

ELIXIR

Book, Lyrics & Music
by
Chuck Puckett

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Setting

Old King Cole's Castle in Rhimeland.

Time

Storybook Time.

Cast of Characters

Jill Trippley. The young heroine, on a mission to Rhimeland. A true heart, wants the best for everyone.

Jack Spragins. The young hero, on the same mission. A bit full of himself, and easily guiled.

Mother Goose. Who narrates the show.

Old King Cole. Ostensibly the young ruler of Rhimeland. Things are not always what they seem.

Old Mother Hubbard. The leader of the opposition to King Cole's rule. Things are not always what they seem.

Henry Eat. Mother Hubbard's henchdog. A mean 'un, he stands on his hind legs and talks.

Jack Binimble. ("Bi-NIM-ble") Spin doctor for King Cole. His prime minister, you might say.

Humphrey Dumpton. Rotund and fragile. And cracked. Ego is easily bruised. A good egg. Eggo. Whatever. The Dumpster.

Widow Shue. Got a lot of children. And wisdom.

Shue Children. These are them: Sue Shue, Boo Shue, FooFoo Shue, KooKoo Shue, Lulu Shue, Pooh Shue, Tutu Shue, Zuzu Shue and Woopie Shue.

Simon Pimon. Young, simple-minded lad, the king's fool.

Heywood Diddle. The king's fiddler, from the famous trio. A hep cat. NYC beatnik.

Pop Wietzel. Middle-aged man who wishes he could to be wed to the Widow Shue.

Mary Wooley. Had a little lamb.

Billy Blue. A shepherd. And a mean horn player. Has a Southern accent.

Missy Muffet. Sat on a tuffet. Has a thing about spiders.

Jack Horner. Friend of Humphrey Dumpton.

Willie Winkie. A tradesman with a thing for nightgowns.

Baba Black. The lady black sheep of the Black sheep family.

Townsfolk, Guards, Cool Cat Combo.

Musical Numbers

Act I

Scene 1.

"Rhimeland". Mother Goose, Mary, Horner, Muffet, Binimble, Diddle, Ensemble.

"Mother Goose Recap #1". Mother Goose.

"King Cole is Cool". Binimble, Cole, Hubbard, Ensemble.

"Old Widow Blues". Widow Shue.

"Shue Bop". Widow Shue and her children.

"Proclamation". Binimble, Cole, Horner, Simon.

"Elixir". Hubbard, Jack, Jill.

"Revoltin'". Jack, Ensemble

"Uphill". Jill, Jack.

Scene 2.

"Mother Goose Recap #2". Mother Goose.

"Ready for the Ball". Underscore

"Not What They Seem". Jill, Cole, Jack, Hubbard, Henry

"Fight or Flight". Underscore

"All Downhill From Here". Hubbard, Ensemble.

Act II

Scene 1.

"Mother Goose Recap #3". Mother Goose.

"Wish We'd Known". Dumpton, Mary, Muffet, Billy, Shue, Horner, Simon, Ensemble.

"I Could Be King". Jack.

"No Place For Me". Jill.

"We Are What We Do". Hubbard, Cole

Scene 2.

"Fight for Rhimeland". Underscore

"Young Again Forever". Cole, Jill, Jack, Ensemble.

"Jack and Jill Are Cool". Mother Goose, Binimble, Jill, Jack, Ensemble.

Scene Synopsis

Act I

Scene 1. Courtyard before the castle gate, a spring morning.

Scene 2. Same, that evening.

Act II

Scene 1. Courtyard, one morning several days later.

Scene 2. Courtyard, that afternoon.

Staging Notes

The play is written with a simple set in mind. All action takes place in the courtyard before Cole's castle. There should be a distinct entrance into the castle (as simple as an arch, as elaborate as a drawbridge). It would be preferable to have the well somewhat elevated (as if it were on a small rise or hill), and generally upstage center. The elevation is not absolutely necessary, however. A drop implying mountainous terrain (clouds?) Would not be inappropriate.

Set decoration should be set (and then subsequently struck) to establish the king's court in Act I, Scene 1. Depending on budget and available space, having the king's throne brought in would be a nice touch. This "lights up" set decoration also happens at the top of Act I, Scene 2, in preparation for the Spring Ball: townspeople set up paper lanterns, streamers, table for the punch bowl, etc. It is necessary to have something (table?) for Hubbard to leap up on, in order to put her in a commanding position for her victory.

In the final scene, during the "**Fight For Rhimeland**", the intent is for Hubbard's clothing to be surreptitiously adjusted during the fight, making it appear that her sleeves are getting longer, and that in general her clothes are larger (and that she has grown smaller, and younger). If possible, when she leaps up on the bench (or some other set piece), have the part of the set piece where she stands actually sink down (necessitates her wearing a gown to cover the action), so that she visibly shortens just before she runs off.

These are merely suggestions. The director is free to use his/her imagination to solve these staging challenges. The one absolute necessity is of course the well. What else could Jack and Jill climb up to?

ACT I

SCENE 1

I.1.0 "Overture"
I.1.1 "Rhimeland"

Outside KING COLE's castle. The castle gate is on one side of the stage. A covered well is prominent upstage. TOWNSPEOPLE cross on business. JACK BINIMBLE stands near the well, taking notes as he eyes everyone. MOTHER GOOSE strolls downstage to address the audience.

MOTHER GOOSE

THE KINGDOM OF RHIMELAND, THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE FOUND
MERRY AND HAPPY, A BEAUTIFUL PLACE
WITH LOVELY YOUNG PEOPLE WALTZING AROUND
A SPRING IN EACH STEP, A SMILE ON EACH FACE
CHOCK FULL OF ALL THE MOST INTERESTING
FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN AND OTHER NICE...

**HUMPHREY DUMPTON & CAT MUSICIANS
walk by.**

MOTHER GOOSE (CONT'D)

THINGS
NEVER A WORRY OR BOTHER OR FRET
EVERY NEW MOMENT'S THE BEST MOMENT YET

A BEAUTIFUL DAY, SO MERRY AND FREE
HARDLY A CARE ON ANYONE'S MIND
IT'S ALL THE BEST YOU EVER DID SEE
AND EACH OF US IS CLEVER AND FINE

ALL

WE'RE POETS, WE MAKE RHYME
VERY NEARLY ALL THE TIME

WHEN YOU MEET SOMEONE ON THE STREET
AND ASK YOURSELF, "NOW WHO
IS THIS PERSON I'M ABOUT TO GREET?"
WHEN THEY SAY, "HI", THEY'LL SING TO YOU

MARY WOOLEY

I'M MARY, HERE'S MY LITTLE LAMB
AND WHITE AS SNOW HER FLEECE
SHE FOLLOWS ME WHERE 'ERE I GO
AND, BLESS HER HEART, I LOVE HER SO
BUT I WISH SOMETIMES, DON'T YOU KNOW,
SHE'D JUST LEAVE ME IN PEACE

JACK HORNER

LITTLE JACK HORNER, I LIVE ON THE CORNER
WHY? 'CAUSE THAT'S MY 'HOOD
EAT PIES WITH MY THUMBS, I PULL OUT THE PLUMS-
HEY! I'M GOOD

MISSY MUFFET

I'M MISSY MUFFET, I SIT ON A TUFFET
FURNITURE MOST FIND ABSURD
AND IF I'M ATTACK-ED BY ANY ARACHNID
I'LL PROBABLY TOSS UP MY CURDS

(spoken)

I really hate spiders.

