

Scene 1 – Front of Tabs

Princess: (Offstage) Daddy! (enters) Daddy? (to audience) Hello boys and girls! (Awaits reaction) Have you seen my father anywhere? You'd know him. He's got a huge beard, a huge red velvet cape and a big gold crown! He's the King you see; my name is Princess Penelope! I need to ask him if I can get a dog. I really really want a dog. Do you like dogs? (awaits reaction) He never lets me have anything though so I'm going to have to practice saying please. Could you help me practice boys and girls? (awaits reaction) Ok, after three I want you all to say *please* really loudly like this. (loudly and drawn out) Pllleeeassseeee! (to audience) Can you do that? OK, after three. One. Two. Three. (Princess encourages the audience to say please in a loud drawn out comic manner. After a few of these, the King enters)

King: What's all this noise about?

Princess: (Fawning) Ah, there you are Daddy, the most handsome King that there ever was!

King: (Suspiciously) What do you want?

Princess: Nothing

King: Nothing? Are you sure?

Princess: Yes. (pauses) A dog.

King: (walking away shaking his head) Nope! Not on my watch!

Princess: (to audience) Help me out here, after three. One. Two. Three. (with audience) PLEASE!

King: No. You're not getting another pet

Princess: Another pet? I haven't had *any* pets.

King: You've had *loads* of pets and you never looked after *any* of them.

Princess: (confused) That's not true.

King: OK, what about that Hamster I bought you?

Princess: What Hamster?

King: Exactly!

Princess: I don't remember a Hamster. I don't even know what a Hamster is!

King: The one I bought you after you said "I want a hamster and I'll look after it" every day for a month and then you *didn't* look after it and *I* had to. *That* hamster.

Princess: (Looks blankly at the audience as if she can't remember such a hamster)

King: I'm the King. I've got Kingy things to do. I can't be looking after your pets.

Princess: (Desperately) But I really really really want a dog.

King: You really really *really* wanted that Rabbit as well though didn't you?

Princess: What Rabbit?

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King: (**sighing and rolling his eyes**) You're not getting a dog.

Princess: (**to audience**) One. Two. Three. (**with audience**) PLEASE!

King: No

Princess: (**with audience**) Please!

King: (**Flustered**) OK, you win. You can have a dog but there is *one* condition.

Princess: (**Exited**) What? Anything!

King: You'll have to *earn* it.

Princess: *Earn* it? But I'm a Princess. I live off the taxpayer. I've never had to earn anything in my life!

King: Well, that's about to change young lady. You will work to earn the money to buy the dog and then you might learn responsibility!

Princess: Oh, it's so unfair. A Princess working to earn something – who ever heard of something so weird.

King: You're going to do what people call *a job*.

Princess: Sounds awful!

King: Yes, it *is* awful. It's *meant* to be awful so that you can appreciate all the things you can do with the money you earn!

Princess: OK, what do you want me to do? Wash the dishes? Mop the floors? Make dinner?

King: No, I want you to spin.

Princess: That doesn't sound like a job. Spin? For how long? I'll get dizzy!

King: No, I mean spin some wool on the spinning wheel.

Princess: Oh. (**confused**) What?

King: Come on, I'll show you.

Scene 2 – Castle Room

(Tabs open to reveal a castle room with a spinning wheel and stool centre stage)

King: Sit here

(King indicates the stool. Princess sits)

King: Press that pedal to spin the wool. I will pay you £1 a tonne. A dog is £50 so I'll let you work out how much you need to spin!

Princess: (To herself) £1 a tonne and I need £50. (Counts on her fingers. Shocked) That's nearly eight tonnes!

King: It's a lot more than that. Get spinning and I'll be back soon to check on you.

(King Exits)

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Princess: (To audience) Well this isn't fair. Or if it *is* fair, I don't like it very much.

(Princess begins to spin. The prop could be immobile but with a ball of wool hidden inside so when Princess pulls at the wool, it comes out of the 'wheel' as if being spun)

Princess: (To audience) Look, I've been spinning for almost eight seconds and I've only made this little strand. It's going to take forever to earn a dog!

(SFX. Magical music plays. Lights off and back on. Goblin appears on stage as if by magic)

Goblin: What do we, what do we, what do we have here? Somebody in trouble, in trouble I fear!

Princess: (Shocked. Staggering back from her stool) Who are you!? Where did you come from?

Goblin: Be not so curious of whence I came, nor shall you ever know my name!

Princess: You like poetry though I take it?

Goblin: I am not a poet, I don't have time, it's a coincidence that my words always rhyme!

Princess: (Looks to audience) Right! (To Goblin) I'm a bit busy here at the moment so if you'd like to just make your way downstairs one of the servants will throw you out.

Goblin: Ah but I'm here and here, and here about, to help you spin, to help you out!

Princess: (Suspicious) And what's in it for you?

Goblin: I get the sense that you are reckless so I'll name my price as your diamond necklace.

Princess: What? It's priceless this! You can't have this!

Goblin: I shall then leave you to your slog, and never shall you get your dog!

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Princess: Hang on. You're saying you can help me spin enough wool to get a dog?

