

# **PRINCE**

**BY MCKENZIE “KENZI” BOYD**

# PRINCE

## Cast (in order of appearance)

Tiana: Kind, poetic, a mature introvert with a heart of gold

Freddie: Seemingly extroverted but is very shy, soft spoken, though also goofy and loving

Narrator: Sassy, hopeless, romantic, and funny (can never interact with other characters or be heard by said characters) not really used to being serious and is more comedic than anything.

Dennis, sarcastic, slightly rigid, not very approachable; can be loving (if they want) the epitome of tough love

Mr. Jackson: Drama teacher, soft hearted, stern, but a truly creative soul.

(Eliana and Emmet a fictional characters within the production)

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## SCENE I

*(Lights up. Tiana and Freddie are on the stage. They are on the ground and Tiana is holding Freddie in their arms and stroking their face. The narrator is standing in the corner with a spotlight on them. The school theatre setting.)*

Tiana:

No! Emmet, no, you can't go! You-you have to stay with me.

Freddie:

Eliana... promise me something.

Tiana:

Yes, my love? *(swiftly)* Just wait a few more minutes, help will be here soon, I promise-

Freddie:

Ellie, *(cups her face)* Promise me that you'll carry on-

Tiana:

*(Leans down over them)* No, no, no, everything is going to be okay. You're going to be okay. *(voice breaks)* Please don't go.

Narrator:

*(Spotlight, other characters freeze. Snoring then wakes up abruptly)* I'm up, I'm up! What'd I miss?! *(looks out to the audience and no one responds)* Oh you all are no help... *(looks inwardly at Tiana and Freddie)* oh, okay I got it from here...

*(Narrator becomes giddy and excited)* Aww, so beautiful! The big kiss is coming up!

Freddie:

*(Unfreeze. They reach up to Tiana's face)* Promise me, Eliana.

Tiana:

*(sighs and nods head)* I promise.

Narrator:

Get ready for it!

*(Tiana and Freddie lean in to kiss each other. Dennis yells from the side of the stage.)*

Dennis:

Cut!

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Narrator:  
Seriously, (*annoyed*) why?.

Dennis:  
(*preppy and snooty*) Can we try that line again but like... *sadder*.

Tiana:  
Um... okay. Should I have... like a voice crack so it sounds like I'm crying?

Dennis:  
(*sarcastic*) Sure, why not! Go ahead. Do whatever you want! (*steps down right*) And... action!

Tiana:  
(*lights down again. Light on Freddie and Tiana*) (*voice wavers*) ...I promise.

Narrator:  
Take two!

(*Tiana and Freddie lean in to kiss. Dennis yells from the side of the stage*)

Dennis:  
Cut!

Narrator:  
What now?! (*frustrated*)

Dennis:  
Tiana, I'm not feeling the *passion*. Freddie is your forbidden lover, not the cashier at Target. (*noticeably cringes*) He's dying and you need to *feel* that. Don't act like you can do whatever you want.

Freddie:  
But you just said--

Dennis:  
(*snarkily looks down at Freddie and scoffs*) Freddie, aren't you dead already? It's called method acting, dear, google it. You have to be the character at *all* times.

Narrator:  
But- (*looks confused*)

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Tiana:

*(beat)* Okay. I'll try again. *(pulls herself back into character. Spotlight on Tiana and Freddie.)* I promise *(begins to fake cry. Tiana and Freddie lean in to kiss.)*

Narrator:  
Ok, finally!

*(right before their lips touch Dennis yells from the wings)*

Dennis:  
Cut!

Narrator:  
What the *hell* is wrong now?!

Dennis:  
Tiana, I need you to sound like Gordon Ramsey just called you an idiot *sandwich!* Freddie, I've seen better acting for this role with the dummy we use in biology class! And don't even get me started on you *Michael*, you are a tree, how did you mess up a-

Mr. Jackson:  
Okay! *(bothered)* Dennis, what do you say we call it a wrap for the day, okay? Okay. *(he takes a deep breath)* Everyone, I know we are all a little stressed about our first student-directed play from yours truly *(sarcastic)* Dennis, but trust me if we can all just come back to this tomorrow-

Dennis:  
*(slow)* Are you *kidding* me? Would you rather me let my artistic vision: *Twilight* meets *The Breakfast Club* mixed with hints of *The Voice* go to waste because of these *amateurs?* We should be perfecting this masterpiece 10 days a week!

