

REFLECTIONS ON CROOKED WALKING

By

Ann Mortiffee



REFLECTIONS ON CROOKED WALKING © ANN MORTIFEE, Eskova Enterprises Ltd.

eskova@annmortiffee.com

Eskova Enterprises Ltd. 16 E. Cordova Street, Suite B, Vancouver, BC, V6A 1K2, Canada

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system without expressly written permission from Eskova Enterprises, Ltd. Any unauthorized reprint or use of this material is prohibited.

LIST OF SONGS

ACT ONE

1. OVERTURE	... pg. 4
2. LET'S MAKE A GAME	... pg. 4
3. WORK	... pg. 5
4. SLEEPING SONG (REV. BLINKERS)	... pg. 7
5. SLEEPING SONG (FEATHERTOES)	... pg. 8
6. SLEEPING SONG (SUFFERTON)	... pg. 9
7. DON'T ROCK THE BOAT	... pg. 10
8. I HAVE FELT A PRESENCE	... pg. 11
9. EVERY DOOR IS A MAGIC DOOR	... pg. 11
10. SEE MORE SONG	... pg. 14
11. SEE MORE SONG REPRISE	... pg. 16
12. PILLS	... pg. 17
13. MADAME 'O'	... pg. 19
14. TENTACLES TINGLE	... pg. 23
15. LIFE IS WONDERFUL	... pg. 25
16. SUFFER SONG	... pg. 27
17. THE 'M' DIRGE	... pg. 29
18. BOOKS	... pg. 32
19. SONG IN THE DARK	... pg. 36

ACT TWO

20. 'UM' SONG	... pg. 40
21. ICE QUEEN	... pg. 42
22. ALL HE REALLY NEEDED WAS A FRIEND	... pg. 43
23. WADJAGONNADO	... pg. 46
24. FIRE	... pg. 47
25. TEARS	... pg. 49
26. THE WEB	... pg. 50
27. CREATION SONG	... pg. 54
28. MAKING CHOICES/ I AM THE DARK	... pg. 56
29. ANOTHER MAGIC DOOR	... pg. 59
30. MAGIC DOOR FINALE	... pg. 60

CHARACTERS

(In order of appearance)

DOORMAN: He represents the forces of opportunity. In his many guises as **HARVEY SEYMOUR**, the **LIBRARIAN**, the **PROFESSOR**, he seeks to offer doorways to new possibilities that encourage the four on their journey.

OPIA: Also known as **MADAME ‘O’**, she represents the force of resistance. In her many guises, as the **ICE QUEEN**, **MS. MESMER**, the **FIRE QUEEN**, she seeks to test and tempt the four away from their quest.

GABBY: A bright and curious tomboy with an insatiable sense of curiosity. She is kind and adventuresome, but has no sense of her own strength.

REV. BLINKERS: A proper and kindly older gentleman, a true believer in the rational mind, ill at ease with emotions and always seeking a rational explanation. He carries a large well-used book, and a large magnifying glass. He is also the collector of the clues.

FEATHERTOES: A light-hearted, air-headed ballet dancer wearing a giant pink pompom tutu. She sees only the bright side of everything. Excessively positive and endearing, yet unwilling to recognize anything difficult or negative.

SUFFERTON: A lonely, long-suffering pessimist, a lovable drooping down hearted fellow about the age of Gabby, who believes that suffering is the mark of a true seeker.

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES: The zany cronies of **OPIA**. They are inseparable, bumbling and quaint.

CHORUS: as **TOWNSPEOPLE; EXOTIC BIRDS; SENSITIVE PLANTS; SLUGS; ZOMBIES; FLAMES.**

REFLECTIONS ON CROOKED WALKING

ACT ONE

MUSIC: *Overture* ... **TRACK 1**

A YIN/YANG SIGN APPEARS FLOATING IN SPACE. **OPIA** AND **THE DOORMAN** ARE REVEALED. **OPIA'S** HEAD IS SEEN AS THE DOT IN THE YANG OR WHITE TEARDROP AND **THE DOORMAN'S** HEAD IS SEEN AS THE DOT IN THE YIN OR BLACK TEARDROP. THEIR VOICES SOUND AS IF COMING FROM FAR OUT IN THE GALAXY FLOATING IN A FOG.

OPIA: I'm bored. What do you want to do now?

DOORMAN: I don't know ... Hey ... Maybe we could ...

OPIA: No! ... No ... We've already done that ...

DOORMAN: Oh ...Well, what if we ...

OPIA: No ... We've done that too!

MUSIC: ... *Let's Make a Game*

DOORMAN: Wait just one little moment. I've got an idea ...
Let's make a game that really might look
Like something might look
If there were really something out there, out there, out there....

OPIA: Hmmmm, now you've got my attention ...
Let's make a game that really might feel
Like someone might feel
If there were really someone in there, in there, in there

DOORMAN: Sound interesting.
Let's make a game, a galaxy
We'll make some rules
That all will have to follow, follow, follow

OPIA: Rules? How mundane ...
Let's make a game with a family tree
Some enemies
Acquaintances and lovers, lovers, lovers

DOORMAN : Lovers? Mmmmm ...

DOORMAN AND OPIA

*Let's make a game and pretend to forget
That we're the ones who set the game in motion, motion, motion
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily
Life is but a ...*

OPIA, THE DOORMAN AND THE YIN/YANG SIGN DISAPPEAR.

MUSIC: ... *Work* ... **TRACK 2**

SCENE CHANGE: A TOWN AT DAWN IS REVEALED. **TOWNSPEOPLE**, **GABBY** AMONG THEM, ARE SEEN GOING ABOUT THEIR DAILY ROUTINES AS IF THEY ARE PUPPETS SLEEP WALKING.

TOWNSPEOPLE

Work, work, work, work
Work, work, work, work

OPIA REAPPEARS AND ALTHOUGH UNSEEN BY THE **TOWNSPEOPLE**, SHE IS INFLUENCING THE **TOWNSPEOPLE**, MOVING THEM DEEPER INTO BOREDOM AND SLEEP.

OPIA

Don't rock the boat
Don't rock the boat
Float nice and easy

TOWNSPEOPLE

Work, work, work, work
Work, work, work, work

OPIA

Don't rock the boat
Don't rock the boat
Keep it all pleisie

TOWNSPEOPLE

Work, work, work, work
Survive, vive, vive, vive
Work, work, work, work
Survive, vive, vive, vive

I don't care about this
I don't really care
I don't care about that
I don't really care

The fault is not mine
Life is merely a game
If my dreams have all died
I'm not to blame
I just

Work, work, work, work
Survive, vive vive vive vive
Work, work, work, work

MUSIC CHANGES. LIGHTS SOFTEN. VOICES FILL THE AIR. **GABBY** LOOKS AROUND IN WONDER. THE **TOWNSPEOPLE** FREEZE MOMENTARILY AS THE **DOORMAN** APPEARS.

DOORMAN AND VOICES

Every door is a magic door

GABBY (spoken) Magic door?

THE **DOORMAN** DISAPPEARS. **OPIA** APPEARS.

OPIA

Don't rock the boat
Don't rock the boat
Float nice and easy

LIGHTS RESTORE AND THE **TOWNSPEOPLE** ROBOTICALLY GO ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS AS IF NOTHING HAS HAPPENED. **GABBY** TRIES TO JOIN IN BUT CAN'T QUITE GET BACK IN STEP.

TOWNSPEOPLE

Work, work, work, work
Survive vive vive vive
Work, work, work, work
Survive vive vive vive

I don't care about this
I don't really care
I don't care about that
I don't really care
It just isn't fair
I'm dead on my feet
I just want to sleep
I wanna sleep, I wanna sleep,
Sleep, sleep, sleep, sleep, sleep, sleep!

THE **TOWNSPEOPLE** STOP IN VARIOUS POSITIONS AROUND THE STAGE.

GABBY

What are these voices I'm hearing?

What are these sounds that are calling me?
Why am I not content to sit
And watch the world pass by?
Why when I look into someone's eyes
Do I not feel alive?
What is there waiting beyond the hill?
Why do I want to fly?
Why am I dreaming of something more
Than just waiting 'til I die?

DOORMAN

Every door is a magic door

Every key is a secret key

VOICES

Ah me, ah my

OPIA AND TOWNSPEOPLE

Don't rock the boat

Every door is a magic door

Waiting 'til I die

Every key is a secret key

Don't rock the boat

THE **TOWNSPEOPLE** ONCE AGAIN TAKE UP THEIR ROBOT MOVEMENTS.

Work, work, work, work
Survive, vive, vive, vive
Work, work, work, work
Survive, vive, vive, vive
Work, work, work, work
Survive, vive, vive, vive
Work, work, work, work
Survive, vive, vive, vive

Every door is a magic door

GABBY

What are these feelings I'm feeling?
What are these thoughts that are haunting me?
Why can I not make sense of it?
Why am I all confused?
Why when I listen to all they say

VOICES

Ah me, ah my

Does none of it seem true?

*There's gotta be something more than this
There's gotta be something more
A feeling is brewing inside of me
Like the coming of a storm*

OPIA AND TOWNSPEOPLE
Don't rock the boat

DOORMAN

Every door is a magic door

Don't rock the boat

The coming of a storm

Every key is a magic key

Don't rock the boat

*Gotta be something
Gotta be somewhere
Gotta be something
Something more*

Magic door

**THE TOWNSPEOPLE ARE ALL LYING DOWN AND SLEEPING IN VARIOUS POSITIONS.
GABBY SUDDENLY NOTICES THAT EVERYONE IS ASLEEP EXCEPT HERSELF**

GABBY: Hey, wake up! Wake up! What's everyone sleeping for?.. Hey... Come on you guys, you can wake up now. Dozing donkeys, this is so weird. What if nobody ever wakes up?

REV. BLINKERS ENTERS UNSEEN BY GABBY. HE IS STUDYING THE TOWNSPEOPLE THROUGH HIS MAGNIFYING GLASS AND THEN REFERING TO A LARGE BLACK BOOK HE IS CARRYING.

Oh, bedridden bats, what a terrible thought ... To live alone in a town full of sleeping people ... forever ...

REV. BLINKERS TOUCHES HER LIGHTLY ON THE SHOULDER.

REV. BLINKERS: Excuse me..

GABBY: Yikes! Glorious gargoyles, you're awake!

REV. BLINKERS: Obviously I'm awake. What an inane remark.

GABBY SHAKES HIS HAND FRANTICALLY.

GABBY: Boy, am I glad to see you.. Boy, oh boy, oh boy ... am I ever glad to see you. My name's Gabby. It's short for Gabrielle, but I prefer folks to call me Gabby.

REV. BLINKERS: Fine then, Gabrielle. I'm the Reverend Doctor Blinkers, B.A., M.A., P.Q.R.S.T., PH.D.

GABBY: A man of letters. Why that's terrific. And a Doctor, too! Boy, then you should know what's going on. What's up, Doc? I mean, is everybody sick or something?

REV. BLINKERS: Unfortunately, I'm not a Doctor of Medicine. However, my Book of Knowledge has a little something for every occasion and I'm looking for an explanation even now.

MUSIC:

...

The Sleeping Song

*There's got to be a cause
There's got to be a reason
Perhaps it was a virus
Or a coldness of the season
We've got to find a truth
Or maybe a perception
To show us where to go
To tell us what to do
There's got to be an answer
In short, we need a clue*

FEATHERTOES, HAVING ENTERED DURING THE SONG, DANCES JOYOUSLY UP TO THEM
HER PIK TUTU BOUNCING UP AND DOWN.

FEATHERTOES: Hello to you both. It's a beautiful day... How relaxed all the townspeople seem ... wouldn't you say?

GABBY: Relaxed? Plummeting penguins, who are you tryin' to kid? They're all asleep.

FEATHERTOES: Maybe they're having a wee little nap ... And all that they need is a kindly soft tap.

MUSIC: ... ***The Sleeping Song #2***

REV. BLINKERS: Really, young lady, it's nothing to sing about...

FEATHERTOES

Why are they asleep ... tra la la
While we are still awake ... ho dee ho
I have a funny feeling
That there's been a big mistake ... lee dee dee
It all seems quite peculiar
It feels a little strange
When life is oh so wonderful
When everything is beautiful
Why do they want to sleep all day?

FEATHERTOES, REV. BLINKERS, GABBY

*Why - why do they sleep
What - what is the secret
That keeps us wide awake
While they ...*

GABBY

Sleep standing up

REV. BLINKERS

Sleep sitting down

FEATHERTOES, REV. BLINKERS, GABBY

Sleep all around

SUFFERTON ENTERS LOOKING VERY DEPRESSED HE TRUDGES GLOOMILY PAST THE OTHERS, A LONG SCARF TRAILS FORLORNLY BEHIND HIM ON THE GROUND.

SUFFERTON: O-o-oh brother ... Ho-o-ly smoke. I knew things was gonna get worser. I knew'd it ... I knew'd it.

GABBY: Moaning minnows ...

GABBY TAKES A DEEP BREATH, OBVIOUSLY STAR STRUCK.

... Um ... Gosh ... Well ... Who are you?

SUFFERTON: That don't matter no more, no how, no way.

REV. BLINKERS: Don't be ridiculous, my good fellow. It matters profoundly.

FEATHERTOES: The sun's going to shine. It's all going to be fine.

SUFFERTON: It's not gonna be fine. It makes no sense, no how, no way. I'll bet we're the only ones left awake.

GABBY: Well, hapless hippos ... Gee ... Gosh ... Then that's all the more reason for us to ... Um ... Get to know each other. Um, I'm Gabby. This is the Reverend Doctor Blinkers, and she's ... Well, what's your name anyway?

FEATHERTOES: Feathertoos.

GABBY: She's Feathertoos, so ... Um ... Gosh ... Who are you?

MUSIC:

...

The Sleeping Song #3

SUFFERTON: I's Sufferton.

*I've scummed up and down this town
I've looked in every corner
And what I've seen has made of me
A sad and bitter mourner
They're sleepin' on their bicycles
They're sleepin' in their cars
They're sleepin' in their flower beds
And in their pickle jars
They're sleepin' their whole lives away*

GABBY: Hopeful hephalumps. We've just got to find a cure!

FEATHERTOES, REV. BLINKERS, GABBY, SUFFERTON

*What - what can we do
How - how can we seek out
A clue to find the way
We must.*

FEATHERTOES

Follow a star

REV. BLINKERS

Follow the book

SUFFERTON

Follow the pain

GABBY

Follow the question.

ALL

*Where- where will we go
What - what will we find
We don't know
So come with me
We must
Reach out
Reach up
Reach on through ...*

THE WIND BEGINS TO BLOW. PLAINTIVE VOICES CAN BE HEARD AS IF COMING FROM THE FOREST NEARBY. THE FOUR LOOK UP ATTENTIVELY.

MUSIC:

...

Ah Me, Ah My

VOICES

Ah me, ah my

GABBY: Well, whispering willows. It's those voices again.

SUFFERTON: I didn't think there weren't no one ever heard them sad voices but me.

DOORMAN

Every door is a magic door

VOICES

Ah me, ah my

REV. BLINKERS: Why this is simply amazing. I've also heard them before. Whatever could it mean?

HE THUMBS THROUGH HIS BOOK.

FEATHERTOES: We should follow the voices to see where they lead.

