

A ROYAL NEW YEAR'S EVE

Written by

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**ACT ONE**

FADE IN:

1 EXT. NEW YORK CITY - NIGHT 1

Establishing shot of New York City at night.

2 EXT. APPLIQUE MAGAZINE BUILDING - NIGHT 2

Establishing shot of a fancy Manhattan office building, home to the fashion magazine *Applique*. Christmas decorations adorn the exterior of the building.

3 INT. APPLIQUE - CAITLYN'S DESK - NIGHT 3

We start TIGHT on an issue of *Applique* magazine, a high-fashion monthly in the vein of *Vogue* or *Elle*. PULL BACK to reveal it is sitting on the desk of CAITLYN ELLERBE (30s, All-American pretty, down to earth) in the outer office of the Editor in Chief, Abigail Miller. She is busy with a million things when her desk phone rings.

CAITLYN

(into phone)

Abigail Miller's office, this is Caitlyn. Hi, Karen. I know it's Christmas Eve, but she's working on the fashion show. Because it's on the 26th. It's either be here tonight or open presents tomorrow at your desk. No, I will not tell our boss she's a Grinch.

DORIS TRUESDALE (30s, an Average Jane type, spunky) pokes her head into the office, nervously. She has a tape measure around her neck and usually carries a sewing kit.

DORIS

Is she here?

CAITLYN

(into phone)

You will be the first to know, Karen. Fa la la la la to you, too.  
(hangs up - to Doris)  
No, she's down in the art department.

Doris relaxes and comes into the office with a stack of dresses and starts putting them on a nearby clothes rack.

DORIS

We're supposed to be at your  
parents' house in an hour.

CAITLYN

I know. My mother keeps texting  
pictures of the turkey in the oven.  
Are those Leighton's dresses?

DORIS

Yep. All tailored, hemmed, buffed,  
and polished.

CAITLYN

How do they look?

DORIS

Not bad. Your designs are a  
million times better. Abigail  
should put you in the fashion show.

CAITLYN

Leighton is her daughter. I'm just  
her assistant. She barely cares  
what my name is much less about my  
designs.

DORIS

You've been working for her for  
almost a year. Have you ever even  
shown them to her?

CAITLYN

(scoffs)

Doris, no. Are you crazy?

DORIS

Your New Year's resolution should  
be to believe in your talent.

CAITLYN

(not convincing)

I do.

Doris gives her an arched eyebrow.

CAITLYN (CONT'D)

I mostly do. But showing my  
designs to Abigail Miller is like  
jumping into the deep end of a  
pool... filled with sharks.

DORIS

By midnight New Year's Eve, I will change your mind. Right before we get romantic kisses from two handsome men at an elegant ball.

CAITLYN

What men? What ball? We were planning on binge watching TV and eating our weight in ice cream.

DORIS

It's New Year's. Anything is possible.

CAITLYN

Trust me. The chances of us getting kissed at midnight at a fancy ball are about as good as Abigail wanting to see my designs.

Caitlyn's desk phone rings and she answers.

CAITLYN (CONT'D)

(into phone)

Abigail Miller's office, this is Caitlyn. Okay, thanks.

She hangs up the phone.

CAITLYN (CONT'D)

(to Doris)

She's on her way up.

DORIS

(hurries to door)

I'm going to go hide behind my sewing machine. Please remind her that it's Christmas Eve and some of us are on Santa's nice list.

Caitlyn laughs as Doris rushes out. Caitlyn takes the rack of dresses and wheels it toward the office boardroom.

4

INT. APPLIQUE - BOARDROOM - NIGHT

4

Caitlyn wheels the rack into the boardroom. Moments later ABIGAIL MILLER ((50s, impeccably dressed, doesn't suffer fools) enters with her daughter LEIGHTON (20s, pretty, lives in her mom's shadow) in tow.

CAITLYN

Abigail, I've got your messages.  
Leighton your dresses are here.

LEIGHTON

Thanks, Caitlyn.

Leighton goes to the rack while Abigail goes to a stack of materials and sketches on the conference table.

ABIGAIL

Caitlyn, add Lady Isabelle and Prince Jeffrey to the guest list for the fashion show.

CAITLYN

Who?

ABIGAIL

Who? What do you mean who?  
They're only one of the hottest couples in the world right now.

CAITLYN

I don't pay attention to stuff like that, usually.

ABIGAIL

It's part of your job to pay attention to stuff like that. They're in town for the royal family's big New Year's Eve charity thing and there's a rumor that he's going to propose.

CAITLYN

On New Year's Eve? Wow. That's romantic.

ABIGAIL

Yes, and it'll make a great cover. We're finalizing the deal for an *Applique* exclusive so I want to wow them at the fashion show.

CAITLYN

I'll take care of it.

(beat)

Abigail... some of the staff was wondering... it's Christmas Eve...

ABIGAIL

And?

LEIGHTON

And they want to go home, Mom.

ABIGAIL

We have a ton of work to do.

LEIGHTON

Caitlyn, remind me. Which one shows up first? Is it the ghost of Christmas past?

ABIGAIL

(sighs)

Fine. Go be merry.

CAITLYN

Thank you. Merry Christmas.

Caitlyn hurries out while Abigail comes to the rack of dresses with Leighton.

ABIGAIL

No, no, yes, no, definitely not.

LEIGHTON

Mom, I like that one.

ABIGAIL

Lady Isabelle is going to see your dresses in the fashion show. If we play our cards right she'll be wearing one of them on New Year's Eve when a prince proposes to her.

LEIGHTON

Okay, I get it. But it is Christmas Eve. Can't this wait?

ABIGAIL

Sweetheart, this could be your big break. This is much more important than Christmas.

Abigail turns back to the rack of dresses and Leighton puts on a forced smile and turn to join her.

5

EXT. CAITLYN'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

5

Establishing shot of a less-than-trendy warehouse style loft building in the Meat Packing District. Christmas decorations adorn the outside of the building.

6

INT. CAITLYN'S LOFT - NIGHT

6

The loft space has big windows and mismatched furnishings in living areas alongside work areas devoted to all things fashion. There are sketches, a design table, dress forms, clothes, a sewing area, and more, giving the room an artistic feeling. The room is also decorated for Christmas including a tree. Doris looks at dresses on a rack.

DORIS  
(yells off)  
Caitlyn, we're late.

Caitlyn enters from the hall and gets ready (coat, etc.).

CAITLYN  
I know. My mom just sent me a picture of a kitchen timer. Wait until you see how much she's cooking. We're going to have leftovers for weeks.

DORIS  
The refrigerator is already full with all the stuff my folks sent home after Hanukkah.

CAITLYN  
I can take some to work.

DORIS  
It's a fashion magazine. Nobody there eats.

CAITLYN  
Don't make jokes like that tonight. My parents are freaked out enough about me quitting my "steady" teaching job to go work in fashion.

DORIS  
Have you shown them your designs?

CAITLYN  
They think they're "cute."

Doris takes one of the dresses off the rack. It's gorgeous, romantic, old fashioned with soft lines and flowing fabric.

DORIS  
They're beautiful! Lady Isabelle should see this one. The prince would take one look at her in this and propose on the spot.

CAITLYN

(takes the dress)

We have to go before my mother starts sending pictures of her weeping as she stands over a burnt turkey.

DORIS

Okay, okay.

Doris heads toward the door. Caitlyn takes one last look at the dress. It is beautiful.

CAITLYN

(to the dress)

Someday your prince will come.

She smiles as she puts it back on the rack and exits.

7

EXT. NYC MANSION - NIGHT

7

Establishing shot of a large mansion in New York City, dressed for Christmas.

8

INT. NYC MANSION - BALLROOM - NIGHT

8

The ballroom of the mansion is a grand, high-ceilinged affair with a skylight and a big staircase coming down into it. Two people come into the room - One is PRINCE JEFFREY WALLINGFORD (30s, handsome, mannered, quick to smile). The other is his valet BARNABY (50s, proper and dignified but with a good sense of humor).

BARNABY

And this, Prince Jeffrey, is where the New Year's Eve ball will take place.

JEFFREY

Whose home is this again?

BARNABY

Lord and Lady Atwood. You met them at the opera a few months ago.

JEFFREY

Oh, yes. I think it was a race to determine which would put me to sleep faster, them or the opera.

BARNABY

Luckily they are vacationing in Italy and have given you free run of the place.

JEFFREY

(looks around)

It's a little... stuffy don't you think?

BARNABY

The New Year's Eve ball is quite elegant, Your Highness.

JEFFREY

Yes, I know. And it raises a lot of money for the family foundation, which is important. But just once wouldn't it be fun to, I don't know, have it in bar somewhere with a karaoke machine?

BARNABY

Oh yes, I can see the King up there now, singing a country-western song about a pick-up truck, perhaps.

JEFFREY

I picture my father as more of a show tunes kind of guy.

(looks around again)

Well, I suppose this is more appropriate, especially considering what everyone is expecting me to do at this year's ball.

BARNABY

It is a tradition in your family, Your Highness. All of the men have proposed on New Year's Eve.

JEFFREY

I am painfully aware of our traditions, Barnaby. I've been living within the very strict confines of them for my entire life. It's just that sometimes I wish that I could...

Before he can continue, Lady ISABELLE COLLINS (30s, refined style, obviously from money) enters carrying a red notebook. Jeffrey is much more proper and buttoned down around her.

ISABELLE

Oh, Jeffrey. This room is beautiful, isn't it?

JEFFREY

Yes, it is.

ISABELLE

This will be a wonderful place for you to...

(ask me to marry you)

...host the New Year's Eve gala.

BARNABY

Did you get settled in your room, Lady Isabelle?

ISABELLE

Yes, I did, Barnaby, thank you. We must be sure to thank Lord and Lady Atwood for their generosity. Jeffrey, we should take them to the opera. Wouldn't that be fun?

JEFFREY

(forces a smile)

Yes, it would be.

ISABELLE

(opens notebook)

Well, we have so much to do. Interview caterers, choose an orchestra. I have to find a dress!

JEFFREY

Isabelle, darling, it's Christmas Eve. Perhaps we can put a pin in that until after the holiday?

ISABELLE

Jeffrey, this is quite important. We want to make sure everything is perfect when...

(you ask me to marry you)

...the King arrives on New Year's Eve day.

JEFFREY

(beat)

Yes, of course.

Isabelle starts to run down her list while Jeffrey takes a deep breath.

9 EXT. APPLIQUE MAGAZINE BUILDING - DAY 9

Establishing shot of the *Applique* building.

10 INT. APPLIQUE - CAITLYN'S DESK - DAY 10

Doris and Caitlyn are standing near her desk.

DORIS  
I'm still full.

CAITLYN  
I told you not to have seconds.

DORIS  
I think it would've made your mom  
cry if I didn't.

Abigail and Leighton come breezing in.

CAITLYN  
Good morning, Abigail. How are...

ABIGAIL  
Do you have the updated guest list  
for tonight?

CAITLYN  
(hands her a clipboard)  
Yes, it's right here.  
(to Leighton)  
Hi, Leighton. Did you have a good  
Christmas?

LEIGHTON  
(rueful smile)  
Jingle all the way.

ABIGAIL  
Let me know the second Lady  
Isabelle gets here. Doris, I want  
another fitting for the models at  
the show tonight.

DORIS  
We've already done two.

ABIGAIL  
Then do three. It has to be  
perfect.

(MORE)

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

(starts to office; stops)  
Oh, and Caitlyn, why is there a  
Christmas tree in the lobby?

CAITLYN

Because yesterday was Christmas?

ABIGAIL

Yesterday is like wearing last  
year's fashions. Get rid of it.

Abigail and Leighton go into Abigail's office.

DORIS

(quietly to Caitlyn)  
Someone got coal in their stocking.

Caitlyn laughs and Doris heads out the door just as Isabelle  
is arriving.

ISABELLE

Hello. Lady Isabelle Collins for  
Abigail Miller.

CAITLYN

Oh, hi. Hello. Welcome.

Before she can do anything, Abigail comes out of her office.

ABIGAIL

Lady Isabelle! I didn't know you  
were here. Caitlyn, why didn't you  
tell me she was here?

Abigail and Isabelle do an air kiss greeting.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

I hope you're looking forward to  
the show tonight. We have some  
amazing new designs for you to see.

ISABELLE

Maybe I'll fall in love with one of  
them for the prince's New Year's  
Eve gala. I want to look stunning  
when he... well... when whatever  
happens that evening happens.

ABIGAIL

Yes, let's talk about that. Come  
in, come in.

Abigail starts to guide Isabelle into her office.

ISABELLE

Oh, I forgot my notebook with all my plans for the party. A messenger is bringing it.

ABIGAIL

Caitlyn, go downstairs and wait for the messenger, please.

CAITLYN

I'll take care of it.

ISABELLE

They will be carrying a large, red book. You can't miss it.

Abigail takes Isabelle into her office and Caitlyn goes to put on her coat.

11 EXT. MANHATTAN STREET - DAY 11

Establishing shot of a busy Manhattan street as we focus on a Town Car making its way through traffic.

12 INT. TOWN CAR - DAY 12

A red leather notebook sitting on the back seat of a Town Car between Jeffrey, who is wearing casual clothes (jeans, a sweater, a wool coat; unshaven) and Barnaby next to him while a driver pilots the vehicle.

BARNABY

The messenger would have delivered the notebook, Your Highness.

JEFFREY

I know, Barnaby, but I wanted to get out of the hotel. It's New York City and I'd like to experience it while I'm here.

BARNABY

You have a busy schedule today. Are you sure you don't want to change into... something more befitting your position?

JEFFREY

Are you saying I look like a slob?

