

Day 1

[Enter Judy, Andrea, Phil, and townspeople. Andrea is sitting on a rocking chair sewing. Phil is tending livestock. Judy is at her stand. Townspeople are talking to one another. Simone enters with money in hand. She goes over to Judy in the stand.]

Judy: Top of the morning, Simone. What can I do for you?

Simone: Good morning, Judy. I just sold some more candles on Friday and was hoping to put some money into my bank account. I want to keep it nice and safe.

Judy: Well of course you do, and you've come to the right place. No one loves you or your money quite like Judy Banking. Let me grab your bin. [Judy conspicuously slips some of the money in her pocket, pulls out a bin, puts the rest in, hands her a receipt.]

Simone: Thanks, Judy. So did you hear about that traveler who pulled into town two nights ago?

Judy: Hard to miss those posters he's got all over town. Something about a big announcement and the trip of a lifetime. I wonder what that's all about?

Simone: Trip of a lifetime? That sounds exciting. Don't get me wrong, I love this town of Burg, but sometimes it feels like there has to be something more out there.

Judy: I'm not crazy about Burg myself. It's the pits! Still, being the only banker in town pays well. I wonder if there's more money on this journey.

[Enter Joshua from right to center stage, stands on crate]

Simone: Well, it looks like we're about to find out the answer to our questions. Here comes that traveler now.

Andrea: [To Phil] I wonder what's going on here.

Phil: Let's go find out. [Everyone starts to converge around Joshua. Montague is peaking out from the left exit.]

Joshua: People of Burg, your attention please. My name is Joshua, and I have an exciting announcement. I am leading a journey to Zion Falls and am looking for some brave men and women to follow me.

Townsperson 1: Zion Falls? Where's that?

Joshua: Zion Falls is a beautiful town across the frontier. It has gorgeous lakes, abundant crops, and acres of open land.

Phil: That sounds wonderful, but you said it's across the frontier. Won't it be difficult to get there?

Joshua: Yes it will. The journey will not be easy. There are thick forests, wide ravines, quick rapids, and wild animals. I'm not promising that it will be easy, only that it will be worth it.

Townsperson 2: Well count me out. I'm fine where I am thank you very much.

Joshua: That's fine. I don't want to force anyone to go. But I invite those who believe there must be more to life to leave their old world behind and follow me. I will give you all time to think about it and come back in an hour. [He exits right.]

Andrea: Well this certainly sounds exciting. Burg is fine, but Zion Falls sounds wonderful!

Phil: Yeah, keeping sheep is great and all, but I wouldn't mind a change. This adventure sounds like fun.

Townsperson 1: Fun? I guess it would be fun... if you enjoy getting eaten by wolves out on the frontier!

Townsperson 2: Exactly. I'm sorry, but I'd rather keep my boring old life than risk my neck swinging on ropes across rivers. I'm going home.

Townsperson 1: I'm right behind you. [They exit. Montague comes closer to the rest of the group.]

Simone: Well I'm in. I know there must be more to life than just living for myself.

Judy: I'm not so sure about this. It's a long journey, and a difficult one. I have it pretty good here. Then again, this Zion Falls place sounds marvelous. Certainly a place where I can make

some money. You know what, why not? I'll go with you guys too.

Simone: This is so exciting. I can't wait! [Everyone moves toward the back of stage. Montague moves to the front.]

Montague: Well I'll be. That dastardly Joshua is gonna take all my recruits. I was going to get them all to be my slaves at Montague Mines. Hmm, what to do? Think, Rutherford, think. Aha! I've got it. I'll sabotage the trip and make them distrust their leader. The mine is just off the trail, so Joshua will be leading them halfway there for me. Meanwhile, I'll try to convince them that following me is better for them. Eventually, they'll give up and come with me instead. But I'll have to be sneaky. I can't get caught. [Montague goes to the rest of the group] Hello there. Couldn't help but overhear that you all are going on a journey. The name's Sir Rutherford P. Montague III, but you can call me Mr. Montague.

Simone: Well, Rutherford...

Montague: Please, call me Mr. Montague.

Simone: Well, Mr. Montague, you heard correctly. Joshua is leading us to Zion Falls. He said it's the adventure of a lifetime. It sounds incredible.

Montague: That it is, no doubt. Zion Falls is one of the most gorgeous places on this here planet. Almost as wonderful as Montague Mines.

Phil: Montague Mines? What's that? Joshua never told us about it.

Montague: You've never heard of Montague Mines? That place is a gold mine. It offers all kinds of opportunities for people like you to make something of themselves, to make me... err, I mean you, rich beyond your wildest dreams.

Judy: A gold mine? Rich? Sounds perfect!

Montague: It is indeed. I wonder why Joshua never told you about it. I guess he didn't think you were up to it.

Andrea: Not up to it? How would he know, he's only just met us? Still, Joshua seemed nice. I'm sure he just forgot to say something about Montague Mines.

Judy: I think I'm going to weigh my options. I'll check out Zion Falls, but if it seems like I can get richer over at those mines, I'll head over there instead.

Simone: Thank you, Mr. Montague, but I think I'm going to stick with Zion Falls for now.

Montague: No worries, do whatever you think is best for you. At least that's what I want. I just hope Joshua cares about you as much as I do. Anyway, it's only a few miles off the trail to Zion Falls. Let me know if you change your mind. But now I must go, [pulls wrench out of pocket] I've got a small problem to fix. Catch you on the trail!

[Montague exits left. Enter Joshua again from right.]

Joshua: Well, what did you all decide? Are you ready to join me on the adventure of your lives?

Simone: Yes. We are all so excited to go.

Andrea: Can we leave Friday? I'm so excited I don't think I could wait any longer than that!

Joshua: Friday? Of course not... we're leaving today.

Phil: Today? I haven't even packed yet. What am I supposed to do with all my farming equipment?

Andrea: And what about my sewing stuff?

Judy: And my bank?

Simone: And my candles?

Joshua: You can leave everything behind. You won't be needing that old stuff anymore. I've packed everything we need in the wagon. Phil, can you bring the wagon over here?

Phil: You got it. [He exits left, re-enters with broken wheel.] Uh, guys, slight problem.

Andrea: That's not good!

Simone: How are we supposed to take the trail without a wagon?

Judy: I knew this was a bad idea. I should have followed Mr. Montague.

Joshua: I did say this journey wouldn't be easy. But we can walk. We would have had to walk most of the way anyway. The trail is too narrow for a wagon once you get a few miles past town. A wagon would have been nice to travel to the next town, but you don't need a wagon to get to Zion Falls. All you need to do is follow me! Come on, let's leave your stuff behind and go. If we hurry, we can make it to Littleton before nightfall.

Simone: Yeah! Let's go.

[Everyone except Judy puts their things on the ground to follow Joshua, and all exit left. Montague re-enters right.]

Montague: That didn't stop them, but it did discourage them. They'll be mine by Wednesday! Mwahahaha. I'm going to follow them and cause some more trouble. [He exits left.]