

Dee the bitter goddess tour

a musical; book and lyrics by Ken Prestininzi *
music by Alphonso Horne

New Dramatists:

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Character List

Deidre Amaro-Wiley (later Dee) - an ambitious nobody and girl-rocker
Bess Wiley – her mother
Tony Amaro - her father, shows up in Act Two
Majestic (Magic) Pentecost - a man of God and a true love

To be cast from the ensemble:

JJ, Eddie Burwell, Ingrid, Father Burwell, Mother Burwell, Penny Pentecost
3 Used Car Salesmen
King I-DOLL, Prince Verde, I-DOLL trolls
Boy
Capitalists
2 Brother Thieves
Salvation Prophet
Claire Voyent
The Mad
Artaud
Buzzard (Dee's Daddy)
Young Man
Bee
Deeds, Tears, Thought, Song
A Dentist
Birds

Song List

ACT ONE

1. DREAM-BOPPING/LIFE IS HARD page 10 (Dee/Bess/Backup Singers)
2. BELIEVE page 15 (Dee)
3. DANCE MUSIC page 19
4. TWO HANDS IN PRAYER page 23 (Magic/ Choir ensemble)
5. ROMANCE, DREAMS, AND LIES page 26 (Bess/Magic)
6. INGRID'S SONG: MIDNIGHT CATS page 28 (Ingrid/Dee)
7. MISS HOTROD page 33 (Dee/Used Car Salesmen & band)
8. (DANCE: VERDE'S DRAG SHOW page 41)
9. MISSY SUPREME page 42 (King/Dee/I-DOLL ensemble)
10. (*REPRISE: TWO HANDS IN PRAYER* page 44) (Dee/Magic)
11. SHELTER YOURSELF page 48 (Dee)
12. HOT N BOTHERED page 53 (Prince Verde/choir ensemble)
13. DREAMS OF SUCCESS page 57 (Dee/Bess)

ACT TWO

14. CALL OF DREAMS page 60 (Dee/Capitalists ensemble)
15. O DIVINE ANTIRA-DEE page 66 (Prophet/Cobra/Dee)
16. I'M A CELEBRITY page 71 (Dee/the Mad ensemble)
17. BELIEVE (reprise) page 76 (Daddy/Buzzard)
18. PECK OUT HER GIRLY EYES page 77 (Buzzard/Birds ensemble)
19. (*REPRISE: TWO HANDS IN PRAYER*) page 79 (Magic)
20. BAND, FREESTYLE page 80
21. SOULS TODAY page 83 (Bess)
22. THIS TAVERN IS CLOSED page 87 (Bess)
23. LONG LEGGED INGRID page 88 (JJ)
24. (*REPRISE: DREAMS OF SUCCESS*) page 90 (*King*)
25. AMARO AMORE page 92 (Dee/Choir)
26. BEND AND PRAY page 97 (Magic/Choir)
27. TOUCHED BY GOD page 98 (Dee/Magic/Bess/Dentist/Choir)

Act One

Scene One: Mother & Daughter

(We're growing up in Flint, Michigan, somewhere in the early 70's.

Bess Wiley sits in her house waiting for her daughter to come home. She is illuminated by K-mart parking lot lights from across the street and a Virgin Mary plastic lamp.)

BESS

That girl better get home before midnight. That's all I'm saying, Mary. I know you never whooped your baby Jesus, but your baby Jesus never tested your last nerve neither.

Of course, I'm not saying Jesus didn't test you, but at least he conquered the world with love and salvation, instead of shaming you with his selfishness and no-good ways.

(Dee, looking great in a red leather jacket, flies into the house.)

Girl, what's wrong with you. You scared me half to...

DEE

I'm not here. You never saw me.

BESS

I wished that when they first pulled you out of me.

DEE

Whatever they say, I didn't do it.

BESS

Whatever who says?

DEE

Sweet Mommy, if they ask, tell them I was here the whole time - doing chores, saying prayers!

BESS

I'll tell them no such lies.

(Sirens. Dee dives under the bed to hide.)

O, sweet Mother Mary, what did you do...

POLICE SPEAKERPHONE

We're here to talk with one Diedre Amaro. Send her out. Surrender Diedre.

BESS

What, they have to broadcast my shame to the whole neighborhood?

(She shouts out the door)

I DON'T TAKE KINDLY TO RUDE CALLERS, OFFICER DON! Shouting at me over a loudspeaker from your car. Don't make me call your mother. I know she raised you right.

POLICE SPEAKERPHONE

We want to talk to your daughter.

BESS

What daughter? I live here alone.

POLICE SPEAKERPHONE

You have a daughter. You've bailed her out many times. Diedre Amaro, please step outside.

BESS

The name Amaro is not mentioned here. That man is long gone.

POLICE SPEAKERPHONE

Don't make this harder than it has to be, Mother Wiley. Send out your daughter.

BESS

Don't you Mother Wiley me.

POLICE SPEAKERPHONE

We just want to clear up what we're sure is a misunderstanding.

BESS

You tell me what she did, and I'll handle her.

POLICE SPEAKERPHONE

You haven't been able to handle her for years, Mrs. Wiley.

BESS

Don't Mrs. me. You know I never married.

POLICE SPEAKERPHONE

Your daughter needs to show the law respect. Please, tell her to come out...

BESS

I told you she's not here. She ran away from home. Canada. I'm here all alone.

POLICE SPEAKERPHONE

You can't protect her forever.

BESS

Oh, she'll get hers, but from me. Don't you worry.

POLICE SPEAKERPHONE

We have a reputable businessman here saying she stole his red jacket with his credit cards still inside the inner pocket. What's that? And his chain. Maybe she left the jacket and the cards...and the chain, okay, geesh...before she ran away from home? Maybe you might bring them out to us?

BESS

I never step out of my house. You know that. The whole block knows it.
(*inside voice:*) Is this true, girl? I won't protect a thief.

DEE

The creep said he was taking me up to a recording studio to lay a track. Except he wanted to lay my dreams, so, yeah, I took his jacket. I'm not giving it back.

BESS

Are you telling me you're driving around the perv who tried to corrupt my underage daughter? You hearing me, you, in the backseat of the cop car? You want justice? They can take you right to jail, since you're in the car already.

POLICE SPEAKERPHONE

Mrs. Wiley...

BESS

Miss Wiley. I never married.

POLICE SPEAKERPHONE

Surrender your daughter.

BESS

I told you my daughter's not here. But you know what is here? A mother's RAGE.

(Neighborhood applause.)

Ask that perv if he wants to step out of the car and come look and see if my innocent daughter left his jacket and trashy chain behind.

POLICE SPEAKERPHONE

You heard the girl's mother, get out of the car and go get what's yours, if you want it.

(Bess gets her bat.)

BESS

Come face a grown-ass woman.

VOICE

Get me out of here. I don't need this.

BESS

What's that?

POLICE SPEAKERPHONE

Sorry to disturb you, Ma'am. Always a pleasure.

BESS

The same.

(Sound of police cars leaving to whoops and applause.)

DEE

(Laughing under the bed.) Are they gone? Mama, you did great. You and your...

(Bess whacks the bed with the bat. Dee scurries out from underneath.)

Okay, okay!

BESS

You'll be my death. Hand it over.

DEE

The jacket?

BESS

No wages of sin is going on my daughter's back.

DEE

He didn't even get to first base!

BESS

That's what you have to say to me?

DEE

You should be proud I took it! He thought he could work me – no way. So, yeah, I took his jacket. I had to get something back off him, right? You taught me to always get: R-E-S-P-

BESS

Don't you blaspheme Aretha in front of me.

DEE

You were great.

BESS

Proud? You let a fancy talker make a fool of you?

DEE

I know, I know, you told me! But I. At first. I was treated like a queen. I should have known it was all bullshhhh -pretend. He said he could get me in to see Quincy Jones and Berry Gordy! He said he knew the man that signed Flo with the Supremes.

BESS

You believed him.

DEE

I know. Never tell perverts your dreams. No good dream bopper!

BESS

Never make lowdown deals with no-good men. I told you.

DEE

You also told me I'd never amount to anything.

BESS

You don't listen. What I said was if you keep doing like you do, you won't amount to anything. You want to move up in the world, clean out your ears and start listening. Give me that jacket. It's going to the Salvation Army. I'm not asking again.

(Dee hands over the jacket. Bess throws it out the door.)

DEE

You never take my side. You think I'm trash too.

BESS

Did he hurt you?

DEE

You can't keep bad mouthing my dreams because my father left you.

BESS

You want to leave too? I'm not stopping you.

DEE

Don't be hurt.

BESS

You'll miss my love when I'm gone.

DEE

Where are you going? You're an agoraphobe. You never leave the house.

BESS

With good reason! I know more than you do, little girl. It's a rotten world of disappointment out there.

DEE

You think I'm trashy and a no-talent too. Well, Miss Ross told me I was a diamond before swine!

BESS

Who told you?

DEE

She came and talked to our school. I didn't tell you. We got to ask her questions and I asked her what she would tell someone who believed in herself when no one else did. And she told me to hang in there and listen to my dreams.

BESS

Miss Diana Ross?

DEE

She said that to me.

BESS

Well, if she said that, who am I to say anything? Pack your bags. Fame and fortune are on their way to take you away from me. That's what I screamed when you were born by the way. Fame! Fortune! Get her out of me!

DEE

Miss Ross said she believed in me.

BESS

Stop. She did not.

DEE

I prayed to her and she answered me: "Baby, hang in there and listen to your dreams. But first, you've got to get rid of your awful name."

BESS

Deidre is a lovely name.

DEE

Deidre Amaro-Wiley? No superstar is ever going to go far named Deidre Amaro-Wiley. It's gonna change. Everything's gonna change.

Music starts up.

BESS

Stop being cute. No more make-believe.

DEE

You stop.

BESS

I once believed in romance, dreams and lies too. His name was Tony Amaro. He left me with a baby girl and no money to raise her on.

DEE

That's you, not me.

BESS

The bitter truth is...

DEE

I'm the bitter truth! I get it. But I got something burning inside me, you gotta hear. Something I need you all to hear:

(By Dee's sheer will we are suddenly in a full-out concert stadium:)

SONG: DREAM-BOPPING

**YOU MOTHERCOPPERS
BIG DREAM BOPPERS
STOP IN THE NAME OF LOVE?
STOP IN THE NAME OF ME!
BABY RIGHTEOUS DEE
WATCH ME RISE
ABOVE MY LOVE-CHILD DESTINY**

**I GOT THE STUFF.
MAYBE NOT YET.
MAYBE NOT NOW.
BUT YOU WAIT. YOU WATCH.
I GOT THE STUFF.
I'M MORE THAN ENOUGH.
YOU MOTHERCOPPERS.
BIG DREAM BOPPERS.
STOP IN THE NAME OF LOVE?
STOP IN THE NAME OF ME!**

BESS

Stop in the name of stopping.

**DEE
I GOT THE STUFF.
MAYBE NOT YET.
MAYBE NOT NOW.
BUT YOU WAIT. YOU WATCH.
I GOT THE STUFF.
I'M MORE THAN ENOUGH.
YOU MOTHERCOPPERS.
BIG DREAM BOPPERS.
STOP IN THE NAME OF LOVE?
STOP IN THE NAME OF ME!
YOU WATCH ME.
SHOW YOU HOW. POW. OW. OW.**

Where are my Back Up Singers?!

(Dee's fantasy back-up singers enter and take the stage:)

**BACK UP SINGERS
DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE
DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE**

BESS

If you dream big, you'll fall hard.

DEE

Let me live my dream!

BESS

God have mercy.

BESS
DREAMS ARE LAZY.
LIFE IS HARD.
LIFE'S A CHEAT.
DREAMS CAUSE WOE.

DEE
OH, NO.
DADDY TOLD ME WHEN HE SQUEEZED MY BIG TOE:
NEVER LET YOUR MAMA,
OR THE WORLD,
TELL YOU NO.
IF LIVING THE DREAM BECOMES YOUR FOE
IF YOUR LIFE'S REWARD IS A NO-SHOW
JUST SAY NO
YOU RUN THE SHOW
LEAD - NEVER FOLLOW
YOU RUN THE SHOW

BESS
WHAT GOOD COMES FROM SQUEEZING
A LITTLE GIRL'S BIG TOE
YOUR DADDY DIED A DRUNK IN CHICAGO

DEE
YOU DON'T KNOW!

BESS
Missy, you listen to me.

DEE
NO, NO, NO...

BESS
Deidre.

DEE
Call me Dee!

BESS
I pushed you into this world. I get to say what your name is, not you.

DEE
I got back-up singers now, Mama. We can out sing you!

DEE & HER BACK UP SINGERS
"MISS HONEY DEE,
CLAIM YOUR RIGHTFUL DESTINY."

DEE
GLADYS GOT HER PIPS
I GET MY BACKUPS PLEASE

BACK UP SINGERS
DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE
DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE
BABY RIGHTEOUS DEE
CLAIM YOUR DREAM
WE GRANT YOU YOUR THREE WISHES
FAME
EVERLASTING LOVE
AND RESIDUAL RICHES

DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE
DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE

DEE AND HER BACK UPS
FAME
EVERLASTING LOVE
AND RESIDUAL RICHES

WHO ARE WE
WE ARE DEE
DEE
AND HER SISTERS P
WE'RE CONSTELLATIONAL BITCHES

DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE
DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE

(Bess cuts off the fantasy. The music stops.)

BESS
Fame? Everlasting love? Residual riches! Nothing but pipe dreams. You're not dee
Next Big Thing, you're not anything...aren't you embarrassed to dream so big?

DEE
You want me to be like you? Too scared to leave the house? Scared of wanting
anything because everything gets taken from me?

(Bess is silent.)

DEE

That's not going to be me.

BESS

Deidre Amaro-Wiley...listen to me. You don't have it. You have one chance of a better life. Marry that rich Burywell boy. He worshipped you. But no, you ignored him completely and now he's getting married to that Ingrid Dimsdale today.

