

## “Tangled” – New Beginnings Skit

Once upon a time, a single drop of sunlight fell to the earth. Where it fell there grew a beautiful golden flower with the power to heal & restore anything. The witch Gothel discovered the flower and kept it hidden from the world saving its power for herself. Whenever she wanted, all she needed do was sing a special song and the tune would draw out the power of the flower and restore her youth.

Far away in the kingdom of the sun, the king and queen were blessed with the news of a baby to come. A few months before the baby was to be born, the queen became gravely ill and, fearing for her life, the king sent his guards far and wide in search of a cure. After many months of searching, the flower was discovered at last and brought to the queen. They made a broth from the flower and gave it to her. She was restored to health and a little while later gave birth to a beautiful baby girl. They loved her dearly and named her Rapunzel.

The witch, Gothel, suspecting that the young princess had been imbued with the power of the magical flower, came in to the castle one night. She crept towards the baby’s cradle and began to sing the special song. As she did, Rapunzel’s golden hair began to glow and Gothel’s youth was restored to her as she stroked Rapunzel’s hair. Wanting the power for herself, Gothel snipped a small lock of Rapunzel’s hair, but to her surprise, the moment she did, it turned brown and lost all its magical power. Panicked and greedy, Gothel snatched up Rapunzel and fled the castle.

The guards were alerted & searched everywhere in vain for the lost princess. Heartbroken, but still holding to their hope, the king and queen sent a decree throughout the kingdom. Every year on the princess’ birthday the entire kingdom was to light floating lanterns and send them off into the sky so the lost princess might see them. They hoped the lanterns would lead her back to the kingdom of the sun, her true identity, and her loving parents. The king & queen waited & waited. Many years went by without any sign of the princess and no indication of her whereabouts.

Gothel had hidden her in a tall tower secreted away from the world and raised Rapunzel as her own daughter. Week after week, Rapunzel would sit at her mother’s feet and sing the special song while Mother Gothel combed her hair and rejuvenated her own youthfulness. Mother Gothel would frequently leave for days at a time collecting various goods and supplies, during which time Rapunzel’s only friend was her pet chameleon, Pascal. As the years went by, Rapunzel learned many skills and developed her talents. She cooked and cleaned, painted and sang, sewed and read. She was talented, smart, obedient and kind. Rapunzel’s greatest joy

came every year on her birthday when she would look out the windows of her tower and watch as thousands of glowing lights ascending into the night sky. More than anything Rapunzel desperately wanted to travel to see the lights and discover their purpose.

Mother Gothel strictly forbade Rapunzel from leaving the tower or going to see the lights. She told Rapunzel that the world was a dangerous place full of horrible selfish people and that Rapunzel needed to protect her gift by remaining hidden. She often insulted Rapunzel, criticized her appearance, and mocked her opinions in order to keep Rapunzel dependent upon her. As long as Rapunzel was unsure of herself she was less likely to venture out of the tower on her own. Gothel lied to her & told Rapunzel that she loved her and only wanted what's best for her – which was why Rapunzel had to stay with her and never leave. Rapunzel knew that she needed to protect her gift, but was saddened that Mother Gothel would not take her to see the lanterns. She longed to discover the truth behind the lights.

One day, while Mother Gothel was away for a bit, a dashing young thief named, Flynn Ryder happened upon Rapunzel's tower while he was running to escape the king's guards. He had stolen the princess' crown from the castle, betrayed his thief partners and was now on the run. The captain of the guard's blood hound horse, Maximus, had been hot on his trail all day. Upon seeing the tower, Flynn sought refuge inside and scaled the wall to escape capture. Unfortunately for Flynn, he escaped Maximus only to find himself caught in a new trap. Wanting to prove to her mother that she was capable of handling situations on her own, Rapunzel tied up Flynn and took the stolen crown. She waited proudly for her mother to come home. When Gothel finally returned, Rapunzel tried to explain that she was ready to defend herself & make the trip to see the lights, but Gothel was angry & didn't listen. She scolded Rapunzel for mentioning the idea of leaving the tower and threatened her if she ever discussed it again. Disheartened, Rapunzel quietly went to her room.

As she sat there, Rapunzel came up with a plan & decided to trick Mother Gothel into leaving on a long journey to find some rare paint ingredients in a distant part of the land. She would be gone for 3-4 days leaving Rapunzel plenty of time to see the lights for herself. Once Gothel had left, Rapunzel untied Flynn and under threat to turn him in to the castle guards, she convinced him to escort her on her journey. She promised to give the crown back to him once they had seen the lights. Caught and unwilling to lose the crown, Flynn agreed and within minutes Rapunzel, Pascal and Flynn were off on their adventure.

