

Scene 8: The Castle Ballroom**MUSIC 9: GAVOTTE (ME, WHO AM I?)**

(The LADIES dance on. TOPHER enters. SEBASTIAN and LORD PINKLETON enter.)

Sebastian, honestly!

TOPHER

Only two-hundred women to go!

SEBASTIAN

(The LORDS dance on. MADAME enters, with GABRIELLE and CHARLOTTE. The gavotte begins. TOPHER and CHARLOTTE dance.)

So which one is it?

CHARLOTTE

Which one is which?

TOPHER

Duh. The Prince. Which is the Prince? I mean come on!?! What do you think I'm here for, the free food?

CHARLOTTE

Well, a good time, a dance perhaps?

TOPHER

Wrong answer! I got marrying royalty on my mind. So which one is he here?

CHARLOTTE

Well, maybe it's me.

TOPHER

(A moment of thought, then)

Not likely. You're no Prince. You're ordinary.

CHARLOTTE

What makes you think I'm ordinary?

TOPHER

We're doing a gavotte and you can't even keep the beat. When we get to the waltz, you're gonna trip over your two left feet and land on your flat little bottom. End of discussion.

CHARLOTTE

Hope to talk to you later.

TOPHER

I've moved on.

CHARLOTTE

START

(CHARLOTTE crosses to PINKLETON, grabs the mallet, and bangs the gong, walking away in disgust. MADAME pushes TOPHER's next PARTNER away, placing GABRIELLE in her place.)

NEXT PARTNER (LADY)

Hey!

TOPHER

How do you do?

GABRIELLE

How do you do?

TOPHER

A lovely dance isn't it? I hope my dancing is all right.

GABRIELLE

Oh, your dancing is absolutely princely—oops, I let that slip out.

TOPHER

Ahh, so you know.

GABRIELLE

I would know a wise and handsome Prince anywhere.

TOPHER

The last girl did not know.

(MADAME glides by CHARLOTTE and whispers in her ear.)

CHARLOTTE

You're kidding!! Well thanks for the heads up! Ugh!!!

GABRIELLE

I think she does now.

TOPHER

Well...

GABRIELLE

So...

TOPHER

What can you tell me about yourself?

GABRIELLE

What would it please you to know, Your Highness?

TOPHER

What are your interests?

GABRIELLE

ay, whatever your interests are your highness.

TOPHER

Okay. Creepy.

CHARLOTTE

Your Majestic Highness, just because I was playing hard to get doesn't mean I'm hard to get!

TOPHER

Really creepy. Sebastian, I can't do this anymore, I'm sorry.

STOP

A DUCHESS

It's the Prince!

(The LADIES throw themselves at TOPHER, pushing and pulling him about the dance floor. Just as the gavotte ends, ELLA appears. Everyone in the ballroom freezes at the sight of her, struck by her tremendous beauty. TOPHER sees ELLA. The crowd parts. TOPHER bows. ELLA curtsies. TOPHER offers his hand.)

SEBASTIAN

It's time to play ridicule! Everyone! Take sides!

MUSIC 10: RIDICULE

(ELLA is taken from TOPHER by a COURTIER and two circles form as the members of the court dance to the ridicule theme. SEBASTIAN grabs TOPHER and pulls him forward to talk to him.)

TOPHER

What happened to the nice girl?

SEBASTIAN

Ignore her, we're playing Ridicule, you get to be judge. Two circles spin and when the music stops two players out-ridicule one another. Let's find you a bride.

GUESTS

BUM DITTY BUM BUM
BUM DITTY BUM BUM

LORD PINKLETON

ONE AND TWO AND THREE

(The music stops. An OLDER WOMAN is stopped in front of CHARLOTTE.)

OLDER WOMAN

Oh, but my dear. I love that dress. No matter how many times I see it.
(The room "ooos" and applauds.)

Why I remember when that dress was first in fashion, when I was a young girl—