

#8b - How Long Must This Go On?

Beast

[REDACTED] Master can be temperamental, but underneath all that matted fur, he's not such a bad fellow. Why don't you give him a chance?

BELLE

Why should I? Did he give my father a chance?

ROBE

Well, no. But once you get to know him...

BELLE

I don't want to get to know him! I don't want to have anything to do with him.

((The Beast is stung by her words. The lights fade in Belle's room))

BEAST

I'm just fooling myself. She'll never see me as anything...but a monster.

HOW LONG MUST THIS GO ON?
THIS CRUEL TICK OF FATE
I SIMPLY MADE THE CARELESS, WRONG DECISION
AND THEN THAT WHICH IS GONE,
AND LEFT ME IN THE STATE,
AN OBJECT OF PULSING AND DERISION
HATED
IS THERE NO ONE?
WHO CAN SHOW ME
HOW TO WIN THE WORLD'S FORGIVENESS?

(He looks to the Rose. One more petal falls. He groans.)

[REDACTED] with compliments...impress her with your wit...
Act like a gentleman. Act like a gentleman! Act like a gentleman!

(He exits. The lights come up on Lumiere's asleep at his post... snoring loudly. Babette approaches. She reaches out to Lumiere and we see that her hands are now feathers.)

BABETTE

Lumiere...oh Lumiere...!

LUMIERE

Ah, Babette. Come to me, my little fluff.

(He takes her hand and kisses it, but gets a mouth full of feathers.)

Agh - agh - ahchoo!

BABETTE

It's my hands, isn't it? You do not love me anymore!

(sobbing)

Oh, this horrible horrible spell...

(sneezes)

LUMIERE

Ah, cherie...you cut me to the wick! Do you think a little thing like that would change my feeling for you? Now you really...

(lascivious)

...tickle my fancy!

(She giggles and pushes him away.)

BABETTE

Oh no.

LUMIERE

Oh yes.

BABETTE

Oh no.

LUMIERE

Oh yes.

BABETTE

Oh no...no...no! I've been burnt by you before!

(She runs out with Lumiere right behind. After they've gone, the lights come up on Belle's room.)

BELLE

Madame, I am

DRO

ring for Mrs. P... while we wait.

E

QBE

But what about the Master... like this!

BE E

(smiles)

now.