All:  
*(slowly look at Dennis in confusion and murmur)* ...huh/what?

Freddie:  
But there's only-

Mr. Jackson:  
*(whispers to Freddie)* Shhh, trust me you do *not* want to have this conversation.

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Narrator:

*(to the audience quickly while characters converse quietly)* For the record, you all, there are only 7 days a week.

Dennis:

But, Mr. Jackson- *(continue talking quietly)*

Narrator:

Oh shut up you- *(balls fists then looks down and sighs)*... Man, the little turd can't even hear me-

Mr. Jackson:

*(yells)* Alright! It's a wrap for today! Go home- we will come back tomorrow!

Dennis:

4pm *sharp*

Narrator:

*(angrily)* Why I oughta-

Tiana:

*(diversion)* Ok, goodbye everyone! Don't forget: drama club meeting at my place on Friday.

Dennis:

*After rehearsal!*

*(everyone murmurs angrily and disperse and the lights lower center stage. Spotlight on narrator.)*

Narrator:

*(opens mouth as if to say something, then closes.)* *(tiredly)* Jeez Louise, I don't get paid enough for this.

*(Blackout)*

## SCENE 2

*(Lights up. Tiana's house. Living room, basement area, with seating for everyone, couch, chair, bean bags. Narrator in the DSL, Tiana is bringing in snacks and bevs, Mr. Jackson is seated in a chair, Michael is standing US in the same spot like a tree.)*

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Tiana:

Michael, can I get you something to drink?

*(Michael is still, only moving his eyes.)*

Mr. Jackson:

Michael? *(beat)* Do you want a seat? Y-you can put your hands down.

Michael:

*(speaks through his teeth in a stealthy manner)* Well, Dennis told me to Google 'Method Acting',

*(scrambles as Dennis enters. Tiana sits down on the edge of the couch as Michael talks.)* trust me,

*(clenched teeth)* It's better this way.

*(Dennis enters and sees Michael.)*

Dennis:

Ah, darling Michael! I see someone took notes well. *(grins. awkward "bro punch" on Michael's shoulder then shudders)*

*(Tiana and Mr. Jackson exchange looks of confusion and frustration. Dennis lounges on the couch taking up all the space, carefully nudging Tiana off the couch.)*

Mr. Jackson:

Ok, shall we start this meeting?

Dennis:

*(shaking his finger from side to side)* Not yet, *(turns towards Tiana)* Tiaaannnnnaaa, princess, where's your little loverboy?

Narrator:

*(painful)* Gross.

*(Lights down on everyone but Tiana and Narrator. Cast freezes. Spot up on Tiana.)*

Tiana:

Princess. *(beat. Speaks slowly to enunciate)* Princess. Loverboy: a prince. But what if it wasn't a prince huh? Are there fairytales for those that feel the way I do? An unconditional love between ... two princesses?

Narrator:

*(nods and faces the audience)*

Well... that took an unexpected turn.

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Tiana:

Something so strange to those who have never felt the way I do, yet somewhat grimaces and shudders at the thought of love for anyone and everyone? A chance to love who they love without judgement. I suppose the crown and the dress and the prince husband to save me and be mine forever was never my fairytale.

Narrator:

Well that's quite the character progression.

*(lights back up as Tiana walks back over to the couch before sitting on the floor)*

Tiana:

*(interacting with other characters now)* I can call him.

*(light down and fade into the porch. All characters leave as Freddie appears on Tiana's porch steps)*

Freddie:

*(speaking to himself)*

Ok, Freddie, you can do this.

Narrator:

*(holding a bucket of popcorn as they listen eagerly)*

Ooh, this is going to be good.

Freddie:

Just explain to them, that you are gay...*(shocked)* wow I can't believe I really just said that!

Narrator:

*(giggles while eating the popcorn)* Man, this is better than BET.