BARNABY

Never, Your Highness. You look...  
like a man with a purpose. Perhaps  
an unshaven one, but...

JEFFREY

Barnaby, I have spent my entire  
life being treated like a prince.

BARNABY

And that's a bad thing?

JEFFREY

No, but just for once, in this city  
where nobody knows me, I don't want  
to be Prince Jeffrey, House of  
Wallingford, next in line to the  
crown. I just want to be... Jeff.

Barnaby raises an eyebrow.

JEFFREY (CONT'D)

I could be a Jeff.

BARNABY

You can be anything you want to be,  
Your Highness.

JEFFREY

Now you're just humoring me.

BARNABY

I would never do that...

Jeffrey smiles as the car pulls up to the curb in front of  
the *Applique* building.

BARNABY (CONT'D)

Here we are... Jeff.

Jeffery laughs and gets out of the car.

13

INT. APPLIQUE MAGAZINE BUILDING - REVOLVING DOOR - DAY

13

Caitlyn is coming out via a revolving door just as Jeffrey is  
going in. She sees him carrying the red notebook and  
continues through the revolve to go back in the building  
after him.

14

INT. APPLIQUE MAGAZINE BUILDING - LOBBY - DAY

14

Caitlyn comes out of the revolving door and chases after Jeffrey.

CAITLYN  
Excuse me? Is that for Lady  
Isabelle Collins?

JEFFREY  
Why yes it is. I'm...

CAITLYN  
I'll take that.

She reaches for it but he pulls it back.

JEFFREY  
I'm sorry, who are you?

CAITLYN  
I'm Abigail Miller's assistant.  
They're waiting for it upstairs.

JEFFREY  
Well, I should take it up myself.

CAITLYN  
They sent me down to get it.

JEFFREY  
But you see, Isabelle is...

CAITLYN  
(overlaps)  
... is waiting for me to bring the  
notebook to her. And she sort of  
strikes me as someone who gets what  
she wants.

JEFFREY  
(slight smile)  
Does she now?

CAITLYN  
Oh, yeah. I mean, she's dating a  
prince. How do you even find a  
prince? Is there an app for that?

JEFFREY  
Probably.

CAITLYN

Anyway, she asked me to bring up the book, so...

JEFFREY

You don't understand, I wanted to meet Ms. Miller because I'm...

CAITLYN

Oh, I get it! You're a model and you figure if you can get in front of the editor of *Applique* that she'll put you on the next cover.

JEFFREY

(repressing a smile)  
A model? Really?

He looks at himself in the reflection of the windows.

CAITLYN

Look, you are very handsome, I'll admit that, but the last person who tried to slip Abigail a head shot got carried out by security.

JEFFREY

Oh, dear.

CAITLYN

So please, just give me the notebook. If I don't have it upstairs in the next couple of minutes, they're going to be carrying me out.

JEFFREY

Well, we wouldn't want that.  
(hesitates)  
On two conditions.

CAITLYN

Okay. What?

JEFFREY

Number one, you have to tell me your name.

CAITLYN

(has to smile)  
Caitlyn.  
(a bit flirty)  
And I suppose the second condition is I have to give you my number?

JEFFREY

(laughs)

No, no. It is simply this. The next time we meet, promise me you won't be embarrassed by what has transpired here today.

CAITLYN

What makes you think there's going to be a next time and why would I be embarrassed?

JEFFREY

It's just a hunch.

CAITLYN

(another smile)

Okay, it's a deal. Now, can I please have the notebook?

JEFFREY

(hands her the book)

And my name is... Jeff, just in case you were wondering.

CAITLYN

(more flirty)

Thanks, Jeff. I'll be sure to give you a good review on Yelp.

She turns and goes toward the building, taking a moment to turn back and smile at him. He turns around and walks back toward the car.

15 EXT. CAITLYN'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT 15

Establishing shot of Caitlyn's building.

16 INT. CAITLYN'S LOFT - NIGHT 16

Doris is just getting ready to walk out the door when her phone rings. She answers.

DORIS

Hello?

17 EXT. HOTEL - NIGHT 17

Establishing shot of a posh Manhattan hotel. Over it we hear Caitlyn start her conversation.

CAITLYN (O.S.)  
Doris! Have you left yet?

DORIS (O.S.)  
I was just walking out the door.

18

INT. HOTEL - RECEPTION AREA - NIGHT

18

The reception area outside the ballroom is all set up for the event. High top tables are scattered about, and a small army of people are putting the last minute touches on the room. Caitlyn is standing amidst it.

CAITLYN  
I need you to bring me a dress.

We begin INTERCUTTING between the two of them.

DORIS  
What's wrong with what you're wearing?

CAITLYN  
Abigail said I look like a waitress at an all-you-can-eat buffet.

DORIS  
So we're hoping her New Year's resolution is "be less mean?"

CAITLYN  
Please just bring me a dress.

DORIS  
(goes to rack)  
Which one?

CAITLYN  
Any of them. The blue one.

Doris pulls a blue dress out and shakes her head.

DORIS  
Really? The blue one?

CAITLYN  
Doris, please! Just pick a dress!

Doris pulls out the dress we saw earlier - one of Caitlyn's creations. She smiles.

19

INT. HOTEL - HALLWAY - NIGHT

19

Caitlyn is standing near a bank of elevators looking at her watch anxiously. The doors open and Doris steps off the elevators into a hallway with a garment bag.

CAITLYN

What took so long? The guests are here already and Abigail won't let me in the ballroom until I change.

DORIS

Sorry. Here.

Doris hands her the garment bag. Caitlyn unzips it.

CAITLYN

Doris, what did you do? This is one of my dresses!

DORIS

It's beautiful. And more importantly it's too late to do anything about it.

Doris pushes her toward the ladies room.

CAITLYN

I'm going to punish you for this.

DORIS

I'll be backstage with a bunch of size zero models. I'm already being punished.

Caitlyn goes into the bathroom and Doris goes down the hall.

20

INT. HOTEL - RECEPTION AREA - NIGHT

20

The pre-show party is in full swing as servers pass food and drink to the well-heeled attendees. Among them are Jeffrey, now clean shaven in a nice suit, Isabelle, looking lovely in a stylish gown, and Barnaby, standing nearby as usual. Abigail, also stylish, approaches.

ABIGAIL

There they are, the happy couple!

Abigail and Isabelle do an air kiss.

ISABELLE

Jeffrey, this is Abigail Miller with *Applique* magazine.

ABIGAIL

Your Highness.

ISABELLE

She has graciously offered to help with the New Year's Eve gala.

JEFFREY

Wonderful. You know it's a benefit the royal family's foundation, which funds a number of youth programs, scholarships, on the job training...

ISABELLE

Jeffrey, she doesn't need the sales pitch. She's already agreed.

JEFFREY

(smiles - to Abigail)

Any assistance you can give us will help a lot of people.

ABIGAIL

(fake smile)

Yes, well, we're all about helping. We will do whatever it takes to make you happy.

JEFFREY

Do you know where to get a karaoke machine?

ISABELLE

A what?

JEFFREY

(shakes his head)

Never mind.

ABIGAIL

Now, Lady Isabelle, I want you to pay special attention to the fashions tonight from...

JEFFREY

Ah fashion talk. I believe that's my cue...

Jeffrey steps back from them and collides with a waiter, who spills his tray of food on Jeffrey's jacket.

ABIGAIL

(to the waiter)

You clumsy man, you've ruined the  
prince's coat!

JEFFREY

No, no. It was my fault. Please.

(to the waiter)

Are you all right? I'm so sorry.

The waiter scrambles to pick up the mess as Barnaby steps in.

BARNABY

It appears your jacket has taken quite a hit, Your Highness.

JEFFREY

Oh dear. Ladies, please excuse me while I go try to make myself a little more presentable.

He and Barnaby leave while Abigail continues to give the stink eye to the waiter.

21 INT. HOTEL - MEN'S ROOM - NIGHT

21

Jeffrey and Barnaby are trying to salvage the jacket with some water from the sink, but it isn't looking good.

BARNABY

I'm afraid this is not going to work, Your Highness.

JEFFREY

Yes. I think the shrimp cocktail won this round.

BARNABY

I'll go check with the hotel to see if they have something that might work.

JEFFREY

Thank you, Barnaby. I'll wait for you in the hall.

Barnaby nods and exits the room. Jeffrey turns back to look at himself in the mirror.

JEFFREY (CONT'D)

That's what you get for trying to be funny... Jeff.

He shakes his head at himself.

22 INT. HOTEL - LADIES ROOM - NIGHT

22

Caitlyn comes out of the stall in her romantic dress, a bit uncomfortable at first. Then she takes a moment to look at herself in the mirror - it's impossible to deny how beautiful it is and how lovely she looks. She allows a quick smile and then shakes it off and rushes out of the room.

23

INT. HOTEL HALLWAY - NIGHT

23

Jeffrey and Caitlyn come out of the bathrooms at the same moment and collide, all of her stuff including her garment bag, purse, and phone dropped on the floor. The phone skids across the hall under a nearby occasional table.

JEFFREY

Oh, I'm sorry.

CAITLYN

No, it was my fault, I wasn't...

They finally look at each other.

CAITLYN (CONT'D)

You! What are you doing here?

JEFFREY

Well, actually, I'm...

She looks at him - without a jacket, he looks a lot like one of the waiters at the fashion show.

CAITLYN

Oh, I get it. Messenger by day, cater-waiter at night?

JEFFREY

(smiles - beat)

You are very perceptive, Caitlyn.

CAITLYN

Look, I know you're just trying to make it in the business but this is not the way to do it.

JEFFREY

All right. What would you suggest?

CAITLYN

Do you have an agent? A manager? Someone who looks out for you?

JEFFREY

Yes. His name is Barnaby.

CAITLYN

Well, make him work for you. He should be out making contacts on your behalf. The chances of you meeting someone important here tonight are pretty slim.

JEFFREY

I met you.

CAITLYN

(smiles)

If you think I'm important, you really need help. I'll tell you what. I know all the good modeling agencies in town and I'm sure one of them would want to talk to you.

JEFFREY

You'd do that for me?

CAITLYN

I know what it's like to want to be something more than what you are.

That connects with Jeffrey on a deep level.

CAITLYN (CONT'D)

Call me after the holidays.

(quickly)

At the magazine. I'm not giving you my phone number.

JEFFREY

I didn't ask.

Caitlyn nods and heads toward the party.

JEFFREY (CONT'D)

Oh, and by the way... that is a beautiful dress. You look lovely.

CAITLYN

(smiles, flirty)

Thank you. But I'm still not giving you my phone number.

She walks off and Jeffrey can't help but smile.

24

INT. HOTEL - BALLROOM - NIGHT

24

Abigail is talking to Doris and Isabelle.

DORIS

Caitlyn should be...

CAITLYN

(rushes in)

I'm here, I'm here. Sorry.

ABIGAIL

It's about time. We have to get the show started.

CAITLYN

I know, I'm sorry. Hello, Lady Isabelle.

ISABELLE

Caitlyn. Your dress is stunning.

CAITLYN

Oh... thank you.

ISABELLE

This is exactly the kind of thing I want for the New Year's Eve party. Where did you get it?

CAITLYN

Oh, well... Actually...

ABIGAIL

Did you take this from work? Is this from one of the spring lines?

DORIS

(excited)

Caitlyn designed it!

CAITLYN

(eyeing Abigail)

Doris!

ABIGAIL

(like she ate a bug)

You did?

ISABELLE

Caitlyn, this is gorgeous.

CAITLYN

(smiles)

Thank you.

ISABELLE

Do you have others? I'd love to wear something like it to my party.

ABIGAIL

Wait, what?

DORIS

Yes! She has lots of designs!

ABIGAIL

Lady Isabelle, maybe you should wait and see what's in the show tonight...

ISABELLE

Well, certainly, but if Caitlyn's other designs are as good as this one... Caitlyn, shall we meet tomorrow to review what you have?

CAITLYN

(stunned)

Yes. Sure. That would be great.

ISABELLE

(hands her a card)

Text me your location and a time. I will be there.

Isabelle walks off, happy with herself. Caitlyn turns to Abigail, unsure what to expect.

CAITLYN

Abigail, I...

ABIGAIL

(not happy)

We need to start the show.

CAITLYN

I'll go tell the stage manager...

ABIGAIL

Why don't you go backstage with Doris... and stay there. To make sure everything runs smoothly.

CAITLYN

(beat)

Okay. I can do that.

Abigail turns and stalks off, unhappily. Doris turns to Caitlyn, excitedly.

CAITLYN (CONT'D)

Did that just happen?

DORIS

That just happened! Lady Isabelle could be wearing your dress when the prince asks her to marry him!

CAITLYN

I don't even know what to do with that. But I don't think Abigail is very happy.

DORIS

Who cares?

CAITLYN

I care! She's my boss. What if she fires me?

DORIS

She's not going to fire you. She just exiled you backstage. Although I guess that means you won't get to meet the prince.

CAITLYN

That's okay. I've had enough fairly tale for one night.

They go off toward the back.

25

INT. HOTEL - HALLWAY - NIGHT

25

Jeffrey is waiting by the elevators when one opens and Barnaby steps out with a new jacket for Jeffrey.

BARNABY

Here you are, Your Highness.

Jeffrey takes the jacket and turns back toward the party as he puts it on.

JEFFREY

Thank you, Barnaby.

Jeffrey sees something - Caitlyn's phone on the floor near the occasional table in the hall. He goes to pick it up and realizes whose it is. He smiles and heads toward the party.

**END ACT ONE**

ACT TWO

26 EXT. NYC MANSION - DAY 26

Establishing shot of the mansion.