Goblin: Finally you realise what makes me tick, my my, my Princess you catch on quick!

Princess: Yes I do. **(To audience)** Very intelligent me you know!

Goblin: Your necklace Princess and then I'll begin. Just tell me how many tonnes you want me to spin!

(Princess takes off her necklace and gives it to Goblin.)

Princess: Oh, I need you to spin eight – no – nine tonnes. Better make it nine just to be sure.

Goblin: Leave it to me, I need not be beckoned, to spin nine tonnes will take less than a second.

(Goblin sits at the wheel. Lights off. Lights back up and Goblin produces a box of wool which was hidden behind the wheel into the view of the audience)

Princess: Wow! I'm definitely getting a dog now!

Goblin: It was a pleasure to help a Princess in need, for a Princess in need can fuel my greed!

(Goblin wiggles his eyebrows at the audience in a sinister manner and then exits. The King enters.)

King: How are you getting along Penelope?

Princess: I'm finished! Can I have my dog now?

King: **(Picking up the box of wool)** There's only nine tonnes here

Princess: What do you mean, only?

King: A dog is £50. You've only made £9's worth.

Princess: Me and my maths skills! I needed to make at least another twenty tonnes!

King: I'll leave you to it – **(notices the missing necklace)** – where is your priceless necklace?

Princess: **(Feeling her neck)** Oh, it must have fell off during all that furious spinning! It'll be on the floor somewhere.

King: Well you better find it or your mother will go spare! It's her grandmothers; irreplaceable that. Been in the family years. I don't know what she'd do if that went missing!

Princess: **(nervously)** I'll find it Daddy!

King: You'd better. I'll be back shortly to see how you're getting on.

(King exits)

Princess: **(To audience)** Oh boys and girls what am I going to do? I've lost the necklace and I didn't even get that funny looking man to spin enough wool for me!

(SFX., Magical music. Lights off and back on again. Goblin appears as if by magic)

Goblin: Trouble my Princess? Your worry bowl is full – I take it you would like me to spin you more wool?

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Princess: Yes. At least another twenty tonnes! Actually, make that 25 just to make sure!

Goblin: This I can do to help save your day but tell me my Princess, how will you pay?

Princess: I don't know. **(thinks)** What about this bracelet?

Goblin: That my lady is the piece I would pick, now if you'll excuse me, I'll just be a tick!

(Lights off, lights back on. Goblin is holding a bigger box full of wool.)

Princess: Oh, that's wonderful, here.

(Princess gives Goblin her bracelet. Goblin takes it, nods and skips from the stage. King enters.)

Princess: Hello Daddy! Here! Here's another twenty five tonnes. Can I have my dog now?

King: Twenty five?

Princess: Yes

King: You made nine before

Princess: Yes! Can I have my dog?

King: What is nine plus twenty five?

Princess: **(Looks scared and tries to work it out. She can't so turns to the audience)** Quick, what is nine plus twenty five? **(awaits reaction. To King)** 34!

King: Yes. And how much is a dog?

Princess: **(Excited)** Fifty!

King: Is 34 less or more than 50?

Princess: Less

King: How much less?

Princess: **(looks scared. To audience.)** What is fifty take away thirty four? **(awaits reaction. To king.)** 16!

King: So how many more tonnes of wool do you need to get a dog?

Princess: **(Excited and then sad)** sixteen!

(Princess slumps down on the spinning stool looking sad)

King: Don't worry, the speed you got this other wool, it'll not be long before you've got your dog! You're learning some wonderful lessons about taking responsibility for your actions! **(notices her wrist)** Where is your priceless bracelet?

Princess: Eh? Oh - it must have flown off with all the spinning. It'll be under the settee or something. I'll get it later.

King: You'd better! It was your great great great grandmother's! It's been in the family hundreds of years. Irreplaceable that is!

Princess: Yeah yeah! I'll get back to spinning!

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(King exits shaking his head)

Princess: **(To audience)** Oh boys and girls, I'm in so much trouble!! I don't have enough wool. I haven't spun any of it myself so I haven't learned anything about being a responsible dog owner and I've given away two family heirlooms to a creepy stranger. If only I had the chance to make it all right again!

(SFX. Magical music. Lights off and on again. Goblin appears as if by magic)

Goblin: Still a sad Princess I see? Tell me what you want from me!

Princess: Oh, it's you again. You've tricked me! You've taken my jewellery and you've tricked me.

Goblin: There is no trick, you can't blame my elfishness, the only problem here is with your own selfishness.

Princess: I'm not selfish. **(doubting)** Am I?

Goblin: You traded things which were not yours, to help, to aid your selfish cause. Given away, things you did not own, all to be able to give your dog a bone!

Princess: Yes, but I really really want a dog!

Goblin: Not a pick of work I've seen you do and nothing you told your father is true. Help you one last time I will but you'll pay a high price when comes the bill.

Princess: What are you on about?

(Goblin sits on the stool. Lights off. Lights on. Goblin has a tray of wool which he hands to Princess)

Goblin: And now my price for helping you out, the highest price as if you'd any doubt. There's only one thing I want from your catalogue, when you've earned your heart's desire I shall take your dog!

