

THE MILLER'S DAUGHTER

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SCENE I: THE MILLER'S DAUGHTER

As the curtain rises, the stage reveals three distinct areas.

To the audience's left, we see the house and windmill of Milo the miller, where he lives with his two children: William and Ivy.

To the audience's right, two market stalls mark the town square area.

In the background, a castle stands tall, overlooking the scene.

The play begins as the first notes of Be Free are heard. William and Ivy enter. Ivy sings with energy, completely immersed in her dreams and desires. William tries to hang the laundry.

SONG 1: BE FREE

Ivy

Fight, coward!

William

Ivy!

Ivy

I'm the best sword fighter in the whole world. Come on, fight me!

Ivy hits the basket with her sword and knocks it over.

Fight, fight, fight!

Brave and bold

Sword in hand

Seek the sun

Run! Run!

Chase your dreams

Ride the wind

Touch the skies

William

Ivy, the clothes!

Ivy

One day I'll have a real sword.

THE MILLER'S DAUGHTER

William

You are crazy!

Ivy

And I'll have my own kingdom.

William (laughs)

Ivy

The Kingdom of Carabas!

William

What?

Ivy

Carabas!

William (laughs)

Ivy

And I will be a Marchioness.

William

A Marchioness!

Ivy

Yes

(Ivy continues singing.)

Ivy and William

Fight, fight, fight!

Brave and bold

Sword in hand

Seek the sun

Run! Run!

Chase your dreams

Ride the wind

Touch the skies

Ivy

And then I will be free, you know? I will be free

THE MILLER'S DAUGHTER

Ivy and William

Free, free, free, free!

WILLIAM

Ivy, I do everything around here. You just dream!

IVY

Dreams are better than this.

They start arguing. Suddenly, Milo enters. He is wearing a nightgown and sleeping hat, coughing and walking slowly.

MILO

My dear children!

WILLIAM

Dad, how are you feeling?

IVY

Yes, dad. Are you alright?

MILO

I must speak to you, my dear children.

They approach. Milo tries to speak but coughs. They watch him breathe deeply. At last he says:

MILO

My end is near.

WILLIAM

No, dad! You're fine.

(Milo has a dramatic coughing fit.)

IVY

Well... maybe dad is right.

(William gestures to Ivy to behave. Ivy mimes coughing to indicate it looks serious.)

WILLIAM

Ivy!

THE MILLER'S DAUGHTER

(They argue again.)

MILO

Listen, children!

Again, the children wait expectantly. At last, Milo says:

MILO

Keep this safe.

Milo raises a yellowed envelope. This moment is magical — the light changes slightly, and soft music begins. Ivy and William freeze in the same rhythm. Milo's arm reaches slowly into the light and holds the envelope.

IVY

What is this?

MILO

It's my... (cough) my will. Your inheritance.

William moves to take it, but Ivy is quicker.

IVY

Let's see what it says.

MILO *(firm but kind)*

Alright, Ivy, don't be impatient. Let me read it.

WILLIAM

Yes, Ivy. Let dad read his own will.

MILO *(straightening up slightly)*

To you, William... I leave the wheat fields.

WILLIAM

Yes! I love the fields!

IVY

Fine. I hate the fields anyway.

MILO

And the mill is for you, William.

THE MILLER'S DAUGHTER

WILLIAM

Yes!

IVY

What else?

MILO

And... the house...

IVY

For me?

MILO

No, also for William.

IVY (*shocked*)

Wait. What?! The house too?

MILO

Yes. He loves it here. You don't.

IVY

So... what about me?

(From behind the house, a loud voice is heard.)

MARY (*offstage*)

Out, you filthy rat! Take this!

MILO

To you, Ivy... I have a great gift for you. I leave you in the hands of my dear Mary, my faithful Mary.

IVY

What?!

WILLIAM

Oh, oh!

IVY

Mary?

THE MILLER'S DAUGHTER

MILO

Mary has been with us for years. She is loyal...

MARY (*offstage*)

I'm sick of this! I'm leaving and I'm never coming back.

