

The Invisible Queen

2 Male, 2 Female, 4 M/F, Extras M/F

JESTER (M/F) the professional funny-man of the court. This character should be particularly good with facial expression and physical humor.

FIONA (F) a kitchen wench. But if you call her “wench,” she will wrench your back.

KING (M) a product of what happens when royalty intermarries.

QUEEN (F) worries that everyone has forgotten her birthday ... again.

ALEXA THE ALCHEMIST (M/F) Her potions have all failed, which puts her job in jeopardy. Her plan is to usurp the throne.

DREW (M/F) Alexa’s evil minion.

LORD CAMPBELL (M) sits next to the Queen at the Royal Table. He’s innocent, I tell you.

JUDGE MENTAL (M/F) the expert on all things supernatural. Also, he’s got more screws loose than a rollercoaster trestle.

EXTRAS (M/F) Guards, Courtiers, Servants, Town Crier, Pages, etc.

Sample Pages

FANFARE AND WELCOME

(When the guests have been seated, a BRASS FANFARE will signal all entertainers to clear the hall. Lights up on stage. JESTER enters.)

JESTER: *(To audience.)*

Welcome, good Lords and Ladies fair!

Do you sense a thrill in the air?

The Queen is turning five and twenty,

And that will mean a night of plenty –

ALEXA: *(Enters, talking angrily to DREW.)* I simply don’t know what I’ll do! The last potion should have worked like a charm. Are you sure you followed my instructions exactly?

DREW: Of course, I did. I’m positive. Most definitely positive.

ALEXA: And you didn’t forget the eye of newt?

DREW: I would never forget the eye of newt! Nor the wool of bat. Just like you said.

JESTER: Um, is there a problem, Alexa?

ALEXA: *(Startled.)* No, no problem! No problems at all. My potions always work.

DREW: But not always as intended. *(ALEXA glares at DREW.)*

JESTER: What do you mean?

ALEXA: Well, Lord Baron *(Points to an audience member.)* asked me for a potion that would turn lead into gold.

DREW: But instead, it created some very tasty fish-shaped crackers. Heavy, heavy fish-shaped crackers. But they do satisfy his cravings. *(Enter SERVANT with a box of Goldfish crackers; he sets them at the audience member's table and exits.)*

ALEXA: This is the fifth box he's eaten tonight. He simply cannot get enough of them.

DREW: And I would not recommend that Lord Baron go swimming.

ALEXA: And, take Lady Chatterley over there. *(Points to audience member.)* She just turned 30. We're talking spinster city. So, she asked me for a love potion.

JESTER: Which is simple enough.

DREW: But now, she can't play tennis at all, AND she can't score in Court.

JESTER: *(Enjoying the wordplay.)* 30-Love, huh?

DREW: *(Laughing.)* So far, she hasn't netted any prospects.

JESTER: *(Laughing.)* Serves her right.

ALEXA: Go ahead! Make fun of my misfortune!

JESTER: Wait, what?

ALEXA: Rumor has it, the King is going to replace me if I don't create a successful potion soon. If that happens, what will I do?

FIONA: *(Enters excitedly.)* All right, Jester! I've spread the word. Everyone is excited about the plan!

DREW: What plan?

FIONA: Well, as you know, the Queen is turning five and twenty! Quite a milestone birthday!

JESTER: We're throwing a surprise party! Top secret.

FIONA: Classified.

JESTER: Hush-hush. We can't give this party away. And, yeah, I'm looking at you, Drew.

DREW: What? I can keep a secret.

FIONA: Right. Who gave away the secret passage to the throne room?

JESTER: And who spilled the beans on the Queen's secret plans to invade Luxembourg?

FIONA: And who blabbed the Colonel's 11 secret herbs and spices?

FIONA / JESTER: You did!

JESTER: The Queen must be kept completely in the dark. No matter what!

DREW: All right already.

FIONA: Oh, this will be so much fun! I can't wait to see her face!

JESTER: *(Exiting with FIONA.)* I still don't think we can trust Drew. Can we gag him?

FIONA: Excellent idea. Why don't you tell Drew a joke.

