



PLAY SCRIPT

Adapted from the Prince Chameleon Story
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Characters

Narrator
King
Queen
Prince Chameleon
Prince Destiny
Young Rainbow Fairy
Footman
Servant 1
Servant 2
Guest 1
Guest 2
Guest 3
Royal Chamberlain
Old Falcon Fairy
Mushroom
Troop of Soldiers
Second King (Father of Princess Iris)
Second Queen (Mother of Princess Iris)
Princess Iris
Ambassador
The River
Singing Birds
Blooming Flowers
Echo Voices

Hint: *Place a little star beside your character's name on the page each time he/she speaks. This will help you to read your dialogue aloud.*

SCENE 1: Narrator. {In the Palace} Young Rainbow Fairy, The King, The Queen, Prince Destiny (baby), Guest 1, Guest 2, Guest 3.

Narrator: Once upon a time, there was a king and a queen. They were very sad because they had no children.

King: I want a son to take over the Kingdom.

Queen: Will we ever have a child? (loud sigh)

The King and Queen leave the stage.

Narrator: One day a baby boy was born. The king and queen invited all the guests to the christening party.

Enter the Queen, holding her baby son. Enter the King, following behind the Queen. Enter 3 guests, looking happy and excited.

Narrator: At the stroke of midnight, a beautiful Young Rainbow Fairy appeared. A musical gong sound is heard. Enter the Young Rainbow Fairy.

Young Rainbow Fairy: (raising a wand) Greetings, I bring a gift for the royal child.

Queen: A gift of riches!

King: Of power!

Young Rainbow Fairy: Destiny. I bring the gift of Destiny.

Guest 1: Destiny?

Guest 2: Destiny.

Guest 3: Prince Destiny—a royal name, indeed!

SCENE 2: Narrator. {In the Royal Treasury} Prince Destiny (young child); The King, The Queen.

Narrator: Prince Destiny grew older. He got bored with all his toys.

Enter Prince Destiny (young child). Prince Destiny starts counting a pile of gold coins.

Narrator: He loved playing in the Royal Treasury, counting all the money. The King and Queen were very proud of him.

Queen: But still— isn't he too young for that?

King: No, he's growing up. He will soon take over the affairs of the Kingdom!

Queen: *(sighing loudly)* He worries too much.

SCENE 3: Narrator. **{In the Palace}** The King, The Queen, Prince Chameleon (baby), 3 Guests, Footman, Old Falcon Fairy, Prince Destiny (young child).

Narrator: When Prince Destiny was seven years old, a second son was born. Another christening was held.

The Queen is holding the baby. 3 guests enter, looking happy and excited. Prince Destiny is staring at his baby brother, Prince Chameleon, and looking unhappy.

Narrator: Everyone waited and waited for the Young Rainbow Fairy. Finally, an old woman appeared.

Footman: Halt! *(pause)* Halt!

Guest 1: Who's *that*?

Old Falcon Fairy: Don't you know me? I bring a gift for the royal child.

Queen: Beauty?

King: Courage?

Old Falcon Fairy: I have one last gift. It is the gift of the—*(whispering to the Queen)* **Chameleon!**

Guest 2: Chameleon?

Guest 3: Chameleon.

Guest 1: But that's a lizard! A lizard that changes the colour of its skin.

Guest 2: *(looking at Guest 1)* Prince Lizard?

Guest 3: What kind of a gift is that?

SCENE 4: Narrator. {In the Palace} The King, The Queen, Prince Chameleon (young child), Prince Destiny (young man).

Narrator: As the young Prince was growing up, no one dared call him by his real name... (whispering) *Chameleon!* (Enter Prince Chameleon, wearing a multi-coloured cloak. His face and palms are covered in face-paint) He was a very playful Prince. A magical Prince. You see, he just loved having fun. And he loved changing into all kinds of different shapes and colours.

Prince Chameleon circles the stage, leaping and skipping.

Prince Destiny: (frowning and watching Prince Chameleon) Look at him, he is so silly! I'm going to call him Prince Jester!

When Prince Chameleon hears this, he stops playing. He looks puzzled and a little embarrassed.