27 INT. NYC MANSION - LIVING ROOM - DAY 27

Jeffrey is the elegant living room at the Atwood mansion putting on a jacket when he hears a phone ringing. He looks around and sees another jacket on a chair nearby, goes to it, pulls out Caitlyn's phone, and answers.

JEFFREY

Hello?

28 INT. CAITLYN'S LOFT - DAY 28

Caitlyn uses Doris' phone to call hers. Doris stands nearby.

CAITLYN

Hi, oh good.

(to Doris)

Someone found my phone.

(into phone)

Hi, that's my phone.

We begin INTERCUTTING between the two of them.

JEFFREY

Yes, it is. Hello, Caitlyn.

CAITLYN

Wait... Is this Jeff?

JEFFREY

You said you weren't going to give me your phone number...

CAITLYN

And technically I didn't. I just gave you my entire phone, it seems.

JEFFREY

(laughs)

I suppose you'd like it back?

CAITLYN

Yes, please. I can come to you...

Jeffrey looks at his surroundings.

JEFFREY

No, no. My place is a mess. I was heading out shortly anyway. I can drop it by.

CAITLYN

Really? That would be great. I need to get ready for a meeting. I'll text my address to the phone.

JEFFREY

All right then. See you soon.

He hangs up the phone and we stay with him. He looks down at his very expensive suit and starts to undo the tie as he walks out of the room.

29

INT. CAITLYN'S LOFT - DAY

29

Back with Caitlyn and Doris as Caitlyn types into the phone.

DORIS

So wait. A future princess wants one of your designs and a cute model answers your phone when you call it? You should go buy a lottery ticket.

CAITLYN

Right? Speaking of the future princess, I need to call Lady Isabelle.

She looks at the card Isabelle gave her and dials.

30

INT. NYC MANSION - ENTRY WAY - DAY

30

In the formal entry way of the mansion, Jeffrey is now casually dressed and putting on a coat with Barnaby standing nearby. Isabelle comes down the stairs on the phone.

ISABELLE

(into phone)

Yes. That would be perfect. I'll see you then. Thank you.

She disconnects the call as she walks up to Jeffrey.

ISABELLE (CONT'D)

That was the designer I told you about last night.

JEFFREY

Designer?

ISABELLE

Yes. The one with the dress that I liked so much.

(shakes her head, smiles)

Typical. I start talking about dresses and you stop listening.

JEFFREY

(smiles)

Sorry. Are you going to go see some designs?

ISABELLE

Yes. I have a errands to run first so perhaps we can meet for lunch?

JEFFREY

Sounds good.

ISABELLE

Where are you off to dressed so...

(a hint of distaste)

...casually.

JEFFREY

I'm returning a lost phone.

ISABELLE

Why don't you have one of the staff do it? I'm sure Barnaby...

JEFFREY

I'd rather do it myself.

ISABELLE

Why? That's not something a prince should be doing.

JEFFREY

That's why. I like the idea of doing things regular people do.

ISABELLE

But we're not regular people.

JEFFREY

Doesn't that bother you?

ISABELLE

Not in the slightest.

JEFFREY

(beat)

Well, I like the idea of being regular every now and then. I'll see you at lunch.

He kisses her on the cheek and leaves with Barnaby. Isabelle seems a bit troubled but shakes her head and dismisses it.

31 INT. CAITLYN'S LOFT - DAY

31

Caitlyn is handing Doris back her phone.

CAITLYN

Lady Isabelle will be here in a couple of hours.

DORIS

Lady Isabelle. That is so cool! I knew all it would take is someone with taste seeing your work.

CAITLYN

Well, she definitely has taste. She is so elegant. I feel like a bull in a china shop around her.

DORIS

Did you even see the prince?

CAITLYN

No. They were gone by the time Abigail let me come out front.

DORIS

Maybe he'll come with her.  
(gasp)  
We need to straighten up!

Doris and Caitlyn look around at the cluttered loft.

CAITLYN

It might be easier if we just move.

They start straightening up.

32 EXT. CAITLYN'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

32

Barnaby opens the door of the Town Car and Jeffrey, steps out onto the sidewalk in front of Caitlyn's building.

BARNABY

Are you sure you don't want me to  
return the phone, Your Highness?

JEFFREY

No, it will only take a minute.

Jeffrey goes into Caitlyn's building.

33

INT. CAITLYN'S LOFT - DAY

33

Caitlyn and Doris are still straightening up when there is a  
knock at the door. Caitlyn opens the door and Jeffrey is  
standing there. He holds out Caitlyn's phone. She takes it.

CAITLYN

You were right. We meet again, and  
I'm embarrassed.

JEFFREY

This isn't precisely what I meant,  
but...

(sees Doris)

Hello.

CAITLYN

Oh, Doris this is Jeff. Jeff, my  
roommate Doris.

JEFFREY

Lovely to meet you.

DORIS

Why do you look familiar?

CAITLYN

(to Jeffrey)

You've probably been in a magazine  
or something?

JEFFREY

I have been in a few, yes.

DORIS

That must be it.

CAITLYN

(gets her purse)

Anyway, thank you for returning  
this. Can I give you a reward...

JEFFREY

Oh, no. It's not necessary.

CAITLYN  
But you came all the way down here.

JEFFREY  
It was no bother, really.

DORIS  
(sly smile)  
You could always go buy him a cup  
of coffee.

CAITLYN  
(glares)  
We have to get the place ready for  
our visitor, remember?

DORIS  
I can take care of it. You want a  
cup of coffee, don't you, Jeff?

JEFFREY  
(beat - smile)  
As a matter of fact, I do.

CAITLYN  
(beat)  
Let me grab my coat...

She gets it and walks over to him. He helps her put it on in  
a gentlemanly fashion.

CAITLYN (CONT'D)  
Thank you.  
(turns to him)  
You understand this is just me  
saying thank you. We're not...

JEFFREY  
Oh, no. Of course not. I'm seeing  
someone so no ulterior motives.

CAITLYN  
Okay. Doris, I'll be back soon.

Caitlyn gives Doris one last "why did you do this" glare and  
Doris gives her the thumbs up as they leave.

Doris looks around the room again and continues straightening  
up, starting with a pile of magazines. She stacks them  
neatly and then walks away... then walks back quickly and  
grabs the top one, her eyes wide.

We see that it's a celebrity magazine like People and on the cover is a candid shot of Isabelle and Jeffrey with a headline of "Is The Prince Readying a Proposal?" Doris runs to grab her phone and dials.

DORIS

Pick up, pick up, pick up...

We hear a phone ringing. Doris looks around and sees Caitlyn's phone on a table near the door. She hangs up the call and sits heavily, looking at the magazine cover.

34 EXT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY 34

Establishing shot of a Manhattan coffee shop.

35 INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY 35

Caitlyn and Jeffrey takes seats at a table in a Starbucks style coffee shop - Barnaby is trying to be unobtrusive in the background. Jeffrey takes a sip from a cup.

JEFFREY

Mmm... this is good coffee. I'll have to remember this place.

CAITLYN

Well, there's one, like, every four blocks so it won't be hard.

JEFFREY

Oh, we don't have these back home.

CAITLYN

They don't? Aren't you from Britain? Your accent...

JEFFREY

No, I'm from a small country in Europe. Most people have never heard of it. I'm just in New York for a short time.

CAITLYN

What do you think so far?

JEFFREY

I love it. It's energetic and colorful and there's so much to do. I rode the subway yesterday!

CAITLYN

(laughs)

You've never been on a subway?

JEFFREY

No! It was very exciting. A little crowded. And there were some strange smells, but other than that it was quite an adventure.

CAITLYN

Yes, it can be. Maybe next time you can take a cab.

JEFFREY

(smiles - shrugs)

I had a very sheltered upbringing. I didn't get to experience a lot of the things that most people take for granted.

CAITLYN

So you're making up for lost time?

JEFFREY

Back at home I have too many... obligations. It doesn't leave much time for simple pleasures.

CAITLYN

What kind of obligations?

JEFFREY

(evasive)

Family stuff, mostly.

(pivots)

So what is it like working in fashion? Seems quite glamorous.

CAITLYN

I'm just an assistant so I'm not really a part of the glamour, yet.

JEFFREY

Yet? What are your aspirations?

CAITLYN

I want to be a designer. I mean, I am a designer I just haven't had much success at it. But I'm hoping that's all about to change.

JEFFREY

Really?

CAITLYN

I have an amazing opportunity. I don't want to talk about it too much because I don't want to jinx it, but this could really be a new beginning for me.

JEFFREY

That's exciting.

CAITLYN

Well, it's no riding on the subway...

Jeffrey laughs and the two of them sip their coffees, the smiling continuing.

36

EXT. MANHATTAN SIDEWALK - DAY

36

Caitlyn and Jeffrey are walking down the street toward Caitlyn's building, holding their coffee cups. Barnaby is following about twenty paces behind. Jeffrey glances back and Caitlyn notices.

CAITLYN

That guy was in the coffee shop.

JEFFREY

Was he? Hmmmm...

Caitlyn sort of sneaks a glance at him.

CAITLYN

So, you said you're seeing someone?

JEFFREY

Yes. For a couple of years now.

CAITLYN

(slightly disappointed)  
Sounds serious.

JEFFREY

Yes. There may be an engagement in the near future.

CAITLYN

Really? Have you decided how you're going to pop the question?

JEFFREY

It was actually decided for me.

CAITLYN

How does that happen?

JEFFREY

It's a tradition, of sorts. All of the men in my family have proposed just before the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve.

CAITLYN

Aww... that's romantic.

JEFFREY

It's supposed to symbolize a fresh start. A new beginning, so to speak, of two lives becoming one.

CAITLYN

Okay, that's crazy romantic. I'm stealing that when I get engaged.

JEFFREY

Is that happening soon?

CAITLYN

Considering the fact that I'm not even dating anyone? No. Not this New Year's Eve, that's for sure.

JEFFREY

There will be others.

CAITLYN

I hear they have one every year.

They have reached Caitlyn's building.

CAITLYN (CONT'D)

Well, this is me. Thank you again for rescuing my phone, which...

(checks her coat)

I must have left upstairs. I lose my phone all the time. It's like a sickness. I really need help.

JEFFREY

(laughs)

Perhaps that can be your New Year's resolution.

CAITLYN

Sure. That's almost as good as getting engaged at the stroke of midnight.

They share a smile and a laugh and she extends her hand just as a Town Car is pulling up at the curb.

CAITLYN (CONT'D)  
Thanks again. Good luck.

JEFFREY  
(takes her hand)  
You too. Nice meeting you.

The driver of the Town Car comes around and opens the door. Isabelle steps out and is surprised to see Jeffrey there.

ISABELLE  
Jeffrey?

JEFFREY  
Isabelle! What are you doing here?

ISABELLE  
I told you I was meeting with the designer... Caitlyn.

Caitlyn's eyes go wide as the pieces of this puzzle start to fall in place.

JEFFREY  
(to Caitlyn)  
Wait... you're...

Barnaby comes up to join the fray.

BARNABY  
Is everything all right, Your Highness?

CAITLYN  
(shock)  
Your... Highness?

Doris comes running out of the front door of the building.

DORIS  
(freaking out)  
He's the prince! He's the prince!

All Caitlyn can do is stare with her mouth agape.

**END ACT TWO**

ACT THREE

37 EXT. CAITLYN'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY 37

Establishing shot of Caitlyn's building.

38 INT. CAITLYN'S LOFT - DAY 38

Caitlyn, Jeffrey, Isabelle, Doris, and Barnaby are all gathered in the loft.

ISABELLE

(amused)

Jeffrey, you should be ashamed of yourself for not telling her who you really are.

JEFFREY

I know. I am truly sorry.

CAITLYN

(forced smile)

No problem... Your... Excellency?

DORIS

You call him Your Highness.

JEFFREY

Please, just call me Jeffrey.

CAITLYN

(a little peeved)

Not Jeff?

JEFFREY

Uh, no. I think Jeff is a little busy with his modeling career.

ISABELLE

You'll have to forgive him. He enjoys his anonymity here... perhaps a little too much, hmm?

JEFFREY

Almost certainly.

ISABELLE

Anyway, I believe this is like fate bringing us all together. Caitlyn, I want to see more of your designs.

Doris scurries to grab some sketches, then returns handing them to Isabelle while bowing her head.

ISABELLE (CONT'D)  
Thank you, Doris.

DORIS  
You're welcome, Your Highness.  
Your soon to be Highness?

ISABELLE  
Lady Isabelle is just fine.  
(looks at designs)  
Yes. Yes. These are lovely and...  
(stops at one)  
Well, this is it. Elegant and  
romantic.

CAITLYN  
You really like it?

ISABELLE  
I love it. It would make me feel  
like a princess...

That causes a moment - Isabelle realizes what she said, Jeffrey grows uncomfortable, and Caitlyn looks at the floor.

ISABELLE (CONT'D)  
Metaphorically speaking, of course.  
What do you need to have it made by  
New Year's Eve?

CAITLYN  
(to Doris)  
Doris? Will you help?

DORIS  
Make a dress for a Lady?! Yes!

CAITLYN  
Okay, great! Well, we need to get  
measurements and talk fabric...

JEFFREY  
I believe that's our cue, Barnaby.

BARNABY  
Yes, Your Highness.

JEFFREY  
Isabelle, I'll see you at lunch?

ISABELLE  
All right darling.

JEFFREY  
(to Caitlyn)  
Again... I am very sorry.

CAITLYN  
(tries to be casual)  
You warned me not to be  
embarrassed.