JESTER: Oh, har-dee-har-har. *(JESTER and FIONA exit.)*

ALEXA: *(Watches as they exit.)* Drew, I have a plan.

DREW: Not another plan. Remember your plan to invade Russia?

ALEXA: The timing just wasn't right on that one. I'm sure someone will try again. But you just heard the Jester and Fiona secretly plotting, yes?

DREW: *(Loudly.)* Yeah, the Queen's surprise birthday party.

ALEXA: Blabbing already, I see.

DREW: Oops.

ALEXA: You and I are not allowed to tell the Queen of the plot to throw her a surprise party. But the Jester and Fiona said nothing about us telling the Queen about a plot to throw a revolution. Or better yet, showing her the plot.

DREW: I don't understand.

ALEXA: What if we made the Queen an invisibility potion? If she overheard their plans, she might think there's a plot afoot.

DREW: *(Hesitant.)* Why would she think that?

ALEXA: Because trusted advisors like us would spin it that way.

DREW: Um, okay. *(Beat.)* But I don't know about this.

ALEXA: Look, do you want to end up back in that wagon down by the river, selling Dr. Miracle's Snake Oil Cure again? Is that what you want?

DREW: No. You know how much I hate squeezing oil from snakes.

ALEXA: Then follow me. We have a potion to create and a plan to make.

(ALEXA and DREW exit as JESTER enters.)

JESTER: Drew, did I hear you yell about the Birthday Party? Oops. *(Slaps his hands over his own mouth, then removes them.)* I mean Irhtdaybay Artypay? *(Looks around.)* Huh. Drew's not here. Maybe it was one of our guests letting the cat out of the bag. *(Points to a guest.)* Was it you? You look like someone who would unbag a cat.

(BRASS FANFARE.)

JESTER: Is that the Queen already? Oh, I'd better let them know she has arrived!
(To the back of the hall.)

Ready the meal and heat the wassail!
Bring forth meat and the finest of ale!
Blow the clarion; singers appear!
The King and his Court are drawing near! *(JESTER exits.)*

After the first course, Queen enters ...

QUEEN: *(Talking to herself.)* Not one mention of my birthday? I just knew the King would forget.

(ALEXA and DREW enter, notice the QUEEN, cross to her, and bow.)

ALEXA: My Queen, have you left the banquet?

QUEEN: No, I just ... needed some time to myself.

ALEXA: If I may say so, you look downcast in spirit.

QUEEN: *(Pause.)* Well, if you must know, it's my birthday. And I fear everyone has forgotten.

DREW: No way. The Jester and Fiona are planning a Sur- *(ALEXA slaps her hand over DREW'S mouth.)*

QUEEN: A sur?

ALEXA: *(Glares at DREW.)* A sur-fing excursion.

QUEEN: A surfing excursion? But we live on the North Atlantic.

ALEXA: It may be cold, but we can still hang eight.

QUEEN: I thought the term was "hang ten?"

ALEXA: It's the North Atlantic. Frostbite, don't you know. But you are right. Except for Drew and me, everyone has probably forgotten your birthday.

QUEEN: Why do you say that?

ALEXA: Didn't they forget your birthday the last three years?

QUEEN: Yes, but three years ago, we had the Viking invasion. Nobody wanted burning birthday candles after that.

DREW: Yeah, too soon.

ALEXA: And the year after that?

QUEEN: We had the Black Death going around so we all practiced social distancing.

ALEXA: And the year after that?

QUEEN: There was a sale on toilet paper. Everyone was stocking up for the next Black Death.

DREW: Although I didn't see the connection between the Black Death and toilet paper. But, yeah, we didn't celebrate last year, either.

QUEEN: And this year, everyone is acting so strange.

ALEXA: Strange? Why, what do you mean?

QUEEN: Every time I get near any of the servants, they stop talking. Like they're talking behind my back.

DREW: I'm sure that's not true.

ALEXA: But wait. I may have a solution. If you'd like to know what they are saying, I could give you this *(Pulls out a flask.)* potion.

QUEEN: What is it?

