

Beauty And The Beast - Detailed Synopsis



March 14-26, 2006

Music by **Alan Menken**
Lyrics by **Howard Ashman**

Act I

During the *Prologue/The Enchantress*, we meet a young prince. An old beggar woman, who actually is a beautiful enchantress, comes to the prince's castle and offers him a rose for shelter. When the prince turns her away, she transforms him into a beast and places a spell on the castle.

In a village nearby, *Belle* enters. The townsfolk, despite their admiration for Belle's beauty, see her as odd because of her love for reading. Gaston, a handsome but egotistical hunter enters. He vows that he is going to marry Belle and sends his sidekick LeFou to catch a deer for their wedding feast.

Meanwhile, Belle goes home to her father, Maurice, an inventor. Belle asks him if he thinks she is odd. Her father assures her that she is not - and *No Matter What*, he is on her side. With his new invention, Maurice goes to the town fair. On the way, he is chased by wolves (*No Matter What/Wolf Chase*). He stumbles upon the Beast's castle and inside, he discovers Lumiere, a candelabra, Cogsworth, a mantle clock, and Mrs. Potts, a teapot. They all welcome Maurice, but when the Beast finds him, he throws Maurice into the dungeon.

Back in the village, Gaston decides to propose to Belle. Singing *Me*, he paints a picture for her of life married to him. Belle rejects Gaston, leaving him humiliated and even more determined to have her as his wife. When Lefou shows up, Belle notices that he is wearing her father's scarf and demands that Lefou tell her where he found it. Lefou confesses that he picked it up in the woods. Worried about her father, Belle goes to look for him. She comes upon the Beast's castle and finds Maurice in the dungeon. She begs the Beast to let her father go, offering to become the Beast's prisoner in exchange for Maurice's freedom. The Beast accepts her offer. Belle wonders what it would be like to have this castle as her *Home*.

Meanwhile, at the tavern in the village, Lefou and the villagers remind *Gaston* how admired he is. During the revelry, Maurice arrives frantic and begging for help to rescue Belle. No one takes him seriously and Gaston has him thrown out.

Back at the castle, the Beast tries to force Belle into joining him for dinner, but she remains defiant. Using his magic mirror, the Beast looks in on Belle as she declares to Madame de la Grande Bouche, the wardrobe, that she wants nothing to do with him. The Beast then reflects on his mistakes, asking *How Long Must This Go On?* Later that night, Belle finds her way to the kitchen where Mrs. Potts, Lumiere, and the rest of the objects sing *Be Our Guest*. And while Cogsworth and Lumiere are giving her a tour of the castle, she goes to the forbidden West Wing where she discovers the enchanted rose. Just as she is about to touch it, the Beast bellows at her to stay away. Frightened, Belle runs out of the castle. The Beast mourns in *If I Can't Love Her*.

Act II

During the *Entr'acte/Wolf Chase*, Belle gets attacked by wolves. Just as they are surrounding her, the Beast arrives and drives them away, but also gets wounded. Belle brings him back to the castle and while tending to his wounds, Belle and the Beast realize that there is *Something There* and begin to feel affection for one another. The servants, having seen the two together, hope that Belle will help break the spell so they can be *Human Again*.

Meanwhile, Gaston has summoned Monsieur D'Arque, who runs the insane asylum to lock up Maurice because of his claims about some beast. And in his plan, *Maison Des Lunes*, Maurice will only be freed if Belle agrees to marry Gaston.

Back at the castle, the Beast realizes that he truly loves Belle, but is afraid to tell her. Mrs. Potts encourages him with a love song, *Beauty and the Beast*, during their romantic dinner. Belle is happy living in the castle, but misses her father terribly. The Beast then gives her the magic mirror and tells her to go find Maurice. Belle finds her father in the woods and brings him home, but only to find D'Arque waiting to take Maurice away. Gaston offers to save Maurice if Belle will agree to marry him. Belle refuses and uses the mirror to prove that the Beast is real. Seeing this, Gaston convinces the town that the Beast must be destroyed and leads the attack (*The Mob Song*).

During their *Battle*, the Beast, despite his ability to kill Gaston, sets him free. But as he climbs towards Belle, Gaston stabs him in the back only to be thrown to his own death afterwards. The Beast, dying from his wounds, tells Belle he loves her. And just as the last petal of the rose fell, Belle reveals her own love for him. The Beast's body magically rises and spins in the air as he experiences his *Transformation* into the handsome prince. The spell is broken!