Freddie:

Tiana will understand... I mean she's sweet and kind and beautiful...*(pronounced)* but I like Dennis!

Narrator:

*(quick. Snaps out)* Sorry, what?

Freddie:

*(still talking to himself)* Yeah, he's bossy and *mildly* unapproachable and *kinda* snooty-



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Narrator:

He can't be serious-

Freddie:

But he's also passionate, driven, and unapologetically *himself*.

Narrator:

Not the words I would've chosen but continue.

Freddie:

Everything is going to be okay, I know she will understand. *(Knocks on the door.)*

Tiana:

*(opens the door and steps outside)*

Hey, what's up?

Freddie:

*(pulls Tiana farther away from the house)*

Tiana, there's something I need to tell you.

Tiana:

*(confused)*

Yeah, what's going on? Are you okay?

Freddie:

Tiana, I'm-

Dennis:

*(appears at the doorway ushering them back inside)*

C'mon lovebirds, you can make out after the meeting. I will *not* be late for another spin class.

Narrator:

He's-

Freddie:

*(Tiana freezes till the line ends. Freddie is starry-eyed as he watches Dennis go back inside)*

Perfect.

Narrator:

Nope, that's not the word either.

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*(Blackout)*

## SCENE 3

*(Dennis calls an impromptu meeting in the theatre with only Tiana and Freddie.)*

Freddie:

What's going on?

Tiana:

Yeah, where's Mr. Jackson... and Michael?

Dennis:

*Michael* said he would only like to be referred to as tree number 3 per my request. Ah, *that* kid is going to be big!

*(Tiana and Freddie laugh uncomfortably)*

Tiana:

Why is he tree number 3? There's only 1 one tree in the entire show.

Dennis:

You see, darling, the cardboard was better at staying still than him so as to fuel his drive and motivation to become an inanimate object to his best abilities and more. So, it was only fair that the cardboard would be promoted till he can earn the privilege of tree number 1.

Freddie:

Wow, Dennis, that's - Wait, why are WE here?

Dennis:

So, here's the thing: I'm not feeling the *can you feel the love tonight (makes heart with hands)* this is your supposed *(French accent)* Belle, evangeline. Right now however... you view her as Cathy from the gas station. You see how vastly different they are?

Narrator:

Who is Cathy? (checking his script) Did I skip a page?

Tiana:

Are we coming along a point anytime soon?

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Dennis:

I was getting to that, *Cathy*.

Narrator:

Wow, yeah now this kid...

Dennis:

Here's the deal my soon to be Romeo and Juliet: *we* will not leave this theatre until you show me some *love* that brings the audience to tears, makes your haters jealous, and gets me a Daytime Emmy.

Freddie/Narrator:

What is that?

Tiana:

For a soap opera? Daytime Emmys are for- This is a *school* play.

Dennis:

No Cathy... I mean Tiana, this is my moment of stardom. Just because you and Fredrick are friendzoning yourselves doesn't mean I will let you ruin my chance of fame! This Broadway *Baby needs his Broadway!* (*star hands. Holds for a beat. Tiana and Freddie are confused.*)

Freddie:

(*whispers*) Is he okay?

Tiana:

I don't know, I don't know if he's still blinking.

Narrator:

Yeah, not going to lie, I think this is my favorite version of him.

Dennis:

(*breaks pose*)

And *that* is what it means to hold for a beat, Freddie. Take notes... Now, where were we? Oh yes, (*dims lights*) time to fall in love.

Narrator:

Fall in love? It's called *acting*... the whole point... is to *act*.

Freddie:

(*obviously uncomfortable*) Does Mr. Jackson know we're here?

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Tiana:

*(uncomfortable as well)* Yeah, he said no one was on call today.

Dennis:

He will be made aware when I see some passion or in Spanish: *Pasión!*

Narrator:

There was no difference.

Dennis:

*(plays can you feel the love tonight from lion king)* Now, pucker up!

Freddie:

Please don't make us do this, Dennis.

Dennis:

*(turns up volume)* huh? Can't hear you over the love in the atmosphere.

