

BEAST

(confused)

It's pink.

LUMIERE

A compliment!

BEAST

Oh.

(to BELLE)

What a... nice dress.

BELLE

Thank you!

(The BEAST looks at LUMIERE and COGSWORTH: "How'd I do?" They nod and make "go on" motions.)

BEAST

Belle... I have something to show you.

(leads BELLE upstage)

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

(BELLE closes her eyes. The BEAST heads off.)

LUMIERE

Get the girl!

(The BEAST returns and gently leads BELLE through the castle.)

BELLE

Can I open them?

(A beautiful library with stacks and stacks of books appears.)

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 and dashes from stack to stack.)

BELLE

NEW AND A BIT ALARMING

WHO'D HAVE EVER THOUGHT THAT THIS COULD BE?

(BELLE looks back at the BEAST.)

TRUE THAT HE'S NO PRINCE CHARMING

BUT THERE'S SOMETHING IN HIM THAT

THAT I SIMPLY DIDN'T SEE

(BELLE shows a book to the BEAST.)

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.

(BELLE offers the book to the BEAST, but he pushes it back.)

BEAST

That's all right.

BELLE

No, really... you read it.

BEAST

No... you.

BELLE

No... you.

BEAST

(finally, in frustration, confesses)

No! I can't.

BELLE

You never learned to read?

BEAST

Only a little, and long ago.

(The BEAST goes to leave.)

BELLE

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

(The BEAST and BELLE sit down to read. LUMIERE, COGSWORTH, and MRS. POTTS enter. MRS. POTTS pushes her teacart with CHIP.)

LUMIERE

WELL, WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT

MRS. POTTS

WELL, BLESS MY SOUL

COGSWORTH

WELL, WHO'D HAVE KNOWN

MRS. POTTS

WELL, WHO INDEED

LUMIERE

AND WHO'D HAVE GUESSED THEY'D COME
TOGETHER ON THEIR OWN?

MRS. POTTS

IT'S SO PECULIAR

MRS. POTTS, LUMIERE, COGSWORTH

WAIT AND SEE, A FEW DAYS MORE
THERE MAY BE SOMETHING THERE THAT
WASN'T THERE BEFORE

COGSWORTH

PERHAPS THERE'S SOMETHING THERE THAT
WASN'T THERE BEFORE

CHIP

What?

MRS. POTTS

THERE MAY BE SOMETHING THERE THAT
WASN'T THERE BEFORE

CHIP

What's there, Mama?

MRS. POTTS

Shh. I'll tell you when you're older. Come along, let's give them some privacy.
(COGSWORTH and LUMIERE exit.)