MILO

She is gentle...

MARY (*offstage*)

I hate this damn life. I hate it!

MILO (*smiling*)

...and full of peace.

MARY (*offstage*)

A mouse! Get out of here. Out!

(*She starts hitting the floor with the broom.*)

Out, I said! This is my kitchen, not yours!

(*Final loud **BANG**. A pause.*)

MILO (*calls*)

Mary?

MARY (*enters, furious, holding the broom like a weapon*)

Yes?

MILO

My dear Mary... from today on, I want you to serve Ivy.

IVY & MARY (*in unison*)

What?!

MILO

You'll stay with her. She needs you.

IVY & MARY (*again*)

No!

MILO

Please. It's my final wish. Ivy needs you.

THE MILLER'S DAUGHTER

(Silence. They both freeze. Milo and William exit slowly. William glances back and gives Ivy a sympathetic look. She is alone now... with Mary.)

SCENE II: THE DEAL

(Mary and Ivy are left alone on stage. Tension fills the air.)

IVY

Great. Just great! A poor maid for me!

MARY

Don't worry. I don't like you either.

IVY

I don't need you.

MARY *(laughs sarcastically)*

Oh, I think you do.

IVY

No, I don't.

MARY

You're a lazy mill girl, a daydreamer with no land, no mill, no house and... oh yes! No money. Yes, you definitely need me.

IVY

Really? You're a horrible maid! Bossy, grumpy, and rude. No, thank you!

MARY

Alright, let's get this over with. What do you want?

IVY

It's none of your business.

MARY *(raises broom)*

Excuse me?

IVY *(backs off)*

Okay! A sword.

MARY *(lifts broom again)*

And?

THE MILLER'S DAUGHTER

IVY

My own kingdom.

MARY (*raises broom once more*)

And?

IVY

And to be a marchioness. The Marchioness of Carabas.

MARY (*mocking*)

Oh la la... Your own sword, your own kingdom, and a noble title.

(*She circles Ivy like a hawk.*)

They're very realistic dreams. Yes, indeed.

IVY

You asked me.

MARY

Don't interrupt me. Let's recap: sword, kingdom, marchioness. Well, well...

(*She sighs, very dramatically.*)

Alright then. No doubt about it. We have to go to the market.

IVY

To the market?

MARY

At the market, you can find anything. Swords, kingdoms, noble titles...

IVY

Really?

MARY

Everything's for sale at the market... as long as you have money.

IVY

I don't have any money.

MARY

Well, but I have a brain. And that's enough.

IVY

You're crazy.

THE MILLER'S DAUGHTER

MARY

Yes. That's where your journey begins, marchioness.

IVY

I'm not a marchioness.

MARY

Not yet. Let's make a deal. I'll get you everything you want and you'll set me free.

IVY

Free?

MARY

Once your wishes are granted, marchioness... you let me go.

IVY

Deal. No doubt about it.

BOTH

A deal!

(They exit slowly, side by side. Lights fade out.)

SCENE III: THE MARKET

Ivy and Mary enter from stage left. From stage right, the merchants appear; one is arranging a hat stall, the other is setting up boots and opening the clothes shop. Ivy and Mary walk in from the back of the stage.

IVY

The market! My sword!

She notices a sword displayed at one of the stalls.

MARY

Yes!

They approach the stalls.

SIGNORI RIGOBERTI

Good morning, madam and...

IVY

She is my friend.

THE MILLER'S DAUGHTER

MARY

Yes, I'm her friend.

(The merchant looks at them.)

MARY

We are looking for a dress for my friend.

MONSIEUR TRAVALLÉ

Dresses! I have dresses! Come with me, please.

MARY

We are also looking for boots.

IVY

Boots?

MARY

Shhhhh.

SIGNORI RIGOBERTI

The best boots are right here, at my stall. The stall of Signore Rigoberti!

MONSIEUR TRAVALLÉ

No, no, no. If you want boots, come to *my* stall — the stall of Monsieur Travallé.

SIGNORI RIGOBERTI

Thief!