**A child waves a hairy spider at
her, she screams and runs away**

BINIMBLE

I'M JACK BINIMBLE, AND YES I'M QUICK
BUT ONE THING SHOULD BE LEARNED
DIDN'T QUITE CLEAR THAT CANDLESTICK
CUT IT A LITTLE TOO CLOSE TO THE WICK
AND A PART OF ME THAT'S DEAR TO ME
IN THE END WAS WHAT GOT BURNED!

Others look and point at his rear.

DIDDLE

I'M HEYWOOD DIDDLE, WHEN I PLAY MY FIDDLE
THE LADIES BEGIN TO SWOON

KITTIES

THE DISHES ALL STARE

DIDDLE

AND THE LITTLE DOG HOWLED

KITTIES

AT THE SILVERWARE

DIDDLE

I MEAN HE HOWLED

DIDDLE AND KITTIES

AND THE DISH GOT DOWN WITH THE SPOON
THEN WE ALL JUMPED OVER THE MOON

DIDDLE

(spoken)

I mean the joint was jumpin!

ALL

RHIMELAND, THE PLACE OF RHYME

MOTHER GOOSE
AND I'M THE ONE WHO WRITES THE POEM

ALL
SHE LOVES TO RHYME THINGS ALL THE TIME
I MEAN SHE'S GOT IT GOIN'
BY ANY NAME, A ROSE IS STILL A ROSE

MOTHER GOOSE
BUT DON'T ASK ME TO TELL YOU THAT IN PROSE!

ALL
RHIMELAND, IT'S OUR HOME DIVINE
HOME SWEET HOME TO FOLKS WHO RHYME
AND SING AND DANCE MOST ALL THE TIME
THAT'S HOW WE LIVE TOGETHER
THERE'S REALLY NO PLACE BETTER

EACH RHIMELAND SOUL ACROSS OUR WHOLE
DELIGHTFUL NATIONAL DIAMETER
HAS A RHYME OR VERSE THAT SHE WROTE FOR US

ALL point to MOTHER GOOSE
IN PERFECT IAMBIC PENTAMETER
WE SING IN SOLID FOUR FOUR TIME WITH SYNCOPATION SO SUBLIME
YOU'LL DANCE ALL NIGHT IN THE LAND OF RHYME
NO, YOU'LL NEVER HAVE A BETTER TIME
THAN YOU'LL HAVE HERE IN OUR LAND OF RHYME
OUR MERRY LAND OF RHYME!

MOTHER GOOSE
Rhimeland, high above the clouds, hidden away on a magical mountain. Where is this magical mountain you ask? If I told, it wouldn't be hidden, would it? Yes, it's a gorgeous place and a gorgeous day. Ah, but we have a saying here in Rhimeland. "Just because it's a poem doesn't mean it has to rhyme." Things, I have often heard, are often not what they seem. Still, there would seem to be no reason for things, whatever they seem to be, to not go on being that way forever in our happy kingdom. But we have another Rhimeland saying. "When everything's going your way today, they might go some other way some other day." And so it happened that one day, something *did* come our way. Or, rather someone. Two someones in fact. Two young strangers came to town.

JACK SPRAGINS and JILL TRIPPEY
enter, dressed in a manner
distinctly different from the
residents of Rhimeland.

I.1.2 "Mother Goose Recap #1"

MOTHER GOOSE (CONT'D)
NICE LOOKING YOUNG FOLKS. WHAT POSSIBLE TROUBLE
COULD COME FROM TWO WEARY TRAVELLERS?
BUT WITH SONGS AND JEST YOU CAN BURST A BUBBLE
AND TURN THEIR DREAMS INTO PILES OF RUBBLE
AND WATCH ALL THEIR PLANS COME UNRAVELED

**MOTHER GOOSE exits. BINIMBLE eyes
JACK & JILL. As they talk, he
moves closer to eavesdrop.**

JILL
Jack, it's Rhimeland. Oh, thank goodness. What a
long, strange trip!

JACK
All the way from Palea to Rhimeland. Three days,
Jill! Three days climbing up this hill.

JILL
Hill! Mountain, you mean. But we made it.

JACK
Oh, we made it, all right. Now all we have to do is
convince King Cole to release some of his precious
water to our bone dry homeland, and we'll save our
thirsty countrymen. And, in gratitude, I'll be made
a duke in Palea, with all the honor and glory!

JILL
Yes, that's *all* we have to do. I don't look forward
to trying to convince some stingy old man he should
share his water.

JACK
Just remember: all the people in Palea are
depending on us!

JILL
Not to mention "I get to be a duke" Jack.

JACK BINIMBLE comes up behind JILL

BINIMBLE
May I be of assistance?

JILL
(jumping)
Eek!

BINIMBLE
My apologies, madam. I didn't mean to startle you.

JILL
I'm not startled. Much.

BINIMBLE
Perhaps you need a drink from Rhimeland's famous well. You look like you could use it. Sort of "well-traveled" as it were. Not from around here?

JACK
We're from Palea.

BINIMBLE
All the way up from Palea. Imagine that. Well, then, you'll certainly want some of our water.

JACK
I'll say!

JILL
Shhh!

They cross to the well and he gives them each a draught.

BINIMBLE
Nothing like the water from this well to refresh the weary traveller.

JILL
Hey! You're right! I feel better already!

BINIMBLE
It's remarkable stuff. Now. What brings you to Rhimeland? Surely you didn't come all the way up that hill just to get a drink of water. Hahaha.

JILL
Now that you mention it-

JACK
We're here to see Old King Cole. Any idea how to go about that?

BINIMBLE
See the king, eh? On a diplomatic mission, are we? Well, well, well. Hmmm. If anyone can get you an audience with Old King Cole, it would be his Prime Minister, Jack Binimble.

JACK
So where can we find this Binimble fellow?

BINIMBLE

My, my, this *is* your lucky day. As a matter of fact, he is me!

JILL

Really? You can get us in to see the king?

BINIMBLE

Better than that, I'll bring the king to see you. He's just about to hold court in this very courtyard. I'll see what I can do.

JILL

That would be wonderful, Mr. Binimble.

BINIMBLE

Call me Jack. Jack Binimble. Jack B., they call me.

JACK

We're sort of in a hurry, Mr. Binimble-

BINIMBLE

Jack B.

JACK

Jack B. Think we might see the king pretty quick?

BINIMBLE

Amazingly enough, I'm also known as Jack B. Quick. I'll be back in a jumping jack flash.

BINIMBLE exits through gate.

JILL

My, he works fast.

SOUND: trumpet fanfare. BINIMBLE, KING COLE and COURTIERS back thru the gate. COLE is a handsome young man, confident and dashing

JILL (CONT'D)

He works *really* fast.

BINIMBLE

Hear ye, hear ye! The court of His Most Merry Majesty, Old King Cole, is now in session. Let those believing they're grieving, got a petition for an intervention, or need intercession from depression, approach his merry majesty!

TOWNSPEOPLE begin to line up.

JACK

Old! That guy's not old.

JILL

Maybe this won't be so bad after all. I thought he'd be like, you know, grandfather old. But he's really young. And severely handsome.

