

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 curtsying deeply.	Lady Braggart strides towards throne and curtsies 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.

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.

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.