

The Kingdom is Always Greener
A Tale for Young People of All Ages

By

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Inspired by Mark Twain's
"Prince and the Pauper"

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Cast of Characters

<u>King Reginalding:</u>	Levi
<u>Queen Delphinium:</u>	Haley
<u>King Marmoset:</u>	Tanner A
<u>Queen Lillipuddin:</u>	Camie
<u>Jester 1:</u>	Jackson
<u>Jester 2:</u>	Heidi
<u>Lady Marybelle:</u>	Mikayla
<u>Lord Joplin:</u>	Joey
<u>Town Crier:</u>	Selena
<u>Knight:</u>	Tanner S
<u>Knight:</u>	Makani
<u>Royal Court (up to 10):</u>	Shaun, Nicki, Leora, Lindsey, Tanner
<u>Page:</u>	Jordan W
<u>Page:</u>	Adam
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THE KINGDOM IS ALWAYS GREENER

TOWN CRIER:SELENA

Lords and Ladies, one and all. Join us in this banquet hall. The path ahead is rather winding. But at the end thou wilt be finding, Pleasures aplenty for eye and for ear! So let us begin, come, with good cheer!

Town Crier calls out names and the guests are escorted to their tables.

FANFARE: THE WELCOME

Jester enters from back to circle

JESTER:JACKSON

Wes hale, good lords and ladies fair! We bid thee welcome we bid thee share. Our feasting and our revelry, Our music and our company.

Cast off all worry be not stressed, Enjoy the evening for thou are blessed. We have come to the end of this hallowed year. With all our loved ones gathered near.

Pray thee find joy and good cheer, And hold Christmas time quite dear. For here thee are at a magical feast. Thou whilst be entertained to say the least.

If you find thy neighbors fowl is juicier than thine, and you covet this outfit that is mine. Sit back and listen, a lesson to learn. All that looks better do not yearn.

The old saying when things look leaner, Thy neighbors grass always looks greener. And tis no different here in the kingdom. Learn from the Royals and increase thy wisdom.

They wanted what the other had but in the end their yearnings were bad. They now are grateful for what is theirs and never again wish for another, I dare.

Enough is enough so thine we go. Without further ado enjoy the show. Hark and listen Dost thou hear? The festive parade is drawing near.

FANFARE-THE PROCESSIONAL

Enter all Choirs from Back:

SING: MASTER'S IN THIS HALL

Royal court standing at table

ROYAL COURT: SHAUN

All you that are good lords, Come hearken to my
song; I know ye do not hate good cheer, nor wassail
that is strong.

ROYAL COURT: LINDSEY

All you that are fair ladies, lift a cup to toast;
Drink down the strong Wassail with cheer, that ye also
boast.

ROYAL COURT: NICKI

And if ye have a wee babe on thy hip, lift up a cup for
him to sip. For it is all in the spice that makes this
Wassail very nice.

ROYAL COURT: LEORA

Come fill us of the strongest! Small drink is out of
date! Methinks I shall fare like a prince and sit in
gallant state.

ROYAL COURT: JOEY

I lift my glass of strongest Wassail to the founder of
the feast. May the master nary a trouble and blessings
to increase.

ROYAL COURT: MIKAYLA

When thou hast given God the thanks, unto thy dainties
fall! Heaven bless my master and my dame!

KING:LEVI

And blessing one and all!

PAGE: ADAM AND JORDAN

Wassail, Wassail, Wassail!

ALL CHOIRS: WASSAIL

ROYAL COURT: SHAUN

Lords and ladies , our gracious
host Bids thee rise for our Wassail
Toast!

KING:LEVI

Lords and ladies of this Kingdom, We Welcome you to Kentwood
Manor. Now from the host of this castle, hear my toast.

Drink it well! Here then I bid thee Wassail! Down with him
who will not say Drink Hail!

ROYAL COURT: ALL
(and audience)
Drink Hail!

KING:LEVI

May the Peace and joy of Christmastide, within thy hearts
this year abide.

SING: AVE MARIA

ALL:
To the King and Queen! (repeat)

JESTER 1:JACKSON
Good people I have a tale to tell of two unhappy Kings.

JESTER 2: HEIDI
Good people I have a tale to tell of two Kings that
learn to be happy.

JESTER 1:
The Kings I refer to are spoiled, sulky, and down right
ungrateful.

