

QUEENdom: An Animated Series
"Pilot" Episode

By

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Act One

INT. ROYAL PALACE DINNING ROOM - DAY

QUEEN CALLIOPE, 35, sits at the large dining room table. She eats from a bowl of grapes. She flips through a huge photo album. It reads "ALL OUR MEMORIES" at the top with a picture of Queen Calliope and Prince Joseph on the page.

She stops and stares off through the huge plate glass windows. Behind her is a set of plate glass french doors. White and purple sheer curtains flow from the rods at the top.

A CRASH and BANG from outside in the distance snaps Calliope from her daze. She sits upright and slides a grape into her mouth. She looks over her shoulder into the other room and calls,

QUEEN CALLIOPE
Dayanara!!! Come to me at once.

Within a few seconds, DAYANARA, 19, runs into the room and bows at the feet of the Queen. She stands with her head down and rubs her hands together behind her back.

DAYANARA
Yes, my Queen. How may I serve thee?

QUEEN CALLIOPE
Go and get them. Tell them I call for them at once.

More LOUD PLAY can be heard through the open doors left by Dayanara's entrance. This time, the play is much louder than before. Calliope tightens her lip sand shakes her head.

QUEEN CALLIOPE (CONT'D)
Immediately.

DAYANARA
Yes, my liege. Right away.

Dayanara bows and scurries out of the room. Calliope picks up another grape and turns her head and stares out the window.

Calliope picks the book up and flips the page where a sonogram picture lays. She rubs the picture just a PRINCE JOSEPH, 37, enters the room through the french doors.

(CONTINUED)

He walks over to Calliope and stands behind her. He peeks over her shoulder into the album and sees the sonogram picture with two separate heart beats in it. He leans forward and whispers in her ear.

PRINCE JOSEPH

Can you believe they are all 15 now?

Calliope smiles.

QUEEN CALLIOPE

No, I can't believe it. I can still remember them kicking me all night. You know, I was a good girl when you met me. Not much older than they are right now.

Joseph walks around and takes a seat at the table. He picks up a handful of grapes and pops them into his mouth. He imitates her voice.

PRINCE JOSEPH

Never a minutes worth of trouble did I give my parents.

Calliope eyes narrow. She wrinkles her nose at him.

QUEEN CALLIOPE

I didn't. Except when I was running away with you.

PRINCE JOSEPH

I know. King Arthur nearly had a heart attack when I told him I wanted to marry you. A commoner in his palace? How on Earth could that happen? And Queen Mary? I thought she was gonna have me assassinated.

Calliope sits in silence. Joseph looks at her for a moment. They burst into laughter. Just as they calm down, Dayanara appears in the doorway. She walks over to Joseph and BOWS.

PRINCE JOSEPH (CONT'D)

Oh come now, Dayanara Thank you for the honors, but you can relax.

Dayanara stops, smiles and stands straight.

QUEEN CALLIOPE

Did you bring them with you?

Dayanara nods her head.

DAYANARA

Yes ma'am. They should be coming in now.

PRINCESSES AMANDA, AMELIA AND AMITA, (15), very classically pretty, stand before their parents with their heads down.

Mud and dirt drip from their coveralls. Calliope's mouth falls into the shape of an O and her eyes widen when she sees them.

Joseph looks them up and down and shakes his head at the girls and they peek upwards and give a slight smile.

PRINCE JOSEPH

So... who won this time?

The girls' heads pop up and they break out in vocal chaos as they recount their efforts to win the game. Calliope slams her hands down on the table and stands. The girls fall silent. She shakes her head at them.

QUEEN CALLIOPE

No... no... NO! I can't take this anymore! Joseph, something needs to be done about this immediately!

Prince Joseph turns and looks at the girls and then at the Queen.

QUEEN CALLIOPE

Do you remember the last time they played with the field hands?

(pause)

We had to have the entire palace reupholstered because they ran a pack of horses through the house!

