

**The Frog Prince**  
*By Camille Atebe*

Characters

*Princess Primrose*

*The King*

*The Queen*

*The Frog*

*Prince Gerald*

*Fairy Phantasmic*

## **Scene 1**

*The palace garden. Princess Primrose, the King and the Queen sit having afternoon tea.*

**Queen** It's such a lovely day today, isn't it?

**King** Yes, we haven't seen the sun in such a long time.

**Primrose** I don't like having tea outside. There are way too many bugs.

**Queen** It's a beautiful spring day, Primrose. Don't find things to complain about. Just enjoy the day.

**King** I wonder if we'll have any visitors today.

*Prince Gerald enters.*

**King** Hello, Gerald! Have you come for tea?

**Prince** Well, yes and no. I'd love a cup of tea, but that's not why I came.

**Queen** Then I'll pour you a cup and you can tell us why you came. Primrose, aren't you going to say hello to Prince Gerald?

**Primrose** Hello.

**Prince** Hello, Princess Primrose. You're looking lovely this afternoon.

**Primrose** I know.

**Queen** Primrose! Manners!

**Primrose** But I do look lovely.

**King** Yes, you do.

**Prince** You always look lovely. Primrose, I've wanted to ask you something for a long time.

**Primrose** Oh yeah?

**Queen** Primrose! Manners!

**Primrose** What would you like to ask, Prince Gerald?

**Prince** Princess Primrose, I love you!

**Primrose** That's not a question.

**Queen** Primrose! -

**Primrose** I know. Manners. But it wasn't a question.

**King** She's right. It wasn't a question.

**Prince** The question is- will you marry me?

**Primrose** Marry you? I don't think so.

**Queen** But why not? Gerald is a delightful young man. And he loves you.

**King** She said she doesn't want to marry him, so she doesn't have to marry him. Sorry, Gerald.

**Queen** I think she's being very rude.

**King** It's up to her, dear.

**Prince** Are you sure, Princess Primrose?

**Primrose** Yeah, I'm sure.

**Prince** But why?

**Primrose** You aren't rich enough.

**Prince** But...

**Primrose** I'm bored. I'm going inside to eat some cake.

**Queen** Are you going to get cake for the rest of us?

**Primrose** Nope. Seeya.

*She exits.*

**King** I'm sorry, Prince Gerald. You are very nice, but it is up to her.

**Queen** I'm sorry, Prince Gerald. But you'll be better off with someone with manners.

**Prince** That's alright. I'll live.

*He exits sadly.*

**Queen** That girl has got to learn some manners.

**King** But darling, we can't force her to marry someone she doesn't want to.

**Queen** I know that. But she could have let him down kindly. She was very rude.

**King** She's young, dear. Let her be.

**Queen** She's old enough to get married! You've always spoiled her! You let her turn into a real monster! *(She exits angrily.)*

**King** Well, that ruined a perfectly good tea. *(He exits, taking the tea tray)*

## Scene 2

*The Frog sits on the edge of the well. He eats a fly or two. Fairy Phantasmic enters.*

**Fairy** Hello there.

**Frog** Hello.

**Fairy** I'm Fairy Phantasmic. What's your name?

**Frog** I'm a frog. I haven't got a name.

**Fairy** That's too bad. Names are great.

**Frog** Can I help you with anything?

**Fairy** Can I help *you* with anything?

**Frog** No.

**Fairy** That's too bad. Because that's what I'm looking for- someone to help.

**Frog** Ah. Because you're a fairy?

**Fairy** You're clever, aren't you?

**Frog** For a frog, yeah, I guess I am.

**Fairy** So you don't need help?

**Frog** Nope. But the Queen might.

**Fairy** Really? Tell me more.

**Frog** Well, she seems to be having trouble with her daughter. Princess Primrose is a bit of a handful.

**Fairy** Children can be mischevious.

**Frog** Except she's not a child anymore. She's all grown up and she's still not behaving.

**Fairy** Well, we'll have to do something about that, won't we? What's she done recently?

**Frog** She's refused to marry Prince Gerald. He's really nice, but she's being mean to him because he's only got a tiny kingdom. She wants to marry a very rich man with a very big kingdom.

**Fairy** It sounds like we'll have to teach this Princess Primrose a lesson.

**Frog** How will we... wait a minute! Did you say we'll have to teach her a lesson?

**Fairy** Yes. You and I. I have a very clever plan, but I'll need your help. Does Princess Primrose spend much time in this garden?

