

Showcase Scene

By Truly Johnson

## CHARACTERS

FREDRICK	18-year-old who typically wears a lot of black. He used to be friends with Lara, but they haven't seen each other for a while.
LARA	Also 18. Adventurous and excitable, she is on a quest to find some unknown treasure.
WES	Guard for the Robertson Estates.
TEACHER	A teacher at Lara and Fredrick's school.

*(Note: WES and TEACHER are played by the same actor.)*

ACT I  
SCENE 4

*(There is a large green gate on the stage. A man, WES, with a large brown bag stands in front of it, about to doze off. Fredrick and Lara enter.)*

WES

Oh! Visitors! We don't get those often!

LARA

Who are you?

WES

Oh, I'm Wes. I'm just guarding the Robertson estate. Kind of a stupid job if you ask me. Who wants to go into some stranger's estate in the middle of nowhere?

LARA

Well, thieves, for one thing.

WES

There are so many better places to steal from though. Places closer to civilization. I mean, you're less likely to be noticed in the middle of a city.

LARA

That's true, I guess. Anyway, which way is it to Rock Mountain?

*(Wes starts laughing.)*

FREDRICK

What's so funny? Am I missing some kind of joke? It is called Rock Mountain, right?

WES

Yeah, that's just it. Who calls a mountain "Rock Mountain?" That's basically what a mountain is. A big old rock. It's like calling a lake "Water Lake!" Like seriously? Who named this thing?

FREDRICK

Well, that's not quite what a mountain is, it's really just elevated land that...

LARA

But which way is it?

WES

Oh, that's simple! Behind this gate!

LARA

Great!

*(She approaches the gate, but Wes stops her.)*

WES

I'm supposed to be guarding this gate, remember?

LARA

Oh, I thought you were guarding the something-or-other estate, not Rock Mountain.

WES

Well, the Robertson estate is on the way to Rock Mountain. I'm sorry, but I can't let you through.

FREDRICK

Well, there must be a way around.

WES

Yeah, I think there is. You'd have to travel for a pretty long time though.

LARA

We don't have time for that!

FREDRICK

Well, it looks like we'll have to make time.

LARA

Hmm, I guess so.

*(She walks to the stage right downstage corner and beckons Fredrick to follow. Lights down on everything except them.)*

I have a plan.

FREDRICK

What?

LARA

You go distract that guy. Talk about stupid mountain names, ask him how to get somewhere else, I don't care how. Just do it. Get him away from the gate a little bit. Meanwhile, I'll go through that big gate he's guarding and unlock that little unguarded gate over there (*points offstage*). Then you can finish talking to Wes and follow me.

FREDRICK

What if we get caught? This is all probably very illegal.

LARA

If we get caught, we get caught. But what other options do we have? Do you want someone beating us to this treasure?

FREDRICK

No. *(Lara looks at him)*. Alright, alright. We can become criminals for this treasure.

LARA

Yes!

*(Lara exits stage right. Lights come back on. Fredrick approaches Wes.)*

FREDRICK

Excuse me sir? Since we can't get to Rock Mountain, do you know how to get to the White Desert?

WES

No, sorry kid. I do know about white desserts though. Cream cake? Mmm, delicious. I wonder why the word desert is so close to the word dessert. I sure as hell don't want to eat sand cake.

FREDRICK

Well, would you mind standing over there and looking out for me. You're taller than me so you might see something I've missed.

*(Suddenly the lights go out completely.)*

FREDRICK

Can you show me the highest scoring essay on the board?

*(The lights go back on. Now Wes is wearing glasses and holding a clipboard, playing the role of the TEACHER.)*

TEACHER

Sure, Fredrick. You did very well on this assignment, but it's admirable that you still want to improve.

FREDRICK

Yeah, I think there might be something I missed.

*(The two of them walk downstage. The teacher gestures at the audience, as if looking at a piece of paper on a board.)*

TEACHER

See, Leon alluded to literary criticism in his essay, and although that was not a requirement, it did help him to get a higher grade.

FREDRICK

Okay.

*(The lights go out.)*

Do you see anything. Any signs of a desert?

WES

Nope.

*(Lara enters and sneaks behind the two of them heading towards the gate.)*

FREDRICK

What about dessert? Any signs of stray cream cakes?

WES

No, but I sure wish there was. Ahh, cakes. They are sweet perfection to anyone's tongue. Except for those allergic to cakes of course. In which case, I feel sorry for them. How terrible it must be to-

*(Lights out.)*

TEACHER

...introduce the counterclaim a little bit earlier in the essay and then refute it early on to make it more persuasive.

*(Lights on. Lara is still slowly, quietly heading towards the gate.)*

FREDRICK

Okay, earlier counterclaim. I'll try to remember that.

TEACHER

Yes. I think that one small change could help a lot, in addition to-

*(Lara reaches the gate and starts miming typing, as if on a computer.)*

-everything else I've mentioned.

FREDRICK

Okay, okay.

*(Lights out.)*

Any other suggestions?

*(Lights on. Lara isn't typing anymore. Instead, she opens the gate, slips through, and exits the stage.)*

WES

Suggestions about what?

FREDRICK

Oh, suggestions? Suggestions about other desserts I should try?

WES

Well, tiramisu is excellent. I just love the taste of--

FREDRICK

Well, actually I think I better be on my way.

*(Lights out).*

My dad is waiting for me downstairs.

TEACHER

Okay. Well it was good to talk to you, Fredrick.

*(The teacher sits down, stage left, in front of the gate, and starts writing on his clipboard. Fredrick exits, and re-enters with Lara a few seconds later, behind the gate.)*

LARA

I did it!

FREDRICK

You changed your grades? Heh, I never knew how easy it was to distract people!

LARA

Well, that was the original plan.

FREDRICK

Original plan? What, that's not what you did?

LARA

No. Last night, I was thinking, and I came up with something even better!

FREDRICK

What... what did you do?

LARA

I put myself on the list for the Educational Travel Program!

FREDRICK

What? Everyone will know! None of the teachers will confirm that they signed you up.

LARA

They don't have to. It's an anonymous system. Remember, there was this whole thing about fairness, and teachers being able to choose whichever students they thought had potential without anyone judging their choices. I guess I have potential now!

FREDRICK

Oh my god. So does that mean you're gonna leave next semester?

LARA

Yes! Finally! Sweet freedom!

FREDRICK

Freedom.

LARA

Yeah, haven't you ever wanted to be free?

FREDRICK

Um...

LARA

Well whatever! Catch you later!

*(Lara exits. Lights out. Fredrick stares into space for a second.)*

FREDRICK

I... I don't want to be free. I'm fine being trapped here. In a good situation, with people I like...

*(Lights on. Lara is back, standing next to Fredrick, confused. Wes is napping in front of the gate.)*

LARA

What are you talking about!

FREDRICK

Oh, I don't know. I was just thinking.

LARA

Well get your head out of the clouds and let's get up to Rock Mountain!

*(They exit.)*