Act 1, Scene 3 – Throne Room

[There are two thrones in the room with a baby’s crib on either side of them. Edna and the court enter to an instrumental version of the celebratory song they were singing earlier. A Master of Ceremonies bangs a gong to get everyone’s attention]

MASTER OF CEREMONIES: My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen… Their Majesties King Stephen and Queen Tanya, and Her Royal Highness the Princess Aurora.

[The King and Queen enter and everyone bows or curtsies. Queen Tanya is carrying the baby princess wrapped in a pink blanket, and places her in the crib next to her throne.]

MASTER OF CEREMONIES: And introducing our honoured guests: Queen Kathryn and Prince Henry.

[Queen Kathryn enters, also carrying a baby, wrapped in a blue blanket. Queen Tanya gets up to hug her, looks at the baby and sits, as Kathryn puts baby Henry in the other crib. King Stephen stands]

STEPHEN: My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen. My wife and I would like to thank you all for attending the Christening of our daughter, Princess Aurora. We have waited so long for this day and it is truly a blessing upon us. I am further honoured to welcome into this court three Fairies, who will offer their own blessings on our beautiful baby girl.

[The Master of Ceremonies strikes his gong again]

MASTER OF CEREMONIES: Fairy Jasmine, Fairy Rose and Fairy Iris.

[The three fairies enter. Fairies Jasmine and Rose are adults, but Young Iris is a young girl. They curtsey to Stephen and Tanya and then turn to the audience]

JASMINE: Beauty of face

and beauty of heart,

plus a kick-ass attitude,

these gifts I impart!

ROSE: Voice of an angel,

grace of a dove,

these I give you

and the gift of true love!

STEPHEN: Ah, now I’m glad you mentioned that. I am happy to announce that Prince Henry, the son of Queen Kathryn and heir to the throne of [kingdom], is today officially betrothed to Princess Aurora. They will marry when they reach adulthood, and…

SOMNIUM: I think not.

[A crowd of people part to reveal Somnium hidden among them]

STEPHEN: Who are you?

SOMNIUM: [bows] I am Lord Somnium, and your wife, Queen Tanya, has already agreed that Princess Aurora will be married to me when she comes of age.

STEPHEN: What? Is this true?

TANYA: I…

SOMNIUM: It is true, King Stephen. In her desperation to give you a child, she came to me, and we struck a bargain. If the baby was a girl, she would be mine.

JASMINE: You are not welcome here!

SOMNIUM: I am sure my invitation simply got lost in the post. Or perhaps the e-mail disappeared into cyberspace, mmm? Whatever. I am not offended at the lack of an invitation to this little party. But I cannot allow you to marry off my bride to someone else. When Aurora is eighteen years old, I will return to claim her as my wife.

[Stephen approaches Somnium until they stand face to face]

EDNA: Is anyone else feeling really tense?

[They look at her]

EDNA: Sorry.

STEPHEN: Lord Somnium, whether or not Queen Tanya made some kind of deal with you, there is no way I would allow my daughter to be married to you! I’ve heard of you, Lord Somnium, and your Realm of Wish and Dreams. You twist and mould and manipulate everything to your own devices. You are a villain, Somnium, and I demand that you leave my kingdom at once and never return!

SOMNIUM: Your lack of diplomacy has cost you dear, King Stephen! If I can’t have your daughter, no one shall!

A gift I give her,

that can’t be returned

Something quite fitting

From the husband you spurned!

On her eighteenth birthday

She will take her last breath

The point of a spinning wheel

Will cause her death!

[Thunder, lightning etc. Somnium laughs and exits. Queen Tanya picks up the crying baby]

TANYA: I’m sorry, Stephen, I’m so sorry! Can’t anything be done?

JASMINE: Your Majesties, don’t despair. Iris hasn’t given the Princess a gift yet. Perhaps she can help.

STEPHEN: Perhaps?!

YOUNG IRIS: I will try, Your Majesty.

ROSE: As you can see, boys and girls, Iris is quite a young fairy. Do you think you can all help her cast the spell?

AUDIENCE: Yes!

JASMINE: Are you sure?

AUDIENCE: YES!

ROSE: Good! Now, you just have to repeat Iris’s spell after her. Are you ready, Iris?

[Iris nods]

YOUNG IRIS: Together we’ll change

AUDIENCE: Together we’ll change

YOUNG IRIS: This evil scheme

AUDIENCE: This evil scheme

YOUNG IRIS: You shall not die

AUDIENCE: You shall not die

YOUNG IRIS: But simply dream

AUDIENCE: But simply dream

ROSE: Well done, Iris!

STEPHEN: But will it be enough?

JASMINE: It’s the best we can do, Your Majesty. But one of us should stay as godmother to protect the child. Perhaps we should leave that to Iris.

TANYA: Would you like to be Aurora’s fairy godmother, Iris?

YOUNG IRIS: Yes, Your Majesty.

STEPHEN: Then so it shall be. And we will do everything we can to make sure that this Lord Somnium’s curse can never come true. I order every spinning wheel in this kingdom to be burned. And of course Prince Henry shall be married to Princess Aurora.

EDNA: Oh good! Then they’ll be a wedding, I love weddings!

STEPHEN: Yes, there will be a wedding… until then… we do what we can…

[The court start to exit. Young Iris remains frozen onstage. Iris moves to stand next to her.]

IRIS: So, that was me, when I was little. From fairy to fairy godmother, just like that. It became my job to watch out for Princess Aurora, even though I was just a kid myself. Still, I grew up…

[Young Iris exits and her place is taken by Teen Iris, wearing the same clothing as her younger counterpart]

IRIS: …and so did Princess Aurora and Prince Henry. Edna’s baby was a boy, Jack, and he was best friends with Henry, the way I was best friends with Aurora. It was five years before Henry and Aurora met again.

[Exit]