

**BEAST**

Uh...Belle...I uh...have something to show you.

*(He leads her upstage.)*

But first you have to close your eyes. It's a surprise.

*(Belle closes her eyes)*

~~BEAST~~  
~~Can I open them?~~  
~~*(A swag opens to reveal a beautiful Library with stacks and stacks of books.)*~~  
**BELLE**

Can I open them?

*(A swag opens to reveal a beautiful Library with stacks and stacks of books.)*

**BEAST**

All right...now!

*(Belle opens her eyes and gasps with wonder.)*

**BELLE**

I can't believe it! I've never seen so many books in my whole life!

**BEAST**

You...like it?

**BELLE**

It's wonderful!

**BEAST**

Then...it's yours!

*(Belle runs to look at the books. She dashes from stack to stack...giddy with delight.)*

~~**BELLE**~~

~~NEW AND BIT ALARMING~~

~~WHO'D HAVE EVER THOUGHT THAT THIS COULD BE~~

~~*(Beast enters the library)*~~

~~TRUE THAT HE'S NO PRINCE CHARMING~~

~~BUT THERE'S SOMETHING IN HIM THAT~~

~~THAT I SIMPLY DIDN'T SEE~~

~~*(Musical underscoring continues. Belle shows the Beast a book.)*~~

This is one of my favorites. King Arthur. Have you ever read it?

**BEAST**

No.

**BELLE**

Then you don't know what you're missing. I'd love to read it again. Wait! You can read it first.

**BEAST**

*(He pushes it back to her)*

That's all right.

**BELLE**

*(She pushes it back to him)*

No, really...you read it.

**BEAST**

No...you.

*(He pushes it back to her.)*

**BELLE**

No...you.

*(She pushes it back to him. Finally, in frustration, he confesses.)*

**BEAST**

No! I can't!

**BELLE**

You never learned to read?

**BEAST**

Only a little and long ago.

*(He goes to leave)*

**BELLE**

Well, it just so happens, this is the perfect book to read aloud. Come here, sit by me.

~~*(They sit down to read Luminere, Cogsworth, and Mrs. Potts enter. Mrs. Potts pushes her tea cart with Chip.)*~~

**LUMIERE**

WELL, WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT

**MRS. POTTS**

WELL, BLESS MY SOUL

**COGSWORTH**

WELL, WHO'D HAVE KNOWN

**MRS. POTTS**

WELL, WHO INDED