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# **The Prince's New Pet**

Adapted by  
JESSICA PENZIAS

Music by  
ANTHONY DE ANGELIS

Lyrics by  
CHRISTYN BUDZYNA

Based on the book by  
BRIAN ANDERSON

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*The Prince's New Pet* was premiered by FUSE Productions (State College, Penn.) in May 2019. The production was directed and music directed by Richard Biever.

# The Prince's New Pet

## CHARACTERS

**PRINCE VIRIDIAN:** An emotional fellow in an emotionless world. Today is his 10th birthday.

**KING CERULEAN:** A protective father who wants to shield his kingdom from pain.

**COLOR CATCHER:** An ambitious man who is very good at his job—some might say too good.

**WOOGLEFOOF:** A cuddly, colorful little creature who spreads feelings wherever she goes.

**MURIALIS:** An eccentric artist with a flair for the dramatic.

**QUEEN PERYLENE:** The sensitive, colorful queen.

**BARONESS OF BLAH:** A woman who is, indeed, very blah.

**DUCHESS OF HUMDRUM:** An uptight, humdrum lady.

**ARCHDUKE OF MONOTONOUS:** A pompous, monotonous bloke.

**SETTING:** A bland, boring and completely colorless kingdom ... for now.

**CASTING NOTES:** The ensemble roles of Baroness of Blah, Duchess of Humdrum and Archduke of Monotonous may be expanded to include additional characters by dividing the lines among multiple performers.

The roles of Murialis and Queen Perylene play best when doubled as the same performer. If needed, the roles may be cast separately.

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## PRODUCTION NOTES

In the script, the Wooglefoof barks. This can be interpreted freely. The Wooglefoof may make any original sound to communicate (as long as it is adorable and friendly in nature). Also, the Wooglefoof may be portrayed by a performer in costume or by a puppet.

Simple projections and light cues may be used to indicate moments in which the Wooglefoof is spreading color.

# The Prince's New Pet

## Scene 1

### (#1: "The Grayest Birthday Ever")

*(A gray, blank stage. The townspeople, including the ARCHDUKE OF MONOTONOUS, the BARONESS OF BLAH and the DUCHESS OF HUMDRUM, dressed in gray, address the audience.)*

ARCHDUKE. Welcome to the grayest kingdom you've ever seen.

BARONESS. We don't have colors, and we don't feel feelings.

DUCHESS. It wasn't always this way. But it's better this way. Right?

ARCHDUKE & BARONESS. Right.

BARONESS. This used to be the most colorful kingdom in all the land. And those colors inspired vivid emotions.

DUCHESS. Now, thanks to the gray, we're safe from the pain of sadness, the agony of anger, and the emptiness of loss.

ARCHDUKE. And if any pesky colors come creeping back in, breeding chaos and sentiment, the royal Color Catcher shoos them away.

DUCHESS. Or locks them in the dungeon.

BARONESS. He's very good at his job.

*(A menacing fellow, the royal COLOR CATCHER, enters carrying a checklist. He marches back and forth like a drill captain as he addresses the townspeople.)*



COLOR CATCHER. Attention everyone! Gather 'round.

*(The townspeople gather around him.)*

COLOR CATCHER *(cont'd)*. Everything must be boring, bland and utterly gray for Prince Viridian's tenth birthday. We'll make the king proud.

TOWNSPEOPLE. Yes, sir. / For our king! / We're ready.

COLOR CATCHER. Let's make this the least eventful event anyone has ever seen.

*(The townspeople scatter, setting up for the party. The COLOR CATCHER marks off items on his checklist as the others frantically prepare for the prince's arrival.)*

DUCHESS.

I SAMPLED THE CUPCAKES  
THEY'RE TASTELESS AND STALE

COLOR CATCHER. Good.

ARCHDUKE.

I BROUGHT A PAPER DONKEY  
BUT I DIDN'T BRING THE TAIL

COLOR CATCHER. Nice.

DUCHESS.

THE POPPERS AREN'T POPPING  
DON'T WORRY, I TRIED

BARONESS.

I BROUGHT A GRAY PIÑATA  
BUT THERE'S NOTHING STUFFED INSIDE

ALL.