JACK

Maybe we need to rethink this-

MOTHER HUBBARD and HENRY EAT appear behind JACK. HUBBARD wears a long cloak. A hood partially obscures her face.

MOTHER HUBBARD

Oh, he's old alright.

JACK

Eek!

JILL

Don't people in this town ever give any warning?

HUBBARD

The man is ancient. A fossil.

JACK and JILL look at COLE, then back to HUBBARD.

JACK

Ancient?

JILL

A fossil?

JACK

He doesn't look any older than me.

HUBBARD

Looks can be deceiving, especially in Rhimeland. He may look young, he may act merry. But things are not always what they seem, my young friends.

I.1.3 "King Cole Is Cool"

HE MAY LOOK A PRETTY FACE
WHO CAN EVER SAY FOR SURE
BUT WHEN THE LIGHT SHINES BRIGHT
THINGS MAY NOT SEEM QUITE AS PURE
THINGS MIGHT SEEM A BIT DISTORTED
WHEN YOU LOOK AT THEM UP CLOSE
IN FACT IT'S BEEN REPORTED
THAT WAY UP CLOSE SOME THINGS ARE GROSS!

BINIMBLE
GATHER ROUND AND STATE YOUR CASE
BRING YOU FACE BEFORE THE KING
HE IS READY TO EMBRACE
EVERY PROBLEM THAT YOU BRING

ALL
OLD KING COLE, KING COLE IS COOL
OLD KING COLE, HE'S NOBODY'S FOOL
OLD KING COLE, COLE IS VERY COOL
GOOD KING COLE LIVES BY THE GOLDEN RULE

BINIMBLE
BY THE GOLDEN RULE

HUBBARD & HENRY
(to Jack & Jill)
DO IT TO THEM BEFORE THEY START DOING IT TO YOU

JILL
I don't think that's how that goes.

ALL
OLD KING COLE, KING COLE'S THE MAN
GOT ONE GOAL: MAKE US HAPPY IF HE CAN
OLD KING COLE, YOU CAN PLAINLY SEE
HE'S GOT SOUL, HE'S MERRY AS CAN BE

BINIMBLE
HE'S MERRY, HE LOVES HIS FUN

HUBBARD
(to Jack & Jill)
'CAUSE EVERYTHING IS HIS, HE OWNS EVERYONE

KING COLE
I'M THE KING, I'M COOL, I KNOW
MY NAME IS COLE, I'D LIKE TO SHOW
EVERYONE A REAL GOOD TIME
I LOVE TO HEAR A FIDDLE TUNE
TAP MY FEET BENEATH THE MOON
THE SOUND OF LAUGHTER I FIND QUITE SUBLIME
AND EVEN THOUGH I MAY BE KING
I WANT TO SHARE MOST EVERYTHING
WITH EVERYONE OF YOU AND ALL THE TIME

COME ON, PEOPLE, LET'S BE MERRY
WORRIES ARE UNNECESSARY
LET'S JUST ALL BE HAPPY IN MY LAND OF RHYME!

ALL

OLD KING COLE, KING COLE IS COOL
OLD KING COLE, HE'S NOBODY'S FOOL
OLD KING COLE, COLE IS VERY COOL
GOOD KING COLE LIVES BY THE GOLDEN RULE
HE'LL BE COOL IF YOU'LL BE COOL
WHO'LL BE COOL? WE'LL ALL BE COOL!
KING COLE IS COOL!
YES, KING COLE IS COOL!
KING COLE IS COOL!

DIDDLE

He's frigid!

**BINIMBLE pounds his staff and
points to WIDOW SHUE.**

BINIMBLE

State your name and your business with the King!

WIDOW SHUE

I'm the poor Widow Shue. And obviously I have all
these children.

KING COLE

What do you plan to do with them, madam?

WIDOW SHUE

Do? There's so many, I don't know *what* to do.

I.1.4 "Old Widow Blues"

I'VE GOT THE OLD WIDOW BLUES
TOO MANY CHILDREN DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO
CAN'T KEEP 'EM FED CAN'T KEEP 'EM CLOTHED
LORD WHAT'S TO BE DONE
THE ONLY WAY TO KEEP 'EM IN SHOES
IS FOR ALL OF US TO LIVE IN ONE

A POOR OLD WIDOW SHOULDN'T HAVE TO KEEP
WORKING ALL NIGHT AND NEVER GET ANY SLEEP
SEWING AND COOKING AND WASHING ALL DAY
GOT TO BE A BETTER WAY

OLD WIDOW BLUES

SHUE CHILDREN

000-00-000

WIDOW SHUE
HUSBAND'S DEAD, AND I WISH I WAS TOO
ALL TIRED OUT, NEED SOME RELIEF
LORD GIVE ME A BREAK

SHUE CHILDREN
GIVE HER A BREAK

WIDOW SHUE
KEEPING UP WITH ALL OF THESE KIDS
IS A LOT MORE THAN I CAN TAKE

THE OLD WIDOW BLUES
I GOT A FEW KIDS I COULD STAND TO LOSE

SHUE CHILDREN
STAND TO LOSE

WIDOW SHUE
A GREAT BIG FAMILY, JUST HOW BIG?
THE ISSUE IS IN DOUBT
DON'T ASK ME HOW MANY KIDS I'VE GOT
CAUSE LONG AGO I LOST COUNT

SHUE CHILDREN
IT'S NINE!

WIDOW SHUE & CHILDREN
I'VE GOT THE TIRED OUT, BEAT DOWN
HARD TO COPE, ABOUT TO DROWN
LIVING IN A BATTLEGROUN

WIDOW SHUE
WITH TOO MANY KIDS AROUND

WIDOW SHUE & CHILDREN
POOR OLD WIDOW BLUES

WIDOW SHUE
Hey, you know I was just kidding about that "losing
a few kids" thing. I love all of them, the little
angels. But there's just so *many* of them!

KING COLE
This whole family needs water from my well! Make it
happen, Binimble.

BINIMBLE
Yes, your merriness. Heywood! Oh, Squire Diddle!

**HEYWOOD DIDDLE, in dark shades and
carrying a fiddle strapped to his
back, approaches.**

DIDDLE

(plays a quick arpeggio on his fiddle)

You summoned, your quickness?

BINIMBLE

Please show the Shues to our sure-fire fresher-upper for all shattered souls in shambles.

DIDDLE

Right on, your nimble-tude-ness. Walk this way, little Shue-boppers.

DIDDLE sashays to the well, the SHUE FAMILY follows him, imitating his sashay. BINIMBLE pounds his staff, points to HUMPHREY DUMPTON

BINIMBLE

State your name and your business with the King!

HUMPHREY DUMPTON

Humphrey Dumpton.

BINIMBLE

And your business!

HUMPHREY DUMPTON

(morosely)

My life's not what it's cracked up to be. I'm an empty shell, I go to pieces at the drop of a hat.

BINIMBLE

Well aren't we a grumpy Humpty! Is that all?

HUMPHREY DUMPTON

I feel bedeviled.

BINIMBLE

Then why don't you-?

HUMPHREY DUMPTON

I don't laugh at yolks anymore.

PIMON

Why, all this fellow needs is some-

HUMPHREY DUMPTON

And my brain is totally fried.

PIMON

Are you sure that's all?

HUMPHREY DUMPTON nods.

PIMON (CONT'D)

Then I say-

HUMPHREY DUMPTON

My life is completely scrambled.

