

THE BALLOON PARTY

by Monika B. Hilder



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CAST

(In order of appearance)

NARRATOR

KING

PEACEMAKER

BURNOUT RED

MR. ADVICE

(Yellow)

IGNORANT PINK

SELFISH BLUE

QUITTER ORANGE

PROUD PURPLE

ALLERGIC GREEN

NEWCOMER RED

NEW ORANGE

BOLD WHITE

SHY WHITE ("ROB")

BALLOON FLYERS

(Extras, optional number)

PRODUCTION NOTES

The Balloon Party was first performed by Zion Lutheran Church in Cloverdale, B.C. Our stage was simple. We had a white backdrop, the King wore a crown, and each balloon flyer bobbed his "uniquely colored" helium balloon on a long string, easily released for the ending. The King passed out air-filled balloons in the opening mime for ease; throughout the rest of the play the actors had helium balloons. Tacks were used to pop some balloons in the opening.

In addition, one could have scenery suggesting the fairytale kingdom setting. Actors might wear tights and shirts or T-shirts matching their balloon's color. Bright, even-colored lighting would enhance the buoyant mood, as would darkness during Peacemaker's soliloquy, "What is this darkness?"

The key consideration is to have an array of different colored helium balloons "dancing" which will be released into the audience at the end. The burst of multicolored balloons rising is an effective metaphor for exercising spiritual gifts.

NARRATOR: *(All actors mime the narration. The KING, crowned, begins on Center Stage with his arms raised in an open gesture, as if to embrace the many subjects milling about.)* Once upon a time in a kingdom far away lived a good and wise King. This King had many subjects, and of his many subjects, not a one was like any other. *(KING points to different characteristics such as height, hair style.)* Indeed, each person in the kingdom was unique and had a special place in the King's heart. *(He touches his heart.)* And to show his people just how special each one of them was, he gave each person a gift: a brightly colored balloon. *(Merrily passes out air-filled balloons.)*

In fact, the King gave each person a lifetime supply of his or her special balloons. These balloons came in all shapes and sizes. And the colors, oh! To some he gave fiery red balloons, to some sky blue, to others leaf green, and still others saffron, peach or violet. Every color imaginable and some never before imagined appeared in those balloons. Even the balloons of the same color were unique, as different as the persons who received them, and not one balloon was more important than any other. Instead, all the balloons together showed the beauty and greatness of what came to be known as "Balloon Kingdom."

And the people were so overjoyed that day after day they flew their balloons in the King's honor. Throughout the kingdom balloons bobbed in a grand dance of color that stretched as far as the eye could see and beyond. And as the people flew their prize balloons, each day seemed like one big party. The King was pleased.

But one sad day things began to go badly. Balloons popped, others were lost, and some people plain forgot they owned one. *(All subjects drift away.)* The party was over. What now? *(Undaunted, the KING remains.)*

The good and wise King had a plan. *(Touching his forefinger to his head)* Indeed, he would send a Peacemaker

1 to speak with each of his subjects and invite them to a
2 grand balloon party. (*The PEACEMAKER arrives, exuberant.*)

3 The Peacemaker thought this was a wonderful idea and
4 agreed to go. She would find out what had gone wrong and
5 help to set it right. (*Nodding, smiling*) Yes! And then when all
6 was said and done, the balloons could fly again! (*Arms*
7 *raised to imitate rising balloons, PEACEMAKER leaves.*)

8 And this is the story of what happened when the King's
9 Peacemaker came to the people. (*NARRATOR and KING*
10 *exit. BURNOUT RED arrives, sits alone on the ground. Tries to*
11 *blow up a red balloon and fails. Despairing, she buries her head*
12 *in her arms. PEACEMAKER strolls towards her.*)

13 **PEACEMAKER:** (*Cheerfully, confidently to BURNOUT RED*) Oh,
14 there you are! Keep those red balloons coming! We sure
15 need them for the big party! (*BURNOUT RED gives*
16 *PEACEMAKER a sullen stare and tries once more to inflate the*
17 *balloon with no success. PEACEMAKER is oblivious to*
18 *BURNOUT RED's depression.*) It'll be such a party! You
19 won't believe what the King is planning! So get ready!

20 **BURNOUT RED:** (*Sourly*) Don't count on it.