MONSIEUR TRAVALLÉ

Liar!

SIGNORI RIGOBERTI

What did you say?

They're about to fight when music starts. At that moment, Ivy comes out wearing a dress. The merchants begin to sing. First Monsieur Travallé takes her to his stall, then Signore Rigoberti takes her to his. Meanwhile, Mary sneaks away with the boots, a dress and a suit before exiting.

THE MILLER'S DAUGHTER

SONG: COME AND SEE

(The merchants sing, parading around their stalls.)

Monsier Travallé

Come and see now
My stall is amazing
I have all you can desire
Take a look, be kind
Come into my stall

Signori Rigoberti

Don't trust that man
He's out of his mind
My stall is the best in town
Umbrellas from China
And sweet tangerines
Come and see
The best price
I've got no rival!

MONSIEUR TRAVALLÉ

What? Best price, Macaroni? Traitor!

SIGNORI RIGOBERTI

My name is not Macaroni — it's Rigoberti!

INTERACTIVE SCENE: "THE FASHION DUEL"

MONSIEUR TRAVALLÉ

Alright! Let's make a duel!

SIGNORI RIGOBERTI

A fashion duel!

MONSIEUR TRAVALLÉ

We need two special guests! Two brave customers!

(They invite two children from the audience on stage, with help if needed.)

THE MILLER'S DAUGHTER

MONSIEUR TRAVALLÉ *(to the first child)*

Hello! What's your name?

CHILD 1

(My name is...)

MONSIEUR TRAVALLÉ

Nice to meet you, (name)! And... where are you from?

CHILD 1

(I'm from...)

SIGNORI RIGOBERTI *(to the second child)*

Hello! What's your name?

CHILD 2

(My name is...)

SIGNORI RIGOBERTI

Lovely name! And where do you come from?

CHILD 2

(I'm from...)

MONSIEUR TRAVALLÉ

Now you will wear...

(He picks up a ridiculous dress and puts it on them carefully.)

...the most elegant dress in all of France!

SIGNORI RIGOBERTI

And now you! I'm going to put this wonderful hat on you!

MONSIEUR TRAVALLÉ

Magnifique! My model is ready!

SIGNORI RIGOBERTI

My model is... perfect!

MONSIEUR TRAVALLÉ *(to the audience)*

Now it's time to vote! Who wins?

SIGNORI RIGOBERTI

Who is more fashionable?

THE MILLER'S DAUGHTER

MONSIEUR TRAVALLÉ

French?

SIGNORI RIGOBERTI

Or Italian?

(The audience responds. The actors react in an exaggerated way, no matter the result.)

MONSIEUR TRAVALLÉ

What?!

SIGNORI RIGOBERTI

I can't believe it!

BOTH

Thank you for your help!

MONSIEUR TRAVALLÉ

A big applause for our special guests!

(They help the children down from the stage with care and smiles. Lights or music transition into the next scene.)

Monsieur Travallé heads to his fabric shop — which also belongs to him — and suddenly stops.

MONSIEUR TRAVALLÉ

What? I can't believe it!

SIGNORI RIGOBERTI

What happened, Monsieur Travallé?

MONSIEUR TRAVALLÉ

I've been robbed!

SIGNORI RIGOBERTI

What? Check again!

MONSIEUR TRAVALLÉ

A suit and a dress are missing!

SIGNORI RIGOBERTI *(alarmed, rushing to his own stall)*

Oh, Santa Madonna! My boots are gone!

THE MILLER'S DAUGHTER

BOTH

Oh no!

SIGNORI RIGOBERTI

And the sword!

MONSIEUR TRAVALLÉ

The king's sword?

SIGNORI RIGOBERTI

The sword of King Rowan!

BOTH

Oh no!

SIGNORI RIGOBERTI

Wait a second... Where is the lady?

MONSIEUR TRAVALLÉ

And her friend?

(They look one way, then another.)

MONSIEUR TRAVALLÉ

Madam!

SIGNORI RIGOBERTI

Signora!

