“The Orphan” by Alexandra Harris
2nd Place, Short Play 10-12
Set scene 1- the orphanage

In the Orphanage, Camara Weiss is sitting in her shared room with 14 others. She is sitting alone until the Headmistress walks in.

Headmistress: Camara Weiss. Come to the lobby, please

Camara: Ok

Camara takes the stairs of the orphanage to the lobby. On her way down she sees kids rushing to the windows, shoving to get a look at something she can’t see. When she reaches the lobby she sees two tall figures in front of her

Princess: Hello Camara!

Camara: Hi. How do you know my name?

Princess: Your file

Camara: How did you get my file?

Prince: Wow! Questiony aren’t we? (to princess) Can we please move things along here dear?

Camara: What’s going on here? Who are you?

Prince: Who are we? We are no only but Prince Hans Nichols of the royal palace and my wife...

Princess: Princess Lauren.

Camara: Why are you here?

Princess: We wanted to adopt an orphan

Camara: Did you want me to show you around or something?

Headmistress comes into view

Headmistress: Not exactly, dear

Camara: Then why am I here?

Headmistress: Camara, these royals want to adopt you

Camara: Me?
Princess: Yes

*Camara stares at the adults for a while*

Camara: Do you know how long I've been here?

Prince: Excuse me?

Camara: I've been here since I was 1 year old and nobody has ever contacted me or asked me to be adopted. I've been stuck here for 11 years without anyone to help me or guide me or even tell me everything was going to be OK. I had to tell myself that everything would be OK. That I'd be adopted soon enough, that I wasn't forgotten. And you're contacting me now?

Princess: We were just married

Prince: You need to watch your tone young lady, We are practically giving up our lives to be here right now. I'm late for a meeting with Spain!

Camara: Go have your meeting with Spain. You've wasted your time here.

Princess: Camara, please. Think over this. We could give you the life you've always dreamed of. You'll get to live in the castle

Prince: Let it go, dear. She obviously doesn't want this beautiful opportunity.

Camara: Fine. I'll go. But only for a day. I'll see why you want me

Prince: good decision. (to headmistress) Where do we sign?

Headmistress: Camara go pack your bag with the princess. Be back in 10 minutes.

*Camara and the Princess leave the lobby and go back to her room. They get many stares and gawks as they pass the orphans.*

Princess: I'm glad you made this decision.

Camara: I still don't understand

Princess: What do you not understand?

Camara: Why'd you choose to adopt? I thought the royal blood had to be pure or something
Princess: When I was little I had dreamed of being a princess. I was in foster care for a while, until my grandma adopted me. I had met the prince, and my dream came true. But if I hadn't met him or had that desire I wouldn't even be here in this room. The queen approved our decision but she wasn't very happy about it.

Camara: I'd love to meet her. I never dreamed of being in the castle though.

Princess: I think you'll like it. What's this? (Princess holds Camara's stuffed Rabbit in the air)

Camara: Oh, that's my rabbit, Ashia

Princess: Ashia?

Camara: Yes. I got it from the Imam that visited me once. He said he knew my parents. Ashia means life and hope

Princess: I love it. Are you ready? Do you have everything?

Camara: Yeah, I think so.

Camara and the Princess meet the prince in the lobby. They walk out to the limo and take it back to the castle

Set scene 2- Castle

Prince: Camara your lady's Maids will show you around (to the princess) Bye babe, I have some work to do.

Princess: Camara, this is your lady's maid Marie. She'll show you to your room (the princess goes into the castle)

Marie: Welcome Miss!

Camara: Please don't call me that

Marie: Ok. How about Mistress?

Camara: Um, no


Camara: Just show me to my room, please
Marie: This way Ma'am

*Marie and Camara walk up the place steps to Camara's suite*

Camara: Wow

Marie: I know it isn't much. It's the most we could do on such short notice, but here is your closet, powder room, lounge, and bed

Camara: This is the greatest room I've ever lived in! Thanks so much!!!

Marie: It's my pleasure Ma'am

Camara: Marie?

Marie: yes Ma'am?

Camara: Please call me Camara or Cam or Cammy or something other than Ma'am

Marie: Ok, Camara

*Camara leaves the room and wanders around the castle. She gets in the way of almost everybody should encounters but loves the sight of everybody at work. She sees the Queen through a window when she passes an office marked, "QUEEN". She stares for a little bit but finds that a little creepy and goes back to her room She lays on the bed and stays there until she falls asleep. Later, the princess walks in and wakes her up.*

Princess: Hey

Camara: Hey

Princess: Are you leaving in the morning after breakfast?

Camara: I guess

Princess: But you never figured out why we want you

Camara: Are you gonna tell me?

Princess: I'm not gonna let you win that easily, Silly

*The princess takes Camara's hand and pulls her out of bed. The two run through the empty corridors of the castle into the castle garden.*
Set scene 3- Garden

Camara: Wow this place is beautiful

Princess: I like to think here

Camara: Do you have to do a lot of thinking?