21 **PEACEMAKER:** Wh-at?

22 **BURNOUT RED:** (*Emphatically*) Count me out.

23 **PEACEMAKER:** (*Amazed*) You? You're my prime candidate!
24 Where would we be without your red balloons? (*BURNOUT*
25 *RED shrugs. PEACEMAKER speaks persuasively, anxiously.*) But
26 your balloons are famous! I've told the King that your
27 balloons will make this party one of the finest he's ever
28 thrown!

29 **BURNOUT RED:** (*Visibly annoyed; challenging*) Why always my
30 red balloons? Why isn't there a yellow one for once?

31 **PEACEMAKER:** (*For the first time, reflective*) That's a good
32 question.

33 **BURNOUT RED:** (*Increasingly demanding*) And what about
34 blue? Why don't we ever see blue around here?

35 **PEACEMAKER:** Yellow and blue — I like that. We'll have to

1 **work on that.** (*BURNOUT RED is silent and tries to inflate*
 2 *balloon. PEACEMAKER says cautiously...*) **Uh...have you**
 3 **considered trying another color?**

4 **BURNOUT RED:** (*Flatly rejecting*) **Nope.** (*MR. ADVICE wanders*
 5 *onto stage and listens in.*)

6 **PEACEMAKER:** **Why not? Take a break from red. Fly some**
 7 **other colors for the party.**

8 **BURNOUT RED:** (*Rising in a furious outburst*) **Don't you get it?!**
 9 **My balloons are red! Not blue, not yellow, but red. And**
 10 **I've given all my red balloons! A whole troop of red**
 11 **balloons for every one of the King's parties. For years and**
 12 **years! And now I'm finished. Couldn't blow up one more**
 13 **red balloon for anything!**

14 **PEACEMAKER:** (*Appeasing*) **Maybe you're just a little tired.**

15 **BURNOUT RED:** **No — I'm finished! It's over! Finito! You can**
 16 **tell the King that if you like! I quit!** (*Strides off, seething.*)

17 **PEACEMAKER:** (*Defeated*) **Oh, great! Our prize balloon flyer is**
 18 **exhausted and quits for good. Just how am I supposed to**
 19 **fix burnout?**

20 **MR. ADVICE:** (*Smug air of authority*) **She's right, you know.**
 21 **We've been expecting her to blow up too many red ones.**
 22 **No wonder she's a basket case. We should be flying lots of**
 23 **different colors!**

24 **PEACEMAKER:** **So what are you suggesting?**

25 **MR. ADVICE:** (*Impatiently*) **That was my suggestion. Fly lots**
 26 **of different balloons! Don't expect one person to do**
 27 **everything.**

28 **PEACEMAKER:** **Well, where's your balloon?**

29 **MR. ADVICE:** (*Backing off*) **Me? Oh, no you don't! I'm just**
 30 **passing through.**

31 **PEACEMAKER:** (*In disbelief*) **What?**

32 **MR. ADVICE:** (*Defensively*) **Hey! I'm a busy guy and this isn't my**
 33 **department!**

34 **PEACEMAKER:** (*Watches MR. ADVICE disappear and laments*
 35 *bitterly.*) **Terrific. My greatest hope is a burnout, and Mr.**

1 Advice here has pious excuses! Just how am I supposed to
 2 get the King's balloon party going? (*IGNORANT PINK*
 3 *dawdles onto stage, oblivious to PEACEMAKER and to his own*
 4 *pink balloon bobbing above his head. PEACEMAKER tries to catch*
 5 *IGNORANT PINK's attention.*) Uh, excuse me, excuse me!

6 **IGNORANT PINK:** (*Sleepy drawl*) Wh-at?

7 **PEACEMAKER:** Hi! I'm the Peacemaker —

8 **IGNORANT PINK:** Who?

9 **PEACEMAKER:** The Peacemaker. I want to invite you to the
 10 balloon party. The King sent me.

11 **IGNORANT PINK:** Oh.

12 **PEACEMAKER:** Uh, the balloon party, y'know?

13 **IGNORANT PINK:** No. What are you talking about?

14 **PEACEMAKER:** (*Flustered*) The party, the party the King is
 15 throwing. All the people go to fly their balloons. It's a
 16 big deal!

