

(GASTON and LEFOU laugh heartily.)

BELLE

Don't talk about my father that way!

(GASTON thunks LEFOU on the head.)

GASTON

Yeah! Don't talk about her father that way!

BELLE

My father's not crazy! He's a genius!

#3B – Maurice's Entrance

Orchestra

(MAURICE enters with his colorful new invention.)

MAURICE

Belle! Belle!

BELLE

It's working!

(MAURICE waves merrily as part of the invention falls apart.)

GASTON

Some genius! Now, Lefou, I want you to go out into the woods and bring me back the biggest, healthiest deer you can find.

LEFOU

Not the woods! Anything but the woods! You know I hate the woods.

GASTON

Just bring me a deer for my wedding feast!

LEFOU

But I hate the woods! It's dark and spooky, and there's bugs and spiders!

(GASTON and LEFOU exit.)

BELLE

Papa, are you all right?

MAURICE

I can't for the life of me figure out why that happened! I'm about to give up on this hunk of junk!

BELLE

Oh, you always say that.

MAURICE

I mean it this time! I'll never get this bone-headed contraption to work!

BELLE

Yes, you will. And you'll win first prize at the fair tomorrow.

MAURICE

(sulking)

Hmmph!

BELLE

And become a world-famous inventor.

MAURICE

You really think so?

BELLE

You know I do. I always have.

MAURICE

Well, we'd better get cracking. This thing's not going to fix itself. Now let's see...

(tinkers with the invention)

So... did you have a good time in town today?

BELLE

I got a new book.

MAURICE

You do love those books.

BELLE

Well, they take me away to wonderful places where there's adventure and mystery and romance and... happy endings.

(a beat)

Papa... if I ask you something, will you answer me honestly?

MAURICE

Don't I always?

(MAURICE ducks behind the invention.)

BELLE

Do you think I'm... odd?

MAURICE

My daughter! Odd?

(reappears with a silly-looking work helmet and goggles)

Now, where would you get an idea like that?

If you are performing #4 (ALT)–No Matter What and #4A (ALT)–Maurice Travels, turn to page 97 in the Appendix.

BELLE

(amused)

I don't know. It's just that—well... people talk.

MAURICE

They talk about me, too.

#4 – Maurice and Belle

Orchestra

(MAURICE)

(sees that BELLE is really upset)

You're not happy here.

BELLE

I'm surrounded by people... but I've never felt so alone.

MAURICE

I felt that way before I met your mother.

BELLE

How did you know she was the one for you?

MAURICE

After we met, I felt changed... transformed. And I knew I could never be without her. The same thing will happen to you.

BELLE

I don't know.

MAURICE

It will. Trust your papa.

BELLE

I love you.

(MAURICE and BELLE embrace.)

MAURICE

My daughter... my beautiful, beautiful Belle. Now... what do you say we give her a try? All right. Stand back.

(MAURICE pulls a lever and the invention springs to life.)