JESTER 2:
The Kings I refer to are fresh, jovial, upright and
grateful.

JESTER 1:
Good people, this Jester here is nothing more than my
sister. She was brought into this world to bewilder,
annoy and irritate. She is the thorn among roses, the
goat among sheep the... the... blemish on the end of my
nose!

JESTER 2:
And which blemish might that be for so many I see.

JESTER 1:
Begone! this is my kingdom to entertain, This is my
story to tell.

JESTER 2:
Oh, but dear brother, you know this story cannot be
told be just one, come on and let me add some fun!

JESTER 1:

Oh very well, but you better be good and do not contradict what I say.

JESTER 2:

Who me? I am honest to the core. I have come only to embellish, entertain...my brother can be so droll.

JESTER 1:

I am not!

JESTER 2:

Oh yes you are!

Jesters argue back and forth

TOWN CRIER:SELENA

Here ye, Here ye By the order of King Reginalding and Queen Delphinium the Festivities shall begin.

FANFARE: SOUP

Improv as needed

Scene 1 The Festivities Begin

A knight brings a mirror for the Queen to gaze at herself. The King tries to engage her in conversation but she is not at all interested in him.

KING R:

Queeny dear, you look beautiful this evening.

QUEEN D:

Hmmm mirror mirror on the wall. Ha I do not need to ask, I already know the answer..

KING R:

You are my dear.

(puts up his hand as a conductor)

ALL ON ROYAL COURT:

You are the fairest, Queen Delphinium!

(Queen turns to audience smiling then points to someone in the audience)

QUEEN D:

Off with her head, Off with her head!

(Knights rise)

JESTER 1:

Off with her head. Off with her head

(dancing around audience member)

KING R:

Now dear, these are our guests, we mustn't treat them so harshly, she just didn't know.

JESTER 1:

(to audience member)

Did you know? You should have read the rules.(picks up a program takes out a magnifying glass) No guest may be fairer than the Queen. All must acknowledge her beauty and generosity, if any guest hereto and hither whence the first party of the second a strict and unjustified punishment shall be delivered to the second party to the first and so on and such ...uh hither so.. (To the King)Maybe a short time in the stocks?

QUEEN D:

Off with her head!

(CONTINUED)

KING R:

There will be none of that. All our guests will keep their heads throughout or feast tonight. As well as all knights, servants, and jesters. We will respect one another, how we dress, what we believe, we will recycle all plastics, reduce our carbon imprint, bring reusable bags to all merchants and peddler stands! This year we will respect all living creatures we will eat vegetarian, all creatures shall keep their heads!

JESTER 1:

Well that is a lovely thought, and noble too. But King sir advance notice should have ensued for alas I hear a fanfare clatter and look there is a head upon a platter.

TOWN CRIER:

May the festivities continue!

FANFARE-THE BOAR'S HEAD

ROYAL COURT:LEORA

So many are in the feast, it is Boar's head that we eat!

Boar's Head Carol (verse one)

ROYAL COURT :NICKI

Let us serve with a song, we'll be eating Boar's Head ere too long!

Boar's Head Carol (verse two)

ROYAL COURT: LINDSEY

In the Queen's hall we shall eat, the rarest of the rarest treat!

Boar's Head Carol (verse three)

FANFARE:MAIN COURSE

IMPROV as needed Jester 1 and Jester 2

Scene 2 Another Kingdom

King Marmoset and Queen Lillipuddin and Jester 2 enter:

a page announces: King Marmoset and Queen Lillipuddin

(CONTINUED)

KING M:

I wish I had a royal hall and a royal feast. King Reginalding has all the fun.

QUEEN L:

Oh Marmmy be happy, our little kingdom is growing, we have each other and this funny little Jester that keeps us laughing throughout the year. Make us laugh..

JESTER 2:

(Tells a few jokes and a few stunts)

QUEEN L:

Oh Marmmy, I think we have the funniest Jester in the entire world.

KING M:

Oh, she is fine, but I want a feast! A banquet, a hall full of guests. I want a Boars head on a platter! and don't call me Marmmy.

QUEEN L:

Oh Marmmy, we have a nice goose on a platter for dinner.

(Jester brings out a rubber chicken)(Queen giggles with glee)

KING M:

I want a royal court, full of ladies and lords, dukes and duchesses, servants to wait on us and don't call me Marmmy

QUEEN L:

Silly Marmmy, we have that nice lady who comes in on Tuesdays and Thursdays to empty the chamber pots. And my mother made that lovely bird stew last night.