17 **IGNORANT PINK:** (*Same flat disinterest*) Oh, OK. Well, have fun.
 18 (*Begins to saunter off.*)

19 **PEACEMAKER:** No, don't leave. I mean...aren't you going?

20 **IGNORANT PINK:** Me? No, I've never flown a balloon before.

21 **PEACEMAKER:** What? What do you mean?

22 **IGNORANT PINK:** (*Expansively*) Well...I've just never had a
 23 balloon to fly before. And since I've never had a balloon and
 24 have never flown one before, why would I go to your party?

25 **PEACEMAKER:** What?

26 **IGNORANT PINK:** Bye!

27 **PEACEMAKER:** (*Trying to detain him*) Hey! Wait a minute!

28 **IGNORANT PINK:** (*Pausing ever so slightly*) Yeah?

29 **PEACEMAKER:** (*Challenging*) What are you talking about?
 30 Just what is that bright pink thing bobbing up above
 31 your head?

32 **IGNORANT PINK:** (*He glances up but doesn't see his balloon.*) Where?

33 **PEACEMAKER:** (*Demonstratively*) Your balloon! Your big pink
 34 balloon!

35 **IGNORANT PINK:** (*He stares at it a moment before answering.*) I

- 1 can't believe it.
- 2 **PEACEMAKER:** It's your balloon!
- 3 **IGNORANT PINK:** (*Incredulous*) How did that get there?
- 4 **PEACEMAKER:** The King gave it to you! He's the balloon-
- 5 giver. Don't you remember getting it?
- 6 **IGNORANT PINK:** Nope.
- 7 **PEACEMAKER:** (*Exasperated aside*) How can anyone possess a
- 8 balloon and not know it? Not even remember getting it? (*To*
- 9 **IGNORANT PINK**) So, are you coming to the King's party?
- 10 **IGNORANT PINK:** Dunno. Let me think about this one. (*Saunters*
- 11 *off. While PEACEMAKER watches IGNORANT PINK leave,*
- 12 *SELFISH BLUE, hiding a blue balloon behind her back, scurries*
- 13 *across the stage, hoping to go unseen. PEACEMAKER spots her*
- 14 *and cries out.*)
- 15 **PEACEMAKER:** Hey! Not so fast!
- 16 **SELFISH BLUE:** (*Guiltily*) Yeah?
- 17 **PEACEMAKER:** Where are you off to?
- 18 **SELFISH BLUE:** (*Airily, trying to look nonchalant*) Me? Oh,
- 19 nowhere in particular.
- 20 **PEACEMAKER:** Good. For a minute there I was beginning to
- 21 imagine you didn't want me to see you.
- 22 **SELFISH BLUE:** Oh! Well... (*Tries hiding her balloon behind her*
- 23 *back. PEACEMAKER notices this and tries to get a look at it.*
- 24 *They begin to circle each other.*)
- 25 **PEACEMAKER:** Just what have you got there, friend?
- 26 **SELFISH BLUE:** (*Flustered*) Me? This? Oh — this. Well...
- 27 **PEACEMAKER:** A balloon. A blue balloon. Just what I'm
- 28 looking for!
- 29 **SELFISH BLUE:** Whaddya mean?
- 30 **PEACEMAKER:** (*Grandly*) The balloon party, of course. You're
- 31 coming to the King's balloon party, aren't you? Your blue
- 32 balloon is just what we need!
- 33 **SELFISH BLUE:** (*Stammers.*) Oh, no, no thanks. This little
- 34 balloon is just for me.
- 35 **PEACEMAKER:** What?

