

Scene 1

(As **intro music** plays (**track 10**) the cast enters. Four narrators stand to one side in front of the main stage– **see staging suggestions p24.**)

Narrator 1 Welcome to the kingdom of Bella Vista, where there were two types of people; the 'beautiful' ones and the 'not-so-beautiful' ones!

(Between 5 and 10 'not-so-beautiful' ones enter and stand in a slovenly group on one side of the stage. They sigh in admiration as 5-10 'beautiful' ones then enter and stand posing at the other side of the stage, looking into hand-held mirrors – **see costume suggestions p26.**)

Narrator 2 The not-so-beautiful ones wished they were beautiful and the beautiful ones wished they were more beautiful. Fortunes were spent on the trendiest new outfits, and the hair, beauty and tanning salons were open all day, every day.

Narrator 3 (in a gossipy whisper) In Bella Vista it was even rumoured that there were places where noses could be straightened, wrinkles ironed-out, tummies flattened and wobbly bits removed!

Narrator 4 And keeping the public informed about what all the beautiful ones were up to in their private lives, were the local reporters and paparazzi, who would publish their catty opinions and revealing pictures in the Bella Vista Bugle.

(Two reporters enter, carrying quills and parchment, followed by two paparazzi carrying canvases and paintbrushes. They circulate amongst the posing beautiful ones, asking questions, writing notes and painting portraits.)

Reporter 1 Stunning outfit! (aside whilst writing) Shame it doesn't fit you!

Reporter 2 So your engagement to Daphne Diamanté is off?! (aside whilst writing) Like we didn't see that coming!

Paparazzi 1 Big smile for a picture over here.....I said big smile, please.

Beautiful One 1 (with a blank expression) I am smiling!

Paparazzi 1 Ah, I see. (aside whilst painting) Had an 'injection' or two recently!

Paparazzi 2 Loving the new nose! Let's get that on canvas....(aside whilst painting) before it falls off!

Narrator 4 Such was daily life in Bella Vista. Being beautiful was big business!

Song **Celebrity Status** (tracks 1 & 11, lyrics p17)

(Led by the Beautiful Ones, holding their mirrors!)

(As **intro music** plays (**track 12**) all exit and the stage is set for the next scene. Fade the music when ready.)

Scene 2

*(Two thrones, with a baby's crib between, stand centrally on the main stage. As a **fanfare** plays (track 13) King Hugo and Queen Maybelline enter, each carrying a fluffy, pampered lapdog – see **staging suggestions/props p24**. They sit on the thrones, stroking the dogs.)*

Narrator 1 Now, the glamorous King Hugo (a.k.a. the 'Boss') and Queen Maybelline, ruled over Bella Vista.

Narrator 2 That very week they had been blessed by the birth of a precious baby princess, whom they had named Tiffany.

(Two courtiers, Ralph and Lauren, enter and bow to the king and queen. Lauren holds a baby wrapped in an expensive-looking blanket.)

Hugo Ah, Ralph and Lauren, our trusted advisors. What's that you're holding?

Lauren It's Princess Tiffany, your majesty....your daughter....remember?

Ralph The nannies thought it was time you...err...maybe held her.

Maybelline *(stroking her dog)* Ok, but she goes back to the nursery if Gucci and Gaultier here get jealous.

*(Lauren hands the 'bundle' to the Queen, who casually tosses it into the crib. We hear **baby bodily functions (track 14)** and the king and queen turn their noses up in disgust!)*

Maybelline Oh my, I feel faint! Hugo, I need some fresh air!

Hugo Of course, Maybelline. Ralph, Lauren, please take care of things here.

(The king and queen stand and hand the dogs to Ralph and Lauren.)

Maybelline Oh, how are plans progressing for tomorrow's christening banquet?

Lauren We're on top of everything, your majesty.

Maybelline Good. Now, Gucci and Gaultier have a session with their personal trainer at midday – see they don't miss it. Come Hugo.

(The king and queen exit. Ralph and Lauren bow, then sneer at the dogs they're holding. Lauren picks up the baby 'bundle', wedging it under her arm!)

Ralph No rest for the wicked!