OPIA APPEARS, UNSEEN BY THE FOUR. LIGHTS BECOME DREAMLIKE. **FEATHERTOES** YAWNS LOUDLY, RUBBING HER EYES.

If we stay here we might just fall asleep.

MUSIC:

...

Don't Rock The Boat

...

TRACK 3

OPIA MOVES HYPNOTICALLY THROUGH THE TOWN. THE FOUR GROW GRADUALLY MORE SLEEPY AS SHE SINGS TO THEM. THE **TOWNSPEOPLE** STIR DREAMILY.

OPIA

*Don't rock the boat, don't rock the boat
Float nice and easy
Don't rock the boat, don't rock the boat
Life should be pleasy*

*Just watch the stream that flows away
Sit down, relax and waste the day
The grass won't be greener
You'll just get leaner
Nothing is better than not getting wetter*

*Don't let things get too intense
Spend your life upon a fence
Make no decisions
No need for visions
Nothing is finer
Than just marking time-a*

OPIA

*Don't rock the boat
Don't rock the boat
Float nice and easy*

*Don't rock the boat
Don't rock the boat
Float nice and easy*

*Don't rock the boat
Don't rock the boat
Float nice and easy*

VOICES AND TOWNSPEOPLE

*Sit down, sit down, relax, don't worry
Sit down, sit down, relax, don't worry
Sit down, sit down, relax, don't worry*

Sit down, sit down, relax, don't worry

Sit down, sit down, relax, don't worry

OPIA EXITS CHUCKLING AS THE FOUR ARE DRIFTING OFF TO SLEEP. THE **TOWNSPEOPLE** REMAIN ASLEEP.

MUSIC:

...

Ah Me, Ah My - Magic Door

DOORMAN*Every door is a magic door***VOICES***Ah me, ah my, ah me, ah my*

THE FOUR STIR ON THE SOUND OF THE DOORMAN'S VOICE AS THE FOREST VOICES
CONTINUE UNDER THE DIALOGUE.

GABBY: Questing koalas, we can't stay here. It's too dangerous. We'll all get sick and then there'll be no one to wake the people in the town and they'll sleep forever. Come on ... Maybe the voices in the forest will lead us to the cure.

REV. BLINKERS: You're right, Gabrielle, this sickness must be irrevocably eradicated! Gone! Finished! Kaput! Follow me everybody!

THEY BEGIN WALKING AS THE STAGE TRANSFORMS INTO A MAGICAL FOREST. THE VOICES AND WIND CONTINUE.

MUSIC:

...

I Have Felt a Presence**THE FOUR**

*I have felt a presence that disturbs me
I have felt it calling in the night
And with the dawn of morning I awaken
And hunger for the light*

VOICES

*Ah me
Ah my

And hunger for the light*

THE DOORMAN MAGICALLY APPEARS, DRESSED IN THE COLORS OF THE RAINBOW.

MUSIC:

...

Magic Door***... TRACK 4*****DOORMAN**

*Every door is a secret door
Hiding something
Every door is a magic door
Leading somewhere
Somewhere you've never been
Ever before
To open the door
Just lift up the latch
But once you go in
You might never come back
For that is the way of the spell
That is the way of the spell
The spell, the spell, the spell, the spell,*

*Every key is a secret key
Hiding something
Every key is a magic key
Leading somewhere
Leading you off to
Heaven knows where
Once you get there
You might sing out a song
Or want to get back
To where you came from
For that is the way of the spell
That is the way of the spell
The spell, the spell, the spell, the spell,*

*A secretive key
A magical door*

*A magical door
A secretive key
A door and a key
A key and a door
A key and a door
I adore a magical key - la, la, la, la*

THEY FOLLOW THE **DOORMAN** THIS WAY AND THAT. HE MAGICALLY CREATES A DOORWAY IN THE GROUND, AND DISAPPEARS THROUGH IT. **GABBY** PEERS THROUGH THE DOOR.

GABBY: Diving dolphins, who was that man? He's gone!

REV. BLINKERS: What do you see there?

FEATHERTOES RUNS UP TO THE DOOR.

MUSIC:

...

Cheerful

BRIGHT AND CHEERFUL MUSIC PLAYS AS **FEATHERTOES** LOOKS THROUGH.

FEATHERTOES: It's a wonderful meadow all sunny and bright ... With flowers and colors all sparkling with light.

GABBY SEES IT TOO.

GABBY: Ooooooo...Wow! It is ...

MUSIC:

...

Despondent

SUFFERTON LOOKS THROUGH DOOR. THE MUSIC CHANGES, BECOMING BROODING AND DARK.

SUFFERTON: That ain't no meadow, Feather toes. There's nothin' but sorrow down there. A dark stairway leadin' down to the bowels of oblivion and the misery of not knowin'.

GABBY SEES IT TOO.

GABBY: Ooooooo... You're right it's awful.

REV. BLINKERS: Oh for heaven's sake, Sufferton, nothing can be that bad.

SUFFERTON STEPS BACK FROM THE DOOR IN DREAD. AS **REV. BLINKERS** APPROACHES THE MUSIC FADES.

My book will tell us what's through the door ... And ... Wait a moment ... I think I see ...

MUSIC:

...

Bell tree

A GIANT BALL WITH "C" WRITTEN ON IT APPEARS AND DISAPPEARS WITH A BRIGHT SHIMMERING SOUND.

... The letter "C". Yes it is a letter "C". C-C-C..

HE FLIPS THROUGH HIS BOOK.

Yes. Yes. Yes. ... 'C' ... Cure ... Clue. It must be a clue to the cure. Excellent. We must collect all letters. I'm a man of letters, I'll lead the way. I have the book. Onward! Upward! ... Uh ... Downward! ... Forward! ... Follow me!

HE MOVES PURPOSEFULLY THROUGH THE DOOR AND DISAPPEARS.

GABBY: Vanishing vapors. He's disappeared.

FEATHERTOES: It's so lively and lovely and luscious and light ... I must get a closer look at this sight... *La ... la ... la*

SHE DANCES MERRILY DOWN THROUGH THE DOOR.

SUFFERTON: If'n I stays here it'll just get worsen and worsen. This here's a journey one makes alone ... with no comfort ... No companions.

GABBY: Um ... Gee ... Sufferton ... um ... Gosh ... I'll go with you.

SUFFERTON PAYS NO ATTENTION TO HER AND TRUDGES GLOOMILY DOWN THROUGH THE DOOR, HIS LONG SCARF TRAILING ALONG THE GROUND BEHIND HIM UNTIL IT TOO DISAPPEARS.

GABBY: Sufferton! ... Whining whippets, what am I gonna do now? I can't go back to the town. I can't stay here alone. I've got to go through the door...

MUSIC:

...

Gabby through the door

... Come on Gabby,...You can do it...Jump!... Come on girl...You can do it...Come on...Leapin' lasagna!... Wait for me!

SHE LEAPS THROUGH THE DOOR.

BLACKOUT

SCENE CHANGE: THE SOUNDS OF BIRDS ARE HEARD. **ARRIBA**, A PINK FLAMINGO, IS PREENING HERSELF AND MAKING ACCOMPANYING NOISES. OTHER BIRDS ARE SEEN.

HARVEY SEYMORE, (THE **DOORMAN** DISGUISED AS A LARGE, BLACK CROW WITH A RAINBOW TOP COAT) IS PERCHED IN A TREE. HE AND **ARRIBA** CONVERSE TOGETHER IN BIRD JARGON.

GABBY CLIMBS INTO THE SCENE. THE DOOR DISAPPEARS.

GABBY: Hey, you guys, where are you? ... Sufferton? ... Rev. Blinkers? ... Creepy critters, this is the weirdest place I've ever seen.

HARVEY: Har ... Har ... Hello ... Hello ...

GABBY: Come to think of it, Gabby, I think we should just go back through the door. Freaky forest, the door's gone.

HARVEY: Gone? ... Gone? ... Trouble little misses? ... Trouble little misses?

GABBY FREEZES.

Har ... Har ... Look up ... Look up ...

ARRIBA: Arriba ... Arriba .

GABBY SEES HARVEY AND ARRIBA

GABBY: Now Gabby, don't believe a thing you're hearing. Birds do not talk.

HARVEY: This is the situation as I see it ... See it ... Har ...
You can't go back, you can't go forth

You can't go to nor fro
You can't go east, north or south
So where you gonna go?
You're somewhere in nowhere
But where? ... Where? ... Where?

GABBY: Oh I don't know. Nothing makes sense anymore. I need more ... Um ... More ...

HARVEY AND ARRIBA: More? ...

HARVEY ALIGHTS BESIDE HER, INTERRUPTING.

GABBY: ... More ... Um ..

HARVEY: Seymore ... Harvey ... Harvey Seymore's the name. ... See more. ... See more. Do you get it? ... Get it? Har ... Har ... Harvey ... Har ...

ARRIBA: Arriba ... Arriba.

GABBY: Arriba?

ARRIBA: Arriba.

GABBY: Hi Arriba ... And uh ... How do you do, Mr. Seymore..

HARVEY: Fine ... Fine ... Now what's the problem ... Eh? Eh?

GABBY: Well you see, it's like this. Back in my hometown ...

HARVEY: Don't tell me - Forest Near?

GABBY: Yeh ... Well ... Everyone fell asleep. Then I met these other three and we came looking for a cure.

HARVEY: A cure? ... A cure? ... Curious, aren't you?

GABBY: Oh! ... Yeah, I guess I am curious ... But as you can see, it sure gets me into lots of trouble.

HARVEY: Trouble ... Trouble... But of course it does, course it does.

GABBY: But I don't like trouble.

HARVEY: Then don't ask questions..

GABBY: But I want to know things.

HARVEY: Then you best be prepared for lots of trouble.

GABBY: But isn't there an easier way?

MUSIC: ... **See More Song** ... **TRACK 5**

HARVEY: Har ... Har ... Harvey ... Har ...

HARVEY

All of life is learning

Wondering and yearning

With questions ever churning

You don't like it ... like it

Too bad ... Too bad ... Har ... Har ...

You better learn to see more

HARVEY AND ARRIBA

*All of life's mysterious
Unknowable and so curious
Confusion makes you furious
You don't like it ...like it
Too bad ... Too bad ... Har ... Har ...
You better learn to see ...*

*More magic, more wonder
More sunshine, more thunder
The secret down under
'Cause things ain't what they seem*

*You better learn to dream more
To dance more, to cry more
And laugh more, sing more
Take a chance more
Often than you do...*

*All of life is magic
Peculiar and fantastic
It's sometimes even tragic
You don't like it ... Like it*

*Too bad ... Too bad ... Har ... Har ...
You better learn to see more*

GABBY: Well, I don't care what you say. I'm not going to be curious anymore... And I don't want to see more either.

ARRIBA CLIMBS ONTO A PERCH, EXPOSES A SIGN WITH "SEE MORE VIEWING POINTS" ON IT, AND BEGINS POINTING EXCITEDLY AT SOMETHING.

ARRIBA: Gawkk ... Si, Si ... Arriba ... Arriba ...

GABBY: Meddling magpies, what are you looking at?

HARVEY: Har ... Har ... Still curious? Eh? Eh?

ARRIBA: Arrarack ... Ooooo ... Andalay ... Andalay ... Si ... Si ...

GABBY SCURRIES UP BESIDE **ARRIBA** AND SURVEYS THE SURROUNDINGS.

GABBY: Do you see Rev. Blinkers or the others? I'd do anything to find them...

MUSIC:

...

Doorman

HARVEY CREATES A DOOR.

HARVEY: And what do we have here ... A door? ... A door?

GABBY: Where? ... Hey ... It is a door.

HARVEY: And what's that long rectangular thing there on the sign? Could it be a key? A key?

ARRIBA: Aqui ... Aqui ... Esta aqui?

MUSIC:

...

Key Cue

GABBY: I don't know ... Let's see ... Maybe it is a key.

SHE TAKES THE HYPHEN FROM BETWEEN THE WORDS "VIEWING" AND "POINTS", AND BRINGS IT TO THE DOOR. USING IT AS A KEY. THE DOOR OPENS. **GABBY** PEERS THROUGH.

GABBY: Peepin' pelicans. Do you know who's in here? Hello...

HARVEY: Hello ...

GABBY: ... Hello ...

HARVEY: Hello ...

GABBY: Boy, I wish Rev. Blinkers was here. He's smart. He'd know what to make of all this.

HARVEY: Well, why don't you go look for him ... look for him.

GABBY: Senseless seagulls, I wouldn't know where to look.

HARVEY: Well, here's a door... Why not start from here...If you're still Cure ... Cure ... Curious..

GABBY: Warping woodpeckers, this is too weird for me...Uh...Thanks, Mr. Seymore ... I'm going ... Uh ... Mr. Seymore? ... Oh well, curious crows, here I goes ...

GABBY EXITS THROUGH THE DOOR. THE DOOR DISAPPEARS. **HARVEY** FLIES OUT. **ARRIBA** BEGINS PREENING HERSELF AGAIN.

MUSIC:

...

See More Song Reprise

HARVEY AND ARRIBA

*All of life is magic
Peculiar and fantastic
It's sometimes even tragic
You don't like it, like it
Too bad ... Too bad ... Har ... Har ...
You better learn to see more ... See more
Har ... Har ... Get it ... Get it
Too bad ... Too bad
You better learn to see more
Magic ... Magic ... Magic ... Magic ...*

HARVEY AND ARRIBA GET STUCK ON THE WORD MAGIC LIKE A SKIPPING RECORD.

MUSIC:

...

Arriba Gets Scared

AS **OPIA**'S MUSIC IS HEARD, **ARRIBA** LOOKS AROUND FEARFULLY AND THEN EXITS WITH A SHRIEK.

OPIA ENTERS DISGUISED AS A LITTLE OLD LADY IN A LONG CAPE. SHE IS PUSHING A MEDICINE CART FILLED WITH BUBBLING JARS, BOTTLES, ETC. SHE IS ACCOMPANIED BY HER TWO STRANGE CRONIES, **WAYLESS** AND **NIMBLEKNEES**,

MUSIC:

...

Pills

...

TRACK 6

OPIA: Come along my little sweeties? Come along. Come along. And how are we todaysies. Comfy and cozy in our neat little rosies? That's what we like isn't it, comfy, cozy, everything rosie?

WAYLESS: That's right, Opia!

NIMBLEKNEES: You're not kidding, Madame O...

OPIA

*I've got pills for every occasion
I've got pills for every purpose
I've got pills and pills and pills and
Pills and..*

*I've got powders for your problems
I've got powders for your gripes
I've got powders, powders,
Powders, powders...*

*I don't like enthusiasm
I'm not at all at ease with those who care
It gives me quite a fright
When people are too bright
I'd rather have them watching
Television day and night*

*I love possessions
When folks grub for money I feel fine
And when they grab for fame
How I love to play the game
And grappling after power
Why that makes me go insane*

**WAYLESS AND
NIMBLEKNEES**
She's got pills

She's got powders ...Ooo

*Yasummmmm
Who cares?
Eek
Yikes
Ah.....*

*Sessions
Me too
Yea
Oh wow*

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES: Insane? Madame 'O'? You? ... You go insane? Wow..

OPIA: I don't go insane, you fools ... It's just that.. It's just that ... Ooh...