ALEXA: It's –

DREW: *(In drug commercial voice.)* Invisitrix!

QUEEN: What does it do?

ALEXA: Well, it –

DREW: *(In drug commercial voice.)* If you want to live life to its fullest, Invisitrix is right for you. Invisitrix will make you invisible. Is your mother-in-law coming to the castle? Does your friend want your help moving their piano? Did you forget someone's name when delivering a eulogy? No worries! With Invisitrix, you will be invisible!

QUEEN: What's in it?

ALEXA: Well, it has –

DREW: *(In drug commercial voice.)* Invisitrix contains all natural ingredients, such as ground glass, ground crystal, ground jellyfish, and groundhogs.

QUEEN: Does it have any side-effects?

ALEXA: Well, it ... *(Looks at DREW, expecting interruption. Turns back to QUEEN.)* It –

DREW: *(Speaking very quickly.)* Side-effects may include nausea, vertigo, bleeding gums, soft teeth, and constipation. Some users have experienced an unwelcomed view of their entire digestive process. Do not take Invisitrix if you are pregnant, cross-eyed, or of Icelandic heritage. Ask your alchemist if Invisitrix is right for you.

QUEEN: Well, Alexa? Is Invisitrix right for me?

ALEXA: Of course, my Queen. It's just a temporary potion. You will be invisible for two hours, which will give you plenty of time to listen in on conversations, and to discover why everyone is acting so strangely. Consider it a birthday present.

QUEEN: *(Takes the bottle hesitantly.)* And you're sure it's only temporary.

ALEXA: Have you known me to make a bad potion?

DREW: Well, if you talk to Lady Gooseberry – *(ALEXA slaps DREW's arm.)* But, uh, that was actually her fault. She didn't take as directed.

ALEXA: Come with me. We'll mix it with some warm milk.

*(QUEEN, DREW, and ALEXA exit. **SHORT MUSIC INTERLUDE** while QUEEN returns to the Royal Table. MUSICIANS exit. JESTER enters.)*

(Lights up on the Royal Table.)

KING: I say, has anyone seen the Queen?

QUEEN: *(Face shows her delight. She waves her hand in front of the KING with no effect.)*

JESTER: I believe she just stepped out for a moment, Sire. Shall I go look for her?

KING: Please do. They are serving the main course.

JESTER: Yes, my king. *(Bows and exits.)*

FANFARE AND THE PRESENTATION OF THE BOAR'S HEAD

*(The Boar's Head is now brought in by SERVANTS and presented at the Royal Table. SINGERS sing **The Boar's Head Carol**. ROYAL COURT applauds. **The main course is distributed**. During this time, the QUEEN eats from her plate. Lights down on Royal Table. After guests have had about 10 minutes to eat, lights up on Royal Table and action begins. JESTER enters.)*

KING: *(Looks over at the QUEEN's plate.)* What treachery is this? Who has been eating the Queen's food? *(Looks to CAMPBELL seated next to the QUEEN.)* Lord Campbell, when I invited you to sit at this honored table, I assumed you would have plenty to eat. Are you stealing from the Queen's plate in her absence?

LORD CAMPBELL: No, milord! I would never do such a thing!

JESTER: Never? Um, doesn't your name, Campbell, mean "Crooked Mouth"?

LORD CAMPBELL: We don't need your fool assessment, Jester. I did not steal food.

KING: Well, I don't know who else could have. You were sitting next to the Queen. Guards! *(Enter two GUARDS.)* Remove Lord Crooked Mouth from my presence at once! *(ALEXA enters as they exit and sits in CAMPBELL's seat.)*

FIONA: *(Enters and tries to get JESTER'S attention in a comic way. He is oblivious.)* Ahem! *(JESTER finally notices and nonchalantly makes his way to FIONA, who is at one of the tables.)*

ALEXA: Well, that doesn't look suspicious. *(He has the QUEEN'S attention and looks toward JESTER and FIONA.)*

KING: What doesn't look suspicious?

ALEXA: The Jester and Fiona standing by one of the tables.

KING: You're right, Alexa. A serving wench *serving* a table is not suspicious at all.

