SCENE ONE: The Tallest Tale

Location(s): The Mill.

Characters: Storyteller 1, Lady Braggart, The Miller, Emma, Enchantians.

Set/props: Wooden chair, sacks of flour, handkerchief, dress, hanging rail, hanger, stool, spinning wheel.

Opening set up: Wooden chair positioned downstage right. Two sacks of flour positioned downstage left. Hanging rail, hanger, stool and spinning wheel positioned upstage centre. Enchantians positioned across stage, at various levels, e.g. sitting, kneeling, standing.

Character	Lines	Stage Direction
	SONG ONE: Enchantia	**During song**: All onstage characters face outwards and sing expressively. Choreography as suggested in production notes.
Storyteller 1	Once upon a time, in the kingdom of Enchantia, there lived a humble miller and his daughter, Emma. The miller worked long hours every day, supplying the royal palace with the finest flour, whilst his daughter, a talented seamstress, was known throughout Enchantia for her skilful dressmaking. Early one morning, one of The Queen's officials, Lady Braggart, visited the mill to inspect the premises. The miller was a very proud man, and the official could find no fault either with the state of the mill or the quality of its produce.	The Miller enters stage left carrying sack of flour, before setting it down next to other sacks, sitting on wooden chair and wiping brow with handkerchief. Emma then enters stage right, holds dress over front of body as if seeing how it will look, smiles, hangs dress on hanging rail, before sitting at spinning wheel and working. Lady Braggart enters stage right with nose in air. The Miller stands to attention with puffed out chest. Lady Braggart inspects mill and bag of flour, before nodding grudgingly at The Miller who pouts proudly.
Lady Braggart	How's that daughter of yours? Still spinning yarn?	Lady Braggart addresses The Miller condescendingly without making eye contact. She rotates wrist and rolls eyes on, "spinning yarn."
Storyteller 1	There was something about Lady Braggart's tone The Miller did not care for.	The Miller folds arms and gives cross expression.

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Lady Braggart	**My** daughter is to be teacher to the royal grandchildren! But then, I suppose everyone must work within the limits of their own capabilities.	Lady Braggart folds arms with smirk, before looking down nose at The Miller with patronising expression.
The Miller	Is that so? Well, **my** daughter is to sew the garments for our village ball!	The Miller gives pomposity-mocking expression on, "is that so?"
Lady Braggart	Oh. How terribly provincial. Though a new high for the millers, I'm sure!	Lady Braggart feigns pity with 'boo-hoo' voice and expression on, "how terribly provincial." She looks at audience with grin on, "though a new..."
Storyteller 1	Steam could be seen shooting from the ears of a very red miller. He wanted nothing more than to wipe the sickly smile from the face of Lady Braggart. Before he could stop himself, the miller opened his mouth and let rip the tallest tale The Queen's official had ever heard.	The Miller flares nostrils, narrows eyes and gives expression of rage. Lady Braggart continues to walk/look around with a smirk. She gives sideways glances at The Miller and pretends to find dust on table with finger.
The Miller	My daughter is the most beautiful, talented maiden in all Enchantia. She can even spin hay and straw into pure gold! Soon, we shall be the richest family in the kingdom!	The Miller stands up and delivers line to audience with considerable anger and boasting.
Lady Braggart	Is that so?	Lady Braggart raises eyebrows mischievously.
The Miller	Oh, yes! Golden palaces, teak carriages, fine horses, diamonds, jewels, you name it! Nothing will be too expensive for the millers.	The Miller counts items mentioned on fingers before throwing arms out on, "you name it!" He puts hands on hips and lifts head on, "Nothing..."
Lady Braggart	Well, a most interesting story. I'm sure The Queen will be anxious to meet Enchantia's newest rising star. Good day to you!	Lady Braggart feigns interest and excitement, before waving dismissively and exiting stage left.
	SONG TWO: Straw Into Gold ***During applause, commence track/piano accompaniment replay for scene change.**	**During song**: All onstage characters face outwards and sing expressively. Choreography as suggested in production notes.

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SONG TWO: Straw into Gold (optional solo/part solo for The Miller)

I have a story you'll scarcely believe,
Of a wonderful, marvellous girl!
A daughter with fingers that conjure and spin
Hay and straw into splendorous gold.

Shiny thread on the bobbins and reels
From a spindle and pedal and wheel.

Straw into gold. Treasures untold.
We're going in style.
My little girl, spinning me rich
By day and by night.

Sparkling hues. Diamonds and jewels
That twinkle and gleam.
Yes, the miller,
Richer than ever he'd dreamed.

Living the life of a duke or a prince.
In a palace of gold I'll reside.
Fine horses to pull on a carriage of teak,
With the softest of leathers inside.

As I wait for the postman to bring
Invitation to tea with The Queen!

Straw into gold...

Sparkling hues...

