

## Or Die Trying

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A short play

By Mark Chrisler

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Contact:  
Mark Chrisler  
[markchrisler@gmail.com](mailto:markchrisler@gmail.com)  
[www.markchrisler.com](http://www.markchrisler.com)

OR DIE TRYING

Down center: a coffin block, on which Duke, Earl and Knight sit. When mentioned, Prince and Steven stand on either side of the three.

DUKE

Once upon a time, in The Kingdom by The River, there were two young royals under magical spells.

EARL

A princess whom every living thing did love.

PRINCESS

When I was born, seven patients died while the doctors were busy staring at me.

KNIGHT

And a prince, who could love no living thing.

STEVEN

... Hey.

DUKE

Suitors came from the world over,  
bringing the princess gold...

PRINCESS

Brushing my stomach...

EARL

Bringing her furs...

PRINCESS

Brushing my breasts...

KNIGHT

Bringing her myrrh...

PRINCESS

Brushing my clit.

PRINCESS AND THE THREE

Fragrant, glinting wonders.

DUKE

What more could she ask for?

PRINCESS

But one day, a special envoy arrived at the gates of The Kingdom by The River.

DUKE

(rising)

A duke.

EARL

(rising)

An earl.

KNIGHT

(rising)

A knight.

THREE

(all turning to look at the prince)

And...

PRINCESS

The prince.

STEVEN

... Hey.

THREE

(crossing to the princess and circling her)

We were received in a great, groping procession.

EARL

Telling her stories.

PRINCESS

Smelling my hair...

DUKE

Bowing deeply.

PRINCESS

Running hands up my back...

Laughing at her jokes.  
KNIGHT

Licking at my neck...  
PRINCESS

All the attention focused on her.  
THREE

Except his.  
PRINCESS

All turn to Steven.

... Hey.  
STEVEN

Leave us!  
PRINCESS

The three cross away upstage.

PRINCESS  
I am under a curse. Every living thing falls in love with me.

STEVEN  
(flatly)  
Keen. I can love no living thing.

PRINCESS  
Don't you want me?

STEVEN  
I brought you a flower.

PRINCESS  
How sweet.

STEVEN  
My father's idea.

PRINCESS

(sitting seductively on the coffin block and gesturing over her body)

Bring it to me.

STEVEN

(Walking nonplussed by her and dropping the flower)

Here you go.

(He continues to cross and exits)

PRINCESS

So... I decided to seduce him. To make him want to lay me down, spread my legs and... have me. Or die trying.

STEVEN

She began turning up everywhere.

PRINCESS

(reclining on the coffin block)

In his bed.

STEVEN

Oops. My mistake.

PRINCESS

(striking a sexy pose)

In his garden.

STEVEN

Just watering the petunias.

PRINCESS

(running her hand up her chest)

Naked.

STEVEN

Watch you don't get burnt.

PRINCESS

(totally limp)

By the river.

STEVEN

Princess, I'm telling you it's no use...

PRINCESS

Drowned.

STEVEN

Oh God. What's happened to you?

(he leans down over her still corpse, a  
change in his tone)

Oh God. What's happened to you?

Steven looks at her a long moment. Then he  
opens her legs and begins to mount her as lights  
fade.

Black out.