

JACK. Well a year went by. And you know what? It turned out he wasn't a swan. He was just a really ugly duckling who grew up to be a really ugly duck.

SONG: UGLY DUCKLING REPRISE

CROWD.

YOU'RE HIDEOUS.
 YOUR LOOKS ARE PITEOUS.
 YOUR VISAGE IS INVIDIOUS.
 YOU FRIGHTFUL, HORRID,
 GROSS, DISGUSTING,
 VILE, REPUGNANT,
 NASTY, HOMELY,
 FOUL, REPULSIVE,
 YUCKY, PUKY,
 ICKY, BLECCHY
 TRUUUPLY UUUUGLY DUUUUCK!!!

UGLY. The end.

(A FROG enters as the crowd exits, followed by the UGLY DUCK.)

FROG. Wow. That's an *ugly* duck.

(PRINCESS 2 strolls on, smelling a flower.)

Nothing ugly about that, though. Time to "meet cute." (*Putting on a pathetically sad voice:*) Pardon me, O beautiful princess, but I wonder if you could help me.

PRINCESS 2. What can I do to help you, little frog?

FROG. Oh, see, I'm not really a frog? I'm actually a handsome prince who was turned into a frog by a wicked witch's spell.

PRINCESS 2. Oh no!

FROG. It's terrible, right?

PRINCESS 2. It's such a cliché! I suppose next you're going to tell me the spell can only be broken by the kiss of a beautiful princess, right?

FROG. No.

PRINCESS 2. No?!

FROG. No. The witch told me the spell can only be broken by the kiss of an ordinary young woman who isn't exactly beautiful but has a kind of girl-next-door cuteness with an appealingly quirky personality. Think Zooeey Deschanel.¹

¹ If and when Zooeey Deschanel is no longer the "it" girl, her name can be replaced with some other popular entertainer who fits the Frog's description.

PRINCESS 2. Oh.

FROG. So, see, you're much too royal and way too beautiful to break this spell.

PRINCESS 2. I'm not *that* beautiful.

FROG. No, you really are. You're gorgeous. There's no point in kissing you.

PRINCESS 2. But...what would be the harm in giving it a try?

FROG. The harm? The harm?! The witch said if I kiss the wrong girl I'll turn into something even more hideous than I already am! Like a narrator.

JACK. Hey!

PRINCESS 2. Oh. Well. Okay.

FROG. It would have to be on the lips though. Still want to give it a try?

PRINCESS 2. Sure!

(She leans over, but before she can plant one on him, he holds out a tube of lip gloss.)

FROG. It's peach-flavored.

(She puts on the lip gloss, then leans over again, but this time he holds out a breath spritzer. She uses it, then—but, no, now he hands her a wig.)

Sorry. I want everything to be just right. *(She puts on the wig.)* Great. Perfect. Okay, I'm ready for the kiss.

(She kisses the FROG, who licks his lips in satisfaction.)

PRINCESS 2. Oh, pooh! It didn't work! I guess I *am* too beautiful.

FROG. No, you're not. I just made the whole thing up.

PRINCESS 2. What?!

FROG. I was never a prince. Just a frog with a thing for princesses. Boom!

JACK. And with that, the frog jumped back into his pond and the princess wiped the frog slime off her lips. By the way, two years later she met a Beast in an enchanted castle and things worked out a whole lot better for her.

(FROG exits. PRINCESS 2 still stands there, wiping frog slime off, then listens as JACK continues.)

JACK. Okay. It looks like I've finally got things running smoothly now. And the next story is even better than the last three. It's called "Little Red Running Shorts," see, and it's about this girl who runs very fast and always wears red running shorts. That's where her name comes from, get it? So anyway, this girl is running to her granny's house when she meets a wolf.

(LITTLE RED enters and listens with growing disbelief. In a moment the WOLF joins her.)

PRINCESS 2. Is this the one where the wolf tricks her into taking the long way while he takes the shortcut?

JACK. Yes, but here comes the good part, because Little Red runs so fast that she beats the wolf to granny's house. And when the wolf gets there—

PRINCESS 2. —He knocks on the door?

JACK. And Red answers it, and guess what she says?

PRINCESS 2. Cow patty?

JACK. No.

PRINCESS 2. The sky is falling?

JACK. No!

PRINCESS 2. Give up.

JACK. She says, "My, what slow feet you have." And that's it. The End. Is that great or what?

PRINCESS 2. It's like Shakespeare.

JACK. Wow, thanks. You know, I may only be a narrator right now, but some day I'm going to be an epic poet.

PRINCESS 2. Unh hunh.

JACK. Either an epic poet or, like, a samurai, spoken-word hip-hop wordsmith with like 2 million Twitter followers.

PRINCESS 2. *(Skeptical:)* Really.

JACK. Yeah. So listen, would you maybe like to go out for a pizza or...

PRINCESS 2. Don't you have another story to tell?

JACK. *(Suddenly remembering the audience:)* Oh! Right! Hi. Uh, now it's time to sit back, relax, and enjoy—"Little Red Running Shorts."

(He looks to LITTLE RED and WOLF, who glower back at him.)

And now, like I already said, "Little Red Running Shorts."