PIMON glares at HUMPHREY

PIMON

I say-

HUMPHREY DUMPTON

I'm a bad egg!

PIMON

All this poor egg needs is a cool, refreshing drink of Cole well water.

KING COLE

(to **BINIMBLE**)

Bring forth the water!

BINIMBLE

(to **PIMON**)

Bring forth the water!

PIMON

(to **no one**)

Bring forth the water! Oh, I'll get it. Come along.

SHUE family comes skipping back

WIDOW SHUE

Everything's gonna be fine. I just wish I had some more children!

I.1.5 "Shue Bop"

ALL MY LITTLE SHUES USED TO MAKE ME FEEL SO BLUE
DID NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH EACH TEENY, TINY SHUE
BUT NOW I FEEL RECHARGED, YES I FEEL COMPLETELY NEW
AS FRESH AND FINE AND FREE AS MORNING DEW
ENOUGH TO GIVE AN IMPROMPTU
ROLL CALL FOR EVERY LITTLE SHUE:

THERE'S SUE SHUE, AND BOO SHUE, FOOFOO SHUE AND KOOKOO SHUE
LOU SHUE, AND POOH SHUE, TUTU SHUE AND ZUZU SHUE
AND LEST WE SHOULD FORGET

SHUE CHILDREN

WE CANNOT FORGET

WIDOW SHUE

OUR DEAREST LITTLE WHOOPIE SHUE

SHUE CHILDREN

WHOOOP-TI-DOO!

Each SHUE CHILD says his/her own name on, well, on cue.

SUE SHUE, BOO SHUE, FOOFOO SHUE, KOOKOO SHUE
LOU SHUE, POOH SHUE, TUTU SHUE, ZUZU SHUE

WHOOPIE

AND YOU KNOW WHO!

SHUE CHILDREN

WHOOPED SHUE!

ENSEMBLE

SUE SHUE, BOO SHUE, FOOFOO SHUE, KOOKOO SHUE
LOU SHUE, POOH SHUE, TUTU SHUE, ZUZU SHUE
AND YOU KNOW WHO!
WHOOOP-TI-DOO!

Dance.

WIDOW SHUE

THE DEAREST, SWEETEST

WIDOW SHUE AND CHILDREN

CUTEST, NEATEST

ENSEMBLE

TEENSY, SMALLEST, BEST OF ALL-EST
LITTLE SHUE-BE-DO-BE-DOO
WHOOOP-TI-DOODLE WHOOPIE SHUE!

WHOOPIE

THAT'S ME!

DUMPTON dances back to BINIMBLE.

HUMPHREY DUMPTON

Oh, what a wonderful day this is, don't you think?
Time to get crackin'! I feel all back together
again! From here on out, everything's gonna be over
easy and sunny side up!

JACK

(to JILL)

You see how different that guy Dumpton is acting?

JILL

Yes, he was all grumpy, then, Bam! Happy Humpty!
And that woman with all the children. Something
sure cheered both of them up.

BINIMBLE

Hear ye, hear ye! That concludes today's court!

JILL

But Mister Jack B! What about us? You said-

KING COLE

Oh my, oh me, what have we here ye? Binimble, is there some other business before the court?

BINIMBLE

Oh, yes. The ambassadors from... where were you from again?

KING COLE

From a land of beauty and grace, no doubt. Hello, my dear. Delighted, I'm sure.

He kisses JILL's hand

JACK

We're from Palea, Your Majesty, here on a vital mission to-

KING COLE

(ignoring him)

Of course you are. And what's your name, milady?

JILL

Jill.

JACK

And my name is-

KING COLE

Jill, eh? What a lovely name. Almost as lovely as you. I am Cole. King Cole.

JILL

Pleased to meet you, your majesty.

COLE leads her away. JACK follows

KING COLE

Please, call me Cole. Let me personally welcome you to Rhimeland, Jill. We're not often blessed with such a beautiful visitation. I want to extend the full hospitality of Rhimeland to you. And, ah, Joe.

JACK

Jack.

COLE
(**dismissively**)

Of course.

JACK
You know, Cole-

BINIMBLE glares at JACK.

JACK (CONT'D)
I mean, your majesty! We've come a long way on a matter of the *utmost* urgency, and I was hoping-

KING COLE
(**sniffing JACK in disdain**)
Yes, it's obvious you've been on the road. Not many bathtubs between here and Palea, are there? Why not use the facilities in my palace and freshen up a bit? Then you can present your petitions.

JILL
Why, thank you, your majesty-

KING COLE
Cole.

JILL
Cole. That would be lovely!

KING COLE
Binimble, see to it. My dear.

COLE kisses her hand.

BINIMBLE
Heywood!

DIDDLE
Your nimblelude?

BINIMBLE
You heard the King. Off, off, off, quickly, quickly, quickly!

DIDDLE
You got it, Lord Quickster. Let's go, dudes.

DIDDLE leads JACK & JILL into the castle. TOWNSPEOPLE disperse

BINIMBLE
Too bad Heywood is the only fiddler you have left, your majesty. He is by far the weirdest of the original three.

KING COLE

Not much to be done about that. He stayed, the others left. They weren't much more than children when they did, you know. None of you were.

PIMON

I remember it. Barely.

KING COLE

We'll make do with who we do have to do what we need to. Do. He'll do. He's not *that* weird.

PIMON

Plays a mean fiddle.

KING COLE

(chuckling)

I prefer to think of it as a "merry fiddle". I prefer to think of everything as merry!

BINIMBLE

I prefer what you prefer, sir.

PIMON

(sarcastically)

Naturally.

BINIMBLE

And I suppose you, Simon Pimon, prefer something morose? You're a regular Humphrey Dumpton.

PIMON

I prefer pies, simple as that.

BINIMBLE

You prefer to be a fool.

PIMON

I am not a fool! I only act a fool. Acting. Art. Though I wouldn't expect *you* to understand art!

KING COLE

I prefer peace and contentment. And it sounds like *somebody*-

BINIMBLE

(pointing at SIMON)

See?

KING COLE

Two somebodies could use some King Cole cool-down well water. By the way, Binimble, have you added the daily dosage of my elixir to the well?

BINIMBLE

Not yet, your grace. But this is a good time. No prying eyes.

KING COLE

Then by all means, do so at once!

BINIMBLE takes a flask from KING COLE, goes to the well, looks around, then carefully squeezes a single drop into the well.

BINIMBLE

One teensy drop. There!

BINIMBLE returns flask to COLE.

KING COLE

One small drop, dropped every day into my well, and everything is well and good. My friends, a happy kingdom is a successful kingdom. And here is the secret to my success: my magic Elixir of Youth. One drop is all it takes to work its potent spell.

MARY WOOLEY and BILLY BLUE, followed by lambs, enter, arguing.

MARY WOOLEY

You may *think* these sheep come when you blow that stupid horn of yours, *Mister* Billy Blue, but everyone knows the lambs go wherever I go. Look at 'em, there they are! I go, they go.

BILLY BLUE

You're crazy, Mary! So what if one little lamb follows you around? That don't make you Queen of the Flock. It's this here happening horn, that's what these lambs love!

BILLY blows a quick tune.

KING COLE

Observe.

COLE, nonchalantly whistling, goes to well and draws some water.