It's obvious that she's not happy but this isn't the time or the place. Jeffrey nods and they exit. Caitlyn takes a beat and she turns back to Isabelle and Doris.

CAITLYN (CONT'D)  
Okay. Let's get to work.

She heads toward them.

39 EXT. APPLIQUE MAGAZINE BUILDING - DAY 39

Establishing shot of the *Applique* magazine building.

40 INT. APPLIQUE - ABIGAIL'S OFFICE - DAY 40

Leighton is sitting in a guest chair as Abigail, behind the desk, hangs up her phone.

ABIGAIL  
It's official. Lady Isabelle is  
wearing one of Caitlyn's dresses.

LEIGHTON  
Mom, it's okay.

ABIGAIL  
No, it's not okay. This was  
supposed to be your shot, not  
Caitlyn's. She stole your shot.

LEIGHTON  
She didn't steal anything. Lady  
Isabelle liked her dress and I  
don't blame her. It was beautiful.

ABIGAIL  
I am the Editor in Chief of one of  
the world's leading fashion  
magazines. I decide what's  
beautiful and what isn't.

LEIGHTON

Well, there's nothing we can do about it now. She's already made up her mind.

ABIGAIL

(an idea forming)

But we might be able to change her mind. Especially if Caitlyn isn't able to deliver.

LEIGHTON

I hate it when your eyes do that. It usually means that you're plotting something.

ABIGAIL

(idea more formed)

There's a lot of work to do helping the Prince and Lady Isabelle with the New Year's Eve party. Way too much for me to do by myself.

(idea formed)

Luckily, I have an assistant.

LEIGHTON

But Mom, if you load Caitlyn up with party planning she's not going to be able to work on the dress...

(gets it)

Ohh....

Abigail smiles and picks up the phone.

41

EXT. GARMENT DISTRICT - DAY

41

Caitlyn, on the phone, and Doris are in the garment district, looking at various stores and the displays in front of them.

CAITLYN

(into phone)

But... Okay, but... Sure. Happy to do it.

(disconnects)

Now I have to plan the New Year's Eve party, too!

DORIS

What? Why?

CAITLYN

Because Abigail says so. I'm supposed to meet the Prince and Isabelle this afternoon for a catering audition.

DORIS

Free food and a handsome Prince? What's the problem again?

CAITLYN

He didn't tell me he was a prince. Princes should be required to identify themselves. They should have, like, a name tag or a badge.

DORIS

He said he was sorry.

CAITLYN

What if I had said something and caused an international incident? And now I have to work with him on the party? How am I going to do that and get the dress ready in time?

DORIS

We'll figure it out.

CAITLYN

This is so crazy. Yesterday I had a normal life and today I'm somehow mixed up with royalty.

DORIS

If the choice is royalty or normal, I'd take royalty any day.

CAITLYN

You don't know that.

DORIS

I do! Royalty comes with a castle!

Caitlyn laughs and shakes her head as they go into a store.

Establishing shot of the mansion.

Caitlyn is standing in the beautiful dining room of the mansion in front of several displays of various food options on the table. She looks very uncomfortable. Jeffrey comes in with two cups of coffee.

JEFFREY

(hands her a cup)

I am officially addicted to this coffee and it is all your fault.

CAITLYN

(looks down)

Thank you... Your Highness.

JEFFREY

Jeffrey is fine.

CAITLYN

Is Lady Isabelle coming?

JEFFREY

No, we're dividing and conquering. It was this or choosing center pieces and I thought food was more in my wheelhouse.

(sips coffee)

Oh, that is wonderful.

CAITLYN

You *don't* get out much, do you?

JEFFREY

I told you.

CAITLYN

Yes, but you didn't tell me it was because you were a prince.

JEFFREY

Yes. But remember, you said you wouldn't be embarrassed...

CAITLYN

(honest)

But I was. You made me feel...

JEFFREY

Caitlyn, I... I liked being just Jeff for a little while. It was nice to talk to someone who treated me like a person instead of a prince.

(MORE)

JEFFREY (CONT'D)

I didn't mean to hurt you or  
embarrass you. I hope you'll  
forgive me.

Caitlyn looks at him and nods. He looks at the food.

JEFFREY (CONT'D)

So... I presume this is all for us?

CAITLYN

They have provided lots of options.

JEFFREY

I think they provided all options.

CAITLYN

Yes, well, let's see what this is.  
(looks at card)  
Artisanal seaweed and oyster  
croquettes.

JEFFREY

That sounds interesting.

CAITLYN

It does?

He samples it and she follows suit. He nods, pleased; she  
looks like it's the worst thing she has ever tasted.

JEFFREY

Not bad.

CAITLYN

Really? I mean... Okay. We'll put  
that in the maybe column.  
(next card)  
Marrow with framboise coulis.

They both taste it and again, Caitlyn looks ill.

JEFFREY

An intriguing combination.

CAITLYN

Do you always eat fancy stuff like  
this?

JEFFREY

Not always. Last week we had a  
simple duck confit with pine foam.

CAITLYN

That's simple?

JEFFREY

Yes! Why, what do you eat?

CAITLYN

Food. Real food. You know, the stuff Jeff would eat?

JEFFREY

Well, Jeff is not throwing a New Year's Eve ball attended by people who expect "fancy stuff like this."

CAITLYN

I think down deep what they really want is a nice, juicy cheeseburger.

JEFFREY

(beat)

You know that does sound good...

Caitlyn smiles.

44

INT. DINER - NIGHT

44

Caitlyn and Jeffrey are sitting in a greasy spoon diner eating cheeseburgers. He appears to be in heaven.

JEFFREY

Well, this is remarkable. So much better than pine foam.

CAITLYN

Best cheeseburgers in the city.  
Life changing.

Jeffrey starts laughing.

CAITLYN (CONT'D)

What's so funny?

JEFFREY

I'm picturing the faces of the people at the ball if the waiters started delivering these to the tables. I think we'd need a fleet of ambulances standing by.

CAITLYN

You live in such a strange world.  
(catches herself)  
I mean, strange to me. I could never fit in with your friends.

JEFFREY

Most of them are hangers-on. They like the idea of being in the proximity of royalty.

CAITLYN

So why invite them to your party?

JEFFREY

Because I like being in the proximity of their money. The ball acts as a fundraiser for my family's foundation and the company I must sometimes keep helps fund a lot of good works. We do scholarships and after-school programs for at-risk youth, you would be shocked at the statistics...

(beat)

Sorry, I have been accused of getting a bit carried away when I talk about the foundation.

CAITLYN

I think there's a difference between carried away and caring. You're passionate about it. There's nothing wrong with that.

JEFFREY

The royal family's job is primarily ceremonial so I love being able to make a real difference in people's lives.

Caitlyn can see how much this means to him. She's impressed.

CAITLYN

So these "hangers-on" just write big checks to come to your party?

JEFFREY

Well, no. We auction artwork from the royal collection. It's all arriving tomorrow.

CAITLYN

Really? I'd love to see it.

JEFFREY

You would?

CAITLYN

I used to be an art teacher.

JEFFREY

(surprised)

Art teacher to dress designer.  
That must be an interesting story.  
Come to the mansion tomorrow and  
you can tell me all about it.

CAITLYN

If a prince is asking me to do  
something, can I say no?

JEFFREY

Absolutely. I would, of course,  
have to throw you in a dungeon for  
it, but you could say no.

Caitlyn laughs and the two of them have a moment when their eyes meet. But Caitlyn gets uncomfortable quickly and looks at her watch.

CAITLYN

Well... I should probably get going. We only have four days to get the dress ready for Lady Isabelle.

JEFFREY

Yes. We wouldn't want to disappoint her, would we?

Jeffrey signals the waitress for the check and the two of them attempt not to look at each other again.

45 EXT. CAITLYN'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT 45

Establishing shot of Caitlyn's building.

46 INT. CAITLYN'S LOFT - NIGHT 46

Doris is hard at work on the dress when Caitlyn comes in.

DORIS

Hey. How was it?

CAITLYN

It was... not terrible.

DORIS

Well, that's good. Right?

CAITLYN

(smiles)

Yes. Yeah, it is.

She shakes it off and walks over to Doris and the dress.

CAITLYN (CONT'D)

Okay, what can I do?

DORIS

Make coffee. It's going to be a long night.

Caitlyn nods and they get to work.

**END ACT THREE**

**ACT FOUR**

47 EXT. CAITLYN'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY 47

Establishing shot of Caitlyn's building.

48 INT. CAITLYN'S LOFT - DAY 48

Caitlyn is at the sewing machine, asleep, when Doris comes into the room looking like she just woke up.

DORIS

Good morning.

Caitlyn jerks awake and starts sewing immediately.

CAITLYN

I'm awake! I'm awake.

Doris rushes over and stops her.

DORIS

Caitlyn. Stop! You're doing this wrong...

CAITLYN

Oh, no. Oh... I'm sorry.

DORIS

It's okay. It's an easy fix. Were you up all night?

CAITLYN

No. Maybe. What day is it?

DORIS

The twenty-eighth.

CAITLYN

We only have three days! Actually, we only have two days until the fitting!

Doris leads Caitlyn away from the sewing machine and sits her on the couch.

CAITLYN (CONT'D)

And then there's all the stuff for the party and...

DORIS

Caitlyn, relax. I'll call in sick today. It'll be fine.

CAITLYN

I can't ask you to do that.

DORIS

I want do it. Unless, of course you want to trade places and I'll go look at fabulous works of art with the handsome Prince.

CAITLYN

It's not like that. We're just planning a party.

DORIS

I don't care what it's like, in my head this is the perfect princess fantasy... only it involves you instead of me, but I'm good with living vicariously.

CAITLYN

Doris, please. Between the dress and the party and the whole prince thing, this is stressful enough without turning it into something it's not.

Caitlyn's phone rings. She looks at it and sighs.

CAITLYN (CONT'D)

Abigail.

(she answers)

Hi, Abigail. Yes... I know...

Okay, I'm on my way.

She disconnects the call and looks at Doris.

DORIS

Go. I got this.

CAITLYN

Okay. I'm going.

She doesn't move.

DORIS

You know you're not actually moving, right?

Caitlyn nods and with almost Herculean effort, gets up off the couch.

49 EXT. NYC MANSION - DAY 49

Establishing shot of the mansion.

50 INT. NYC MANSION - ENTRY WAY - DAY 50

Jeffrey, Isabelle, Abigail, and Barnaby are all standing in the entry way of the mansion when Caitlyn comes rushing in.

ABIGAIL

You're late.

CAITLYN

I know, I'm sorry.

JEFFREY

That's all right. They have just started to unpack the art, so...

ABIGAIL

(looks at watch)

Caitlyn, I haven't given you too much to do, have I?

CAITLYN

No, not at all. Everything should be done in time.

ABIGAIL

Should be? Isabelle, perhaps we should talk about some other alternatives for your dress...

CAITLYN

It will be. Everything will be done in time.

ABIGAIL

Well, what about the party? You're not dropping the ball on that?

CAITLYN

No! The food, the music, the flowers...

JEFFREY

And we're reviewing the art work this morning. I think Caitlyn has things well in hand.

ISABELLE

I'm sure she does. Well, Abigail and I are off to look at fabulous things to go with my fabulous dress. I'll be back and we can go over seating charts for the party?

CAITLYN

Sounds good.

Isabelle kisses Jeffrey on the cheek and Abigail gives Caitlyn a curt nod before they leave.

CAITLYN (CONT'D)

(to Jeffrey)

Shall we?

JEFFREY

Well, we have a little time before they will be ready for us to look at anything. Coffee?

Caitlyn glances nervously at her watch.

CAITLYN

I have so much to do on the ball. I don't know if I have time for coffee.

JEFFREY

Luckily, the person who is throwing the ball does. Please don't make me threaten you with a dungeon again.

CAITLYN

(laughs; relaxes)

Okay.

They head for the doors followed by Barnaby.

51

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

51

Caitlyn and Jeffrey are seated in the coffee shop with Barnaby standing at a discrete distance nearby. Caitlyn looks at her watch and appears to be stressed again.

JEFFREY

Caitlyn, you really should relax. The ball will be quite special and so will the dress.

CAITLYN

Yes, I hope so.

JEFFREY

You sound unsure.

CAITLYN

It's my first dress for a real live human being other than me.

JEFFREY

Well, I have the utmost in confidence in you.

CAITLYN

It has to be special, you know? I mean especially if you're going to... you know.

JEFFREY

Ask Isabelle to marry me?

CAITLYN

Yes.

JEFFREY

I'm sure that no matter what happens, the evening will be a smashing success. The fashion show the other night looked spectacular.

CAITLYN

Oh, yes. Abigail doesn't do anything less than spectacular.

JEFFREY

It must be challenging working for someone so... exacting.

CAITLYN

Exacting. I have to remember that. Yeah, it's not always a barrel of laughs but I have learned so much. It's been like a crash course in fashion. I sometimes feel like one of those crash test dummies, but...

JEFFREY

(smiles)

Well, if it's any consolation, I feel like that most days myself.

CAITLYN

Oh, is this the part where the rich, handsome prince with the beautiful girlfriend is going to tell me how hard it is to be him?

JEFFREY

No. My position affords me great luxury and great reward. And I'm not just talking about the palaces.

CAITLYN

Palaces? More than one?

JEFFREY

(smiles)

Seriously, though, it is an honor to be a member of the royal family. The people of our country are hard working, decent, generous... and I love being able to serve them in whatever small ways we do.

CAITLYN

I hear a "but" coming.

JEFFREY

But... a lot of things are decided for you.

CAITLYN

Like what?