Princess: What? You can't. That's the whole point of me spinning this wool. If you take my dog then I might as well have spun it all myself! **(realises)** Oh! You're clever. You're saying that if I'd done all the work myself and used the money to buy the dog, I'd appreciate it more, look after it and treat it kindly!

Goblin: Round and round, then your mind, it stops. I love the look on the face when the penny drops!

Princess: Well, I think I've learned my lesson. Can't you just accept that I'm going to be a good girl from now on and start acting with some responsibility?

Goblin: A chance I will give you, a chance to reclaim, a way to take back, a merry old game, the necklace and bracelet and dog the same, all will be yours if you can guess my name!

Princess: Guess your name?

(Goblin nods)

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Princess: That doesn't seem so hard.

Goblin: Be careful for you only get three tries, wrong three times and we say our goodbyes.

Princess: Three? But there are hundreds of things your name could be!

Goblin: Tomorrow I will return and my name you will guess, otherwise you'll be left to clear up your mess. No necklace, no bracelet and no little dog, all will disappear with me into fog.

(Lights off. Goblin exits. Lights on)

Princess: **(To audience)** Oh, this isn't fair. Guess his name? It could be Brian. Alan. Anything. **(thoughtful)** He looks like a Clive doesn't he? **(desperate)** Oh, if I don't guess it correctly, I'll lose the family heirlooms and I can't even get the dog because he'll just take it the moment I get it. What a pickle.

(King enters)

King: How are you getting on Princess Penelope?

Princess: **(nervously)** Oh, you know. I've finished and what not.

King: **(Taking the box of wool)** Ah, so you have. Here you go –

(King gives Princess £50)

King: You can go down to the pet shop and get your dog! **(indicating the wool)** I'm off to turn this little lot into socks!

(King exits)

Princess: **(To audience)** Oh boys and girls. I wonder if I could just give that little man this £50 for my necklace and bracelet and pretend none of this ever happened? I really *have* learned my lesson. I should have just spun the wool myself and I wouldn't be in this trouble. **(thinks)** Maybe I can bargain with him? I've no idea how I'm supposed to guess his name. **(thinks)** Norman? Looks like a Norman I reckon.

(King enters)

King: **(Stern)** Penelope...

Princess: **(Scared)** Yes father?

King: **(Showing Princess his phone)** Please tell me this isn't the missing necklace and bracelet?

Princess: Argh! They're for sale on E-bay!

King: What happened? How did they get on E-bay? They're priceless!

Princess: Hang on **(looks closer)** if he's selling them on e-bay, what's his username? **(reads)** Rumpelstiltskin2000. That's it! That's his name! Oh, when he comes tomorrow, I'll get the necklace, the bracelet and the dog!

(She hugs the King who looks bemused)

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Princess: Don't worry, everything will be ok. Come back this time tomorrow and all will be well. I promise.

King: **(Confused)** It better be!

(King exits. Princess sits on the spinning stool. Lights off. SFX. Magical music. Goblin appears as if by magic. Lights up.)

Goblin: Returned have I for a final time, to close our bargain and keep what's mine. Unless of course you win our game by standing up and yelling my name!

Princess: I've got three guesses you say?

(Goblin nods)

Princess: **(to audience, pretending to be stumped)** I wonder what it could be. There are thousands of names and I've only got three guesses. **(thinks)** I think your name is **(pauses. yells)** Barry!

Goblin: One guess down, that's incorrect. You'll get it wrong again I suspect!

Princess: Hmm... **(thinks)** I think your name is **(pauses. Yells.)** Derek!

Goblin: **(Skipping about the stage)** Two guesses gone and both are wrong, one more until I sing my victory song!

Princess: Oh well, looks like you're going to win, **(pauses. Sinisterly.)** Rumpelstiltskin!

Goblin: **(stops dancing in shock. Stares at Princess open mouthed)** What did you say?

Princess: Rumpelstiltskin! That's your name isn't it?

Goblin: What? How could you possibly have known? **(frantically)** There are witches at work here! Devils! Demons have shown!

Princess: Nah - just e-bay.

Goblin: What? What?

Princess: You really need to sort out your digital footprint. Anyone could steal your identity!

Goblin: This is outrageous. **(thinks)** It's really – erm – contagious!

Princess: Looks like we've both learned something today. I'll have my jewellery back and I'll be going to get my dog!

Goblin: **(Huffily hands back the necklace and bracelet)** You outsmarted me so you can buy your hound but you won't be so lucky next time around!

(SFX. Magical music. Lights off. Goblin exits. Lights on. King enters with a puppy, a real one on a lead or a stuffed one)

Princess: Oh, my very own dog! **(to dog)** After what I've been through, I'll make sure I look after you and love you and feed you and I shall call you **(pauses)** Rumpelstiltskin!

King: Odd name for a dog. Why Rumpelstiltskin?

Princess: You wouldn't believe me if I told you!

(Princess smiles at the audience, wiggles her eyebrows and smiles. Lights off. Tabs closed.)

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