

(Shrek grabs an axe from a nearby pile, and smashes a chain-lock, releasing a portcullis, and trapping the dragon just in time, to save them.

And then Fiona sings, victoriously...)

FIONA

THIS IS HOW I PICTURED IT,
MORE OR LESS, I MUST ADMIT.
A THUMPING IN MY HEART.
A LIFE ABOUT TO START...

I KNEW THIS DAY WOULD COME,
AND YOU WOULD FIND YOUR WAY.
AT LAST MY DREAM COMES TRUE.
I KNEW, I KNEW, I KNEW...
...IT WOULD BE TODAY!

(The set has changed. And they are safe on the other side. All signs of the Dragon and her keep have vanished.

Fiona is skipping about like the overjoyed princess she is. Shrek and Donkey are winded.)

You did it! You-did-it-you-did-it-you-did-it. You're amazing, you're wonderful, you're...a little unorthodox I'll admit but—

(regains her composure)

Thy deed is great, and thine heart is pure. I am eternally in your debt.

(Shrek enjoys the attention. Donkey, however, feels slighted.)

DONKEY

Ahem.

FIONA

And where would a brave knight be without his noble steed?

DONKEY

Alright! I hope you heard that. She called me a "noble steed!" She think I'm a steed.

FIONA

Well, Sir Shrek, the battle is won. You may remove your helmet.

SHREK

Ahhh...no.

FIONA

Why not?

SHREK

I...I have helmet hair.

FIONA

(coyly)

Please, I wouldst look upon the face of my rescuer.

SHREK

Oh no, you wouldn't...tst.

FIONA

(giggles)

But—how will you kiss me?

SHREK

What? That wasn't in the job description.

DONKEY

Maybe it's a perk.

FIONA

No—it's destiny. "A princess is rescued by a brave knight and then they share true love's first kiss."

DONKEY

With Shrek?! You think that *Shrek* is your true love? Hahahahaha!

FIONA

What is so funny?

SHREK

(also laughing)

Well, let's just say I'm not your type, okay?

FIONA

(losing patience)

Of course you are. You're my rescuer! Now remove your helmet.

SHREK

Look, I really don't think that's a good idea.

FIONA

Just take off the helmet.

SHREK

I'm not going to.

FIONA

Take it off!

SHREK

No!

FIONA

NOW!

SHREK

Okay! Easy. As you command, Your Highness...

(Shrek removes his helmet. Fiona stares at him blankly, confused but not frightened. Shrek smiles.)

FIONA

You're...an ogre?

SHREK

(...of course)

Oh, you were expecting Prince Charming?

FIONA

Well...yes actually. Oh no. I'm supposed to be rescued by my true love! Not by some ogre and his...*pet*.

DONKEY

Well so much for noble steed.

FIONA

You're not supposed to be an ogre.

(He sighs, irritated.)

SHREK

Princess, I was *sent* to rescue you by Lord Farquaad, okay? He's the one who wants to marry you.

FIONA

Oh. Then why didn't *he* come rescue me?

SHREK

Good question. You should ask him that when we get there tomorrow.

FIONA

(stops)

Tomorrow?

(suddenly realizes)

Oh my gosh, it's almost sunset!

SHREK

So?

FIONA

(looks to setting sun)

I didn't realize it was so late. We need to make camp.

SHREK

Camp? But you've just escaped!

FIONA

Yes, and I found the whole ordeal quite exhausting. I need to rest immediately.

SHREK

That's unfortunate, because we're gonna keep going.

FIONA

I NEED TO FIND SOMEWHERE TO CAMP RIGHT NOW!

(Shrek and Donkey stop in their tracks.)

SHREK

Very well. There's a cave right there.

DONKEY

Shrek! That's no place for a princess.

FIONA

(more concerned with the setting sun)

No, no it's perfect. Well gentlemen, I bid thee good night!

(heads for the cave)

DONKEY

You want me to read you a bedtime story? Cause I will.

FIONA

I said GOOD NIGHT!

(She disappears into the cave. Shrek and Donkey stand in silence for a moment.)

DONKEY

She seems nice.

#9a – Act I Sunset

(Shrek and Donkey head off.)

As sun goes down, the sky glows green and magical, and we hear...

VOICE OF FIONA

"By day one way, by night another – this shall be the norm, until you find true love's first kiss and then take loves true form."