JEFFREY

Like what schools you can attend, who you can be friends with, who you should marry...

That hangs out there for a moment, Jeffrey regretting saying it and Caitlyn wishing she hadn't heard it. Barnaby, holding a cell phone, approaches and discretely gets Jeffrey's attention.

JEFFREY (CONT'D)

(to Caitlyn)

Excuse me.

Jeffrey steps away to join Barnaby.

BARNABY

Your Highness, there's a call from your father.

JEFFREY  
 (glances at Caitlyn)  
 Oh... Take a message.

Jeffrey goes back to join Caitlyn.

BARNABY  
 You want me to take a message?  
 From the King?!

Barnaby is nonplussed but he does as he is instructed.

BARNABY (CONT'D)  
 Can I take a message, Your Majesty?

Barnaby walks away as the King speaks.

52 EXT. APPLIQUE MAGAZINE BUILDING - DAY 52

Establishing shot of the *Applique* offices.

53 INT. APPLIQUE - BOARDROOM - DAY 53

Abigail and Isabelle are in the boardroom looking at shoes, scarves, and other accessories that can go with the dress Caitlyn is making.

ISABELLE  
 I love it when designers send me  
 things to wear.  
 (holds up a scarf)  
 What do you think of this?

ABIGAIL  
 It's very nice.

ISABELLE  
 Yes, but is it cover of *Applique*  
 magazine nice?

Abigail sort of cocks her head and squints her eyes, not wanting to say "no" but it's pretty obvious.

ISABELLE (CONT'D)  
 (drops the scarf)  
 Message received. Thank you.

ABIGAIL  
 (carefully)  
 I'm here to make sure you are  
 getting everything you need with  
 the party... and the dress.

ISABELLE  
You seem concerned.

ABIGAIL  
Caitlyn has never done anything like this before and so it might be a good idea to have a backup plan. Just in case.

ISABELLE  
What did you have in mind?

ABIGAIL  
Well... this is right off the top of my head, but many of the designs you saw in the fashion show are available. Maybe we could look at a few of those again and see if any might do... if something goes wrong with Caitlyn's dress, of course.

ISABELLE  
I suppose that's not a bad idea. It can never hurt to have a Plan B.

ABIGAIL  
Exactly.

ISABELLE  
But I'm certain that Caitlyn will come through. It would take something big to get me to change my mind about that dress.

Isabelle wanders away and we stay with Abigail, smiling.

54 EXT. NYC MANSION - DAY 54

Establishing shot of the mansion.

55 INT. NYC MANSION - BALLROOM - DAY 55

The room is being transformed into the gala space with tables, a dance floor, a stage, and more being installed. On one side, several pieces of art are standing on easels. Caitlyn and Jeffrey are looking at them.

JEFFREY  
So wait, the first thing you designed was a princess costume?

CAITLYN

(laughing)

It was for the school play. And my mom, bless her heart, she tried, but I took one look at what she was doing and said, "Here, let me!"

JEFFREY

How old were you?

CAITLYN

Six.

JEFFREY

(laughs)

Genius! And that made you want to be a designer?

CAITLYN

Well, it primarily made me want to be a princess, but yes. I loved being able to transform from one thing into another, sort of like starting over.

JEFFREY

I'd never thought of it that way. To me it's always just been clothes.

CAITLYN

Oh, it's so much more than that. Fashion is about expressing who we are on the inside through what we wear on the outside.

JEFFREY

So if fashion was your calling, why the detour into art?

CAITLYN

Fear, mainly.

JEFFREY

I've seen how you eat. You can't be afraid of anything.

CAITLYN

I was young and felt like I needed a backup plan. Before I knew it, the backup plan had taken over.

JEFFREY

And then one day you just decided  
to change your whole life?

CAITLYN

(embarrassed)

Yes. Believe it or not it was  
because of a New Year's resolution.

JEFFREY

Really? You're kidding.

CAITLYN

No. It was one of those confluence  
of events things. I had broken up  
with someone I had been dating for  
awhile... nothing dramatic. We  
just realized that we wanted other  
things and that got me thinking  
about all of the other things I  
wanted in my life. So, I decided I  
needed a fresh start.

JEFFREY

I find that... quite remarkable.

CAITLYN

Thank you. But of course that's  
what you said about the  
cheeseburger, too.

JEFFREY

Pales in comparison.

Caitlyn and Jeffrey have a moment but then it quickly grows  
awkward and they look away from one another. Caitlyn sees a  
nearby painting and walks toward it.

CAITLYN

Oh, I love this one.

Jeffrey joins here and they look at the painting. In it, a  
Renaissance era matronly woman is wearing a beautiful gown as  
she looks in a mirror, one hand touching the fabric of the  
dress and the other touching her face.

JEFFREY

It is lovely.

CAITLYN

She's this sort of average woman  
but she's wearing this stunning  
gown. And look at how she's  
touching it.

Jeffrey looks closer.

JEFFREY

Like it's made of some exquisite  
material, soft to the touch.

CAITLYN

Exactly. And the other hand touching her face, as if she can't believe how beautiful she looks.

(beat)

That's what fashion can do.

JEFFREY

That's her fresh start.

Jeffrey glances at her looking at the painting, obviously moved. Seeing that moves him. He looks back toward painting as Caitlyn glances at him, a smile indicating that she loves that he gets it.

What they don't notice is that Isabelle is standing at the top of the staircase coming down into the ballroom, watching the two of them. She appears to be less than pleased.

56 EXT. CAITLYN'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT 56

Establishing shot of Caitlyn's building.

57 INT. CAITLYN'S LOFT - NIGHT 57

It's late when Caitlyn takes the work in progress dress off of the sewing machine and stands to look at it. She goes to a mirror and holds it in front of herself, touching it in much the same way the woman in the painting did. She smiles, envisioning herself in it.

**END ACT FOUR**

**ACT FIVE**

58 EXT. NYC MANSION - DAY 58

Establishing shot of the mansion.

59 INT. NYC MANSION - DINING ROOM - DAY 59

Isabelle is inspecting china, flatware, and stemware options for the party, all laid out on the dining room table, while Caitlyn stands nearby recording Isabelle's choices.

ISABELLE

I think we should go with this china. I'm not convinced about the flatware, though.

CAITLYN

I can have them bring in other options for you to see.

ISABELLE

Yes, let's do that.

Caitlyn makes a note. Isabelle looks at the glasses.

ISABELLE (CONT'D)

Any update on the dress?

CAITLYN

We'll be ready for the fitting tomorrow.

ISABELLE

Wonderful. And the art auction?

CAITLYN

It's all set. The paintings are beautiful. I can't believe they are willing to let them go.

ISABELLE

Part of being royalty is making tough choices for the greater good.

CAITLYN

I guess that's true.

ISABELLE

Coming from nobility gives me an insight into the world that most aren't able to appreciate.

CAITLYN

(tries to lighten things)  
Not much in the way of royalty or nobility in my family. Unless you count my Uncle Duke.

ISABELLE

(not amused)  
Being Lady Isabelle is not just a title I inherited. And should I someday be asked to become a part of the royal family, I will consider that an honor. It's more than just a childhood fairy tale about becoming a princess.

That hits Caitlyn close to home.

CAITLYN

(tries to smile)  
I think you'd make a great princess.

ISABELLE

Thank you. I do, too. Now if we can just get Jeffrey to embrace that idea...

CAITLYN

(beat)  
I'm sure he will.

ISABELLE

Yes. He just needs to focus. Distractions are a terrible thing, don't you agree?

Isabelle walks away looking at the glasses. Caitlyn looks like she feels as though she has just been beaten up.

60 EXT. APPLIQUE MAGAZINE BUILDING - DAY 60

Establishing shot of the magazine building.

61 INT. APPLIQUE - BOARDROOM - DAY 61

Abigail is pacing while Leighton looks at dresses.

ABIGAIL

I thought for sure Caitlyn would crack under the pressure and then I'd swoop in and save the day.

LEIGHTON

Mom, just leave it alone. I can't find one of my dresses that Isabelle would want anyway.

ABIGAIL

Keep looking. You have to have something ready to go when the whole thing crashes down.

LEIGHTON

Why would it crash down?

ABIGAIL

Because we're going to give it a little push.

LEIGHTON

Why is this so important to you?

ABIGAIL

Leighton, why isn't it more important to you?

LEIGHTON

Because I want to succeed or fail on my own merits, not because my mother is playing puppet master.

ABIGAIL

Darling, this is a cutthroat business. I am merely trying to provide you with a few advantages.

LEIGHTON

And I appreciate it. But just don't do anything too crazy.

ABIGAIL

I will be the very picture of restraint. Just a little push.

Abigail smiles as she pictures her "little push."

62

EXT. CAITLYN'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

62

Establishing shot of Caitlyn's building.

63

INT. CAITLYN'S LOFT - DAY

63

Doris is hard at work, hand sewing beads onto the bodice of the dress when Caitlyn comes in.

CAITLYN

Okay, I have a couple of hours before I need to be back at the mansion. What can I do?

DORIS

Go take a nap. You look exhausted.

CAITLYN

It's two days until the ball. I can sleep next year.

DORIS

Okay. Grab some beads.

Caitlyn comes over and they start working. She smiles.

CAITLYN

It looks beautiful.

DORIS

It's a beautiful design. You know Lady Isabelle and you are almost exactly the same measurements. You should have her give it back after the ball so you can wear it.

CAITLYN

Where would I wear a dress like this? Yoga?

DORIS

This would be a great yoga dress.

CAITLYN

(smiles at dress)

No... this is definitely one made for a princess.

Caitlyn's phone rings and she answers it.

CAITLYN (CONT'D)

Hi Abigail. Now? But I'm supposed to... But... Okay. I'm on my way.

(disconnects call)

Now there's some emergency at the office with the next issue. I have to go in.

DORIS

You understand she's trying to kill you, right?

Caitlyn nods just as there's a knock on the door.

CAITLYN

Now what?

Caitlyn opens the door and is surprised to find Jeffrey and Barnaby standing there.

CAITLYN (CONT'D)

Jeffrey? What are you doing here?

JEFFREY

I am on my way to review the auction brochures. Abigail suggested you should join me. Unless you're sick of me by now?

CAITLYN

No, I'm not. I could never get sick of you.

The two of them look at each other for a moment and both Doris and Barnaby notice them looking at each other. Doris breaks out into a huge grin and Barnaby raises an eyebrow.

CAITLYN (CONT'D)

(shakes her head)

But I can't. Abigail is making me go into work.

JEFFREY

She said she wanted you to sign off on the brochures personally.

CAITLYN

(forces a smile)

Okay. Would you be able to bring them to the office for me to review?

JEFFREY

I can do that.

CAITLYN

(putting on coat)

Doris, do you need anything?

DORIS

If I do, I can handle it.

JEFFREY

Would it help if Barnaby stayed here in case a need arises?

CAITLYN

That would be amazing. If Barnaby  
doesn't mind?

BARNABY

If that's what you'd like, Your Highness. The driver can take you wherever you need to go.

JEFFREY

Or if all else fails I'm an old-pro at the subway now.

Jeffrey and Caitlyn share a smile over this inside joke, something that both Barnaby and Doris notice again.

CAITLYN

Thank you, so much, Barnaby. Doris call me if there's a problem.

Caitlyn and Jeffrey leave and Barnaby turns to Doris.

DORIS

Well, that was interesting.

BARNABY

(raised eyebrow)  
Quite.

They ponder the implications of the situation.

64 EXT. APPLIQUE MAGAZINE BUILDING - DAY 64

Establishing shot of the magazine building.

65 INT. APPLIQUE - CAITLYN'S DESK - DAY 65

Caitlyn is at her desk with Jeffrey sitting on the edge of it while they review the auction brochures.

CAITLYN

Do you see any other problems?

JEFFREY

No, excellent work. I never would have seen half of those errors.

CAITLYN

I work at a magazine. It's part of the job.

JEFFREY

Well, you have gone above and beyond on everything. Thank you.

CAITLYN

No, thank you. You have been so  
kind and supportive.

They look at one another. Caitlyn looks away first.

CAITLYN (CONT'D)

You and Isabelle, of course.

There is a bit of an awkward lull in the conversation. Caitlyn starts packing up her stuff.

CAITLYN (CONT'D)

You know, I never heard how the two of you met.

JEFFREY

We were introduced at a ceremony a couple of years ago. I don't remember what it was for... monarchies love their ceremonies.

CAITLYN

You have to do something with all those scepters.

JEFFREY

(laughs)

Yes. Anyway, she heard one of the board members on the royal family's foundation was stepping down and was interested in taking his place. We started talking and found we shared a lot of common interests.

CAITLYN

Like what?

JEFFREY

Well... getting involved in charity, obviously. Art. Music. We both love to read.

CAITLYN

That's nice.

JEFFREY

Yes, I'm a very lucky man.

CAITLYN

I hear another "but" coming.

JEFFREY

(smiles)

But... Things might be different if there weren't so much at stake.

CAITLYN

Like what?

Jeffrey takes a moment, trying to decide how much he wants to share with her. He decides to go for it.

JEFFREY

(beat)

My father has decided it's time for him to step down and for me to take over the throne. But he wants me to get married first.

CAITLYN

(beat)

And what do you want?

JEFFREY

That is an excellent question.

(beat)

I don't want to make it sound like I'm unhappy. Isabelle is a lovely woman and I care for her, deeply.

CAITLYN

(beat)

But...

Jeffrey looks at her, the message implicit - "but I don't love her." But that's not something he can actually say. He glances at his watch.

JEFFREY

Shall I escort you home?

CAITLYN

That's okay. You don't have to.