- 1 **SELFISH BLUE:** Oh, no, I couldn't possibly fly this at the party.
- 2 **PEACEMAKER:** Why not?
- 3 **SELFISH BLUE:** Ssshhh! Not so loud!
- 4 **PEACEMAKER:** What's your problem?
- 5 **SELFISH BLUE:** *(Looks around nervously and answers in a*
6 *whisper.)* Ssshhh! Quiet! Listen, someone might find out
7 I'm pretty good at this.
- 8 **PEACEMAKER:** So?
- 9 **SELFISH BLUE:** Don't you know? If they find out I'm pretty
10 good at this, they'll ask me to do it again!
- 11 **PEACEMAKER:** So?
- 12 **SELFISH BLUE:** Don't you get it? If they find out how good I
13 am, they'll ask me again and again and again. Don't you
14 know? I'd get exhausted! I'd get totally stressed!
- 15 **PEACEMAKER:** *(Counseling)* You could say no if it got to be too
16 much...
- 17 **SELFISH BLUE:** *(Lightly)* But why bother? So embarrassing.
18 Such a hassle. No, no, I've got to be my own person. This
19 little balloon is just for me, and that's enough to make me
20 happy. See you! *(PEACEMAKER watches SELFISH BLUE*
21 *scurry away and shakes her head. QUITTER ORANGE arrives.)*
- 22 **PEACEMAKER:** Oh, hello! I'm here to invite you to the King's
23 balloon party and, uh, where is your balloon?
- 24 **QUITTER ORANGE:** *(Holding up remains of popped balloon)* You
25 mean this?
- 26 **PEACEMAKER:** Uh...what happened?
- 27 **QUITTER ORANGE:** *(Annoyed; emphatic)* This is what's left of
28 my balloon! Oh, yes, the King gave me a balloon once. a
29 big, bright, beautiful orange balloon! And I flew it gladly.
30 But you know what? *(PEACEMAKER shakes head. QUITTER*
31 *ORANGE pouts.)* It popped.
- 32 **PEACEMAKER:** How?
- 33 **QUITTER ORANGE:** Someone popped it. Pricked it with a
34 tiny pin, and it went *pop!* Pop! Good-bye, game over, no
35 more balloon!

- 1 **PEACEMAKER:** When was that?
- 2 **QUITTER ORANGE:** (*Sighs heavily.*) Ten years ago.
- 3 **PEACEMAKER:** So, uh...you haven't flown another in ten years?
- 4 **QUITTER ORANGE:** Nope.
- 5 **PEACEMAKER:** Why not?
- 6 **QUITTER ORANGE:** (*Indignant*) Why not?! Haven't you been
- 7 listening? The King gives me a big, bright, beautiful
- 8 orange balloon, and somebody pops it — *just like that.*
- 9 *Pop! No big deal. Pop, pop, pop!*
- 10 **PEACEMAKER:** (*Mildly*) You could fly another one.
- 11 **QUITTER ORANGE:** (*No longer listening, turns to leave.*) Just like
- 12 that. Pop! Gone! That's what happens to balloons.
- 13 **PEACEMAKER:** (*Troubled, to herself*) Oh, wow...what next?
- 14 (*PROUD PURPLE swaggers across the stage with three purple*
- 15 *balloons.*)
- 16 **PROUD PURPLE:** (*Big voice*) Hello there! You wouldn't know
- 17 where the next balloon party is going to be, would you?
- 18 **PEACEMAKER:** (*Startled*) Well, yes! Are you...are you coming?
- 19 **PROUD PURPLE:** (*Forthright*) Of course! What would the
- 20 King's party be like without my purple balloons?
- 21 **PEACEMAKER:** (*Taken aback*) Oh! So I can count on you?
- 22 **PROUD PURPLE:** (*Well-pleased, admiring his balloons*) Naturally!
- 23 There's no party without purple, and there's no purple
- 24 without me!
- 25 **PEACEMAKER:** Well...actually...we're hoping for a whole lot
- 26 of balloons. Pink, yellow, red, blue...
- 27 **PROUD PURPLE:** (*Startled*) Bl-ue? Why blue?
- 28 **PEACEMAKER:** Why not?
- 29 **PROUD PURPLE:** (*Challenging*) We've always done fine with-
- 30 out blue. Why change now?
- 31 **PEACEMAKER:** Blue is one of the King's royal colors!
- 32 **PROUD PURPLE:** (*Unmoved*) Well, I've never seen it at a party
- 33 before. Whose idea was that?
- 34 **PEACEMAKER:** (*Growing angry*) The King's.
- 35 **PROUD PURPLE:** But why? Blue will change everything!