PRINCE JOSEPH

(smiles)

It was a race, my love. What else could they have done?

QUEEN CALLIOPE

You laugh but look at how they are representing me? Representing our family! It's unacceptable!

PRINCE JOSEPH

Well, what do you suggest for them, my love?

(CONTINUED)

QUEEN CALLIOPE

The same thing that Mother did for me.

PRINCE JOSEPH

Oh, no!

QUEEN CALLIOPE

Etiquette lessons! Immediately!

AMANDA

You can't do this!

AMITA

Mother, are you serious right now?

AMELIA

No, no, NO!

The girls stomp their feet and shake their heads almost in unison.

PRINCE JOSEPH

Alright. Everyone calm down.

Queen Calliope stands and paces back and forth.

QUEEN CALLIOPE

We have been too relaxed on raising them. I had lessons at their age and look at me. I'm poised and polished. I'm a distinguished Head of State. They look like stable hands! No one is going to take them seriously as suitable wives to represent their countries! Which is why Madame Sunflower is on her way.

The girls eyes grow wide.

AMANDA

Madame Sunflower?!

AMELIA

Mother, do you honestly think that is necessary?

Queen Calliope snaps around and stare at the girls. She waves her hands in their faces.

QUEEN CALLIOPE

Look in the mirror!! You all look tragic. Madame was on her way here

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

QUEEN CALLIOPE (cont'd)
for a personal visit, but given the
state of things, I will be asking
her to stay on and teach you girls
how to be young women. You will
have lessons with her starting this
afternoon. Now, go and clean
yourselves, immediately!

The girls turn and leave. Calliope turns and sits back down
in her chair.

INT. PALACE GREAT ROOM. LATER

Dayanara comes back in with MADAME SUNFLOWER, 59 with
perfect posture and a gorgeous bun.

QUEEN CALLIOPE
Thank you Dayanara. Madame
Sunflower. It's so nice to see you
again.

Madame Sunflower looks the Queen up and down and then
relaxed her face into a soft smile. She bows her head.

MADAME SUNFLOWER
Calliope, I mean, your Highness.

QUEEN CALLIOPE
Oh, please. Stop it.

The girls enter with wet hair and robes.

AMITA
Mother, the shower has broken
again.

QUEEN CALLIOPE
Girls, this is Madame Sunflower.

Madame Sunflower looks the girls up and down. She swallows
hard and her eyes widen. She raises her eyebrows and sighs.

MADAME SUNFLOWER
Is this how the girls are allowed
to walk around the palace?

Calliope's face turns red. She looks at the floor for a
moment and then to Madame Sunflower.

QUEEN CALLIOPE
On no. Not at all. They are just
trying to get assistance.

(CONTINUED)

Madame looks the girls up and down.

MADAME SUNFLOWER

A queen is never out of place. For any reason. Not even for assistance.

AMELIA

Well, we are not queens... we are princesses.

Madame smiles.

MADAME SUNFLOWER

I can see I have my work cut out for me. Come now, girls. We must get started right away.

Madame exits and the girls follow behind with their heads low.

INT. AMANDA AND AMELIA'S BEDROOM - LATE EVENING

The girls sit on the bed and Madame walks around the room. The room is colored beautifully, but cluttered. Muddy boots crowd the corners. Pictures of the girls hiking and running and playing crowd the dressers.

The closets are cramped and over crowded with comfy clothes. T shirts, ripped jeans, fluffy slippers and nightshirts stick out of the front door of the closets.

Madame crosses the room and sits at one of the vanity's in the room. The girls sit on the beds. They wear shorts and tee shirts with tennis shoes appropriate to the time period.

MADAME SUNFLOWER

Now, you stated that you all are not queens yet.

The girls exchange looks and nod.

AMITA

That's right. We are princesses, not queens. That means we don't have the same restrictions as our mother. After all, we're just kids.

MADAME SUNFLOWER

You are mistaken, young lady. You all have been queens since the day you were born.