Queen: (to Prince Destiny) *Shush*, don't be so unkind.

King: When will he learn to be a Prince?

Queen: Patience! He's young. Give him more time.

SCENE 5: Narrator. {In the Palace Courtyard} {A few years later} Prince Chameleon, Servant 1, Servant 2.

Narrator: Time passed. Chameleon grew older. He began to hear whispering in the courtyard.

Servant 1: Chameleon! His name is *Chameleon*.

Servant 2: (giggling) What a stupid name!

Prince Chameleon: (hearing the Servants, and looking angry and embarrassed) I wish I had a name like Prince Destiny. Father would be proud. And no one would ever laugh at me.

Prince Chameleon exits, looking sad.

SCENE 6: Narrator. {In the Palace gardens and the Forest}
Prince Chameleon, Prince Destiny, The Mushroom.

Narrator: One day, Prince Chameleon wandered into the forest. He saw a mushroom growing along the path.

Prince Chameleon: (kneeling down to look closely at the mushroom) Oh, little mushroom, you have the prettiest brown petticoats I've ever seen.

Mushroom: Thank you, Your Highness. (Sighing loudly) It takes forever to fold them to such perfect pleats.

Prince Chameleon: But you're so delicate, I'm almost afraid to touch you.

Mushroom: Of course, I am delicate, Your Highness—and beautiful. I am a mushroom.

Prince Chameleon: And I am Prince—

Mushroom: Prince Who?

Prince Chameleon: *Er*, to tell the truth, I don't know who I am.

Mushroom: You don't know?

Prince Chameleon: Well—

Mushroom: Do you mean you're searching for your soul?

Prince Chameleon: Yes, well, I suppose so.

Mushroom: Then you must find the Young Rainbow Fairy. She's the Keeper of Souls, and she lives in the Land-of-Mists-and-Mazes.

Prince Chameleon: Won't you help me, little mushroom? May I try on your cape, just for a moment—and become a mushroom?

Mushroom: (laughing) You can't do that!

Prince Chameleon's voice: Of course I can! It's magical. (Prince Chameleon slips into the mushroom's cape and disappears inside the mushroom.) There! What did I tell you?

Mushroom: (sounding annoyed) But you're not a real mushroom, Your Highness.

Prince Chameleon's voice: Oh, yes, I am! I can be whatever I want to be!

Narrator: Just then, Prince Destiny came driving through the Forest at full speed in his carriage.

Prince Destiny's carriage wheel rolls straight over the mushroom. Prince Chameleon bursts out of the mushroom skin and is knocked flat onto the ground.

Prince Chameleon: (sitting up, rubbing his head, and staring at the broken mushroom) Oh, my poor little mushroom—

Mushroom: (weakly) But you wouldn't give up your own life for me. You don't have the soul of a mushroom, Your Highness! I'm sure. (The mushroom dies.)

SCENE 7: Narrator. {Castle in the neighbouring Kingdom}
Prince Destiny, another King and Queen (parents of Princess Iris),
Servant.

Narrator: Meanwhile, Prince Destiny drove to the castle of Princess Iris to ask her to marry him.

Prince Destiny: (entering the state room of the Palace, bowing politely to the King and the Queen) Greetings, Your Majesty! (Looking around the state room) but where is Princess Iris?

Queen: Oh, she's gone into the forest to pick some mushrooms!

Prince Destiny: (speaking to himself) Mushrooms? How strange!

King: But she'll be back soon, I'm sure.

Prince Destiny paces around the state room, waiting. He paces and paces. Princess Iris does not arrive.

Prince Destiny: (to the King) Well, it is rather late. I do hate to leave without meeting the Princess.

King: (looking around for his servant) Servant! Where is the picture of Princess Iris!

Servant: (running up to the King) Your Majesty, the artist says it isn't finished yet!

King: (looking annoyed) What! Not finished yet?

Impatiently, Prince Destiny prepares to leave.

King: Just a moment, Prince Destiny. My Ambassador will soon bring you a portrait of Princess Iris. You'll see how beautiful she is—!