- 1 **PEACEMAKER:** Not everything. Purple is still purple. (*Ironic*
2 *sigh*) Besides, adding blue balloons to yellow is like
3 adding sky to sunshine.
- 4 **PROUD PURPLE:** Oh? I'll have to think about that... (*He*
5 *saunters off.*)
- 6 **PEACEMAKER:** (*To herself*) Why is peacemaking so hard?
7 (*ALLERGIC GREEN wanders onto the stage with his balloon.*
8 *PEACEMAKER speaks cautiously.*) Hello there. Are you
9 going to the King's balloon party?
- 10 **ALLERGIC GREEN:** (*Easy-going*) Yeah, guess so. Always liked a
11 good party.
- 12 **PEACEMAKER:** (*Relieved*) Great! See you there, then.
- 13 **ALLERGIC GREEN:** (*Agrees, then stops abruptly and asks*
14 *nervously...*) Oh, wait. Is there any chance that, uh, purple
15 will be there?
- 16 **PEACEMAKER:** Purple? I hope so.
- 17 **ALLERGIC GREEN:** (*Protests.*) Oh, no, count me out!
- 18 **PEACEMAKER:** (*Exasperated*) What's wrong now?
- 19 **ALLERGIC GREEN:** (*Growing panic*) Purple! I'm positively
20 allergic to purple! Purple gets me all choked up! (*Sneezes.*)
21 My eyes start to water and my skin starts to itch! (*Begins*
22 *scratching himself.*) My throat begins to swell, and pretty
23 soon I can't breathe! Purple — ACK! There oughtta be a
24 law against purple!
- 25 **PEACEMAKER:** (*To herself*) I don't believe it. Allergies! No one
26 ever said anything about allergies! (*To ALLERGIC GREEN*)
27 Uh...couldn't you fly your balloon a little farther away
28 from purple...maybe in the other corner?
- 29 **ALLERGIC GREEN:** Oh, no! Just seeing purple makes me ill.
30 I'm sure other people feel the same way. Couldn't you just
31 tell purple to go home? I'd be fine without purple!
32 (*ALLERGIC GREEN leaves.*)
- 33 **PEACEMAKER:** (*Seriously*) What is this darkness? A terrible
34 darkness has stolen over Balloon Kingdom and robbed
35 the people of joy and laughter. Is there anyone left who

1 will fly his balloon? How can I or anyone be the
 2 Peacemaker? I must speak to my king. (*Leaves downcast.*
 3 *NARRATOR enters. PEACEMAKER and KING mime.*)

4 **NARRATOR:** And so the Peacemaker went to see the King. She
 5 told the King everything that had happened and
 6 wondered if the King couldn't choose a better
 7 Peacemaker. (*Shaking head, gestures in despair.*) The people
 8 seemed too unwilling, she too weak, the darkness over
 9 Balloon Kingdom too great.

10 The King listened (*Cups chin in hand*) and at length gave
 11 the verdict: she must return as his Peacemaker.
 12 (*Outstretched arm pointing direction*) Yes, the people were
 13 unwilling. Very imperfect indeed. Yes, she was weak. And
 14 yes, the darkness was great. But she was not responsible
 15 for the outcome of her efforts. She was only responsible
 16 for trying to be the Peacemaker he had called her to be.

17 The King (*Smiling*) spoke as if he knew something of the
 18 outcome that no one else could guess. And so the
 19 Peacemaker (*Drifting to the front of the stage, waiting to collect*
 20 *her thoughts*) returned to her task, determined to try. As
 21 she pondered the fact that she was not responsible for the
 22 outcome, a strange lightheartedness came over her.
 23 (*Lifting hands, smiling with sudden zest*) A flame of joy leapt
 24 up in her heart that all the darkness in the land could not
 25 quench. (*All exit. BURNOUT RED is seated alone On-stage.*
 26 *PEACEMAKER approaches her.*)

27 **PEACEMAKER:** (*Cheerful but cautious, with a new serenity*) Oh,
 28 hello. How's it going?

29 **BURNOUT RED:** Not great.

30 **PEACEMAKER:** Yeah? Because — (*Enthusiastically, NEWCOMER*
 31 *RED approaches them.*)

32 **NEWCOMER RED:** Hello! I'm new around here! Can either of
 33 you tell me where the party is?

34 **PEACEMAKER:** Sure! Right here — as soon as everybody gets
 35 here.