Madame gets up and looks around the room.

(CONTINUED)

MADAME SUNFLOWER (CONT'D)

Your mother and father have
codified you for your entire lives.
You will not have that problem with
me.

She crosses the girls and stands in front of them.

MADAME SUNFLOWER (CONT'D)

I have trained 27 queens to become
the most prim, polished and proper
heads of state this world has ever
seen. There has never been a series
of bad traits that I couldn't stamp
out. You girls will be no
different.

The girls exchange looks of dismay.

MADAME SUNFLOWER (CONT'D)

You will fall in line, or else. No
more tee shirts and shorts. No more
hiking boots and definitely no more
Hide and Seek with the field hands.
Things are going to change around
here and you all will have to get
used to that face.

Madame turns and walks out of the room.

AMELIA

But, we live in tee shirts. You
can't honestly expect us to just
change everything about who we are,
can you?

Madame smiles.

MADAME SUNFLOWER

You are a queen. I most certainly
can expect you to redirect your
energy into something more useful.

AMANDA

She is out of her mind.

Amelia shakes her head.

AMELIA

Mother can't be serious about this.

AMANDA

You know her. When she gets like this, she's incorrigible.

They nod in agreement.

AMITA

Look, we can do nothing about this right now. The main thing we need to do is relax and get some sleep. We will figure out what to do tomorrow.

They nod and Amita leaves. Amanda and Amelia lay down in their beds.

INT. AMANDA AND AMELIA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Amanda wakes up and taffeta slides across her face. She jumps upright and flicks her head back and forth. Her eyes widen and then she SCREAMS.

Amelia snaps up and sees the rows of dresses in their room and her eyes widen and her mouth drops into the shape of an O. She SCREAMS. Amita rushes into the room in her pajamas.

AMITA

So, it happened to you guys too?

AMANDA

What in the sweet name of--

AMITA

It gets worse. Check your drawers.

The girls get out of bed in their pajamas and find them empty. They look up from the last empty drawer with frowns on their faces.

AMANDA

My favorite Denver Stephens T shirt is gone.

Amanda heaves in deep breaths.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

That's it. She has got to go!

They girls exchange looks and then huddle together. They whisper with narrow eyes.

End of Act one

Act Two

INT. PALACE CLASSROOM - DAY

The girls sit at the desks in the palace classroom. Every surface in the classroom shines and sparkles.

Madame Sunflower walks in and smiles as the girls sit in their chairs. The girls have perfect buns in their heads with not a single hair out of place.

She looks over the rim of her eyeglasses at the girls as she stands before them.

MADAME SUNFLOWER

Well, it's good to see that it didn't take long for your "Queens" to understand the way things are going to be from now on.

UNISON

Yes, Madame Sunflower.

MADAME SUNFLOWER

Good. Because the quicker you get the lessons, the better the situation will be for everyone involved.

UNISON

Yes, Madame Sunflower.

Madame smiles at the girls and walks over to her seat at the front of the classroom.

She opens her desk drawer and a huge, black, rubber rat SPRINGS forth and flies into her face. She SCREAMS and jumps up in the direction of the door. She slides on a spring and loses her balance and falls into her desk chair.

The chair gives way under her weight and she falls to the floor. Her eyeglasses slip and SMACK onto the floor. One lens pops out and SLIDES across the floor in the other direction.

The sisters cannot contain their LAUGHTER while Madame lies on the floor in tears. Joseph runs into the room and the girls immediately straighten up and fix their faces.

PRINCE JOSEPH

Madame, are you okay?

Madame gasps for breath between words.

(CONTINUED)

MADAME SUNFLOWER

No. Your... Your children... they are simply horrid.

Prince Joseph shakes his head and sighs. His face distorts into a frown. He looks at the girls and shakes his head. The girls look down at their desks.

PRINCE JOSEPH

Oh Madame. I am so sorry. Please excuse them.

