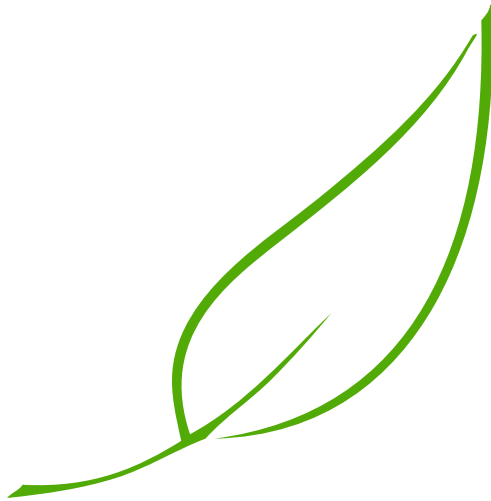


# ONCE A QUEEN

by Ken Bradbury



GREEN ROOM PRESS

[greenroompress.com](http://greenroompress.com)

---

# Copyright Notice

---

**CAUTION:** Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that this Work is subject to a royalty. This Work is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America and all countries with which the United States has reciprocal copyright relations, whether through bilateral or multilateral treaties or otherwise, and including, but not limited to, all countries covered by the Pan-American Copyright Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention and the Berne Convention.

**RIGHTS RESERVED:** All rights to this Work are strictly reserved, including professional and amateur stage performance rights. Also reserved are: motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video or sound recording, all forms of mechanical or electronic reproduction, such as CD-ROM, CD-I, DVD, information and storage retrieval systems and photocopying, and the rights of translation into non-English languages.

**PERFORMANCE RIGHTS AND ROYALTY PAYMENTS:** All amateur and stock performance rights to this Work are controlled exclusively by Green Room Press. No amateur or stock production groups or individuals may perform this play without securing license and royalty arrangements in advance from Green Room Press. Questions concerning other rights should be addressed to Green Room Press. Royalty fees are subject to change without notice. Professional and stock fees will be set upon application in accordance with your producing circumstances. Any licensing requests and inquiries relating to amateur and stock (professional) performance rights should be addressed to Green Room Press.

Royalty of the required amount must be paid, whether the play is presented for charity or profit and whether or not admission is charged.

**AUTHOR CREDIT:** All groups or individuals receiving permission to produce this Work must give the author(s) credit in any and all advertisement and publicity relating to the production of this Work. The author's billing must appear directly below the title on a separate line where no other written matter appears. The name of the author(s) must be at least 50% as large as the title of the Work. No person or entity may receive larger or more prominent credit than that which is given to the author(s).

**PUBLISHER CREDIT:** Whenever this Work is produced, all programs, advertisements, flyers or other printed material must include the following notice: ***Produced by special arrangement with Green Room Press.***

**COPYING:** Any unauthorized copying of this Work or excerpts from this Work is strictly forbidden by law. No part of this Work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, by any means now known or yet to be invented, including photocopying or scanning, without prior permission from Green Room Press.

**Once A Queen**  
**by Ken Bradbury**

# Once A Queen

by Ken Bradbury

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

RENFRO: *An aid to her Majesty.*

OXY: *Yet another aid.*

QUEEN: *Understandably, the Queen.*

SHOUTER: *An angry shouter*

PEON: *A humble peasant*

*(Renfro and Oxy stand at attention in the Queen's parlor.)*

**RENFRO:** Her majesty, the Queen!

**OXY:** Her majesty, the Queen!

**QUEEN:** *(entering with a grand flourish)* Thank you! Thank you, one and all. One people united! One nation indivisible! One ...

**RENFRO:** Your majesty?

**QUEEN:** Please don't interrupt the Queen when she's inspiring her people.

**RENFRO:** Your majesty ... uh ... there's no one here.

**QUEEN:** Really?

**RENFRO:** No one. This is your parlor.

**QUEEN:** I knew that.

**OXY:** Your balcony is this way, Your Majesty. And your loyal subjects await your annual address.

**QUEEN:** Oh, heavy is the head that wears the crown. But on this day once a year I must speak to all those citizens of my kingdom. It's the least I can do for all the great love they have for me.

**OXY:** Uh ... Your Majesty?

**QUEEN:** One this one blessed occasion each year they may view my beauty! Stand in awe of my presence! Glory in my very name!

