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A Fairy Tale

by

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A FAIRY TALE

by ZELDA WOLF JACOBS

CAST

Storyteller (S.T.) Narrates the Fairy Tale

Jewish Princesses: Sora, Rifka, Rochel, Leah, Amy, Sue, and Melisande. Since there is very little dialogue and no one is ever mentioned by name, the cast can be flexible in size.

King's Public Relations People (P.R.P.): These can be several of the princesses with different tops on when they sing P.R.P.'s songs.

MUSIC

"Typical English" —Lyrics & Music by Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley

"Comedy Tonight" Lyrics & Music by Stephen Sondheim

"My Favorite Things" Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II, Music by Richard Rogers

"Before The Parade Passes By" Lyrics and Music by Jerry Herman

"I Love A Parade" Lyrics by Ted Koehler, Music by Harold Arlen

"Forty-Second Street" Lyrics by Al Dubin Music by Harry Warren

"Heart" Lyrics & Music by Richard Adler & Jerry Ross

"What Kind Of Fool Am I?" Lyrics & Music by Leslie Bricusse & Anthony Newley

"You're A Grand Old Flag" Lyrics & Music by George M. Cohan

A FAIRY TALE

STORYTELLER: One upon a time, in a Kingdom faraway in Wyoming, there lived a Jewish King called Chaim the Chochom and his wife, Queen Chaya the Kreplach Maker. They were wise and good. They were married many years but hadn't been blessed with children. They were very sad. Every day at *Shaharit* they prayed for a child.

Finally, after a very long time, their prayers were answered and they were blessed with a handsome son. They named him Prince Judah the Charming. Throughout the Kingdom everyone extolled the virtues of their prince. He was advanced for his age.

P.R.P.: [Sing to tune of "Typical English"]

He's a typic'lly Jewish *boychik* born of typic'lly Jewish folks,
with a typic'lly Jewish background fam'ly tree,
He was toilet trained at six months in the typical Jewish way
He was typic'lly far advanced all did agree.
He read typic'lly perfect English at a typic'lly early age,
and was typic'lly way ahead in math, you see,
with computers he was perfect in a typic'lly Jewish way,
and a perfectly mannered child who would achieve,
Father was a typic'lly, perfect parent,
Mother gave her typic'lly sound advice,
everyone said he's typic'lly very clever,
and he's typic'lly kind to elders, always nice,
He's a typic'lly Jewish *boychik* born of typic'lly Jewish folks,
and he's typic'lly far advanced beyond his place,
and if anyone asks us how we like this Jewish American Prince,
there has never been such a *shayna* face.

S.T.: Prince Judah the Charming was an exceptional prince and everyone in the kingdom loved him. The all agreed that Wyoming was no place to raise a Jewish American Prince.

P.R.P. #1: The scenery is wonderful.

P.R.P. #2: But we're far from the kosher butcher.

P.R.P. #3: It's great for retailing, no competition!

P.R.P. #1: But it's hard to find a *mohel*.

P.R.P. #2: The air is so clear.

P.R.P. #3: But a *minyans*' almost impossible.

All: It's no place to raise Jewish kids! [All sing to tune of "Comedy Tonight"]

Logging and farming.
Cowboys are charming.
Almost for everyone, but not for Jewish kids.
Scenery's enticing.
Mountains surprising.
Almost for everyone, but not for Jewish kids.
Great jobs for kings.
Business is good.
But for a *simcha*,

No kosher food.
Great complications,
filled with frustrations,
always a challenge to the wit,
it's a situation not for Jewish kids.

S.T.: The King decided, business notwithstanding, Prince Judah the Charming would soon be of an age to date. He would soon need a more Jewish environment where he would meet some nice Jewish Princesses. King Chaim the Chochom instructed the Castle Public Relations People to announce a contest to find the one place in the world which would be the best place to raise a Jewish prince. The ad announcing the contest was placed in all the Jewish newspapers, with emphasis on cities which had Women's League for Conservative Judaism Sisterhoods because everyone knows Sisterhood members know everything. The Grand Prize would be an all-expense paid trip to the [insert name of hotel of next Convention] for the next Women's League Convention, including registration, plus a generous contribution to the treasury of the winner's Sisterhood.

P.R.P.: [Sing to tune of "My Favorite Things"]

Beautiful scen'ry that's close to a city,
Nearby a college where people are witty,
Close to a butcher, a *mikveh*, golf links,
These are a few of prerequisite things.
Well stocked libraries and *minyans* twice daily,
Access to Jewish girls, for dating mainly,
Neighbors for carpools and choirs that sing,
These are a few of prerequisite things.

Contest closes on Rosh Hashanah,
Readers far and near.
The matter is urgent.
the time is fast fleeting.
The time for the move is here!

