

Act Two: Scene Three

Fighting Prawn Bring me the holy relic of my captivity!
Hawking Clam Here, Mighty Father. The kitchen timer.

HAWKING CLAM hands over the timer. FIGHTING PRAWN winds it.

Fighting Prawn One minute, starting . . . NOW!

We hear a Jeopardy-like tick-tock under the boys' presentation:

Prentiss Um . . . One at a time –

Ted (*remembering MOLLY*) Once upon a time – that's how they always start! Upon a time, upon a time!!

Fighting Prawn Tick-tock, tick-tock . . . hungry, Mister Grin?

Mister Grin roars!

Prentiss Okay, okay! Once upon a time, there was a beautiful baby Princess (*cries*) Waaah!

One of the MOLLUSKS pokes TED, scaring him into action.

Ted And an evil witch with a curse: A-ha-ha!

Prentiss Waaah!

Ted A-ha-ha!

PETER slaps PRENTISS – move it along!

Prentiss Waaah!

Ted A-ha-ha!

PRENTISS smacks TED. They start to smack each other. PETER interrupts with:

Peter And the curse was very terrible, for every time the baby cried –

Prentiss Waaah!

Peter – the whole kingdom would fall asleep!

PETER snores grossly then conducts the following:

Peter and the Starcatcher

Prentiss Waaah!

Peter (snores)

Ted A-ha-ha!

Prentiss Waaah!

Peter (snores)

Ted A-ha-ha!

Prentiss Waaah!

Peter (snores)

Ted A-ha-ha!

Peter, Prentiss, Ted (edging away to safety, singing)

AND BEAUTY WAS HER NAME-OH!

Mister Grin roars! The BOYS, frightened, return to their "stage."

Prentiss So the King marched over to his favorite horse!

Ted (becoming a horse) Naaayyy!

Prentiss (jumping on TED's back) And he rode to the tallest tree - (PETER assumes the shape of a tree. TED and PRENTISS gallop to him.) And he climbed up to speak to the wise old owl!

Ted (becoming an owl, perched on PETER's arm-branch) Whooo?

Prentiss The King, a real leader, sorta like me -

Ted (as horse) Naaayyy!

TED drops PRENTISS hard.

Prentiss Focus, piggy boy!

Ted (deeply insulted) PIGGY BOY?!?

TED goes for PRENTISS but accidentally smacks PETER.

Peter Sticky pudding!

Ted (fainting) Sticky pudding, it's so good . . .

Mister Grin roars!

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Fighting Prawn Fifteen seconds, Mister Grin!

The BOYS press on, now with courtly elegance.

Ted And soon the Princess was old enough to talk -
Prentiss "Hi. I'm sixteen, I'm beautiful, and I'm in the market for something long-term . . ."

Peter But nobody could stay awake long enough to kiss her!

Prentiss (as a record slowing down) And everybody got so sleepy all of a suddennnnn . . .

The BOYS give a big snore in unison.

Ted And that's the story of Sticky Pudding - (faints again)

Peter, Prentiss SLEEPING BEAUTY!

~~Molly (not able to stand this any longer, comes out of hiding) That's not the end! They missed the whole emotional arc of the story!~~

Peter (to MOLLY) Where'd you come from??

Fighting Prawn Goody, another English! (DING! from the kitchen timer.) And your minute is up!

Mister Grin roars! MOLLY and the BOYS tremble

Peter You shoulda stayed hidden, Molly!

The MOLLUSKS gasp!

Molly You abused the concept of the theater collective - it was too much for me.

Mollusks (rocking with laughter) Molly! Molly! Molly!

Molly Although Ted has real talent.

Prentiss Hey, I have talent!

Ted (Sally Field at the Oscars) They liked me! They really liked me!

Mollusks Molly! Molly! Molly!

Peter What's so funny?