

FADE IN:

INT. OGRE'S CASTLE STAIRWAY - DAY

KITTA, a young human girl of about nine is descending the steps, trying very hard not to make any noise.

She walks on her tiptoes, carefully avoiding the steps that creak.

OGRE (O.S.)

Kitta!

Kitta cringes when she hears her name called.

KITTA

Yes, oh master?

OGRE

Where is my lunch? I'm
starving, I want my lunch!

KITTA

Yes master, coming master.

She turns and runs back up the stairs.

INT. CASTLE KITCHEN - DAY

Kitta prepares a giant sandwich. It is about as long as she is tall. An enormous pile of empty tuna fish cans is on the counter. She rips apart an entire head of lettuce as she speaks.

KITTA

Do this, do that, make this,
clean that. I am so sick of
this place.

TSIRROW, the castle cat jumps up onto the counter next to Kitta.

TSIRROW

If you don't like it, why don't you
leave?

Kitta puts a bit of tuna on a plate for the cat.

KITTA

Leave? Where would I go?

TSIRROW

Where would you like to go?

Kitta stops and looks into the distance.

KITTA

I want my mom and dad. I'd like to find them.

TSIRROW

Do you know where they are?

KITTA

I don't know, I was just a kid when the ogre stole me and brought me here.

TSIRROW

He said he went across the plains, over the mountains and through the forest to find you.

KITTA

You know I can't leave. That awful ogre would hunt me down and drag me back.

TSIRROW

What if he couldn't drag you back?

KITTA

What do you mean?

TSIRROW

Meet me in the menagerie after you feed him and I will explain all.

OGRE (O.S.)

Where is my lunch?

TSIRROW

You'd better go.

INT. CASTLE MENAGERIE ROOM - DAY

Empty, small, and cramped cages are everywhere. TSIRROW sits in the middle of the room, washing his ears. Kitta comes running into the room.

KITTA

What is it? What's your plan?

TSIRROW

Do you notice anything different about this place?

Kitta looks around and gasps in horror.

KITTA

The unicorn. Where's the unicorn?

TSIRROW

Fish for lunch. Fake horse for dinner.

KITTA

What? He wouldn't. He couldn't.

TSIRROW

He's going to, unless you do something to stop him.

KITTA

Me? I'm just a little girl.

TSIRROW

You're big enough to take care of this entire castle by yourself. You're big enough to save the unicorn.

KITTA

I'm scared.

TSIRROW

You think Bella's not scared? Of course she is. Are you going to help her or not?

Kitta shakes her head. Tsirrow stalks away waving his tail in the air.

KITTA

Tsirrow, come back, come back.

Tsirrow ignores her calls and leaves the room. Kitta sits on the castle floor, covers her face with her apron and cries.

INT. STOREROOM - DAY

Kitta looks around the room, which is piled high with jewels and treasures of all kinds. She picks up a small, nondescript black bag. Into it she places a comb, a mirror, a brush, a tablecloth, a cloak, a tiny purse, a pair of boots, a carpet, and a salamander. They all fit with ease and the bag appears to be no heavier.

INT. PANTRY - DAY

Kitta enters and opens a huge cabinet door. BELLA, a beautiful orange unicorn is trussed up like a Thanksgiving Day turkey. She is also gagged and can only roll her eyes frantically at Kitta.

KITTA

Shhh. Here, guard this with your life.

She takes something from the bag and then ties the bag to Bella's horn.

KITTA

I'll be back as quick as I can.

INT. OGRE'S BEDROOM - DAY

The ogre is sitting in a huge rocking chair. His lunch tray is on the floor beside the chair. Kitta enters the room, carrying a comb.

KITTA

Master, I thought you might have a headache. I brought the comb to comb your hair and make you feel better.

OGRE

How dare you disturb me when I have a headache? Go and get the comb and comb my hair.

KITTA

Yes master.

She climbs onto a stepladder and starts to brush the ogre's hair. As she does, a HARP nearby sings softly. Soon the ogre's snores drown out the harp's singing.

Kitta carefully climbs off of the ladder and kneels in front of the ogre. She ties his boot strings together. Then she grabs the comb and sneaks out of the room.

INT. PANTRY - DAY

Kitta takes a sharp knife, opens the big cabinet door and cuts the unicorn free.

KITTA

Sorry, I'm going to leave the gag on just until we get away from here. I can't take any chances on your yelling.

Bella rolls her eyes.

KITTA

Oh, all right.

Kitta cuts Bella's gag away. Bella snorts and shakes her head. She staggers to her feet, and sticking her nose in a bucket of water takes a deep drink.

BELLA

I feel so very much better now.

Bella stretches and shudders.

BELLA
Now what, Kitta?

KITTA
Now we get Tsirrow and get out of
here as quickly as we can.

Tsirrow enters the room.