DEE

Ingrid Dimsdale! She's too good for the likes of Eddie!

BESS

Eddie Burwell is the only boy around who has a Daddy with money. She won't have to be a 7-11 store manager for the rest of her life.

DEE

Ingrid's the prize, not Eddie. She's not marrying Eddie. You watch. I'll convince her to run away with me!

(She runs out the door.)

BESS

Deirdre! Daughter! Stop! Come back here! Stop! Girl! You know I can't come chase after you. Pity your poor Mother!

(She tries to follow, but gets the shakes.)

Bring me back some cake!

SONG: BABY DEE

DEE

What Mama didn't realize is I had decided that day to leave for good. Like Dad did before me. I know, cruel. But. If I didn't leave then, I never would. Before my father left, he lifted my chin and looked me in my eyes and...Mama says he left without saying a word, but I remember differently:

**DADDY SAID:
DON'T THINK ABOUT ME
WHAT I DID OR DIDN'T DO FOR YOU
I LEFT YOU, IT'S TRUE
WHEN NO ONE SHOULD
FORGET ME
THINK ABOUT YOU
WHAT YOU WILL DO
IF YOU**

**BELIEVE, BABY, BELIEVE
EV'RY WRONG WILL BE TURNED RIGHT
BELIEVE, BABY, BELIEVE
EV'RY DREAM FIND ITS SPOTLIGHT
BELIEVE, BABY, BELIEVE
BELIEVE, BABY, BELIEVE
TURN MY WRONG INTO RIGHT
TURN YOUR HURT INTO YOUR MIGHT
GIVE THE WORLD YOUR LIGHT
O YES, LET YOUR DREAMS IGNITE
DEE-LIGHT
OH MISSY DEE
BELIEVE, BABY, BELIEVE
BE EVERYTHING YOU DREAM
BELIEVE, BABY, BELIEVE
BELIEVE, BABY, BELIEVE
YOU'RE YOUR DADDY'S
DIAMOND
A BRIGHT DAZZLING THING
YOU'RE YOUR DADDY'S
EV'RYTHING
D IS FOR DIAMOND
BELIEVE, DEE, BELIEVE
DADDY BE DAMNED
D IS DAZZLING
D BEGINS DIVINITY
YOU DEE ARE EVERYTHING
I EVER DREAMED**

TURN MY WRONG INTO RIGHT
TURN YOUR HURT INTO YOUR MIGHT
GIVE THE WORLD YOUR LIGHT
O YES, LET YOUR DREAMS IGNITE
DEE-LIGHT
OH MISSY DEE
BELIEVE, BABY, BELIEVE
BE EVERYTHING YOU DREAM
BELIEVE, BABY, BELIEVE
BELIEVE, BABY, BELIEVE

A DIAMOND
A BRIGHT DAZZLING THING
BELIEVE
OH, BELIEVE
D IS FOR DIAMOND
AND YOU MY BABY
ARE DAZZLING
MISS DEE DAZZLING
MISS THING

OH,
BELIEVE, BABY, BELIEVE
EVERY WRONG WILL BE TURNED RIGHT
BELIEVE, BABY, BELIEVE
EVERY DREAM FIND ITS SPOTLIGHT
BELIEVE, BABY, BELIEVE
BELIEVE, BABY, BELIEVE
BELIEVE, BABY, BELIEVE

Scene Three: Wedding Bells

(A church community center next to a 7-11. Dee can see the “Ingrid Dimsdale & Eddie Burywell Forever” sign. Bridesmaids are hanging ribbons and garlands of plastic flowers. All at the wedding are waiting and bored because Ingrid, the bride, has locked herself away. Dee enters unseen and goes up to the distraught groom.)

EDDIE BURYWELL

Ingrid, sweetie! You have to! What will I tell my father!

INGRID

Tell him, he can marry you! I’m not coming out!

EDDIE

(Running down steps into the hall) MOM! MOMMY! SHE WON’T MARRY ME!

DEE

Eddie! I hear you’re the unlucky man today!

EDDIE

Dee! She won’t listen to me and we haven’t even said I do!

FATHER BURYWELL

Son, where’s your bride? Why the wait?

EDDIE

There’s a glitch.

FATHER BURYWELL

A glitch?

EDDIE

She’s locked herself in the restroom. She won’t come out. It’s not my fault.

FATHER BURYWELL

She’s got your number.

MOTHER BURYWELL

Father! Hello, Dee. Son, why don’t you just marry Dee instead? She’s the fire you need.

DEE

Thank you, Mrs. Burywell, but I’m never getting married. I’m going to conquer the world.

MOTHER BURYWELL

You still might want a husband. Eddie, why don’t you help this nice girl conquer the world?

FATHER BURYWELL

Conquer the world? He can't even conquer his bride! You get her to come out, and do it quick, or I'll lock you in a porta-potty.

EDDIE

It's not my fault.

FATHER BURYWELL

You've been an embarrassment to me since you were born!

MOTHER BURYWELL

It's best not to shout.

FATHER BURYWELL

Listen, son, lose this battle and you'll be whimpering for the rest of your life.

(Father Burywell exits.)

EDDIE

It's not my fault. I hate my Wedding Day.

MOTHER BURYWELL

I told you to become a priest.

(Mother Burywell exits as JJ enters.)

JJ

Look who's here - Dee Trash. Hey everyone, the Burwell's went all out and hired a star to sing at Eddie's wedding. What's the name of your new rockabilly group, Dee? The Trashettes!

DEE

Ingrid's not marrying Eddie Burywell today. She's joining my girl band and running away with me! Shhh, don't tell. You want to be our roadie, JJ? I know you have a thing for Ingrid.

JJ

I don't have a thing.

DEE

That may be true. Listen, JJ. Let's make a truce. We're both losing Ingrid to Eddie, because his Daddy has money and all we have is our looks. Let's tear up the dance floor in Ingrid's honor. C'mon. C'mon. We can at least beat everyone at that!

DANCE MUSIC:

(Dee and JJ dance. Their dancing frightens. Dee's dance gets very troll like and sexual. The girls scatter. She is in his own world of dance, and it nears chaos as it opens up her frustration and ambitious desires. The fit takes over. She's not in control.)

A young minster and his younger sister enter: Majestic (Magic) Pentecost and Penny Pentecost.)

PENNY

What do you call that kind of dancing?

MAGIC

Look away!

JJ

God Save Me! You. Minister Man. Tag me out!

(JJ collapses and leaves the dance area. He pushes Magic to take his place. Magic and Dee's eyes lock. Dee goes into a spasm. She flails on the ground. The others scream. Magic runs to her. He makes sure she won't swallow her tongue. Dee's fit subsides.)

PENNY

What's wrong with her?

FATHER BURYWELL

She's got the devil in her.

MOTHER BURYWELL

Did she hit her head? She may have a concussion.

JJ

Her mother breastfed her until she was seventeen.

MAGIC

Should we call a doctor?

JJ

Don't fall for her act. She's faking.

(Dee "wakes.")

DEE

Who are you? Are you an angel? Did God above send you to rescue me?

MAGIC

I'm Magic. You had a fit on the dance floor. Are you okay?

(He uses his handkerchief to wipe sweat off her brow.)

DEE

I get these seizures sometimes. Ever since my Daddy threw me up into the sky but forgot to catch me when I came down. Who said the devil was in me? Was it you? Better be careful. The devil might leap from me to you.

MAGIC

Are you feeling dizzy?

DEE

I feel light-headed.

MAGIC

Do you always dance with such...intensity?

DEE

Don't you?

MAGIC

I don't dance.

PENNY

He does. When no one's watching.

MAGIC

Stop.

DEE

May I watch sometime?

MAGIC

Dancing leads to sin.

DEE

Even when moved by the Holy Spirit?

MAGIC

Don't mock the Holy Spirit.

DEE

I'm not. I believe in her. Everyone thinks I'm not a child of God, but they're wrong. I know I'm his daughter. I know I have divinity in me.

PENNY

I'm Penny Pentecost. And this is my brother, Majestic Pentecost. Yeah, my parents named him, Majestic. First born son and all. And they named me Penny. I can't say Majestic, so I call him Magic. We just moved here. My brother's been given a ministry on Woodward Street. He's single.

MAGIC

That's enough, Penny.

DEE

My name's Dee. The D is for Divinity.

PENNY

Dee does mean goddess. It does. It's Medieval. I read a lot of old books. Etymology fascinates me.

DEE

Dee Amaro...

MAGIC

Amaro means bitter. Are you a bitter goddess?

DEE

Are you flirting with me?

MAGIC

I'm spoken for. I mean. God. Is my calling.

DEE

Yeah, but you didn't answer my question.

MAGIC

Are you a friend of the groom or the bride?

DEE

Are you a Magic Holy Man?

MAGIC

I want to do good.

DEE

Save souls?

MAGIC

Do God's work.

DEE

Save me?

MAGIC

I was scared you were going to swallow your tongue. The spirit moving you on the dance floor like it did.

DEE

Maybe it was the devil.

MAGIC

Nah, the devil would be too scared. It had to be the Holy Spirit.

DEE

I caught the devil once and clapped him into a nut.

MAGIC

Are you trying to shock me? It's not an innocent.

DEE

Once I trapped the devil inside the nut, it spewed obscenities: "This nut smells of sulfur and shit! Crack me open, you bitch!" You don't like my story?

MAGIC

Why are you pretending to be vulgar and coarse with me? You don't need to put on an act with me. Be yourself.

DEE

Should I sing hymns? You think you see through me? You can't see through shit.

MAGIC

Then why are you so angry with me?

(Dance music starts up again.)

CROWD

HEY, AMARO! TELL US THE STORY OF THE DEVIL AND THE NUT! CRACK US OPEN, BITCH! WE LOVE YOU, MISSY D!

MAGIC

Are you always the center of so much...noise?

DEE

The more noise, the more I know who I am!

(Magic lifts his hymn book to his heart and all is suddenly silent and still.
Only he and Dee move towards each other as the others freeze.)

SONG: TWO HANDS IN PRAYER:

MAGIC

**HAVE YOU EVER HEARD
TWO HANDS IN PRAYER
HAVE YOU EVER LISTENED
TO AN EVENING AT REST
HAVE YOU EVER DARED
HEAR THE QUIET OF YOUR HEART?
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD
A MORNING'S FIRST KISS
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD
A MORNING DOVE
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD
THE LIGHT OF DAWN
WHISPER FROM ABOVE
HAVE YOU EVER LISTENED
TO A MORNING'S CARESS
HAVE YOU EVER DARED
HEAR THE QUIET OF YOUR HEART?**

**LISTEN, LISTEN
(LISTEN, LISTEN)
HOLD ON, LISTEN
(LISTEN)
TAKE A DARE
(TAKE A DARE)
LISTEN
(LISTEN)
TWO HANDS IN PRAYER
HANDS IN PRAYER
LISTEN
(LISTEN)
TO THE BREAK OF DAWN
(DAWN)
LISTEN, LISTEN
(LISTEN, LISTEN, LISTEN)
TO THE QUIET OF YOUR HEART**

(They look at each other in silence. Dee wants to kiss him.)

DEE

You know what frightens me? Men like you. Men who think doing God's work is telling girls how to be and what to do!

MAGIC

I don't think that.

DEE

You don't? Good. Because I don't want to be saved. Being saved is just another way of being denied. No one holds Dee back or keeps her down.

MAGIC

I'm not holding...I have no wish to keep you down. Go be Dee Majesty. Be free.

DEE

Don't tell me what to do.

MAGIC

Go with God.

DEE

Which is it? Be free or go with God? I can't do both, now can I?

MAGIC

Come listen to my sermon and find out how. Or join me for dinner.

DEE

I knew it. You're a player.

MAGIC

I'm no player. I'm a man who sees God's work in everyone. You think I want to come between you and your dreams? You couldn't be more wrong.

DEE

Yeah, right. You love me?

MAGIC

Sure. Marry me and see.

(Their private world is broken by the crowd:)

CROWD

AMARO! AMARO! AMARO! WE WANT TO SEE YOU CATCH THE DEVIL'S NUT!

(Bess Wiley calls out from offstage.)

DAUGHTER! BESS

DEE
I'm the last girl you should use "marry me" on.

DEIDRE! DEIDRE! BESS

I've got to go. DEE

Last girl is fine with me. MAGIC

DEE
What? I'm not joking. I'm bad. Don't believe me? You'll soon see.

(She kisses him real bad-like. She looks him in the eye and exits.)

You're the one for me! MAGIC

(Bess enters.)

Where's my baby girl? BESS

That's right. Take the bitch home. JJ

BESS
How dare you badmouth my girl. I'll punch you in the face...

JJ
Hey -hey - hey!

MAGIC
Are you the Mother of that amazing young woman Dee Amaro?

BESS
Diedre Wiley. Yes, I have to claim her as mine. It's my fault, she's the way she is. I told her so many lies when she was a child, to keep her happy.

SONG: ROMANCE, DREAMS, AND LIES

BESS

**I MADE UP STORIES TO KEEP HER INSIDE
GIANT SERPENTS THAT WANT TO SQUEEZE YOU
BIRDS THAT PECK OUT YOUR EYES
TROLLS THAT WANT TO GNAW ON YOUR BEHIND
GOLDEN CHARIOTS, PRETTY FAIRIES
STRANGE ANIMALS, STOLEN BRIDES**

**ROMANCE. DREAMS. AND LIES.
THEY WERE ALL WE HAD.
ALL I COULD GIVE.**

I should have shaken such uselessness out of her.

(Eddie Burywell enters followed by the wedding party.)

EDDIE

She's taken Ingrid! And all our gift money! They've run off together! Dee's stolen my wedding!

JJ

You want me to catch those lezzies? I'll be happy to. Come on, hop on my bike. We'll be the lezzie posse from hell.

EDDIE

She's stolen your Harley. They're making their getaway!

JJ

Get the keys to your father's truck. Come on, Eddie!