*I've got ways to make them happy
I've got ways to make them numb
I've got ways and ways and ways
And ways and ways*

*I've got schemes to crystallize them
I've got schemes to fossilize them
I've got schemes and schemes and
Schemes and schemes and
I've got schemes
I've got
I've got
I've got
I've got
I've
I've
I've, I've, I've
I've got schemes*

**WAYLESS AND
NIMBLEKNEES**
She's got ways

*She's got schemes
She's got schemes
She's got
She's got
She's
She's
She's, she's, she's
She's got schemes
She's got schemes
She's got great schemes*

ENTER **REV. BLINKERS**, STUDYING HIS BOOK DILIGENTLY. HE DOESN'T NOTICE THEM.
HE SITS AND CONTINUES HIS READING.

WAYLESS: Uh... Madame O?

NIMBLEKNEES: Uh... Opia?

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES: Do ya see who we see?

OPIA: Fine then, my little sweeties. Off you gosies. And what will happen, nobody knowsies.

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES RUN OVER TO REV. BLINKERS TRIPPING AND BUFFOONING ALL THE WAY.

WAYLESS: Hi there, chappie. And where would you be going?

NIMBLEKNEES: And why?

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES: And for what purpose?

REV. BLINKERS IS TOO ENGROSSED IN HIS BOOK TO NOTICE THEM.

WAYLESS: Speak up, chappie. You must have an answer ...

NIMBLEKNEES: A reply...

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES: Or at least a clue ...

REV. BLINKERS: A clue? A clue? Did somebody say ... A clue?

NIMBLEKNEES AND WAYLESS SHRIEK WITH FEAR AND RUN AND HIDE

WAYLESS: A who?

REV. BLINKERS: A clue!

NIMBLEKNEES: A shoe? ...

REV. BLINKERS: No ... a clue!

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES: Oh ... A clue! ... Why didn't you say so!

THEY COME OUT OF HIDING.

REV. BLINKERS: Yes, you see, I'm seeking a clue to a cure to an illness, which has struck the townspeople of Forest Near. And I approach the subject rather as a scholar would who is seeking the path of knowledge.

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES: Ohhhh ... He's a scholar, seeking the path 'a knowledge!

WAYLESS: Maybe we can help you.

NIMBLEKNEES: What does this path look like?

REV. BLINKERS: Look like? ... Well ... It's a reasonable progression of comprehensive structural parts.

WAYLESS: A seasonable procession of indestructible hearts? ... Tarts?...

REV. BLINKERS RETURNS TO HIS BOOK. WAYLESS TRIES TO GET NIMBLEKNEES' ATTENTION WITHOUT DISTURBING REV. BLINKERS.

Pssst ... Pssst ... Have you seen a path like that, Nimbleknees? ...

THEY MUMBLE TOGETHER, OBVIOUSLY PUZZLED, IN A LANGUAGE ONLY THEY UNDERSTAND.

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES: Uh? ... Any other clues?

REV. BLINKERS: Clues ... Did somebody say clues?

WAYLESS: Well, I mean ...

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES: What does this path ... Feel like?

REV. BLINKERS: Feel like? Feel like? ... Why I can't imagine how a feeling could have any relevance to anything at all. That for which I search requires erudite learning to abstract the intangible logic of the unknown.

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES: Oh ...

THEY ARE NOW TOTALLY CONFUSED. **REV. BLINKERS** PREPARES TO LEAVE.

REV. BLINKERS: Not to worry, not to worry, I'll find it for myself. Let's just say that when it comes to the search for knowledge, I have an unquenchable thirst.

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES: Oh ... You're thirsty. Why didn't you say so?

WAYLESS: We just happen to know the very spot ...

NIMBLEKNEES: ... The very person ...

WAYLESS: ... The very place ...

NIMBLEKNEES: ... Where you can rest up ...

WAYLESS: ... Relax ...

NIMBLEKNEES: ... Ease the burdens of life ...

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES: ... With a sip of Opia's tonic.

MUSIC: ... **Madame 'O'** ... **TRACK**
Z

REV. BLINKERS: Oh... How distasteful... They're going to sing.

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES

*When you're feelin' down
When you're feelin' blue
When you know, you know you've got some troubles
That you want to lose
Why don't you take a break
And bring your bellyache to Madame 'O'
(shoo poo pee doo)*

*When you're feelin' ill
When you need a pill
When you know, you know you've got some sorrows
That you want to spill
Why don't you come with me
And bring your misery to Madame 'O'*

OPIA, WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES

*Come around when you're feelin' down
And I'll find that remedy
Come see me and for a little fee
I'll treat your troubles magically...
(shoo poo pee doo, shoo poo pee doo
shoo poo pee doo, pee doo, pee doo)*

*When you're feelin' down
When you're feelin' blue
When you know, you know you've got some troubles*

*That you want to lose
Why don't you take a break
And bring your bellyache to Madame 'O'*

OPIA

*Come around when you're feelin' down
And I'll find that remedy
Come see me and for a little fee
I'll treat your troubles magic..
Magic ... Magic ... Magic ... Magically*

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES PULL OFF THE OLD WOMAN'S CAPE TO REVEAL **OPIA**, SHE IS DRESSED AS A VAMP IN A LONG BLACK SLINKY SEQUINED DRESS WITH A WHITE STRIPE DOWN THE BACK LIKE A SKUNK. SHE IS HOLDING A LONG CIGARETTE HOLDER.

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES: Whoa ... Wow ... Oooooo la la

SHE TRIES TO TANTALIZE **REV. BLINKERS** INTO DRINKING A STEAMING SLEEPING POTION. THE MUSIC SHIFTS TO A LAZY, SEDUCTIVE BLUES FEEL. LIGHTS DARKEN.

MUSIC:

...

Madame 'O' Reprise

OPIA

*When you're feeling ill
When you need a pill
When you know you've got some sorrows
That you want to spill
Why don't you come with me
And bring your misery to Madame 'O'*

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES, WHO ARE SMITTEN BY **OPIA**, GROAN TOGETHER, **OPIA** GIVES THEM A CUTTING LOOK AND CONTINUES WITH HER SEDUCTION OF **REV. BLINKERS**, BLOWING SMOKE FROM THE GLASS INTO HIS FACE.

*When you're feelin' lost
And you're feelin' low
When you know, you need a cure
And you just don't know
Why don't you come see me
And have a little sleep with Madame 'O'*

REV. BLINKERS HAS BEEN GROWING SLEEPY ON THE FUMES. HE IS JUST ABOUT TO DRINK WHEN **GABBY** IS HEARD CALLING AS SHE ENTERS, SLIDING THROUGH THE DOOR.

GABBY: Rev. Blinkers! ... Rev. Blinkers!

OPIA: Drat that girl.

GABBY: Hey Doc, where are you?

OPIA: Mmmm ... I'll double my fun. I'll get two instead of one.

OPIA MOVES TO THE CART.

REV. BLINKERS: (yawning) Gabrielle, what an unexpected surprise. Why, where on earth have you been?

GABBY: Oh Doc, boy, oh boy, am I ever glad to see you. What a relief ...

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES CHUCKLE AS THEY LIGHT A CIGARETTE FOR **OPIA**. **GABBY** JUMPS IN SURPRISE WHEN SHE SEES THEM.

Ludicrous leapfrogs, who are they?

REV. BLINKERS: I'm not really sure, but it seems that the svelte female personage goes under the appellation of Opia and is sometimes affectionately referred to as Madame 'O'. It seems she just may have the cure we seek. (HE YAWNS) Look at all those voluptuous jars and bottles she has.

OPIA HAS APPROACHED THEM. REV. BLINKERS YAWNS AS OPIA BLOWS SMOKE IN HIS FACE.

GABBY: Hey Doc, what are you doing? You're yawning! Something's not right. I don't like her! She smokes!

OPIA FLICKS AN ASH ON HER HEAD. GABBY YAWNS, AS SHE AND REV. BLINKERS BECOME INCREASINGLY SLEEPY.

REV. BLINKERS: That's a fairly illogical basis for forming one's preference, shouldn't you think, Gabrielle? You are going to have to learn to use your reasoning faculties more frequently.

GABBY: (YAWNING) Missin' marbles, maybe that's why I can never see more.

REV. BLINKERS: That is precisely why..

THE LIGHTS FADE AS OPIA SPEAKS HYPNOTICALLY. WHILE OFFERING THEM HER GLASS OF TONIC. GABBY AND REV. BLINKERS SHOW SIGNS OF FALLING ASLEEP. THEY YAWN REPEATEDLY.

OPIA: Now, now, now, my little sweeties.. What's all this silly talkie talkie. It only troubles the mindsies. There's nowhere to go and there's nothing to find, so why not unwind with a sip of Opia's tonic. Sit down, relax, let the world pass by ...

GABBY: (HALF ASLEEP) But I don't want.. to ... sleep. ... I want to find the others.

REV. BLINKERS: And I'd like to locate the errant clues.

THE DOORMAN ENTERS CARRYING THE SAME LARGE BALL WITH THE LETTER "C" PAINTED ON IT THAT THEY SAW THROUGH THE FIRST DOOR. THE DOORMAN THROWS THE BALL AT GABBY'S FEET. WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES GRAB IT. GABBY IS SHOCKED OUT OF HER SLEEPINESS.

MUSIC:

...

Magic Door Theme

GABBY: Come on girl, wake up! Wake up! ... Hey Doc, wake up. Wake up!

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES PLAY CATCH WITH THE BALL.

OPIA: You fools, leave that ball alone

REV. BLINKERS: What? Oh, good gracious ... What happened ... What on earth?

GABBY: I don't know what's going on.. But look at that ...

REV. BLINKERS: By gadsir... Why that is the very letter I saw through the door. The elusive "C"! It's a clue! What an incredible stroke of luck!

OPIA: Not so fast my little sweeties ... Of course it is a "C". But ... It stands for "charm", and it belongs to me.

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES THROW HER THE BALL. WAYLESS FLIPS UP A CHART ON HER CART THAT SAYS "MADAME 'O's CHARM SCHOOL".

REV. BLINKERS: Madame 'O's charm school!

GABBY: Dumbfounded debutantes. She gives me the creeps!

REV. BLINKERS: We must get that letter Gabrielle, we simply must.

THE **DOORMAN** APPEARS WITH A PAPER DOOR IN A FRAME. HE DRAWS A HANDLE ON THE PAPER. HE TIPS HIS HAT TO **OPIA**, WHO IS FURIOUS.

MUSIC:

...

Magic Door Theme

OPIA: Stop him ... I said stop him.

GABBY: Look, it's that Doorman again. Come on, Doc, let's go through the door..

REV. BLINKERS: I can't leave without the clue, Gabrielle.

OPIA: (TO REV. BLINKERS) There's nowhere to go and there's nothing to see ...

OPIA ENTICES REV. BLINKERS WITH THE CLUE.

GABBY: Mushy monotones...

WHILE **OPIA** IS FIXED ON **REV. BLINKERS**, **GABBY** DARTS FORWARD AND GRABS THE 'C'.

I've got it Doc. ... Come on, hurry!

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES CHASE GABBY.

OPIA: Stop them, you fools!!!

OPIA, WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES: (ad lib) Grab her.. Get the ball ... Look out knuckle head ... Over there, etc.

THEY FINALLY CORNER **GABBY**. SHE THROWS THE BALL TO **REV. BLINKERS**.

REV. BLINKERS: I've got it. By Jove ... I've got it...

GABBY: The door ... Go through the door ... Quickly Doc.

SHE RUSHES THROUGH THE DOOR.

REV. BLINKERS: I'm coming, Gabrielle...

REV. BLINKERS, CHASED BY **WAYLESS** AND **NIMBLEKNEES**, RUNS THROUGH THE DOOR.

MUSIC:

...

Magic Door Instrumental

OPIA: No, that's my letter! That's my letter! Ohh. That wretched Doorman.

SHE TURNS VIOLENTLY ON **WAYLESS** AND **NIMBLEKNEES**. IT TURNS DARK.

OPIA: You fools! You let them get away! You'll pay for this! You'll pay!

THEY EXIT WITH **OPIA** CHASING THEM.

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES: (ad lib) Yikes.. Ow ... now we're in for it. ... Oh no ...

BLACKOUT.

FEATHERTOES: Oh, they're going to sing.

... Ahh

FEATHERTOES: Hi. They're beautiful, aren't they? ... They seem quite pensive. Why, they even quiver ... They're so sensitive.

FEATHERTOES TAPS ONE OF THE PLANTS, WHO SHIES AWAY IN FEAR.

GABBY: Oh Feathertoos, this whole forest place is so weird. I was just with Rev. Blinkers and we met this strange woman with two strange little creatures and now I've lost Rev. Blinkers and where's Sufferton? Oh worrying warthogs, Feathertoos, let's go look for them.

FEATHERTOES: Don't worry about them. We can't go now ... Just look at them dancing ... Oh! Wow!

GABBY: What are they, some kind of bug?

THE SENSITIVE PLANTS LOOK OFFENDED.

FEATHERTOES: Don't be silly. They're a special kind of flower with a unique and a very special power.

SHE TWIRLS AND UNCONSCIOUSLY KNOCKS A FLOWER OVER.

GABBY: Well, what are all those weird thing-a-ma-bobs sticking out all over the place?

GABBY VERY GENTLY TOUCHES A FEELER ON ONE OF THE SENSITIVE PLANTS. IT MAKES A STRANGE SOUND. THEY CHUCKLE TOGETHER.

FEATHERTOES: They are feelers, Gabby, they're sensitive plants ... They experience things that others can't.

GABBY: How do you know?

FEATHERTOES: I know it's true ... because I feel them too.

FEATHERTOES DANCES, BUMPING INTO THEM.

GABBY TRIES TO DANCE ALSO, IMITATING FEATHERTOES. SHE LOOKS RIDICULOUSLY CLUMSY.

GABBY: Maybe I feel things too, you know.

FEATHERTOES BURSTS OUT LAUGHING AT GABBY'S LACK OF COORDINATION. GABBY STOPS, EMBARRASSED.

FEATHERTOES: You're not sensitive so you can't understand ... This is a curious and creative land.

SHE BUMPS ANOTHER FLOWER.

GABBY: Hey! ... Curious ... Creative ... Hey! Rev. Blinkers found a "C". He thought it was a clue.. Let's ask these guys what they'd say the "C" was for.

FEATHERTOES: You don't ask questions about what is real ... That's something inwardly you just have to feel ... *La la la*

FEATHERTOES DANCES OFF AS THE SENSITIVE PLANTS SCURRY OUT OF HER WAY.

GABBY: Oh boy ... Harvey Seymore says I have to see more. Rev. Blinkers says I have to think more. And now you say I have to feel more. I don't know what's true anymore.

FEATHERTOES: That's because you're not sensitive.

GABBY: Well, maybe I feel things too, you know.

MUSIC:

...

Life Is Wonderful

FEATHERTOES

Life is wonderful Yes it is. ... La la la

FEATHERTOES TAKES A VINE AND BEGINS TO WIND IT AROUND **GABBY**, WHO THINKS IT IS A FRIENDLY GAME.

GABBY: Pudgy plants ... What are we playing?

FEATHERTOES: Oh Gabby, isn't it fun. Isn't it great to dance in the sun *La la la...*

FEATHERTOES CONTINUES WINDING THE VINE AROUND **GABBY** OBLIVIOUS TO THE FACT THAT **GABBY** ISN'T HAVING FUN.