KING M:

She forgot to pluck the feathers!

JESTER 2

I have to say, the stew was Foul (Fowl)
(Queen and Jester laugh)

KING M:

Enough! I want more!!

JESTER 2

Leave it to me sire, I shall throw you a feast!

KING M:

Do you think you could? Who would we invite?

QUEEN L:

Leave it to Jesty and me.

JESTER 2

Leave it to us! ...and don't call me Jesty.

Back at the Manor

The Jester 1 tells a few jokes, does a few tricks, the Royal Court laughs and enjoys the "Show" the Queen is irritated because it is not about her. The Kings is bored because he thinks something has to be better than this banquet.

QUEEN D:

Enough of this nonsense I can't hear myself think. I want to hear some music. Where are the minstrels? This Kingdom is full of minstrels!

LADY MARYBELLE:

You had them put in the tower for disturbing your beauty sleep.

QUEEN D:

Who are you?

LADY MARYBELLE:

I am your cousin Lady Marybelle.

QUEEN D:

Do I allow you to talk to me?

LADY MARYBELLE:

At times.

QUEEN D:

Humph, Do you sing?

LADY MARYBELLE:

Well, it's possible, I ..

QUEEN D:

Then sing!

*Marybelle pleads with an audience member and together they sing and do the motions to a song
IE: I'm a little teapot*

Now I liked that. Find me dancers, I want dancers!

(Jester exits with Lady Marybelle)

KING R:

These feast, they are so trying!

LORD JOPLIN:

Sire, this is a fine feast, the food, the drink, the ladies all dressed up.

KING R:

oh blah blah blah. It is the same every year! Drink Hail, Wassail, "the Boar's head as I understand"...really, the rarest dish in all the land?

LORD JOPLIN:

You don't care for Boar's Head?

KING R:

and you do? It's pig brains! Then I have to sit by her and listen to her go on.

LORD JOPLIN:

Now that I understand sire the Queen is self-absorbed and..

KING R:

Lord Joplin she is my wife! I am the only one who can who can say she is self-absorbed. And oh lordy, she is self-absorbed!

The Meeting and the Plan

*Jester 1 and Lady Marybelle (entering to center)
meet Queen Lillipuddin and Jester 2 (entering
stage right) meet at center stage*

JESTER 1:

Did you see how sullen the king was? He did not even laugh when I said (this) and smile when I did (that).

LADY MARYBELLE:

Wouldn't you be sullen if you had to put up with Queen "Off-with-your-head"? Who does she think she is the Queen of Hearts?

JESTER 1:

You mean Queen "Fairest-in-all-Land". Everyone now: Who is Fairest?

LADY MARYBELLE:

You are the fairest Queen Delphinium.(bows to the Jester) How does King Reginalding put up with it. She doesn't even know he exists! Any man with a crown could be sitting there, as long as he looked like a King that's all she cares about....appearance and power. Do you think it's different in other kingdoms

(CONTINUED)

JESTER 1:

Nah, my sister is the Jester for King Marmoset. She says she can never make him smile this time of year because his kingdom is too small for a grand feast, and they have to reuse wrapping paper and compost their turkey legs. Queen Lillipuddin tries to encourage him. "Oh Marmosie, Sharmosie you will be known as the "Go Green" King.

Queen L and jester 2 enter Stage right

JESTER 2:

Did you see how sullen the king was? He did not even laugh when I said (this) and smile when I did (that).

QUEEN L:

Oh he get's this way every year when King Reginalding has his Christmas Feast and he is not invited. Each year I tell him I will host a grand party, but he wants a Feast just like his. Our Kingdom is just too small to put on such a lavish feast. He believes he would be truly happy if he could reside over a feast like that!

JESTER 2:

My brother is the Jester for King Reginalding. He says the king hates the feast. He is a secret vegetarian and the Boar's head makes him woozy. And he thinks it is too lavish. He has been trying to make his kingdom green. He is envious of our smaller kingdom because we waste so little and are forced to reuse.

LADY MARYBELLE:

You know the saying "The Kingdom is greener on the other side of the banquet table."

JESTER 2:

Oh, Oh oh, do I have an idea.

