

Scene 1

Setting: A large room in the King's castle

CURTAIN OPENS: The King is sitting on his throne upstage center, tapping his foot as if impatient and angry. He looks at a hourglass/ sundial/ hears a clock ringing 12 times, after which he stands and crosses to centerstage.

King: I cannot believe my daughters! It is noon, and they are not awake yet! Is this any way for princesses to act?

He yells the girls' names, while looking to the various entrances.

King: Sandy, Sindy, Sunny, Sheri, Shirley, Shelly, Susie, Silvie, Sonya, Stacy, Sammi...and Penelope. Come here immediately!

Three or so girls enter from each entrance, yawning, stretching, as if just waking up.

All: Good morning, Father.

Sandy: You called us, Father?

King: Yes, I did. And it is not morning. It is already afternoon! It is time we had a little discipline around here! Since your mother died, things have gotten a little lax in this castle.

Sindy: Whatever do you mean, Father?

Sunny: We love you, Father.

King: Don't try to butter me up like I am a doting old fool.

Sheri: We would never do that, Father.

King: Enough! As princesses you have certain responsibilities.

Shirley: What would you have us do, Father?

King: Well, first of all, princesses do not lie around in bed until noon every day. You need to be up early, dressing for affairs of state, ordering the servants about, waving to the peasants from the balcony, and visiting with suitors who might call upon you.

Shelly: We're sorry we have been sleeping so late, Father. We are just very tired lately.

King: Tired from what? It is not as if you work very hard. When is the last time one of you waved from the balcony or encouraged a suitor? I can't be supporting all of you forever you know.

Susie: But Father, we have been staying up very late dan...

Silvie elbows Susie in the side.

Silvie: ...uh...studying, and doing our embroidery, Father. As good princesses should.

King: Well, being learned and good sewing skills are important, but so is sleep and attending to other duties, like finding husbands.

Sonya: Of course, Father. We promise to do better.

King looks down at their feet and notices that all of their shoes are totally worn out.

King: Great Scott! What happened to your shoes? I just bought all of you new shoes yesterday, and they are totally worn out!

Stacy: I guess they just don't make them like they used to!

King: Why, they look as if you have been dancing all night!

Sammi: Dancing, Father?

King: Yes, **dancing!**

Penelope: Father, why does my name start with a **P** when all my sisters' names start with an **S**?

King: Well, dearest, your mother and I could not think of any more **S** names, so we named you after your grandmother, Penelope....Wait a minute, don't try to change the subject!

Penelope: Yes, Papa.

King: Now, all of you, off to the Royal Cobbler Shoppe and get new shoes right away. And please take better care of them this time!