GABBY: What are you doing? Hey stop it! Feathertoed! I'm not having any fun!

FEATHERTOES

La la la la la la ... Yes, you are ...

FINALLY, **GABBY** IS COMPLETELY BOUND UP IN THE VINE. ONLY HER LEGS PROTRUDE FROM THE BOTTOM.

GABBY: Hey, I can't see a thing ... I'm all bound up ... Oh mumbling mummies. Feathertoed!!

FEATHERTOES

Life is beautiful ... yes it is ... La la la

GABBY: Feathertoed! Get me out of here. Hey ... I'm scared please, Feathertoed!

WHEN **FEATHERTOES** IS FINISHED PLAYING, SHE CHASES THE **SENSITIVE PLANTS**, WHO EXIT IN A FLUSTER.

GABBY HOBBLER OFF THE STAGE, REAPPEARS MUMBLING TO HERSELF AND CALLING **FEATHERTOES**. SHE EXITS AND A LOUD "THUMP" IS HEARD. SHE REAPPEARS MOMENTARILY.

GABBY: Ow!! ... Oh bruised bananas ...

GABBY EXITS. THERE IS A LOUDER CRASH.

OWWWW!

FEATHERTOES RE-ENTERS. SHE KEEPS DANCING FOR A MOMENT UNTIL SHE REALIZES THAT SHE IS ALONE.

FEATHERTOES: Where have they gone? We were having a wonderful time ...

OPIA AND THE **DOORMAN** ENTER ON OPPOSITE SIDES. THE LIGHTS DARKEN.

VOICES OF **GABBY** AND **FEATHERTOES** ARE HEARD AS **FEATHERTOES** REMEMBERS THEIR CONVERSATION. THERE IS THE SENSE THAT **OPIA** AND THE **DOORMAN** ARE INFLUENCING HER TO QUESTION OR NOT QUESTION RESPECTIVELY.

FEATHERTOES (taped) You're not sensitive, Gabby, so you can't understand.

FEATHERTOES: ...Weren't we? ...

GABBY: (taped) But maybe I feel things too ... maybe I feel things too ... maybe I feel things too..

FEATHERTOES (taped) You're not sensitive, Gabby. ... You're not sensitive, Gabby.... You're not sensitive ...

DOORMAN

Every door is a magic door

FEATHERTOES: Maybe I'm not so sensitive ...

OPIA

Don't rock the boat, don't rock the boat

FEATHERTOES: But I am sensitive ...

DOORMAN

Hiding something

MUSIC:

...

Life Is Wonderful

...

TRACK 9

FEATHERTOES: Aren't I? ...

Life is wonderful ... Isn't it?

Life is marvelous ... Isn't it?

Life is fine and fair

Love is always near.

Isn't it? ... Isn't it?

Life is beautiful ... Isn't it?

Life is full of bliss ... Isn't it?

Life is rich and new

Love is always true

Isn't it?... Isn't it?... Isn't it?

Oh Gabby, I didn't mean it ... I really didn't ... Gabby!

THE **DOORMAN** GESTURES. A HEART SHAPED, HELIUM BALLOON WITH AN "R" ON IT FLOATS DOWN TO THE STAGE. **OPIA** IS INFURIATED AND CAUSES THUNDER AND LIGHTNING TO ERUPT.

FEATHERTOES IS TERRIFIED. SHE GRABS THE 'R' BALLOON AND HOLDS IT OVER HER HEAD LIKE AN UMBRELLA TO KEEP OFF THE STORM. SHE EXITS.

BLACKOUT.

GABBY ENTERS IN A PIN SPOT, STILL WRAPPED IN THE VINE. SHE CROSSES MUMBLING TO HERSELF AND CALLING FOR THE OTHERS.

GABBY: Rev. Blinkers ... Sufferton ... Feather toes ... Where are you? ... etc.

SHE EXITS. THERE'S A THUMP AND SHE MOANS.

SCENE CHANGE: A STRANGE UNDERWORLD CAVE APPEARS. **MS. MESMER**, (**OPIA** DISGUISED AS A HIP TUBA PLAYING MUSICIAN), **WAYLESS**, **NIMBLEKNEES**, AND THE **ZOMBIES** ARE SITTING AT TABLES, PARTAKING OF VARIOUS BOTTLES OF PILLS, POWDERS, ETC.

SUFFERTON ENTERS.

SUFFERTON: This is definitely a bad situation. Everyday in every way, things is getting worser and worser... Just when you think you're at the bottom of the barrel ... There's a trap door ... Maybe I should look on the bright side ... Things can't get no worser ... But they probably will.

MUSIC:

TRACK 10

...

Suffer Song

...

*You know you've got to sorrow
(sad, sad, sad, sad, sad, wah!)*
*You know you've got to suffer
(it's too bad but it's just the way things are)*
*If you think it's bad now it'll just get rougher
(too bad)*
*I've got those stumblin' in darkness
No one understands me
Think of the starvin'
Life is depressin'
Blues*

MUSIC:

...

(continued under dialogue)

MS. MESMERZ: Oh mellow man. M's the blues.

SUFFERTON: Hey man, that's some pretty heavy horn-huffin'.

MS. MESMER: Your mouth maneuvers ain't measly neither. They're m-marvelously m-miserable, mediocre and meaningless. I like that. They name me Ms. Mesmer, Mistress of Melodrama. How about you? Mmm?

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES: ... Mmm?

SUFFERTON: I's Sufferton.

MS. MESMER: My, my. What m-moves you my way, m-man? ? Mmm?

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES: ... Mmm?

SUFFERTON: I'm searchin' for somethin'.

MS. MESMER: And how you gonna manage to manifest it? Tell me that ... mmmm?

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES: ... Mmmm? ...

SUFFERTON: Well, they say if'n I struggle and strive and suffer and sacrifice maybe one day I'll be worthy of findin' the answer and entering the kingdom of the good guys.

THEY LAUGH AT HIM.

MS. MESMER: And when you merge with this mighty miraculous kingdom, what do you mean to materialize , mmm?

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES: ... Mmmm?

SUFFERTON: Um ... Well ... I don't know ... Um ... Oh yeah, I'm looking for a cure.

THEY LAUGH.

MS. MESMER: My... My ... My ... So you're meaning to manufacture a cure.

SHE LEADS HIM TO THE **ZOMBIES**.

Why we have all manner of magnificent medications right here to make merry your morbid morose morale. Why not meander over...Mmmm.

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES: ... Mmm? ...

MS. MESMER: And mimic their methods of mischief ... Mmmm?

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES: ... Mmm? ...

SUFFERTON: Um ... Well ...

MS. MESMER: Come on!

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES: Go on ...

SUFFERTON: Um, I don't know.

MS. MESMER: Come on ...

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES: Go on...

SUFFERTON: I guess I should ...

ALL: ... Mmm? ...

SUFFERTON: Well ... maybe I shouldn't.

ALL: Ah, come on.

SUFFERTON: No, no, I don't think I will.

You know you've got to suffer

(Boo boo boo boo hoo)

You know you've got to sorrow

(It's the pits but it's true)

If you think it's bad now wait 'til tomorrow

(It'll get worse)

I've got those life has no meaning

Just grin and bear it

Who really cares anyway

I just might hold my breath until I turn myself

Blue

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES OPEN A MEDICINE CABINET WHICH HAS BEEN INDISCERNIBLE UNTIL NOW. IT IS IN THE SHAPE OF THE LETTER "M". THEY TAKE OUT A JAR OF PILLS AND TAKE IT TO **OPIA**. SHE TEMPTS **SUFFERTON** TO TAKE IT.

MS. MESMER: Mercy, man. You sure are a moanin' master of misery ... I like that ... It would be madness, it would be monstrous, not to help yourself to this merciful mixture ... To soothe your mournful maladjusted mood.

SUFFERTON PICKS UP AND CONSIDERS THE PILL. **WAYLESS, NIMBLEKNEES** AND THE **ZOMBIES** MOVE TOWARD **SUFFERTON** ENCOURAGING HIM TO TAKE THE PILL.

SUFFERTON: And you say there won't be no more sorrow?

MS. MESMER: Merely mellowness, man.

SUFFERTON: And things would be easy?

MS. MESMER: ... Mmmm! ...

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES: ... Mmmmm ...

SUFFERTON: Maybe I should ...

ALL: Mmmm!!!! ...

WAYLESS, NIMBLEKNEES AND THE ZOMBIES BECOME A LITTLE TOO ENTHUSIASTIC
AND **SUFFERTON** GROWS UNEASY. HE STARTS BACKING AWAY.

SUFFERTON: Maybe I shouldn't..

ALL: Ah, come on.

SUFFERTON: I mean, I'm looking for a cure. But I think I'd rather just have ... A little clue ... Instead ... OK?

ALL: Come on.

SUFFERTON: No, no, really, thanks ... No ... Thanks anyway. I won't ... Not today ... Thanks ...

MUSIC: ... ***Sufferton Says No "pling"***

THE **DOORMAN** APPEARS. **MS. MESMER** SEES HIM AND IS FURIOUS.

MS. MESMER: Stop him!

THE **DOORMAN** GESTURES AND THE "**M**" ON THE MEDICINE CABINET ILLUMINATES.

SUFFERTON: Hey ... This is the letter "**M**"..

SUFFERTON TAKES THE "**M**".

MS. MESMER: One moment, man. That "**M**" stands for Ms. Mesmer and it's mine.

SUFFERTON: But, it's a clue.

THE **DOORMAN** WHISTLES AND BECKONS TO **SUFFERTON** TO FOLLOW HIM THROUGH
THE DOOR.

MS. MESMER: How dare you build a door in my cave!

OPIA GESTURES FOR THE **ZOMBIES** TO GET THE "**M**" FROM **SUFFERTON**. SHE PICKS UP A
LARGE MIRROR AND THRUSTS IT IN **SUFFER TON'S** FACE.

And you. Do you really think you can keep that clue from me? You mindless, moaning, meat head.

MUSIC: ... ***The "M" Dirge***

SUFFERTON: ... MOM!!!

THE LIGHTS DARKEN. THERE IS A SLOW MOTION DANCE IN WHICH **WAYLESS**,
NIMBLEKNEES AND THE ZOMBIES TRY TO TAKE THE "**M**" FROM **SUFFERTON**, WHILE
MS. MESMER TRIES TO FORCE HIM TO LOOK IN THE MIRROR. IT IS NIGHTMARISH.

MS. MESMER:
Look in the mirror

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES
What do you see?

MS. MESMER
A reflection

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES
Of someone

ALL
Who isn't

SUFFERTON
Quite me

MS. MESMER
I see a sinner

WAYLESS,NIMBLEKNEES AND ZOMBIES
I see a clown

SUFFERTON
I see a seeker

ALL
I see a clone ... A clone...A clone ... A clone

MS. MESMER
Mirror mirror on the wall
Who is the fairest of them all

WAYLESS,NIMBLEKNEES AND ZOMBIES
I spy with my little eye
something the color of...

ALL
Illusion...Illusion...Illusion...Illusion

SUFFERTON
Sticks and stones may break my bones
But looks will never hurt me

ALL
Look in the mirror
What do you see
A reflection
Of someone who isn't
Who isn't...Who isn't...Who isn't
Look in the mirror...Look in the mirror

SUFFERTON STRUGGLES UP THE LADDER TRYING TO ESCAPE THROUGH THE DOOR.
THEY GRAB HIS LEGS. HE SCREAMS.

BLACKOUT.

GABBY ENTERS IN A TIGHT SPOT, STILL BOUND UP IN THE VINE AND MUMBLING FOR
THE OTHERS.

GABBY: You guys? Where is everyone? ... You guys? ... Sufferton? ... Come out, come out, wherever you are.

SHE EXITS.

MUSIC:

...

Seymore Can Can

SCENE CHANGE: THE **DOORMAN** ENTERS PUSHING A LIBRARY CART AND DISGUISED AS
A FEMALE FRENCH **LIBRARIAN** IN A TIGHT SKIRT. S/HE BEGINS BUSILY DUSTING THE
BOOKS, CONSTANTLY SNEEZING FROM THE DUST.

REV. BLINKERS ENTERS.

REV. BLINKERS: My, my, what do we have here? A library. I don't remember anything about a library in the book. Let's see now ... Library? ... Library? ... Library? ...

HE FLIPS THROUGH HIS BOOK.

LIBRARIAN: Ah 'ello? ... Can I 'elp you? ... Achoo!

REV. BLINKERS: Oh ... Bless you ... No thank you ... Your books would be superfluous. You see, I have all I need in this one book. Thank you very much.

THE **LIBRARIAN** FLIRTS WITH **REV. BLINKERS**.

LIBRARIAN: A book ... A book. You say you have a book? Why, you're a lover of the written word, just as I am. You're also a man of letters. I can tell. (EYEING HIM SEDUCTIVELY) I can always tell ... Let me 'ave a look ... At your book I mean ... To see if I know it.

REV. BLINKERS: Oh yes ... You're bound to ... (CHUCKLING AT THE PUN) ... Bound to ...

THEY CHUCKLE TOGETHER.

LIBRARIAN: Let's see, let's see ... Uh, oui, oui, oh, yes, I knew I'd remember ... I always do.. It's a good book ... Yes, a fine book ... I 'ave it in my collection. Would you like to see? It's part of a series, one in twelve, come along, I'll show you ... Achoo! ...

REV. BLINKERS: ... Bless you ... But I'm not interested in your books, you see my book has everything that I could possibly need to know.

LIBRARIAN: Oh, I do so enjoy a man with a good sense of 'umour. But you know, there actually are those who believe that their book is the only true book. ... 'ard to believe I know, but true ... Achoo ...

REV. BLINKERS: Bless you.

LIBRARIAN: Merci ... Come along then ... Oh you're going to love these ... Now this one is from the mysterious east ...

AS SHE BLOWS DUST OFF THE BOOK, THEY BOTH SNEEZE.

REV. BLINKERS AND LIBRARIAN: ... Achoo! ... Bless you ... Thank you..

MUSIC:

...

- Oriental

REV. BLINKERS OPENS THE BOOK. A SPARKLING FAN FANS OUT. ORIENTAL MUSIC IS HEARD UNTIL HE SHUTS THE BOOK. **REV. BLINKERS** IS AMAZED.

REV. BLINKERS: This is truly magnificent.

SHE TAKES DOWN A PILE OF BOOKS IDENTICAL TO HIS, AND AS EACH ONE IS OPENED AN APPROPRIATE IMAGE AND MUSIC MAGICALLY APPEAR FROM INSIDE THEM. WHEN **REV. BLINKERS'** BOOK IS OPENED, HOWEVER, NOTHING APPEARS.

LIBRARIAN: This is from the north ...

MUSIC:

...

- Northern

REV. BLINKERS: From the north you say. Oh, how wonderful!

LIBRARIAN: ... And this is from the south.

MUSIC:

...

- Southern

REV. BLINKERS: Fancy that. This is splendid. All the way from the south, you say

LIBRARIAN: Ah ... 'ere's yours ... You don't need to see that one, do you? ...

SHE TOSSES HIS BOOK TO THE SIDE, **REV. BLINKERS** GOES TO GET IT BUT THE
LIBRARIAN SHOWS HIM ANOTHER AND HIS CURIOSITY GETS THE BETTER OF HIM.

