

**SCENE ONE: Village**

*(The sun rises on a charming, provincial French village. BELLE appears.)*

#3 – Belle

Belle, Villagers

**BELLE**

LITTLE TOWN, IT'S A QUIET VILLAGE  
EV'RY DAY LIKE THE ONE BEFORE  
LITTLE TOWN, FULL OF LITTLE PEOPLE  
WAKING UP TO SAY...

*(VILLAGERS enter and bustle about their daily business.)*

**SHEPHERD**

BONJOUR!

**MARIE**

BONJOUR!

**TAVERN MASTER**

BONJOUR!

**LAUNDRY LADY**

BONJOUR!

**BAKER**

BONJOUR!

**BELLE**

THERE GOES THE BAKER WITH HIS TRAY LIKE ALWAYS  
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**

Good morning, Belle!

**BELLE**

Morning, *monsieur*.

**BAKER**

Where are you off to?

**BELLE**

The bookshop. I just finished the most wonderful story about a hunchback in Paris, who—

**BAKER**

*(not interested)*

That's nice.

*(to MARIE)*

Marie! The baguettes! Hurry up!

*(BELLE sighs "never mind" and continues on her way.)*

**MILKMAID, FLOWER SELLER**

LOOK, THERE SHE GOES  
THE GIRL IS STRANGE, NO QUESTION  
DAZED AND DISTRACTED, CAN'T YOU TELL?

**SAUSAGE CURL LADY, LAUNDRY LADY**

NEVER PART OF ANY CROWD

**SHEPHERD, TAVERN MASTER**

'CAUSE HER HEAD'S UP ON SOME CLOUD

**SOME VILLAGERS**

NO DENYING SHE'S A FUNNY GIRL, THAT BELLE

**CANDLEMAKER**

*BONJOUR*

**MARIE**

GOOD DAY

**CANDLEMAKER**

HOW IS YOUR FAM'LY?

**SAUSAGE CURL LADY**

*BONJOUR*

**HAT SELLER**

GOOD DAY

**SAUSAGE CURL LADY**

HOW IS YOUR WIFE?

**LAUNDRY LADY**

I NEED SIX EGGS

**FLOWER SELLER**

THAT'S TOO EXPENSIVE!

**BELLE**

THERE MUST BE MORE THAN THIS PROVINCIAL LIFE!

*(BELLE approaches the BOOKSELLER.)*

**BOOKSELLER**

Ah, Belle!

**BELLE**

Good morning. I've come to return the book I borrowed.

**BOOKSELLER**

Finished already?

**BELLE**

Oh, I couldn't put it down. Have you got anything new?

**BOOKSELLER**

*(chuckles)*

Not since yesterday.

**BELLE**

That's all right. I'll borrow... this one!

**BOOKSELLER**

That one? But you've read it. Twice!

**BELLE**

Well, it's my favorite. Far-off places, daring sword fights, magic spells, a prince in disguise...

**BOOKSELLER**

If you like it that much... it's yours.

**BELLE**

But, sir!

**BOOKSELLER**

I insist.

**BELLE**

Well, thank you. Thank you very much!

*(BELLE immediately opens the book and continues on her way.)*

**VILLAGERS**

LOOK, THERE SHE GOES, THAT GIRL IS SO PECULIAR  
I WONDER IF SHE'S FEELING WELL

**FEMALE VILLAGERS**

WITH A DREAMY, FAR-OFF LOOK

**MALE VILLAGERS**

AND HER NOSE STUCK IN A BOOK

**VILLAGERS**

WHAT A PUZZLE TO THE REST OF US IS BELLE

*(BELLE stops for a moment, engrossed in her book.)*

**BELLE**

OH... ISN'T THIS AMAZING?  
IT'S MY FAV'RITE PART BECAUSE... YOU'LL SEE  
HERE'S WHERE SHE MEETS PRINCE CHARMING  
BUT SHE WON'T DISCOVER THAT IT'S HIM  
TILL CHAPTER THREE

**SAUSAGE CURL LADY**

NOW IT'S NO WONDER THAT HER NAME MEANS "BEAUTY"  
HER LOOKS HAVE GOT NO PARALLEL

**BOOKSELLER, CANDLEMAKER**

BUT BEHIND THAT FAIR FACADE  
I'M AFRAID SHE'S RATHER ODD

**CANDLEMAKER**

VERY DIFF'RENT FROM THE REST OF US

**SOME VILLAGERS**

SHE'S NOTHING LIKE THE REST OF US

**ALL VILLAGERS**

YES, DIFF'RENT FROM THE REST OF US IS BELLE

*(Gunshot. LEFOU rushes onstage, holding a gunnysack open toward the sky... ready to catch the fallen prey.)*

**LEFOU**

I got it. I got it. I got it!