*(As **intro music (track 15)** they exit and the stage is set for the next scene. Fade the music when ready.)*

Scene 3

(In the palace kitchens, 5 cooks stand at tables laden with pots, pans, bowls and utensils.)

Cook 1 Ha! Most of this food won't even be looked-at, never mind eaten!

Cook 2 I know. Everyone's on a diet these days!

Cook 3 Well, King Hugo wants to put on a magnificent spread just so the Bugle reports how generous he is.

Narrator 3 Now, every morning at eleven o'clock, the palace staff would drop by the kitchens to grab a snack and chat to the cooks. One of these was Bert Mulcher, the palace gardener.

(Bert enters, carrying a spade. He wearily leans on the end of one of the tables.)

Cook 4 *(handing him a bread roll)* Blimey, Bert! You look shattered!

Bert Well, that'll be 'cause of our new-born nipper.

Narrator 4 You see, Princess Tiffany was not the only new arrival that week. Bert Mulcher and his wife had just had a bouncing baby boy.

Cook 5 Of course, little Alfie! Ah, how's he doing?

Bert He's a beautiful baby...well, as beautiful as the likes of us can be.

Cook 1 When's his christening, Bert?

Bert Tomorrow, same day as Princess Tiffany's. Just a simple service at the little chapel, then a few nibbles back at our cottage.

Cook 2 Hey Bert, pop by the kitchen about midday and we'll sneak you a few of these platters for your party.

Cook 1 I'm sure that lot upstairs can spare a few crumbs from their table.....

(Bert and the cooks are joined by other palace workers – see costume suggestions p26.)

Song **Crumbs From The Table**

(tracks 2 & 16, lyrics p18)

(Led by Bert, the Cooks and Palace Workers)

(Just before the song finishes, Ralph and Lauren enter.)

Ralph What's this? Some sort of grubby 'knees-up'?

Lauren Mulcher, prune those rose beds before the guests arrive tomorrow.
(to the cooks) And haven't you lot got a feast to prepare?

(As intro music plays (track 17) Ralph and Lauren exit in one direction, the workers in another. The stage is set for the next scene. Fade the music when ready.)

Scene 4

(To the fanfare (track 18) King Hugo and Queen Maybelline, again holding their dogs, enter and sit on their thrones with the crib between them. Ralph and Lauren stand in attendance. Party balloons, if possible helium ones, are attached to the crib. A crowd of not-so-beautiful ones stands in a line in front of the stage, along with the reporters and paparazzi.)

Narrator 1 On the day of Princess Tiffany's christening, crowds were at the palace to watch the glamorous guests arrive.

(The beautiful ones, carrying gifts, parade in front of the not-so-beautiful ones, signing autographs as if at a red carpet event. The reporters and paparazzi mingle with them.)

Reporter 1 *(to a beautiful one)* A few words for the Bugle? What gift have you brought?

Beautiful One 2 It's a fur coat, made from a rare snow leopard! Very chic.

Paparazzi 1 *(painting a beautiful one)* Those lips! They're twice the size they were when I painted them at your most recent wedding.

Reporter 2 *(to the same beautiful one)* And could you tell the Bugle, will they be any bigger at your next wedding?

(As the narrators speak their next few lines, the guests, reporters and paparazzi make their way onto the stage. Gifts are handed to Ralph and Lauren who toss them to the side.)

Narrator 2 One by one the guests presented their gifts for Princess Tiffany; perfumes, silks, jewellery, confectionary, cosmetics and a voucher for a facelift consultation....to be redeemed at a later date of course!

(The guests gather behind the thrones, jostling for prime positions.)

Narrator 3 However, King Hugo and Queen Maybelline were more interested to know when their two guests of honour would be arriving.

Narrator 4 And just then, as the crowds outside cheered, Princess Tiffany's two fairy godmothers arrived, who went by the names of Nip and Tuck!

(Nip and Tuck enter and parade in front of the crowd. They approach the thrones and all other guests retreat to give them room.)

Hugo Ah, Nip and Tuck! You are most welcome.

Nip *(glancing in the crib)* Oh dear, it's a bit wrinkly isn't it? Never mind, *(waving her wand over the crib)* I bestow upon you a most precious gift; you will grow up to be...BEAUTIFUL!