**OXY:** Your Majesty?

**QUEEN:** I go! *(begins to move to the balcony)* I go! I go!

**OXY:** *(grabbing the Queen by her sleeve)* Your majesty?

**QUEEN:** You touched me! You touched the Queen! Off with your head!

**OXY:** We don't do that anymore, Your Majesty.

**QUEEN:** Oh. Pity. Isn't there something else I can whack at? How about an arm? And why are you grabbing me?

**RENFRO:** There are things you should know, Your Majesty.

**QUEEN:** Know? Know? I can drink tea without spilling a drop on my delicate chin; I can play bridge with a minimum of cheating, and I can distinguish seventeen types of caviar with only the aid of my noble nose. What else of importance could there possibly be for me to know?

**RENFRO:** Well ... it's your kingdom, Your Highness.

**QUEEN:** (*desperately*) The prime rib! Don't tell me the stores of prime rib are running low!

**RENFRO:** No ...

**QUEEN:** The wine! Renfro, if you have allowed my precious warehouse of wine to dwindle ...!

**RENFRO:** The wine is fine, Your Grace. It's ...

**QUEEN:** Yes?

**RENFRO:** Well, it's the people, Your Grace.

**QUEEN:** People?

**RENFRO:** (*taking her to the edge of the balcony*) Those barefoot little figures down there in rags and tatters.

**QUEEN:** Those are people? I thought they were pigs.

**RENFRO:** No, the swine are over there. They look much better, actually. Your Majesty, the people are not happy.

**QUEEN:** And you think I am? Just this morning I had to brush my own teeth! Can you imagine! Where was the maid?

**OXY:** She starved to death two days ago.

**QUEEN:** What a perfectly silly thing to do! She should have eaten something!

**RENFRO:** Your Majesty ...

**QUEEN:** Enough talk! I shall address my public! (*moves to go*)

**OXY:** (*grabbing her arm*) Please, Your Grace ...

**QUEEN:** You did it again. I saw you this time. You grabbed me. Don't think I don't know when I've been grabbed. Off with your head!

**RENFRO:** We don't do that, Your Majesty.

**QUEEN:** I knew that.

**PEON:** *(screams, stumbles into the room, and collapses at the feet of the Queen)*

**QUEEN:** Good grief. What is that?

**OXY:** It's one of your subjects, Your Majesty.

**QUEEN:** What's she doing in my castle? Off with her ...

**RENFRO:** Your Majesty! *(as Oxy bends to check the collapsed Peon)*

**QUEEN:** Oh bother! Well ... see what she wants. And hurry.  
*(noticing something on her sleeve)* Is that dust? Have I been soiled by a subject?

**OXY:** She's unconscious, Your Highness.

**QUEEN:** Sleeping? Sleeping the presence of the Queen! Can't she recognize magnificence when she sees it?

**OXY:** It's hunger, Your Grace. Your people are starving.

**QUEEN:** That is ridiculous! *(she storms to the edge of the balcony and shouts)* Eat, you fools! Eat! Eat! *(turns to her aids)* There. That should do it. One bit of my good advice and they'll be right as rain.

**SHOUTER:** *(from a position slightly offstage or perhaps out in the audience itself)* The Queen's a fool!

**QUEEN:** *(to Renfro)* What did you say?

**RENFRO:** 'Twas not I, Your Grace.

**SHOUTER:** Down with the Queen! Down! Down!

**QUEEN:** Gown? Gown? They love my gown! *(going to the balcony's edge again)* Here! Here! Look upon my gorgeous ... *(but just then something splats upon her chest)* Dear me. What's that? A pig dropping! There's pig refuse on my gown! *(looking up)* Flying pigs? *(to Oxy)* Is there something you're not telling me? Do I have flying pigs in my kingdom?

**OXY:** The pig wasn't flying, Your Majesty. Someone threw it at you.

**QUEEN:** That's impossible! Is this some sort of new game? Pig Pong? Whatever could they mean by this?

**RENFRO:** They hate you, Your Majesty.

**QUEEN:** Ridiculous!

**SHOUTER:** *(shouting)* We hate you, Your Majesty!



# GREEN ROOM PRESS

*Thank you for reading this free excerpt from:*

*ONCE A QUEEN*

*by Ken Bradbury.*

*For performance rights and/or a complete copy of the script,  
please contact us at:*

GREEN ROOM PRESS, INC.

[customerservice@greenroompress.com](mailto:customerservice@greenroompress.com)

[www.greenroompress.com](http://www.greenroompress.com)