MARY WOOLEY

Why you conceited... *musician!* There is nothing more irritating than a stupid-

KING COLE

My, my, you two seem a bit out of sorts. All that arguing must be thirsty work. Here, have a sip.

BILLY BLUE

Thanks, sire. The thing is, she ain't nothing but pig-headed about these sheep.

BILLY BLUE drinks from ladle.

MARY WOOLEY

Pig-headed! You're the one who's pig-headed! That's why you're lousy with sheep! I bet you're brilliant with pigs!

KING COLE

Now, now. Drink up.

MARY drinks.

KING COLE (CONT'D)

Isn't that better?

BILLY BLUE

(suddenly all smiles)

It sure is! I don't know why I bothered blowin' this horn to find them sheep. They always come right along behind you, Mary.

MARY WOOLEY

(also sweet and pleasant)

Oh, no, I couldn't find any of them in the meadow, unless you played that beautiful song. Not to mention the cow in the corn!

KING COLE

Sounds like you two should work together.

BILLY BLUE

What a great idea!

MARY WOOLEY

Why didn't we think of that before?

BILLY BLUE

Be seein' ya, your majesty.

BILLY, MARY and SHEEP exit. COLE pulls flask out of his coat.

BINIMBLE

That is simply the most amazing stuff.

PIMON

There's one thing I don't understand. You always call it the Elixir of Youth. But you're the only one who stays young. The elixir just puts everyone else in a good mood. What's the youthifying part?

KING COLE

What do you think keeps a person young? A sense of humor, my boy! You don't have time for worrying about getting old when you're happy. Yes, it's all in the proportions. Therefore I put a solitary drop in the well each day. As for myself...

He pours a dram and drinks.

BINIMBLE

Sire, as we've discussed, it may be possible that your elixir is losing some of its magical potency.

PIMON

What do you mean?

BINIMBLE

We've had to hold a lot of these special courts lately. Extra water for extra problems. The people are not as happy as they should be. It's like somebody is stirring up trouble among the masses.

KING COLE

Somebody? I think we have a pretty good idea of who that somebody is, Binimble. Very well. Simon, time to earn your keep. Call forth the citizens of Rhimeland. I will issue my new proclamation. Ready with the water, Binimble.

CITIZENS enter. JACK & JILL also enter, stand near the palace gate.

I.1.6 "Proclamation"

PIMON

CITIZENS OF RHIMELAND!
COME ONE, COME ALL, COME 'ROUND
COME OUT, COME FORTH, COME UP, COME DOWN!
HEAR YE ALL MY INVOCATION
YOUR KING HAS A PROCLAMATION!

KING COLE

(clears his throat)

MY GOOD PEOPLE
THERE COMES A TIME WHEN CERTAIN STEPS
MUST BE TAKEN TO ENSURE
THE SAFETY OF OUR NOBLE POPULATION
AS YOUR KING, I'M DELIGHTED
TO INFORM YOU SUCH A TIME
IS NOW UPON OUR MERRY RHIMELAND NATION
RHIMELAND IS IN DANGER!

CROWD

No!

KING COLE

Yes!

BESET BY THOSE WHO'D MAKE US BLUE
OUR PEOPLE ARE IN PERIL
FROM THOSE WHO WISH TO SADDEN YOU
NOW THIS IS A TERRIBLE NOTION
IMPOSSIBLE TO THINK OF
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE
THERE ARE FORCES IN THIS WORLD
THAT'LL BRING US TO THE BRINK OF
UNHAPPINESS!

PEOPLE

NO!

KING COLE

UNMERRYMENT!

PEOPLE

NO!

KING COLE

UNTICKLED! UNLAUGHING! UNFUNNYMENT!

PEOPLE

NO! NO! NO!

KING COLE

WE MUST NOT SEE OUR HAPPY WAY OF LIFE
END IN TROUBLE, TOIL AND STRIFE
WE HAVE TO ACT, TO BE PREPARED
AND SO TODAY, I DO DECLARE
A WAR, A WAR ON WOE
YES WOE HAS GOT TO GO!
WE MUST ALL BE ALWAYS JOLLY
TAKE ARMS AGAINST A SEA OF TROUBLE
ELIMINATE MELANCHOLY
AND DO SO ON THE DOUBLE
SO TODAY, WE ANNOUNCE A LAW
A BETTER LAW THAN YOU EVER SAW!

BINIMBLE

Henceforth, it will be

KING COLE

ILLEGAL TO GRUMBLE

BINIMBLE

IMPROPER TO SIGH

KING COLE

IN BAD TASTE TO MUMBLE

BINIMBLE

IMMORAL TO CRY!

BOTH

UNLAWFUL TO WEEP OR MEWL OR MOAN,
ILLICIT TO GRIEVE, COMPLAIN OR GROAN
FORBIDDEN TO SOB, REPUGNANT TO WAIL

COLE

AND IF YOU DO NOT LAUGH AT JOKES,

COLE, BINIMBLE, PIMON, DIDDLE

YOU'LL BE THROWN IN JAIL

PIMON

But it's a really nice jail.

KING COLE

THE ENEMIES OF RHIMELAND WILL FALL!
SADNESS FOR NONE! GLADNESS FOR ALL!

BINIMBLE

And water for everyone!

**BINIMBLE and SIMON pass through
the crowd, giving everyone a sip
of water. As they do, everyone
begins to laugh and giggle.**

PIMON

MIGHTY WARM OUT IN THE SUN
HAVE SOME WATER, EVERYONE

WIDOW SHUE

(giggling)

WHAT'S ANOTHER LAW? THIS LAW IS A GAS
ALL MY CHILDREN SHOULD BE LAWYERS!
OH, THE LAWS THEY'D PASS

BINIMBLE

SPEECHES DRY ME OUT THE WORST
DO YOU WANNA QUENCH YOUR THIRST?

JACK HORNER

I DON'T MIND THIS LAW, I'M GLAD TO SEE IT PASS
BEATS SITTING ON THE CORNER
PULLING PLUMS OUT OF MY--

PIMON

(to MOTHER HUBBARD)

HERE YOU GO, GRANDMAMA', HAVE A TASTE OF COLE WAWA

HUBBARD

Not on your life, sonny!

KING COLE

SO BE GLAD! AND IN CONCLUSION
I TRUST YOU'LL TRUST YOUR KING
AS WE WORK TOWARDS A SOLUTION
TO THIS SAD DEPRESSING THING
JUST STAY MERRY AND REMEMBER
IT ALWAYS HELPS TO SING!

ENSEMBLE

WE MUST NOT SEE OUR HAPPY WAY OF LIFE
END IN TROUBLE, TOIL AND STRIFE
WE HAVE TO ACT, TO BE PREPARED
AND SO TODAY, WE HAVE DECLARED
WE MUST ALWAYS BE JOLLY
ELIMINATE MELANCHOLY
WE'LL BE MERRY, THAT'S THE THING
JUST BE MERRY LIKE OUR KING
MERRY LIKE OLD KING COLE!
MERRY LIKE OLD KING COLE!

BINIMBLE

Three cheers for Rhimeland!

BILLY BLUE

Three? Why stop at three?

CROWD breaks into riotous cheering

JILL

(shouting)

Your majesty! Oh, King Cole, sir!

KING COLE

Jill, my favorite Palean. Yes, my dear?

JILL

About our mission?

JACK

Our quest, sire? If you might hear our appeal?