*(A large duck drops, missing the bag entirely. LEFOU quickly puts the duck into the bag as GASTON enters carrying a large, smoking rifle.)*

**(LEFOU)**

You didn't miss a shot, Gaston. You're the greatest hunter in the whole world!

**GASTON**

I know.

**LEFOU**

No beast alive stands a chance against you! And no lass, for that matter.

**GASTON**

It's true, Lefou. And I've got my sights set on...

*(points to BELLE)*

... that one.

**LEFOU**

The inventor's daughter?

**GASTON**

She's the one. The lucky girl I'm going to marry.

**LEFOU**

But, she's—

**GASTON**

The most beautiful in town.

**LEFOU**

I know, but—

**GASTON**

That makes her the best.

*(grabs LEFOU with a beefy hand and pulls him up nose-to-nose)*

And don't I deserve the best?

**LEFOU**

Well, of course you do!

*(GASTON drops LEFOU.)*

**GASTON**

RIGHT FROM THE MOMENT WHEN I MET HER, SAW HER  
I SAID SHE'S GORGEOUS AND I FELL  
HERE IN TOWN THERE'S ONLY SHE  
WHO IS AS BEAUTIFUL AS ME  
SO I'M MAKING PLANS TO WOO AND MARRY BELLE

*(GASTON strides toward BELLE. Three twittering FILLES DE LA VILLE swoon as he passes.)*

**LES FILLES DE LA VILLE**

LOOK, THERE HE GOES!  
ISN'T HE DREAMY?  
MONSIEUR GASTON!  
OH, HE'S SO CUTE!  
BE STILL MY HEART!  
I'M HARDLY BREATHING!  
HE'S SUCH A TALL, DARK, STRONG, AND HANDSOME BRUTE!

*(VILLAGERS move through the marketplace.)*

**SAUSAGE CURL LADY**

BONJOUR!

**GASTON**

PARDON!

**BELLE**

GOOD DAY

**MARIE**

MAIS OUI!

**FLOWER SELLER**

YOU CALL THIS BACON?

**LAUNDRY LADY**

WHAT LOVELY GRAPES!

**CRONY**

SOME CHEESE...

**MILKMAID**

... TEN YARDS

**BOOKSELLER**

... ONE POUND

**GASTON**

'SCUSE ME!

**CANDLEMAKER**

I'LL GET THE KNIFE

**GASTON**

PLEASE LET ME THROUGH!

**MARIE**

THIS BREAD...

**SAUSAGE CURL LADY**

THOSE FISH...

**FLOWER SELLER**

... IT'S STALE!

**LAUNDRY LADY**

... THEY SMELL!

**MALE VILLAGERS**

MADAME'S  
MISTAKEN  
GOOD MORNING

OH  
GOOD MORNING!

**FEMALE VILLAGERS**

WELL  
MAYBE SO!  
GOOD MORNING

OH  
GOOD MORNING!

**BELLE**

THERE MUST BE  
MORE THAN THIS  
PROVINCIAL LIFE!

**GASTON**

JUST WATCH  
I'M GOING TO MAKE  
BELLE MY WIFE!

**ALL VILLAGERS**

LOOK THERE SHE GOES...  
A GIRL WHO'S STRANGE, BUT SPECIAL  
A MOST PECULIAR *MAD'MOISELLE*

**FEMALE VILLAGERS**

IT'S A PITY AND A SIN...

**MALE VILLAGERS**

SHE DOESN'T QUITE FIT IN

**ALL VILLAGERS**

'CAUSE SHE REALLY IS A FUNNY GIRL  
A BEAUTY, BUT A FUNNY GIRL  
SHE REALLY IS A FUNNY GIRL  
THAT BELLE!

*(VILLAGERS exit.)*