JESTER: *(Stage whisper.)* What is it?

FIONA: *(Stage whisper.)* Lady Patissier *(Points at audience member.)* is in charge of the birthday cake.

JESTER: *(Stage whisper.)* So?

FIONA: *(Stage whisper.)* The Queen is from France, so I told her to write, "Happy Birthday" in French.

JESTER: *(Stage whisper.)* Nice!

FIONA: *(Stage whisper.)* Not nice! She literally wrote the whole quote "Happy Birthday in French" on the birthday cake.

KING: What are you whispering about over there?

FIONA: Oh, just dessert, your highness.

ALEXA: Did you hear that? They said someone is going to get their just desserts. I would sneak up and learn more, if I'm being clear.

KING: Why would you have to sneak up to learn about dessert, Alexa?

ALEXA: Um, to make sure I got a corner piece?

KING: Ridiculous. You know that as King, I – *(QUEEN gets up from her chair and crosses to the table in the audience.)* Wait. Did that chair just move back?

ALEXA: No! The, uh, whole table moved forward.

KING: Who pushed the table forward?

ALEXA: Um, my stomach did. *(KING looks at ALEXA.)* I ate a lot.

(The QUEEN stands next to FIONA and JESTER. QUEEN gets more agitated as FIONA and JESTER talk.)

JESTER: How could you mess up this part of the plan?

FIONA: I didn't mess it up! *(Points to audience member.)* Lady Patissier did!

JESTER: You should have gotten someone with more experience.

FIONA: She has a lot of experience. She worked for Marie Antoinette.

JESTER: Marie "Let them eat cake," Antoinette? And how did that go?

FIONA: Hey, she got the inscription right!

JESTER: We've got to get rid of her. She's doing a crummy job.

FIONA: It was her half-baked idea to do it herself. I wanted to hire a professional.

JESTER: Lady Patissier, you've got to redo the whole thing. We need the job done tonight!

(QUEEN gets so agitated that she picks up a butter knife. SEE PRODUCTION NOTES.)

JESTER: *(Shocked.)* And you dare to pull a knife on me? Well, that's just icing on the cake.

FIONA: Jester?

JESTER: Yes?

FIONA: She's not holding the knife.

(QUEEN flashes the knife in front of JESTER'S eyes.)

JESTER: Eeeek! *(JESTER clutches FIONA in fear. QUEEN puts the knife back on the table.)*

KING: What sorcery is this?

JESTER: A witch! A witch! Lady Patissier is a witch!

KING: How do you know this, Jester?

JESTER: She threatened me with a knife!

KING: So? Lots of people have threatened you with a knife.

JESTER: This was a floating knife.

KING: Oh. That's different. We need Judge Mental!

FIONA: Judge Mental? Is that really necessary?

KING: Someone –

JESTER: *(Pointing.)* Lady Patissier.

KING: Has been accused of witchcraft. We cannot just throw accusations of witchcraft around all willy-nilly. Judge Mental will be able to determine if she –

JESTER: *(Pointing.)* Lady Patissier –

KING: Judge Mental can scientifically determine if Lady Patissier is a witch. Everyone, we must do our chant to summon Judge Mental. *(KING teaches, then leads, the audience in the chant.)*

Oyez, oyez, here comes the judge

Oyez, oyez, here comes the judge

Oyez, oyez here comes the judge

(JUDGE MENTAL enters the main stage. JESTER encourages PATISSIER to stand.)

KING: Judge Mental, (*Points to PATISSIER.*) this lady –

JESTER / FIONA: (*Pointing.*) Lady Patisserie.

KING: Is being accused of witchcraft. I want you to determine her innocence or guilt.

MENTAL: (*Talks like Elmer Fudd.*) My king, there are vewy specific scientific methodologies to determine if one is a practitioner of the arts or not. We could throw her on the beach and if she becomes witty, that is evidence enough. (*Gets a distant look.*) Wait, what is that you say? That only applies to a sandwich?

FIONA: Who's he talking to?

JESTER: The voices in his head.

FIONA: He's got voices in his head?

JESTER: Which part of "Mental" do you not get?