MONSIEUR TRAVALLÉ

Madam!

SIGNORI RIGOBERTI

Signora!

MONSIEUR TRAVALLÉ

Madam!

SIGNORI RIGOBERTI

Signora!

RIGOBERTI & TRAVALLÉ

Thieves! Thieves! Thieves!

THE MILLER'S DAUGHTER

They rush to their carts and begin to exit.

SIGNORI RIGOBERTI

Let's go get them! Can't you move faster?

(He stops moving for a moment, visibly nervous, and looks at Travallé with impatience.)

MONSIEUR TRAVALLÉ

I'm trying, Panini!

SIGNORI RIGOBERTI

My name is not Panini!

They exit on the right-hand side (the market side).

SCENE IV: THE KING'S SWORD

Ivy and Mary enter from stage left after the merchants have exited. Mary is wearing a noble-looking suit and holding a sword.

MARY

See? You don't need money.

IVY

Sure, stealing is much better.

MARY *(hisses)*

Now you have a beautiful dress, I have a fine suit, and also...

Mary hands the sword to Ivy.

IVY *(mesmerized)*

My sword!

MARY

Well, it *is* the king's sword. But now, it's your sword.

IVY

Now I can finally make my dream come true: to conquer my own kingdom!

MARY

You don't need a sword for this. You need to believe in yourself.

THE MILLER'S DAUGHTER

IVY

Shhhh! With this sword, I will conquer the whole world. And I will be the Marchioness of Carabas.

MARY

Oh! Oh! The Marchioness of Carabas. But you don't need a sword for that...

Oh! Oh! Look at this beautiful little bird! Oh, how lovely! I love it! Come with me, my little one.

IVY

Mary, don't touch it. It's not yours.

MARY

Shut up! *(She makes little noises to get the bird's attention.)*

IVY

Don't touch it!

MARY

I said shut up!

IVY

All right then, you leave me no choice. En garde!

MARY

What are you doing?!

IVY

I'm the best swordfighter in the whole world! Fight!

(King Rowan and the royal wizard Argos enter the stage through the background.)

ARGOS

That is the king's sword.

ROWAN

Yes. That is my sword.

MARY

King Rowan!

THE MILLER'S DAUGHTER

(She kneels.)

ROWAN

Please.

(He extends his hand to Ivy, expecting the sword back.)

IVY

No. This is my sword.

ROWAN

Excuse me, lady. That sword belongs to me.

IVY

If you want it... you'll have to fight! En garde!

ARGOS

He is the king!

(Rowan turns and takes the sword offered by Argos.)

(The fight intensifies. Mary watches anxiously.)

ARGOS

This is incredible...

MARY

Believe me, there's nothing incredible.

Finally, Rowan defeats Ivy, not without effort. Her sword falls.

MARY

Are you okay?

(Argos picks up the fallen sword.)

ARGOS

Let's go, my lord.

(Rowan pauses, still watching Ivy. He gestures to Argos to wait. He approaches Ivy and offers her his hand to help her up.)

ROWAN

You are good with a sword. Who are you?

(A silence. They look at each other. Ivy hesitates for a few seconds, then replies.)

THE MILLER'S DAUGHTER

IVY

I'm Ivy, the Marchioness of Carabas.

ROWAN & ARGOS

Of where?

MARY

I can't believe it!

IVY

Of Carabas.

ROWAN

I've never heard of that land.

ARGOS

Me neither.

(Mary and Ivy exchange glances. Mary glares at her. Ivy begs with her eyes: "Please play along.")

MARY

Well... it's a very famous land.

ARGOS

This is all very strange.

IVY

I'm very sorry about the sword, my lord.

ROWAN

Oh, not at all! Please, come with me, Marchioness Ivy. Welcome to my palace.

IVY

Thank you, my lord!

(Rowan and Ivy leave through the back of the stage.)

SCENE V: THE MARCHIONESS OF CARABAS

(Argos remains on stage. He watches Ivy and Rowan leave. Mary approaches. The air is tense.)