ALL ROYAL COURT TO TABLE

ALL CHOIRS SING: DECK THE HALLS

FANFARE: THE DESSERT

Improv as needed

The Plan Unfolds

A side "feast" is set up--small table a few guests (servers)"old" table serves etc.

Jester 1 whispers in King R's ear--King leaves the table Lady Marybelle distracts Queen --possibly dancing with an audience member--chicken dance or ..

Jester 2 whispers in King M's ear

KING M:

Excuse me Lillipuddin I will return to this fine feast momentarily.

QUEEN L:

Whatever you say Marmmy-muffin. (laughs and says to guests) wasn't that funny my name is Lillipuddin and I called him Marmmy-muffin! (Laughs)

The kings and Jesters meet and the plan unfolds

KING R:

What is this all about Jester. I have a hall full of guests.

JESTER 1:

A hall full of guests you would rather not be with.

KING M:

Oh is this how it is in the great palace of the Reginalding's...you don't even want to be at the magnificent Christmas Feast! Is it because you have to feast with those beneath you. I have heard of how things are done over there!

KING R:

King Marmoset, what do you know about the great feast? Have you ever been to one? I can barely tolerate them any more. I admire you and your simple ways.

KING M:

We are having a feast this year. My wife has put on quite a nice little spread. Admire? simple ways? It is not by chose I live like this. My kingdom is small and cannot support the lifestyle I would like.

KING R:

You would not like that lifestyle. There is no freedom. I am expected to look and behave a special way or I will upset the Queen.

(CONTINUED)

KING M:

What is a little upset with a queen? Man, don't tell me you can't handle your Queen.

KING R:

You could not last a day in my kingdom!

JESTER 1

That would be irresponsible to leave a kingdom for a day, but what if you change places for a feast?

KING M:

I would change places and show this king how to appreciate a lavish feast.

KING R:

I would change places and show this king how to enjoy the simplicity of simplicity!

JESTER 2:

Oh yes let's make a switch, that would be f

KING R AND KING M:

But what about our wives.

JESTER 1:

Leave that to us!

The Jester's help the kings change their robes and crowns The kings proceed to each other feast.

Royal Court

KNIGHT:

All rise for King Reginalding.
(Makes a grand entrance)

KING M:

Uh... oh....I ...thank-you... wow.

QUEEN D:

Oh for Heaven's sake SIT DOWN.

Go Green

JESTER 2

Here comes the King, here comes the King, all rise and stand up for here comes the King. (singing and dancing to the tune of "Here Comes the Bride")

QUEEN L:

(giggles)

Oh Jesty you're so funny!! Marmsey over here!

KING R:

(King R waves for everyone to sit
down--they wave back--)

QUEEN L:

Oh, look at you--you've done something different with
your hair. It's so cute. Give your little Lillipuddin a
cuddle.

KING R:

In front of our guests. I'm not sure that would be
appropriate.

QUEEN L:

Oh your so funny!

Royal Court

LORD JOPLIN:

Sir, are you feeling ok?

KING M:

Yes, I'm feeling superb! Why do you ask?

LORD JOPLIN:

There is something different about you, I just can't
put my finger on it.

KING M:

Drink up my man, drink up, I will look more familiar as
the night goes on. How do I get some food around here!

LORD JOPLIN:

huh?

Go Green

QUEEN L:

What do you think of the feast, my dear? Isn't it
lovely?

KING R:

Everything looks so simple. I'm looking forward to
having the food brought out.

QUEEN L:

The food brought out? Silly, this is all the food,
isn't it grand.

KING R:

Grand, oh yes I suppose. What is this?
(take a bite of a plastic fruit)

(CONTINUED)

QUEEN L:

Oh Marmsey, that's not real, we put those out to make the meal look more impressive. Here have a grape.

KING R:

A grape?

JESTER 2:

Here let me cut that for you.

Royal Court

KING M:

(to a page over)

I would like a large helping of Boars head, and a goblet of wassail, and a turkey leg, and roasted mutton, and some corned ..

PAGE:JORDAN

Sir? uh aren't you vegetarian.

QUEEN D:

Are you questioning the King?

PAGE:JORDAN

No, Your Royal fairest, uh highness, Queenlyness,

QUEEN D:

Off with his head!!

Knight drags the page off stage.

KING M:

Are they really going to cut his head off?