TSIRROW
What makes you think I'm going along?

BELLA
You want to stay here with that awful
ogre?

TSIRROW
Maybe. There's always plenty to eat
here and a warm spot in front of the
fire.

KITTA
Who will scratch your ears and rub
your belly?

Kitta takes the bag from Bella's horn and ties it around
her waist.

TSIRROW
A full belly is preferable to a
rubbed belly.

BELLA
A full belly is what the ogre will
have once he eats you.

TSIRROW
Eat a cat? Don't be silly.

KITTA
I don't have time for this. I'm
leaving. What about you?

TSIRROW
I'm staying.

He jumps up onto the counter and arrogantly starts washing his back.

BELLA

Okay then.

KITTA

Fine.

Kitta and Bella leave the room. Tsirrow continues his bath.

EXT. CASTLE - DAY

Kitta and Bella jog away from the castle. It is huge, towering high above them as they run.

INT. OGRE'S BEDROOM - DAY

The harp is singing and floating around the room. It drifts over to the window.

HARP

Master, master, your maid is
escaping. The ungrateful wretch
is taking your dinner with her.

The ogre awakens with a roar.

OGRE

Kitta!!

HARP

I'm telling you, she's gone.

OGRE

Not for long. I'll get her and
grind her bones for my bread.

HARP

I don't think so. If you grind
her bones who will make the
bread?

OGRE

Don't bother me with logic. Grrrrrr.

The ogre grabs his huge, knobby club and gets out of the rocking chair. He is so strong he doesn't even notice the boot strings tied together. They snap and he rushes out of the room. The harp continues looking out the window.

HARP

This oughtta be good.

INT. CASTLE STEPS - DAY

The ogre starts down the stairs at a run, snarling as he goes. Tsirow darts in front of him halfway down the stairs. The ogre trips over the cat, screams and falls to the bottom. He gets up and shakes his head, he's not hurt, just angrier.

He staggers out the front door of the castle.

A moment later Tsirow daintily steps outside and nonchalantly follows the ogre.

EXT. CASTLE - DAY

Kitta and Bella are still running. The ground starts to shake as the ogre draws near. He is so big one of his steps equals fifty of theirs.

Kitta stops and unties the bag around her waist. Bella stops too, looking at her with a horrified expression.

BELLA

What are you doing? Run, run!

KITTA

Keep going; I'll be right there.

Kitta takes the brush from her bag and throws it onto the ground. A huge, dense, prickly forest of thorns springs up. It is so tall that it makes the ogre look small.

Kitta runs after Bella.

The ogre comes up at full speed, crashing into the thorn barrier with a terrible roar.

OGRE

Kitta, I'm going to grind your bones for bread myself now. I'm even madder than before.

He thrashes his way out of the thorns, emerging scratched and angrier than ever. He starts running after them again. Soon he is about to catch them.

Kitta stops again and takes the salamander out of the bag. This time Bella keeps going.

Kitta throws the salamander to the ground. A huge salamander-shaped fire springs up between them and the ogre.

Kitta runs after Bella.

The ogre stops when he comes to the fire.

OGRE

I will grind your bones if it's the last thing I do!!

He crouches down and blows on the fire. At first his breath fans the flames, but at last he blows the fire out.

He jumps up and runs after them again, but he singes his feet on the embers.

OGRE

As hot as this is, your bones will be even hotter after I grind them and bake them into bread.

Bella stops.

BELLA

Kit, jump on my back.

Kitta scrambles aboard and they run on. The ogre is getting closer again.

Kitta fumbles with her bag. The ogre lunges for them, grabbing Bella's tail and pulling some of the hair out.

Kitta finds the mirror and throws it to the ground. It turns into a huge lake.

The ogre is caught in the middle and sinks to the bottom. A few bubbles are all that remain.

Bella stops running and Kitta slips off. They look at each other in a now what sort of way.

Tsirrow pads up, carrying something in his mouth. He puts it in the grass. It's the salamander.

KITTA

Thanks Tsirrow, he came in handy. I'll be glad to use him again.

TSIRROW

I don't know how to get the brush and the mirror back.

BELLA

I don't think we should get the mirror back. It's doing a useful job right now.

KITTA

Tsirrow, what are you doing here?

TSIRROW

Going with you.

KITTA

Going where?

TSIRROW

Wherever you are. What's the plan? Going to look for your parents?

Kitta looks dreamily across the plain.

KITTA

Across the plain, over the mountains and through the forest.

BELLA

I'd like to find the forest where
I used to live. My family is there.

TSIRROW

I want adventure. I'm tired of
sitting by the fire. I want to
catch my own fish.

KITTA

Can you find adventure in the plains,
mountains and forest?

TSIRROW

Yes.

KITTA

Well then, let's go. We'll find
adventure and our families.

FADE OUT.