

The Queen of Dreams

by Michael Olsen

Characters:

PETA
WENDY
MICHAELA } girls in their early teens

Peta's doll: JANIE (F, any age)

THE QUEEN OF DREAMS (aka MILLEBEE)

Her servants: ETAP (pron. ee-tap)
DYNWE (pron. din-wee)
LEACHIM (pron. lee-kim)

Her subject: BIMBLE

There is no problem with adding additional servants if the cast is available.

Generally speaking the masculine pronoun is used when describing the creatures of the Kingdom of Dreams, but they could be played by male or female actors.

Lights come up on Peta's bedroom. There is a single bed with two sleeping bags on the floor. Stage right there is a door to a hallway. Stage left there is a small bookshelf with a CD player on it.

MICHAELA storms in followed by WENDY. They're both wearing PJs and dressing gowns.

MICHAELA: Do you know what this is? This is false pretences. You've got me here under false pretences.

WENDY: I haven't! Honest I haven't! I never thought it was going to be just the three of us!

MICHAELA: Well where are they? Where are Stephanie, and Deborah, and Jacinta? I thought they were all going to be here.

WENDY: So did I! So did I!

MICHAELA: What did Peta say?

WENDY: She said that everyone was coming so I thought—

MICHAELA: So you thought everyone was coming.

WENDY: Yes.

MICHAELA: And obviously they're not. They've got better things to do than be with us.

Michaela fumes.

WENDY: Are you OK?

MICHAELA: There's going to be a special on Robbie Williams on MTV tonight. There is no way I'm going to miss it.

WENDY: It's all Peta's fault. She's the one you should blame. Who else but Peta would have a silly sleepover anyway? They're for kids.

Michaela stands at Peta's bed.

MICHAELA: I know what you mean. (*Picking up the doll, Janie*) Look at this. She still goes to sleep with a doll.

WENDY: It looks a little sad, doesn't it, that doll?

Michaela grinds JANIE's face into the pillow.

MICHAELA: Having fun little dollie?

WENDY: I mean, it wouldn't be so bad, only Peta is so out of touch.

MICHAELA: That's putting it mildly.

WENDY: She doesn't even have a boyfriend.

MICHAELA: I know. And worse, she thinks we're her friends.

WENDY: Well I am. Sort of.

MICHAELA: That's because you have no taste. I mean look, she even likes Nelly Furtado.

WENDY: What's wrong with Nelly Furtado?

MICHAELA: She is so last week. Pink rules, OK?

PETA enters, dressed like Wendy and Michaela in PJs and a dressing gown, and hops into bed.

PETA: You guys ready?

MICHAELA: For what?

PETA: To go to bed. It is a sleepover after all. Mum will be along soon to see we're OK.

MICHAELA: (*sarcastic*) Great.

WENDY: Um Peta, I was thinking.

PETA: What?

WENDY: There's this great special on Robbie Williams tonight on MTV. I thought we could stay up and watch it.

Michaela's mouth drops open.

PETA: I don't know. What time is it on?

MICHAELA: Late. Very late.

PETA: Well...

WENDY: Come on Peta. This is a sleepover. We're supposed to stay up late.

PETA: I suppose so.

MICHAELA: Great. Where's your TV?

PETA: Downstairs.

MICHAELA: You mean you don't have one yourself?

PETA: No. We just share, I guess.

MICHAELA: Share?

PETA: That's right.

MICHAELA: I don't believe it.

WENDY: What else can we do then?

Peta hops out of bed and goes to the CD player.

PETA: We could dance to Nelly Furtado! I've got her extended mix CD. It's fantastic.

Michaela and Wendy look at each other.

MICHAELA: That's fine. I think we'll go to sleep then.

PETA: Oh. OK.

The girls prepare to go to bed: Michaela and Wendy slip into the sleeping bags, while Peta snuggles into her bed with her doll, Janie.

The door to the hallway opens.

PETA's MUM: *(off)* You girls settled?

PETA: Yes Mum.

PETA's MUM: *(off)* OK see you in the morning.

PETA: Night Mum.

The light to the room is turned off, and the door closed.

Pause.

WENDY: *(hissing)* Peta? Are you awake? Peta?

We hear a snore from Peta.

MICHAELA: Satisfied?

Pause

From under Peta's bed two creatures from the Kingdom of Dreams slide out: DYNWE and LEACHIM. They wear black and white outfits, and their faces look like masks with lines and swirls on their cheeks. Silently they move from girl to girl, sprinkling sparkling sleeping dust.

DYNWE: That will make sure they don't wake.

LEACHIM: Very good, brother. Very good.

They hurry from girl to girl, checking them out.

LEACHIM: Which one do we take? Which one?

DYNWE: (*over Wendy*) This is the one the Queen spoke of.

LEACHIM: She said the one that was true and good. True and good.

DYNWE: This is the one that's true and good.

LEACHIM: (*over Michaela*) It's this one. Absolutely sure. Absolutely.

DYNWE: No no no. This one. That one's too—too—

LEACHIM: Too what? Too plain? Too heavy? Too plain? Too—

DYNWE: She's just—I don't like the look of her, that's all.

LEACHIM: But we have to decide! We have to decide!

DYNWE: I say it's this one!

LEACHIM: Well what about her? (*pointing to Peta*) What about her?

Dynwe goes over to Peta and sniffs her.

DYNWE: No. She smells.

LEACHIM: Well we can't take them all! We can't take them all!

ETAP enters via the door. Dynwe and Leachim stand to attention.

DYNWE: Mr Etap sir!

ETAP: Why can't you two use the door like normal people?

DYNWE +

LEACHIM: Yessir.

LEACHIM: Yessir.

ETAP: At ease.

DYNWE: Which one do we take, sir?

Etap inspects all the girls.

ETAP: All of them.