1 **NEWCOMER RED:** Great!
2 **PEACEMAKER:** So where are you from?
3 **NEWCOMER RED:** Oh, I'm from Outside Country. Have you
4 heard of us?
5 **PEACEMAKER:** Yeah, I have. But how did you —?
6 **NEWCOMER RED:** Get here? It's a long story. But you might
7 say one of your balloons started it.
8 **PEACEMAKER:** (*Eagerly*) Really? What happened?
9 **NEWCOMER RED:** Well, in Outside Country we don't fly
10 balloons. We don't do much of anything that's fun. (*A long*
11 *sigh*) Bor-ing! And one day I saw one of your balloons float
12 over our country. A gigantic red balloon clearing our
13 highest mountains!
14 **PEACEMAKER:** (*To BURNOUT RED*) See? A red balloon.
15 (*BURNOUT RED shrugs.*)
16 **NEWCOMER RED:** (*Excited*) This red balloon — what a
17 beautiful sight! I just had to discover what it was all
18 about, so I traveled in the direction the balloon had flown
19 until I came to your kingdom. And y'know? (*PEACE-*
20 *MAKER shakes head.*) I liked Balloon Kingdom so much, I
21 decided to stay! Best decision I ever made!
22 **PEACEMAKER:** That's great!
23 **NEWCOMER RED:** Yeah! And just look at this! My very own
24 red balloon! (*Admires balloon and tugs at the string.*) Isn't she
25 wonderful?
26 **PEACEMAKER:** I love it!
27 **NEWCOMER RED:** Yup! The King wanted to see me and ended
28 up giving me this amazing gift.
29 **PEACEMAKER:** (*To BURNOUT RED*) See? All because of one of
30 your balloons, someone escaped from Outside Country!
31 (*BURNOUT RED shrugs.*)
32 **NEWCOMER RED:** (*More excited, to BURNOUT RED*) Are you the
33 famous red balloon flyer? I've always wanted to meet you!
34 **BURNOUT RED:** (*Briefly meeting his gaze and answering in a small*
35 *voice*) Hi. (*To herself*) I used to get excited like this once. It'd

1 be a crime to tell this new guy how depressed I really feel
2 about flying balloons!

3 **NEWCOMER RED:** *(To BURNOUT RED)* Well, it was great
4 meeting you! If it hadn't been for you, I might not be here
5 at all! *(To NARRATOR and BURNOUT RED as he exits)* Guess
6 I'll see you at the party.

7 **PEACEMAKER:** *(Grinning)* Well?

8 **BURNOUT RED:** *(Annoyed)* Oh, I know what you're thinking.

9 **PEACEMAKER:** What am I thinking?

10 **BURNOUT RED:** *(Energetically)* You're thinking how convenient
11 it is for the newcomer to convince me of my importance.
12 Well, I'm not convinced! Any balloon could have brought
13 him here. Any balloon!

14 **PEACEMAKER:** Any balloon could have...but yours did.

15 **BURNOUT RED:** Oh, yes, I know. It was mine. But that doesn't
16 convince me to try flying them again.

17 **PEACEMAKER:** *(Accepting)* OK.

18 **BURNOUT RED:** *(Confessing)* You know what really bothers
19 me? His happiness. His enthusiasm for flying. I used to be
20 like that!

21 **PEACEMAKER:** And?

22 **BURNOUT RED:** OK, I admit I miss it. But don't tell me what
23 to do. I've got to think about it! *(Exits.)*

24 **MR. ADVICE:** *(He enters, proudly displaying a yellow balloon.)* How
25 do you like it?

26 **PEACEMAKER:** Hey, not bad!

27 **MR. ADVICE:** *(Pleasant smile)* Fooled you, didn't I!

28 **PEACEMAKER:** Yeah. What happened?

29 **MR. ADVICE:** *(Reflectively)* A lot of things. I got to thinking. Was
30 wondering why I knew so much about the important
31 things and never had time to do them. Always so busy!
32 But what was I so busy about? Nothing too important!
33 And I realized I was basically full of good advice and had
34 a whole lot of pious excuses for not doing anything
35 myself! *(Chuckles, nods,)* Pretty annoying, huh? I'll bet you

1 **thought that of me, too.**

2 **PEACEMAKER:** *(Mildly embarrassed)* Oh! Well...

3 **MR. ADVICE:** *(Perceptively, expansively)* Oh, that's OK! Say it! I
4 know it's true. But hey, I got tired of the lies. Got tired of
5 passing through life and never getting anywhere. So you
6 know what? I went straight to the King! Went up to the
7 good, wise man, said how sorry I was, and he ended up
8 giving me my very own balloon. This! Isn't she a beauty?
9 *(Admires balloon.)*

10 **PEACEMAKER:** Great!