S.T.: Now there lived in a distant city, some Jewish princesses, Sora, Rifka, Rochel, Leah, Amy, Sue and Melisande. They were very involved members of their Sisterhood. As is the way with Sisterhood women, they are always looking for a challenge. They read about King Chaim's contest in their local Jewish newspaper.

Sora: Let's enter the contest.

Rifka: What an adventure!

Rochel: I'm ready for a new challenge.

Leah: I'm tired of meetings, fund raising, luncheons, teas, and shopping!

Amy: Especially the shopping. It really wears you out!

Sue: If we're going to do a creditable job, we'll have to travel.

Melisande: We'll scout out areas all over the country, maybe even out of the country.

Sora: Then we'll be able to recommend the perfect spot to raise a Jewish prince.

Rochel: We'll find the perfect place, win the prize, and maybe even make a *shidach* with one of our daughters.

Leah: Our Sisterhood will just have to do without us for a few weeks while we travel.

Rifka: Since Jewish princesses deal with Jewish princes on a daily basis, we know exactly what they need.

Jewish Princesses: [Sing to tune of "Typical English"]

I'm a typical princess born of typical Jewish folks,
With a typic'lly Jewish background family tree.
I achieved my education in a typic'lly Jewish way,
First to graduate with an English Ph.D.
I play typic'lly perfect tennis at a typic'lly Jewish Club,
With a typic'lly Jewish feeling for fairplay.
I eat typic'lly local salads with my typic'lly choc'late cake,
at the end of ev'ry typical golfing day.
We are always typic'lly Jewish mothers.
Home is a typic'lly Jewish looking place.
Sisterhood papers typic'lly all around it
With Sisterhood written over every space.
We do typic'lly Jewish *Mitzvot* in a typic'lly Jewish way
Now the typic'lly Jewish King needs our advice,
And if anyone asks us how we like this typic'lly Jewish life,
We all agreed it's typic'lly Jewish nice.

S.T. The Princesses said a teary farewell to their families and their Sisterhood. Their various vice-chairmen vowed to handle Torah Fund, Membership, Ways and Means, Adult Education, Judaica Shop, Social Action, and the rest until they returned. The Princesses set out to find the best place to raise a Jewish Prince. Their first stop was New York City and the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

Jewish Princesses: [Sing to tune of "I Love a Parade"]

We love JTS,
Rabbonim, are neat,
male, female compete,
ordained everyone,
We love JTS, The Residence Halls, the library calls,
there's work and there's fun.
Rabbinical school, the cantors are trained,
The Graduate school wins world wide acclaim,
Jewish Mus-E-Um, in any season
Gives us a reason to say that we're pleasing people
We love JTS, the Residence Halls, the order is tall,
From east to west, yes, we love JTS.

Melisande: New York would be a wonderful place to raise a Jewish Prince.

Amy: It has the Jewish Theological Seminary

Sue: And the Jewish Museum....

Sora: An outstanding new library.....

Rochel: But the weather is terrible....

Rifka: Hot in the summer

Leah: Cold in the winter.....

Melisande: We have to look further.

S.T.: The Princesses traveled from Maine to Florida, Alaska to Peru, searching, searching, but they couldn't find the ideal place for a Jewish Prince. They decided to try Israel.

J.P.: [All to tune of "Forty-Second Street"]

You're complete, just put those feet
On the Avenue that's calling to you, Ben Yehuda Street.
It's so neat, it can't be beat,
It's the place we love, can't get too much of Ben Yehuda Street.
Student Center, Neve Schechter, studying's complete.
Jewish ladies, eight to eighty, planting trees in heat,
In Israel, your problems pale.
In Jerusalem you'll walk off your feet, Ben Yehuda Street.

Melisande: I loved visiting our special relationship Women's Group in Safed.

Amy: It was great visiting Neve Schechter in Jerusalem.

Sora: Israel's a wonderful place....

Rifka: Studying in the Seminary's Midreshet Yerushalyim. Program would be a wonderful opportunity for Prince Judah....

Rochel: But it gets very hot in the summer....

Leah: It loaded with tourists....

Amy: It's so far to go to the [insert name of hotel of next Convention] for the Women's League Conventions....

Sue: The Queen would never go for that.

Melisande: We'll have to look elsewhere.

S.T.: The Princesses had a real dilemma. The contest deadline was near. With Rosh Hashanah approaching, they had to get home to cook. They were running out of time. They were discouraged. But they remembered their ancestors who never lost faith even in the worst of times.