BESS

Get her and bring her to me. I'll give her a good beating.

JJ

This time she's going to jail, Harley thieving harlot!

BESS

Jail?!

(Bess jumps on JJ's back.)

JJ

What's happening?! Get this mother off of me.

BESS
Someone's got to give my girl a chance.

JJ
Someone!

(Eddie helps JJ get out from under Bess before either gets hurt.)
Magic helps Bess recover.)

MAGIC
Mother, are you okay?

BESS
Pray for my daughter. She's good, why doesn't anyone see that but me! It's my fault. My fault.

SONG: ROMANCE, DREAMS, LIES

BESS
ROMANCE. DREAMS. AND LIES.
THEY WERE HOW WE SURVIVED.
WE SHOULDN'T BE PUNISHED
FOR WHAT KEEPS US ALIVE.

GOD BE JUST!
LET MY GIRL GO FREE.
YOU GAVE HER THE GIFTS
DON'T MAKE THEM A CURSE

MAGIC
GOD IS JUST!
NO GIFT FROM GOD IS EVER A CURSE

BESS
A MIND THAT SOARS
A MOUTH THAT ROARS
AND A HEART

MAGIC
A HEART

BESS
HUNGRY FOR GREATNESS

MAGIC
GOD'S LOVE IS GREAT

**BESS
ROMANCE, DREAMS, LIES
THAT'S HOW SHE WAS RAISED**

**BESS/MAGIC
SHE MUST BE SAVED.**

Scene Four: A Quickie Honeymoon

(Lights up on Dee and Ingrid on a bed in a Motel 6. Her wedding dress is torn and draped like wings underneath her. Dee sits away, not facing her.
Or this can be staged simply with the two women standing at microphones.)

SONG: MIDNIGHT CATS

**INGRID
TONIGHT I HEAR THE PURR OF MIDNIGHT CATS - UH-HUH
HEAR THAT? WHY DO THEY PURR LIKE THAT?
'N WHEN THEY SCREECH
'N WHEN THEY SCRATCH
I WANT TO SCREECH 'N SCRATCH RIGHT BACK**

**AFTER HUNTING, CATS COME BACK HOME
DRAGGIN' IN SOME LOVELY CATCH
DO YOU WANT ME TO BE WHAT YOU DRAG
HOME – YOUR PRINCESS BRIDE?
YOUR KITTY PRIDE?**

**I'M A LITTLE MOUSE BETWEEN YOUR PAWS
THAT'S RIGHT, THAT'S RIGHT
I'M YOUR PRIZE TONIGHT**

**TONIGHT, LET'S REALIZE, WHAT WE HAVE IS RIGHT
WHAT WE HAVE IS TONIGHT
IT'S ALL WIN-WIN, MY HEROINE
NO SIN-SIN, MY HEROINE
TONIGHT**

**I'LL PROVE TO YOU MY FELINE WORTH
MY LITTLE BALL OF FUR – MY HEAVEN ON EARTH
MAKE YOU PURRRRRRRRR. LIKE THAT?**

**INGRID & DEE
PURRRRRRRRRRR, LIKE THAT.**

INGRID
KNOW WHEN WE PURR, WE PURR ALL NIGHT

DEE
WHAT WE HAVE IS RIGHT, WHAT WE HAVE IS TONIGHT

INGRID & DEE
WE WIN, WE'RE HEROINES, LET'S PURR-PURR
MY HEAVEN ON EARTH. MAKE YOU PURRRRR LIKE THAT!

INGRID
PURR LIKE THAT

DEE
PURR LIKE THAT

INGRID
PURR LIKE THAT

INGRID & DEE
PURR LIKE THAT

(Dee accepts her advances and charms.)

Scene Five: Morning after

DEE
The morning after. Good god. What was I thinking?

INGRID
Last night was...wow. I'm a stolen bride! You rescued me like in the movies. You're my Dustin Hoffman. JJ's going to lose his mind when he sees his bike at the bottom of the river.

DEE
I wish I could set that river on fire and throw myself into it.

INGRID
I got my Dads' credit cards. We can rent a car and drive to Detroit. Live it up until the sucker realizes we've charged past his limit.

DEE
I don't want that.

INGRID
You don't want what?

DEE
Living on your Daddy's credit.

INGRID
Uh-huh.

DEE
I gotta go. And when a gal's gotta go...

INGRID
Don't you dare. I threw everything away for you.

DEE
If anyone threw anything away, it was me. I stole you because I was scared of the Magic Holy Man. I had to prove I'm as bad as everyone says I am.

INGRID
What Magic Holy Man? Last night it was you and me.

DEE
After my mother dies, who else will pray for me?

INGRID
Pray? What's wrong with you? I thought you loved me.

DEE
Who said love?

INGRID
I'm rich.

DEE
You love me? Ha. You'll throw me over for a better ride any day.

INGRID
Stop being so mean.

DEE
Listen, Ingrid. You're not...

INGRID
A virgin, I know.

DEE
Two hands in prayer.

INGRID

What? What's that mean? You stole me! I'm your bride!

DEE

No. We both broke free. That's why we...

INGRID

Free? Are you bullshitting me? Wait. Are you dumping me?

DEE

Not dumping. Just being real.

(Sounds of a trucks pulling up in the motel parking lot.)

INGRID

Real mean, you mean!

DEE

Okay, they found us. I gotta go. It's been great, Ingrid.

INGRID

O my God!

(She opens the door and starts shouting.)

She's in here. Dee fuckin' Majesty is in here.

DEE

I'll be needing this. I hope you can forgive me.

(She grabs her purse and exits out the back window.)

INGRID

I HOPE THEY THROW YOU IN THE RIVER AND SET IT ON FIRE. YOU HEAR ME!

(She collapses into tears. JJ and Eddie enter.)

JJ

Where's my Harley?

EDDIE

Ingrid, don't cry. I forgive you.

(Ingrid cries more.)

Didn't you hear me? I said I forgive you.

JJ

She heard you.

INGRID

JJ, take me with you. Get me outta here.

EDDIE

Does this mean we're not getting married?

Scene Six: Used Car Lot

(The scene opens with three buddies fixing the engine of a used car in the lot of Best Used Rides lot. They are greased. We are in an early 80's sensibility even though Dee hasn't aged.)

DEE

The ride looks good.

USED CAR 1

It sure does.

DEE

Can I have it on credit? I swear I'm good for it.

USED CAR 2

I bet you are.

DEE

I got to get to Chicago. The Chi-town I'm an I-DOLL Superstar Tryouts are tomorrow. I'll pay you double for it, once I win.

USED CAR 3

Triple.

DEE

I'm good for it.

UC 1

Pay in advance.

DEE

I told you I can't.

UC 2

We're telling you: you can.

UC 3

Catch on. We got lots of used cars but not one woman on this lot.

UC 1

The economy is killing us, if you know what we mean.

DEE

I know what you mean. But I need a car, not a man.

SONG: MISS HOTROD

USED CAR BUDDIES

**WE'LL FIX YOU A CAR
REV UP AN ENGINE
MAKE IT SING
AS LONG AS YOU PROMISE
YOU'LL TAKE US TO THE EDGE
AND MAKE US SCREAM
LITTLE MISS HOT ROD; IDLE DREAM
LITTLE MISS HOT ROD; IDLE DREAM
LITTLE MISS HOT ROD; IDLE DREAM
LITTLE MISS HOT ROD; IDLE DREAM
LITTLE MISS HOT ROD; IDLE DREAM
IDLE IDLE IDLE IDLE IDLE IDLE IDLE IDLE IDLE IDLE**

DEE

Is this Used Car Buddies or the lot for Used Car Clowns? A ride for a ride? Nothing doing. Listen, boys:

**I'VE GOT AMBITION
THAT DON'T MAKE ME A WHORE
I'VE GOT AMBITION
I'M HOT STUFF, PEDAL TO FLOOR**

USED CAR BUDDIES

**LITTLE MISS HOT ROD; IDLE DREAM
LITTLE MISS HOT ROD; IDLE DREAM
LITTLE MISS HOT ROD; IDLE DREAM
LITTLE MISS HOT ROD; IDLE DREAM
LITTLE MISS HOT ROD; IDLE DREAM
(repeat)**

DEE

**SPARK THE PLUGS
TORQUE THE PISTONS**

USED CAR BUDDIES

**LITTLE MISS HOTROD; IDLE DREAM
LITTLE MISS HOTROD; IDLE DREAM**

**PUMP THE TIRES
CHECK THE FLUIDS
WAX THE HOOD
BUFF THE BODY
FAN THE BELTS
FILL THE GAS TANK
NOW WE'RE GOOD**

**LITTLE MISS HOTROD; IDLE DREAM
LITTLE MISS HOTROD; IDLE DREAM
LITTLE MISS HOTROD; IDLE DREAM
LITTLE MISS HOTROD; IDLE DREAM
LITTLE MISS HOTROD; IDLE DREAM
LITTLE MISS HOTROD; IDLE DREAM
LITTLE MISS HOTROD; IDLE DREAM**

**USED CAR BUDDIES
ROCK OUR WORLD
REV OUR ENGINE
THIS LITTLE BABY
WILL GET YOU TO YOUR I-DOLL TRY OUT**

DEE

Can I take her for a spin?

**USED CAR BUDDIES
THIS LITTLE BABY WILL TAKE YOU ALL THE WAY HOME
Take us all for a spin!
FUN FUN FUN**

**DEE
ALL TOGETHER, OR ONE BY ONE?**

UC 1

Together!

UC 2

One by one!

UC 3

Together.

UC 2

Alone. I get performance anxiety.

UC 3

Me first then.

UC 1

Second.

UC 2

No way.

UC 3

How do we decide?

DEE

While you decide, may I take my hotrod for a test drive?

(They throw her the car keys. She exits.)

UC 1

Wrestle for first.

(They wrestle. They hear the car drive away. They have a realization.)

UC 2

She's not coming back, is she?

UC 1

We're idiots.

UC 3

She'd better win that contest, that's all I have to say.

**USED CAR BUDDIES
THE DAY YOU BECOME A BIG STAR
REMEMBER WE THREE BUDDIES
YOU TOOK FOR A RIDE
AND GAVE YOU A CAR
YOU BETTER BE A STAR**

**LITTLE MISS HOT ROD; IDLE DREAM
LITTLE MISS HOT ROD; IDLE DREAM
LITTLE MISS HOT ROD; IDLE DREAM**

**IDLE IDLE IDLE IDLE IDLE IDLE IDLE IDLE IDLE IDLE
I-DOLL I-DOLL I-DOLL I-DOLL I-DOLL I-DOLL I-DOLL
DREAM!**

Scene Seven: The Notown Record Deal

(Prince Verde stands in front of the Notown Studio gates.
He keeps buzzing, trying to be let in.
Dee pulls up in her pink Cadillac.)

PRINCE VERDE

Let me in. Daddy!

(Dee beeps.)

DEE

Hey, isn't this the NoTown Studios?

PRINCE VERDE

Who wants to know?

DEE

Dee Majesty. I'm going to be their next star.

PRINCE VERDE

You? You look like a girl from the projects to me.

DEE

Remember this day. So what if I do?

think so? So did I.

DEE

Wait! Aren't you Prince Verde, son of the King! This is my lucky day. Everything's working out for me.

PRINCE VERDE

Yes. I'm the Prince, son of the King, I was born to be the next thing, but nothing's worked out for me.

DEE

You don't say.

PRINCE VERDE

They say I don't have what it takes.

DEE

I got everything you need. Introduce your Daddy to me. You back me, and once I make it big, we'll wrest the NoTown Kingdom from his Daddy grip.

PRINCE VERDE

Usurpation of Daddy King? A dream too big to be dreamed.

DEE

I dream big, baby boy. I believe in making my own destiny. Or taking it from those who've been holding it for me,

PRINCE VERDE

I crave someone worthy of me. Are you worthy, Miss Thing?

DEE

Don't you Miss Thing me. I'm Miss Dee Majesty.

PRINCE VERDE

Forgive me, your Majesty. Am I coming on too strong? Is it my smell? I'm told I smell of money.

DEE

I smell money every day. My mother's Queen of the Middle East. Smell my oiled skin.

PRINCE VERDE

Will you be my honeyed woman and feed me apricots?

DEE

Until you burst.

PRINCEVERDE

First things first. I like your words, but my Daddy will want to test your worth.

DEE

Don't worry. I'm great in bed.

PRINCE VERDE

But can you sing? We're talking I-DOLL Supreme.

DEE

I can sell it, if that's what you mean.

PRINCE VERDE

Daddy wants to see me married.

DEE

I'll find a hottie for you.

PRINCE VERDE

I'm saying you.

DEE

Me? You want a girl? Okay, sure, I can play that role too. Whatever you want me to be. Romance, dreams, lies – that's me. Dee Majesty, Missy I-DOLL Supreme.

PRINCE VERDE

First things first. You'll have to prove your platinum worth.

DEE

First things first. Let's meet this producer King you call Daddy.

PRINCE VERDE

Mmmmmmmm, yes, you're I-DOLL mean. Let's meet Daddy King and see what he thinks.

DEE

Tell them to open the gates.

(Prince Verde buzzes.)

PRINCE VERDE

Daddy, it's me. I've done it. I've found our next big thing. Miss Dee Majesty. Open the gates. Open the gates. OPEN THE GATES! DADDY!

VOICE

All disappointments and pretenders go away. Only the Supreme may enter the I-DOLL kingdom.

DEE

Are you kidding me?

PRINCE VERDE

I'm sorry.

DEE

Get in. I said get in.

(He does. She puts the car into reverse. She revs the engine.

She drives through the gates. A big crash.)

PRINCE VERDE

Are you crazy! You could have...hey. Miss Thing? Are you okay?

(Dee has crashed her head into the windshield. I-DOLLS pull her out of the car.)

Scene Eight: American I-DOLL Kingdom

(Instant transformation into the belly of the I-DOLL kingdom. Lights up on the imposing I-DOLL Warner King on his throne.)