Now, this one 'ere is from the west ...

MUSIC:

...

- Western

REV. BLINKERS: Isn't it charming. The west ... ah yes, yes indeed.

LIBRARIAN: Anyway, 'ere they all are. Oh, you're going to love them. They're a set, you know.

THE **LIBRARIAN** GIVES THEM ALL TO **REV. BLINKERS** AND BEGINS SNEEZING.

REV. BLINKERS: Oh no, now my book is lost somewhere in the pile. How will I ever know which one is mine?
They all seem so alike ... Oh dear, oh dear ...

LIBRARIAN: You'll just 'ave to read them all ...

MUSIC:

...

Books, Books, Book

...

TRACK 11

SHE SINGS AS IF SHE IS SNEEZING.

Ah ... Ah ... Ah ... Ah ... Books ... Books ... Books ... Books
Books ... Books ... Books ... Books
Ah ... Ah ... Ah ... Ah ... Books ... Books ... Books ... Books

I love the way they look
I love the way they feel
I love the way they make things false or real
I love the way they make me want to steal away
I love books. I love books. I love ...

Ah ... Ah ... Ah ... Ah ... Ah ...
They teach you this, they teach you that
You can even learn to weave a hat
Or why a bat is crazy 'bout the moon
I love books, I love books, I love ...

Ah ... Ah ... Ah ... Ah ... Books ... Books ... Books ... Books
Books ... Books ... Books ... Books
Ah ... Ah ... Ah ... Ah ... Books ... Books ... Books ... Books

They make me sad ... they make me bad
They make me want to do something mad
They make me glad to be sitting in a chair
Why I can travel almost anywhere
And it's just about as good as being there
I love books, I love books, I love ...
Ah ... Ah ... Ah ... Ah ...
I love books, I love books, I love ...
Ah ... Ah ... Ah ... Ah ...
I love books, I love books, I love ...
Ah ... Ah ... Ah ... Ah Uh!

THE **LIBRARIAN** CREATES A SPARKLING DOORWAY.

MUSIC:

...

- Librarian Beckons

LIBRARIAN: There's so much to learn and so much to see. I'll show you a world of mystery, where alphabets flow to a crystalline sea. Come through the doorway with me.

REV. BLINKERS: What a remarkable idea. I should rather like to see that.

OPIA APPEARS WITH WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES DRESSED IN A SCHOLAR'S CAP AND GOWN.

OPIA: ... Psst ...

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES: ... Psst ...

OPIA: Psst ... Psst ... Don't believe a word she says

REV. BLINKERS: I beg your pardon?

OPIA: Don't believe a word that Librarian says ... Can't trust her. You notice they don't call her a 'TRUE-brarian. They call her a 'LIE-brarian.

REV. BLINKERS: ... A LIE-brarian. Why I see what you mean. You may be right.

OPIA: I am right. So remember. If you think you're right, then you will be right (TO WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES) ... even if you're wrong.

REV. BLINKERS: Do you know, for the first time in years I feel ...

LIBRARIAN: Yes, you feel ...

OPIA: ...Don't feel ... It's such a waste of time ...

REV. BLINKERS: ... I feel ...

LIBRARIAN: ... Yes, yes, ...You feel...

OPIA: No, don't feel ...

REV. BLINKERS: Well ... I feel a wee bit confused. I mean, I know that my book is the only true book ...

OPIA: True. It is.

REV. BLINKERS: And yet ... when I opened the other books all sorts of thoughts and possibilities flowed through my mind like bubbles.

OPIA: Bubbles?

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES: ... Bubbles??? ...

REV. BLINKERS: Well, you see ...

OPIA POPS A BALLOON.

OPIA: So much for bubbles. What about your book?

REV. BLINKERS: My book?

LIBRARIAN: ... The other books.

REV. BLINKERS: Which books? ...

LIBRARIAN: ... These books ...

WAYLESS: ...This book ...

NIMBLEKNEES: ... That book...

REV. BLINKERS: Which book? ... This book? ... Oh stop it, stop it.. This is completely unsettling. I've got to find the others. I've got to think this out.

IN A STATE OF CONFUSION **REV. BLINKERS** EXITS. AS HE DOES, THE **LIBRARIAN** CREATES A DOOR ON WHEELS WHICH HE MOVES THIS WAY AND THAT UNTIL **REV. BLINKERS** ABSENTMINDEDLY PASSES THROUGH IT.

MUSIC:

Magic Door Theme

OPIA: No ... Wait ... Wait! Come back.. Don't go through that ... Ooh!!!!;olj

SHE TURNS VIOLENTLY ON **WAYLESS** AND **NIMBLEKNEES**.

You fools! ... You useless fools! ... You let him get away again!

SHE TURNS IN A RAGE ON THE **LIBRARIAN** WHO TAUNTS HER MISCHIEVOUSLY.

And you ... you ... you ...

OPIA GESTURES WILDLY AND THE STAGE EXPLODES WITH THUNDER AND LIGHTNING.

THE **LIBRARIAN** EXITS. **OPIA** EXITS IN A RAGE.

SCENE CHANGE: **REV. BLINKERS** ENTERS, STRUGGLING TO PUT UP HIS SOMEWHAT TATTERED UMBRELLA. RAIN, THUNDER AND LIGHTNING CONTINUE.

FEATHERTOES ENTERS, STILL USING THE HELIUM BALLOON WITH THE LETTER "R" ON IT AS AN UMBRELLA. SHE SEES BUT DOES NOT RECOGNIZE **REV. BLINKERS** AND RUNS TO HIM FOR PROTECTION.

FEATHERTOES: Oh, please can I use your umbrella ... I hate this cold stormy weather ... Rev. Blinkers, it's you! ... Why it just can't be true. ... I'm cold and I'm wet ... And I'm awfully upset.

REV. BLINKERS: Why, Feather toes, where did you come from? ... (LOOKING AT THE BALLOON) Why, what have we got here? ... Why, it's another clue.

HE TAKES THE "R" BALOON FROM HER.

FEATHERTOES: A clue?

REV. BLINKERS: True ... And now we have two ... Two letters of the word "cure". All we need is a "U" and an "E"... Aha! The plot thickens ...

MUSIC:

"M" DIRGE

A TRAP DOOR BANGS OPEN. IT STARTLES **REV. BLINKERS** AND **FEATHERTOES**. **SUFFERTON** SCRAMBLES THROUGH, SHAKING WITH TERROR. THE SOUNDS OF THE CAVE AND THE "M DIRGE" ARE HEARD. HANDS OF THE CAVE DWELLERS ARE STILL HOLDING **SUFFERTON'S** FEET. HE STRUGGLES. **FEATHERTOES** AND **REV. BLINKERS** PULL HIM TO SAFETY AND THEN FORCE THE DOOR SHUT.

THE SCENE IS PLUNGED INTO SILENCE.

REV. BLINKERS: Good grief, my good man. Are you all right?

FEATHERTOES: Oh, Sufferton, what's happened to you? ... What terrible things have you been through?

SUFFERTON: Misery ... Madness ... Mercy ...

REV. BLINKERS: Misery? Madness? Mercy?

SUFFERTON: Oh, no one understands me. I'm all alone.

REV. BLINKERS: Oh what a monstrous melodrama of melancholy. For heaven's sake Sufferton, pull yourself together. You're not in the least bit alone.

SUFFERTON MOANS MISERABLY AGAIN.

Enough my good fellow, enough! ... Now, we assume you have had an unpalatable encounter of some sort. Do you need to extricate the experience through articulation? ... Come, come now, speak up.

SUFFERTON: I can't say nothin' to no one. Nothing makes sense. No one, no way, no how ... I just can't say nothin'!

REV. BLINKERS: Fine then, you must be all right.

SUFFERTON MOANS MISERABLY AGAIN.

FEATHERTOES NOTICES THE "M" THAT SUFFERTON IS CLUTCHING, TREMBLING.

FEATHERTOES: Look Rev. Blinkers, another clue ... Maybe this will help us to know what to do.

REV. BLINKERS: So it is ... Sufferton, you've provided us with another clue. Well done, my good fellow, well done. ... But wait a moment ... This is an "M" and it doesn't appear anywhere in the word "CURE". How unfortunate. What could it mean? I wonder if Gabrielle has located any clues ... Speaking of Gabrielle ... Have either of you seen her?

SUFFERTON: Oh meaningless misery, is she missin' too?

FEATHERTOES SUDDENLY LOOKS GUILTY.

FEATHERTOES: Well ... I danced with her in a lovely meadow ... But ... Well ... I left her there ... Oh, I don't know.

REV. BLINKERS: Where was this meadow, Feathertoos?

FEATHERTOES: Just over there, where the trees are cleared.

REV. BLINKERS: All right then, let's see if we can locate the missing personage.

REV. BLINKERS TRIES TO TAKE THE "M" FROM SUFFERTON, WHO IS CLINGING TO IT FOR DEAR LIFE.

Thank you very much ... but I will be personally responsible for the safety of all the letters.

HE FINALLY SUCCEEDS AND LOADS HIMSELF DOWN WITH ALL THE CLUES. SUFFERTON HAVING NOTHING TO CLING TO, GRABS HOLD OF REV. BLINKERS.

That's it Sufferton, we must all stick close together now.

THEY WALK FOR A MOMENT AND THEN DISCOVER A TANGLE OF BRANCHES AND VINES WITH **GABBY** INSIDE WRIGGLING DESPERATELY.

What a convulsive configuration ...

GABBY: Steamin' straight jackets! Get me out of here!

REV. BLINKERS: I best consult my book.

GABBY: Burstin' bandages, it's me, Gabby!

THEY ALL CONVERGE ON THE TANGLE TRYING TO GET HER OUT OF IT. **GABBY** EMERGES ALL DISHEVELED.

Oh boy, oh boy, ohhh ... Am I ever glad to see you, Doc ... Ohhh, am I stiff. I've been stuck in that thing for hours.

SHE SEES **FEATHERTOES**.

Why you!!!! You tiptoeing tadpole, you would have left me there to die or drown or worse. And you were telling me that I should learn to feel more. Huh! ... I wouldn't have left a wretched orangutan trapped the way you left me. Who do you think you are anyway, you dancin' do-do, thinkin' you're more sensitive than the rest of us just because you can do a pukey pirouette.

REV. BLINKERS: Now, now, now, there's no point in making things worse.

SUFFERTON: Worse ... Oh.. I knewed it ... I knewed it

THERE IS A LOUD HOWL.

REV. BLINKERS: What on earth was that?

SUFFERTON: Why is it that whenever I think things'll get worsen ... they do?

REV. BLINKERS: Oh, for heavens' sake, Sufferton. Oh bother, it's too dark. I can't decipher my book for instructions.

GABBY: Well, at least that's a blessing.

THERE IS ANOTHER LOUD HOWL.

Howlin' hyenas, what are we going to do?

REV. BLINKERS: I think I'd rather be home with a hot cup of tea.

SUFFERTON: At least you got a home.

FEATHERTOES APPROACHES **GABBY** TENTATIVELY.

FEATHERTOES: Gabby? ...

GABBY: Yeah?

GABBY IS STILL ANNOYED WITH **FEATHERTOES**.

MUSIC: ... *Song In The Dark* ...
TRACK 12

FEATHERTOES: I'm really sorry that I left you. And I know everything you said about me is true. And ... Well ... I'm sorry, Gabby, I'm really sorry.

GABBY: (SOFTENING) Oh gee ... That's okay, Feathertoos ... That's okay.

FEATHERTOES AND GABBY HOLD HANDS AND LOOK OUT INTO THE DARK AROUND.

*The dark is falling down
Shadows all around
I wish the moon would rise*

FEATHERTOES AND GABBY

*We've come so very far
We don't know where we are
The night is filled with sighs*

VOICES

Ah me, ah my

SUFFERTON AND REV. BLINKERS JOIN THE GIRLS. THEY HUDDLE TOGETHER IN THE NIGHT.

SUFFERTON

*Where we going to go
What are we going to do
How we going to find the way?*

REV. BLINKERS

*We strayed so far from home
We're out here all alone
Wishing that the night would turn to day*

VOICES

Ah me, ah my

ALL

*Is there something in our hearts we should remember?
Is there something hidden there we did forget?
Will be search forever for an answer
Or will we find the doorway even yet?*

*Should we walk alone or walk together
Live it for ourselves or can we share
Will our path be always full of danger?
Or will this darkness ever disappear?*

VOICES

Ah me, ah my

GABBY

*The dark is falling down
Shadows all around
I wish the moon would rise*

ALL

*We've come so very far
We don't know where we are
The night is filled with sighs...*

VOICES

Ah me, ah my

THE FOUR REMAIN HUDDLED TOGETHER AS STAGE SLOWLY FADES TO BLACK.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

LIGHTS UP ON **FEATHERTOES**, **REV. BLINKERS**, **SUFFERTON** AND **GABBY** STILL HUDDLED TOGETHER AS THEY WERE AT THE END OF ACT I.

THE **DOORMAN** APPEARS. HE GESTURES AND CREATES A LETTER '**U**' UPSTAGE. HE DISAPPEARS.

OPIA APPEARS AT THE SAME TIME AS FOUR HUGE EYES APPEAR OUT OF THE DARK.

FEATHERTOES: Oh Gabby... I'm so scared!!

GABBY: So am I ... Let's get out of here.

GIANT **SLUGS** APPEAR. THE FOUR SEE THEM. THEY PANIC AND JUMP TO HIGHER GROUND.

MUSIC:

...

Slug Ballet

SUFFERTON: Oh, I knew things would get worser.

REV. BLINKERS: Why look there ... Yes ... I-I-I think I discern a letter. Why, it's the letter "**U**"...

THE **SLUGS** ENCIRCLE THE "**U**".

GABBY: Slithering slugs, they're slimin' all over it.

FEATHERTOES: We've got to get that letter, Rev. Blinkers. It's an important clue.

REV. BLINKERS: Why Feathertoed, I do believe that is the first intelligent remark that has ever emanated from your lips. This journey must be doing you some good Gabrielle, why don't you go in there and retrieve that letter?

GABBY: You've gotta be kidding! You go!

REV. BLINKERS: But, I'm holding all the other clues and the book as well ... Sufferton, you go!

SUFFERTON: You ain't never gettin' me in there, no way, no how. That "**U**" stands for unhappy, unworthy, unconscious, unbearable, upset. No way I'm going in there, no way, no how, no way.

REV. BLINKERS: So you won't do it then ... Well, somebody has to go. Look we have an "**R**", a "**C**", and an "**M**", and now there's a "**U**". I wonder what it spells... Let's see...

SUFFERTON: **C-R-U-M ... "CRUM!!"**

REV. BLINKERS: **C..R ...** Oh, for heaven's sake, Sufferton...

FEATHERTOES HAS BEEN WATCHING THE **SLUGS** INTENTLY.

FEATHERTOES: We've got to get that letter. It's part of the cure.

SHE JUMPS INTO THE CENTER OF THE **SLUGS**.

GABBY: Risky rendezvous, Feathertoed! ... Are you crazy?

FEATHERTOES GETS STUCK IN THE BOG, LIGHTS DARKEN AND THE SOUNDS INTENSIFY.

Grab the "**U**" and get out of there.

FEATHERTOES GRABS THE "U" BUT CAN'T GET OUT.

