

START
~~[Exasperated, the MESSENGER follows VILLAGERS 1 and 2 offstage.]~~

MUFARO
 Manyara, Nyasha, come here.

MANYARA
 Yes, father!

NYASHA
 What is it?

[MANYARA muscles NYASHA into the background.]

MUFARO
 You heard what the messenger said. The king is only inviting the most worthy and beautiful daughters to meet him. My heart bursts with joy that you have been selected.

NYASHA
 It's all so... sudden.

MUFARO
 Yes, isn't it! What an honor it would be to have one of you chosen as the King's bride.

MANYARA
 My dream is coming true!

MUFARO
 Go inside and prepare yourselves to journey to the city. I will call together our friends to make a wedding party. Be ready to leave tomorrow as the sun rises.

[MUFARO starts to exit.]

MANYARA (sweetly)
 Oh, Father dearest?

MUFARO
 Yes, Manyara?

MANYARA (runs to MUFARO)
 Dear sweet father, it is so painful to think of leaving you.

MUFARO (touched, hugs MANYARA)
 It's painful for me, too. What would I do without either one of my girls?

MANYARA
 I can't imagine leaving this village, even to be wife to the king. How I love our humble home, and the garden in which I've spent so many happy hours working! How I love my zinnias!

MUFARO (looks at garden, puzzled)
Those are sunflowers, dear.

MANYARA
I know Nyasha would grieve to death if she were ever parted from you.

NYASHA (wipes her eyes)
It's true.

MUFARO
Nyasha? (surprised) You're crying!

MANYARA
See?

END

MUFARO (puts his arm around NYASHA)
Nyasha, we must obey the king. And just think, he might pick you to be his wife! ~~It might be hard for you at first, but in time you would grow to love your husband.~~

~~MANYARA
I love him already.~~

~~MUFARO
It is the way.~~

~~NYASHA
I understand.~~

~~MANYARA (impatient)
No, no! Send me to the city, and let poor Nyasha be happy here with you.~~

~~MUFARO
Manyara, I know you are trying to help, but only a king can choose between two such worthy daughters. Both of you must go!~~

~~[MUFARO leaves to tell the other villagers. MANYARA and NYASHA exit inside the hut. The STORKSELLER re-enters.]~~

~~STORKSELLER
That night, when everyone was asleep, Manyara stole quietly out of the village.~~

~~[MANYARA, carrying a small bundle, tiptoes out of the hut.]~~

~~MANYARA
We shall see who is to be the queen!~~