

# EDINBURGH CASTLE

By Joe Musso

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## **CHARACTERS**

Three actors, any gender.

## **SETTING**

A street corner in Times Square in New York City.

## **TIME**

Present. Daylight.

## **PROPS**

A street map of New York City, which is likely available for free via the internet. If desired, actors can simply pretend to be holding a map.

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**ACTOR ONE and ACTOR TWO are standing on a street corner in Times Square in New York City. ACTOR TWO is reading a street map of New York City.**

ACTOR ONE: Is that Edinburgh Castle?

ACTOR TWO: (*Looking up from the map*) What?

ACTOR ONE: (*Pointing across the street*) Is that Edinburgh Castle?

ACTOR TWO: Edinburgh Castle, in Edinburgh, Scotland?

ACTOR ONE: Yeah.

ACTOR TWO: No.

ACTOR ONE: Check the map, to be sure.

ACTOR TWO: Don't have to.

ACTOR ONE: Then how can you be sure?

ACTOR TWO: Trust me, I'm sure.

ACTOR ONE: Hundred percent without a doubt sure?

ACTOR TWO: Yes, a hundred percent.

ACTOR ONE: I'd feel more comfortable if you checked the map.

ACTOR TWO: I don't have to check the map.

ACTOR ONE: How can you be one hundred percent sure if you don't check the map?

ACTOR TWO: I asked you, "Edinburgh Castle, in Edinburgh, Scotland," remember?

ACTOR ONE: (*Meaning yes*) Uh-huh.

ACTOR TWO: And you said?

ACTOR ONE: I said?

ACTOR TWO: You said "yes."

ACTOR ONE: I don't deny it.

ACTOR TWO: Well, we're standing on a street corner in Times Square, in New York City. (*Slight pause*) In the United States. (*Slight pause*) In North America.

ACTOR ONE: And?

ACTOR TWO: And Edinburgh Castle is in Edinburgh, Scotland, in the United Kingdom.

ACTOR ONE: Thanks for the geography lesson.

ACTOR TWO: With the Atlantic Ocean in between.

ACTOR ONE: Still, I'd feel more comfortable if you checked the map.

ACTOR TWO: (*Frustrated, checks the map*) There, I checked the map. It says nothing about Edinburgh Castle.

ACTOR ONE: (*Holding a hand out for the map*) Give it to me.

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(ACTOR TWO hands the map to ACTOR ONE. ACTOR ONE reads the map.)

You're right.

ACTOR TWO: As I knew I would be.

ACTOR ONE: But this map only lists street names.

ACTOR TWO: That it does.

ACTOR ONE: (*Handing the map back to ACTOR TWO*) Take it back.

It's useless.

ACTOR TWO: Our street map of New York is useless?

ACTOR ONE: Has it escaped your attention that the map you're holding is eerily silent on the subject of Edinburgh Castle?

ACTOR TWO: It's *not* a street map of Edinburgh, Scotland.

ACTOR ONE: It's as if Edinburgh Castle were left off on purpose.

ACTOR TWO: Did someone drop a piano on your head?

ACTOR ONE: I'm afraid that map raises more questions than answers.

ACTOR TWO: Maybe that corn dog you ate gave you food poisoning.

ACTOR ONE: Something sinister is afoot. I just know it.

ACTOR TWO: Listen up! Pigs can't fly, camels can't swim, and that building across the street is *not* Edinburgh Castle.

ACTOR ONE: Who said camels can't swim?

(*Slight pause*)

ACTOR TWO: I did.

ACTOR ONE: And your proof?

ACTOR TWO: It was a figure of speech. I was trying to make a point.

ACTOR ONE: Without any evidence? I mean, hey, maybe you're right, maybe camels sink like a rock when they dive into a swimming pool, but before you strut around proclaiming camels can't swim, I'd advise you to put some proof in your pocket.

ACTOR TWO: (*After calming himself/herself*) Look, can we just go to that ice cream truck parked a few blocks over? For that banana popsicle we both so desperately have been craving all day?

ACTOR ONE: As soon as I take a photograph of Edinburgh Castle.

ACTOR TWO: How?

ACTOR ONE: How?

ACTOR TWO: Yes. How?

ACTOR ONE: Easy. All I gotta do is point my camera at Edinburgh Castle, focus, and then press the magic button.

ACTOR TWO: I hope you have the world's largest telephoto lens, one that stretches a few thousand miles.

ACTOR ONE: Stand in front of the castle. I want you in the picture.

ACTOR TWO: Really? How kind.

ACTOR ONE: You can strike a pose like a medieval knight.

ACTOR TWO: Long live chivalry . . . Oh, wait a minute. I so happen to know that just this morning you dropped your camera in a pond in Central Park in New York City in the United States of America. It's gone, lost, buried under an algae bloom, swimming with the fishes, so, no, there's no reason to delay our journey to the ice cream truck so that you can take a picture of me striking a pose like a medieval knight in front of a building that you in a moment of delusion believe is Edinburgh Castle.

ACTOR ONE: Hey, you don't want your picture taken, all you gotta do is say "hey, I don't want my picture taken."

ACTOR TWO: Hey, I don't want my picture taken.

ACTOR ONE: Fine. That wasn't hard, was it?

ACTOR TWO: Easy as pie.

ACTOR ONE: However, just because my camera is in a watery grave is no reason to deny me a picture of Edinburgh Castle.

ACTOR TWO: All right. Next time you're at your computer, print a picture off of the internet.

ACTOR ONE: I have a better idea. Why don't we find a souvenir shop that sells post cards? That way, I can buy a post card with a picture of Edinburgh Castle on it.

ACTOR TWO: Next time you visit Edinburgh, you can do just that. Maybe you can go on your next birthday.

ACTOR ONE: I can't wait that long.

ACTOR TWO: Try.

ACTOR ONE: No, there are plenty of souvenir shops in Times Square. I'll just buy one here.

ACTOR TWO: In New York? Of Edinburgh Castle?

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