Rapunzel found everything about the world fascinating and wonderful. She experienced & saw things she only dreamed of and read about in books. After traveling for a while, Flynn suggested they stop in at the "Snuggly Duckling" for some water. He hoped the thugs who

hung out there would frighten Rapunzel & make her want to return to the tower. Once inside, the tables were turned on Flynn - the thugs all wanted to collect the reward money for capturing him! Rapunzel bravely insisted that the thugs release Flynn. She told them of her dream to see the lights & listened while the thugs all sang about dreams of their own. Their worries temporarily forgotten, Rapunzel & Flynn relaxed and enjoyed singing & dancing with the thugs, but Maximus & the king's guards were still hunting for them! The good hearted thugs hid Rapunzel & Flynn just as the guards burst through the door. But Maximus wasn't fooled and spotted them in a heartbeat! They fled the Snuggly Duckling and raced off into the forest. They lost the king's guard but Maximus caught them as they rested by their campfire for the night. With Pascal's help, Rapunzel convinced Maximus to let Flynn take her to see the lights and the 3 of them headed off for the village.

They finally reached the village on the afternoon of the festival, full of friendly townsfolk, wonderful smells and tasty treats. They danced and laughed and had a wonderful time. Sun emblems were emblazoned upon everything throughout the Kingdom of the Sun and a mosaic of the lost princess could be seen near the fountain in the square. It was a beautiful place full of happiness and warmth. That evening Flynn arranged for a boat so they could get the best view of the lights. Night fell and under the canopy of a starlit sky, a single light began to rise into the heavens. Soon others followed and eventually the entire sky was illuminated with the light of thousands of lanterns. It was the most beautiful thing Rapunzel had ever seen.

Their mission completed, Rapunzel returned the crown to Flynn & they headed back to shore. Flynn no longer cared about riches & gold and after assuring Rapunzel that he would return for her, he set off to give the crown back to his partners in crime. The witch Gothel had been watching Rapunzel & Flynn ever since their escape from the Snuggly Duckling and laid a trap for Flynn with the help of his two partners. They captured Flynn & turned to go after Rapunzel, when Gothel leapt out of the bushes and pretended to save her by knocking out the two thieves. Rapunzel was in tears as Mother Gothel told her that Flynn had betrayed her & sailed off with the crown. Happy now to have Rapunzel back in her clutches, Mother Gothel lead Rapunzel back to the tower.

Once again a prisoner, Rapunzel sat & looked around her room at all the paintings she had painted over the years. She thought of her adventures with Flynn and as she thought, she was shocked to find the sun logo everywhere in her paintings! The same one from the Kingdom with the lights! Somewhere deep inside she had always known . . . it shocked her as the realization hit – she was the lost princess!

At the same time, Flynn had escaped & arrived at the tower with the help of Maximus. He called to Rapunzel, who happened to be in the middle of confronting Gothel about her deception & kidnapping. Gothel was not about to let Rapunzel leave. She tied her up & threw her hair over the window ledge for Flynn to climb up. Once he climbed through the window, Gothel stabbed him and he fell to the floor. Rapunzel cried out in anguish & promised Gothel that she would go with her & stay forever if she would only let her heal Flynn's wounds. Gothel agreed and Rapunzel ran to Flynn's side. As she began to sing, Flynn told her he loved her and couldn't let her throw away her life by remaining with the witch. He reached back & cut Rapunzel's braid! Instantly the color began to change from blonde to brown as Rapunzel's long hair lost its magic. Screeching in anger, Gothel lunged at the couple determined to destroy them. As she ran forward, Pascal tripped her and she stumbled & went careening out of the tower window.

With Gothel gone, Rapunzel cradled Flynn in her arms as he struggled to hang on to life. She did everything she could to save Flynn but to no avail. Tears streaming down her cheeks, Rapunzel began to sing the special song one last time. As her tears splashed on Flynn's cheek, Rapunzel noticed a light beginning to emanate from Flynn. The light grew & swirled around them as Flynn's wounds were magically healed. The magical gift had been inside Rapunzel the whole time, not just in her beautiful hair! They hugged & rejoiced over Flynn's recovery & set off again for the Kingdom of the Sun.

In the palace, a guard entered the throne room and announced to a forlorn king & queen that the moment they had been waiting for all these years had finally arrived. Their faces alight with joy, the king and queen ran to embrace Rapunzel & Flynn in a huge family hug – finally reunited again! Rapunzel & Flynn soon married & joined their royal family to rule in peace & happiness in the Kingdom of the Sun – and thus they lived happily ever after!

THE END