

*CURTAIN OPENS: The Prince enters stage left and tiptoes into the dragon's lair.*

**Prince:** Oh, Lavalips! Yoo Hoo! Lippy?

*Lavalips snorts smoke.*

**Lavalips:** Unauthorized nicknames are exceedingly rude!

**Prince:** Oh, sorry. I...uh....came to take you up on that offer of tea... and cookies.

**Lavalips:** Why did you leave so fast?

**Prince:** Well, I was a little concerned.

**Lavalips:** Concerned?

**Prince:** Uh...nervous.

**Lavalips:** Nervous?

**Prince:** OK! Scared out of my wits. You blew smoke at me!

**Lavalips:** Well, what do you expect when you come in here like a combination of Jackie Chan and Johnny Depp? Besides, I told you it was heartburn!

**Prince:** I am a handsome, heroic prince. I am supposed to act like that.

**Lavalips:** I am beginning to wonder if you are a Prince at all. Do you have some identification?

**Prince:** Identification! Identification! I am a real prince. You, you are nothing but...but... an overstuffed bird.

*Lavalips starts snorting smoke again.*

**Prince:** Wait, I'm sorry. Let's have that tea now. So, tell me about yourself. How old are you?

**Lavalips:** Oh, about 500 years old. I was once the terror of the kingdom—kidnapping maidens, burning villages, roasting princes...Oh, those were the days!

*The Prince looks a little nervous and starts backing up again.*

**Lavalips:** Oh, don't worry. You're safe. I'm retired now. My days of kidnapping maidens are over. They were always too small for a good meal anyway. The only thing maidens were good for was as prince bait! Nothing lures a

Prince like a damsel in distress. Uh...no offense.

**Prince:** But when the princes slay the dragons...no offense... and rescue the maidens, don't they fall in love with the princes?

**Lavalips:** You see, that's another myth. Love takes time... to get to know someone, and learn to appreciate them for their finer qualities. Just because you kill a dragon doesn't mean she is going to fall in love with you. Ladies want things like respect, tenderness, honesty, not just swashbuckling!

**Prince:** Boy, do I know that! I melted a forest of thorns, slayed a dragon... no relation, I hope...kissed the Princess to wake her up from a 100-year slumber, and she slapped me across the face, and sicced her guards on me!...Now, I'm supposed to bring back your head so I can marry her.

**Lavalips:** Oh, dear. We do have a problem, don't we?

*Lavalips scratches his head as if he is thinking. Several dragon scales fall on the Prince, who puts his arms up over his head to protect himself.*

**Lavalips:** Sorry, I'm molting. It makes me kind of cranky.

*The dragon scratches again and more scales fall. The Prince opens his mouth wide as if he just got a great idea.*

**Prince:** Lavalips! I just thought of a way to solve this problem!