THE MILLER'S DAUGHTER

ARGOS

Well, well, well... so, the Marchioness of Carabas.

MARY

It's a beautiful place, sir.

ARGOS

And where is it?

MARY

Very, very, very far away. Across mountains and rivers.

ARGOS

And you are?

MARY

I am the servant of the Marchioness. Lord... Broccoli!

ARGOS

Lord... Broccoli?

MARY

Yes. Old family name. Very noble... very green. And you are?

ARGOS

I'm Argos, the royal wizard.

CAT

A wizard! How interesting!

(Argos begins to circle her slowly, watching her suspiciously.)

ARGOS

Tell me, Lord Broccoli... where is Carabas?

MARY

Oh... it's very far. You must cross mountains, rivers... and maybe a rainbow.

It's a beautiful land. There are trees, lakes, castles... even dragons.

ARGOS

Dragons?

THE MILLER'S DAUGHTER

MARY

Yes. Small ones. But very polite.

(Argos stops. Mary begins to sing.)

SONG: CARABAS

Mary

Listen to the famous song of Carabas!

Argos

The famous song of Carabas...?

Mary

Carabas is so green,
Full of light and soft wind,
I was born in Carabas.
Trees grow tall and kind,
Rivers hum at night,
Birds can talk and laugh,
Clouds go slow and round,
I was born in Carabas.
Knights are small and brave,
Kings speak soft and clear,
Dreams grow under the leaves,
Time walks slow and sweet,
I was born in Carabas.

Argos

Hmm... small knights? Birds that talk? That sounds... unlikely.

Mary

Only to those who've never been there.

Argos

And kings that speak softly? Where is this kingdom exactly?

Mary

Over the hills so high,

THE MILLER'S DAUGHTER

Past the trees and silver grass,
I was born in Carabas.
Small dragons light the lamps,
Warm their food with fire,
Never burn the trees,
They say "hello" and "please",
I was born in Carabas.

(Song ends. Silence. Argos slowly approaches Mary, who looks at him nervously.)

ARGOS

Lord Broccoli... if you lie to me... I will know it. And I will not be kind.

MARY

I... I almost never lie.

ARGOS

Almost?

MARY

I mean... never. I never lie.

ARGOS *(with a tense smile)*

Have a nice day, Lord Broccoli.

(Argos slowly exits at the back. Mary is left alone. She sighs.)

MARY

Lord Broccoli? Polite dragons?... I really need to work on my stories.

(Mary also exits at the back.)

SCENE VI: THE SECRET

(Ivy and Rowan enter from the palace area — center back. They walk and talk as they cross the stage.)

ROWAN

Carabas must be a beautiful land.

THE MILLER'S DAUGHTER

IVY

Yes, it's a big land. Full of fields, trees, and rivers. And most important: you can be free.
Free to be yourself!

ROWAN

Oh! I want to go to Carabas! You know what? I'm not happy here.

IVY

Why? You're the king. You have everything: a palace, adventures... your own kingdom.

ROWAN

But I can't be free.

IVY

You have your sword!

ROWAN

I don't understand.

IVY

With a sword you can conquer the whole world!

SONG: GIVE ME A SWORD

Ivy

Give me a sword,
I'll conquer the whole world.
I will be the one
Who walks under the sun.
The stars light my nights,
There's a beat inside my heart...

Give me a sword,
I'll conquer the world.
Nothing will stop me now.
It's in my heart,
That's who I am.

(Coda – both)

Fight and fight

THE MILLER'S DAUGHTER

under the sun.

Nothing will stop me now.

Fight and fight

through the night.

Now I know who I am.

ROWAN

You want a sword and I only want to be free. Free to do what I want, to go wherever I want.

IVY

You are the king. You can do whatever you want!

ROWAN

I'm the king, yes, but I'm not free.

IVY

What?

ROWAN

And I feel lonely.

IVY

I'm very sorry, Rowan.

ROWAN

But when I am with you, I feel there is someone who understands me.

(They look at each other. If the sword fight allowed them to get closer for the first time — love at first sight — now it intensifies.)