Madame's chest heaves with every breath as she speaks.

MADAME SUNFLOWER

Excuse them??? They threw a RAT at me. I QUIT!!!

Joseph helps Madame up off the floor. He shoots the girls a stern look.

PRINCE JOSEPH

Please, Madame. Your training the girls means everything to the Queen. She would be heartbroken if you were to leave.

Madame takes a deep breath and jerks her head back. She stares at the ceiling for a moment and then smiles at the Prince. She brushes her skirt down around her hips and smooths her hair back against her head.

MADAME SUNFLOWER

Very well then. We must never disappoint the Queen. I will stay as long as there are no further disruptions.

Joseph take a breath and whips his head around to the girls.

PRINCE JOSEPH

I promise you. There will be no more shenanigans, right girls.

The girls shake their heads.

UNISON

Yes Father!

MADAME SUNFLOWER

Very well. I just need to slip in my contacts since my glasses are broken and we can get started.

(CONTINUED)

The girls look at each other and WHISPER. Madame takes the container out of her handbag and slips the lenses into her eyes.

Seconds later, Madame YELPS out with a loud voice. She squeezes her eyes together and rubs them. She jumps up and down until she POPS the lenses out of her eyes. She runs from the room.

INT. PALACE CLASSROOM HALLWAY

Madame Sunflower SCREAMS and RUNS through the hall. She BURSTS out of the palace doors.

EXT. PALACE COURTYARD

One of the stable boys washes off the horses near the stable. Calliope looks on from the window. She GASPS when Madame runs from the palace to the stables.

Madame CRASHES into the boy and RIPS the hose from his hands. She holds the hose in front of her face and eyes and rinses her face with the water.

Joseph follows from the palace. He looks on for a moment and then turns around and walks back into the palace.

INT. PALACE CLASSROOM

Joseph walks back into the classroom. The girls sit silent with their heads down. He walks over but stops when a lens CRACKS under his foot.

He bends over and picks up the case and looks down at it. He sniffs the case. His eyes widen.

PRINCE JOSEPH
Do I smell lemon juice?

The girls look at each other and hold their heads down. They hunch their shoulders in unison.

EXT. PALACE COURTYARD. CONTINUOUS

Madame can be heard as she SPEWS INAUDIBLE EXPLETIVES about the girls. A PALACE GUARD places her bags into the back of a carriage.

INT. ROYAL PALACE DINNING ROOM. CONTINUOUS

Calliope's eyebrows raise and her eyes widen. She hops out of her chair.

INT. PALACE CLASSROOM. CONTINUOUS

Calliope appears in the doorway to the classroom where Joseph and the girls sit. He turns and looks at her. She shakes her head and disappears.

He turns his eyes back to the girls. His eyes narrow and his brow furrows.

PRINCE JOSEPH (CONT'D)

You all have no idea what you have done. I know that look. We all know that look.

(Beat)

You mother is furious. How could you treat a guest in our home that way. You could have blinded her. BLINDED HER, do you understand what that means?

(beat)

There is nothing I can do to stop her now.

Amanda's eyes widen.

AMANDA

Stop her from what, Father?

The girls exchange cautious looks. Joseph just shakes his head.

PRINCE JOSEPH

From sending you all away... to America.

AMITA

America! Why would she do that?

Prince walks over to the teacher's desk. He takes a seat behind the desk.

AMELIA

You can't let her do this Father! We don't want to go to America!

PRINCE JOSEPH

Understand this, you mother loves you guys more than anything. But

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

PRINCE JOSEPH (cont'd)
your behavior these past couple of
years has been a far cry less than
royal.

The girls look to each other.

AMANDA
This is true. But we are teens,
Father. We should be allowed to
have fun.

AMITA
Especially since we are rarely
allowed to leave the palace
grounds.

Joseph shakes his head.

PRINCE JOSEPH
Your mother has gotten it into her
head that because it has gotten
across the island, and therefore,
the world, that you girls aren't
polished, you will never be able to
secure suitable husbands.

