

Day 3

[Enter King from right to center]

King: Welcome back, most noble subjects. Today is an important day. Her majesty Queen Rose of Bloomington is coming for a royal visit to our kingdom. Unfortunately, she can't come to my party on Friday, but Queen Rose loves a good puzzle, so I have prepared for her a grand scavenger hunt. At the end, there will be a wonderful prize: ice cream, her favorite food. I can't wait to see what she says when she comes to the end. Let's watch.

[King moves to the side. Enter Joe from left.]

Joe: What a morning it's been! I have been working in the field all day and now I'm starving. What I wouldn't give for a snack right now. Maybe a carrot or some grapes, or... [looks over and sees ice cream] ice cream! [Runs over to ice cream] This is perfect. I am all hot and sweaty from plowing. This will cool me down for sure. [He takes the ice cream, sits down, freezes. King moves to center].

King: I think Joe might need a little reminder of the right thing to do. But I don't want to order him as the king. [Puts on disguise] Let's go encourage him. [Joe unfreezes, King approaches him] Hello sir, what do you have there?

Joe: I found some ice cream. I'm about to have some as a snack. Do you want some?

King: Found it? So it doesn't belong to you?

Joe: Well, I guess not. But I am really hungry. And there is plenty in here, more than enough for one person.

King: It looks like it's set up for something, and I'm not sure if the person who owns it would appreciate you taking it without asking.

Joe: I guess not...

King: Well I have to go. I have a friend coming in from out of town. I know you'll make the right choice. [Exits right]

Joe: That guy makes a good point. I don't know how the owner would feel about me eating his ice cream... But am I really hungry and tired, and it looks so refreshing. Maybe I'll just have a couple of spoonfuls. [Eats ice cream] Mmmhmmm, delicious! Now I'll just put the lid back on and no one will even notice... [looks at ice cream] uh-oh. [Shows empty container to audience] It's empty! [Starts pacing] It's no problem. I can fix it. I can just buy a new one and...

Queen: [From offstage] Are we there yet?

King: [From offstage] Almost.

Joe: Oh no! Someone is going to see me? What should I do? [He panics, then sets ice cream where he found it with lid on. He hides behind a tree. Enter King and Queen.]

Queen: So the clue says the prize should be right over... [Walks over to ice cream] here. Is this for me?

King: Yes it is! Welcome to my kingdom.

Queen: How did you know ice cream was my favorite?

King: I asked some of your friends. Go ahead, have some. This gift is a token of our appreciation for your visit.

Queen: Thank you. I can't wait to... [opens, sees it is empty] is this a joke?

King: No, we got it for you to show what we think about you.

Queen: This is an outrage! [Shows empty carton to King] I've never been so insulted in my life. I was going to throw an ice cream party and invite your whole kingdom to celebrate our friendship, but now I'm canceling it. [Storms off right.]

King: This is terrible. I have to fix it. Herald! [Herald enters left, bows.]

Herald: Yes, your majesty.

King: The queen's ice cream has been stolen. I want you to round up the people so we can get to the bottom of this. I need to go apologize to the queen.

Herald: Right away sir. [Herald exits left, King exits right.]

Joe: [Comes out of hiding to center, speaks to audience] Looks like I might be in big trouble. Maybe I should tell the king. But no one will ever know. No one except that servant saw me there, and even he didn't see me actually eat anything. I don't know, what do you guys think? [Lets audience respond, then exits left. King and Queen enter right.]

King: Once again, I'm deeply sorry for what happened earlier. It was never my intention to insult you like that. We will get to the bottom of this.

Queen: I certainly hope so. [Enter Herald from left with Joe, Jack, Abby, and Crystal.]

Herald: My Lord, here are your subjects, although they were not too happy about being brought in like this.

Abby: This is an outrage! Why am I being accused of such a crime?

Crystal: Why would I steal ice cream? I could buy all the ice cream in the kingdom.

Jack: Plus ice cream has way too many calories to keep up my muscles.

King: Silence! Herald, line them up for me.

Herald: Yes sir. [He lines them up with Joe at the end.]

King: As my herald has told you, Queen Rose's ice cream was stolen today. I will give you one chance to confess before I interrogate. Did you take it?

Crystal: No.

Jack: No.

Abby: No.

Joe: [Looking nervous] Uh, no.

King: Ok then. Lady Crystal, step forward [she steps forward].
Where were you 20 minutes ago?

Rich: Lord Rich and I were out buying new hats when your herald made me come here. Look, the tag is still on. Besides, like I said, why would I need to take ice cream when I could just buy my own?

King: Alright. Sir Jack? [Crystal steps back, Jack steps forward.]

Jack: I was practicing jousting. Look, I have a fresh bruise right here where I landed when I fell off my horse. Plus, I'm lactose intolerant!

King: Dr. Abby? [Jack steps back, Abby steps forward.]

Abby: Well at 8:08am I was in my lab when I realized I was all out of some important chemicals, so I left at 8:12. At 8:36 or so, I

arrived at the store, and I browsed for 8 minutes and 26 seconds before finally buying what I needed. At 8:45, I arrived at the register, when I realized...

King: That's fine, Dr. Abby. You do not need to go any further. I know it wasn't you. In fact, I know it wasn't Lady Crystal or Sir Jack either.

Jack: Then who was it?

King: It was Joe. [All look at Joe and gasp.]

Joe: I admit it, it was me. I was hungry after working all morning, and the ice cream looked so refreshing, and I didn't think anyone would notice. I'm so sorry!

King: Joe, I could have taken care of you. I could have given you whatever you needed. But instead of trusting me, you took matters into your own hands. The Queen was going to throw an ice cream party for everyone later. You could have had all the ice cream you wanted. Instead, you made her cancel it for everyone. Now you will have to face the consequences of your decision.

Joe: I understand. Still, there's one thing I don't get. How did you know it was me?

King: I saw you do it. Don't you remember?

Joe: I didn't think anyone saw me.

King: Whether or not someone saw you, it was not the right thing to do. I think you owe Queen Rose an apology.

Joe: I'm sorry, your majesty. It was wrong of me to take your ice cream. I hope you don't think that all of Littleton is like this.

Queen: Thank you for your apology, I accept. I think we will have that ice cream party after all. Let's go!

Crystal, Jack, and Abby: Woohoo! [All exit right except King and Joe.]

King: Joe, as punishment for stealing the queen's ice cream and lying about it, I'm going to have to ban you from her party.

Joe: Yes, your majesty.

King: I hope that next time, you will trust me to take care of you.
[He exits right.]

Joe: This is terrible! The one time the king sees me, I did something wrong. Looks like I'm not getting an invitation to his birthday. [He exits left.]