ROWAN

And I feel good.

IVY

Me too.

ROWAN

Really good.

THE MILLER'S DAUGHTER

IVY

Rowan!

ROWAN

I feel I can trust you.

IVY

Rowan, I...

ROWAN

Yes, Ivy?

IVY

I...

(Rowan touches her face.)

ROWAN

You don't need to say anything, Ivy.

IVY *(hesitates)*

Yes I need to! ...Or maybe not.

ROWAN *(laughs)*

Come on, Ivy. Let's return to the palace.

(Rowan leaves through the back of the stage. Ivy starts to follow, but Mary blocks her path.)

MARY

You've forgotten something, Marchioness.

IVY

No.

MARY

Yes, the truth. Lying is not right.

IVY

I'm confused. I think I love him. But love wasn't in my plans.

MARY

Then tell him the truth! If you lie, you'll break his heart.

THE MILLER'S DAUGHTER

IVY

If he finds out who I am, he'll never love me. I **am** the Marchioness of Carabas.

(Argos enters quietly from the back and listens, unseen.)

MARY

He trusts you.

(Ivy leaves without another word. Mary and Argos remain on stage for a brief moment.)

SCENE VII: THE FIREBIRD

(Mary has exited. Argos steps into the center of the stage. The lighting shifts slightly, becoming mysterious. He speaks to himself, intrigued.)

ARGOS

Well, well! It seems the Marchioness and her servant are hiding a secret...

(At the back of the stage, behind a structure, stands a cage. Inside it: the Firebird; a robotic creature that glows, chirps, and moves mechanically. Argos approaches. Mary enters quietly and watches from a hidden corner.)

ARGOS

My dear friend... Firebird who sees all... What can you tell me about the Marchioness of Carabas?

(The Firebird begins to trill mechanically. Its sounds evolve into a powerful, echoing, artificial voice that fills the space.)

FIREBIRD

Pay attention, my lord!

(The entire stage darkens. A single spotlight shines on Argos and the Firebird. Magical music or projections may enhance the moment — fiery wings from the bird, flickering images across the scenery. The focus shifts to the house area. The mill slowly begins to turn. On the house's surface, a projection appears: a magical glow that reveals a memory. Ivy and William as children — she with a wooden sword, he with the laundry basket — playing near the mill, just like at the start of the story.)

FIREBIRD

That is your Marchioness!

THE MILLER'S DAUGHTER

ARGOS

The miller's daughter! Thank you, dear friend...

(The Firebird's sounds fade. Argos carefully covers the cage. Sudden lighting shift: everything returns to normal.)

ARGOS

She's an impostor. But I will stop her!

(Argos exits through the back.)

MARY

I must warn Ivy...

(She dashes off.)

SCENE VIII: LOVE AND DISAPPOINTMENT

(Ivy and Rowan enter from the mill — left side of the stage. They walk together. The atmosphere is more intimate.)

ROWAN

Look! The mill!

IVY

Yes, the mill. A very boring place.

ROWAN

What? Here I could be free... Can you think of anything better?

IVY

Well... to conquer the whole world! En garde!

(They both laugh. They look into each other's eyes. The atmosphere becomes softer. An instrumental song or background melody begins. They gaze at each other intensely.)

IVY

Rowan...

ROWAN

Ivy...

(They move closer.)

THE MILLER'S DAUGHTER

SONG: THIS IS LOVE

Ivy

Is this love?

I don't want to lose control.

Is this love?

I was fine, but now I fall.

Is this love?

Love was never in my mind.

Is this love?

When he's near, I feel the sun.

Softly comes the light,

Everything feels right.

(Chorus – both)

This is love,

I can feel it grow.

This is love,

I feel it in my heart.

Rowan

Is this love?

I have waited for so long.

Is this love?

Now I feel like I belong.

She takes my hand,

Now I understand.

(Chorus – both)

This is love,

I can feel it grow.

This is love,

I feel it in my heart.

(Bridge – Ivy and Rowan)

I never knew a moment so complete,

She's the reason my heart begins to beat.