KING COLE

Yes, yes, all in good time. But right now, I must
go and see to the preparations for tonight's Annual
Spring Ball. You know of our ball, don't you?

JILL

No, I can't say-

KING COLE

It is simply the most magnificent celebration. Here
in this very courtyard, beneath the spring moon.
Music! Dancing! Of course you'll come.

JILL

Well, we really are supposed-

KING COLE

I wouldn't hear of you missing it. I insist.
Binimble, see to it that Jill and, uh...

JACK

Jack.

KING COLE

See that Jill and Jock have invitations and so
forth. Until this evening, my dear.

**COLE kisses JILL's hand, and exits
into the palace.**

BINIMBLE

Simon, see to it.

BINIMBLE exits into palace.

PIMON

(yelling for HEYWOOD)

Diddle! Oh, fiddle, I'll take care of it. See me
later, I'll take care of everything.

**SIMON exits into the palace.
MOTHER HUBBARD again appears
behind JACK & JILL.**

HUBBARD

What *is* your mission, my dears? Well, no matter.
You won't accomplish anything with Old King Cole, I
guarantee that.

JACK

I'm sorry, we didn't get a chance to introduce
ourselves before. I'm Jack Spragins, and this is
Jill, Jill Trippy. And you are?

HUBBARD

I'm Mother Hubbard, and this is my dog, Henry Eat.

JILL

Henry Eat? What kind of name is Eat?

HENRY

(a growling voice)

It's what I do.

JILL

(taken aback)

Oh. Wait! You talked to me!

HENRY

I do that, too.

JILL

But you're a dog!

HENRY

(standing on hind legs)

Watch it, sisterr. No call to go calling names.

HUBBARD

Of course he talks. All Rhimeland animals talk. Too much, if you ask me.

HENRY

Nobody did.

HENRY lies back down.

JACK

What did you mean when you said we'd never get anywhere with the king?

HUBBARD

Nowhere at all. That old man never *does* anything. But he's an expert at stopping things.

JILL

Stopping things? What things?

HUBBARD

Progress! Modern life. Advancement of the species. Even time, in a way. But mainly, he stops me! That old fraud has been in my way all my life. Every time I try to change things, try to help the people-

JACK

You keep saying King Cole is old. That's what we thought. But he's not any older than I am. I mean, look at him!

HUBBARD

You should. Look at him, I mean. Up close.

HENRY

Look in his eyes. They're shifty.

HUBBARD

And old. Oh, he's old, alright. Older than you, older than dirt, older than everybody. Because he has something nobody else has. He has the elixir!

I.1.7 "Elixir"

**MOTHER HUBBARD leads JACK & JILL
to the well. HENRY follows.**

IMAGINE, IF YOU WILL, THAT UPON A LITTLE HILL
YOU HAD YOURSELF A WELL
A WELL, WELL, MUCH LIKE THIS ONE, I WOULD THINK
AND EVERYDAY YOU TOOK YOUR PAIL, YOU WENT UP YOUR LITTLE HILL

JACK & JILL

We do!

HUBBARD

THEN YOU HAD YOUR FILL
OF ALL THE WATER THAT YOU CARED TO DRINK

AND WHAT IF EVERY TIME, I MEAN EVERY SINGLE TIME
YOU MADE THIS LITTLE CLIMB
YOU CAME BACK A LITTLE YOUNGER THAN BEFORE?
YOU'D HEAR EVERYBODY SAY
YOU'RE YOUTHFUL EVERY DAY
LIKE THE RAVEN, YOU'D BE AGIN'

HUBBARD & HENRY

"NEVERMORE"

HUBBARD

WHAT COULD CAUSE THIS MIRACLE OF YOUTH?
WELL, IT'S NOT THE WATER, CHILDREN
AND I'VE GOT THE PROOF

HE HAS AN ELIXIR, A POTION IN A BOTTLE
A MAGICAL ELIXIR
AND HE KNOWS JUST WHAT'LL STOP THE SANDS OF TIME
AND KEEP HIM IN HIS PRIME
UNTIL THE LAST OF US IS DEAD AND GONE

HUBBARD points to the well.

HE PUTS IT IN THE WATER, BUT ONLY JUST A LITTLE
AND EVERY SON AND DAUGHTER
SOON BEGINS TO GIGGLE, ACTING LIKE A CLOWN,
BE BETTER IF THEY'D DROWN
HE'S MADE FOOLS OF US FOR FAR TOO LONG

JACK

WHY ARE YOU SO ANGRY? WHY ARE YOU SO MAD?

JILL

MOTHER HUBBARD, TELL ME

BOTH

WHY ARE YOU SO SAD?

HUBBARD holds JILL's face in one hand, touches her own face with the other.

HUBBARD

SUPPOSE YOU HAD... A DAUGHTER JUST AS BEAUTIFUL AS YOU
AND A MAN HAD SAID HE THOUGHT HER THE LOVELIEST HE KNEW
THEN SUPPOSE HE UP AND LEFT HER
BECAUSE HE'D RATHER BE THE KING?
AND SUPPOSE IT BROKE HER HEART
WHEN SHE'D LOST HER EVERYTHING?
WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU WERE SURE,
IF EVERYTHING YOU'D HEARD WERE TRUE

THAT HE HAD AN ELIXIR, A BOTTLE FULL OF POTION
A MAGICAL ELIXIR,
AND IF HE HAD THE NOTION HE'D MAKE TIME BE STILL
FOR TIME IS HIS TO KILL
HE'LL KEEP HIS ROSE FOREVER IN THE BLOOM

HE HAS AN ELIXIR, A POTION FULL OF MAGIC
HIS MEMORY STILL AFFLICTS HER
NOW EVERYTHING IS TRAGIC AND MY HOPE IS GONE
BUT HE LIVES ON AND ON
WHILE I GO MARCHING STRAIGHT INTO MY TOMB

YES, HE HAS AN ELIXIR NOW, AND I WILL GET IT BACK SOMEHOW
I'LL MAKE HIM PAY AND HERE'S MY SOLEMN VOW
HE'LL KNOW HE'S FINALLY BEEN OUTCLASSED
I'LL WORK 'TIL I HAVE BREATHED MY LAST
UNTIL THE PAST IS REALLY PAST
HIS ELIXIR, I WILL HAVE AT LAST
I WILL HAVE AT LAST

JACK

A magic well. So *that's* why Rhimeland is so stingy
with their water.

JILL

This pretty much makes our mission a bust.

HUBBARD

What was your mission?

JACK

To get King Cole to release water into the
Merrymack River so that Palea can have some.

JILL

Palea's in the middle of a terrible drought.

HUBBARD

Well, lotsa luck with that. I guarantee Cole will
never let go of a single drop. Unless...

JACK

Unless what?

HUBBARD

I suppose you heard King Cole's latest proclamation, didn't you?

HENRY

(disgusted)

Grrreat Grrrendel's Ghost!

JACK

He's got a thing about being sad, doesn't he?

HUBBARD

A thing? A plot, you mean. A conspiracy to keep us under his thumb, that's what he's got!

JILL

(confused)

You mean he wants everybody to be happy so...?

HUBBARD

So they won't realize how miserable they are!

HENRY

Miserrable!

JILL

Gee, I don't know. You can say a lot of things about Rhimeland. Magic water. Talking dogs. But miserable? You two are the only ones I've seen who aren't laugh-a-minute chuckle boxes.