JEFFREY

It's not a bother. I have to retrieve Barnaby anyway.

CAITLYN

Oh, right. Well... okay. Sure. Thank you.

He smiles and makes an "after you" gesture as they leave.

66 EXT. CAITLYN'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY 66

Establishing shot of Caitlyn's building.

67 INT. CAITLYN'S LOFT - DAY 67

The dress is on a form while Doris hand sews it. Barnaby stands near the kitchen, silent and still. Doris glances up a couple of times at him and then finally stops sewing.

DORIS

You know you can sit down if you want, Barnaby.

BARNABY

Thank you, miss. I'm fine.

DORIS

How do you do that?

BARNABY

Do what, miss?

DORIS

Stand there, quietly, not moving.

BARNABY

(slight smile)

I've had a lot of practice, miss.

DORIS

How long have you worked for the prince?

BARNABY

I joined the employ of the royal family when Prince Jeffrey was ten years old.

DORIS

Wow. That's a long time. So you know him pretty well.

BARNABY

I'd say so, yes.

DORIS

He's seems like a good guy.

BARNABY

Yes. He is. And Miss Caitlyn seems quite lovely as well.

DORIS

She is. She's the best.

There is a moment of tacit understanding between the two of them. Doris starts back on the dress but then there's a knock on the door.

BARNABY

Shall I?

DORIS  
Sure. Go for it.

Barnaby opens the door - Abigail is there.

ABIGAIL  
Barnaby?

BARNABY  
Hello, Ms. Miller.

DORIS  
Abigail?

ABIGAIL  
(all smiles)  
Doris, hi. I came to talk to  
Caitlyn about the party planning.

DORIS  
I thought she was at the office  
with you.

Abigail sees the dress and muscles her way into the loft.

ABIGAIL  
Oh! Is that Isabelle's dress?

DORIS  
Yes. It's not done so...

ABIGAIL  
I'm sure she's going to love it.

Abigail goes to the nearby windows and looks out, making it  
up as she goes along.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)  
Oh, is that the Prince I see?

Barnaby and Doris come to the windows to look.

DORIS  
Where?

ABIGAIL  
Off to the right. Over there...

While Barnaby and Doris are looking out the window, Abigail  
takes several pictures of the dress with her phone.

BARNABY  
I don't see him.

ABIGAIL

I'm sure it's him. To the right!

She snaps a few more pictures and then puts the phone away.

DORIS

I don't think so.

ABIGAIL

Oh, well, I guess I was mistaken.

Abigail goes for the doors as Barnaby and Doris turn around.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

I better go. Tell Caitlyn I'll  
talk to her tomorrow.

Abigail heads for the door and leaves. Doris and Barnaby  
share a look that says "what was that all about?"

**END ACT FIVE**

**ACT SIX**

68

EXT. MANHATTAN STREET - NIGHT

68

Caitlyn and Jeffrey are walking down a charmingly lit Manhattan street.

CAITLYN

So... only a couple more days until the New Year. Have you made any resolutions?

JEFFREY

Well, there are lots of things I want to do in the next year.

CAITLYN

Like what?

JEFFREY

I want to make sure the foundation is in good shape. I'm hoping to be able to continue to focus on it after I become King. I think it will help balance out some of the less entertaining parts of royalty.

CAITLYN

The crowns are so pointy.

JEFFREY

Yes, they are. My father enjoys wearing it but he likes tradition. I'm hoping to be able to cut back on the ceremony and do more of circumstance.

(beat)

And of course there will be a wedding to plan.

CAITLYN

Right.

JEFFREY

What about you? Any resolutions for this year?

CAITLYN

A few... million.

JEFFREY

How about the top three?

CAITLYN

Okay. I want to take more chances.

JEFFREY

Because quitting your art teacher job and pursuing your dream career was playing it safe?

CAITLYN

That's what I mean. I did that and then started working in another job that isn't what I actually want to do. I didn't really take any chances until...

She trails off.

JEFFREY

Until what?

CAITLYN

Until you and Isabelle came along. Now one of my designs is going to be worn by nobility and featured on the cover of a magazine.

JEFFREY

It was your talent that made all that happen. You didn't need a Prince and a Lady for that.

CAITLYN

(smiles)  
Well, I don't think messenger slash model Jeff was going to get me my big break.

JEFFREY

Don't forget cater-waiter.  
(smiles)  
What are you other resolutions?

CAITLYN

The usual. Friendships, love...  
(realizes what she said)  
All that silly stuff.

JEFFREY

Love is not silly. Not if you're doing it correctly at least. It should be exciting and unexpected. It should happen out of nowhere.

They find themselves looking at each other again. They finally come to their senses and realize that whatever is happening really shouldn't be happening.

CAITLYN

Well, I hope that will happen for me... Someday.

Jeffrey understands what she is saying.

JEFFREY

(smiles)

I hope so, too.

They keep walking.

69 EXT. APPLIQUE MAGAZINE BUILDING - NIGHT 69

Establishing shot of the magazine building.

70 INT. APPLIQUE - ABIGAIL'S OFFICE - NIGHT 70

Abigail is at her desk looking at the computer where we see pictures of the dress that she took with her phone in a program like Photoshop. Leighton enters.

LEIGHTON

Mom? I got your message. What's going on?

ABIGAIL

Come look.

Leighton goes to look at the computer monitor.

LEIGHTON

What is... Is that Caitlyn's dress?

ABIGAIL

The one and only...

(smiles)

At least for now.

LEIGHTON

What are you talking about?

ABIGAIL

What is the biggest sin in the world of exclusive, one-of-a-kind fashions?

LEIGHTON

If they aren't one of a kind.

ABIGAIL

Exactly.

LEIGHTON

What? You're going to have someone make a duplicate? How are you going to do that in two days?

ABIGAIL

We don't have to. We just have to make people think there's another dress.

She hits a button on the computer and the screen changes to show the dress, crudely superimposed on a person.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

This is just a proof of concept. I've got someone in the art department working on it now. When it's done no one will be able to tell that it isn't real.

LEIGHTON

Okay... I still don't understand.

ABIGAIL

We get someone to publish the photo and then the dress isn't one-of-a-kind anymore. Isabelle won't want it but luckily, she'll have a Leighton Miller original ready to take its place.

LEIGHTON

Mom, do you remember the part when I said don't do anything too crazy?

ABIGAIL

Leighton, sweetheart, I'm just trying to help you launch your career. Do you know what I would have given for a chance like this?

LEIGHTON

Mom, I know you wanted to be a designer and I know you want me to be successful, but don't take it out on Caitlyn.

ABIGAIL

Caitlyn is not my daughter.

LEIGHTON

But she's a human being. A talented one who doesn't deserve to be treated like this.

ABIGAIL  
Leighton...

LEIGHTON  
Mom, this is not the way I want to  
become successful. I would never  
be able to live with myself.

ABIGAIL  
(beat - nods)  
Okay.

LEIGHTON  
You promise? No more cartoon  
villain plots?

ABIGAIL  
I promise.

Leighton nods and walks out of Abigail's office. Abigail  
turns back to the computer and looks at the photo, obviously  
intent on breaking that promise.

71 EXT. CAITLYN'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT 71

Establishing shot of Caitlyn's building.

72 INT. CAITLYN'S LOFT - NIGHT 72

Doris is working on the dress by hand and Barnaby is still at  
his post near the kitchen. The door opens and Caitlyn enters  
- Jeffrey stays at the door.

JEFFREY  
Well... have a good evening.

CAITLYN  
Thank you. You, too.

There is an awkward moment while the two of them look at one  
another.

JEFFREY  
Barnaby, shall we?

Barnaby nods and he and Jeffrey leave. Caitlyn shuts the  
door, pauses for a moment, then turns and crosses to Doris  
and the dress.

CAITLYN  
Okay. Let's get to work!

DORIS  
What was that?

CAITLYN  
What was what?

DORIS  
The whole, "Have a good evening,"  
"You too," now we're going to stare  
at the floor uncomfortably thing  
that just happened?

CAITLYN  
That didn't happen.

DORIS  
Uh... Yeah, it really did.

CAITLYN  
(sighs)  
Spending so much time with him...  
it's easy to forget that he may be  
proposing to another woman in about  
forty-eight hours.

DORIS  
You're falling in love with him.

CAITLYN  
No, I'm not. I'm just...

DORIS  
Caitlyn, I saw the way you looked  
at him earlier.

CAITLYN  
See, that's what I mean. I can't  
do that. It's not right.

DORIS  
He was looking at you the same way.

CAITLYN  
Don't tell me that.

DORIS  
Why not?

CAITLYN  
Because, he is dating Isabelle. He  
will probably be asking her to  
marry him.

DORIS

But what if he doesn't?

CAITLYN

Doris, he's a prince. And he's going to be a king! I don't fit into that world. It's a fairy tale and fairy tales aren't real.

DORIS

Okay, so you're not falling in love with him. But do you like him?

CAITLYN

It doesn't matter. It's not going to be me he's going to be kissing at midnight on New Year's Eve.

Doris goes to Caitlyn and puts her arm around her.

73

EXT. NYC MANSION - NIGHT

73

Establishing shot of the mansion.

74

INT. NYC MANSION - BALLROOM - NIGHT

74

Jeffrey is in the dimly lit ballroom, standing contemplatively in front of the painting of the woman in the dress we saw earlier. Barnaby walks up to join him..

BARNABY

Is there anything I can do to help with... whatever may be troubling you, Your Highness?

JEFFREY

What makes you think something is troubling me, Barnaby?

BARNABY

Because I've known you since you were a child. If I may say so, Your Highness, you've never been very good at disguising your feelings.

JEFFREY

Something that has gotten me into trouble a few times.

BARNABY

Do you remember when you were sixteen, the incident with the car?

JEFFREY

You mean the one I took without permission and proceeded to knock down an 18th century statue with?

BARNABY

That would be the one.

JEFFREY

I have a vague recollection, yes.

BARNABY

The thing I remember is the look on your face the next time you were driven somewhere. Even though you were traveling in the way that a person of your station is expected to, it's not what you wanted. You wanted to do it your way.

JEFFREY

Yes. That's true. But look how that turned out.

BARNABY

Maybe it was worth the risk.

JEFFREY

The statue of my great, great grandfather would likely disagree.

BARNABY

Perhaps.

JEFFREY

I appreciate what you're saying, Barnaby, but this is different than a teenager going on a joy ride. There are people's lives... people's *hearts* at stake. Not to mention my duty to my country.

BARNABY

But what about your duty to your own heart? If Caitlyn is...

JEFFREY

She is... but when I took that car  
out for a drive, somebody really  
could have gotten hurt. That is  
not worth the risk.

He pats Barnaby on the shoulder and walks away. Barnaby looks  
at the painting for a moment longer and then follows.  
Isabelle steps out of the shadows having overheard all of  
this. She takes out her phone and dials.

ISABELLE

Yes, hello. This is Lady Isabelle  
Collins... I'd like to speak to  
King Richard, please.

She waits to be connected, obviously determined about what  
she has to do next.

**END ACT SIX**

ACT SEVEN

75 EXT. NYC MANSION - DAY 75

Establishing shot of the mansion

76 INT. NYC MANSION - ISABELLE'S SUITE - DAY 76

Caitlyn and Doris are standing together nervously in the living room area of Isabelle's suite. Jeffrey and Barnaby are nearby. The door to the bedroom opens and Isabelle comes out wearing the dress, beaming as she goes to stand in front of a full length mirror. She does look like a princess.

ISABELLE  
(smiles)  
It's perfect.

JEFFREY  
Isabelle, you look radiant.

ISABELLE  
I do, don't I?

BARNABY  
Brava Lady Isabelle.

ISABELLE  
Thank you, Barnaby. But the real  
cheers go to Caitlyn.

CAITLYN  
I couldn't have done it without  
Doris.

ISABELLE  
You both deserve the credit. I  
couldn't be happier.

Doris steps close to the dress to inspect.

DORIS  
We have a couple of little tweaks  
to make. Let me mark them.

ISABELLE  
You'll be able to get them done  
before the party tomorrow night?

DORIS  
This is easy stuff.

CAITLYN

We'll do this, have it cleaned, and we'll deliver it in the morning.

ISABELLE

Wonderful!

(goes to Caitlyn)

This is the start of big things for you, I predict.

She shakes Caitlyn's hand and goes back to Doris. Caitlyn starts to get a little choked up.

CAITLYN

(smiles)

Excuse me. I'll be right back.

Caitlyn exits the suite. Isabelle is too wrapped up in the dress to notice but Jeffrey does. He follows her.

77

INT. NYC MANSION - ENTRY WAY

77

Caitlyn comes down the steps to the entry way and pauses, trying to collect herself. Jeffrey comes down after her.

JEFFREY

Caitlyn? Are you okay?

CAITLYN

I'm fine. I'm sorry, I just got a little... dreams don't come true very often. It's a bit overwhelming.

JEFFREY

(smiles)

I understand. But you deserve it. And you should get used to it. If you think this is overwhelming, imagine how it will be when people see the dress at the party. We may need to reassign Barnaby as your bodyguard.

CAITLYN

Right. About that...

(beat)

I'm not sure that going to the party is a great idea for me.

JEFFREY

But you're putting the whole thing together.

CAITLYN

The staff can run it. Abigail will be here to make sure.

JEFFREY

But with your dress making its debut, everyone will want to talk to you. You'll be the center of attention.

CAITLYN

But I shouldn't be. You and Isabelle should be... especially if you're going to...

JEFFREY

Ask her marry me.

CAITLYN

Are you? Going to ask her?

JEFFREY

(beat)

That's certainly what everyone is expecting, right?

