

TALKING C. **(exiting)** I'm going, I'm going - it's half past two in the morning in case you're interested!

(There is a moment's silence.)

BEAST. I thought you were in danger.

BEAUTY. Did you?

BEAST. Yes.

BEAUTY. Well, I'm OK.

BEAST. Good.

BEAUTY. Where is he?

BEAST. Who?

BEAUTY. You know who; I dreamt of the Prince tonight. But it was very real. I feel certain that he's here. Somewhere in the Castle.

BEAST. Maybe if you looked with your heart instead of your eyes you would see more.

BEAUTY. That's what he said in my dream – how can you know?

BEAST. I can't tell you where the Prince is.

BEAUTY. How could you do such a thing? How could you kidnap the Prince?

BEAST. Beauty, I've done no such thing!

BEAUTY. I don't believe you!

BEAST. It's the truth!

BEAUTY. You're hiding him somewhere!

BEAST. **(shouting)** Beauty, I cannot tell you where the Prince is, but if you look with your heart you will find him!

BEAUTY. That's just a stupid riddle. Why do you torment me in this way? Is it some sort of game for you?

BEAST. No, Beauty, of course it isn't.

BEAUTY. You're despicable!

BEAST. I'm telling you the truth! Look at me!

BEAUTY. I can't bear to – you ugly, evil, brutish monster – I hate you!

BEAST. NO!!! **(Crumples to the floor.)**

BEAUTY. Beast? Beast, are you alright?

BEAST. Everything; Everything is pointless; I told you the truth.

BEAUTY. I'm sorry. I shouldn't have said those things. I don't hate you. I don't hate you at all. I spoke because I'm upset and I'm confused. I just feel in a complete jumble and I need to go home.

BEAST. Beauty –

BEAUTY. I'll come back. I promise I will. But I've been missing my family. I need to see that they're alright and I need to go back home. **(Gently.)** Do you understand? This is something I have to do and if you won't let me do it, I'll do it anyway.

BEAST. I can't imagine life here at the Castle without you. But you can leave when it's light. In the meantime, come with me and I will show you that your family are safe and well.

BEAUTY. Where are we going?

BEAST. To the Hall of Mirrors. Come, you have nothing to fear. **(The BEAST leads BEAUTY out, lighting the way with his lantern.)**