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SCENE TWO: A Royal Summons

Location(s): The Throne Room, The Mill.

Characters: Royal Announcer, Storyteller 2, The Queen, Lady Braggart, Emma, The Miller, Soldier 1, The Castle Guard.

Set/props: Throne, parchment, quill, small circular table, wooden chairs, bowls, spoons.

Opening set up: All props and characters not in Scene Two exit stage. Queen sits on throne upstage centre, surrounded by Castle Guard. Royal Announcer stands to attention downstage left. Lady Braggart stands beside Royal Announcer. The Miller and Emma sit at small circular table downstage right, miming conversation and soup supping.

Narrator	Lines	Stage Direction
Royal Announcer	Lady Braggart, Your Majesty.	Royal Announcer bows with royal wave.
Storyteller 2	The royal official strode towards The Queen's throne, before curtseying deeply.	Lady Braggart strides towards throne and curtseys before The Queen.
The Queen	And to what do I owe the pleasure?	The Queen maintains relaxed posture, and uses aloof/disinterested tone without looking at Lady Braggart.
Lady Braggart	I bring you the most exciting news, Your Majesty. One of your subjects has been revealed to have an incredible gift - the ability to spin straw into gold!	Lady Braggart speaks with exaggerated intrigue and excitement.
Storyteller 2	The Queen began to stir. Enchantia had long been plagued by public debts, and her extravagant spending had made the problem a thousand times worse!	The Queen sits up sharply and before straightening herself using arms of throne.
The Queen	What!? Straw into gold!? Surely not!?	The Queen sits forwards in throne and speaks with astonishment and shock.
Lady Braggart	Your own miller swore it to my very face. Said he'd soon have riches to rival the royal court itself!	Lady Braggart crosses in front of throne, looking at audience.

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Storyteller 2	The Queen wasted no time, and began barking orders at her soldiers.	The Queen clicks fingers at Soldier 1.
The Queen	Take this down! "My Most Valued Miller and his Extraordinary Daughter, You are hereby summoned to the castle with immediate effect. Enchantia requires your service. I expect you in my presence by sunset. With Best Wishes, The Queen."	The Queen barks and points angrily, before suddenly softening tone and smiling soothingly whilst dictating letter. Soldier 1 takes down letter using parchment and quill, before frantically before wiping brow.
Lady Braggart	I shall deliver your decree this very morning. The miller and his daughter will be with you by supper time, Your Majesty. I guarantee it!	Lady Braggart snatches parchment from Castle Guard, before holding it in air and bowing.
The Queen	You have done very well, Lady Braggart. Should the girl come through for us, your reward will be great.	Lady Braggart curtsies in exaggerated way.
Storyteller 2	Now, The Queen's official knew full well that the spinning story was a figment of the proud miller's imagination. But the appeal of having a rival family embarrassed at court was simply too great to resist. Lady Braggart returned to the mill, where the miller and his daughter, were enjoying their lunch on the lawn.	Lady Braggart turns to audience and winks with knowing smirk, before crossing stage to The Miller and Emma. The Queen readopts relaxed pose for remainder of scene.
Lady Braggart	The Queen summons you both to the castle. Enchantia requires your spinning services, my girl. You are to travel with me to the royal court, immediately.	Lady Braggart claps in air before delivering line with feigned delight and urgency. The Miller and Emma exchange excited looks.
Storyteller 2	The miller had forgotten all about his earlier boasts, and together with his daughter, assumed The Queen required a new seamstress.	The Miller and Emma stand and hug.

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Emma	Oh, Father! Imagine me, dressmaker to the royals!	Emma places open palm to chest before turning to audience with gleeful expression.
The Miller	Your talent and reputation go before you, my dear. Pack a bag. This family's time to shine has finally arrived!	The Miller looks at audience with hands on hips. Emma exits stage right. The Miller folds arms smugly, before exiting stage right during Song Three introduction.
	SONG THREE: Bring Her to the Castle ***During applause, commence track/piano accompaniment replay for scene change.**	**During song**: All onstage characters face outwards and sing expressively. Choreography as suggested in production notes.

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SONG THREE: Bring Her to the Castle (optional solo/part solo for Lady Braggart)

Bring her to the castle. Take her to The Queen.
There are many rooms of straw that she can spin.
Kingdoms are expensive.
Castles aren't cheap.
Rising costs, angry boss!

And she won't take kindly to a lengthy wait.
In her presence you are due.

Daughter of Enchantia, time to shine!
Our future depends on you.

As an honoured guest your comfort is our aim.
Lodgings grandly furnished in exquisite taste.
Dining with The Queen on finest food and wine.
Handsome pay, every day.

This is not an offer, nor a kind request.
In her presence you are due.

Daughter of Enchantia...

This is not an offer...

Daughter of Enchantia...

Our future depends on you.

Our future depends on you.

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