THE MILLER'S DAUGHTER

Give me your hand,

I'm by your side,

Now I can feel

You are the one.

Give me your hand,

Stay with me,

You are my light

Into the dark.

Give me your hand,

I'm by your side,

I can feel

You are the one.

Give me your hand,

Stay with me,

You are my light

Into the dark.

The light into the dark,

The light into the dark.

This is love (x6),

I feel it in my heart (x3),

(Rowan and Ivy continue looking at each other. They are about to kiss when...)

ARGOS

How sweet! Except... she's not a marchioness.

(Rowan steps back quickly.)

ROWAN

Argos! Sorry, Ivy.

ARGOS

She's a liar!

THE MILLER'S DAUGHTER

ROWAN

Argos, stop!

(Rowan approaches firmly. Argos steps aside with an ironic smile.)

ARGOS

She's the miller's daughter.

ROWAN

Enough, Argos!

IVY

No, Rowan. Argos is telling the truth.

ROWAN

What?

IVY

I'm not the Marchioness of Carabas.

ROWAN

No... no... that's impossible!

IVY

I'm Ivy. The miller's daughter.

ROWAN

You lied to me?

IVY

I'm sorry... I...

ROWAN

I trusted you, Ivy.

IVY

I...

ROWAN

I never want to see you again.

(Rowan leaves. But before he exits completely, he stops, turns around, and returns with a cold tone.)

THE MILLER'S DAUGHTER

ROWAN

Here is your sword. That's what you wanted.

(He leaves the sword. Ivy tries to stop him.)

IVY

No, Rowan!

(She wants to go after him, but Argos stops her.)

ARGOS

Enough, Miller's daughter! Stay in your mill.

(Argos exits through the mill area.)

SCENE IX: NEVER GIVE UP

(Mary rushes in from stage right — the market side — breathless and flustered.)

MARY

Ivy! I have something very important to tell you!

Argos knows everything!

IVY

I know. Rowan doesn't want to see me anymore.

MARY

Well, obviously. You are a disgusting, lazy, ugly, horrible liar...

IVY

Mary! My heart is broken.

(Silence. Mary stops. She looks at Ivy more gently now.)

MARY

That 's good.

IVY

Mary!

MARY

Now you understand that lying isn't right.

IVY

I know. But it's too late. Rowan hates me.

THE MILLER'S DAUGHTER

MARY

Ivy, you can't give up. If you love Rowan, go after him! You don't need a sword to conquer the world... or Rowan's heart.

IVY

Impossible!

MARY

If you know what you want, nothing and no one can stop you. You'll make it!

IVY

Really?

SONG: FIGHT

Mary

Fight, fight, there's no time

Fight, fight we are brave

Fight, fight, on guard!

Just fight!

We are brave, we are smart

We can get whatever we want

Without rest until the end

Just fight!

Never say, "I can't,"

Look into your heart

If you know who you are

Just fight!

Both

Fight, fight, fight, fight, fight, fight (x2)

Just fight!

Fight,

just fight,

just fight.

If you know who you are...

THE MILLER'S DAUGHTER

We are brave, we are smart
We can get whatever we want
Without rest until the end
Just fight!
Never say, "I can't,"
Look into your heart
If you know who you are
Just fight!

MARY

Now there's no time to waste. If it's true love... he'll forgive you.

IVY

Yes!

(Mary and Ivy go out towards the mill.)

SCENE X: THE DEFEAT OF ARGOS

(Dim light. Rowan and Argos enter from the back. They walk slowly. The atmosphere is gloomy. Rowan looks down.)

ROWAN

She lied to me, Argos. Everything was a lie.

ARGOS

I know, my lord.

ROWAN

But I love her.

ARGOS

Love? You don't need that. You need strength, power, and my magic. The kingdom needs me.

(At that moment, Ivy and Mary enter from the side. Mary is determined. Ivy is more unsure but still firm.)

THE MILLER'S DAUGHTER

MARY

Your Majesty! Ivy has come to speak with you!