(Everyone gasps and applauds. Tuck looks a bit peeved and takes out her wand.)

Tuck That was going to be my gift! Ok then, Princess Tiffany, you will grow up to be.....*(everyone waits with baited breath)*..... MORE BEAUTIFUL!

Nip *(waving her wand competitively)* Princess Tiffany, you will be....EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN THAT!

Tuck *(waving her wand)* AND EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN THAT!

Nip AND EVEN MORE BEAUTI.....

Maybelline Yes, yes, we get the picture. Now, please let's start celebrating!

(During the opening bars of the song, the cooks enter with platters and wine glasses. Led by Ralph and Lauren, they circulate round the guests who ignore the food but neck the wine!)

Song **Let's Have A Party!**

(Led by all at the banquet) (tracks 3 & 19, lyrics p19)

(During the song a mysterious hooded figure, Wanda the witch, enters and watches from the side. As the song finishes she throws off her hood.)

Wanda YOU FOOLS! A curse on this vain and shallow kingdom!!

(There is a stunned silence, then everyone laughs heartily and points at Wanda.)

Beautiful One 3 Ha! Mad old Wanda the witch, trying to spoil another party just because she's too ugly to be invited!

Narrator 1 Wanda the witch was always trying to disrupt glamorous events. She'd turn up, shout wildly at the beautiful ones about how badly they lived their lives, then get evicted!

Hugo Ralph, Lauren, get rid of Wanda before we have the official group pictures painted!

Wanda Wait! I have a gift for Princess Tiffany. *(brandishing her wand)* On her twenty-first birthday she will prick her finger and fall into a sleep from which she will never wake!

*(Again, there is a stunned silence before everyone laughs and points at Wanda. As **intro music 2** plays (track 20) Ralph and Lauren take Wanda under each arm and march her off, eagerly followed by the reporters and paparazzi who shout questions at her. All then exit and the stage is set for the next scene. Fade the music when ready.)*

Scene 5

*(A beautiful rose bush stands centre stage – see **staging suggestions/scenery p24**. A grown-up Tiffany enters and gently examines the rose bush, sniffing the flowers.)*

Narrator 2 As the years passed, Tiffany did indeed grow into the most beautiful young woman who wanted for nothing.

Narrator 3 Yet she also remained pure of heart and was tender and loving.

Tiffany Ah, is there any greater gift than the scent of roses?

Narrator 4 She had also secretly become such friends with Alfie Mulcher, the gardener's son who had been born within hours of her.

(Scruffily dressed in gardening attire and carrying a pair of pruning shears, Alfie enters. He bows to Tiffany and begins tending to the rose bush.)

Tiffany Oh Alfie, how clever you are to keep these roses so beautiful.

Alfie Their beauty is nothing compared to yours, your highness.

Tiffany Please call me Tiffany. We are friends after all.

Alfie But if anyone found out about our friendship, there'd be an uproar!
You're a princess and I'm just a common gardener.

Song A Million Miles Apart

(Led by Tiffany & Alfie)

(tracks 4 & 21, lyrics p20)

(During the final chorus, unnoticed by Tiffany and Alfie, Ralph and Lauren sneak on stage, accompanied by the reporters and paparazzi. They hide behind the bush, peeping out and pointing at the couple, the reporters scribbling notes and the paparazzi painting pictures. As the song finishes Tiffany and Alfie exit in opposite directions and Ralph, Lauren, the reporters and paparazzi emerge from behind the bush.)

Ralph Did you get all that?

Paparazzi 1 Absolutely! *(holding up the canvas)* Full-colour evidence. Priceless!

Reporter 1 Our editor will be so chuffed with this story!

Lauren *(with an outstretched palm)* So, payment as agreed.

Reporter 2 *(handing over a wad)* Thanks for tipping us off.

Paparazzi 2 Bella Vista is not going to know what's hit it!

(As intro music plays (track 22) the reporters and Paparazzi scuttle off in one direction while Ralph and Lauren, counting their cash, exit in the other. The stage is then set for the next scene. Fade the music when ready.)

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