**Frog** She comes out here when she's bored and pulls all the petals off of the flowers. And she's bored a lot.

**Fairy** Excellent. I want you to talk to her next time she comes out here.

**Frog** But I'm a frog! I can't talk to people!

**Fairy** You're talking to me, aren't you?

**Frog** You're a fairy. You're magical. But humans don't understand frog language.

**Fairy** Like you said, I'm magical. Trust me. When you speak to her, she'll understand.

**Frog** But what do I say?

**Fairy** I'll tell you...

*She leans close and as she begins to explain her plan, the lights fade.*

### **Scene 3**

*The garden. Princess Primrose enters, wearing her crown. She shouts off,*

**Primrose** I'll be in the garden! Let me know when someone interesting shows up! *(To herself)* I hate these stupid dinner parties! Everyone is so boring, and they don't pay any attention to me! Why don't they pay attention to me? I'm beautiful, and pretty, and very good looking.

*She goes to the well and sits on the edge. She looks in, primping and preening at her reflection in the water. Fairy Phantasmic, disguised as a beggar, enters and startles her.*

**Fairy** Hello, young lady.

*Primrose's crown falls off into the well.*

**Primrose** Hey! You made me lose my crown! What are you doing here, anyways? I'll have you arrested!

**Fairy** I'm very sorry miss. Was it a valuable crown?

**Primrose** Of course it was! I'm Princess Primrose!

**Fairy** Good for you. Would you like me to fetch it for you?

**Primrose** It's fallen down the well, you foolish peasant. You can't just reach in and grab it.

**Fairy** Alright. I'll be on my way, then. Unless you want to arrest me?

**Primrose** Oh, just get out of my sight.

*The Fairy exits, smiling secretly.*

**Primrose** Phooey! Mum and Dad will kill me for losing my crown.

**Frog** (*From the nearby bushes*) Maybe I can help.

**Primrose** Who said that? Is there another vagrant in my garden? Because if there is, you'd better clear out. I'm not in a good mood.

**Frog** (*Hopping into view*) No, I'm not a vagrant. I live here in the garden, and if you want to get your crown out of the well, I can help.

**Primrose** Are you a talking frog?

**Frog** Yes and no.

**Primrose** Yes and no? What kind of answer is that?

**Frog** Well, I am talking, but I'm not really a frog.

**Primrose** You look like a frog.

**Frog** True.

**Primrose** You smell like a frog.

**Frog** Unfortunately, yes.

**Primrose** But you aren't really a frog?

**Frog** That's right.



**Primrose** So what are you, then?

**Frog** I'm a prince.

**Primrose** A prince?

**Frog** Yes, a prince. I have a large kingdom just west of here. A huge kingdom, actually. An evil witch turned me into a frog when I refused to hand over the key to my enormous vault full of money.

**Primrose** Enormous vault of money?

**Frog** Yes. And so now I'm a frog.

**Primrose** But who's taking care of your money?

**Frog** Oh, it's all locked away. My kingdom is without a ruler until I return to my human form.

**Primrose** Hold on- don't you have to be a king to have a kingdom?

**Frog** Um, yes. But I don't get to be a king until I marry. I guess it's a principedom until then.

**Primrose** So you need to find a wife, eh?

**Frog** Yup. I also need to not be a frog anymore.

**Primrose** How will you break the spell?

**Frog** If a beautiful princess declares her love for me in public, the spell will be broken, and I can marry her, become a king, and return to my kingdom.

**Primrose** I'll marry- wait a minute. No, wait a minute. This is a scam, isn't it. You want to marry a princess, so you're making up this story.

**Frog** Why would I want to marry you?

**Primrose** Why wouldn't you want to marry me? I'm perfect.

**Frog** *(remembering that its supposed to be a prince)* Oh, yeah, of course you are. I mean, if I was just an ordinary, average, garden variety frog, why would I want to marry a human? That would just be weird.

**Primrose** I guess you've got a point, there.

**Frog** Look, I'll prove to you how much I need- I mean want- to marry you. I'll dive down and get your crown, if you promise to declare in public that you love me.

**Primrose** Well, I do need that crown. Mum and Dad will be pretty angry if they find out I dropped it down a well.

**Frog** So really, you win all around. You get your crown back, and you get to marry a very rich king.

**Primrose** But if you're lying, and you're really just a frog...

**Frog** I think we've established that I'm not just a frog. The fact that I can talk is pretty strong evidence that my story is true.

**Primrose** But you could be just a normal, average guy, and not a rich king at all.

**Frog** Do you honestly believe that a witch would go to all the trouble of turning me into a frog if I was just an average guy?

**Primrose** I guess not. Okay, you have a deal. Go get my crown, and I'll declare my love for you. As long as you promise to marry me and make me a very rich queen.