I-DOLL NOTOWN KING

Who crashed my gates?

PRINCE VERDE

Daddy it's me. And my fiancée, Miss Dee Majesty.

(The others lift an unconscious Dee from the car.)

Dee, wake up. You got us through the gates and my Daddy wants to meet you. I promise you, Daddy. She's the Salvation we both need.

KING

She crashed my gates!

PRINCE VERDE

Wake up, Dee. Prove your worth...

DEE

Hand over the keys to the kingdom!

PRINCE VERDE

She's alive!

DEE

What happened? Where am I?

KING

Ready to hook with my prince, meaning my son, are ya?

DEE

Listen, Daddy-King, I want it all. I call the shots, I hold the power. Nothing less, maybe more. My ambition must be fed every hour. You get me?

PRINCE VERDE

Ooooooooooh.

(Aroused by Dee's lust and ambition the I-DOLL trolls sputter, hiccup and hiss.)

AMERICAN I-DOLLS

Let's eat her up!

(The I-DOLL Warner King silences them.)

KING

Stuff it, runts. This whisper of a girl might teach us all a thing or two. I like the hot iron in your blood, Missy. Our I-DOLLS today have become so anemic. This lot is woefully run-down. But you girl, you got..."Stuff."

DEE

Don't call me girl. I'm Dee Majesty.

KING

Listen, girlie, once you cast off your last vestiges of ego, I'll bow down to your pussy power every hour.

DEE

Call me girlie one more time and Dee Majesty leaves.

KING

Boy, you've done good. You've found our new dream for the masses. You're the real goods, Missy. What we'll fabricate from here will be beyond compare.

(King snaps his fingers and I-DOLL trolls appear with a costume change.)

AMERICAN I-DOLLS

Pin the tail. Pin the tail.

KING

I never saw a first-time tail stand so high. Grrrrrr, give me something to gnaw. Sonny-boy, tie a silk bow to that! Brava, my dainty puss. We'll top the charts.

DEE

Listen up, dear Dad. I want to be more than just one of you - I want to be the one who rules you all! Queen of Pop and Lordess of Soul! I marry your son and all your kingdom is mine.

KING

Half - until I'm gone. Then it's all yours. Deal?

DEE

How long does a king I-DOLL hang on?

PRINCE VERDE

Let's get to it. It's makeover time for my princess bride.

AMERICAN I-DOLLS

DO IT. DO IT. DO IT.

KING

Yes, makeover time. Missy Majesty, do you know the difference between a talented woman and an I-DOLL Supreme?

DEE

Mmmmmm, maybe. You tell me.

KING

A talented woman believes the truth is all she needs. But we Supremes - we believe our needs are the only truth to seed! And what we need is never enough!

AMERICAN I-DOLLS

NE'ER ENUFF. NE'ER ENUFF. NE'ER ENUFF.

KING

GRAHRYWARG. Y'R KING IS TALKIN' HERE.

(The I-DOLL trolls put a lid on it.)

KING

(*sweetly*) Tell me, d'majesty, do you believe if you desire, you deserve?

DEE

I deserve more than the world can give. And what I deserve is: NE'ER ENUFF.

DEE and AMERICAN I-DOLLS

NE'ER ENUFF. NE'ER ENUFF. NE'ER ENUFF.

KING

Let the nuptials begin! Make room for the dance!

DANCE MUSIC: (The King sits Dee on his lap on the throne. A big-wigged drag show begins. Verde enters dressed as a great BIG PLASTIC DOLL. Plastic is key. Not human. Beyond Ken Doll plastic. He's also half groom and half bride.)

DEE

What kind of drag is this?

VERDE

I'm dragging the groom. And I'm dragging my future bride. I'm dragging Holy Matrimony!

DEE

Carry on without me then.

KING

Without you?

DEE

Drag really isn't my thing.

KING

But we insist. To rule the marketplace, you must become everything we need you to be. That's what makes us dolls. Time to go from raw goods to I-DOLL Supreme. The makeover will be quick, if a little mean.

DEE

Um, no makeover for me. I like me as I am.

KING

My darling girl, your uniqueness got you here, it's true. But now you must rise above your individuality to become a juggernaut: the queen of all I-DOLL Supremes. We'll take out a few ribs, pull some teeth, burn down scoop your thighs, plump your tush, balloon your breasts, plug your butt and, yes, remove that unneeded over-active brain. It won't take long.

SONG: MISSY SUPREME

KING

A LITTE SLIT TO THE RETINA
A TENDER SNIP TO EACH EAR LOBE
FORK THE TONGUE
TWIST THE NIPPLE
POP THE BUTTON FROM THE READY BELLY
SLICK BACK THE HAIR
BEDAZZLE DOWN THERE
SAY YES, DARE
DOUBLE DARE, MY DEAR
BE OUR DREAM SUPREME

DEE

No, thank you. This is not my dream.

KING

THERE'S ONLY ONE DREAM. THE DREAM SUPREME!!!!!!

AMERICAN I-DOLLS

SAY YES - DARE
DOUBLE DARE, MY DEAR
BE OUR DREAM SUPREME

DEE

No slit, snip, fork, twisting for me. Time for me to go.

PRINCE VERDE

GO?! YOU PROMISED TO BE MY LOVE SUPREME!

KING

We just signed you as our new Dee Majesty, I-DOLL Supreme. We've got an iron clad contract, honey. Inclusive. Non-disclosive. "All who enter are owned." See, it says so right there. Binding for a thousand years.

DEE

I never signed anything...

KING

You can lie your way in. But you've got it wrong if you think telling the truth can get you out. The doors here are sealed just like our contracts.

DEE

I'm a free agent.

KING

FREE???????!
NOW YOU HAVE MADE ME ANGRY.
SUPREMELY, SUPREMELY, ANGRY
SLIP SIDE MISSY
YOU THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING,
KEEPING YOUR CHINNY CHIN CHIN CLEAN?
IT'S WHAT WE PATRIARCHS HATE
ABOUT YOUR KIND. YOU FEMS
WHO REFUSE TO BE OUR DREAM SUPREME
YOU TAKE AND TAKE AND TAKE
AND THEN THINK YOU CAN SLIP SLIDE MISSY AWAY
NOT TODAY!

DEE

Don't call me, Missy. You're not my Daddy.

KING

CRY ALL YOU WANT. PRAY 'TIL YOU'RE BLUE.
WE'RE NOT MOVED BY YOUR MISSY BOO HOO HOOS.

DEE

I never signed away my freedom!

KING

You gave up your freedom the minute you chose to be our Dolly Supreme.
You can't beg, con, or lie your way out now.

DEE

Can I pray my way out?

ALL

HA HA HA HA HA HA.

KING

YOU CAN'T PRAY TO DIVINITY IF YOU ONLY BELIEVE IN YOURSELF.

DEE

What if someone else prays for me? MAGIC MAN!

KING & I-DOLLS

**FORK THE TONGUE
TWIST THE NIPPLE
POP THE BUTTON FROM THE READY BELLY
SLICK BACK THE HAIR
BEDAZZLE DOWN THERE
SAY YES, DARE
DOUBLE DARE, MY DEAR
BE OUR DREAM SUPREME**

DEE

PRAY FOR ME! MAGIC!

(Pete (Magic) Pentecost appears.)

SONG: TWO HANDS IN PRAYER:

MAGIC

**HAVE YOU EVER HEARD...
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD...
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD...**

DEE

TWO HANDS IN PRAYER

MAGIC

**HAVE YOU EVER LISTENED
HAVE YOU EVER LISTENED**

DEE
LISTEN LISTEN LISTEN

KING, VERDE AND TROLLS
Ah! Ow! Our ears! Our ears!

MAGIC
HAVE YOU EVER LISTENED
TO A MORNING'S CARESS

KING
Stop that! You're making our ears bleed! Beelzebub help us!

DEE AND MAGIC
HAVE YOU EVER DARED
HAVE YOU EVER DARED

PRINCE VERDE
Daddy! Make her stop! She's killing us!

DEE AND MAGIC
HAVE YOU EVER DARED
HEAR THE QUIET OF YOUR HEART

KING
STOP WITH THE SINCERITY. YOU WIN. GO FREE!

(Church bells ring. Dee is ejected out of the kingdom and back into the world.)

Scene Ten: The boy

(Dee hears a noise. Frightened of being arrested, she quickly hides. A boy enters. He too looks like a runaway. He sits from hunger. Dee throws a Snickers bar at him. He eats it greedily. They size up each other.)

DEE
You look like a hunted animal.

BOY
Have you ever been called by the wrong name?

DEE
Every day.

What? BOY

No Good. Get Outta Here. Slut. Bitch. Cunt. DEE

Yeah, me too. But worse. BOY

Sure. Where's your home? DEE

I don't have one. I was told I don't deserve one. BOY

Everyone deserves a home... DEE

Not f you're hated. Don't you see what's stamped on my forehead? BOY

There's nothing stamped on your forehead. DEE

F – A – G. BOY

There's nothing there. DEE

(The boy takes out a knife.)

What are you doing?

I want to be control of what's cut on my forehead. BOY

(The boy moves to carve into his forehead.)

Stop! STOP! In the name of... DEE

(Dee grabs the knife and takes it from the Boy. It cuts her hand.)

Fuck. Ow.

BOY

Sorry. Why'd you do that? Sorry. Sorry.

DEE

I didn't want you to fuck up your forehead. God damn. That cut deep.

(The boy tears his shirt and bandages her hand.)

BOY

Sorry. Sorry sorry sorry.

DEE

Don't you know what's truly written on your forehead, you stupid fuck?

BOY

What?

(Dee kisses the boy's forehead.)

DEE

Holy One.

BOY

Bullshit.

DEE

Don't bullshit me.

BOY

WHAT GOOD EVER CAME FROM BEING HOLY IN THIS WORLD!

DEE

What good...? You little shit...No. I'm d'shit. Listen. I have a great gift for reading foreheads. You have greatness in you. And gifts you'll only realize when you give them to someone you love.

BOY

Are you an angel?

DEE

Do angels bleed?

(The boy impulsively hugs her and exits.)

Okay.

Okay. This next song is for you, future fan. If I'm going to prove everyone wrong, I'd better write some songs. Focus. Get strong. Make a home. Shelter myself.

Scene Eleven: SONG: *SHELTER MYSELF*

(We are now in a 90's sensibility. Funk is in the house, if it hasn't yet arrived. By the end of the song, a small house is built.)

**DEE
I'LL DO ONE THING
ONE THING SOLID AND GOOD**

**LAY A FLOOR
BUTTRESS WALLS
RAISE A ROOF
SHELTER MYSELF
BE AN ARCHITECT
MAKE MYSELF A HOME**

**IF I HAVE THE STRENGTH
IF I HAVE THE WILL
IF I HAVEN'T TOSSED MY HEART AWAY
TOSSED OUT OF BED
TOSSING WITH BOYS AND GIRLS I BARELY KNOW
SCREAMING OF PARADISE, BARED FOR ALL TO SEE
TEARING DWN BEAMS, RIPPING OPEN THE SKY
SEEING MY HEART
ROCKET GOOD-BYE
LAY A FLOOR
BUTTRESS WALLS
RAISE A ROOF
SHELTER MYSELF
BE AN ARCHITECT
MAKE MYSELF A HOME**

**I'LL DO ONE THING
ONE THING SOLID AND GOOD
TEAR OFF MY CLOTHES
PEEL BACK MY SKIN
BREAK OPEN THIS CAGE
THESE GENESIS RIBS
SHOW THE WORLD
MY DIAMOND HEART IS NOT A LUMP OF COAL**

**A DIAMOND
A DAZZLING THING
I'LL BLIND THE WORLD
I'LL SHOW THEM
I'LL DARE**

I'LL DO ONE THING
ONE THING SOLID AND GOOD
LAY A FLOOR
BUTTRESS WALLS
RAISE A ROOF
SHELTER MYSELF

(Dee uses the boy's knife to carve the word FAITH above the door.)

Scene Twelve: Magic Chooses Dee

I've found you.

MAGIC

Are you a hallucination?

DEE

No one thought I should look.

MAGIC

What are you? Devil or an angel? Have I lost my mind?

DEE

Angels and devils aren't real. I'm real.

MAGIC

Impossible.

DEE

What?

MAGIC

You found me.

DEE

You called for me -

MAGIC

No.

DEE

Do you think it was chance that brought me? I chose. I braved the darkness. I knew if I was silent and listened, your prayers would lead me to you.

MAGIC

DEE

I never prayed...

MAGIC

I remember when I first saw you; I thought this girl has the meanest forehead I've ever seen, so dark and angry at God. I wanted to run away. But then, there in your eyes, I saw an angel's smile.

DEE

We're not a good pair. Listen, you're not safe with me. God turned His back on me long ago and all the world is my enemy.

MAGIC

Nonsense.

DEE

Nuh-uh.

MAGIC

Shhh.

DEE

I won't shhh.

MAGIC

I promised your mother I'd see to it you'd make good.

(Magic enters the house.)

DEE

You promised my mother?

MAGIC

I have faith. Where do I put my things?

(Magic is no longer visible; Dee remains outside.)

DEE

What's happening? Can this be real? God, are you allowing me grace or playing a trick? Which is it?

PRINCE VERDE

(to musicians:) One, Two, Three...

(Prince Verde enters. Magic can be seen in the warm light of the house's interior.)

Scene Thirteen: Unlucky in love

(We're nearing the Millennium. The end of sense as we've known it.
Post-modern musical traps can be anywhere.)

PRINCE VERDE

Hello my little bride and monster creation.

DEE

No one created me but me myself!

PRINCE VERDE

Nice try. I'm pregnant with your brat. I'm about to give birth. Hurray for science.

DEE

Not possible.

PRINCE VERDE

Daddy stole an egg from you, made me fertilize it in a dish, and sewed it my lower intestine. We're about to have a family.

DEE

I'm not going for Dee Majesty anymore. I'm starting a different...life. I'm putting someone else before me for a change.