Queen: —and virtuous!

King: (looking anxious) She'll be a wonderful wife for you, indeed!

Prince Destiny, also looking annoyed, bows to the King and Queen and then leaves.

SCENE 8: Narrator. {Back at the Palace} Prince Destiny, The King, The Queen, Prince Chameleon.

Narrator: Prince Destiny arrived home that night to find the palace in an uproar.

Queen: (to Prince Destiny) Look what you've done! You almost killed your brother today.

Prince Chameleon: (lying down, holding his head, groaning) Oh, my poor head!

Prince Destiny: Well, that's not my fault. I didn't see him. Where was he hiding this time?

Queen: Among the little forest mushrooms.

Prince Destiny: What did you say? *MUSHROOMS!* (Prince Destiny glares at Prince Chameleon, and then stomps away in a foul mood.)

SCENE 9: Narrator. {In the Palace} Prince Destiny, The King, The Queen, Prince Chameleon, Servant 1, Falcon in a birdcage.

Narrator: All night long, Prince Chameleon had a terrible fever. In the morning, he got out of bed. He staggered downstairs into the hall.

Prince Chameleon: Oh, my head, it still hurts.

Prince Chameleon bumps into the table and knocks down a goblet of wine.

Servant 1: (giggling) Look at him, he's so clumsy!

Prince Chameleon: Well, I won't stay here and be mocked!

Prince Chameleon walks away and trips over a birdcage.

Prince Chameleon: (kneeling down to look inside the birdcage)
Oh, it's a falcon! Prince Destiny's falcon!

Chameleon takes the bird out of its cage. He slips inside the falcon's body and transforms into a falcon.

Prince Chameleon: (flying around, higher and higher, calling out loudly) I am a falcon. I think I've found my soul at last!

Enter Prince Destiny with a bow and arrow. He aims up at the sky and shoots Prince Chameleon in the foot. Prince Chameleon crashes to the ground. The Falcon falls onto the ground beside Prince Chameleon. The King and Queen come hurrying onto the stage.

Queen: (to Prince Destiny, as she examines Prince Chameleon's foot)
Why can't you be more careful?

Prince Destiny: How was I supposed to know it was Prince Jester frolicking up in the sky? He looked just like a wild duck!

Queen: This is very serious. Call the surgeon at once!

Prince Destiny: (in a temper) But doesn't anyone care about my baby falcon? That was my special present for Princess Iris and now it's lame!

King: (staring grimly at Prince Chameleon) Perhaps this will bring the boy back down to earth. In future, no more changing shapes, my son. It's time you behaved like a *real* Prince!

Narrator: Chameleon hobbled upstairs. He took off his rainbow cloak and put on a black cloak which suited his mood. From that day onward, he always walked with a limp.

SCENE 10: Narrator. {In the Palace; Prince Destiny's bedchamber; the Royal Treasury} The Queen, Prince Destiny, Prince Chameleon, The Ambassador, Troop of Soldiers, Servant 2.

Narrator: One afternoon, Prince Destiny was feeling tired, so he decided to take little rest.

Prince Destiny: (to the Queen) Please make sure that Prince Jester keeps out of mischief while I take my nap. Oh—and call me at once if the Ambassador arrives.

Prince Destiny yawns loudly and falls asleep on his bed. Soon afterward, Prince Chameleon sneaks into the bedchamber and puts on Prince Destiny's robes and crown.

Prince Chameleon: I wonder what it would be like to be Prince Destiny? Let me try for a minute!

Prince Chameleon (pretending to be Prince Destiny) takes the castle keys from Prince Destiny's royal robes. Prince Chameleon unlocks the door to the Royal Treasury and begins counting stacks of gold and silver coins.

Prince Chameleon: Oh, this is too boring!

Prince Chameleon walks out of the Royal Treasury, forgets to lock the door, and trips as he walks down the steps.

Servant 2: (grinning) May I help, Your Highness?

Prince Chameleon: (getting up, wiping mud from Prince Destiny's royal clothes) Not at all.

Prince Chameleon sees a Troop of noisy marching Soldiers.

