, he actually scared me.

HENRY. Anne, I...

ANNE. Everyone here, and you especially, must be pissed at Arthur – I am too for what he seems to have done – but...

HENRY. SEEMS to have done?! Anne, do I SEEM to be dressed for a clown convention?

ANNE. No, and I am truly sorry about all of this Henry. You are a good person to step in like this. In fact, I don't think I ever appreciated just what a decent guy you really are.

HENRY. This is starting to sound like a eulogy. And the only place I'm going to die is onstage, in less than half an hour.

ANNE. I didn't mean it to sound that way. I guess I just lost my head for him. But all that I really wanted to tell you now is that I'm sorry, and that you deserved better.

JANE. *(Entering, a bit breathless, with a script.)* Sorry to be so long Henry but...oh excuse me Anne, I thought Henry would be alone here, waiting for this script. Ta-da! It's Arthur's marked-up copy.

ANNE. It's okay Jane, I was just leaving. I need to...to finish my make-up, do some neck exercises. See you both in a bit. *(Exits.)*

HENRY. So, what do you have for me?

JANE. Arthur highlighted all of his lines so they will be easier to pick out. And just now I used a pink marker for your main movement cues. That was what delayed me a bit, but it may help. And Katherine *has* added that line early on about falling off a horse, so just remember to limp a bit. All the other cast members will help to move you physically, or point when they say key lines about where you need to be onstage.

HENRY. Got it. And thanks for the cue highlights. You didn't need to do all that.

JANE. My pleasure. But really Henry, about the movement, since you are the King, you can pretty well stay wherever you want and others will just have to move around you. The audience will accept that. And Katherine agrees that, for now, you should just focus on Act I.

HENRY. That's a good idea. The audience may not come back for Act II.

JANE. Henry, I think that they will love it. *(Pause.)* And you. You'll be great.