

The Ladybug Princess

A Short Play for Young Audiences in One-Act
by Sam Stokes

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Characters

The Ladybug Princess – a young beautiful ladybug that has everything done for her. She has no cares in the world, except that she is very bored and therefore unhappy.

The Jestig Grasshopper – a young court jester that is secretly enamored with the Ladybug Princess and wants nothing more than to make her happy and to see her smile.

The Ladybug Princess

Scene 1

MUSIC CUE – OPENING MUSIC

(The scene opens with THE LADYBUG PRINCESS wearing a crown and sitting alone on a leaf)

LADYBUG:

(sighs) I'm soooo bored! I bet you all think it's great to be a Princess. Always getting waited on hand, wing, and foot. All I want to do is go out and play, but they always tell me that I might get dirty and getting dirty is unseemly for a Princess. You would think I would be happy to be loved and adored by all of the other bugs in the kingdom, but all the time I feel nothing but sad . . . *(sighs)*

(THE JESTING GRASSHOPPER hops onto the edge of the scene with a knapsack over his shoulder)

GRASSHOPPER:

(aside) Ah . . . there she is! The Ladybug Princess. She is the most beautiful ladybug in all of the kingdom, but she always seems so sad. If only I could see her smile . . . but of course she would never smile unless she were happy. Perhaps if I could figure out a way to make her happy, then she would smile and I would be happy all the more.

(GRASSHOPPER hops over to the leaf where the LADYBUG PRINCESS sits on the leaf)

GRASSHOPPER:

Good morning, Princess. Such a beautiful day, is it not?

LADYBUG:

(sighs) I suppose it is. Of course, I never really get to enjoy beautiful days like this since my lot in life is to learn to be ladylike so I can someday be the queen. I never get to go out and play in the sun.

GRASSHOPPER:

Oh, I see. So is that why you are unhappy?

LADYBUG:

Yes, I'm afraid it is. Say, who are you, anyway?

MUSIC CUE – KUNG FU MUSIC

GRASSHOPPER:

(Speaking like a kung fu master and pressing his hands together while making a slow upward motion with one of his feet) I am kung fu master. I have come to teach you ancient secrets of martial arts, grasshopper.

LADYBUG:

Huh?

GRASSHOPPER:

It's just a joke . . . you know, to make you laugh.

LADYBUG:

I don't get it.

(dropping the kung fu stance)

GRASSHOPPER:

Hmm, never mind, then. Say, Princess, what could I do to make you happy so that you would smile?

LADYBUG:

(sighs) I don't know. It seems like it's been so long since I've smiled. I can't remember the last time that I truly felt happy.

GRASSHOPPER:

Oh . . . well, would you mind if I tried? To make you smile, that is?

LADYBUG:

Well, that's very kind of you Mr. Grasshopper, but I'm afraid it's of no use. I'm resigned to my lot in life – to never go out in the sun on a beautiful day, to spend my entire life in the service of my kingdom.

GRASSHOPPER:

All the same, I would really like to try.

LADYBUG:

As you wish, my loyal subject.

(The GRASSHOPPER takes one apple out of his knapsack and starts juggling)

GRASSHOPPER:

Prepare to be amazed as I employ astonishing skills of coordination to keep this *one* apple flying through the air.

MUSIC CUE – DRUM ROLL

(The GRASSHOPPER juggles the apple several times)

GRASSHOPPER:

Amazing, is it not?

LADYBUG:

Well . . .

GRASSHOPPER:

Hold on a second.

(Sensing LADYBUG's lack of enthusiasm, GRASSHOPPER reaches in his knapsack for another apple)

GRASSHOPPER:

Prepare to be amazed as I employ astonishing skills of coordination as I keep these *two* apples flying through the air.

MUSIC CUE – DRUM ROLL

(LADYBUG sighs)

GRASSHOPPER:

Is this more impressive?

LADYBUG:

Well, a little, I suppose.

GRASSHOPPER:

Wait . . .

(GRASSHOPPER reaches into his bag to get a third apple and begins juggling again)

GRASSHOPPER:

Prepare to be ultimately amazed as I juggle *three* apples through the air!

MUSIC CUE – DRUM ROLL

(GRASSHOPPER begins juggling and after a while all three apples fall to the ground)

GRASSHOPPER:

Hmmm, well, I guess I need more practice at juggling.