CAITLYN

I think... I think being there would be too hard for me.

JEFFREY

(beat)

Are we still talking about the dress?

Caitlyn smiles, a little sad.

CAITLYN

Of course we are. There's nothing else we could be talking about, is there?

Jeffrey smiles sadly as well.

JEFFREY

I suppose not. It's a shame, really.

The two of them hold each other's gaze for a moment and then Caitlyn looks for a way out of this conversation.

CAITLYN

But look on the bright side. You got to ride the subway.

JEFFREY

(laughs)

Yes, I did. And I did have an incredible cheeseburger.

CAITLYN

I told you it would be life changing.

JEFFREY

What was that cheese that was on top?

CAITLYN

No one knows. It's best not to ask questions like that.

The two of them laugh.

78

INT. NYC MANSION - ISABELLE'S SUITE - DAY

78

Isabelle has changed out of the dress and Doris is zipping it into a garment bag.

ISABELLE

Where did Caitlyn go? I wanted to ask her about the ball.

DORIS

I think she just stepped out to get some air.

ISABELLE

Is she all right?

DORIS

I'm sure she'll be fine. These last few days have been great for her. I don't think I've ever seen her this happy.

ISABELLE

Because of the dress?

DORIS

(beat)

Yes. The dress.

Isabelle picks up on the hesitation before she says that.

DORIS (CONT'D)

Okay. I've got what I need. We'll see you tomorrow?

ISABELLE  
I'll walk you down.

Doris and Isabelle leave the suite - Barnaby follows.

79

INT. NYC MANSION - ENTRY WAY - DAY

79

Caitlyn and Jeffrey are making each other laugh.

JEFFREY  
I demand an answer on the cheese.  
I'm pretty sure I could have  
someone thrown in a dungeon for  
this.

CAITLYN  
(laughing)  
You throw a lot of people in  
dungeons, do you?

JEFFREY  
(laughing)  
Oh, yes! It's quite popular in my  
country. The people love it.

Caitlyn laughs and reaches out to steady herself by putting her hand on Jeffrey's arm.

Isabelle comes to the top of the stairs with Doris and Barnaby just in time to see this. She puts on a smile.

ISABELLE  
There you are.

Isabelle comes down the stairs.

JEFFREY  
Isabelle. We were just...

ISABELLE  
Thank you again, Caitlyn. The  
dress is beautiful.

CAITLYN  
You're welcome.

DORIS  
We should get going.

CAITLYN

(to Jeffrey)

I'll be back this afternoon to review the placement of the art work.

ISABELLE

Oh, that's all right, Caitlyn. I can take care of that. Why don't you focus on the dress.

CAITLYN

(beat)

Okay. Will do. Call me if you need anything.

Caitlyn and Doris leave and Isabelle and Jeffrey toward the ballroom - Barnaby has seen all this and appears to be concerned.

80

INT. NYC MANSION - LIVING ROOM - DAY

80

Isabelle and Jeffrey come into the living room.

JEFFREY

You know, Isabelle, I can handle the details for the ball if you...

ISABELLE

No, no. We need to make sure everything is perfect before my mother and your father arrive.

JEFFREY

Isabelle, I would have thought you would have learned by now that with our parents there is no such thing as perfect.

ISABELLE

Still. I'll take care of it from here on. You need to focus.

JEFFREY

On what?

ISABELLE

The future. Our future. This could be a very important evening for us, Jeffrey.

JEFFREY

Yes. I suppose you're right.

ISABELLE

You're going to be King one day and you'll need someone by your side to support you when that happens. Someone who is familiar with your world. Someone who is not all starry eyed over the fairy tale fantasy of happily ever after.

JEFFREY

Don't you want a fairy tale? Don't you want happily ever after?

ISABELLE

What I want is you. The real you. I know you've been enjoying your anonymity while we've been here in New York, but it's time to say goodbye to "Jeff" and return to who you really are - "Prince Jeffrey."

Isabelle kisses him on the cheek.

ISABELLE (CONT'D)

You know I just want what's best for you. I care about you.

She walks toward the door.

JEFFREY

We always say that.

ISABELLE

(stops)  
What?

JEFFREY

That we care about each other.

ISABELLE

It's true, isn't it?

JEFFREY

Yes. I'm just wondering why we don't say we love each other more often.

They leave that hanging there.

JEFFREY (CONT'D)

I'll be in my room if you need me.

Jeffrey exits the living room, leaving Isabelle a little shocked by that statement.

81 EXT. CAITLYN'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT 81

Establishing shot of Caitlyn's building.

82 INT. CAITLYN'S LOFT - NIGHT 82

Caitlyn and Doris are sitting on the couch with glasses of wine, admiring the dress on the form in front of them.

DORIS

That is a really pretty dress.

CAITLYN

That's the tenth time you've said that in the last hour.

DORIS

Doesn't make it any less true.

They clink wine glasses and sip.

DORIS (CONT'D)

You're really not going to go to the party?

CAITLYN

I haven't decided yet.

DORIS

Will Abigail even let you not go to the party?

CAITLYN

I think she'll love the chance to be in the spotlight.

DORIS

You know I love you. And if you don't want to go to the glamorous, royal New Year's Eve party I will support you one hundred percent... But I'm totally going without you.

Caitlyn laughs.

CAITLYN

I wouldn't have it any other way.

They clink glasses again. There is a knock at the door.

CAITLYN (CONT'D)

Who could that be?

She gets up to go answer the door.

DORIS  
I hope it's another prince. Does  
Jeffrey have a brother?

CAITLYN  
(laughs)  
As a matter of fact, he does.

DORIS  
Really?

Caitlyn opens the door.

DORIS (CONT'D)  
You mean I still have a shot at  
becoming a princess? Is he single?

Richard Wallingford - aka The King - is standing in the  
hallway with security guards.

RICHARD  
No, I'm sorry. My other son is  
married with two children.

CAITLYN  
Your... other son?

RICHARD  
Yes. Peter... Jeffrey's brother.

DORIS  
(stands up - eyes wide)  
So that would make you...

RICHARD  
King Richard.

Doris practically faints and Caitlyn just stands there, her  
mouth agape.

**END ACT SEVEN**

ACT EIGHT

83 EXT. CAITLYN'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT 83

A limo is parked outside of Caitlyn's building with security standing around it.

84 INT. KING'S LIMO - NIGHT 84

The King and Caitlyn are in the limo.

RICHARD

I apologize for my unannounced visit. Barnaby told me where to find you and I thought it best to expedite a conversation.

CAITLYN

It's okay. Not every day you get a King showing up on your doorstep.

RICHARD

I hope you don't mind talking here.

CAITLYN

Not at all. Probably best to keep Doris away from you. She gets a little excited around royalty.

RICHARD

I gathered that when she attempted to kiss my ring.

CAITLYN

Sorry.

RICHARD

So, I shall get straight to the point. I came to New York early after a call from Lady Isabelle.

CAITLYN

About what?

RICHARD

She was concerned that your relationship with Jeffrey might be complicating things between them.

CAITLYN

Your Majesty, it's not like that at all.

(MORE)

CAITLYN (CONT'D)

We've been working on the New Year's Eve party and that's it.

RICHARD

So you don't have feelings for Jeffrey, then?

CAITLYN

I... Well....

RICHARD

That's fine, my dear. I think I understand. The more pressing question, of course, is whether those feelings are reciprocal?

CAITLYN

Jeff is...

(gathers her thoughts)

Jeffrey is a good man. He's going to ask Isabelle to marry him tomorrow night, as planned.

RICHARD

Good. I'm pleased to hear it.

CAITLYN

(beat)

May I ask you a question?

RICHARD

Of course.

CAITLYN

Have you been happy? As King?

RICHARD

(gathers his thoughts)

Leading a nation is about tradition, humility, and sacrifice. These are things that last lifetimes. Happiness is measured in moments. Happiness is fleeting.

CAITLYN

But doesn't that mean you should  
hold onto those moments for as long  
as you can?

The King is surprised by that response.

CAITLYN (CONT'D)

I should probably get back.

RICHARD

Yes. Well... it was a pleasure to  
meet you, Caitlyn.

CAITLYN

It was a pleasure to meet you, too,  
Your Majesty.

She bows her head a little out of respect and then gets out  
of the limo. The King watches her go for a moment, impressed  
by this unexpected young woman.

85 EXT. NYC MANSION - NIGHT 85

Establishing shot of the mansion.

86 INT. NYC MANSION - BAR - NIGHT 86

The King is seated in the wood-paneled bar area of the Atwood  
mansion when Jeffrey comes in to greet him.

JEFFREY

You weren't supposed to be here  
until tomorrow, Father.

RICHARD

I decided to come early to make  
sure things were still on track.

JEFFREY

Why wouldn't they be?

RICHARD

I spoke with Caitlyn Ellerbe a  
little while ago.

JEFFREY

(shocked)  
You... you did what?

RICHARD

Oh, relax, Jeffrey. I didn't have her banished from the kingdom. We just talked.

JEFFREY

About what?

RICHARD

The nature of happiness, it seems.

JEFFREY

What?

RICHARD

Never mind. She seems like a lovely young woman.

JEFFREY

She is.

RICHARD

And if circumstances were different, perhaps...  
(dismisses that thought)  
I have been King for a very long time. I was eighteen when your grandfather passed away.

JEFFREY

I know. It's in the history books.

RICHARD

Yes, well, I would prefer not to be carried off the throne. I'd prefer to step down gracefully. But in order to do that, I need to be sure my successor is ready to step up.

JEFFREY

I know all this, father...

RICHARD

And having a king who is stable is important to the country. That's why I married your mother so soon after I became king.

(beat)

I grew to love her.

JEFFREY

Father, you don't need to convince me. I am prepared to step up.

The King looks at Jeffrey and nods. Jeffrey heads toward the door and then stops. He doesn't look back at his father when he speaks.

JEFFREY (CONT'D)

But father... If circumstances were different...

Jeffrey pauses a moment and then leaves. The King is left to consider that statement.

87 EXT. CAITLYN'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT 87

Establishing shot of Caitlyn's building.

88 INT. CAITLYN'S LOFT - NIGHT 88

Caitlyn and Doris are back on the couch as Doris pours fresh glasses of wine for the two of them.

DORIS

Your life is so weird.

CAITLYN

I know. All of this would be easier if I thought Jeffrey was going to be happy. But he doesn't love her. And I don't think she loves him, either.

DORIS

Well, then do something about it.

CAITLYN

What can I do?

DORIS

Tell him you're in love with him!

CAITLYN

I've only known him for four days. I'm not in love with him.

DORIS

Tell him you're falling in love with him. Tell him you think he's your soul mate. Tell him that you want to live happily ever after with him, because you can't deny any of that is true.

CAITLYN

(beat)

It doesn't matter if it's true.  
There is no such thing as happily  
ever after. I don't believe in  
fairy tales.

Doris points to the fairy tale dress.

DORIS

Look at that dress. That's a fairy  
tale waiting to come true.

CAITLYN

But not for me.

Doris puts her hand on Caitlyn's to comfort her while they  
look at the dress.

89 EXT. NYC MANSION - DAY 89

Establishing shot of the mansion.

90 INT. NYC MANSION - BALLROOM - DAY 90

The ballroom is almost all done for the big party that  
evening. Isabelle and Doris are off to the side of the room  
as Doris is zipping the completed dress into a garment bag.  
Barnaby is waiting by the door.

Jeffrey takes a moment to lean over to speak quietly to  
Caitlyn.

JEFFREY

I'm sorry about my father.

CAITLYN

Don't be. He was just looking out  
for you. That's his job.

JEFFREY

Still...

Before they can go any further, Isabelle, carrying the  
garment bag, and Doris approach.

ISABELLE

Caitlyn, are you sure everything is  
handled for the ball tonight?  
Since you won't be there...

CAITLYN

I'm sure. It'll be... wonderful.

She can't help but glance at Jeffrey. Isabelle notices.

ISABELLE

Well then. Thank you for everything.

CAITLYN

No... Thank you.

Abigail comes bursting into the ballroom with a newspaper.

ABIGAIL

Isabelle, we have a huge problem!

ISABELLE

What's wrong?

Abigail hands Isabelle a copy of a newspaper, turned to a "Page 6" style celebrity happenings column. The picture at the top of the column is of a woman wearing the exact same dress that Caitlyn has designed for Isabelle.

ABIGAIL

Look familiar?

ISABELLE

That's my dress!

Caitlyn, Doris, and Jeffrey all look at the paper.

CAITLYN

No! It can't be.

ABIGAIL

It obviously is. Caitlyn must have stolen the design and tried to pass it off as her own.

CAITLYN

What? No! Isabelle...

ABIGAIL

Isabelle, I'm so sorry about this but it appears you have been the victim of a hoax.

ISABELLE

Caitlyn?

CAITLYN

Isabelle, I swear to you...

ABIGAIL

Oh, drop the act, Caitlyn. Nobody is buying it.

CAITLYN

There must be some explanation...

ISABELLE

Caitlyn, I don't understand how this happened, but it has.

She holds the garment bag out to Caitlyn.

JEFFREY

Isabelle, if you'll just give Caitlyn a chance to explain...

ISABELLE

I'm sorry. The idea was to have something original and regardless of the circumstances, I can't wear this tonight.

Caitlyn reluctantly takes the bag.

ABIGAIL

Luckily, you have a back-up. A Leighton Miller original.

Abigail smiles. Jeffrey looks up at this statement, something becoming crystal clear in the moment.

ISABELLE

(to Caitlyn)

I think it best if you leave.

ABIGAIL

Oh, and Caitlyn? You're fired.