PRINCE VERDE

Your Brat will still be your Brat.

DEE

Abomination.

PRINCE VERDE

Is that so? O – I see, I spy, a pretty little silly in a window. You got yourself a Magic Righteous Holy Man? So, you want to play house after all? Girl, stop pretending. You and I were meant for each other. You, me, and our child. Ooooooh. I'm feeling something.

DEE

Constipation.

PRINCE VERDE

Labor pains.

DEE

Don't you dare give birth here. This is my shelter. My happiness.

PRINCE VERDE

All fantasy. Ohhhhh. Invite us inside. We about to be one big happy family.

DEE

I'll get the ax. I'll ax you both.

PRINCE VERDE

Give the ax to our baby boy. He can use it as a teething ring.

DEE

Why can't you give birth without me? Why seek me out? Please, let me have my happiness.

PRINCE VERDE

It's your proximity to happiness that's making me go into labor, bith. Ohhhh. Ohhh. Ohhh. Everytime you're happy without us, we balloon up with our GREAT NEED TO BE WHAT MAKES YOU DEE. WE NEED TO BE NEEDED, DEE. FUCK. HERE COMES OUR BABY!

DEE

Why must the innocent suffer -

PRINCE VERDE

Said the Jackson to their father!

DEE

Keep this abomination inside you. Please! He must never see this came from me! I swear to you, I'll make you regret you ever...

PRINCE VERDE

Regret? Now there's a burr of a word. You want to go through life without it, but it sticks to your socks anyhow.

SONG: HOT 'N' BOTHERED

SIT BESIDE YOUR FAITH AND LOVE
BABY GIRL
SIT BESIDE THE FIRE
BE THE WOMAN OF THE HOUSE
TENDER AND STRONG
DO YOU THINK I'LL STAY PUT WHILE YOU FUSS
WHILE YOU LAP UP TOASTY HAPPINESS
I WANT MY SHARE, WIFEY
MY SHARE, DEAR MOMMY
LET LOVELY HERE
POKER THE FIRE

**I'LL GRAB A HOT LOG
AND STICK IT UP
YOUR TRUE DESIRE
GETTING HOT 'N' BOTHERED?
GETTING HOT AND BOTHERED
GETTING HOT AND BOTHERED
GETTING HOT AND BOTHERED
GETTING HOT AND BOTHERED**

DEE

Go away! Or I'll...

**BASH MY SKULL?
PIN ME DOWN?
LAUGH A LITTLE
O, COME ON.
WIN WIN WIN
SIN SIN SIN
BE MY RIGHTFUL LOVER AGAIN
GETTING HOT 'N' BOTHERED?**

DEE

Please, go. I've changed.

**GETTING HOT AND BOTHERED
GETTING HOT AND BOTHERED
GETTING HOT AND BOTHERED
GETTING HOT AND BOTHERED**

DEE

I've changed.

PRINCE VERDE

Saying it twice doesn't make it real.

**BASH MY SKULL?
PIN ME DOWN?
LAUGH A LITTLE
O, COME ON.
WIN WIN WIN
SIN SIN SIN
BE NEEDY GREEDY DEE AGAIN
GETTING HOT 'N' BOTHERED?**

DEE

I'm with a man I love. Show mercy. Leave me his Faith in me.

PRINCE VERDE
WHEN YOU TAKE YOUR KIND GROOM TO YOUR FEATHERED
BED, MAKE ROOM
YOUR BABY AMBITION WILL BE CLIMBING IN
GETTING BIG
HANGING ON
WANTING MORE
MORE, BABY, MORE
THERE'S NO END
TELL YOUR MAGIC MAN
HE CAN'T GIVE YOU WHAT YOU NEED
"CAUSE YOU'RE ALWAYS
NEVER ENDING - EVER LASTING – DEE
GETTING HOT 'N' BOTHERED

(Prince Verde gives birth to a monster: Brat Ambition. It cries out.
Dee attacks it with an ax. Prince and Brat run for their lives)

DEE
He must never know what I'm capable of...

(She kisses her fingers and touches them to FAITH carved on the door.)

Good-bye, faith and home.

Hello, cruel world. I guess its me and you again.

(All music stops.

Dee exits.
Magic appears at the window.
They gather up the teeth and exit.

Dee has returned home. Bess is sick, in her literal deathbed.)

Scene Fourteen: Good-bye

DEE
Mommy. I'm home. Don't be mad at me. I need money. Nothing's worked out, but that's because I was too naïve.

BESS
Who is it? Is it the postman? Have you brought me a letter from my daughter? She's a big success in LA and all the world, but she still takes time to write me everyday.

(Dee feels her mother's forehead.)

DEE

Mama, what's going on...you're burning up.

BESS

She said she wanted to fly me out for Christmas. And I said, I'm not spending Christmas in LA with palm trees and heathens. Not me. You want Christmas, you fly home to me. You come home, Dee.

DEE

Mommy, I am home. It's me. I'm sorry I hurt you. I'm sorry I walked out on you like Daddy did.

BESS

Hello. Did the Church send you to check up on me?

DEE

I'm Dee.

BESS

O, it's you. I thought Death herself was coming for me.

DEE

Don't talk like that. I've come to say good-bye.

BESS

Where are you going?

DEE

I'm going to all the places you told me about when I was a little girl. Remember, you told me my bed was a carriage harnessed to ten white stallions. You flicked a whip, our horse flew through the window, and we flamed over the sun. At night, we wore cloaks covered in stars. The Emperor of Jupiter surrendered the skies to you.

BESS

Many a black knight fell at our feet.

DEE

Everyone marveled at Dee Majesty and her Mama Supreme. Well, I went out and made it all come true. I conquered the world.

BESS

You did? Baby girl...I'm so proud of you...

(Bess's body is wracked with a coughing fit.)

BESS

My baby girl is a success, but she's back here with me where she belongs.
I can go in peace.

DEE

Go!? You can't go. Are you no longer an agoraphobe?

BESS

Good-bye, my dear girl. Where I go next, I go alone.

DEE

Alone? Am I not Dee Majesty? I've hired a white limo to take you to heaven-

BESS

It's too high. I want to lie down.

DEE

Look - everyone's coming out of the factories to wave. None of them have even been invited to the Castle on the Great Lake in the Sky. We're in our Pink Convertible Cadillac. Top down. I'm speeding up – let's race the last beam of the sun.

BESS

Hold me in your arms, my darling daughter.

DEE

Mommy, don't go. I was wrong. I still need you...

BESS

I'm so sorry, my darling. I wanted to give you the world. I gave you nothing.

DEE

Not true, not true. It's me who should give you everything, prove your faith in me.

BESS

You're here with me. That's all the proof I need.

(Bess dies.

The world closes around Dee. Dee closes her mother's eyes.)

SONG: DREAMS OF SUCCESS

DEE

**TREAT HER TO STRAWBERRIES AND CREAM
SHE MIGHT SEEM COARSE, EXTREME -
SHE CAN GIVE A BEATING, BUT HER HEART
FLUTTERS LIKE THE DOVE OF THE ARK-
ONE OF GOD'S FAVORITE MESSENGERS.**

Not so fast, Mommysack - your driver hasn't been paid. One kiss.

(She kisses Bess.)

**UGLY LITTLE MOMMY, I KNOW YOU'LL BE MAKING MERRY
WITH THE BEST, THEY'LL KEEP YOU BUSY WITH ALL
THEIR FESTIVITIES, BUT WHEN THINGS SLOW DOWN A BIT,
AND YOU SNEAK AWAY TO REST
REMEMBER TO DREAM OF YOUR GIRL
FLUNG FAR OUT INTO THE WORLD
YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED BY WHAT YOU'LL SEE
THE WORLD WILL BE AT HER FEET
YOUR DAUGHTER WILL BE THE SUCCESS
YOU SHOUTED SHE'D BE
THE DAY SHE WAS BORN
A LITTLE SACK OF DREAMS
THE DAY I LEARNED
ALL DREAMS WAR
WITH ALL THINGS SMALL
AND ALL THINGS LARGE
IT'S TIME MY DESTINY WAS ADDRESSED
TIME I SHOT PAST THE LIES AND THE TRASH
MAJESTY DOES NOT REST
MAMA IN HEAVEN, THE NEXT TIME YOU SEE ME
YOU'RE GOING TO SHOUT THE SHOUT YOU SHOUTED
WHEN YOUR EYES FIRST CAUGHT SIGHT OF YOUR BABY DEE:**

**SUCCESS! SUCCESS! SUCCESS!
SUCCESS! SUCCESS! SUCCESS!
SUCCESS! SUCCESS! SUCCESS!
SUCCESS! SUCCESS! SUCCESS!
SUCCESS! SUCCESS! SUCCESS!
SUCCESS! SUCCESS! SUCCESS!
I'LL BE BETTER THAN THE BEST!
I'LL BE MORE THAN YOUR DREAMS.
I'LL BE YOUR SUCCESS!**

(End of act one. Intermission.)

ACT TWO

(Dee, in a very fine suit, stands at the center of a table beneath a canopy, flanked by businessmen from all over the world to a private island. They are very self-satisfied and rich and privileged.)

SONG: CALL OF DREAMS

DEE

**WHEN I WAS YOUNG I ANSWERED THE CALL OF DREAMS
I SOUGHT OUT EV'RY PLATINUM SUPREME
I LISTENED TO EV'RY SIREN'S SCREAM
WHAT GOOD DID IT DO ME**

CAPITALISTS

**HUMANITY'S PROGRESS MUST BE REVERSED
HUMANITY MUST GO BACKWARDS
AND THAT IS WHY
WE'RE ALL FOR THE RIGHT
MORALS MONEY MIGHT
MEDICIS UNITE
AND WE THOUGHT YOU WERE TIGHT**

DEE

**ABOVE ALL ELSE MY CAPITALISTS
THE SELF MUST BE FREE
IF SOMETHING KEEPS YOU FROM WHAT YOU WANT
CUT YOURSELF FREE
GET WHAT YOU NEED**

DEE

And what does anyone need?
ME!
MORE ME!
MORE ME EVERYDAY!

How did I get here? I followed one rule.
What's best for Dee is best for everybody. Checks and balances?
The Empire of Dee is not a Republic or a Democracy.
Let little people cling to their pretty words: inclusion, equity, democracy.
Give me Capital. Property! Global Utopianism!

People say I've changed. I haven't changed. I always had Empire inside me.
You know the one thing I hate above all else?

CAPITALISTS

Charity?
Regulations?
Crying children?

DEE

Democracy!
Inclusivity!
Satisfaction!
Never satisfy!
Create THE GODDAMN NEED.
That's what makes Dee dee.
GODDAMN NEED.

And I've monetized the ME in NEED
And sold it you all as spiritual necessity!

**WE MUST CREATE MORE AND MORE NEED.
MORE DEE DEMAND FOR ME.
DE DEE DEE DEE.
THAT'S THE DREAM!
LADY GODIVA RIDES HER PONY IN FLAMES
I SUGGEST WE CALL HER BY HER TRUE NAME**

CAPITALIST

Mommy?

DEE

**MAJESTY
EMPRESS
MY ONE AND ONLY
NEED
ME
DEE
YES, THAT'S ME**

DEE

Shut your eyes, gentlemen. And when you do, dream of me, and everything I offer you.
Let's drink. More top-notch gin for everyone.

Where's Kwanda? How odd. Please, excuse me, my brave Dream-toppers. I'll find us
a servant and bring us back something with more bite.

(Dee exits.)

CAPITALISTS

(The fawning Capitalists drop their masks.)

Everything set?
Yes, it's time to act
She's forced our hand
We deserve what she's got
And she deserves what she'll get
Kwanda's been paid.
Her morning toast and jam were spiked.
Death by intestinal pain.
The banks have been told. The Media will explain.
We'll get executive control of everything.
Let's give her the slip and board the helicopter.
I love a covert coup in the morning!

**BYE BYE, DEE SUPREME,
EMPRESS GODEEVA,
RULER OF NOTHING!
BYE BYE, DEE SUPREME,**

(We hear a helicopter. The Capitalists exit to the helicopter and take off.
Dee enters.)

DEE

Gentlemen, a green-eyed chimpanzee was lying dead on my breakfast table.
It seems to have taken a drink of my breakfast strawberry banana smoothie.
Which must have been laced with poison.
Gentlemen, I believe someone might have attempted to poison me?
Who could it be?

O, my goodness, do you think whoever it was might have also laced the champagne?

(The gentlemen look to each other, their throats do feel itchy.
Their throats become enflamed. They die a terrible death.)

Never underestimate a bitter goddess, she's a nightmare if she sniffs anyone trying to
piss on her dreams!

(Stage monkeys clear the stage.)

The corporate media did not let me explain my massacre of the capitalists.
I had to erase my identity and escape. I decided to name myself Mistress Sphinx and hide out in the
desert, my wealth save in off shore off planet accounts. I expected in forty days or forty years, I
would return. Meaner than ever. I will win in the end!

DEE

This musical will not end to every last disbeliever believes in me!

(Penny Pentecost enters.)

PENNY

My brother gave up his collar for you.
And now he's a hermit in a cabin in the woods in the mountain.
Everyone fears he'll go mad, like the Unabomber.
All out of love for you.
I too believed.
I told him yes, he should choose you.

And now...

You say this is what you want, but I've seen the home you made, where my brother lives on in the hope that God will forgive him and you'll love him once again. Until you tell him you don't love him and never will, he lives on in his belief that one day you will return to him!

Sure.
The 1% deserve to be poisoned on their own champagne.
Down with the patriarchy!
Only women will bring us equity and inclusivity!
Being a bitter goddess doesn't make you a feminist heroine.
A selfish bitch is still a selfish bitch.

(Penny exits.)

DEE

WAIT. Leaving him was my one act of selflessness!

Doesn't that get me any credit at all...

So what do I do in Purgatory...

(A lizard joins her.)

I can be more selfless than anybody.
My selflessness will be the best selflessness this world has ever known.