Prince Chameleon: (loudly commanding the soldiers) Forward!

The Troop of Soldiers moves across the stage and disappear.

Prince Chameleon: (staring after them) *Humph*, what's happening? Where have they gone? This is no fun at all.

The sound of trumpets is heard. Enter the Ambassador from the neighbouring Kingdom.

Prince Chameleon: (looking startled) Do have a seat, dear Sir. My father is resting in his chamber, but I am the Crown Prince. What brings you to my castle?

Ambassador: Dear Crown Prince, have you forgotten so soon? I have brought you the picture of Princess Iris.

Prince Chameleon: Who?

Ambassador: Princess Iris. (In a louder tone) The Princess you wish to marry.

Prince Chameleon: Ah-a-ah, yes of course!

The Ambassador hands the picture of Princess Iris to Prince Chameleon.

Ambassador: Isn't she the most beautiful Princess you have ever seen?

Prince Chameleon: (blinking his eyes as he stares at the tiny portrait. Stage whispering...) *Why can't I see anything? There's nothing here!* (Speaking louder to the Ambassador) Well, er, she certainly looks rather—plain.

Ambassador: (looking shocked) Plain!

Prince Chameleon: No matter, I need a sensible wife, someone to help me rule my Kingdom. My Queen need not be beautiful, but she must be wise and strong.

Ambassador: (looking offended) I shall tell His Majesty at once!

The Ambassador snatches away the picture of Princess Iris and walks out. Looking guilty, Prince Chameleon sneaks into Prince Destiny's bedchamber and puts his brother's royal robes and crown back in their proper place.

SCENE 11: Narrator. {In the Palace} The King, The Queen, Prince Destiny, Prince Chameleon, Royal Chamberlain.

The bell rings.

Narrator: Later that night, Prince Destiny woke up from a horrible nightmare.

Seeming disturbed, Prince Destiny gets out of bed, puts on his royal robes, and then comes looking for the Queen.

Prince Destiny: Hasn't the Ambassador arrived yet?

Prince Chameleon: He came while you were sleeping and left again.

Prince Destiny: Came and left again! Why didn't anyone call me?

Royal Chamberlain: But, Your Highness, you did meet the Ambassador this afternoon. Don't you remember?

Prince Destiny: (shouting at Prince Chameleon) Oh, no! It was you, wasn't it? How dare you wear my robes while I was sleeping? How dare you wear my crown?

Queen: Oh, my son—you didn't?

Prince Chameleon: But I only borrowed them for a while.

Prince Destiny: Where else did you go? What other mischief did you do?

King: (entering in a great temper) What happened? Some scoundrel has broken into the Royal Treasury! All the gold and silver coins are gone.

Prince Destiny: (pointing at Prince Chameleon) It's all his fault! He did it. He pretended to be me.

Prince Chameleon: I'm sorry—I'm really *really* sorry!

King: (to Prince Chameleon) My son, you must promise me NEVER again to change your shape.

Prince Chameleon: But, Father, how can I promise such a thing?

King: (looking at the Queen and sighing) You leave us no choice. You must be banished from the Kingdom at dawn.

SCENE 12: Narrator. {In the Forest} Prince Chameleon, Princess Iris, The River, Echo Voices.

Narrator: Early the next morning, Prince Chameleon rode away on horseback into the forest. As his horse stepped across a stream, Prince Chameleon jumped down and slid into the water. Immediately, he changed into a beautiful fish.

Prince Chameleon: (in wonder) Oh! Perhaps this is what I truly am!

Princess Iris: (perched above the river on the riverbank) Oh, what a beautiful fish! (Princess Iris catches the fish with her fishhook. Suddenly, Prince Chameleon appears on grass beside her, gasping for breath.) *Ooooh!* How strange! Are you a fish or a boy?

Prince Chameleon: (gasping) I don't know. You see, I'm searching for my soul.

Princess Iris: What does that mean?

Prince Chameleon: Well, since I don't know who I am, I could be many things!

Princess Iris: What things?

Prince Chameleon: Anything! Anything I choose to be in the whole world.

The River: (laughing) And nothing!