LORD JOPLIN:

(quizzically)

You won't allow any heads to roll.

KING M:

Right...Have some more Wassail.

Go Green

KING R:

Napkin.

QUEEN L:

Marmsey, your napkin is right in front of you.

KING R:

This, it's a menu.

QUEEN L:

It's a menu and a napkin, and if you just use one corner it works well in the (clears throat and whispers) water closet.

Royal Court

(to the next Page)

KING M:

Would you bring me the Boars Head...I've always wanted to try a slice of the "rarest dish in all the land".

PAGE II:ADAM

Your highness had the Boar's Head thrown out. You were offended by the cruelty to the pig.

QUEEN D:

Oh, you did not just correct the King? Off with his head. Then off with a pigs head!

KING M:

Isn't all this "off with your head" business a little extreme?

Go Green

QUEEN L:

Isn't this just a wonderful feast? Mama remembered to pluck the goose before cooking it and the feathers made for a lovely centerpiece. And you, Marmsey so handsome in your robe and crown. Here let me put a feather in it.

KING R:

Must you call me that name? Couldn't you call me Marmoset? And you are touching me, must you touch me all the time?

QUEEN L:

Oh Marmsey don't be such a little monkey. Jesty did you hear that one; I just called King Marmoset a little monkey. Oh Jesty do the Monkey Dance!!

Jester 2 Begins to dance around --King R shakes his head Lillipuddin claps

Royal Court

KING M:

Where's the entertainment? I thought there would be singing , dancing perhaps some thespians.

LORD JOPLIN:

Queen Delphinium has locked them all in the tower.

KING M:

All, locked in the tower? What for?

LORD JOPLIN:

Does the Queen need a reason?

KING M:

Jester how about some entertainment. Singing, dancing,
joke telling?

JESTER 1:

Knock Knock

QUEEN D:

Do not answer that!

KING M:

Who's there?

QUEEN D:

Stop this.

JESTER 1

Jester

KING M:

Jester who?

JESTER 1

Jester open the door and see for yourself!

QUEEN D:

Knock knock?

JESTER 1

Who's there?

QUEEN D:

Imma

JESTER 1

Imma Who?

QUEEN D:

Imma gonna have you sent to the tower! Off with his..

KING M:

Knock Knock

QUEEN D:

Who's there?

KING M:

Dozen

QUEEN D:

Dozen who?

KING M:

Dozen anyone keep their heads around here!

QUEEN D:

Do I know you?

KING M:

What kind of feast is this, no Boar's head, no entertainment, heads are rolling and I have to talk in knock knock jokes to get the Queen's attention! I don't like this, I don't like this at all!

quickly leaves the table

GO Green

QUEEN L:

Oh Jesty do tell us a joke.

JESTER 2

Knock Knock

QUEEN L:

ohhh a knock knock joke --Marmsey you answer it, go on. say: "Who's there."

KING R:

Who's there?

JESTER 2:

Marmoset

QUEEN L:

Marmoset--that's your name

KING R:

Marmoset who?

JESTER 2:

Marmoset there'd be days like this there'd be days like this Marmoset.

Queen L and Jesty laugh hysterically

KING R:

Stop, stop it I say. This is not what I thought it would be like. I am hungry, I am forced to use a menu for god knows what else, I am smothered and coddled and called Marmsey...I can't take it anymore!

Quickly leaves the table Meet King M center

KING R:

I see now why you would want to leave your kingdom. They think it's all fun and games over there.

KING M:

My kingdom, at least if they lose their heads it's from laughing them off not cutting them off. Give me my robe.

KING R:

Gladly, I have missed my Queen, I have missed my feast, I may have even missed the Boar's Head.

KING M:

I miss my little puddin'!

*each returns to his kingdom; each embraces their Queen and says their names Delphinium:
Lillipuddin'*

JESTER 1 JESTER 2:

We'll celebrate ye one and all for we have learned before we fall. That what we have we are grateful for and no longer desire for something more.

Your grass may be brown and full of weeds. Your neighbor's grass may be greener indeed. But do not long for what is not yours. Or trouble and weary may be in store.

Be thankful this season for those you are with. Because someone much better is just a myth. And all that you own and have in possession, be grateful or desire will turn to obsession.

It is that time of year to reflect on all of the blessings we possess. And with that be said I bid you adieu and Say Merry Christmas to you and you and you.