TIE THE BORING, BLAH BALLOONS  
SET THE LIFELESS FORKS AND SPOONS  
MAKE SURE THE PARTY'S BLAND ENOUGH TO BE  
THE GRAYEST BIRTHDAY EVER

ARCHDUKE.

THE STREAMERS ARE FALLING

DUCHESS.

THEY'RE ALL ON THE GROUND

BARONESS.

THE NOISEMAKERS ARE  
SILENT  
THEY WON'T MAKE A  
SINGLE SOUND

ARCHDUKE.

THE NOISEMAKERS  
WON'T MAKE A SOUND

ARCHDUKE.

I BROUGHT HIM A PRESENT:  
A GRAY, EMPTY BOX

BARONESS.

I'VE FILLED UP ALL THE GOODY BAGS  
WITH VEG'TABLES AND SOCKS

ALL.

HANG THE DRAB AND DULL DECOR  
ON THE HO-HUM, HUMDRUM DOOR  
MAKE SURE THE PARTY'S BLAND ENOUGH TO BE  
THE GRAYEST BIRTHDAY EVER

COLOR CATCHER. This is perfect. Prince Viridian won't  
feel a thing.

*(PRINCE VIRIDIAN peers out from the balcony of his  
bedroom at the hubbub below.)*

PRINCE VIRIDIAN. OK, Prince Viridian, you've got to keep it together.

KEEP YOUR HANDS DOWN AT YOUR SIDES

Don't wave them around or get excited.

PUFF UP YOUR CHEST AND RAISE YOUR CHIN

Try to act like a king. Stoic. Calm.

DON'T MAKE A GRIMACE OR A GRIN

Be grateful, but not overwhelmed.

DON'T CLAP YOUR HANDS

OR SHOUT "HOORAY"

'CAUSE YOU CAN'T GET CARRIED AWAY

ENSEMBLE MEMBER (*from offstage*). Are you almost ready, sire?

PRINCE VIRIDIAN. Almost!

*(Our attention shifts back to the party. KING CERULEAN enters. The townspeople bow.)*

DUCHESS.

WE WROTE BIRTHDAY GREETINGS:

BARONESS.

*"HOW BORING. YOU'RE TEN"*

DUCHESS.

"VIRIDIAN, I HOPE YOU DON'T FEEL ANYTHING AGAIN"

ALL.

HIS HIGHNESS IS COMING

DON'T COVER HIS EYES

DON'T HIDE BEHIND THE PRESENTS

OR JUMP OUT AND SHOUT "SURPRISE!"

DON A MUTED PARTY HAT  
START A BLAND AND BORING CHAT  
I KNOW THE PARTY'S BLAND ENOUGH TO BE  
A HUMDRUM OCCASION  
THAT'S FIT FOR OUR KING  
IT'S SO MEDIOCRE  
YOU CAN'T FEEL A THING  
A PERFECT GRAY-A-BRATION  
THERE'S NO DANGEROUS SENSATION  
THERE IS NO WAY WE'LL FEEL  
ON THE GRAYEST BIRTHDAY  
GRAYEST BIRTHDAY  
GRAYEST BIRTHDAY YET!

*(The ARCHDUKE and the BARONESS hold open the gate. PRINCE VIRIDIAN does not appear.)*

KING CERULEAN. Where is that boy?

ALL.

ON THE GRAYEST BIRTHDAY EVER

## Scene 2

*(An elegant, albeit gray, bedroom in the highest tower of the palace. PRINCE VIRIDIAN looks wistfully at the party below. His father, KING CERULEAN, enters.)*

KING CERULEAN. Prince Viridian, your party is on hold.  
Everyone awaits your arrival.

PRINCE VIRIDIAN. I'm sorry. I suppose I was feeling  
overwhel—I mean, yes Father. Sounds mediocre, Father.

KING CERULEAN. Very well. Now, hurry up.

*(PRINCE VIRIDIAN dons his royal robes.)*

KING CERULEAN (*cont'd*). Ah, that looks very regal.

PRINCE VIRIDIAN. Wow, Dad! Thanks! Today's going to / be great!

*(He jumps up and down with excitement.)*

KING CERULEAN. Stop that at once.