Prince Chameleon: What?

Princess Iris: I didn't say anything. How did you get that scar on your head, Chameleon?

Prince Chameleon: What did you call me?

Princess Iris: It's too late. I've guessed your secret. You're the young Prince who can change into beautiful shapes and colours. Your name must be Chameleon.

Prince Chameleon: No one ever dares call me by that name.

Princess Iris: Chameleon, tell the truth—am I ugly?

Prince Chameleon: Ugly? Whoever called you ugly?

Princess Iris: Some idiot of a Prince—the Crown Prince Destiny. And since he thinks I’m ugly, I shall not marry him.

Prince Chameleon: Oh, no! That was my fault. I was just pretending to be Prince Destiny. He is my elder brother. *Cross my heart*, Princess Iris, he doesn’t *really* think you’re ugly.

Narrator: And so Prince Chameleon told Princess Iris all that had happened. Princess Iris laughed and laughed at his story.

Prince Chameleon: Princess Iris, marry me instead. You’ll never be happy with Prince Destiny. He is the Ruler of the Kingdom of Straight Lines.

Princess Iris: *Ugh!* That’s horrible.

Prince Chameleon: And I must tell you something else. No one in the Kingdom remembers hearing Prince Destiny laugh—since he was seven years old.

Princess Iris: *(looking alarmed)* But where is your Kingdom?

Prince Chameleon: *(sadly)* I have no Kingdom. I’m still searching for the Young Rainbow Fairy who lives in the Land-of-Mists-and-Mazes. They say she might help me.

The air becomes misty.

Prince Chameleon: Where are you going? I can’t see you. Wait for me, please!

Princess Iris: Follow me, follow the river. But please hurry, Chameleon, I cannot wait forever!

Echo Voices: *Forever...forever...forever*

Princess Iris disappears into the mist.

Prince Chameleon: Oh, no, which way should I go? I think I’m lost. Where am I? Who am I?

The River: *Nothing.*

Prince Chameleon: WHAT?

The River: *Nothing, nothing, nothing. I am everything—
yet nothing.*

Prince Chameleon: But who am I?

The River: *This sandy bed has muddied my complexion.
I am dull and ugly and brown.*

Prince Chameleon: I beg your pardon, could you tell
me—

River: *But soon I shall be blue again.
I'll borrow just a tint of lilac from the sky.*

Prince Chameleon: But who am I?

River: *I am everything
Yet nothing, nothing, nothing...*

SCENE 13: Narrator. {**In the Land-of-Mists-and-Mazes**}
Prince Chameleon, Old Falcon Fairy.

Narrator: Prince Chameleon followed the river until it
disappeared underground.

Prince Chameleon: Why is everything so misty? I can't
see. Is this the Land-of-Mists-and-Mazes?

Prince Chameleon comes upon a half-ruined castle tower. He pushes
open the door and climbs to the top.

Old Falcon Fairy: (seated at the top of the tower; speaking in a
harsh, shrieking voice) You are late, young Prince!
I've been waiting and waiting for you for so many
years.

Prince Chameleon: (looking terrified) But I've never seen
you before!

Old Falcon Fairy: You have seen me before, on your
christening day.

Prince Chameleon: I don't remember!

Old Falcon Fairy: I am the Old Falcon Fairy, the Keeper
of Souls. (The Old Falcon Fairy points to a collection of
small coloured bottles on a shelf.)

Prince Chameleon: But no, it's a mistake. I'm looking for
the Young Rainbow Fairy.

Old Falcon Fairy: (still pointing to the collection of small coloured bottles.) Too late! Now that you've arrived—you must choose your soul.

Prince Chameleon: (staring at the many coloured bottles) But they are all so beautiful!

Old Falcon Fairy: Only one of them is yours.

Prince Chameleon: (looking nervous and unsure) I—I think this one's mine. No, I'm not sure...

Prince Chameleon paces around the tower. He can't make up his mind. Finally, he returns to the collection of coloured bottles and, with great hesitation, chooses one.

Old Falcon Fairy: (grimacing) You have chosen well. Now give it to me.