The girls frown their faces and shake their heads.

AMELIA
But that's not fair!

PRINCE JOSEPH
What's not fair is that you all
continue to live your lives as if
there are not consequences to your
actions. Just because you are
royalty doesn't mean you don't have
rules! YOU HAVE RULES!!! There are
obligations that you have to meet
if you want to please your mother.

AMANDA
So, because none of the boys on the
island want us, we have to move to
America. What happens when none of
the boys in America want us? Where
will she send us then, the Moon?

PRINCE JOSEPH
Don't be flippant! The fact of the
matter is... we are both worried
that you girls will not be able to

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

PRINCE JOSEPH (cont'd)
have good lives because you have
absolutely no self control.

They hang their heads.

AMANDA
We will do better Father. We
promise. Don't let her send us to
America. You can't let her do this!

AMITA
Yeah, Ozzimondias is our home!
There is nothing for us in America.

PRINCE JOSEPH
Well, there is one this in America
for you.

AMELIA
Oh, no. Not--

Joseph nods his head.

PRINCE JOSEPH
That's right. Your grand parents
are in America.

The girls WHINE and COMPLAIN. Joseph shakes his head.

End of act two

Act Three

INT. PALACE MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Calliope sits at her vanity and brushes her hair into a
protective style. Joseph lies in the bed reading a book. She
stares at him through her mirror. He catches her eyes and
gives a sly smile.

QUEEN CALLIOPE
Joseph, I have made up my mind.
They have to go.

PRINCE JOSEPH
Darling, think about what you're
doing? Do you really think the
situation is this serious that you
want to send all of our children to
live with your parents?

Calliope turns to face him.

(CONTINUED)

QUEEN CALLIOPE

Don't you get it, Joseph? I love them more than I love myself. Those girls are the center of my life. But, it's my job to get them ready for the real world. One day, have to leave them here without me, what if they are not prepared for what the world can and will do to them?

Joseph puts his books down and looks her in the eye.

PRINCE JOSEPH

I know how you feel about them. I know you want what's best for them. Perhaps you should simply hire them another tutor.

Calliope shakes her head.

QUEEN CALLIOPE

I tried that. I called everyone that I could think of. No one will work with them thanks to that stunt they pulled with Madame Sunflower. Mother and Father are practically their only options.

PRINCE JOSEPH

I'm just saying, perhaps there is an alternative to sending them all the way to America for their teachings. There has to be a better way.

Calliope walks over and sits down in the bed.

QUEEN CALLIOPE

What do you suggest Joseph? Amelia has broken the palace dumbwaiter three times trying to make it fly through the house. Amanda refuses to ride the horses sidesaddle, like a lady should. Her legs are actually starting to bow like a farmhand. And Amita... that Amita.

(pauses)

Your daughter actually tried to enter an archery competition... as a competitor.

Joseph smiles.

(CONTINUED)

QUEEN CALLIOPE (CONT'D)

And don't get me started on that game they were playing out by the stables.

PRINCE JOSEPH

Well, they are my girls.

QUEEN CALLIOPE

Well, they are also my girls and the heirs to the throne of this land and they can't even go one day without playing freeze tag or whatever they were doing!

PRINCE JOSEPH

They are young and active. They just want to have fun.

QUEEN CALLIOPE

Fun?! Fun?! What is so fun about running through the fields with the stagehands?

Calliope pauses for a moment.

QUEEN CALLIOPE (CONT'D)

Well, I do remember what was so fun about running with the stablehands.

PRINCE JOSEPH

Have you ever thought to put yourself in their place?

QUEEN CALLIOPE

I was in their place. Once upon a time, I was a princess just like them, only King Arthur and Queen Mary were my parents. I didn't get half as much freedom as they get.

PRINCE JOSEPH

And how did that make you feel?

Calliope opens her mouth to speak but Joseph stares at her. She pauses, then turns her head and lays down.

