

SCENE 12: The Date

(BEN lays out a blanket and a picnic basket.)

MAL

What a whirlwind...

BEN

Sorry, that got crazy back there. I dunno what came over me.

MAL

Yeah... me neither.

BEN

But looking at you now... I think I finally understand the difference between pretty and beautiful.

MAL

You're not so disgusting yourself.

BEN

Here, sit. Tell me something you've never told anyone. Come on—your secret's safe with me!

MAL

Hmmm. Well - I'm not exactly... comfortable with my name?

BEN

Your name? "Mal"? You mean, like, it's hard to say? 'Cause it's not.

MAL

(sighs, then)

It also belongs to the most hated person on the planet.

BEN

Mal-eficent. Got it. That's tough.

MAL

She also goes by "Mom." But, yeah.

BEN

That doesn't mean it defines you, though. Right? It's just a name.

MAL

(uncomfortable, deflects)

How about you? Tell me something that you've never told anyone.

BEN

How about "I love you."

MAL

You've told everyone that. You sang a whole song about it.

BEN

Oh yeah.

MAL

Maybe about the coronation? Like, are you nervous? Do you ever wish you weren't going to be King? Does the wand get passed around during the ceremony...?

BEN

It's all I think about these days! I'm supposed to uphold tradition. But... should I? I don't know.

MAL

(conflicted)

Yeah... me neither.

BEN

So far, we have a lot in common.

MAL

Believe me, we don't.

BEN

A crown doesn't make you royalty.

MAL

... It kind of does.

BEN

Well, it doesn't make you good at public speaking! I have to give a speech on Sunday. Could I practice on you? It's supposed to be a secret, but—

MAL

Your secret's safe with me.

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Ben, Mal

BEN

(smiles, then)

In Auradon, the rich and the strong have always protected the poor and the weak.
Except for the Isle. And it's time for that to change.

THE ROAD COULD BE HARD

AND THE NIGHT COULD BE DARK

BUT LIKE STARS, WE'LL SHINE BRIGHTLY WHEREVER WE ARE

IF WE STICK TO THE DREAM