

A LETTER FOR JESSE

Written by

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## CAST OF CHARACTERS

ELIZA-16-20s, A princess who is done with men for a very valid reason.

QUEEN JULIA late 30s-50s-A queen who doesn't understand her daughter's lack of interest in men.

KING JAMES 40-50s - Has more in common with his daughter than meets the eye

## Synopsis

A king and queen scheme to figure out who their daughter wrote a mysterious letter to.

## SCENE 1

*Lights up in the castle common area on QUEEN JULIA looking at a letter. KING JAMES enters.*

QUEEN JULIA

It's about time!

KING JAMES

Nice to see you too. What's so important that I had to take a break from declaring a war.

QUEEN JULIA

Eliza wrote someone a love letter!

KING JAMES

You were just squabbling about how our daughter had no interest in romance. Now you're saying she wrote a love letter? I really must get back to-

*James goes to exit*

QUEEN JULIA

King James so help me if you walk out that door, I'll be the

one you'll start a war with! Read the letter!

*Forces the letter into his hand*

KING JAMES

Alright, alright.

*Opens letter*

Dear Jesse,

I'll never forget our lovely picnic last night. Thank you for exposing me

*Closes letter abruptly*

I've read enough.

QUEEN JULIA

Your mind is vile! Keep reading!

*Continues reading the letter.*

KING JAMES

Thank you for exposing me **to wine** for the first time.

(Aside)

Thank goodness!

Cheese and wine are almost as good a pairing as you and I.

Meet me in the garden tonight and we'll have a picnic under the stars.

Yours,

Eliza,

I'm not sure, I just think it's strange. She was just saying yesterday that she had no interest in men and now she's meeting one in the garden?

QUEEN JULIA

Maybe he's a noble from a different kingdom? I asked her after the ball if she met any men but she kept going on and on about how pretty the other girls looked in their dresses.

KING JAMES

Didn't she always hate putting on dresses when she was younger?

QUEEN JULIA

She did! She's really evolving! She taking an interest in clothing and has a mystery man

*KING JAMES notices ELIZA entering. Eliza has a nice shirt on and a pair of pants*

KING JAMES

Eliza! How are you?

QUEEN JULIA

Yes! How's your day? Any exciting plans tonight?

ELIZA

Ummm, no, nothing eventful.

QUEEN JULIA

Interesting outfit you have on.

ELIZA

Oh this? I was riding and this just felt more practical to wear on a horse. I didn't want to get my dress dirty.

QUEEN JULIA

You're a young woman now. Appearance is everything! Especially when you're looking for a husband.

ELIZA

Please don't do this now.

QUEEN JULIA

You're not getting any younger. Should we have another ball? Maybe that will help you meet someone.

ELIZA

No! No more balls! Mother, I had a long day. We'll talk about this in the morning.

QUEEN JULIA

Very well. Have Jesse run you a bath.

KING JAMES

Who?!

QUEEN JULIA

Jesse, Eliza's lady in waiting.

KING JAMES

Eliza's lady in waiting is named Jesse?

ELIZA

Yes! I really like her!

KING JAMES

Oh, I'm sure you do.

ELIZA

I'll retire then. Goodnight!

*Eliza exits*

KING JAMES

Just to queer-clear. Eliza's lady in waiting is named  
Jesse?!

QUEEN JULIA

Yes! Her name is Jesse.

KING JAMES

I see.

QUEEN JULIA

Is that a problem?

KING JAMES

Never! It would never be a problem. For me, at least.

QUEEN JULIA

You're acting strange darling. Perhaps we should try to get some sleep.

*Queen Julia goes to kiss King James and he turns his head*

KING JAMES

My breath is horrendous at the moment. Just trying to help you.

QUEEN JULIA

It's been like that for weeks. Maybe you should see a doctor.

KING JAMES

Maybe.

*Fake yawn*

Should we head to bed?

QUEEN JULIA



I suppose. But tomorrow we have to figure out who this man named Jesse is.

KING JAMES

I'm sure the answer is closer than you think.

*King James escorts Queen Julia offstage.*

SCENE 2

*Eliza enters tiptoeing with a picnic basket. King James is sitting in a chair reading a book. Eliza doesn't notice King James.*

KING JAMES

A little late for a picnic?

ELIZA

Father! I-uhh got hungry and needed some fresh air so I made a picnic to eat in the garden.

KING JAMES

I see. Perhaps you should take this with you?

*Hands Eliza the love letter from earlier. Eliza looks at it then looks to her father for a response.*

Don't worry I made sure Jesse got the message. She's waiting for you in the garden. I just wanted to speak with you first.

ELIZA

Where did you find the letter?

KING JAMES

Your mother showed it to me.

ELIZA

MOTHER she knows-

KING JAMES

She doesn't have a clue. But she is on the hunt for a man named Jesse.

ELIZA

She thinks Jesse is a man?

KING JAMES

She also thinks that you talking about pretty women is an interest in fashion.

ELIZA

That's hilarious! Considering I find any excuse to not wear a dress. It's odd. Mother is clueless about me but, (pause) I don't know even if you hadn't told me that you found the letter, I felt like you always knew I was different.

KING JAMES

We're not as different as you think.

*Reaches into his pocket*

This is a letter I wrote to my first love. His name was Andrew. We spent the summer together when I was young. We always went on hunting trips together that didn't include a ton of hunting. When I came back from our last trip my father told me I was arranged to be married to your mother. I was my parents' only son so it was my responsibility to take the throne and I couldn't do that if I stayed with Andrew.

ELIZA

I had no idea! Does mother know?

KING JAMES

No and she never will.

ELIZA

How long do you think Jesse and I will be together?

KING JAMES

That's entirely up to you two.

ELIZA

What do you mean?

KING JAMES

I had Jesse pack luggage for the both of you. You can't be together if you stay here.

ELIZA

What about mother?

KING JAMES

We're going to take a spontaneous trip to our summer palace in the morning. That should be you both some time to get some distance.

*Eliza is speechless. She looks at her father with tears in her eyes and gives him a hug.*

ELIZA

Thank you so much! I'm so sorry about Andrew.

KING JAMES

Shhh! You can make up for that by cherishing every single moment you and Jesse have together.

*Reaches into his pocket and pulls out a ring.*

Give this to her when it's time.

ELIZA

Grandmother's ring!

KING JAMES

Don't let her get away! I think it's time for goodbyes now. You shouldn't keep Jesse waiting. Goodbye Eliza!

ELIZA

Goodbye father! Tell mother I love her!

*Eliza exits leaving King James alone; he takes a seat and reads his love letter from Andrew.*

THE END

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