FEATHERTOES: I'm stuck. Help me, Gabby.

SUFFERTON IS TERRIFIED AND SHAKING ALL OVER. HE IS COWERING IN HIS LONG SCARF AS IF IT WILL PROTECT HIM.

SUFFERTON: I can't stand this no more. Things is gettin' worser and worser.

GABBY: Doc, do something!!!

REV. BLINKERS: Feathertoos, extricate yourself from that mass of jelly this instant.

GABBY: We've got to get her out of there.

GABBY BEGINS TO WADE INTO THE MUCK. REV. BLINKERS HURRIES TO THE EDGE OF THE BANK AND REACHES OUT HIS HAND TO GABBY.

REV. BLINKERS: For heaven's sake, Gabrielle, seize my hand.

GABBY TAKES HIS HAND AND THEY TRY TO REACH FEATHERTOES.

GABBY: I can't reach her!

REV. BLINKERS: Sufferton, lend us your musculature to aid us in our plight!

SUFFERTON SHRINKS BACK.

SUFFERTON: ... Worser and worser and worser.

REV. BLINKERS: Oh for heaven's sake.

GABBY: Hurry, Doc. Do something!

REV. BLINKERS: By gad sir... I say ... Perhaps this will help.

REV. BLINKERS GRABS SUFFERTON'S SCARF. SUFFERTON IS SO TERRIFIED THAT HE CLINGS TO IT LIKE A SECURITY BLANKET.

Sufferton ... Let go! ... Let go! ... I will personally make slug bait out of you if you don't let go!

SUFFERTON LETS GO. HE FEELS ABSOLUTELY NAKED WITHOUT HIS SCARF AND TRIES TO COVER HIMSELF WITH HIS HANDS. REV. BLINKERS RUNS AND THROWS AN END OF THE SCARF TO FEATHERTOES.

REV. BLINKERS: Grab hold, Feathertoos.

WHEN FEATHERTOES GRABS ONTO IT, A STRANGE LIGHT INFUSES THE BOG AS THE DOORMAN MOMENTARILY APPEARS.

We can be victorious. Pull, Gabrielle ...

GABBY, REV. BLINKERS, FEATHERTOES: (ad lib) Pull! Come on! Pull! ... Together we can do it! ... Come on... We can do it ... Pull ...

SUFFERTON, PULLING IN MIME ON THE SIDE, IS TOTALLY ENGAGED, ALTHOUGH UNABLE TO JOIN THE OTHERS. WITH GREAT EFFORT FEATHERTOES IS FINALLY PULLED FROM THE BOG. THE SLUGS AND OPIA EXIT SUDDENLY AND EVERYTHING PLUNGES INTO SILENCE.

LIGHTS BRIGHTEN. THE **FOUR** STAND STUNNED. AFTER A MOMENTS OF SHOCK.

REV. BLINKERS: What an atrocious experience.

GABBY: Eerie earthworms!

REV. BLINKERS: I feared we'd never extract you from the primordial slime.

FEATHERTOES: Oh, thank you both, I would have been lost without you.

GABBY: No matter what ... we've got to stick together...

LOOKING POINTEDLY AT **SUFFERTON**.

... All of us ...

SUFFERTON LOOKS DOWN IN SHAME.

REV. BLINKERS: Well, you certainly showed yourself to be a magnificent specimen of courage and fortitude.

SUFFERTON: Oh ... I'm sorry... I ... I ... Oh, I failed again. Nothing new though, this always happens to me...

GABBY: Leave him alone. He would have helped if he could have.

REV. BLINKERS: Here Feathertoos, let me help you get the slime off your slippers. You look a bit of a mess, and it doesn't become you.

REV. BLINKERS AND FEATHERTOES MOVE TO ONE SIDE, LEAVING **GABBY** AND **SUFFERTON** TOGETHER, PAINFULLY TRYING TO COMMUNICATE.

GABBY: Gee, Sufferton ... I ... Um ... Well ... I know how you must be feeling ...

SUFFERTON: Oh, Gabby, um ... Oh ...

MUSIC:

...

Um Song (intro)

GABBY: Sufferton....

SUFFERTON: Yeah?

GABBY: Oh nothing... I know you would've helped if you could've.

SUFFERTON: Yeah, I would've ... Gabby... If I could've ...

GABBY: Yeah, I know.

SUFFERTON: What I really want you to know is ...

GABBY: ... Yeah? ...

SUFFERTON: Oh nothing ... But ... I would've ...

GABBY: ... If you could've... Gosh, well... Um...

MUSIC:

...

Um Song

...

TRACK 13

GABBY

When I am up you're down

SUFFERTON

When I am down you're up

GABBY

When you are lost, I'm found

SUFFERTON

When you take flight I ground

SUFFERTON AND GABBY

And we never seem to sup at the same table

And I never seem to find a word

That's able to say

All the things that I want

And the thing that I want to...

GABBY

Say is, can we, could we

... Um ...

Do you, might we, should we

...Um ...

SUFFERTON

When I am here you're there

When I feel safe you fear

When you are far, I'm near

When I grow dark you clear

SUFFERTON AND GABBY

And I never seem to say what I was meaning

But deep inside I feel that I am

Screaming out loud

That I would be so proud

If you could allow

SUFFERTON

... Um ...

If we, might we, should we

... Um ...

When I am fast you're slow

When I can stop you go

When I get caught you flow

When I am high, you're low

SUFFERTON AND GABBY

And we never seem to sup at the same table

And I never seem to find a word

That's able to say

All the things that I want

And the thing that I want to say is..

Can we ... Could we ... Um ...

Do you ... Might we ... Should we ... Um ... Um ...

GABBY

Oh, Sufferton ... You're such a jerk.

SUFFERTON

I know.

GABBY LEAVES SUFFERTON AND APPROACHES FEATHERTOES.

GABBY: Sufferton's a jerk.

SUFFERTON HEARS HER AND EXITS DEJECTEDLY.

FEATHERTOES: I think Sufferton is one of the nicest jerks I know. I like him that way. I really do. Don't you?

GABBY: Yeah. Gosh, I guess I do, too. That was a horrible thing to say. He'll think I meant it.

SHE GOES TO WHERE SHE LAST SAW SUFFERTON.

He's gone. Sufferton's gone. You guys, we've got to find him.

REV. BLINKERS: Well ... In which direction did he proceed, Gabrielle?

GABBY: I'm not sure, but let's try over here.

THEY EXIT.

SUFFERTON REAPPEARS, MUMBLING TO HIMSELF.

SUFFERTON: I'm a jerk ... But I don't wanna be a jerk ... I just am ... I only wanted to find a cure ... Maybe I should try harder ... Maybe I should try softer ... Oh, I'm tired ... And I'm lonely ... I only wanted to help find the answer.

DARKNESS DESCENDS SLOWLY. THE STAGE TURNS AN EERIE BLUE.

It's all so pointless ... I don't care anymore ... I'm so cold ... I feel numb all over ... I just can't be bothered ... I give up.

MUSIC: ... ***The Ice Queen*** ...
TRACK 14

SUFFERTON SINKS TO THE GROUND. **OPIA**, AS THE **ICE QUEEN**, APPEARS AS IF FLOATING IN MID-AIR, SURROUNDED BY FOG. SHE IS HOLDING A LONG ICICLE-SHAPED WAND THAT TWINKLES WITH COLD, BLUE LIGHTS.

ICE QUEEN

*The ice queen knows
The ice queen's wise
She sees your sad and empty eyes
The ice queen smiles
The ice queen waits
She beckons through her icy gates
Come to me... Come to me...
I'll shower you with numb, forgetful
Frozen kissssssssss...*

THE **ICE QUEEN** FLOATS TOWARD **SUFFERTON**, EXTENDING THE ICICLE FOR HIM TO TOUCH.

*Touch the ice ... You'll feel better
Sleep away your fears
Touch the ice ... Years will vanish
Banish all your dreams and sorrows
Hopes and fancies
You need laugh none of your laughter
You need weep none of your tears*

SUFFERTON FINALLY CAN'T RESIST ANY LONGER. HE REACHES UP AND TOUCHES THE ICICLE. HE FREEZES.

THE **DOORMAN** ENTERS. THE **ICE QUEEN** CHUCKLES AS SHE FLOATS OUT.

ICE QUEEN: One down ... Three to go ...

MUSIC: ... ***Opia's Theme***

THE **DOORMAN** EXITS, LEAVING **SUFFERTON** ASLEEP ON THE GROUND.

GABBY, **FEATHERTOES** AND **REV. BLINKERS** RUN IN, LOOKING FRANTICALLY FOR HIM.

REV. BLINKERS AND GABBY: Sufferton! ... Sufferton!

FEATHERTOES: Suffy ...

THEY FINALLY SEE HIM.

GABBY: Oh, Sufferton, Sufferton, are you all right? ... Icy invalids, he's stone cold.

FEATHERTOES: He's still alive and breathing ... But he's fast asleep, he's freezing.

REV. BLINKERS LOOKS CLOSELY AT SUFFERTON.

REV. BLINKERS: Sufferton! Sufferton! Heaven have mercy, I've seen that blank look before. I've seen it on the faces of the people in the town ... Sufferton has the sleeping sickness.

FEATHERTOES: Oh no, it can't be so.

FEATHERTOES BEGINS TO WEEP. REV. BLINKERS TAKES HER TO ONE SIDE TO COMFORT HER, LEAVING GABBY KNEELING AT THE SIDE OF SUFFERTON.

MUSIC: ... ***All He Really Needed Was A Friend*** ...
TRACK 15

GABBY: Oh Sufferton, I'm so sorry ... I was so thoughtless ... I didn't mean it ...

*Did we say that we cared
When his heart felt like stone
Did we linger to listen
When he spoke of his fear
Did we offer a hand
When the way was too steep
When his eyes grew dark with sleep*

*Now the sun goes down
And the night comes on
How I long to see him again
And the stars come out
And the night birds call
All he really needed was a friend*

*Did he know that we cared
Though we never could say
The few simple words
He was longing to hear
Did he hope we'd be there
As he stood all alone
In a strange, lonely place
He was so far from home...*

*Now the sun goes down
And the night comes on
How I long to see him again
And the stars come out
And the night birds call
All he really needed was a friend*

REV. BLINKERS: I can't bear this. It's no use crying over spilt milk. Oh, for heaven's sake, stop all this sniveling ... I don't like it. I don't like it at all. What does my book say? What does my book say?

GABBY: Don't you see? If you haven't found an answer in the book by now, you're not ever going to find one.

REV. BLINKERS: Don't verbalize such a thing. It has got to be here. I'm just not looking in the right place. I have got to figure this out.

GABBY: (ANGRILY) You can't figure it out. And what's the use of carrying all those stupid letters around, anyway. They haven't done us a bit of good so far.

REV. BLINKERS: They must mean something. I need some quiet. I've got to analyze the evidence. The punctilious research of my precisional calculations is bound to ...

REV. BLINKERS EXITS ANXIOUSLY SEARCHING HIS BOOK.

FEATHERTOES: Rev. Blinkers, please don't go! Remember what happened to Sufferton when he was all alone.

GABBY: Nothing's working out. Oh Feathertoed, I'm so confused. All I know is that if we're going to stay awake, we have to stick together.

FEATHERTOES: We should follow Rev. Blinkers.

GABBY: But we can't just leave Sufferton.

FEATHERTOES: Oh Gabby, what are we going to do? We can't stay here and be there, too.

GABBY: I don't know anymore. I just don't know.

FEATHERTOES: Don't worry Gabby, we'll think of something.

MUSIC:

...

Magic Door Theme

THE **DOORMAN** MAGICALLY APPEARS AND ROLLS A LARGE "C" ON WHEELS TOWARDS THEM. HE THEN DISAPPEARS.

FEATHERTOES: Hey, look!

GABBY: Where did that come from?... What is it?

FEATHERTOES: I don't know...

FEATHERTOES SUDDENLY LOOKS SHOCKED.

Oh... Gabby, I have an idea!!!!

GABBY: (JUST AS SHOCKED) ... You do?

BLACKOUT.

SCENE CHANGE: REV. BLINKERS ENTERS. HE BEGINS ANXIOUSLY ARRANGING AND REARRANGING ALL OF THE CLUES. THE "R" HELIUM BALLOON IS BOBBING ABOVE HIS HEAD, CLIPPED TO HIS HAT.

REV. BLINKERS: They've got to make sense. If I don't find the answer, Sufferton and the townspeople will sleep forever. Let's see ... What to do ... Let's see if I can make rational use of these alphabetical bits ...

HE SETS ONE DOWN THAT FALLS OVER. HE RIGHTS IT.

That's a good fellow... Stand there. Oh, I've lost one...

HE LOOKS AROUND AND THEN FINALLY FINDS THE BALLOON ATTACHED TO HIS HAT.

Oh there you are, you bad boy ... Now! What does this spell? ... **M-U-R-C** ... Murk! ... Oh excellent! I don't need these letters to tell me what a murky mess I'm in ... Good heavens, I'm even sounding like Gabrielle. Why did I ever dislodge myself from their company? Oh my brain is bursting, my head is throbbing. I have simply got to find more clues.

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES ENTER, CARRYING LARGE SACKS FULL OF LETTERS.

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES

Don't rock the boat

Don't rock the boat

Float nice and easy ... La.. La.. La

THEY NOTICE REV. BLINKERS.

WAYLESS: **M-U-R-C..** Murk ... murk? murk?

NIMBLEKNEES: **C-R-U-M..** Crum? ... Crum? Crum?

THEY ROAR WITH LAUGHTER AND CONTINUE ON THEIR WAY

REV. BLINKERS: Excuse me, excuse me, But aren't you the two fellows I met before? Maybe you could help me. As you can see, I've been collecting these letters, and they're not making any sense at all. I wonder, would you have any information leading to the whereabouts of other such indicative symbols?

WAYLESS: Symbols? ...

NIMBLEKNEES: Well ... We don't know about symbols.

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES: ... But we've been collecting letters too.

REV. BLINKERS: You have?! Oh, do let me see them.. Do ... Do ...

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES: Oh no, you don't! ...

WAYLESS: We're taking them...

NIMBLEKNEES: ... To Madame O...

WAYLESS: ... To Opia ...

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES: ... She'll know what to do with them.

REV. BLINKERS: But I'd know what to do with them too.

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES: Oh, no you don't ...

WAYLESS: You're not allowed...

NIMBLEKNEES: ...To find anymore ...

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES: ... That's why we're collecting them.

REV. BLINKERS: But I've got to have them... Why... Why they're clues.

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES: ...Clues???

WAYLESS: Well... What ya gonna do?

NIMBLEKNEES: When you don't have a clue.

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES SHRIEK WITH LAUGHTER AND DANCE AROUND REV.
BLINKERS TAUNTING HIM.

MUSIC:

...

Wudjagonnadoo

...

TRACK 16

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES

*Wudjagonnadoo... When you don't have a clue
When you search all day, can't find the way?
Wudjagonnadoo... When you're feeling blue
Heart goes sink every time you think*

NIMBLEKNEES

*Wudjagonnadoo?... Just sit there
Wudjagonnadoo?
What?
Wudjagonnadoo? ... Just sit there*

WAYLESS

*Sit there?
Wudjagonnadoo?
What?
Sit there?*

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES

Wudjagonnadoo ...?