HUBBARD

(over-emoting)

I moan, I wail! My heart cries out at the oppression of my people!

HENRY

(a wolf-like howl)

Arooooo!! My stomach cries, too.

HUBBARD

Listen to me. The only reason these people are so insanely happy is the elixir. He puts just enough into the water to keep everybody in a good mood. They're like cattle. And about as dumb.

JACK

Really?

HUBBARD

Really. But it doesn't have to stay this way.
Nosireebob. I have a plan.

HENRY

A grrreat plan!

JILL

What is it?

HUBBARD

If we can convince just a few people to join us, we can steal his elixir. Without the elixir, King Cole would be powerless. Merry old soul? Not without his precious juice. But to steal it, we'll require the element of surprise. He knows his subjects too well. But a stranger in his midst-

JACK

Like me!

HUBBARD

(to JILL)

Especially a beautiful stranger.

JACK

Or her.

HUBBARD

He's quite fond of beautiful girls, you know.

JACK

(wryly)

He's certainly fond of Jill.

JILL

Now wait a minute-

HUBBARD

A beauty like you would put him off his guard, make him vulnerable-

HENRY

Make him easy prey!

HUBBARD

And we could take him down!

HENRY

(triumphantly)

Aroooooo!!

HUBBARD

And then, once these idiotic... that is to say, *deluded* citizens are free of the tyrant's yoke, why getting the water you need would be no trouble at all. They would be so grateful, water would be the least they'd give to repay you!

HENRY

Prrobably throw flowerrrs at yourr feet.

JILL

But it doesn't seem right somehow. Why can't we just talk to King Cole? He seems nice enough.

HENRY

Nice! Hah!

JACK

Every time we try to talk to him, he talks about something else. You, mainly. No, Mother Hubbard is right. After all, it's for Palea!

HUBBARD

Then it's settled. One for all, all or none, and all for me! I mean, all for Rhimeland!

They exit. Townspeople begin setting up for the Spring Ball. BINIMBLE, HEYWOOD and WILLIE WINKIE enter

BINIMBLE

Heywood, you'll be taking care of the music.

DIDDLE

Oh, yeah, man, I got the some cool cats lined up.

BINIMBLE

Ahh, good. The cats in Rhimeland are excellent musicians. And the lights. You're handling the lighting, is that right, Mr. Winkie?

WINKIE

Indubitably, Mr. Binimble.

BINIMBLE

I would normally see to the lighting, of course. One of my specialities. But after the, ah, unfortunate incident with the candlestick, King Cole has suggested I turn my attention elsewhere.

DIDDLE

Then you can, like, sit down now without any pain?

BINIMBLE

(wincing in memory)

Finally. I'm quick, but I can't jump nearly as high as I used to.

WINKIE

Don't worry about a thing, everything's taken care of. When Wee Willie Winkie is at work, there won't be any slips. Nightgowns, maybe. But no slips!

BINIMBLE

Good. Very well, gentlemen, I leave the preparations for tonight's ball in your capable hands. Good day.

**BINIMBLE, DIDDLE and WINKIE exit.
JACK & JILL enter from other side.**

JACK

Let's get these people to join Mother Hubbard. You start with them, I'll work on those guys.

JILL

Jack, I don't know about this.

JACK

We've got to get water for Palea, and King Cole isn't going to give it to us.

JILL

But how can you be sure? We haven't even asked him.

JACK

You heard Mother Hubbard: he needs the water for his elixir.

JILL

I thought he put the elixir *into* the water.

JACK

Same thing. He uses the elixir, the elixir changes the water and the water changes into... whatever. Look, this will be the quickest way. And helping to free these people from oppression, that's really important, too. It really burns me that Cole has bamboozled the whole population. That's just wrong!

JILL

But they don't act oppressed. I don't know...

JACK

Well, I do. And the faster we get the water, the faster we get home. And the faster I become a duke.

JILL

I don't understand why you get to be a duke. What does that make me?

JACK

A duchess! After we get married, of course. Now listen, when you talk to people, be subtle. It's important to make sure we know a person is going to be *willing* to help us before we actually *ask* them to help us.

JILL

Oh, so now I've got to be charming *and* telepathic!

JACK

You're already charming. You're halfway there! Let's get started.

**JACK approaches HUMPHREY DUMPTON,
JACK HORNER, BABA BLACK & others.
JILL looks around, then exits.**

HUMPHREY DUMPTON

I tell you, it's not easy being me. It's a roller coaster ride. Take this morning. I'm all depressed, then I talk to the king, and suddenly I'm on top of the wall. But now I'm back down in the dumps again.

BABA BLACK

B-but, Humphrey, you b-bring it all on yourself. At least no one c-cuts you down and t-takes your wool.

JACK HORNER

True. And nobody's pushing you into a corner.

HUMPHREY DUMPTON

Oh, sure, Jack Horner, it's all so simple, isn't it? Well, my life is going to pieces, and I just can't put it back together again. And I can't get anyone to *help* me put it together again, either.

JACK

Excuse me, but have you asked the king? Or his men?

HUMPHREY DUMPTON

All of them. And their horses, too. No dice. I never feel any better.

JACK HORNER

Well, you'd better start feeling better. There's a law now against not feeling good.

JACK

Seems to me you need to take some positive action.
When you're blue-

BILLY BLUE

I'm Billy Blue, and I'm always blue, man. Unless
I'm blowin' my horn.

JACK

Not everybody has a horn. For most people, just
getting up and *doing* something, that's the cure.

HUMPHREY DUMPTON

Excuse me, have we met?

JACK

(shaking hands with everybody)

Jack Spragins. New in town? Just got in this
morning. From Palea?

BABA BLACK

P-Palea? That's a long way off.

JACK HORNER

I've heard folks from Palea are a bit unusual.

HUMPHREY DUMPTON

Why, the animals down there don't even talk.

JACK

Guess what? Neither do the eggs.

HUMPHREY DUMPTON

Well that's just crazy!

BABA BLACK

What b-brings you to Rhimeland?

JACK

Just a visit, I'd heard so much about the place.
Had to come see for myself. Take the king's court
this morning. Very impressive!

MISSY MUFFET

Say, I remember you. You were trying to talk to-

JACK

You know, Humphrey, I don't get it. So what if
you're a little blue? Everybody gets a little blue.

BILLY BLUE

Tell me 'bout it.

HUMPHREY DUMPTON

But you heard the proclamation! It's against the law to be sad!

JACK

Well, now, I don't understand that either. It seemed to me that King Cole was asking the impossible. People can't be happy *all* the time.

HUMPHREY DUMPTON

I was ecstatic this morning!

JACK

And now?

HUMPHREY DUMPTON

Now... not so good.

JACK

You see?

BILLY BLUE

You gotta a point there, Jackson. Sometimes a man's just gotta sing the blues.

He plays a quick phrase.

MARY WOOLEY

Oh, Billy, you play so sweet.

JACK

I tell you, this proclamation, or law, or whatever, it's just not right. You guys need to do something about it.

HUMPHREY DUMPTON

Like what?

1.1.8 "Revoltin'"

JACK

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN FORCED
TO HURT AND GRIEVE AND SUFFER?