11 **MR. ADVICE:** *(Increasingly self-centered enthusiasm)* In fact, this
12 balloon is so fantastic, don't you think everyone should
13 have one just like it? I mean, when you can fly a gorgeous
14 yellow balloon, what more do you need?

15 **PEACEMAKER:** *(Apprehensively)* Uh...I don't think so! I mean,
16 it's a great balloon, but it's your balloon to fly, no one else's.

17 **MR. ADVICE:** *(Laughs and the spell of pride falls away.)* Yeah,
18 you're right! I was meant to fly yellow. Let everyone fly
19 his own color! Anyway, thanks!

20 **PEACEMAKER:** Uh...for what?

21 **MR. ADVICE:** *(Big-heartedly)* For helping me to become honest.
22 For expecting me to fly my own balloon. And for inviting
23 me to the King's party. See you there! *(Exits.)*

24 **PEACEMAKER:** *(Ponders alone.)* Whaddya know? I didn't know
25 I had any effect on him at all.

26 **IGNORANT PINK:** *(Strides confidently onto the stage.)* Hi, Peace-
27 maker!

28 **PEACEMAKER:** *(Startled)* Oh, hi!

29 **IGNORANT PINK:** Getting lots of people for the King's party?

30 **PEACEMAKER:** I don't know.

31 **IGNORANT PINK:** Well, I'm ready!

32 **PEACEMAKER:** Yeah? What happened?

33 **IGNORANT PINK:** *(Confessing)* You got me thinking about the
34 balloon the King gave me. For years I didn't even know I
35 had one! How could I have been so blind? You must have

1 **thought I was an idiot!**
2 **PEACEMAKER:** *(Mildly embarrassed)* Well...
3 **IGNORANT PINK:** *(Laughs.)* Hey, that's OK! I *was* an idiot!
4 Here the King gave me this fantastic, one-of-a-kind
5 balloon to fly, and I knew nothing about it. *Dumb*, huh?!
6 *(Philosophically)* But I figure there's nothing wrong with
7 being an idiot as long as you don't stay that way once
8 someone points it out to you. Don't you think? Haven't
9 you ever been an idiot before?
10 **PEACEMAKER:** Yeah...guess so.
11 **IGNORANT PINK:** *(Excitedly)* Anyway, I went to tell the King
12 how sorry I was that I hadn't been flying his balloon. And
13 you know what? He actually smiled! He forgave me! Isn't
14 that awesome?! And I told him that from now on I was
15 going to fly every single balloon he gave me. Pink,
16 balloons from here to the highest heavens! Pink forever
17 and ever! Aren't you excited?!
18 **PEACEMAKER:** *(Catching vision)* Yeah! Wow!
19 **IGNORANT PINK:** So keep inviting people. See you there! *(Exits.)*
20 **PEACEMAKER:** *(Alone, joyfully)* Wow, all I had to do was invite
21 people to the King's party. No arm-twisting. The
22 invitation alone was what got everybody thinking!
23 **SELFISH BLUE:** *(Arrives displaying balloon and sheepishly speaks*
24 *to PEACEMAKER.)* Uh...hi.
25 **PEACEMAKER:** Oh! You're back.
26 **SELFISH BLUE:** Yeah, I think I might try it.
27 **PEACEMAKER:** *(Incredulously)* You will?
28 **SELFISH BLUE:** *(Defensively)* Yeah, y'know...Just try this party,
29 mind you. *(More energy)* I'm not committing myself to every
30 blue balloon festival for the next five hundred years!
31 **PEACEMAKER:** *(Appeasing, curiously)* OK, OK. But what
32 changed your mind?
33 **SELFISH BLUE:** Well, I got to thinking. Hiding this balloon
34 was getting kind of awkward. And then I wondered if it
35 wouldn't be more fun just to fly it. Balloons are meant for

