Auditions: Lady Larken

LADY LARKEN

Lady Larken has been waiting for Dauntless to get married so she can final marry Sir Harry, her true love. Because this situation is utterly frustrating, she argues with Harry and considers leaving him, but her love is too strong and too deep. Cast an excellent singer and actor with great range for this major role.

BEGIN

LARKEN
Sir Harry is not very good at describing people, Your Highness.

WINNIFRED
Well, he may not know how to describe 'em, but he sure knows how to pick 'em. Now, if you'll excuse me...
She picks up the leftover gowns.
I have to return these to the fourth floor.

She exits.

LARKEN
I've never been so humiliated in my life! I thought she was a chambermaid!

HARRY
What? Larken, how could you mistake the princess for a chambermaid?

LARKEN
How could you mistake that chambermaid for a princess?!

HARRY
Just because you made a stupid mistake...

LARKEN
Don't you dare try to blame it on me. She was on her hands and knees scrubbing the floor!

HARRY
She's a real lady wherever she was! That's more than I can say for some people around here.

LARKEN
I hate you!

HARRY
Well, I hate you too!

LARKEN
Get out!

HARRY
Don't worry, I'm going!

LARKEN
Don't bother – I'll go! Far, far away where you'll never find me!

HARRY
Goodbye!

LARKEN
Goodbye!
HARRY storms offstage.
Oh, Harry...

END

LARKEN exits the opposite way from HARRY in distress.

She rights the vase, takes her wet gown from the chair, gets onto her hands and knees and begins wiping the water up with the wet gown. LARKEN enters, sees WINNIFRED on the floor and turns to address someone offstage.

BEGIN

LARKEN

I guess I won't need you, Emily. They've already sent a cleaning girl.

She turns to WINNIFRED.

You're new here aren't you?

WINNIFRED

Yes, I...

LARKEN

Well, just look at this mess! What will my gentle princess think of me? Can you know what it means to be Lady-in-Waiting to the blessed Winnifred? I can't bear to see the delicate beauty of my royal mistress in such a messy place.

HARRY enters.

WINNIFRED

(rising)

Harry!

HARRY

Your Highness.

He bows deeply.

WINNIFRED

Oh, get up. You don't have to go through the motions with me. Say, I'm awfully sorry about swimming the moat – I hope I didn't make a bad impression.

HARRY

Not at all, Your Highness.

LARKEN

Your Highness?!

HARRY

I see you have met my dear Lady Larken.

WINNIFRED

You mean this is the little Larken girl? Harry, she's beautiful! And a bundle of energy.

HARRY

When I gaze upon that captivating face I realize how poor my description must have been.

END

MINSTREL
On this particular day they were testing Princess number 12.

BEGIN

PRINCESS #12
(answering a question confidently)
King Ethelred.

WIZARD
Absolutely correct!

EVERYONE except the QUEEN and WIZARD applauds enthusiastically.

DAUNTLESS
She's smart, Mama. She's the best one yet. Can I marry her now, huh? Can I, Mama?

QUEEN
No, sweetheart. There's still one more question.

She snaps her fingers at the WIZARD.

LUCILLE
This question isn't going to be fair.

LARKEN
It's the marriage law that isn't fair. "Throughout the land no one may wed 'til Dauntless to the altar's led." Until Prince Dauntless gets married, none of us can.

WIZARD
You have now reached the seventh plateau, and here is your final question. It is divided into three parts and concerns a famous man often referred to as the "Knight of the Red Cross." One: What is his name? Two: What beast did he slay? And three: What was the middle name of the daughter-in-law of the best friend of the blacksmith who forged the sword that killed the beast?

The KNIGHTS and LADIES sigh and look hopelessly to one another.

PRINCESS #12
One: St. George. Two: The dragon. And three...

WIZARD
Ten seconds.

PRINCESS #12
Oh-h-h...