**Frog** You've got a deal!

*The frog jumps into the well. Princess Primrose leans over and looks in, calling out advice like- A little to the left! Don't scratch it on the bricks!- etc. After a lot of splashing and grunting, the frog re-emerges, holding the crown.*

**Primrose** *(grabbing the crown)* Great! Man, I would have been in so much trouble if I'd lost it!

**Frog** Now you have to live up to your end of the bargain.

**Primrose** You promise you're not scamming me?

**Frog** I promise.

**Primrose** All right. Meet me here tomorrow at lunchtime. I'll bring the public.

**Frog** Okay. I'll see you here at lunchtime tomorrow.

#### **Scene 4**

*The next day, lunchtime. Princess Primrose enters with the King, the Queen and Prince Gerald. Fairy Phantasmic and the Frog also enter. Fairy Phantasmic is dressed as a beggar again.*

**Princess** Alright, everyone, have a seat.

**Queen** Primrose, what's going on?

**King** And why are there a frog and a beggar in my royal garden?

**Primrose** I have an announcement to make.

**Queen** An announcement about what?

**Prince** And why am I here?

**Primrose** I thought that it might be a good idea to have you here for the announcement too, so that you won't bug me about getting married anymore.

**Prince** Bug you? I only asked once.

**Primrose** Yeah, that bugged me.

**Fairy** Get on with it, already.

**Primrose** You again? What are you doing here?

**Frog** I thought I'd bring some public of my own, just in case.

**King** Just in case what?

**Frog** Just in case the princess here decided to renege on her deal.

**Queen** Primrose? Have you been making deals with frogs?

**Prince** Am I the only one who finds it bizarre that this frog can talk?

**Queen** No, I find it a little disconcerting, too.

**King** I don't think it's really a frog.

**Primrose** It's not really a frog. It's actually a prince.

**Prince** Yeah, right.

**Primrose** And I love him.

**Queen** What did you just say?

**Primrose** I said it's not really a frog, it's a prince.

**Prince** Are you sure? Because I think that's a girl frog.

**Primrose** *(To the frog)* I thought you were supposed to turn back into a prince when I declared that I loved you.

**Frog** In public. This isn't exactly the public.

**Primrose** Sure it is.

**King** Sorry, sweetheart, but the frog is right. We're friends and family. I don't think we count as the public.

**Primrose** That vagrant is the public!

**Fairy** Sorry, miss. I guess you need a bigger crowd.

**Primrose** Phooey! Alright, I want my kingdom. Come with me.

*She grabs the frog and drags it off, leaving the others behind.*

**Queen** Primrose! Where are you going?

**Fairy** I think she's gone to declare her love for the frog in the town square. She really wants to be a queen.

**Prince** I'm not sure I understand what's going on.

**Fairy** That's okay, you don't need to. You must be Prince Gerald, the young prince who asked Primrose to marry him.

**Prince** Who are you and how do you know everything?

**Fairy** (*Unveiling her true identity*) I'm the good Fairy Phantasmic, and I have gifts for all of you.

**King** Gifts? Ooh, I want a pony!

**Queen** I want a new washing machine.

**Prince** I want to know what's going on.

**Fairy** I'm not a genie, I don't grant wishes. No, I have something better. I will give you all what you need.

**King** I need a pony.

**Queen** I need a new washing machine.

**Prince** I need to know what's going on.

**Fairy** Okay, okay. You can have a pony (*waves wand*) and a washing machine (*waves wand*) and Prince Gerald, you'll figure it all out soon. But I'm also giving the two of you a better daughter, and Gerald, you get a bigger kingdom.

**Prince** Who said I wanted a bigger kingdom?

**Fairy** If you have a bigger kingdom, Princess Primrose will want to marry you.

**Prince** Oh.

**King** But didn't she say she was in love with that frog?

*Primrose and the frog re-enter. The frog is laughing, and Primrose is furious.*

**Primrose** But you said that you'd turn back into a prince! The whole town is laughing at me now, for saying I loved a frog, and you aren't a prince!

**Frog** Nope. I guess that whole story wasn't true after all. Maybe I just dreamt that I was a prince. Yeah, it must have been a dream. Oh well. Nice knowing you, Princess Primrose!

*The frog quickly jumps back into the well.*

**Fairy** You know who does have a huge kingdom, Princess Primrose?

**Primrose** Who?

**Queen** Prince Gerald. Your father got a pony, I got a washing machine, and Gerald got a bigger, richer kingdom.

**Primrose** What? When did this happen?

**King** When you were out with the frog. It turns out that this nice lady is a fairy, not a beggar.

**Primrose** So what do I get?

**Fairy** Humility.

**Primrose** You mean humiliated.

**Fairy** That too.

**Primrose** Wait a minute- did you say Gerald was richer? Oh Gerald, now that I've had a chance to think, I do want to marry you. Very much.

**Prince** Well, now that I've had a chance to think, I don't want to marry you. At all. *(To Fairy)* Thanks, Fairy Phantasmic. You know, I think I do get it now. Good bye Primrose!

*He exits happily.*

**Primrose** I thought he loved me!

**Queen** That's what you get for not using your manners, Primrose. Now if you'll excuse me, I have some laundry to do. *(exits)*

**King** Them's the breaks, kid. And if you'll excuse me, I have some riding to do. *(exits)*

**Fairy** And if you'll excuse me, I have other people to help. *(exits)*

**Primrose** Ah, Phooey!

The end