I'll sit here as happy as the lizard.
We sit in the sun.
We exist.
The fact that we want nothing more than to exist makes us both very wise.
Lizard.
You're changing colors too.

DEE

Lizard.

I need be nothing more than be a lizard like you.

Exist, o, wise one.

Want nothing more.

(Dee strips down. She sits Yoga style, a desert Sage in swaddling.)

I bet people would pay to listen to someone who has found so much wisdom from turning her life around and becoming as selfless as me.

(Two Thieves enter carrying heavy loot between them.
They are distraught, and see Dee and fall at her feet.)

BROTHER 1

Trust me, brother. Relent.

BROTHER 2

Trust me first. We're spent.

BROTHER 1/BROTHER 2

We need a spiritual guide!

DEE

O, that's me!

BROTHER 1

We stole. We killed.

BROTHER 2

He wants the booty, none of the blame.

BROTHER 1

He can't be trusted, he has no shame.

BROTHER 2

It's not who we are, who we're meant to be.

BROTHER 1

The serpent is wrapped around us.

BROTHER 2

We feel it squeeze.

BROTHER 1

He's waiting to rob my grave.

BROTHER 2
He plots to murder me.

BROTHERS 1/BROTHERS 2
WE CAN'T SLEEP.
WE CAN'T GO ON THIS WAY.
HELP US.

BROTHER 2
Bring us back to our true selves. Please.

BROTHER 1
Bring us back to God.

BROTHER 1/BROTHER 2
SAVE US FROM OURSELVES!

(Dee takes her time to think.)

DEE
Take all.
Or nothing.

BROTHER 1
Oh.

BROTHER 2
Wow.

BROTHER 1
Holy words.

BROTHER 2
I agree.

DEE
Give all.
Or have nothing.

BROTHER 1
My brother...

BROTHER 2
My brother...

BROTHER 1/BROTHER 2
I give you...

DEE
I'm going to get some credit for this reconciliation.

ALLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLL

(At the same time, both Brothers pull out a long knife.)

BROTHER 1/BROTHER 2
NOTHING! NOTHING!
NOTHING! NOTHING!
NOTHING! NOTHING!

(They stab each other at the same time and fall dead.)

DEE
At least they agreed.

I might need some lessons in prophetizing.
Find a Master. Learn at their feet.
But true learning require an investments.
I may need some funds.

(She takes the dead brothers' loot.)

Blood money is cleansed when used to reach a higher state
of consciousness. Ask any church or university.
To be the famous Prophetess I was brn to be
I must accept it comes with Propheteering!

(She takes the thieves' booty.)

If only there was a holy man who could teach me...

Master! Teach me!

(Dee is transported to a tent in the dessert. A tired old cobra snake lies at the feet of the Prophet Salvation. He looks an awful like Magic Pentecost. He is surround by sacks of money/homage. Dee adds her sack to the rest.)

DEE
I'm here to learn from you, O Prophet Salvation.
Will you teach me true Prophet-dom?

Wait, have I met you before?

SALVATION

That's not for me to say.
The more I withhold, the more they adore.
The more I don't say, the more they believe.
To abstain is to achieve!

COBRA

The sun is hot.
The air is thick.
Your holy thoughts
must rescue us.

SALVATION

How spiritual of me to be what they need.
It's a lesson in reception, not deception.
I shall live my life as a Chosen One.
The Self surrenders. God's will be done.

COBRA

O, Prophet. O, sweet smelling sage.
O wizened actor of our temporal stage.
Mesmerize me,
your devoted snake.

SALVATION

This is why a man leaves home.
Prophets aren't born, they're made in adoration.
What is your name, my little cockatiel?

DEE

Anitra-dee - dark daughter of the hot sun.

SALVATION

Now, that has a nice ring.
Do you want to reach Paradise, my cooing dove?

DEE

How can I? I have no soul. I exist, but that's it.

SALVATION

O, yes - you exist:
Empty vessel,
Soulless delight,
Ride my prayers to the upper heights.

DEE
It wouldn't be right.

SALVATION
Nothing's wrong
when religion leads you on.

DEE
Are you leading me now?

SALVATION
Does the mouse lead the owl?

DEE
I don't follow - your meaning.
Enlighten me. Please.

SALVATION
Know thy wants or be deceived.

SONG: O, DIVINE ANITRA-DEE

**SALVATION
MY NEAT LITTLE ANITRA-DEE,
LET ME KISS
ALL YOUR PRETTY LITTLE TOES STANDING IN A ROW
YOUR RED RIBBON LIPS TIED IN A BOW
O YOU TIDY PATCH OF SPRINGTIME GREENS
YOU PEA-BLOSSOM, YOU GROWING BEAN
LET ME INTERTWINE YOUR TENDER SHOOTS
AROUND THESE STRONG ARMS OF MINE
O DIVINE ANITRA,
O SACRED VINE
O DIVINE ANITRA
O BE MINE**

**O DIVINE ANITRA,
O SACRED VINE
O DIVINE ANITRA
O BE MINE**

**YOU JASMINE - YOU PERFUME BENEATH THE STARS
OPEN YOUR YOUNG WHITE PINK BUDS
LET THE MOON WATCH ME LOSE MY MIND
O, YOU YOUNG TAUT VINE
PULL DOWN OLD PROPHECIES**

**A NEW TEMPLE WILL RISE
UP FROM THE GROUND
AND WORSHIP
DIVINE ANITRA
O DIVINE ANITRA
O SACRED VINE
O DIVINE ANITRA-DEE
O BE MINE
O DIVINE ANITRA
O SACRED VINE
O DIVINE ANITRA-DEE
O BE MINE**

DEE

I'm so unworthy of your attentions.
You are clean. Pure. I'm a lowly dirty girl.

SALVATION

Let's switch roles. Let me be low and dirty.

DEE

Prophet, that can't be. I'm what I am, I can't change.
Prophet - is something wrong?

SALVATION

You think I'm old.
Let me show you how foolish I am.
It's only fools who stay forever young.
Watch how foolish I can be.
Watch me stay forever young!

(He dances in wild abandon and pulls a muscle or throws out his back trying to impress her. Dee puts on all his robes and jewels as he dances.)

SALVATION

DEE-VINE ANITRA-DEE...

DEE

I am not your divine Dee-Dee.
I am the Dark Daughter of the hot sand.
Goddess of Enlightenment.

(She has all his goods, waves good-bye, and exits.)

SALVATION

O, shoot. Must enlightenment always end in mockery?

(Dee is transported to the Sphinx.)

DEE

I'm too advanced to learn from a fellow fallible human being. If I want answers from beyond my ken I must seek them from a legend larger than Dee the Celebrity.

I went to the original source of all womyn wisdom before man usurped her. Madame Sphinx, at last we meet.

VOICE

Who are you?

DEE

She speaks? O speak again...

VOICE

Not she. It's me.

DEE

Who?

CLAIRE VOYENT

(revealing herself:) Claire here. How do you do? I'm keeper of all those who know themselves to be complete. Are you complete?

DEE

I'm Dee, maker of my own destiny.

CLAIRE VOYENT

How wonderful to be so thoroughly convinced it's you. I'm not always convinced I'm me.

DEE

Dr. Livingstone, I presume?

CLAIRE VOYENT

Claire. Dr. Claire Voyent. But then, perhaps I'm not. But I must be someone? Who?

DEE

Ask the Sphinx.

CLAIRE VOYENT

Who? There's nothing there but sand?

DEE

Was she a mirage?

CLAIRE VOYENT

Aren't we all? Please, as Keeper of all those who know themselves, I invite you to join me and my friends in Cairo. The others have so much to learn from you. Yes, yes, you have unriddled more than the Sphinx today. You have convinced me I must live by your Philosophy.

DEE

My philosophy? I don't have one. Do I?

CLAIRE VOYENT

O, you do. Come, all the philosophers will want to meet you. You'll love the Philosopher's house. It's housed in the Pyramids. Or on the Internet. I never know which is which. The internet has porn and the pyramids have the secrets of the universe, or is it the other way around; you understand why I get the two confused. Come, come. You're sure to impress yourself on everyone. But ignore the gagged and tied. They'll only want to deny you who you are.

(Dee is transported. The inmates of the insane asylum fill the stage.
There may be doctors and guards gagged and tied as well, strewn about.)

Here's some slippers for your feet. You need a dinner jacket.

(They try to get her into a straitjacket but fail.)

Would you like a cigar? Listen up everyone. I present Dr. Dee. A round of applause, please. She really is Dee Shit.

DEE

Excuse me?

NONAME

If you're Dee Shit, who am I?

DEE

I've no idea...should I?

NONAME

After all I've done? It's maddening, why must I go unrecognized?

DEE

Maybe you need to do more?

NONAME

I've done important things. I have.

DEE

Give the cigar to him. He's done something. Only no one knows what it is.

NONAME

(pulling out little pieces of papers) I've written it down. I know I have. I'm responsible. Yes. For everything. I've built pyramids. I thought up the Vatican. I mapped out the mind of man. Do you know me now?

DEE

How can I, sir? I've never seen you on the cover of a magazine.

NONAME

WHAT! Does that make me any less who I am?

DEE

I'm afraid it does. We live in an insane age, I'm afraid.

NONAME

(searching through his jottings) But I was the one who told Darwin that things improve with age.

DEE

His name survived - yours?

NONAME

I ...I'm sure I wrote it down...I was hoping you'd know...please?

CLAIRE VOYENT

Here's an onion. Find yourself in it. Go to it.

(No Name quickly peels the onion layer by layer.)

DEE

How can a man forget who he is?

NONAME

I PEELED AWAY EVERY LAYER. I FOUND THE ONION'S CORE - HERE.

DEE

But there's nothing there.

NONAME

Thank you. Your truth has set me free.

*(NoName goes running and jumps out the window to his death below.
Big applause. They all surround Dee. She is frightened.)*

DEE

What is wrong with you people?

CLAIRE VOYENT

There are no people here. Only ideas.

DEE

Have you lost your mind?

CLAIRE VOYENT

Have you looked in the mirror? Ladies.

(The Philosophers come running, all carrying empty mirror frames and holding them up in front of themselves as they surround Dee. All look like her too.)

DEE

O my god.

CLAIRE VOYENT

No gods either.

DEE

Why are they all copies...of me?

CLAIRE VOYENT

Why? You're a celebrity!

SONG: I'M A CELEBRITY!

PHILOSOPHERS

**YOU ARE BRILLIANT
AND BEAUTIFUL TOO**

(DEE: Thank you.)

**WE'D GIVE UP EVERYTHING
TO BE EXACTLY YOU**

(DEE: That's so nice.)

**WHO WOULDN'T WANT TO REPLICATE YOU
FROM NOW ON NO OTHER WOMAN WILL DO**

**YOU ARE BRILLIANT
AND BEAUTIFUL TOO**

(DEE: That's enough)

**WE'D SUFFER ANYTHING
TO BE EXACTLY YOU**

**DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE
DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE**

**NOT A DAY GOES BY
A CROWD DOESN'T PRAISE YOUR NAME**

DEE DEE
DEE DEE
LET US PRAISE DEE, YES, ALL OF US
STARTING TODAY
DEE DEE
DEE DEE

LET'S ALL BE DEE – YES! - STARTING TODAY
DEE AND ME, WE'RE THE SAME

(DEE: Wait a minute.)

LOOK AT ME THAT'S ME AND ME
I'M A DEE LOOK AT ME

(DEE: We all can't be me
We can't all be celebrities.)

THAT'S ME AND ME
I'M A DEE LOOK AT ME
THAT'S ME AND ME
I'M A DEE LOK AT ME
THAT'S ME AND ME
I'M A DEE LOOK AT ME
THAT'S ME
AND ME
I'M A DEE

DEE

No one else can be Dee, but Dee herself. There's only one celebrity. Me!

PHILOSOPHERS

no one else – no one else
I'M DEE SHIT I'M DEE SHIT
celebrity – celebrity
can be Dee – can be Dee
ME. ME. ME. ME.
DEE. DEE. DEE. DEE.
ME. ME. ME. ME.
DEE. DEE. DEE. DEE.
ME. ME. ME. ME.
DEE. DEE. DEE. DEE.
ME. ME. ME. ME.
DEE. DEE. DEE. DEE.
O, THAT'S ME.
I AM THE CELEBRITY!
AND ME, THAT'S ME.
I AM THE CELEBRITY.

O, THAT'S ME.

I AM THE CELEBRITY!
AND ME, THAT'S ME.
I AM THE CELEBRITY.
ME ME ME ME
DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE
DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE
ME ME ME ME
DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE
DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE
 (DEE: NOOOOOOOO...)
DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE
DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE
 (OOOOOOOOOOOOOOO)
DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE
DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE

(They dance. Dee disappears and is trampled down in the dance and singing.
 They all exit like spinning dervishes.
 The spinning spins the Dee into the far reaches of outer space.
 A dog enters and licks Dee's face. Dee wakes.)

	DEE
Where am I?	
	DOG
I'm a dog. Why ask me?	
	DEE
Have I arrived? Am I in the mind of God? The never-ending mystery of infinity...	
	DOG
Ecaps retuo fo nwonknu tsav eht. Dog fo dnim eht.	
	DEE
Is this the milky way? Am I in heaven?	
	DOG
Don't be so cliché.	
	DEE
What do I do now?	
	DOG
Time to be reborn!	

DEE

What are you talking about? I'm a motherless child.

DOG

I'm the avant-garde.

(A storm of black crows begins to gather.)

DEE

Whoa. What's happening? Black crows are never a good sign.

DOG

They peck out the eyes of all those who die unloved. Maybe we should go below...

DEE

I don't go below. If there's to be a storm, I want to meet it head on.

(As the storm of crows begins to flap and rage, a Buzzard appears. The dog barks.)

BUZZARD

.
Girl.
Girl.

DEE

Does he mean me?

BUZZARD

I'm talking to you.

DEE

Hide me.