Isabelle and Abigail exit the ballroom. Caitlyn is shocked about how this all fell apart so quickly. She walks toward the door, stopping by Jeffrey as she goes.

CAITLYN

Jeffrey, I didn't steal the design.

JEFFREY

I believe you.

CAITLYN

You do?

JEFFREY

Of course.

He puts his hand on the garment bag she is holding.

JEFFREY (CONT'D)  
This dress... could only have come  
from you.

Caitlyn struggles to hold back tears.

Barnaby sees how much this is hurting Jeffrey and it breaks his heart a little.

JEFFREY (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry.

Caitlyn and Doris leave. Jeffrey stands there for a moment then, jaw set, heads in the direction that Abigail and Isabelle went.

BARNABY  
Your Highness...

JEFFREY  
Don't try to stop me, Barnaby.

BARNABY  
I wasn't. I was going to tell you  
good luck.

Jeffrey looks at Barnaby and nods.

91

INT. NYC MANSION - ISABELLE'S SUITE - DAY

91

Isabelle is holding up the dress that Leighton designed while Abigail looks on proudly.

ABIGAIL  
That's going to look amazing on  
you.

Jeffrey enters.

ISABELLE  
Well, it's good enough, I suppose.

JEFFREY  
I need to speak to Isabelle.

ABIGAIL  
Oh, well, we were just...

JEFFREY

Abigail, I don't know what just happened but I am certain that you are behind it. I suggest you leave, quickly, before I summon the royal guards to arrest you.

Abigail pales, gathers her things, and leaves quickly.

ISABELLE

(a bit of a smile)  
The royal guards can't arrest anyone in this country.

JEFFREY

I figured she wouldn't know that.

ISABELLE

Well played. Considering the circumstances, I think we should double check all of the arrangements that Caitlyn made.

JEFFREY

I don't think that will be necessary.

ISABELLE

Jeffrey, I know that you two became friends over the last few days but we need to ensure that everything goes smoothly tonight.

JEFFREY

I'm not going to ask you to marry me.

ISABELLE

What?

JEFFREY

Isabelle, what happened just now...

ISABELLE

Jeffrey, I can't wear that dress...

JEFFREY

This is not about the dress or Caitlyn for that matter. It's about you and me.

ISABELLE

Are you... breaking up with me?

JEFFREY  
Isabelle, I'm sorry...

ISABELLE  
What about the throne? Your father  
will never accept this.

JEFFREY  
Then I'll give up the throne.

ISABELLE  
Jeffrey!

JEFFREY  
You just called that dress "good  
enough." None of this is good  
enough. Yes, we care for one  
another, Isabelle, but I don't love  
you. And I don't think you love  
me. And I know that I can't just  
be a "regular" person but if  
happily ever after exists, I want  
to find it.

Jeffrey exits, leaving a stunned Isabelle behind.

92 EXT. CAITLYN'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY 92

Establishing shot of Caitlyn's building.

93 INT. CAITLYN'S LOFT - DAY 93

There is a knock on the front door and Doris answers it to  
find Jeffrey standing there.

JEFFREY  
Doris. I need to talk to Caitlyn.

DORIS  
It's too late.

JEFFREY  
What do you mean?

DORIS  
She's gone. She took a bunch of  
her stuff and left.

JEFFREY  
Left for where?

DORIS

She went to go stay with her folks.  
I don't think she's coming back.

Jeffrey is crestfallen.

JEFFREY

I see. Well... If you talk to her  
will you tell her...

(smiles)

Tell her thank you for the  
cheeseburger. It was indeed life-  
changing.

Jeffrey turns and walks away and Doris closes the door. She  
waits for a moment and then turns toward the hallway to the  
bedrooms where Caitlyn comes out.

DORIS

What did that mean?

CAITLYN

It meant... goodbye.

Doris goes to Caitlyn and embraces her.

**END ACT EIGHT**

ACT NINE

94 EXT. NYC MANSION - DAY 94

Establishing shot of the mansion.

95 INT. NYC MANSION - ENTRY WAY - DAY 95

Barnaby is near the front door when Jeffrey comes down the stairs with an envelope.

JEFFREY

Barnaby, I'm going to spend some time with the staff and make sure everything is in place for the ball tonight.

BARNABY

Yes, Your Highness.

(beat)

Your father has gone out but he asked me to tell you that he wants to speak to you when he returns.

JEFFREY

Right. Yes... Is it childish of me to put that off as long as possible?

BARNABY

Not at all, Your Highness.

JEFFREY

(nods)

I need you to run an errand for me.

BARNABY

Certainly.

JEFFREY

(holds out envelope)

Please deliver this to Doris and ask her if she'll send it to Caitlyn at her parents' home in Connecticut.

Barnaby hesitates but then takes the envelope.

BARNABY

Sir, if I may? Perhaps you should deliver this in person? Connecticut isn't far.

JEFFREY

(beat)

I didn't have chance to say a proper goodbye. I don't know that I could do that in person.

(beat)

Barnaby, please.

Barnaby holds Jeffrey's gaze for a moment, sad for this man that he considers to be more than just an employer. Then he nods and leaves the mansion. Jeffrey takes a moment then turns to head to the ballroom.

96

EXT. PARK - DAY

96

Caitlyn is walking in the park, obviously bereft. Barnaby walks up to join her, falling into step with her as they walk. She glances at him.

CAITLYN

Doris ratted me out, huh?

BARNABY

I promised to ask the King to make her a duchess.

CAITLYN

Can he do that?

BARNABY

(smiles)

No.

CAITLYN

I always liked you, Barnaby.

Barnaby takes the envelope Jeffrey gave him from his pocket.

BARNABY

I have something for you.

CAITLYN

Great. Isabelle is suing me?

BARNABY

No. This is from...

(hesitates)

Miss Caitlyn, may I ask you a rather personal question?

CAITLYN

Sure.

BARNABY

When did you realize you liked him?

CAITLYN

(beat)

In the coffee shop, after he returned my phone. He talked about riding the subway like it was this incredible adventure. It was joyful and I thought, "It would be nice to have someone in my life who could experience that kind of joy."

BARNABY

That was before you knew he was a prince.

CAITLYN

I didn't fall for the prince. I fell for the man.

Barnaby pauses then puts the envelope back in his pocket. He pulls out a different envelope and holds it out to her.

CAITLYN (CONT'D)

What is that?

BARNABY

Invitations to the ball tonight.

CAITLYN

Barnaby, I can't...

BARNABY

Prince Jeffrey will not be proposing to Lady Isabelle tonight.

CAITLYN

What? He didn't do that...

BARNABY

No. It wasn't because of you. He did that for himself. And for Lady Isabelle, I think.

CAITLYN

I'm happy for him. But I still can't go.

BARNABY

Why not?

CAITLYN

It was fun being in that world for a little while. Handsome princes and kings and fairy tale gowns made for a princess. But fairy tales aren't real. Not for people like me.

BARNABY

Caitlyn, we are approaching the New Year. It's a time of wishes and dreams and hopes for what lies ahead. Anything is possible.

CAITLYN

Barnaby, it would be crazy for me to go to that ball.

BARNABY

Yes, it might be. I suspect doing so would feel a lot like joy does, don't you think?

CAITLYN

(beat)

Even if I wanted to go, I don't have anything to wear.

BARNABY

You designed a dress fit for a princess. It would be a shame for it not to be worn.

He holds out the envelope to her again. Caitlyn hesitates for a moment, then smiles and takes the invitation from Barnaby. She kisses him on the cheek and he smiles.

97 EXT. NYC MANSION - NIGHT

97

Establishing shot of the mansion as music is heard.

98 INT. NYC MANSION - BALLROOM - NIGHT

98

The party is in full swing, a big crowd of finely dressed folks enjoying the food, the drinks, the art, and the dance floor. We see Abigail and Leighton looking less than thrilled and Jeffrey, in his official royal outfit, a suit with medals and a sash, talking to guests.

Jeffrey notices his father come to a doorway, glaring, and excuses himself from the conversation. He heads toward his father.

Jeffrey comes out to join Richard in the otherwise empty living room.

JEFFREY

Father...

RICHARD

Jeffrey, I went to check on Isabelle this morning and imagine my surprise to find out that she wasn't coming to ball because you broke up with her.

JEFFREY

We don't love each other.

RICHARD

We had a deal. This was the condition for taking the throne.

JEFFREY

I don't want the throne.

RICHARD

What?

JEFFREY

Give it to Peter. At least one of your sons isn't a disappointment.

RICHARD

Jeffrey, you are not a disappointment. A frustration, perhaps, but not a disappointment.

(beat)

Is this about Caitlyn?

JEFFREY

No. I mean, not like that. But she showed me that it's not about titles or the fancy clothes we wear. It's about what makes us truly happy.

RICHARD

(beat)

Does she make you happy?

JEFFREY

(smiles)

Very much so.

RICHARD

(beat)

A very wise young woman told me  
that you should hold onto happiness  
for as long as you can.

JEFFREY

But the circumstances...

RICHARD

(shrugs)

I created the circumstances. I can  
change them.

JEFFREY

Are you sure?

RICHARD

I'm the King. I can do whatever I  
want.

Jeffrey hugs his father who accepts it gratefully.

100

INT. NYC MANSION - BALLROOM - NIGHT

100

Jeffrey and Richard come back into the ballroom where they  
find Isabelle waiting for them.

JEFFREY

Isabelle?

ISABELLE

Jeffrey. Aren't you going to ask  
me to dance? For old time's sake?

Jeffrey smiles and offers his hand. She takes it and he  
leads her to the dance floor.

101

INT. NYC MANSION - DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT

101

Jeffrey and Isabelle come onto the dance floor and begin a  
simple, formal dance.

ISABELLE

I have a New Year's Resolution.  
Would you like to hear it?

JEFFREY

Very much so.

ISABELLE

When you broke off the engagement,  
I was prepared to be devastated.  
But instead... I found myself  
strangely relieved.

JEFFREY

I'm not sure how to take that.

ISABELLE

You were right. I shouldn't settle  
for good enough anymore. Neither  
of us should.

JEFFREY

That's a good resolution.

ISABELLE

Maybe there is a fairy tale waiting  
to come true for us. I haven't  
found mine yet, but you may have  
found yours. I can't be the one  
that keeps you from that. I care  
about you too much.

JEFFREY

Thank you.

ISABELLE

The countdown to midnight will be  
starting soon. You shouldn't miss  
out on asking a real princess to  
dance.

Isabelle kisses him on the cheek and whispers something in his ear. He is confused for a moment, but then she leaves him, turning him around to face the grand staircase. And he's not the only one looking.

A bit of a gasp is heard and all eyes go there to see Caitlyn coming down the staircase in the dress, which is nothing short of stunning. She truly does look like a princess.

Doris, also very smartly dressed is not too far behind her accompanied by Barnaby.

102

INT. NYC MANSION - BALLROOM - NIGHT

102

Near the bottom of the staircase, Abigail and Leighton see Caitlyn coming down and make a bee line for her.

ABIGAIL

You have some nerve showing up...

LEIGHTON  
Mom, leave her alone.

ABIGAIL  
Leighton!

LEIGHTON  
Caitlyn, I'm really sorry about everything. She took a picture of your dress and then had the magazine's art department mock up that picture for the paper.

CAITLYN  
Why are you telling me this?

LEIGHTON  
Because, I'm hoping maybe you'll show me how you can come up with something so beautiful. And maybe give me tickets to your first show.

CAITLYN  
(smiles)  
You think I'll have a show?

LEIGHTON  
I know you will. Because *Applique* magazine is going to sponsor it. Isn't that right, Mom?

ABIGAIL  
We... I can't just...

LEIGHTON  
Mom, can you really stand there and tell me this dress isn't amazing?

Abigail looks at the dress and softens, just a bit.

ABIGAIL  
(grudgingly)  
It is... very nice.

CAITLYN  
Thank you, Abigail.

ABIGAIL  
(sighs)  
And if you want your job back...

CAITLYN

No, that's okay. It's almost midnight... it's time for a fresh start.

Caitlyn walks off in search of Jeffrey. Doris walks up to Abigail and puts her arm around her.

DORIS

Come on, Abby. Let's go get you a glass of wine.

Abigail somewhat reluctantly allows Doris to guide her toward the bar.

103

INT. NYC MANSION - DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT

103

Caitlyn is standing on the edge of the dance floor looking for Jeffrey. He walks up on the other side and there is a moment when the couples on the floor seem to magically part so they can see each other. They walk toward one another and meeting in the middle of the floor.

JEFFREY

May I have this dance?

CAITLYN

What about Isabelle?

JEFFREY

She told me to tell you that you look beautiful.

Caitlyn looks off to the side of the dance floor - Isabelle is smiling warmly at her, and nods. Caitlyn turns back to Jeffrey.

CAITLYN

I'd love to.

They begin to dance, a beautiful waltz appropriate for a prince and his princess.

We see Isabelle and her mother, The King, Barnaby, Doris, Leighton, and even Abigail appreciating the moment.

CAITLYN (CONT'D)

Thank you.

JEFFREY

For what?

CAITLYN

For helping me to believe in fairy  
tales again.

The countdown begins - everyone in the ballroom starting with  
"Ten!," "Nine"...

CAITLYN (CONT'D)

What about the tradition of  
proposing on New Year's Eve?

JEFFREY

I've heard they have one every  
year. If you're not busy...

CAITLYN

(smiles)

I'm not busy.

She pulls him a little closer as the countdown gets to "One!"  
and as everyone cheers "HAPPY NEW YEAR!" they lean into one  
another and kiss.

In the skylights we can see fireworks going off above New  
York City.

**THE END**