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# Beauty and the Beast

By Linda Woolverton

**NARRATOR:**

lived in a

shining castle. Although he had everything his heart

desired,

the prince was spoiled, selfish, and unkind. But then, one winter's night, an old beggar woman came to the castle and offered him a single rose in return for shelter from the

bitter

cold. Repulsed by her haggard appearance, the prince sneered

at

the gift and turned the old woman away, but she warned him

not

to be deceived by appearances, for beauty is found within. And when he dismissed her again, the old woman's ugliness melted away to reveal a beautiful enchantress. The prince tried to apologize, but it was too late, for she had seen

that

there was no love in his heart, and as punishment, she transformed him into a hideous beast, and placed a powerful spell on the castle, and all who lived there.

Ashamed of his monstrous form, the beast concealed himself inside his castle, with a magic mirror as his only window to the outside world. The rose she had offered was truly an enchanted rose, which would bloom until his twenty-first year. If he could learn to love another, and earn her love

in

return by the time the last petal fell, then the spell would be broken. If not, he would be doomed to remain a beast for all time. As the years passed, he fell into despair, and

lost

all hope, for who could ever learn to love a beast?

(We have seen a progression of stained glass windows illustrating the narration, as well as BEAST shredding his portrait. The camera slowly zooms

out from the castle and we see the title. Fade up on the home of BELLE.

She

exits the front door and begins her walk into town.)

**BELLE:**

Every day, like the one before  
Little town, full of little people  
Waking up to say...

**TOWNSFOLK 1:**

**TOWNSFOLK 2:**

**TOWNSFOLK 3:**

**TOWNSFOLK 4:**

**TOWNSFOLK 5:**

**BELLE:**

The same old bread and rolls to sell  
Ev'ry morning just the same  
Since the morning that we came  
To this poor provincial town...

**BAKER:**

(BELLE jumps over to the bakery)

**BELLE:**

**BAKER:**

**BELLE:**

story, about  
a beanstalk and an ogre and...

**BAKER:**

Hurry up!!

**TOWNSFOLK:**

Dazed and distracted, can't you tell?

**WOMAN 1:**

**BARBER:**

**TOWNSFOLK:**

(BELLE jumps on the back of a wagon and rides through town)

**DRIVER:**

**WOMAN 2:**

**DRIVER:**

**WOMAN 3:**

**MERCHANT:**

**WOMAN 3:**

**WOMAN 4:**

**MAN 1:**

**BELLE:**

(BELLE enters the bookshop)

**BOOKSELLER:**

**BELLE:**

borrowed.

**BOOKSELLER:**

**BELLE:**

new?

**BOOKSELLER:**

**BELLE:**

borrow...

this one.

**BOOKSELLER:**

**BELLE:**

ladder,

rolling down it's track) Far off places, daring swordfights, magic spells, a prince in disguise!

**BOOKSELLER:**

much,

it's yours!

**BELLE:**

**BOOKSELLER:**

**BELLE:**

bookshop)

**MEN:**

Look there she goes  
That girl is so peculiar!  
I wonder if she's feeling well!

**WOMEN:**

**MEN:**

ALL                   What a puzzle to the rest of us is Belle!  
(BELLE sits on the edge of a fountain, singing to the sheep and the washing  
woman in the background, who leaves)

**BELLE:**

It's my favorite part because, you'll see!  
Here's where she meets Prince Charming  
But she won't discover that it's him 'til chapter three!