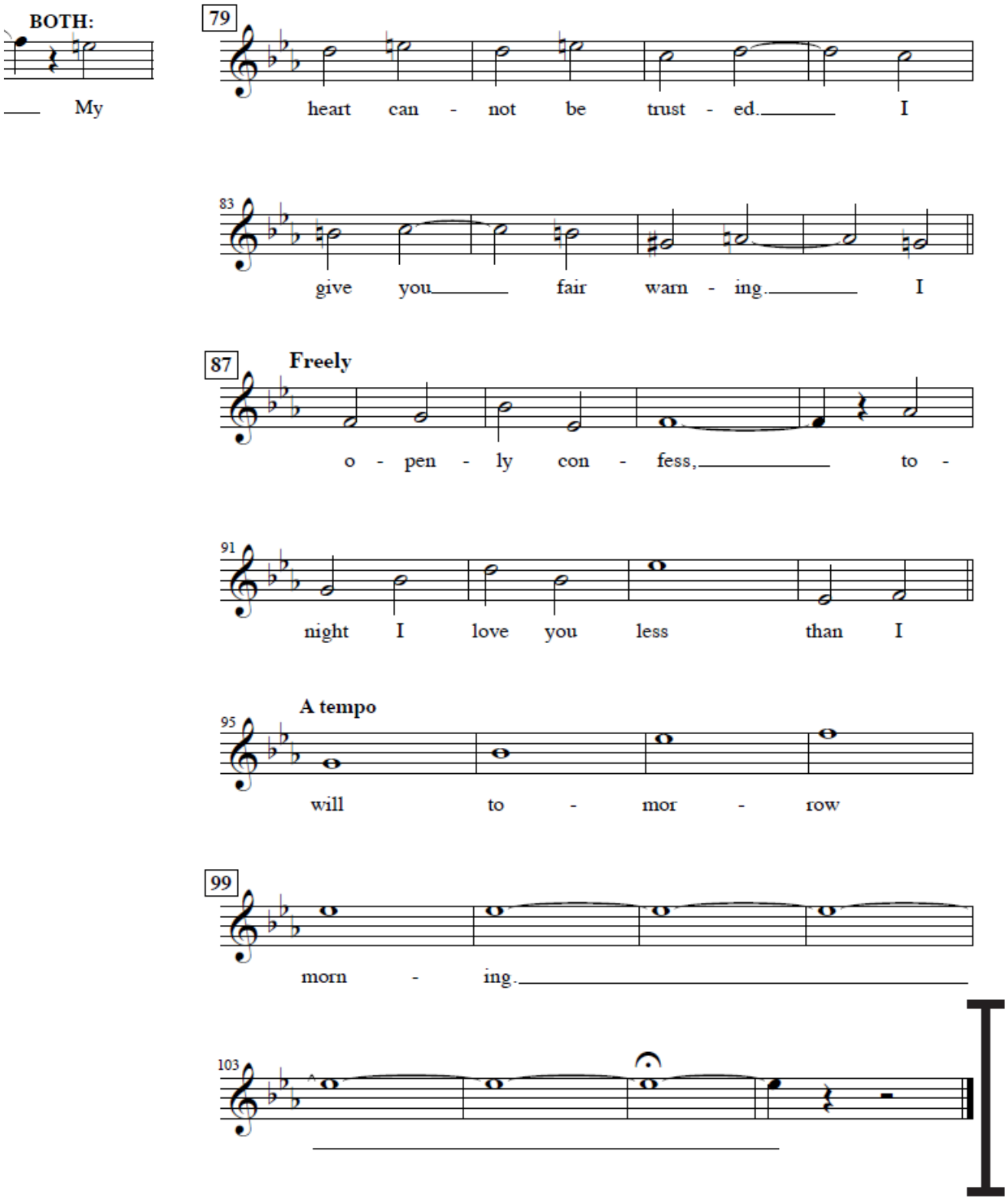
LARKEN
Oh, pass the test. Please, please pass.

WIZARD
I'm terribly sorry...

PRINCESS #12
Oh-h-h...

WIZARD
... Your time is up.

END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