*Wudjagonnadoo when you feel confused
All bemused ... Brain has fused?
Wudjagonnadoo when you're feelin' low
Mind won't go ... just don't know*

NIMBLEKNEES

*Wudjagonnadoo? Just sit there
Wudjagonnadoo?
What?
Wudjagonnadoo?... Just sit there*

WAYLESS

*Sit there?
Wudjagonnadoo?
What?
Sit there?*

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES

Wudjagonnadoo ...?

*Wudjagonnadoo when nothing's true
And everything's astounding?
Wudjagonnadoo when you feel abused
And your head is thick and pounding?
Wudjagonnadoo when you're in the soup
And you fear you might be drowning?*

NIMBLEKNEES

Wudjagonnadoo? ...

WAYLESS

Wudjagonnadoo? ...

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES

Wudjagonnadoo ...?

*Wudjagonnadoo when you don't have a clue
When you search all day, can't find the way?
Wudjagonnadoo when you're feeling blue
Heart goes sink every time you think?*

NIMBLEKNEES

*Wudjagonnadoo? .. Just sit there?
Wudjagonnadoo?
What?
Wudjagonnadoo... Just sit there?*

WAYLESS

*Sit there?
Wudjagonnadoo?
What?
Sit there?*

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES

Wudjagonnadoo ...?

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES: (ad libbing) Well, I Don't Know ... What Ya Gonna Do? ... Well, How Should I Know ... Etc. "

MUSIC:

...

Opia's Theme

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES ARE PANIC STRICKEN WHEN THEY REALIZE **OPIA** IS COMING.

WAYLESS: Oh, Nimbleknees...

NIMBLEKNEES: She told us not to stop ...

WAYLESS: We shouldn't have stopped ...

NIMBLEKNEES: ... We shouldn't have danced.

WAYLESS: ... We shouldn't have sung, ooo...

WAYLESS AND NIMBLEKNEES: ... Ooo ... Ouch ... Hurry up ... Quick ... Come on ... Let's get out of here...

THEY EXIT AMID A MAD CHASE AND MUCH CONFUSION.

REV. BLINKERS: Wait! ... I need those letters ... Don't go ... Come back...

REV. BLINKERS TRIES TO GET MORE CLUES FROM THEM. IN THEIR HASTE THEY DROP A NUMBER "2".

Oh, they dropped one. ... Another clue ... Thank heavens ... But, this is a number ... it's not a letter at all. It makes no sense. It's of no value whatsoever ... I'm no further ahead than I was at the beginning. All of my erudite learning has proved to be of no consequence whatsoever. I'm completely confused. How can I face a world in which logical comprehension cannot solve all problems. There's nothing more I can think to do. It's absolutely and completely useless.

REV. BLINKERS PLACES HIS HEAD IN HIS HANDS. THE STAGE TURNS RED.

THE **FIRE QUEEN (OPIA)** AND THE **FLAMES (CHORUS)** ENTER. SHE PROCEEDS TO MESMERIZE **REV. BLINKERS**.

MUSIC:

...

Fire

...

TRACK 17

REV. BLINKERS: My brain is burning ... My thoughts are ablaze ... Oh no ... I fear I'm getting a fever.

FIRE QUEEN

*Look into the fire
It will hypnotize you
Look into the fire
It will mesmerize you
Look into the fire
It will neutralize
And pacify your mind*

FLAMES

Look into the fire

*Look into the flame
And let it tame you
Look into the flame
And let it claim you
Look into the flame*

*And let the game
Be over for awhile*

Look into the fire

*Ashes to ashes
Dust to dust
There's nothing ... no one
That you can trust
There's nowhere to go
And nothing to see
It's meaningless and empty
It's meaningless and empty*

*Meaningless and empty
It's meaningless and empty
Look into the fire*

*Look into the fire
It will tantalize
Look into the fire
It will tranquilize
Look into the fire
It will cauterize`~~~~`
And vaporize your dreams*

Look into the fire

*Ashes to ashes
Dust to dust
There's nothing... no one
You can trust
Nowhere to go
Nothing to see
It's meaningless and empty
Meaningless and empty
Meaningless and empty
Meaningless and empty*

REV. BLINKERS, TO AVOID HIS CONFUSION FINALLY FALLS TO THE GROUND AND FALLS ASLEEP. THE **DOORMAN** SUDDENLY APPEARS. **OPIA** CHUCKLES.

FIRE QUEEN: Two down ... Two to go!

FIRE QUEEN AND THE **FLAMES** EXIT LEAVING **REV. BLINKERS** ALONE WITH THE **DOORMAN**.

GABBY AND **FEATHERTOES** ENTER PUSHING **SUFFERTON** IN THE "C" WHICH THEY HAVE TRANSFORMED INTO A CART BY TURNING IT ON IT'S SIDE AND PUTTING WHEELS ON IT. THE **DOORMAN** IS INVISIBLE TO THEM.

FEATHERTOES: Rev. Blinkers!

GABBY: Hey Doc ... Where are you? Holy heat wave ... It's hot!!

FEATHERTOES: Whew ... We've got to find him before it's too late.

GABBY SEES REV. BLINKERS.

GABBY: Hey... Hopeful hotcakes. Look ... It's him ... Oh Doc ... Doc ...

THEY NOTICE HE'S ASLEEP. **FEATHERTOES** RUSHES TO HIM, BUT SHE BURNS HER HAND WHEN SHE TOUCHES HIM.

FEATHERTOES: He's scorching ... He's burning hot.

MUSIC:

...

Tears

...

TRACK 18

FEATHERTOES BEGINS TO WEEP OVER HIM. THE LIGHTS GRADUALLY COOL AS THE SONG CONTINUES. THE **DOORMAN**, WHO HAS BEEN WATCHING THEM, GESTURES. THE AIR FILLS WITH VOICES. HE SINGS UNHEARD OR SEEN BY THE OTHERS.

FEATHERTOES: ... Oh Rev. Blinkers ...

VOICES

Ah me ... Ah my ...

Ah me ... Ah my ...

FEATHERTOES: ... Oh Rev. Blinkers ... Rev. Blinkers ... Please don't leave us.

DOORMAN

Sometimes tears cool the earth

Like soft summer rain

Sometimes tears flow in streams

To wash away the pain

Sometimes tears glisten

Like the dew upon the lawn

When the light begins to dawn

And the night fades into morn

REV. BLINKERS STIRS AND **FEATHERTOES** REALIZES SHE CAN NOW TOUCH HIM. SHE LIFTS HIS HEAD ONTO HER KNEE. **REV. BLINKERS** BEGINS TO WEEP QUIETLY IN HER ARMS.

Sometimes tears speak of things

That words can never say

REV. BLINKERS: Feathertoos? Is that you?

DOORMAN

Sometimes tears bring promise

When all else has fled away

Sometimes tears sparkle

Like the sun after a storm

When the birds burst into song

And you know that you belong

REV. BLINKERS: There, there, Feathertoos, my girl ... I'm feeling ... By gad, I'm feeling ... something ...

FEATHERTOES: Oh Rev. Blinkers, thank you for being all right.

THEY HUG ONE ANOTHER LIKE FATHER AND DAUGHTER.

REV. BLINKERS: My dear girl, how could anyone resist such an expression of felicitous affection?

THE **DOORMAN** PLACES ANOTHER 'HYPHEN' AMONGST THE OTHER CLUES AS HE EXITS.

GABBY AWKWARDLY APPROACHES THE TWO OF THEM.

GABBY: Hey, Doc. I didn't know you could cry.

THEY HELP HIM TO STAND UP. **GABBY** HANDS HIM A HUGE HANDKERCHIEF.

REV. BLINKERS: I can assure you, Gabrielle, neither did I. I have always preferred thinking, but ...

HE BLOWS HIS NOSE LOUDLY. IT SURPRISES HIM.

But I must admit, it's made me feel rather ... Well ... Rather ... light and ... should I say ... unusual.

THEY LAUGH AND ALL HUG.

FEATHERTOES: Before Opia reappears we should hurry and get out of here.

REV. BLINKERS: That's an intelligent observation, Feathertoos. Good for you. Let's gather up all the clues and evacuate the vicinity immediately.

REV. BLINKERS BEGINS GATHERING THE CLUES AND FINDS THE 'HYPHEN'.

I say ... Where did this come from?

FEATHERTOES: Gee ... I don't know ... What is it? ... What does it mean?

REV. BLINKERS: Frankly... I have no idea. But nothing seems to mean anything that I think it means anyway. I have a feeling it's more appropriate to forget about meanings for the moment and proceed with a hasty departure.

FEATHERTOES: Yea ... If that feels right to you, then I think it's right too ... Come on, Gabby.

GABBY: No, I can't take anymore of this. Opia's not pushing me around anymore. If it's a fight she wants, a fight she'll get.

REV. BLINKERS: Fine ... Fine, Gabrielle ... We can talk about it later.

GABBY: No ... I'm not kidding, Doc. I've had it.

OPIA'S VOICE IS HEARD REVERBERATING FROM FIRST ONE DIRECTION AND THEN ANOTHER. IT GROWS DARK AND MENACING.

OPIA: *Three blind mice. See how they run...*

FEATHERTOES: ... What's she gonna do now?

OPIA: *Cut off your tails with a carving knife.*

REV. BLINKERS: How grotesque ...

OPIA: *When the bough breaks the cradle will fall... And down will come baby...*

GABBY: Gruesome Gerber's.

OPIA: *Jack fell down and broke his crown ... All the king's horses and all the king's men couldn't put them together again ...*

GABBY: Oh, noisy nursery rhymes, don't listen to her.

GABBY TAKES A STAND AND CHALLENGES **OPIA**.

Who do you think you are anyway?

OPIA APPEARS IN A FLASH OF LIGHT RIGHT IN FRONT OF **GABBY**.

OPIA: *Oh - little miss muffet sat on a tuffet eating her words ... You'll pay ... Along came. ... a SPIDER!!!*

GIANT **SPIDERS** LEAP OUT AT THEM. THE STAGE GOES VERY DARK.

MUSIC:

...

The Web

SPIDERS

We spin the web

We tie the knot

*You'll freeze with cold
You'll be too hot
And in the end you'll have forgotten
All you once held dear*

*Life is a blessing
Life is a curse
It won't get better
It'll get worse
There is no joy
There's only sorrow
Forget today
Live for tomorrow
Life isn't sweet
Life is bitter
What's dark and dreary
But brightly glitters*

THE SPIDERS ENTANGLE **GABBY**, **FEATHERTOES** AND **REV. BLINKERS** IN A GIANT WEB. THE THREE TRY DESPERATELY TO GET FREE. A SPIDER GRABS **REV. BLINKERS'** BOOK. THERE IS A TUG OF WAR.

REV. BLINKERS: My book ... My book ... I can't loose my book ... You beast, etc.

A **SPIDER** GRABS **FEATHERTOES**. **GABBY** IS TRAPPED AT THE FAR END OF THE WEB AND IS UNABLE TO REACH **FEATHERTOES**. **REV. BLINKERS** MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN HIS BOOK AND HELPING **FEATHERTOES**.

FEATHERTOES: (ad lib) Oh ... Oh ... No!!! ... Help, Rev. Blinkers! Help me!!!

GABBY: (ad lib) Help her, Doc ... Forget about your book ... She needs you.

REV. BLINKERS, AFTER A MOMENTS HESITATION, DROPS THE BOOK, RUSHES TO HELP **FEATHERTOES** AND ATTACKS THE **SPIDER** WITH HIS UMBRELLA. THE OTHER **SPIDER** SCURRIES OFF WITH THE BOOK.

TWO **SPIDERS** POUNCE ON **GABBY**. SHE IS ALMOST TOTALLY INVISIBLE UNDER THEM. **FEATHERTOES** AND **REV. BLINKERS** STRAIN AGAINST THE WEB, BUT CAN'T HELP HER.

GABBY: Help me! ... Doc!!!!

REV. BLINKERS: We can't reach you, Gabrielle.

FEATHERTOES: Gabby!! Oh Gabby!!

GABBY: Help!!!! ... Help!!!! ... Sufferton ... Wake Up ... Wake up!! I Need You! ... Sufferton!

REV. BLINKERS AND **FEATHERTOES** AD LIB, ALSO YELLING FOR **SUFFERTON'S** HELP. SUDDENLY **SUFFERTON**, AWAKENS AND LEAPS OUT OF THE CART WITH A CRY. HE CHARGES THE **SPIDERS**, USING THE 'C' BALL, WHICH HAS BEEN CARRIED IN IT'S STRING BAG, AS A WEAPON.

SUFFERTON: Back!! ... Back! ... Take that! ... And that ... Back I say! ... Back! ... Sit! ... Lie down! ... Heel! ... Etc.

AFTER A BATTLE, **SUFFERTON** LANDS THE DECIDING BLOW. THE **SPIDERS** FLEE, THE WEB IN A SECOND MAGICALLY DISAPPEARS. THE STAGE PLUNGES INTO SILENCE, LIGHTS RESTORE. THE FOUR STAND IN AMAZEMENT.

GABBY: Sufferton! You're awake!

SUFFERTON: (LOOKING STUNNED) ... I am?

REV. BLINKERS: Sufferton. You have my undying admiration..

SUFFERTON: Ohhh ... Come on Doc, It was nothing. I just ain't scared of spiders.

MUSIC:

...

The Web (Briefly)

THE MUSIC IS LOUD AND THEY ALL LEAP WITH FRIGHT. **SUFFERTON LEAPS INTO REV. BLINKERS ARMS.**

GABBY: Howlin' hoot owls.

REV. BLINKERS PUTS SUFFERTON DOWN.

REV. BLINKERS: What was that you were saying, Sufferton?

FEATHERTOES: Let's get out of here.

GABBY: Quick, let's find a door.

REV. BLINKERS: But where? There isn't a door to be seen.

SUFFERTON: Then let's build our own door.

GABBY: That's a great idea, Sufferton.

FEATHERTOES: But what'll we use?

REV. BLINKERS: How about using Sufferton's scarf?

FEATHERTOES: Now there's an irrational idea, good for you.

FEATHERTOES PATS REV. BLINKERS ON THE HEAD. HE SMILES SHYLY.

MUSIC:

...

Um Song Reprise

SUFFERTON: My scarf? ...

WITH GREAT EFFORT HE GIVES IT TO **GABBY.**

GABBY: Thanks, Sufferton.

FEATHERTOES: Gee, Rev. Blinkers, I'm sorry about your book.

REV. BLINKERS: Not to worry, Feathertoos, it was becoming a bit of a bother.

GABBY: But how are we going to build the door?

FEATHERTOES: I know ... like this. Here, you hold your hand there, and you there. Come on, Gabby, wind the scarf around like this ...

FEATHERTOES TAKES REV. BLINKERS AND SUFFERTON AND PLACES THEIR HANDS TOGETHER ABOVE THEIR HEADS, CREATING AN ARC BETWEEN THEM. SHE THEN BEGINS WINDING THE SCARF OVER THEIR ARMS.

GABBY: Perfect. What a great idea!

REV. BLINKERS: Fasten it here, Feathertoos ... Excellent. This is so seriously senseless, I rather like it.

SUFFERTON: ... How about here too?

REV. BLINKERS: Wonderful. Now let's all join hands and take a deep breath.

THERE IS A SUDDEN FLASH AND THE DOOR BEGINS TO GLOW.