DOG

We're in the Daddy of all storms. Baby, you're on your own.

(The dog exits.)

DEE

Who's there?

BUZZARD

It's me. Did I scare you? Going somewhere?

DEE

Get out of my way.

BUZZARD

Try another way. Go 'round.

(Dee picks up a stick and starts swinging away.)

O good, a new game. We don't want anyone to get bored.

DEE

Who are you?

BUZZARD

I'm the SIXTIES, BABY! Who do you think I am? I'm the Dodo Bird, baby. I'm the Buzz chasing the dream. Smoke in the water.

DEE

Not interested.

BUZZARD

I'm...

DEE

I said not interested.

BUZZARD

I'm...

DEE

Not...

BUZZARD

...myself. You know me. I'm the Thing you never see. I'm the snake without a skin.

DEE

Daddy.

BUZZARD

Embrace your father. Tony Amaro. The Frank Sinatra of nobodies.
It's you and me, babe. Embrace me. Embrace your father.

DEE

You're not my father. You're not my maker. You're not my reason and why.
You left me without love or a lullaby.

DADDY (BUZZARD)
DON'T THINK ABOUT ME
WHAT I DID OR DIDN'T DO FOR YOU
I LEFT YOU, IT'S TRUE
WHEN NO ONE SHOULD
FORGET ME
THINK ABOUT YOU
WHAT YOU WILL DO
IF YOU

BELIEVE, BABY, BELIEVE
EV'RY WRONG WILL BE TURNED RIGHT
BELIEVE, BABY, BELIEVE
EV'RY DREAM FIND ITS SPOTLIGHT
BELIEVE, BABY, BELIEVE
BELIEVE, BABY, BELIEVE
TURN MY WRONG INTO RIGHT
TURN YOUR HURT INTO YOUR MIGHT
GIVE THE WORLD YOUR LIGHT
O YES, LET YOUR DREAMS IGNITE
DEE-LIGHT
OH MISSY DEE
BELIEVE, BABY, BELIEVE
BE EVERYTHING YOU DREAM
BELIEVE, BABY, BELIEVE
BELIEVE, BABY, BELIEVE
YOU'RE YOUR DADDY'S
DIAMOND
A BRIGHT DAZZLING THING
YOU'RE YOUR DADDY'S
EV'RYTHING
D IS FOR DIAMOND
BELIEVE, DEE, BELIEVE
DADDY BE DAMNED
D IS DAZZLING
D BEGINS DIVINITY
YOU DEE ARE EVERYTHING
I EVER DREAMED

(Daddy/Buzzard is gone.)

DOG

Who loves you, baby?

DEE
NO ONE! NO ONE AT ALL!

DOG
Wrong answer.

(The crows fly in for the kill.)

DEE
I don't need any one. I've still got my dreams! I'll kick the world's ass and prove you all wrong!

CROWS
PECK PECK PECK PECK PECK PECK
PECK PECK PECK PECK PECK PECK
PECK OUT HER GIRLY EYES.
PECK OUT HER GIRLY EYES.
GIRLY EYES.
DROP HER HEART FROM THE SKIES.
PEARLY SKIES.
BREAK IT ON THE CARS BELOW.
CROW CROW CROW
KRYE KRYE KRYE KRYE KRYE KRYE
CROW CROW CROW CROW CROW CROW

DEE
NO. NO. NO. LET ME GO
I GOTTA GO. GO GO GO.

CROWS
NO NO NO
KRYE KRYE KRYE KRYE KRYE KRYE
KRYE KRYE KRYE KRYE KRYE KRYE

DEE
SHOO SHOO SHOO
WHAT'D I EVER DO TO YOU
YOU FRIGGING FECKIN FALCON KREW?

CROWS
KREW KREW KREW
SHOO SHOO SHOO
SCREW SCREW SCREW
YOU YOU YOU
PECK OUT HER GIRLY EYES.
PECK OUT HER GIRLY EYES.

GIRLY EYES.
DROP HER HEART FROM THE SKIES.
PEARLY SKIES.
BREAK IT ON THE CARS BELOW
CROW CROW CROW
SAVE HER FROM HER BAD MOJO
WO WO WO

SHOO SHOO SHOO
WHAT'D I EVER DO TO YOU
YOU FRIGGING FECKIN FALCON KREW?

DOG
THESE BIRDIES PREFER A DEAD GIRL'S MOJO
ANGELS COME SNIFF WHAT'S DOWN BELOW
BELOW BELOW BELOW

CROWS
LOW LOW LOW LOW LOW LOW
HO HO HO
CROW CROW CROW

DOG AND CROWS
PECK OUT HER GIRLY EYES.
PECK OUT HER GIRLY EYES.
GIRLY EYES.
DROP HER HEART FROM THE SKIES.
PEARLY SKIES.
BREAK IT ON HER MOTHER'S SIGHS. AYE AYE AYE
SLAP IT 'GAINST HER DADDY'S CRIES. KRYE KRYE KRYE.
AYE AYE AYE AYE AYE AYE AYE AYE AYE AYE AYE
KRYE KRYE KRYE KRYE KRYE DIE DIE

(Dee starts having a fit. The birds swoop down.)

DEE
NO NO NO
LET ME GO. GOTTA GO. GO GO GO.

DOG AND CROWS
NO NO NO
CROW CROW CROW CROW CROW CROW
CROW CROW CROW CROW CROW CROW

DEE

**SHOO SHOO SHOO
WHAT'D I EVER DO TO YOU
I WON'T BE SHAMED, BLAMED OR REARRANGED
DON'T CUSS ME OUT OR CALL OUT MY NAME TRY AND PECK
I'LL BREAK YOUR NECK**

(Church bells are heard.
A sudden calm takes over the stage.
Magic Pentecost is seen walking on water in space across the stage.)
The birds freak and fly away.
The dog takes off it's mask. She's Penny.)

DEE

Is this a trick? I don't like this...

PENNY

Let the pain go.
Open your heart.
Be reborn.

Take his hand.
Look in his eyes.
The calm in this storm won't last long.

REPRISE: TWO HANDS IN PRAYER

MAGIC

**HAVE YOU EVER HEARD
TWO HANDS IN PRAYER
HAVE YOU EVER LISTENED
TO A MORNING'S CARESS
HAVE YOU EVER DARED
HEAR THE QUIET OF YOUR HEART**

PENNY

Call to him now while you still can.

DEE

What happens to me if do?

DOG

Why are you taking so long!

(The storm of crows comes back full force. Magic disappears.)

(The storm of the crows blows Buzzard and Penny offstage.)

DEE

WAIT!

PENNY

Too late!

DEE

MAGIC!

BAND GOES MOTHER-EFFIN FREESTYLE:

(A WHITE OUT – BIG END OF THE UNIVERSE GUITAR SOLO.
FOLOWED BY THE BIG BANG. WHY NOT?

Or a really bad hangover. Dee is curled up in a fetal position.)

PENNY

No longer in the mind of God or the eye of the storm, our girl is transported back to Michigan, to a little cemetery near her hometown. She's no longer a young thing. She's old.

(A family of gay men stand around at a funeral. The group steps away from the new grave. One young man remains. Dee tries to read the inscription on the stone.)

DEE

Who's buried here?

YOUNG MAN

Someone who inspired me once, but threw her talent away.

DEE

How'd she do that?

YOUNG MAN

She never valued the love others offered her. Not even from her fans. I was president of the Dee Majesty fan club.

DEE

Damn.

YOUNG MAN

I know.

DEE

How'd she die?

YOUNG MAN

Everyone said accidental overdose. But I don't believe it.

DEE

What do you believe killed her?

YOUNG MAN

Her dreams.

DEE

What.

YOUNG MAN

That's what the D stood for. Dream. Dreamer.

DEE

She followed her dreams. Isn't that enough?

YOUNG MAN

Then why did her dreams come back one night and do her in?

DEE

How did they do her in?

YOUNG MAN

They ate her from the inside until she was hollow. I don't understand. She had everything. It breaks my heart. She saved my life.

(The young man sobs. Dee takes him in her arms. She kisses him on the forehead. His friends take him in their arms and they exit.)

DEE

I need a drink. Bourbon. Is there no dive nearby where an old broad can get a drink?

Closed?

Goddamn it.

(A dive-bar appears. A woman of spirit, swinging a fowling net. Wait – doesn't she look a lot like Dee's mother Bess?)

DEE

Mom?

BESS

Don't you Mom me. I'd never suckle a wormy thing like you.

DEE

I want my Mom.

BESS

Why do they always say that when it's too late?

Gonna catch me my bird. I got me a net.
Gonna clip its wings. Cage that budgie-boy.

(She bird-whistles.)

DEE

I need help. Forgive me!

BESS

Shhhhh, you'll frighten away my prey -

DEE

(*whispers*) Pray?

BESS

Prey not pray! To get out of purgatory, I have to catch rare and unusual birds.
The spirit world likes to stuff and mount them. Hang them on walls.

Now, shhhhh. Here birdie birdie birdie.

DEE

Can I help?

BESS

Be still. Here birdie birdie birdie.

DEE

Want to know what I've been doing since you went away?

BESS

You've looted and lusted. Used sex for gain. Cheated a prophet.
Told the mad they were sane. Anything else? Anything to make me proud?
You're an old egg that never hatched. AH, so, what kind of mother does that make me?
Let me tell you something. There are millions of you hatchless things in the world.

O, the human race. What's happened to the human race?

BESS

SONG: SOULS TODAY

WHERE ARE THE SINNERS
WHERE ARE THE PURISTS
WHERE ARE THE SOULS
WORTH NETTING TODAY *(repeat)*

FULL-THROATED BIRD
PLUMAGE OF BLACK
HEAR HOW THEY CRY
WATCH HOW THEY FLY
FULL-THROATED BIRD
PLUMAGE OF BLACK
HEAR HOW THEY CRY
WATCH HOW THEY FLY
TO DIE

BUT PEOPLE THESE DAYS
ALL THEIR NODES ARE INFLAMED
ALL THEIR CHORDS ARE ALARMED
FROM SHOUTING WERE HARMED
WHINING THEIR WORTH
AND BEGGING FOR MORE
ALL THE WORDS IN THEIR THROAT
EVERY BLEPPING NOTE

PEOPLE THESE DAYS
WITH THEIR SOULS LEFT UNSUED
HAVE NO SOULS AT ALL
YET SHRIEK OUT CONFUSED

PEOPLE THESE DAYS
ASK SOMEONE TO SING
SING WHAT YOU ARE
SING TO THE STARS
SING FROM YOUR HEART

WHERE ARE THE SINNERS
WHERE ARE THE PURISTS
WHERE ARE THE SOULS
WORTH NETTING TODAY

LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA *(repeat with audience.)*

(A flock of birds fly in and perch. Bess moves to net them.)

DEE

Why didn't you ever BELIEVE ME?!

(The birds fly away.)

BESS

When are you ever going to forgive me for giving birth to you?

DEE

What?

BESS

Come on, let's get a drink.

DEE

Since when do you...

BESS

You start doing all kinds of things in the afterlife. When I'm not trying to catch birdies, I'm pouring drinks. It all stinks. But we have to work off our debts. Come on. On the house. Come on.

Threadball Tavern:

(Dee encounters a group of old rock and rollers in a dive bar in the cemetery.)

DEEDS

Well, well, well, look what the cat dragged in. Buy us a drink?

TEARS

Look at you. You're so old. I had hoped you'd never age.

SONG

Where does the time go? Join us.

DEEDS

Drinks for everyone.

TEARS

You're so old. What happened to the Youth?

SONG

You've come back to us, just as we expected you would. You're among old friends. This calls for a song, too bad the piano's out of tune.

THOUGHTS

All these years I've been waiting to shake you.

(Thoughts grabs and shakes her violently,)

It's your fault I never got to exist! I'm the thoughts you pushed away. Bottled up. Denied. Jerked around. But never allowed. It was you who crippled me. I'll throttle you.

DEE

Get off me –

(Dee escapes her Thoughts and bumps into the imbibing Deeds.)

DEEDS

Let me introduce myself, I'm...

DEE

A drunk.

DEEDS

I'm the action you never took. Your deeds never done.
Achievements you forsook. I once was proud and strong.
But actions not taken atrophy. Vitality untapped ferments.
Nothing to do about it now. But drink. Whiskey.

SONG

All these years, I've waited for you to take me home.
Now, my beauty's gone
My voice is dry
I was to be the song in your heart -
When you were in your cradle
We rocked and smiled.
But you strangled me long ago.

THOUGHTS

Let me at her. I'll hit her with my broken leg.

(Tears takes Dee by the hand.)

TEARS

Why have you become a stranger to me?
No woman should be a stranger to her own Tears.
I could have washed your hurts away.
Melted the ice-shards that seized your heart.
Now it's too late. You're dry as desert bone.

(The door in the earth flies open. Bess appears.)

BESS

This tavern is closed. Last call was hours ago.

CROWD

BUT YOU NEVER POURED US A DRINK.

BESS

Maybe one day you'll catch on. Morons.

(Bee, the substitute daughter, appears.)

BEE

You heard my mother. Last call was hours ago. Tavern's closed.

DEE

Who's she?

BESS

That's Bee. A lie in my old age to comfort me. Bee, not Dee, is my true daughter:

DEE

You swapped me out?

BEE

Come on, Mama, time to go home.

DEE

She's not her true daughter. I am!

BESS

What do you want?

DEE

Forgiveness.

SONG: THIS TAVERN IS CLOSED

BESS (with CHORUS)
**THIS TAVERN IS CLOSED
EVERYONE GO HOME.
OH, THIS TAVERN IS CLOSED
EVERYBODY GO HOME**

**IF YOU HAVEN'T A HOME
GO TO HELL**

ENTOURAGE
We've nowhere to go. Her heart is closed.

DEE
Mamma, it's me. Give me a warm drink and one of your best fairy-tales.

BESS
**FAIRY TALE HELL, NO.
THIS TAVERN IS CLOSED.**

DEE
Mama, will you deny your daughter?

