

**ACT ONE**

**Scene 7**

(ELPHABA AND GALINDA'S DORM ROOM.

BOTH GIRLS have clearly been up all night, talking.)

GALINDA

Your very first party? Ever?

ELPHABA

Do funerals count?

GALINDA

But your very first party!

(beat)

I know! Let's each tell the other something we've never told anyone! I'll go first:  
Fiyero and I are going to be married!

ELPHABA

(stunned)

He's asked you *already*?

GALINDA

Oh, he doesn't know yet.

(beat)

Now you tell me a secret.

ELPHABA

Like what?

GALINDA

Like —

(as she retrieves it)

Why do you sleep with this funny little green bottle under your pillow?

ELPHABA

(fiercely, grabbing at it)

Give that back!

GALINDA

(holds it out of reach)

Come on — tell.

## ELPHABA

It was my mother's, that's all.

*(ELPHABA rips the bottle away from GALINDA, and shoves it back under her pillow.)*

## GALINDA

Well, that's not fair, I told you a really good one.

## ELPHABA

My father hates me.

## GALINDA

*(GALINDA Gasps)*

## ELPHABA

That's not the secret. The secret is—he has a good reason.

*(off GALINDA'S expression; a statement of fact)*

It's my fault.

## GALINDA

*(instantly fascinated)*

What, what is?

## ELPHABA

That my sister is... the way she is.

*(decides to trust her with all of it)*

You see, when our mother was carrying Nessa, our father began to worry... that the new baby might come out—

## ELPHABA &amp; GALINDA

*(in unison)*

—Green.

## ELPHABA

He was so worried, he made our mother chew milk flowers, day and night. Only it made Nessa come too soon... with her little legs all tangled. And our mother—never woke up. None of which would ever have happened... if not for me.

## GALINDA

But—that was the milk flower's fault, not yours!

*(with compassion)*

That may be your secret, Elphaba. But it doesn't make it true.

*(SHE looks out the window, sees the sun rising...)*

Look—it's tomorrow! And Elphie—is it all right if I call you Elphie?

ELPHABA

Well, it's a little perky ...

GALINDA

*(forges on)*

And you can call me—Galinda. You see Elphie, now that we're friends, I've decided to make you my new project.

ELPHABA

You really don't have to do that.

GALINDA

*(brightly)*

I know. That's what makes me so nice!

#9 – Popular

*(sings)*

WHENEVER I SEE SOMEONE  
LESS FORTUNATE THAN I  
(AND LET'S FACE IT – WHO ISN'T  
LESS FORTUNATE THAN I?)  
MY TENDER HEART  
TENDS TO START TO BLEED  
AND WHEN SOMEONE NEEDS A MAKEOVER  
I SIMPLY HAVE TO TAKE OVER  
I KNOW I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THEY NEED  
AND EVEN IN YOUR CASE  
THO' IT'S THE TOUGHEST CASE I'VE YET TO FACE  
DON'T WORRY – I'M DETERMINED TO SUCCEED  
FOLLOW MY LEAD  
AND YES, INDEED  
YOU WILL BE...

POPULAR!  
YOU'RE GONNA BE POPULAR!  
I'LL TEACH YOU THE PROPER PLOYS  
WHEN YOU TALK TO BOYS  
LITTLE WAYS TO FLIRT AND FLOUNCE  
I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT SHOES TO WEAR  
HOW TO FIX YOUR HAIR  
EVERYTHING THAT REALLY COUNTS

## (GALINDA)

TO BE POPULAR!  
I'LL HELP YOU BE POPULAR!  
YOU'LL HANG WITH THE RIGHT COHORTS  
YOU'LL BE GOOD AT SPORTS  
KNOW THE SLANG YOU'VE GOT TO KNOW  
SO LET'S START  
'CAUSE YOU'VE GOT AN AWF'LLY LONG WAY TO GO...

DON'T BE OFFENDED BY MY FRANK ANALYSIS  
THINK OF IT AS PERSONALITY DIALYSIS  
NOW THAT I'VE CHOSEN TO BECOME A PAL, A SIS-  
TER AND ADVISER  
THERE'S NOBODY WISER  
NOT WHEN IT COMES TO POPULAR —  
I KNOW ABOUT POPULAR  
AND WITH AN ASSIST FROM ME  
TO BE WHO YOU'LL BE  
INSTEAD OF DREARY WHO-YOU-WERE... ARE..  
THERE'S NOTHING THAT CAN STOP YOU  
FROM BECOMING POPU-  
LER... LAR...  
LA LA LA LA  
WE'RE GONNA MAKE  
YOU POPULAR...

WHEN I SEE DEPRESSING CREATURES  
WITH UNPREPOSSESSING FEATURES  
I REMIND THEM ON THEIR OWN BEHALF  
TO THINK OF  
CELEBRATED HEADS OF STATE OR  
SPECIALLY GREAT COMMUNICATORS  
DID THEY HAVE BRAINS OR KNOWLEDGE?  
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!

THEY WERE POPULAR! PLEASE—  
IT'S ALL ABOUT POPULAR!  
IT'S NOT ABOUT APTITUDE  
IT'S THE WAY YOU'RE VIEWED  
SO IT'S VERY SHREWD TO BE

(GALINDA)

VERY VERY POPULAR  
LIKE ME!

ELPHABA

This is never going to work...

GALINDA

Elphie! You mustn't think that way anymore! Your whole life is going to change!  
And all because of me! First: hair. See? This is how you toss your hair—  
Toss. Toss.

*(SHE demonstrates and ELPHABA tries.)*

Well—you'll practice! And now—

*(SHE picks up her new magic wand)*

I shall transform your simple "frock" into a magnificent ball gown.

*(SHE gestures with the wand. Nothing happens.)*

Ball gown.

Ball gown.

*(Looks at the wand)*

Is this on?

*(SHE shakes the wand again, then when nothing happens...)*

ELPHABA

You want me to try?

GALINDA

Oh-just-wear-the-frock-it's-pretty!

*(Tosses the wand. Then, brightens as she gets another idea)*

Oh— And now for the finishing touch.

*(SHE takes a flower from her own hair, pins it into Elphaba's...)*

Pink goes good with green.

*(hushed)*

Why, Miss Elphaba—look at you. You're beautiful.

*(SHE shows Elphaba herself in a mirror. ELPHABA stares at herself... for a moment it seems possible. And then— SHE forces herself to turn away.)*

ELPHABA

I— I have to go—

*(And SHE rushes off.)*

GALINDA

*(Calls after her)*

You're welcome!

*(sings)*

AND THO' YOU PROTEST  
YOUR DISINTEREST  
I KNOW CLANDESTINEDLY  
YOU'RE GONNA GRIN AND BEAR IT  
YOUR NEW-FOUND POPULARITY –  
LA LA LA LA  
YOU'LL BE POPULAR  
JUST NOT QUITE AS POPULAR  
AS ME!

*(AND WE TRANSITION TO:)*

#9a – *After Popular*