

(LAWRENCE)*(calls)*

Ruprecht, it is I, your brother.

*(LAWRENCE opens the door into a stone-walled chamber.)**(calls)*

Ruprecht?

(no answer. to JOLENE:)

He must be taking his morning constitutional.

(tries again:)

Ruprecht? ...Perhaps we should have phoned first.

(FREDDY enters. He is now the mad Prince RUPRECHT. He wears a crested blue blazer, bermuda shorts, and holds a trident.)

Ruprecht?

See **Production Note #5: Ruprecht** on page 157**RUPRECHT**

Yes?

LAWRENCE

Have you been in the aquarium again?

RUPRECHT

No.

*(A goldfish comes peeking out of his mouth.)***LAWRENCE**

How many times have I told you, we don't eat our pets?

(He gently returns the fish to the aquarium. To JOLENE:)

We've lost more cats that way.

(He looks to RUPRECHT, who holds out his arms for an apologetic hug.)

All right, cuddly cuddly.

(LAWRENCE crosses to the bed and hugs RUPRECHT, who hugs him back, then licks his face and finally gets him in a wrestler's grip, pulls him down on the bed and starts to mount him.)

No, Ruprecht... Ruprecht, no...

(He manages to push RUPRECHT off. The two brothers sit side by side on the bed and face JOLENE.)

He's very affectionate.

(He takes RUPRECHT's hand and leads him over to JOLENE.)

(LAWRENCE)

Come, Ruprecht, I'd like you to meet someone. This nice lady is Miss Oakes.

JOLENE

Hello, Ruprecht.

RUPRECHT

Mother?

LAWRENCE

No, Ruprecht, she's not our mother. But she is going to be your sister. Miss Oakes and I are getting married, and we're all going to live in Oklahoma.

RUPRECHT

Not Mother?

LAWRENCE

All right, if it makes you happy you may call her Mother.

(to JOLENE)

Keep smiling; he senses fear.

RUPRECHT

Mother!

(He throws his arms around JOLENE and hugs her tightly.)

LAWRENCE

No, Ruprecht. Ruprecht, no.

(He grabs RUPRECHT by the waist and tries to pull him off.)

Ruprecht...Ruprecht! Ruprecht, remember your manners. Do you want me to get the genital cuff?

(RUPRECHT immediately lets go, the momentum of which sends the two of them flying back. As LAWRENCE dusts himself off, he looks to JOLENE:)

Oh, dear, now he's upset you.

JOLENE

(voice cracking)

Not at all.

(LAWRENCE shakes a few drops from a bottle onto his handkerchief and holds it over RUPRECHT'S face.)

LAWRENCE

Nap time, Ruprecht.

(RUPRECHT passes out on the bed. LAWRENCE moves to JOLENE.)

(LAWRENCE)*(sighs)*

I'm afraid it's the same old story every generation or so.

#5 - All About Ruprecht

The blood will be flowing along blue as the Danube, when suddenly a piece of mad genetic driftwood...

JOLENE

So your brother is...

LAWRENCE

Mmm. You see, my dear --

EVERY ROYAL FAMILY, BY ITS NATURE
 HAS A KIND OF PRICE THAT IT MUST PAY.
 EVERY NOBLE LINEAGE HAS ONE LOOSE GENE
 SMALL AS A MOLECULE,
 FLITTING 'ROUND THE FAMILY POOL.
 IT'S THE SORT OF THING ONE SEES IN APPALACHIA
 OR IN THE ODD INBRED BICHON FRISE
 IT REALLY CAN BE SUCH A
 NASTY STAIN ON THE ESCUTCHEON
 WHEN A WISP OF DNA
 BEGINS TO FRAY, THEN GOES ASTRAY.

CALIGULA HAD THE TEMPER
 THE HAPSBURGS HAD THE CHIN
 GEORGE THE THIRD WENT CUCKOO-BIRD
 AND NERO HAD THAT VIOLIN
 RICHARD, YOU'LL REMEMBER,
 HAD THE HUMP AND THAT WITHERED LIMB.
 THE BUSHES OF TEX WERE NERVOUS WRECKS
 BECAUSE THEIR SON WAS DIM
 BUT LOOK WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM!
 ALAS, OUR FAMILY ALSO CARRIES A BIT OF A CURSE,
 BUT, DARLING, IT COULD BE A GREAT DEAL WORSE.
 THUS ENDS THE VERSE.

RUPRECHT'S ALL ABOUT SUN AND SODA-POP,
 PAWS ON PUPPY-DOGS, CANDY-CANES,