BESS
**I HAD A DAUGHTER
AND THEN A EVIL TRICK
A CHANGELING SWITCH
TOOK HER FROM ME.
I LOOKED IN THE CRADLE
AND WHAT I SAW
WAS NO BABY GIRL
BUT A SACK OF...**

DEE
Dreams.

BESS (with CHORUS)
**LIES.
THIS TAVERN IS CLOSED.
EVERYONE GO HOME.
OH, THIS TAVERN IS CLOSED
EVERYBODY GO HOME
IF YOU HAVEN'T A HOME
GO TO HELL**

(Bess returns to the earth. Bee closes the trap door.)

BEE
I'm sorry. You have to go now. The Threadbare Tavern is closed.

(Dee steps out of the dive bar. It disappears.)

DEE

Why did I come home? And to top it off: my teeth hurt.

(Dee sits on a grave. An aged Eddie Burywell and JJ enter with the daughter of Ingrid.)

JJ

Get off my wife's grave. Have some respect. Hey, don't I know you...

DEE

I'm a stranger here.

INGRID'S DAUGHTER

Forgive my father. He's drunk. Like always. Only today he's worse. I'm surprised Mother doesn't rise from her grave and kick him in the ass.

EDDIE BURYWELL

Ingrid...Ingrid...Ingrid...now death takes her from both of us.

JJ

You never had her.

EDDIE BURYWELL

I loved her once. That can never be taken from me.

(Eddie Burywell drops flowers and exits.)

JJ

I couldn't afford a stone, forgive me Ingrid.

INGRID'S DAUGHTER

It should be you in a ditch, not her.

(Ingrid's daughter exits. JJ, drunk, in mourning, sings to the departed Ingrid.)

SONG: LONG LEGGED INGRID

JJ

IT SHOULDN'T BE DEATH THAT KNOWS US BEST
IT SHOULD BE THE ONE WE'RE BORN TO LOVE
LET THE WORMS COME,
I HOPE THEY CAN PLEASE YOU
KICK IN YOUR GRAVE
KICK UP A RUCKUS
KICK TO HIGH HEAVEN

LET THE RAIN SPIT DOWN ON US, INGRID
THE SONG IS OVER
YOUR STORY'S DONE
LONG LEGGED INGRID
DID YOU HAVE ANY FUN?
LONG LEGGED INGRID
DID YOU LOVE ANYONE?
YOUR FATHER YOU HATED
YOUR HUSBAND BERATED
WHEN YOU TUMBLED DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAIN
YOUR HARD LIFE WAS FATED
YOU RAGED AND YOU SUED
SOMEONE OWED YOU BIG
BUT YOUR LOVELY LONG LEGS
NEVER JIGGED AGAIN
ONE MAN YOU DUMPED
A WOMAN BLEW BY YOU
AND I THAT YOU MARRIED
SOON GREW TIRED OF YOU
THE SONG IS OVER
YOUR STORY'S DONE
Oooooooh Ooooooh Ooooooh

(JJ exits. Dee is left alone on stage.)

CHORUS
Oooooooh Ooooooh Ooooooh

(A calm yet scary dentist approaches Dee.)

A DENTIST
Tell me something, d'majesty -

DEE
What. Don't mock me.

A DENTIST
Never. Tell me, after living a life, what is d'majesty's philosophy?

DEE
Stay ahead of the game.

A DENTIST
I don't play games myself. Never get the time. Okay, we've done the chit chat, let's move along. Game's up. You're to come with me.

DEE

What? Am I dead? No, fair. You snuck up on me. You took me unaware.

(She spits three times on his left shoe.)

A DENTIST

What are you doing?

DEE

Warding off death, Mr. Grim Reaper. Be gone!

A DENTIST

Interesting. But I'm a dentist, not Death. Well, not really a dentist. I collect teeth. Well, not teeth exactly. Souls. That were never realized. Kernels that never popped. Buds that never bloomed. You get the idea. I melt them down after I yank them out of their owners with these pliers. And then I re-sell the salvaged material. It's easier just to say dentist. I've come for your teeth. What's the matter?

DEE

Hold on, now. Say you couldn't find me.

A DENTIST

I'm afraid it's not up to you or me. It's in my order here, your name, all the talents wasted, all the second chances taken for granted, opportunities squandered, nch, nch, nch, every action deflated, every intimacy escaped, every investment unpaid.

DEE

Whoever wrote it down wasn't there.

A DENTIST

Listen, do you have any proof you realized your existence? That's all I need - but needed it is.

DEE

What if I can find you a witness?

A DENTIST

I'll give you to the next crossroads then. But if you fail, no more arguments.

(The dentist exits.)

DEE

Find or flee? Best to flee.

(Dee trips over a pile. A beggar rolls out of it.)

RETURN OF THE I-DOLL WARNER KING, NOW BEGGAR

BEGGAR/KING

I was here first. Get off.

DEE

Excuse me, I was trying to make my getaway.

BEGGAR/KING

All is forgiven. Got anything to spare?

DEE

Not while I live.

BEGGAR/KING

C'mon, sweetness, buy a Sheet? Help us out...wait an I-DOLL minute...is that you? Can it be? Dee Majesty? You're the one my son wanted to marry.

DEE

You're the King from Warner? Disney? Amazon? Googledom?

BEGGAR/KING

Was. Lost 'em. The Mountains. Bought out. Merger hell. Got dumped by my own grandkids. Christians all. Cross-kissing opportunists.

DEE

You know me then? Ah, I'm saved!

BEGGAR/KING

You? O, yeah. I kept tracked of you through the papers. One day, I said, one day, I'm sure she'll acknowledge who helped make her the big deal she is. You owe me. Pay up. At least buy me a drink.

DEE

Excellent. Then you can testify for me. There are some who think I never committed to being Dee Majesty. I could've been Queen of the I-DOLLS, but I wouldn't be cut, slit or plugged into a commodity. You can testify to how I remained true to myself.

BEGGAR/KING

Testify? To what? To how you never gave me credit for freeing you to become the I-DOLL you've become.

DEE

I said no to I-DOLL-dom. I stayed true to-

BEGGAR/KING

Your needs. I know. I-DOLL through and through. You and your offspring. You know what your Brat's done - grown up and populated all of America with the likes of you. AND NOT ONE SENDS ME A DIME OR BUYS ME A CELL PHONE.

DEE

No testimony from you. The dentist'll take all my teeth. Good-bye.

BEGGAR/KING

Are you leaving? Suit yourself. That leaves more applause for me.

REPRISE: DREAMS OF SUCCESS

**SUCCESS! SUCCESS! SUCCESS!
SUCCESS! SUCCESS! SUCCESS!
SUCCESS! SUCCESS! SUCCESS!
I'LL BE BETTER THAN THE BEST!
I'LL BE BETTER THAN YOUR DREAMS.
I'LL BE YOUR SUCCESS!**

Who am I kidding?

(Beggar/King exits. Dee reflects.)

DEE

Hey, everyone. At this time, I'd like to sing for you a new song.
It's taken my whole life to write it.
Magic Man, this one's for you:

SONG: AMARO AMORE

**DON'T INVEST IN HAPPILY EVER AFTER
THAT'S THE BITTER TRUTH
CONTROL THE NARRATIVE
CALL THE SHOTS
LOVE 'EM AND LEAVE 'EM**

**MAKE A STINK
POUR THE DRINK
CLINK CLINK**

**AMARO
AMARO AMORE**

**DECIDE YOUR DESTINY
YOUR FATE**

**NOT THE STARS. NOT PLAYING CARDS.
NOT GIVEN CIRCUMSTANCES
DON'T WAIT
LOVE'S A CON, ALWAYS ON THE TAKE
AND LEAVES YOU IN HER WAKE**

**MAKE A STINK
POUR A DRINK
CLINK CLINK
AMARO
AMARO AMORE
A WOMAN KNOWS
BITTERS MAKE THE DRINK
BITTER'S A VIRTUE
SUGAR'S A VICE
AIN'T I RIGHT?**

(I don't think I've ever been nice or right. Enough.)

**BEAT THE ODDS
NEVER THINK TWICE
DO WHAT IT TAKES
SACRIFICE**

**AMARO
AMARO**

**BEAT THEM BACK,
MARK THE DECK
LOAD THE DICE
SACRIFICE**

**AMARO
AMARO
MAMA'S DEAD
BOYFRIEND'S GONE
DO WHAT IT TAKES
SACRIFICE**

**AMARO
AMARO AMORE**

(For what's it worth, I was born to love and be loved in return.
Bitter truth, bitter birth...)

AMARO

**A WOMAN KNOWS
BITTERS MAKE THE DRINK
BITTER'S A VIRTUE
SUGAR'S A VICE
AIN'T I RIGHT?**

(Damn this ache. Regret was never the plan.)

**AMARO
AMARO AMORE**

**AMARO
AMARO AMORE
AMARO AMORE
AMARO
AMARO**

(The dentist enters.)

A DENTIST

Hello. Well?

DEE

Stop sneaking up on me. This isn't a crossroad. Give me a few moments more.

A DENTIST

You were given a life.

DEE

So, what's one moment more? Listen, what if I prove I was committed to sinning?

A DENTIST

Enough is enough.

DEE

Never enough...when have I said that before?

A DENTIST

Next crossroads. But I warn you, I have a quota to meet. Prove you committed to something. Prove you existed.

(The dentist exits.)

(From somewhere, young women can be heard singing Pentecost prayers.
Penny Pentecost is among them.)

DEE

These young girls singing. They remind me of something. Something I shouldn't forget.

PENNY

They're not singing, they're playing video games.

DEE

Wait. Why won't anyone answer my question?

(Tina exits with her empty net. Magic, now old and blind, enters.)

DEE

How does a girl know when she's realized herself?

PENNY

To realize yourself you must slay yourself.

DEE

Quotas and riddles. I know a Sphinx you should meet. What's that shadow?

PENNY

YOU MADE ME LOSE ALL MY POINTS! THE TROLLS BASHED MY HEAD IN!

(Penny exits, pushing aside a blind old man as she does.)

Outta my way, blind man. That old lady ruined my score and everything.

MAGIC (now old and blind)

I apologize.

DEE

Old woman? Does she mean me?

MAGIC

Hello. Someone there? Is this a crossroads?

(No answer.)

A dentist said someone was waiting for me here...?

Is that you?

I'm lost.

Could you lend me your arm and your eyes?

DEE
You found me...

MAGIC
Do I know you...?

DEE
Magic Man.

MAGIC
Impossible.

DEE
I left you...

MAGIC
What are you? Devil trick or God's messenger? A dying wish?
My last grace?

DEE
"Angles and devils aren't real. I'm real"

MAGIC
How did you find me?

DEE
You called to me. All these years. When I was lost, in danger, I held onto your
faith...are you crying?

MAGIC
I lost my faith. God and I parted ways years ago. I blamed Him. I fell in love. But I let her go.
And blamed Him for coming between us.

DEE
What happened to the girl you loved?

MAGIC
I don't know. I pray nothing but good. All good.

DEE
May you one day find your love again.

(He bends knee. He tries to pray. He cannot.)

SONG: BEND AND PRAY

CHOIR

**GET ON YOUR KNEES AND PRAY
IF YOU'VE FORGOTTEN HOW
BE STILL
THERE'S STILL LIGHT LEFT
IN THIS WINTER DAY**

MAGIC and CHOIR

**GET ON YOUR KNEES
AND PRAY
IF YOU'VE FORGOTTEN HOW
BE STILL
THERE'S STILL LIGHT LEFT
IN THIS WINTER DAY**

CHOIR

**PRAY. ON YOUR KNEES
LET'S PRAY. ON YOUR KNEES
LET'S PRAY AND BE STILL
PRAY. ON YOUR KNEES
LET'S PRAY. ON YOUR KNEES
LET'S PRAY AND BE STILL
PRAY. ON YOUR KNEES
LET'S PRAY. ON YOUR KNEES
LET'S PRAY AND BE STILL**

MAGIC

IF NO WORDS COME, WHISTLE... (Magic whistles.)

DEE

**WAS I EVER THE SHY GIRL
WHO HELD A HYMN BOOK
AND OFFERED HER HEART
NO, I WAS NEVER THAT GIRL
I WAS A YOUNG GIRL, LOST**

(She kneels next to him, And takes his hand in hers.)

SONG: TOUCHED GOD

**I REMEMBER I STARED
UP THERE, ON YOUR BROW
WAS GOD'S SMILE
OPEN, READY, FULL OF PLAY
AND THERE IN YOUR EYES
WAS GOD'S OFFER
EVERY OPENED HAND
AND EVERY OFFERED HEART
IS TOUCHED BY GOD
AND WHEN THE HEART BURSTS INTO FLAME
O HOLY PENTECOST
A SOUL NEEDS NO NAME**

DEE

Have you known me this whole time?

MAGIC

**WHEN YOU WERE QUIET, I HEARD YOUR DREAMS
WHEN YOU WOULD RIOT, I KNEW YOUR PAINS
WHEN YOU WERE LOST
I SURROUNDED YOU WITH PRAYERS**

DEE

**HOW YOUNG IS LOVE, HOW OLD IS DESTINY
BOTH ARE ONE AND THE SAME
YOU ARE MY ALL
MY SORROW AND MY FLAME**

DEE

You mean I could have loved you this whole time?

MAGIC

Yes, you could have loved me this whole time.
And you did. But we weren't together.

DEE

**HOLD ME
HOLD ME
MY CONSTANT
MY ONE AND ONLY LOVE
MY NORTH STAR**

CHORUS
IT'S TIME FOR PRAYER, TIME TO BE FOUND
YOU ARE MY ALL; HOPE, FAITH, AND LOVE
ALL ARE ONE AND THE SAME

DEE and CHORUS
O HOLY PENTECOST
A SOUL NEEDS NO NAME
YOU ARE MY ALL
MY SORROW AND MY FLAME

(Magic rests in Dee's embrace.)

End.
Encore.