IVY

I just want to say... sorry.

ROWAN

Ivy!

ARGOS

Too late. Get out of here!

(Argos draws his sword. Mary and Ivy do the same. A choreographed fight among the three begins. There is tension, rhythm, and small moments of physical humor between Mary and Argos. As soon as she sees the sword, Mary runs away. She's clever, but she's not good with swords. Only Argos and Ivy are left to fight.)

MARY

The sword thing is your business. I'm sorry, dear. But you have all my support.

ARGOS

Get out of this kingdom!

IVY

No!

(After a brief struggle, Argos disarms Ivy. While singing, he uses his magic to surround Ivy with magical fire that slowly advances.)

ROWAN

Argos, no!

MARY

Stop, Argos! You... you are a great wizard, right?

(On the way to Argos, Mary gestures to Rowan to help Ivy.)

ARGOS

The most powerful.

MARY

And you can become whatever you want to be?

THE MILLER'S DAUGHTER

ARGOS

Yes!

MARY

An animal?

ARGOS

An animal? Of course I can.

MARY

A lion?

ARGOS *(laughs)*

Easy! Look, now you'll see my power.

IVY

Mary, what are you doing?

(Argos has hidden behind the house. That's where the transformations will take place, as a shadow or silhouette.)

MARY

Oh! Amazing. And can you turn into an eagle?

ARGOS

Into an eagle, a dragon, into all the animals in the world!

IVY

No!

ROWAN

Stop!!

MARY

Shhhh! Incredible! And can you turn into a small animal?

ARGOS

Small?

MARY

Like a mouse!

THE MILLER'S DAUGHTER

ARGOS

Done! Look at me turn into a little mouse.

(Mary doesn't hesitate. She follows the mouse that has run behind the house. Once there, she says, "You're mine now!" and, wielding her famous broom, kills it with several loud whacks.)

MARY

Get out of here. Out!

This is my kitchen, not yours Argos! *(She starts hitting the floor with the broom.)*

You have been defeated by a poor and foolish maid!

(Loud whacks with the broom are heard. End of transformation.)

IVY

Mary, you are the best!

MARY

Oh, it's nothing, it's nothing.

IVY

You're free now. You can go wherever you want.

MARY

What?

IVY

A deal is a deal.

MARY

Darling, I like this place. Lord Broccoli wants to stay close to you.

ROWAN

From now on, you shall be Lady Mary. You deserve it.

MARY

Oh! Thank you my lord.. And now I think you two have to talk.

ROWAN

Ivy, I...

THE MILLER'S DAUGHTER

IVY

Me first, Rowan. I just want to say I'm sorry.

ROWAN

Ivy...

IVY

I lied to you, because you could never love a miller's daughter.

ROWAN

Ivy!

IVY

I hope you can forgive me.

ROWAN

Ivy, I forgive you because I love you. Marchioness, a miller's daughter, or anything else — my heart belongs to you.

(Rowan and Ivy begin to dance while Mary finishes the story.)

MARY

And Rowan and Ivy danced, and danced, and danced... to a music only they could hear.
That's how true love works.

Ivy learnt her lesson: don't lie, be yourself.

And together they conquered a thousand and one kingdoms. They didn't need a sword,
just the belief that their dreams could come true. And the beating of their two hearts
made this conviction stronger.

As for me... they named me Royal Advisor.

And here, my friends, ends this story. The story of the Miller's Daughter and her
wonderful, clever, and brave Mary Broccoli.

(Mary makes an exaggerated bow. Closing music. Warm lights. Final bow.)

SONG: BE YOU

Ivy and Rowan

They say you can't, but you are bright

You've got your spark, you've got your light

THE MILLER'S DAUGHTER

Mary and Argos

They say "don't dream", but dreams come true

Close your eyes and go be you

All together

Fight, time fight, time to fight

You've got your light

Time to fight, time to fight

You've got your light

They say you can't, but you are bright

You've got your spark, you've got your light

They say don't dream, but dreams come true

Close your eyes and go be you

Fight (x7)

END