*(Tiana and Freddie look awkwardly at one another for a beat as they lean in slowly. Without moving closer and simply leaning, this has to be as uncomfortable as possible.)*

*(Mr. Jackson strolls in, clipboard in hand humming before me notices the situation.)*

Narrator:

Finally! God, that made me cringe in places I didn't know could cringe.

Mr. Jackson:

Tiana? Freddie? D-Dennis? What is going on here?

Dennis:

*(tosses script)*

How *dare* you? We were finally getting the love my masterpiece so heavily needs, *Randall*.

Narrator:

Oop, did he just- not the first name. Where's my popcorn? *(bends down looking for popcorn)*

Mr. Jackson:

Hey, first of all, it's *Mr. Jackson* to you, Dennis. Second of all, why are you all here? I sent an email with no rehearsal today. No ones on call till Monday. Third of all, Dennis! Can't you see how strange this is. It's like watching someone deny a wedding proposal! Their characters are more than just lovers you know.

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Dennis:

Indeed they are. They are adventurers, long lost friends, and most importantly: *soulmates*. I mean, do these two people look like soulmates? *No*, they look like Cathy at the gas station and the guy who swears he'll pay them back for the bag of chips he ate!

Narrator:

Ok well I still don't know who Cathy is.

Tiana:

Mr. Jackson, can we *please* go home?

Freddie:

Yeah, Dennis, this is *really* weird.

Mr. Jackson:

Yes, of course. Sorry to bother you guys. See you all on Monday.

Dennis:

But... *fine*, (*pulls Tiana and Freddie aside*) you two better make a connection by next rehearsal before I remind you how replaceable you are. (*sarcastically picks up his phone*) Hello, tree number 3? How would you like to play a human this time?

Freddie/Tiana:

No!

Freddie:

We'll get it together. Tiana, can I come over tonight to practice?

Tiana:

Yeah... sounds great. See you tonight.

Dennis:

That's more like it... see you lovers on *Monday*. (*pantomimes looking at a watch and making another heart with his hands*). And *don't* be late for rehearsal.

Tiana/Freddie:

(*irritated*) We know.

Mr. Jackson:

Not so fast, Dennis. We need to talk about our power dynamic.

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Dennis:

I was thinking the same! You should really give me more creative freedom, Randall.

Mr. Jackson:

Watch it.

Dennis:

Mr. Jackson. *(conversation fades)*

Narrator:

Yeah, I still don't see what Freddie sees in him.

*(Blackout)*

### SCENE 4

*(Lights up to Tiana's basement. Freddie greets Tiana's parents as they sit down on the couch next to one another. Leave enough space for a person in between.)*

Freddie:

*(addressing Tiana's mom (offstage))*

Thank you ma'am!

*(Freddie and Tiana look at one another and laugh awkwardly followed by a beat and a half. Narrator walks on stage with a bag of popcorn and a drink as they giggle to themselves. Tiana and Freddie pantomime their own conversation)*

Narrator:

Who ever thought I'd be so hooked on the exact *opposite* of a love story. This is either going to play out two ways: either they make out and, *GOD*, we know how awkward that would be, orrr  
*(elongated)-*

*(scene resumes)*

Freddie:

*(frantic and rushed)*

Tiana, I'm gay.

Narrator:

Yeah, yeah, that would've been the or.

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Freddie:

I know this is a surprise, and really it's not you. I mean you're absolutely amazing (*stutter*), and, god, no I mean, but-

Narrator:

And thus the trainwreck commences (*lounges back, crossing one leg over the other tossing up popcorn and eating it*) what can I say, this is one hell of a plot twist)

Tiana:

Freddie! Can you please calm down for a second?

Freddie:

I'm so sorry T, I messed everything up.

Tiana:

Freddie... (*takes in a deep breath*) same as you finding your prince...

Narrator:

Ooooooh, double twist. And the plot thickens.

Tiana:

I'm looking for my princess.

(*the two look at one another in silent agreement and start laughing*)

Narrator:

I can't wait for that vein to finally pop in Dennis' face. Now *that* will definitely be a, what did he call it?; *Twilight* meets *The Breakfast Club* mixed with hints of *The Voice*. Gotta love Kristen Stewart am I right?