- 1 **flying, aren't they?**
- 2 **PROUD PURPLE:** *(Striding onto stage, addressing both in loud*
3 *voice)* **Party time, is it?**
- 4 **PEACEMAKER:** **We're getting there.**
- 5 **PROUD PURPLE:** *(To SELFISH BLUE)* **And you must be —**
6 **SELFISH BLUE:** *(Self-assuredly)* **Blue.**
- 7 **PROUD PURPLE:** **Haven't seen you around before.**
- 8 **SELFISH BLUE:** *(Annoyed)* **I haven't been around before.**
- 9 **PROUD PURPLE:** *(Grandly)* **Of course. Well, give me a shout if**
10 **you need help.** *(SELFISH BLUE rolls her eyes as if to say*
11 *PROUD PURPLE is the most obnoxious man she's ever met.*
12 *PROUD PURPLE appears to be unaware of the effect of his pride.*
13 *PEACEMAKER, amused, shrugs at audience.)* **Hey! Have you**
14 **noticed how nice my color looks next to yours?**
- 15 **SELFISH BLUE:** *(Offended)* **Your color! Why your color?**
- 16 **PROUD PURPLE:** *(Grins.)* **Seriously, I've never looked so good!**
- 17 **SELFISH BLUE:** **Isn't that a little ridiculous?**
- 18 **PROUD PURPLE:** *(Musing, boisterous pride falling away)* **I**
19 **would've said that once...I used to think purple was all**
20 **that mattered. Thought blue was irrelevant until our**
21 **Peacemaker here** *(Nods to her)* **reminded me that blue was**
22 **one of the King's royal colors. And when I saw you just**
23 **now, it hit me that I'd never seen what purple could be**
24 **like until I saw it next to blue.**
- 25 **PROUD PURPLE and SELFISH BLUE:** *(Both speak at once.)*
26 **Have you ever wondered?**
- 27 **SELFISH BLUE:** *(Generously)* **You go ahead.**
- 28 **PROUD PURPLE:** *(Intensely)* **Have you ever considered that**
29 **I'm not really my true self until I'm with you?**
- 30 **SELFISH BLUE:** *(Startled)* **You mean...without me —**
- 31 **PROUD PURPLE:** *(Emphatic, smiling)* **I wouldn't be all I'm**
32 **meant to be!**
- 33 **SELFISH BLUE:** *(After a long pause, philosophically)* **I just**
34 **thought of something. If that's true, what about all the**
35 **other colors? Have you wondered what we're like with all**

1 the colors together? One big party, with all the colors
 2 bringing out more and more in each of the colors
 3 there...ad infinitum? Wow! That means you've never seen
 4 green until you've seen green together with white and
 5 red and pink and orange...Wow!

6 **PROUD PURPLE:** (*Broad smile of admiration*) So are you going
 7 to the party with me?

8 **SELFISH BLUE:** (*Characteristic hesitation*) Do I have a choice?

9 **PROUD PURPLE:** (*To audience*) I'd like to say no — (*To SELFISH*
 10 *BLUE*) You always have a choice.

11 **SELFISH BLUE:** I do? (*Admires her balloon, then announces in a*
 12 *perky tone.*) OK! Let's go. (*PROUD PURPLE and SELFISH*
 13 *BLUE leave together, chatting.*)

14 **PEACEMAKER:** (*Alone*) Who would've believed those two?
 15 What a relief!

16 **QUITTER ORANGE:** (*Enters with an inflated orange balloon.*) I
 17 must be crazy, but I'm trying this again.

18 **PEACEMAKER:** That's great!

19 **QUITTER ORANGE:** (*Doubtfully*) I dunno. That's what I thought
 20 the first time! What if it pops again?

21 **PEACEMAKER:** You'll be fine!

22 **NEW ORANGE:** (*Enters confidently.*) When's the party?

23 **PEACEMAKER:** Any time now. Why don't you two go meet
 24 the others?

25 **QUITTER ORANGE:** (*Gives NEW ORANGE a scrutinizing look and*
 26 *drawls.*) Hey, you're the one who popped my balloon ten
 27 years ago!

28 **NEW ORANGE:** (*Takes a step back as if shrinking under the*
 29 *accusation, but is amused.*) Oh! Did I? Yeah, I was into that
 30 then...

31 **QUITTER ORANGE:** How can I trust you?!

32 **NEW ORANGE:** (*Philosophically, still amused*) I don't know.

33 **QUITTER ORANGE:** (*Plaintively*) Oh, great! First you pop my
 34 one and only balloon, and ten years later, you destroy my
 35 second one. No thanks!



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