J.P.: [All to tune of "Heart"]

You've gotta have heart.
What you really need is heart.
When Goliath said he'd do David in,
Small triumphed from the start.
You've gotta have heart,
What you really need is heart,
Noah gathered animals two by two,
Led them into his Ark.
When you're down and feeling rotten,
Get your chin up off the floor.
Just remember times forgotten
And you'll find a little more.
There's nothing to it but to do it,
You've gotta have heart,
Miles and miles and miles of heart.

Oh, it's fine to be a Moses, of course,
And show the whole world the way to start.
What it takes is some heart.

S.T.: So the Princesses took a deep breath and vowed to continue with their quest to find the ideal place to relocate the Kingdom. Their travels took them back to the United States.

Sora: We've been north....

Rifka: We've been south....

Rochel: We've been to New York...

Leah: And to Israel....

Amy: We've never been to California

Sue: Is there Jewish life west of the Hudson?

Rochel: Not according to those from New York!

Melisande: We should check it out.

S.T.: And so the Jewish princesses traveled to California. They saw movie stars. They saw cacti as large as a house. They saw mountains and they saw the ocean. They saw a Jewish community almost as large as New York's!!! But most of all they saw the University of Judaism at Los Angeles, high in the Santa Monica mountains. They had heard of it through their Sisterhood's Torah Fund Campaign, but it took seeing it in person to make it a reality. They saw the Fingerhut School of Education which prepares Jewish Education Professionals, they saw the Graduate School of Judaica, the Lieber School of Graduate Studies and the Lee College. They were awed by the Ostrow Library, a major resource for Research in Judaica, the Zimmer Conference Center which also houses Camp Ramah, the Platt Art Gallery, and the Gindi Auditorium—one of the finest Concert Halls in the west and home of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Chamber Music Society. And, most exciting of all, they saw the new Residence Halls, 96 rooms, all with private baths, and several first floor suites designed for students with disabilities. There were apartments for married and graduate students. Everyone there was very happy!

The princesses had found the ideal place for the new Kingdom. Prince Judah the Charming could go to Camp Ramah, enroll in the University of Judaism High School Honors Program (for he was very advanced for his age), attend the University of Judaism from Undergraduate School through Graduate School, live in a beautiful dormitory surrounded by other Jewish students, eat every meal there without having to worry about *kashrut*, and be secure in the knowledge that Women's League for Conservative Judaism, through its Torah Fund Campaign plus giving project would be forever watching over the school...and him! And maybe he'd go to the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies. Who could ask for anything more for a Jewish prince?

J.P: [All sing to tune of "What Kind of Fool Am I?"]

What kind of place is this, the U. of J., L.A.?

Who'd think there could be a Jewish life so far out of way?

We thought that Indians were in the west,

Who could have guessed that Jews out west were like the rest?

A University to suit our peoples' needs,

Complete Diversity, it's in the front to take the lead,

A special place is this, unique in every way,

I think we've found Utopia this very day.

S.T.: The princesses got their entry in well before Rosh Hashanah, actually by *Selihat*. Their glowing report of California and the University of Judaism convinced King Chaim the Chochom that this would, indeed be the best place for Prince Judah the Charming to spend his formative years. The campus had everything a Jewish Prince (or Princess) could ever want. So the King relocated Kingdom in the northwest corner of the campus. If you ever visit the University of Judaism, be sure to stop and say 'Hello'. Mention that you are a Women's Leaguer and the King will give you a personally conducted tour of his Kingdom. The King awarded the Princesses the prize as promised, all-expense paid trips to the Women's League for Conservative Judaism Biennial Convention at the [insert name of hotel], including registration, plus a generous contribution to their Sisterhood's treasury. They promptly used the prize money for their Torah Fund-Residence Halls campaign plus giving project so it would continue to work for the University of Judaism's Residence Halls.

Prince Judah the Charming fulfilled the promise of his youth. He went to Camp Ramah, became fluent in Hebrew, attended Undergraduate School and Graduate School at the University of Judaism, and went on to become a perfect Rabbi. He married a Jewish Princess.

And they lived happily ever after.

J.P.: [All sing to tune of "You're A Grand Old Flag"]

There's a feeling comes a-stealing and it sets our brains a-reeling
When we're working to raise money for a Torah Fund event,
Now your effort's worth the raving, we see you and flags start waving,
It's your gen'rous contributions that we know are heaven sent,
Way out there in the land, U.S.A.,
You're the ones we're thanking, Torah Fund's banking,
Hurrah, hurrah, for everyone who gives, our future will live,
No ands, buts, or ifs,
We're grateful, true, hats off to you, we think you're a super group.
You're a super group, you're a gen-er-ous group,
And forever 'bout you folks we'll rave,
You're the leaders of the crowd we love,
We lift up our banners and wave,
You've a heart that's true, there is no one like you
And there's never a boast or whoop,
And should old acquaintance be forgot,
We give thanks to a super group.