*(PRINCE VIRIDIAN stops, hangs his head in shame.)*

KING CERULEAN (*cont'd*). Did you see color today?

PRINCE VIRIDIAN. No sire, I ...

KING CERULEAN. I cloak this kingdom in gray, and you still manage to feel feelings? How is that possible?

PRINCE VIRIDIAN. I'm sorry, father. I don't mean to. You know I don't.

*(PRINCE VIRIDIAN starts to get excited again. He simply can't help it.)*

PRINCE VIRIDIAN (*cont'd*). It's just sometimes when I think about my birthday, my heart starts racing, and I think about all of the people / and the—

*(The king stops him.)*

KING CERULEAN. Careful, son. You know how dangerous that is. Feelings lead to sadness, disappointment and pain. I don't want that for you.

PRINCE VIRIDIAN. I'll do better. I promise.

### **(#1a: "Fanfare")**

*(Trumpets sound outside the window.)*

KING CERULEAN. Ah, it's time.

*(PRINCE VIRIDIAN hangs his head, frowns.)*

KING CERULEAN (*cont'd*). None of that either.

*(PRINCE VIRIDIAN straightens up.)*

KING CERULEAN (*cont'd*). Better. I'll see you in the courtyard when you're ready, and please ... tone it down.

### **(#2: "Tone It Down")**

*(KING CERULEAN picks up PRINCE VIRIDIAN's crown and hands it to him. He exits.)*

### **Scene 3**

PRINCE VIRIDIAN.

TONE IT DOWN

DON'T START TO GET EXCITED

KEEP YOUR COOL

DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY

*(PRINCE VIRIDIAN exits his room and enters the courtyard, where he is met by KING CERULEAN, the COLOR CATCHER and the townspeople.)*

TOWNSPEOPLE & COLOR CATCHER. Gray birthday, Prince Viridian.

PRINCE VIRIDIAN. Thank you, everyone.

BARONESS. Here's my gift. It's gray.

PRINCE VIRIDIAN. That's very kind, Baroness of Blah.

DUCHESS. We'll place it with the others.

PRINCE VIRIDIAN. Thank you, Duchess of Humdrum, Archduke of Monotonous. That's very generous ...

*(They leave the gift on top of a large pile of gray gifts.)*

PRINCE VIRIDIAN. And it's not *not* exciting ...

LOOK AT ALL THESE GIFTS  
I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY'RE ALL FOR ME  
I WONDER WHAT COULD BE INSIDE  
I WANNA OPEN 'EM AND SEE!  
I COULD SCREAM AND JUMP FOR JOY  
WHAT AN AMAZING DAY TO BE THE BIRTHDAY BOY!  
  
TONE IT DOWN  
YOU'RE GETTING TOO EXCITED  
TONE IT DOWN  
YOU'RE DOING IT AGAIN  
  
STOP HYPERVENTILATING  
RAISE YOUR CHIN  
HOLD IT IN  
TONE IT DOWN

*(PRINCE VIRIDIAN spots a giant gray balloon.)*

PRINCE VIRIDIAN *(cont'd)*.

WOW, LOOK OVER THERE  
WHAT AN INCREDIBLE BALLOON  
LOOKS LIKE IT'S CLIMBING TO THE CLOUDS  
OR LIKE IT'S STRETCHING TO THE MOON  
IF I HELD IT I WOULD FLY  
CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT IT FEELS LIKE  
FLOATING UP, UP SO HIGH?  
  
TONE IT DOWN  
YOU'RE DRIFTING INTO DREAMLAND  
TONE IT DOWN  
YOU'RE DOING IT AGAIN  
  
MAKE SURE YOUR FEET ARE PLANTED  
ON THE GROUND

COME AROUND  
TONE IT DOWN  
WHY IS IT SO HARD?  
I SHOULD BE COOL AND CALM,  
REGAL AS A KING  
AND I TRY MY BEST  
PRETENDING I DON'T FEEL  
EV'RY LITTLE THING.  
I TRY MY BEST TO FEIGN IT  
AND I KNOW I SHOULD RESTRAIN IT  
BUT I CAN'T SEEM TO CONTAIN IT AND I ...

