

SAMPLE 2:

From the feature adaptation of a novel about the Queen of Hearts' backstory. CATH has lost the love of her life, and now must marry the king in order to have the power needed to get her revenge for Jest's death. MARY ANN is her long-time best friend, who unintentionally led Jest towards that death.

INT. HEARTS CASTLE - DRESSING ROOM - DAY

Cath, donned in a dressing gown, stares out the window. She lifts a hand to her shoulder, where Raven is perched, and pats his talons. Mary Ann opens the door, so Raven flutters up to sit atop the vanity mirror, where he stares at her as she enters.

MARY ANN

Um. I came to help you get ready.

CATH

There's no need.

MARY ANN

...You don't have to do this. The King will let you back out if you say you've changed your mind.

CATH

What then? I shall die a spinster, alone with my half-invisible cat?

MARY ANN

There's still the bakery. Our dream.

CATH

It was my dream, not yours. You said from the beginning it was all stuff and nonsense. But now? I am getting precisely what I want.

MARY ANN

A false, loveless marriage?

CATH

You've no idea what it is I desire.

MARY ANN

Very well... Your mother wishes to see you before the ceremony. And, um, ...Cath? You haven't asked me to be one of your maids once you move into the castle.

CATH
No. I haven't.

MARY ANN
(whispered)
I know you're hurt. But we made our
choices for each other.

CATH
You're wrong. I hear the White
Rabbit is looking for a housemaid.
Perhaps try there.

Mary Ann blinks for a moment, staring as if she'd just been slapped, then exits. Not a moment later, Cheshire appears in Cath's lap, as though he expects her to pet his back.

CHESHIRE
She's just worried about you.

CATH
Why? I'm going to be queen. I'm the
luckiest girl in Hearts.

CHESHIRE
And won't we be lucky to have you,
miserable wretch you've become.

CATH
Mind my words, cat. I'll banish you
from this kingdom if I must.

CHESHIRE
An empty threat from an empty girl.

Cath stands, fuming, forcing him to leap to the vanity.

CATH
I am not empty! I am full to the
brim. I am overflowing and I do not
think you wish for me to let it all
loose upon you!

CHESHIRE
There was a time when you were
overflowing with whimsy and
powdered sugar rather than rage. I
liked that Catherine better.

She swats at him, only to find he reappears above the door.

CATH
That Catherine was a fool. And she
won't be coming back.