QUEEN CALLIOPE

Why don't you just go to sleep already?

INT. PALACE CLASSROOM - DAY

Calliope sits behind the desk in the palace classroom.
Dayanara walks past the classroom.

QUEEN CALLIOPE
Dayanara! Dayanara!

Dayanara peeks into the room. She bows.

DAYANARA
Yes, ma'am.

QUEEN CALLIOPE
Can you go and get my daughter for
me, please? I need to speak with
them.

DAYANARA
Right away, ma'am.

She disappears. Calliope rubs the desktop with her hands.
She smiles as she rubs her fingers over the indentations.
The girls walk into the room. Their heads are low. They
slump into the chairs.

QUEEN CALLIOPE
Thank you for coming so soon.

AMANDA
Mother, we are sorry for Madame
Sunflower.

AMELIA
We didn't mean it. We promise.
Please don't send us to America.

Calliope smiles.

QUEEN CALLIOPE
Well, I have been thinking about
that. Undoubtedly, you all deserve
to be punished.

AMITA
But banishing us to America with
Grandmother is too harsh, even for
what we did.

AMELIA
Grandmother is just plain mean. You
would think as old as she is, she
would have softened with age,

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

AMELIA (cont'd)
instead, she's harder than ever
before.

QUEEN CALLIOPE
Watch it! That's my mother you're
talking about?

AMITA
You know it's true.

AMANDA
And, if you think about it...
Madame Sunflower kinda deserved
what we did. She never even tried
to listen to us. She just came here
barking orders and removing
clothing.

QUEEN CALLIOPE
She didn't have to ask you
anything. I sent for her to prepare
you all for the road ahead. For
life when I'm gone. And what do you
do to repay me for my thinking of
you. You blind her and send her
running away.

The girls hang their heads.

AMANDA
Mother, we are sorry. But we love
it here. Ozzimondias is our home.
We are its future leaders.

AMITA
Please don't do this.

Calliope smiles.

QUEEN CALLIOPE
Relax, girls. I'm not sending you
anywhere.

The girls look back and forth at each other and smile.

AMELIA
You mean it, Mother. Because we
love her, but Grandmother is worse
than you!

Calliope laughs. She paces back and forth, shaking her head.

(CONTINUED)

QUEEN CALLIOPE

I may not be sending you to America with my mother, but we still have a problem. Madame Sunflower called every competent teacher on the planet and now no one will teach you. And you need to be taught.

AMITA

What kind of teacher do you think we need?

QUEEN CALLIOPE

You need someone to teach you how to be a princess. Someone who can show you how to walk, talk and think like a Heads of State because clearly, you have not been paying attention all these years.

She stops pacing and stands before them.

QUEEN CALLIOPE (CONT'D)

Which is why I am going to teach you, personally? I will teach you how to become a Queen.

The girls stare blankly.

AMANDA

What?

AMITA

Why?

QUEEN CALLIOPE

You need proper instruction on how to become a Queen. Who else is better suited to teach you, than the Queen?

AMELIA

But how?

AMITA

When will you have the time? You and Father have to run the country.

QUEEN CALLIOPE

Make no mistake. I may have a country to run, but nothing is more important than the well being of my children. Above all else, you girls

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

QUEEN CALLIOPE (cont'd)
are my life. Your father will have
to accept more responsibility with
the day to day operations and
decision making, but I talked to
him and he agreed that this is the
best option.

The girls just stare. They look back and forth at each
other.

AMANDA
Well, if Father is willing to do
his part, then we can do ours.

AMELIA
How long will we have to take
lessons?

QUEEN CALLIOPE
As long as we need to. Until you
all understand what it means to be
the leader of a free nation. And
most importantly, until each of you
can conduct yourselves with the
class and distinction of royalty.

AMITA
We promise you Mother, we won't let
you down.

SMASH CUT TO:

Title Card: QUEENdom

The End