Prince Chameleon: But it's mine. Why have you stolen it?

Old Falcon Fairy: First you must earn your soul. Tell me something, am I beautiful?

Prince Chameleon: Well, you are—you are...

Old Falcon Fairy: *Hideous!* I was once beautiful, but you have made me old before my time.

Prince Chameleon: Me? What have I done?

Old Falcon Fairy: Nothing, nothing, nothing. Since the day you were born, you have done nothing.

Prince Chameleon: That's not true!

Old Falcon Fairy: Time is running out, young Prince. Look around you. Your castle is crumbling and overgrown with weeds. All the villagers have fled. You must rebuild your castle while there is still time.

Prince Chameleon: How can I? It's too hard.

Old Falcon Fairy: Perform this task, young Prince, or you will lose your soul forever.

SCENE 14: Narrator. **{In the Land-of Mists-and-Mazes}**
Prince Chameleon, Old Falcon Fairy, Princess Iris, Servants, Singing
Birds, Blooming Flowers, Footmen, Troop of Soldiers, Echo Voices.

Narrator: (while Characters mime the following actions) Weeks, months, years passed. Prince Chameleon began to rebuild his castle. He pulled up the weeds in the courtyard. He polished the windows. He swept the cobwebs from the corners. He painted every room. The Old Falcon Fairy watched him without saying a word.

Ever so slowly, the castle began to come alive. Birds sang in the garden. Flowers began to bloom. One by one, the servants came back. So did the footmen. Even the troop of soldiers marched back to defend the castle. After a long, long time, the Prince's work was finished. He looked around at his splendid Kingdom.

Prince Chameleon: (calling to the Old Falcon Fairy) Look, I have finished the task. I have rebuilt my Kingdom. But I must go now.

Old Falcon Fairy: I am satisfied—but one last task remains.

Prince Chameleon: What is that?

Old Falcon Fairy: Marry me!

Prince Chameleon: But—but—Princess Iris is still waiting for me.

Old Falcon Fairy: It's too late, Chameleon.

Prince Chameleon: No! That can't be true! Give me my soul—it is mine!

Old Falcon Fairy: You must marry me.

Prince Chameleon: Never! I could never love you.

Old Falcon Fairy: No matter! Just promise what I ask (she holds up the coloured bottle) and you shall have your soul.

Prince Chameleon: (drying his tears, and looking very unhappy)
All right! All right then, I promise.

Prince Chameleon holds out his hand. The Old Falcon Fairy gives Prince Chameleon his soul, and then she disappears. Princess Iris appears in her place.

Prince Chameleon: (joyfully) Oh, Princess Iris!

Princess Iris: (staring at Prince Chameleon with a puzzled expression) Who are you, Sir?

Prince Chameleon: But don't you know me? Surely you remember that day you caught—

Princess Iris: A fish!

Prince Chameleon: Yes.

Princess Iris: A fish that turned into a Prince—

Prince Chameleon: Yes, yes, you *do* remember!

Princess Iris: But that was such a long time ago. I waited and waited as long as I could, but it's too late now. I have to marry the Crown Prince Destiny tomorrow.

Prince Chameleon: But I am the young Prince. And I have come back, just as I promised.

Princess Iris: You do remind me a little of the Prince, but you seem so much older and your eyes look sad.

Prince Chameleon: But I'm not sad, not any more. I'm—

Echo Voices: *Everything, yet nothing...*

Prince Chameleon: That's not true! I'm—

Princess Iris: *Who?* Who are you?

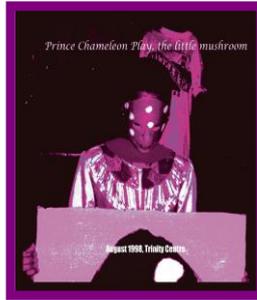
Prince Chameleon: CHAMELEON!

Echo Voices: *Chameleon—Chameleon—Chameleon*

Princess Iris: Are you really the Prince?

Prince Chameleon: (taking Princess Iris's hand) I'm Prince Chameleon. In the Land-of-Mists-and-Mazes at last I have found my soul.

THE END



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