### SCENE 5 (a)

(*school theatre. Tiana and Freddie converse as they walk in (DSL) seeing Michael still stuck in the same tree position as before only moving his eyes back and forth to see. They look and silently decide not to address michael. Dennis and Mr. Jackson walk in (DSR).*)

Dennis:

Ah monsieur, Morticia has finally found her Gomez. I knew all you two needed was some time to really build up this relationship. (*looks over to see Michael and smiles*) absolute prodigy. Bless his heart.

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Mr. Jackson:

*(Gathers students around)*

Okay, everyone, as most of you know, today is our first full dress run. Now, our tech department and costume department have spent a *lot of time* working on this *interesting* play.

Dennis:

I'd actually prefer majestic, eccentric, never seen before, the list goes on.

Mr. Jackson:

Um..- *(holds out finger as he starts to interject then realizes it's not worth it)* you know what? Sure, we can go with that. Alright, everyone get dressed and we run in 15.

Tiana/Freddie:

Thank you 15.

### SCENE 5 (b)

*(Fade. Characters change. On stage, characters can be seen acting out their scenes quickly and silently. No one should be heard at this time. This concludes after 1 minutes and lights up to the wings of the theatre. Freddie can be seen in costume waiting for Tiana who appears soon after still in her same clothes.)*

Freddie:

*(sees Tiana and whispers)*

Tiana, why aren't you dressed for the scene? We go on in-

Tiana:

I know, I know, just trust me on this one. Now go!

*(Freddie goes onstage beginning his scene without tiana. He was seen flustered trying to pantomime the blocking as Dennis looks in from the wings.)*

Dennis:

Tiana! Why are you not out there?! This is *the* scene. I thought we talked about this!

Tiana:

*(lying)* I know... my stomach...*(figures out her lie and grips her stomach)* is hurting really bad.

Dennis:

He can't do this scene by himself! Who will-



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Tiana:  
What about you?

Dennis:  
*(caught a bit off guard. Then breathes and looks out to the stage)* The coach is always the most important player. *(Runs on stage joining Freddie dramatic as possible)*

Dennis:  
No! Emmet, no, you can't go! You-you have to stay with me.

Freddie:  
*(a bit confused but also nervous. This is his crush am I right?)*  
Eliana... promise me something.

Dennis:  
Yes, my love? *(swiftly)* Just wait a few more minutes, help will be here soon, I promise-

Freddie:  
Ellie, *(cups his face)* Promise me that you'll carry on-

Dennis:  
*(Leans down over him repositioning Freddie's hand 'correctly')* No, no, no, everything is going to be okay. You're going to be okay. *(voice breaks)* Please don't go.

Freddie:  
*(They reach up to his face)* Promise me, Eliana.

Dennis:  
*(sighs and nods head)* I promise.

*(Dennis and Freddie kiss)*

*(applause from Mr, Jackson and Tiana)*

Mr. Jackson:  
That was great! Towards the end we had a few hiccups and a change of role, but it looks solid.

Tiana:  
You two did great!

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Dennis:

Well I know I did great. I mean you can't tell me that that scene would have been better without me. *(everyone looks at him as he sighs)* And you, Freddie, showed great craftsmanship and discipline. You surprised me tonight... but I guess Tiana is lucky to have you as her-

*(Freddie leans in and kisses Dennis' cheek)*

Freddie/Dennis:

*Prince.*

Dennis:

*(blushes)* hm, I'm not used to being surprised... but a very good surprise.

Tiana:

Sorry to cut this short but what about Michael. Is he even awake?

*(Dennis walks over, gently shaking Michaels arm as his eyes open)*

Dennis:

What a talent you are, Michael, I mean, tree number 1.

Michael:

*(puts his arms down)*

That's... the nicest thing you've ever said to me.

Dennis:

Don't get used to it.

*(everyone looks at him as he gives in)*

Go eat and rest, Michael, you are a wonderful tree, but an even better human being. God, it's so strange not speaking in constructive criticism and quotes from pinterest.

All:

*Constructive?*

Narrator:

*(Runs in while looking around, dropping their popcorn.)*

What'd I miss?

*(Blackout)*