

Crackernuts Scene 1

Run A

#A1 (This doesn't have to be through a doorway if that would be complicated location-wise. It can be a screened-off area of the shop, through a curtain. Just the impression that this is somewhere for Caitlin and Kate, not for customers.)
Caitlin is holding a pencil in her mouth, doing some sums. Maybe she is wearing glasses for this bit, or peering through glasses somehow. The lights are down low, as if they are trying to keep costs down.

CAITLIN

We need to order more stock, but we're out of credit with the goblins. Have people been asking for dragon cards again today?

KATE

Baaaaaaa.

CAITLIN

Maybe there's something we can do... We could always ask
—

KATE

BAAAAAAAAAAAAA.

CAITLIN

Yeah, I'm not exactly thrilled about asking him for money either. But if it's that or lose the shop —

DING DING

The shop bell is unmissable and a little off-key as if it too could do with some attention.

CAITLIN

We're closed aren't we?

KATE

Baaaaa.

#A2

CAITLIN

Hello? Hello? Who's there, please?

Delightful

SISTER

It's . You've closed a bit early, haven't you?

Caitlin and Kate return to the main shop to see Delightful Sister. She looks as radiant as ever, but there's a tiredness to her. Maybe dark shadows under her eyes, or her skin is lacking its usual fairytale lustre.

#A3

Delightful Sister is looking at the hardbacks of the Prince on the table a little sadly, and then she gives herself a small shake and tries to look cheerful.

DS

Do you have anything nice planned? Is that why you shut early?

KATE

#A4

DS

Sorry, sorry. I didn't mean to pry, it's just (she brushes her cheek fiercely) oh, never mind. You've clearly got enough on your plate.

#A5

Delightful Sister manages a wan smile.

DS

Thank you. This doesn't help, (she gestures towards the shop window or the doorway). How long has it been night for now?

CAITLIN

Almost a month. The moon looks the same too. It's as if

everything's just stopped somehow.

The moon, if visible, doesn't look entirely well, hanging in the sky yellow and sickly.

DS

Where is everyone?

CAITLIN

Mostly asleep. That's why we're... not doing so well. Even when they're here, it's like they're somehow absent. Like ghosts of themselves haunting the village, but all the people have gone somewhere else.

DS brushes her cheek hurriedly.

#A6

DS

It's nothing. It's probably nothing. I don't want to trouble you with it.

CAITLIN

What am I here for?

DS

I haven't seen him since... Since all this began. Before, it was like those twelve dancing women, you know, every morning they woke up exhausted with all their shoes worn out. During the day, nothing made him happy. It was like he was waiting for the palace to fall asleep so he could go. And now, he's just completely disappeared.

KATE

BAAAAAA!

DS

I know he's a prince – but he still somehow manages to completely vanish. And I'm so lonely. (this should be hard to admit for DS. She got everything, the prince,

the palace, the happily ever after. Why isn't she happy?) And you're... stuck like this.

Caitling (does something specific to being a head)

I'm not stuck like anything. This is better, really.
Kate's excellent at getting rid of shoplifters.

KATE

BAAAAA!!! (Pleased? Demonstrating potential thief extraction? Maybe paws the ground in a way that implies shoplifters will be headbutted into the gutter)

DS

Well, as long as you're happy.

CAITLIN

But you're not, are you?

What's this? (DS has picked up one of the bills)

CAITLIN

We've... had a lot of bills recently.

DS

Because everyone's asleep.

DS (picking up one of the pulsing red letters)

By Goldenwing's feather! Why didn't you say something?

KATE

Baaaaa.

DS

I did //not// stop caring about you after the wedding. I don't know how you can say that.

DS gets up to leave, hurt and upset.

DS

Of course I care about you. I wouldn't be here if I...
well. I heard from a redcap that the Henwife has a magic
book of spells. He said there'd be something in there to
bring back the day, if it's anywhere.

DS storms out, in a sweep of velvet and raindrops.

Caitlin looks as you helplessly.

CAITLIN

Why did you have to upset her like that?

KATE

Baaaaa baaa.

CAITLIN

//I'm// not jealous. Look at him!

The Prince grins toothily from the front cover of his autobiography.

KATE

Baaa baaaaaaaaaaaa?

Caitlin: I suppose we will have to .

#A8

#A9