

Getting to Know...

ONCE UPON A MATTRESS

Character Descriptions:

Princess Winnifred the Woebegone is down-to-earth and without pretensions; Unlike what you might expect of a princess, Winnifred is just an ordinary, high spirited soul. Having grown up in the swamps, she doesn't conduct herself in the formal way the others in the castle do. It is her natural, ingenuous quality that sets her apart from the other Ladies of the kingdom and makes Dauntless fall in love with her.

Prince Dauntless the Drab, as his name implies, is kind of a sad-sack and somewhat listless. Although his overbearing mother controls his life and he is an obedient son, he still has hopes of someday finding a girl to marry of whom his mother will approve. Like Winnifred, he is honest and sincere. She gives him confidence in himself and within the course of the musical, we see him grow in self-assurance until he is finally able to confront his mother.

Queen Aggravain, as her name suggests, is extremely vain, believing that her way of doing things is the only way. She is devoted to her son, Dauntless, and has no intention of ever allowing him to leave her or to have another woman in his life. She selfishly dominates everything that happens in the castle, never considering the feelings of others.

King has been brow-beaten by the Queen and is very passive. He has learned that it is easier just to let the Queen have her own way than to fight her. Because he has not been able to speak for so long, he has learned to communicate through pantomime, or gestures. He loves his son and sympathizes with him but realizes he can do little to help him. Despite his frustrations, he is extremely good natured.

Lady Larken is a sweet girl but, perhaps because she is in love but unable to marry, she tends to be oversensitive. She is extremely frustrated that she can't marry Harry, but also extremely excited at the opportunity to be Lady-in-Waiting to Princess Winnifred. Of all the Ladies, it is Larken who most hopes that Winnifred will pass the test.

Sir Harry is a regular guy and, like Larken, is eager for Dauntless to find a bride so that he and Larken can marry. He is brave and dedicated enough to venture on a "perilous journey" in hopes of finding a genuine princess whom the Queen will find suitable as a bride for Dauntless.

Minstrel and **Jester** are court entertainers and they have a great sense of joy in what they do. They sometimes serve as narrators and are assured in their ability to tell the story with authority. There is also something playful and mischievous about them. Any gender.

Wizard is the Queen's confidant, her only friend and therefore the only person she can really talk to. However, the Wizard, like everyone else in the kingdom, is apprehensive of the Queen and would never have the courage to contradict her. Any gender.

Lady Lucille and **Lady Rowena** are typical best friends of Lady Larken, helping her to find a bride for Prince Dauntless. Often meddling, but always sincerely trying to help.

***** Please Note: There are many additional featured roles/vocal solos, along with an ensemble of Knights, Ladies in Waiting etc. *****