*(The townspeople wheel out the cake.)*

KING CERULEAN. All right son, make a wish.

PRINCE VIRIDIAN.

WOW! LOOK AT THAT CAKE  
IT MUST BE SEVEN LAYERS THICK  
I REALLY WANNA EAT IT ALL  
BUT THEN I GUESS I WOULD BE SICK  
EVEN THOUGH THE CAKE IS GRAY,  
I JUST CAN'T HELP IT AND I GOTTA SHOUT  
"HOORAY!"

*(It's clear PRINCE VIRIDIAN has shouted "hooray" out loud. This outburst catches everyone's attention. They stare.)*

KING CERULEAN. Viridian! Tone it down.

PRINCE VIRIDIAN. Sorry, Father.

TEN YEARS OLD  
IT'S TIME TO MAKE A WISH NOW  
OH I WISH I'D MAKE MY FATHER PROUD  
IF I COULD STOP THESE FEELINGS  
HE'D BE PROUD AS CAN BE



PRINCE VIRIDIAN (*cont'd*).

HE WOULDN'T NEED TO KEEP CONSTANTLY  
TELLING ME,  
"TONE IT DOWN"

*(PRINCE VIRIDIAN squeezes his eyes shut and blows out the candles.)*

### **(#3: "Something Wondrous")**

KING CERULEAN. Fine job, son.

*(The party guests applaud demurely. Suddenly, as if on cue, a large cloud shrouds the stage in darkness.)*

ARCHDUKE. Heavens. What is that?

BARONESS. It's a box.

COLOR CATCHER. Stay calm everyone.

*(A large gray chest with "WOOGLEFOOF!" engraved on its side falls from the sky and lands with a thud. Everyone waits in stunned silence.)*

ARCHDUKE. What do we do, sire?

*(PRINCE VIRIDIAN approaches the chest slowly as everyone watches. They hold their breath as the prince cautiously gets closer and closer.)*

KING CERULEAN. Careful, son.

*(Something wondrous springs from the chest! It's a magical, colorful and cuddly creature—a WOOGLEFOOF!)*

TOWNSPEOPLE.

WHAT COULD IT BE?

KING CERULEAN.

STAND BACK

TOWNSPEOPLE.

WHAT COULD IT BE?

COLOR CATCHER.

STAND BACK

DUCHESS.

SOMETHING DREADFUL!

ARCHDUKE.

SOMETHING MEAN

BARONESS.

WHAT A HORRIFYING SCENE!

COLOR CATCHER & KING CERULEAN (*overlapping*).

STAND BACK!

DUCHESS.

SOMETHING SCARY!

ARCHDUKE.

SOMETHING FOUL!

BARONESS.

WITH A TERRIFYING GROWL!

COLOR CATCHER & KING CERULEAN (*overlapping*).

STAND BACK!

ALL.

I CAN'T BEAR TO LOOK!

TOWNSPEOPLE.

IT COULD TERRORIZE THE TOWN!  
IT COULD BURN THE KINGDOM DOWN!

PRINCE VIRIDIAN.

OR IT COULD BE SOMETHING WONDROUS!

*(The WOOGLEFOOF leaps into PRINCE VIRIDIAN's arms. Everyone except for the prince screams.)*

ALL. Ah!!

COLOR CATCHER. Nobody move.

*(The WOOGLEFOOF licks PRINCE VIRIDIAN's cheek.)*

PRINCE VIRIDIAN. Oh hello.

DUCHESS. She's attacking the prince!

PRINCE VIRIDIAN. She's the friendliest thing I've ever seen. What's a Wooglefoof?

BARONESS. Woogle-what?

PRINCE VIRIDIAN. Wooglefoof!

*(PRINCE VIRIDIAN points to the box, which has the word "Wooglefoof" engraved on its side.)*

KING CERULEAN. Drop it, son. She may strike.

*(PRINCE VIRIDIAN eyes the WOOGLEFOOF. The WOOGLEFOOF eyes him back.)*

PRINCE VIRIDIAN. Are you gonna strike?

*(The WOOGLEFOOF hiccups. It's adorable. Once again, everyone except the prince screams.)*