Princess: Are you gonna figure out why we wanted to adopt you or what?

Camara: Ok. Well you obviously researched me or something beforehand

Princess: Obviously

Camara: And you decided to go to the London Royal Orphanage because it’s the biggest?

Princess: Not quite

Camara: The queen controls it?

Princess: the queen controls everything in England

Camara: Because I was there?

Princess: Ding Ding Ding!

Camara: But I still don’t know why you chose me? Did somebody know my parents?

Princess: I did not think you would get so close so quickly!

Camara: You knew my parents?

Princess: Not your parents. Your Grandmother was a royal once. A duchess

Camara: But, didn’t have a grandmother. My parents were both adopted, I only had Grandmummy from my dad’s side. She didn’t like me very much I think

Princess: Well you forgot you still have biological ones. One of the cooks knew your grand-mere

Camara: But if they knew my grandmother, then they new my

Princess: No. He didn’t know your mom Camara.

Camara: Then I’m back to square one

Princess: Why don’t you stay another day so you can figure out why we picked you.
Camara: No. I'm leaving after breakfast as I said. You shouldn't have played with my emotions like that. It didn't do anything but make me dislike you a little more.

Princess: Camara wait!

*Camara runs up into her room and slams the door crying. She hears the princess running after her but ignores it. Her lady's Maid knocks on the door.*

Marie: Camara? It's Marie

Camara: Please go away

Marie: Camara. I have keys to your room. I will use them if I have to.

*Camara goes over to the door and opens it for Marie*

Marie: Camara, you need to get ready for dinner

Camara: Marie how can I? I already had a fit in front of the only person that has remotely wanted to take care of me like a mother and she probably hates me and thinks I'm a problem child that she can't have running around in the castle.

Marie: You just have to take responsibility for your actions, make sure she does too and swallow your lump and get through it. Then you can leave in the morning and act like it never happened.

Camara: That doesn't seem very lady like

Marie: It's not. And it's definitely not what I'm suggesting you do

Camara: What do you suggest I do?

Marie: I suggest that you listen to the princess. You're very good at it. I was her ladies maid when she was getting married, that's how I became such a good advice giver.

Camara: Thank you, Marie.

Marie: It's my pleasure. Now, let's get you all ready for dinner

*Camara and Marie are backstage getting ready while the prince talks to the princess and queen*

Prince: We shouldn't have adopted her

Queen: She is a disgrace
Prince: Yes, I completely agree with Lauren. Do not get mad at Hans

Queen: You know what? OYou’re both right. The only person we should be mad at is Camara.

Have a nice dinner!

_The queen walks away but the princess is calling after her. The church bells for dinner sound signaling all royals should be at dinner_

_During dinner Camara tries to speak up to the princess but the queen keeps shushing her. The queen orders one of the waiters to discreetly tie the table cloth to Camara’s skirt. When Camara leaves the table all of the china clatters to the floor and startles everyone. Camara is so embarrassed she runs back up to her room leaving the queens loud laughter crying._

_The queen walks up to Camara’s suite to tell her to leave but instead sees her praying with her rabbit._

Queen: Camara?

Camara: Oh, um hello. I didn’t see you there

Queen: Of course not. Why are you crying?

Camara: Because I just embarrassed myself in front of the most important people in England

Queen: Why yes. But I have done that before

Camara: You have?

Queen: Of course. But please, let’s not dwell on that. I heard you will be leaving in the morning?

Camara: Yes, so I can get out of your hair.

Queen: Please Camara. Your presence is not troubling to me in the least

Camara: Really?

Queen: Really. Despite that past incident, since your arrival the castle has been quite pleasing

Camara: I would love to stay, but I don’t think that the Prince would love that

Queen: I would love for you to stay Camara. And guess what?

Camara: What?

Queen: The prince doesn’t matter
The princess knocks on the door and opens it with a timid wave. She is wearing her nightgown

Princess: Camara, if you’re leaving in the morning, you should get ready for bed.

Camara: I’m not leaving.

Princess: Oh?

Camara: Yes. I still need to find out why I’m here

Camara runs off to her powder room leaving the queen and the princess alone

Princess: What were you two giggling about?

Queen: I realized that having Camara here wouldn’t be so bad

Princess: You’re realizing this now?

Queen: I hate to admit it but yes. Seeing her in here alone praying in Arabic was one of the most beautiful things I’ve ever seen. Staying mad couldn’t have been an option.

Princess: I’m glad you finally realized

Queen: Me too

Camara walks out in her nightdress ready for bed.

Camara: You can tell the headmistress I’d like to stay. She’ll be proud.

Princess: I bet she will. Goodnight Camara

Queen: Good night Camara

Camara: Goodnight

The queen and the princess leave the suite and lock the door. Camara sits up and speaks in Arabic

Camara: نيلة سعيدة والدة وأب أينما

(goodnight father and mother. Wherever you are)
Camara: Goodnight

The queen and the princess leave the suite and lock the door. Camara sits up and speaks in Arabic

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(goodnight father and mother. Wherever you are)