MUSIC:

MAGIC DOOR THEME

REV. BLINKERS: Glowing Galoshes!!

GABBY: Look!

FEATHERTOES: We did it!

MUSIC:

THE Web

THE **SPIDERS** SUDDENLY LEAP ONTO THE STAGE. MUSIC GETS LOUDER. **REV. BLINKERS** HURRIEDLY COLLECTS THE CLUES AS THE SPIDERS CHASE HIM.

THE FOUR: (AD LIB) ... Oh no ... Hurry ... Grab the clues ... Quick ... etc.

SUFFERTON: You get in the cart, Gabby, I'll drive!

GABBY JUMPS ON THE CART. **SUFFERTON** PUSHES IT THROUGH THE DOORWAY AFTER **FEATHERTOES** AND **REV. BLINKERS**. THE **SPIDERS** DISAPPEAR. THE LIGHTS BEGIN TO CHANGE MAGICALLY AS THE **FOUR** WANDER ON, LOOKING AROUND AS THE SCENE CHANGES INTO A MAGICAL FOREST AND THEN SLOWLY FADES TO BLACK.

MUSIC:

Overture (From Act II Opening)

SCENE CHANGE: THE FOUR ENTER INTO A **PROFESSOR'S** LABORATORY.

PROFESSOR: Oh yes ... oh, yes indeed, this is wonderful ... Makes no sense. Oh, how I love things that make no sense. They're so much more ... sensible ... Now where did I put the bottle blue bobble?

HE SEES THE FOUR.

Well, well, well, hello, hello, hello ... How kind of you to come. ... Come in ... Come in.

FEATHERTOES: We're in! We're in!

PROFESSOR: So you are...

THE **PROFESSOR** STOPS AND LOOKS AT THEM ALL.

You look as though you've had quite a fright.

ALL: We have and it was awful.

PROFESSOR: But you made it through, that's the main thing. Most timely too. I'm having the most wonderful fun, working with that old equation $E=MC^2$. Now you take this "E"... this Energy...

REV. BLINKERS: Excuse me, Professor, but we are in dire need of an "E".

PROFESSOR: Shhh, my dear boy. I'm thinking. I'm creating. Now where was I?

FEATHERTOES: ... "E"

Page 54

*Trees and roots and berries
A pear, a plum, a peach, a grape
Bananas, figs and cherries*

Oh, what else? ... What else can I make? ... I mean, I've made peaches, and plums and cherries ... Wait a minute ... I've got an idea. Ah ... Oh ... Um ... Yes ... Oohh... Yes... That's it ... I've got it ... Whoa!!!!

*Let there be sun, she said
Let there be moon, she said
Let there be stars, she said
Oh this is fun, she said
We'll make animals to roam everywhere
Hair to cover dogs, warts to grow on frogs
Mud to wash the hogs, salamanders for the bogs
Bunnies and beagles, aardvarks and weasels
Snakes and apple trees
To teach about the birds and the bees*

*Wait! She said, somethin' just ain't right
I made the north and the south
I made the dark and the light
Now everything's a- humming in harmony
But I'm bored, she said
It's too calm for me
Then it began to brew like a great big bubble
Ah! She said
I'll make a man to give us trouble*

*Long ago before man was born
There was nothing there except a big black void
Then someone said I'm gonna fill it up
I'm gonna raise the roof and kick up some dust
And she did... And she did... She did...*

Oh... I love it... I love it... See you are **E=MC2**

THE PROFESSOR POINTS TO E=MC2 ON THE BLACKBOARD.

REV. BLINKERS: I beg your pardon? What did you say?

PROFESSOR: I said, "See ... You ... Are ... E=MC2."

REV. BLINKERS: Ah, look here everybody ... **C-U-R-E= MC2**. Why that spells "CURE".

HE WRITES IT ON THE BLACKBOARD.

GABBY: **C-U-R-E** ... Reelin' revelations!

REV. BLINKERS: I knew it! I knew they were clues all along! Oh, this is profoundly perfect.

THE FOUR AD-LIB AS THEY SET UP LETTERS TO READ '**CURE=MC 2**'. THEY ARE MISSING ONE "C"

SUFFERTON: Oh no, we need another "C".

FEATHERTOES: How about using the cart ...

REV. BLINKERS: Good thinking, Feathertoed.

FEATHERTOES TURNS THE CART ON ITS SIDE AND IT FORMS A "C" AT THE BEGINNING OF THE WORD - CURE.

SUFFERTON: Things is getting better and better ... I knew'd it! ... I knew'd it!

PROFESSOR: Oh I love it! I love it! It's all so ... Silly!

REV. BLINKERS: We've got the Cure. Cure equals MC 2.

THE FOUR BREAK INTO CHEERS OF EXCITEMENT.

THE FOUR: (ad lib) We've done it ... We've found the Cure ... Hooray!! ... etc.

FEATHERTOES: But ... wait a minute ... I'm still not sure that I really know wha ... what does it really mean?

PROFESSOR: Precisely ... If the Cure is 'MC' ... Then ... What is the 'equals' sign?

THEY STOP AND LOOK AT EACH OTHER, SHOCKED.

SUFFERTON: Oh, brother!

REV. BLINKERS: Confounded complexities ... I haven't the foggiest notion as to what the 'equals sign' could be.

PROFESSOR: Of course you do.

REV. BLINKERS: I most certainly do not ...

THEY ARE COMPLETELY BAFFLED. THEN SUFFERTON LOOKS AT THE TWO BARS THAT THEY HAVE SET UP AS THE 'EQUALS SIGN' BETWEEN 'CURE' AND 'MC2'

SUFFERTON: I think I know ... But I'm probably wrong ...

GABBY: What, Sufferton?

SUFFERTON: I think I know ... But I could be wrong ...

REV. BLINKERS: For Heavens sake, speak up, Sufferton.

SUFFERTON: I think I know ... But ... But ...

THE FOUR: (ad lib) Say it!!! For heavens sake, Sufferton! ... What is it? ... etc.

SUFFERTON, SUDDENLY ALL EXCITED, PICKS UP THE '2' AND PLACES IT IN FRONT OF 'CURE'. HE THEN TAKES THE 'U' OF 'CURE', TURNS IT UPSIDE DOWN, AND TAKES THE 'EQUALS SIGN' AND PLACES IT ACROSS THE OPENING OF THE UPSIDE DOWN 'U', TURNING IT INTO AN 'A'. IT NOW SPELLS - '2 CARE'. THEY ALL LOOK AT EACH OTHER AND SMILE IN AMAZEMENT. **GABBY** STEPS CLOSER TO **SUFFERTON** AND LOOKS AT HIM ADORINGLY.

FEATHERTOES, GABBY AND REV. BLINKERS: Ahhhh ... To Care! ...

FEATHERTOES: Oh Suffy ...

GABBY: ... Sufferton ...

FEATHERTOES SUDDENLY BECOMES CONCERNED.

FEATHERTOES: But we still don't know what the "MC" is ...?

PROFESSOR: Precisely ... What is the 'MC'?

THEY LOOK COMPLETELY CONFUSED.

Come, come now ... You already know what it is.

GABBY: Oh ... guessing gorillas ... Hey, well ... I don't know about any of you, but for me the 'MC' means 'Magical Curiosity'.

PROFESSOR: What a wonderful idea! ... Magical Curiosity.

SUFFERTON: Well ... Um ... for me it means ... 'Marvelous Companions.'

HE LOOKS SHYLY AT **GABBY** AND THEN AT THE OTHERS WHO ALL EXPRESS THEIR AFFECTION TOWARD HIM.

FEATHERTOES: Oh, Suffy.

PROFESSOR: Marvelous Companions ... I love it! I love it! ... Everything is so wonderfully simple.

FEATHERTOES: Wait a minute ... I've just learned that everything is not always wonderfully simple. A glaring example of this complexity is the diverse manner in which each of us has proceeded toward the potential rudimentation of the quest.

THEY APPLAUD **FEATHERTOES** IN AMAZEMENT. SHE TOO IS STARTLED BY WHAT SHE HAS SAID.

So, I guess for me the 'MC' must mean ... 'Mental Clarity'.

PROFESSOR: Wonderful ... Wonderful ...

REV. BLINKERS: What's all this business about Magical Curiosity, Mental Clarity and Marvelous Companions, The "MC" obviously stands for ... Merry Christmas ... Merry Christmas to one and all.

MUSIC: ...
TRACK 20

Making Choices/ I Am The Dark ...

PROFESSOR: Merry Christmas. Oh, I love it! I love it! ... You're all right ... Each of you ... All of you ... You ARE the 'MC' ... the 'Master Of Ceremonies.' (HE BOWS TO THE LADIES) ... The 'Mistress Of Ceremonies' ... Ya makes a choice ... ya takes a chance ... and ya makes a change as ya goes along ...

Making choices

Masters choosing

You're the 'MC' of your own life

Making changes

Magic chances

You're the MC' of your own life... Your life

PROFESSOR AND VOICES

Listen... Listen

Voices... Voices... Calling

Listen... Listen

Choices... Calling

Follow

DOORMAN

Oh it's so wonderfully simple

Oh it's so wonderfully grand

It's all so simple

Once you take a stand

THERE IS A BLINDING FLASH OF LIGHT AND THE STAGE PLUNGES INTO DARKNESS.
OPIA, SHRIEKING WITH LAUGHTER, APPEARS.

OPIA

Wonderfully simple, is it? Well, try and fit me into your "wonderfully simple" equation...

*I am the dark
I am your shadow
Wherever you go
I will follow*

*I am the dark
The dread of midnight
The hollow black fright*

*I'll be always waiting at the corner
Watching from the darkness
I am the blackness at the bottom of the stairs
I am your fear
And I am here*

*I am the dark
The burning hunger
The flash of evil
The crack of thunder
I am the dark
I am your nightmare
The serpent snake stare
I will always be here*

*I am your devil
I am your demon
I am the blackness at the bottom of the stairs
I am your fear
And I am here*

*I am the enemy that lurks inside of you
I am the dark deceiver who decides for you
I am the soul destroyer
I am the poison arrow
I am the chill that cuts right to the marrow
I'll see you fall low
I'll have you follow me
Follow me...
Follow me...*

**GABBY, SUFFERTON,
REV. BLINKERS, FEATHERTOES**

*Don't listen to her ...
Don't listen to her ...
No ...
No ...
Don't listen ...
Don't listen ...
Don't listen to her ...
Don't listen to her ...
Don't listen to her ...*

THROUGH **OPIA'S** SINGING THE **DOORMAN** HAS SHED HIS **PROFESSOR** DISGUISE AND
LEAPS INTO ACTION. THE **FOUR** ARE PULLED BETWEEN THE **DOORMAN** AND **OPIA**. THE
LABORATORY SLOWLY FADES OUT.

DOORMAN

*Making changes
Masters choosing
You're the "MC" of your own life*

OPIA

*I am the dark
The thing you're loathing
The thing you're hiding
In sheep's clothing*

DOORMAN

*Making changes
Magic chances
You're the "MC" of your own life*

OPIA

*I am your fiend
I am your fever
I am the blackness
At the bottom of the stairs
I am your fear
And I am here*

DOORMAN

*Making choices
Masters choosing
You're the "MC"
Of your own life
Making changes
Magic chances
You're the "MC"
Of your own life.. Your life
Listen
Listen
Voices ... Voices
Calling ... Listen ... Listen
Choices ... Calling
Follow ... Follow
Follow
Follow your heart
Follow your heart
Follow your heart
Follow your heart*

DOORMAN

*Look for the doorway
Look for the doorway
The magic door*

OPIA

*I am the dark
I am your shadow
Wherever you go
I will follow
I am the dark
The dread of midnight
The hollow black fright
I'll be always
Waiting at the corner
Watching from the darkness
I am the blackness
At the bottom of the stairs
I am your fear
And I am here
Follow me
Follow me
Follow me
Follow me*

SUDDENLY **GABBY** STEPS FORWARD.

GABBY

*I don't care what you may say
I know what my life is for
I'm gonna choose my own way
And I choose the magic door*

MUSIC:

...

Another Magic Door

..

TRACK 21

There'll always be another doorway

FEATHERTOES

There'll always be something more to know

REV. BLINKERS

There'll always be a hundred different meanings

SUFFERTON

And a thousand different ways that you could go

GABBY AND FEATHERTOES

*There'll always be another rainbow
To lead you to the next pot of gold*

ALL

*You may miss it once
Miss it twice
Miss it three times or four
But there'll always be another magic door*

OPIA AND THE DOORMAN FADE.

*There'll always be another journey
There'll always be another morning star
There'll always be another presence calling
And you'll hear it no matter where you are
There'll always be another question
To lead you to the doorway of your heart
You may miss it once
Miss it twice
Miss it three times or four
But there'll always be another magic door*

A HUGE MAGICAL DOOR APPEARS.

*You may miss it once
Miss it twice
Miss it three times or four
But there'll always be another magic door*

ON THE LAST NOTE THEY MARCH TRIUMPHANTLY THROUGH THE DOOR.

BLACKOUT.

THE END

CURTAIN CALLS

MUSIC: ... ***Magic Door Finally*** ...
TRACK 22

LIGHTS UP. THE DOOR IS GONE. THE TOWN RE-APPEARS WITH THE **TOWNSPEOPLE** STILL SLEEPING IN THE EXACT POSITIONS AS LAST SEEN AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PLAY IN **ACT I** AT THE END OF SCENE ONE.

GABBY, FEATHERTOES, SUFFERTON AND REV. BLINKERS ENTER THROUGH THE DOOR. THE DOOR THEN DISAPPEARS. THEY GO AMONG THE SLEEPING **TOWNSPEOPLE**, WHO YAWN, AWAKEN AND SLOWLY BEGIN TO JOIN IN THE SINGING.

THE **DOORMAN** APPEARS AND RECREATES HIS ORIGINAL DOOR.

DOORMAN

Every door is a magic door, hiding something

*Every key is a secret key, leading somewhere
Somewhere you've never been ever before
To open the door, just lift up the latch
But once you go in you might never come back
For that is the way of the spell
That is the way of the spell*

DOORMAN AND TOWNSPEOPLE

*The spell ... The spell ... The spell ... The spell
The spell ... The spell ... The spell ... The spell
The spell ... The spell ... The spell ... The spell*

THE **DOORMAN** ILLUMINATES THE DOOR AND HE AND **THE FOUR** ENCOURAGE THE **TOWNSPEOPLE** TO GO THROUGH IT.

ALL

*Reach up ... reach out ... Reach towards the sky
Lift your voices high ... In silent wonder
Reach up ... reach out ... Reach towards the sun
Life has just begun
It's an adventure or it's nothing*

*Dare to care ... Care to dare
Where your thoughts turn over into wonder*

*Love to live ... Live to love
And above everything
Let your heart find its wings
There's the door ... Here's the key*

THE **TOWNSPEOPLE** BOW AND EXIT THROUGH THE MAGIC DOOR

*Lift the latch ... Learn to be
Dare to care ... Care to dare ... Dare to care
Every door is a magic door
Dare to care*

THE **FOUR** ALSO BOW AND EXIT ON THE LAST NOTES. **OPIA**, **WAYLESS** AND **NIMBLEKNEES** ENTER, BOW AND SLAM THE DOOR SHUT.

MUSIC:

...

Magic Door Reprise

THE VERY END