



**Beetle:** Well, of course you heard a sound! There's a crow up there.

**Cricket:** Pipe down! Let's see what the fox has up its sleeve. This is going to be good.

## Act 4

**Fox:** Do my eyes deceive me?

**Beetle:** Huh?

**Cricket:** Just watch.

**Fox:** Is that a vision I see in the branches? It is a thing of beauty.

**Crow:** Is the fox talking about me?

**Narrator 1:** The crow lifts its head a little higher and flaps its tail feathers.



**Narrator 2:** The fox stares up at the crow with awe.

**Fox:** Oh, what beauty! I must turn away, for your beauty is so bright!

**Narrator 1:** The crow grins a beaky grin. But it is careful to hold the cheese tightly.

**Fox:** How did such a creature come to live in this forest? I have never seen such glossy feathers. I have never seen such a fine pointed beak. You are a thing of beauty.

**Beetle:** You have got to be kidding me.

**Cricket:** Would you just look at the old crow? What a laugh!

**Narrator 2:** The crow can hardly contain its pride.

**Crow:** It's about time someone noticed my splendor and charm . . .



**Narrator 1:** . . . the crow thinks to itself.

**Fox:** You are so fine, so regal, as you sit upon that branch. I wonder how glorious you must look in flight! Other birds must be ashamed when they are near you. How can they compare?

**Narrator 2:** The crow nearly cries out in joy at this praise.

**Narrator 1:** But the crow remembers the cheese and does not speak.

**Narrator 2:** Instead, it closes its eyes, as if in a dream . . .

**Narrator 1:** . . . and listens joyfully to the fox's flattery.

**Beetle:** Oh, brother. I can't believe the crow is falling for this!



**Cricket:** I know. This is great!

**Fox:** There are no words to express how I admire you. I will try to sing my praise.

### **Song: Beautiful Dreamer**

## **Act 5**

**Beetle:** If that crow is beautiful, then I am a pretty blue butterfly.

**Cricket:** Just keep watching. I am beginning to guess what that sly fox is up to, and if I'm right, the fox is even trickier than I thought.

**Narrator 2:** The fox continues its flattery.

**Narrator 1:** And the crow continues to swell with pride.