MARY WOOLEY

Well, we don't really have a lot of suffer-

JACK

HOW LONG HAVE YOU HAD TO GO
WITHOUT YOUR SHARE OF SUPPER?

HUMPHREY DUMPTON

I guess I *would* like a little more supper.

JACK

THERE'S NO REASON YOU SHOULD HAVE TO BE
SO SAD AND SO DEJECTED
NO REASON YOU SHOULD NOT GET FREE
FROM THE LEADERS YOU'VE ELECTED

JACK HORNER

Cole's the king, man. Nobody elected him.

JACK

Exactly!
THERE'S REALLY JUST ONE REASON
WHY YOUR LIVES ARE ROUGH
ONE MAN YOU CAN BLAME
WHY EVERYTHING'S SO TOUGH

MISSY MUFFET

My tuffet *is* a bit tough.

JACK

YOU'VE NOT HAD ANY SAY
IN THE MISERY YOU'VE BEEN GIVEN

BABA BLACK

My sheep are kinda miserable.

JACK

WHO WOULD WANT TO HAVE TO LIVE
THE LOUSY LIFE YOU'RE LIVING?

WINKIE

Doggone, now that you mention it, things are lousy!

JACK

I TELL YOU WHAT YOU NEED
YOU NEED TO THINK LONG RANGE
YOU NEED TO SHAKE THINGS UP
YOU NEED TO MAKE A CHANGE

(spoken)

Now let me tell you what I'm talking about.

LET'S TALK REVOLUTION
A DRASTICAL SOLUTION
YOU BEEN DOWN FOR WAY TOO LONG
AND NOW YOU'RE GONNA GET YOUR WAY
LET'S ALL START REVOLTIN'
LET'S GET THIS THING ROLLIN'
YOU GOT TO RISE UP AND BE STRONG
IT'S GONNA BE A BRAND NEW DAY

ALL

WE'RE GONNA PUT THE POWER WITH THE PEOPLE
IN OUR LAND
WE'RE THIRSTY FOR A BIT OF LIBERATION

IN OUR LAND

TIME TO RAISE OUR BANNER
TIME TO USE THE HAMMER
WE'VE BEEN CHEATED FOR TOO LONG
AND NOW WE'RE GONNA GET OUR WAY

THE KING'S BEEN HOLDING ON TO HIS ADVANTAGE
FOR TOO LONG
NOW WERE GOING TO RECTIFY THE DAMAGE
AND RIGHT THIS WRONG

LET'S ALL START REVOLTIN'
LET'S GET THIS THING ROLLIN'
WE GOT TO RISE UP AND BE STRONG
IT'S GONNA BE A BRAND NEW DAY

Dance.

WE'RE GONNA PUT THE POWER WITH THE PEOPLE
IN OUR LAND
WE'RE THIRSTY FOR A BIT OF LIBERATION
IN OUR LAND

IT'S A REVOLUTION
(RISE UP)
A DRASTICAL SOLUTION
(BE STRONG!)
WE BEEN DOWN FOR FAR TOO LONG
IT'S GONNA BE A BRAND NEW DAY
IT'S GONNA BE A BRAND NEW DAY
IT'S GONNA BE A BRAND NEW DAY!

BABA BLACK
Okay! We're ready!

MARY WOOLEY
Power to the people!

HUMPHREY DUMPTON
And the eggs!

WINKIE
So what do we do, Jack?

JACK
If the king is going to make unjust laws, it's up
to the people to do something. About the king, for
instance. I mean, just because he's king...

MISSY MUFFET
You know, now that I think about it, being happy
all the time is kind of silly.

BABA BLACK

You b-b-bet your b-b-ottom dollar it is!

HUMPHREY DUMPTON

But what can a person do about the king. I mean, he's the king!

JACK

I don't know exactly. If it were up to me, I'd be on the lookout for an opportunity to teach him a lesson. Listen...

JACK motions them closer

JACK (CONT'D)

(conspirationally)

In Palea, they've always said that King Cole has some magic, like a magic elixir or something. And *that's* why he thinks he can make any old law he wants to. If he didn't have his elixir, you might not have these stupid laws.

JACK HORNER

Elixir! I never heard of any-

MARY WOOLEY

My mother used to say the same thing.

BILLY BLUE

Well, hush my mouth!

HUMPHREY DUMPTON

Hmmm. Maybe we *should* be on the lookout.

JACK

Great idea, Humphrey. Like tonight, at the Spring Ball. Keep a sharp lookout, and maybe we can teach this king a thing or two!

HUMPHREY DUMPTON

Come on, we'll go to my place and discuss this.

**As they leave, JILL, WIDOW SHUE
and POP WIETZEL enter.**

JILL

And so you see, Mother Shue, the king *made* you happy. Like Mother Hubbard said, it's because he managed to give you some of his magic potion.

WIDOW SHUE

Well, I never. You know, it has always seemed to me that those monthly courts were a little odd.

(MORE)

WIDOW SHUE (CONT'D)

People come to the king with all their problems,
but all we go away with is a big laugh.

POP WIETZEL

You're so wise, Miss Shue. One thing I've always
said is, 'Miss Shue, she's one wise woman.' Haven't
I said that?

WIDOW SHUE

Yes, Mister Wietzel. Many, *many* times.

SHUE rolls her eyes at JILL.

POP WIETZEL

(to JILL)

She's very wise. And such a sweet lady.

JILL

You're sweet, Mister Wietzel.

POP WIETZEL

Please call me Pop. Pop Wietzel.

WIDOW SHUE

I should call you a pup, the way you follow me
around. Jill, I've decided I'll stand with you.

POP WIETZEL

And so will I!

WIDOW SHUE

Of course you will, Mister Wietzel.

(to JILL)

But the plan must work. You must get the elixir
like you say you will. Otherwise it's too
dangerous, and I'll not put my children at risk.

POP WIETZEL

Neither would I, Miss Shue. Oh, if only you and I
were married, and they were *our* children!

WIDOW SHUE

If only pigs could fly, Mister Wietzel.

(to JILL)

You know, Mother Hubbard has nothing at risk. She
only has that dog to worry about, not any children.

JILL

Well, except her daughter.

WIDOW SHUE

(giving JILL an odd look)

Her daughter? What daught--.

JILL

Don't worry, Mother Shue. Unless we can get the elixir, we won't try anything that would endanger you or anyone. But we will get it, I promise!

WIDOW SHUE

That's good enough for me. I can see you're a good girl. Although, to tell the truth, I was never so sure about her.

JILL

Mother Hubbard? Is there something-?

WIDOW SHUE

No, it's nothing. We'll be at the Ball tonight.

POP WIETZEL

Mrs. Shue and I will be there with our dancing shoes on. Our

(giggle)

Shue shoes!

WIDOW SHUE

Careful, Mister Wietzel. The King's new law makes it illegal to tell bad jokes.

**WIDOW SHUE and POP WIETZEL exit.
JACK, HUBBARD and HENRY enter.**

HUBBARD

Jack, you're a genius. Jill, you should have seen him handle these simpletons. Humphrey Dumpton, Baba Black, those others. This morning, they were nothing but happy sheep. Now everyone of them is ready to dump Cole at the first chance. And he never even told them exactly what we were planning.

JACK

It wasn't anything. Just followed my instincts.

HENRY

You should be a huntarr, a wolf. You have a killerr's instincts.

JILL

Did you lie to those people, Jack?

JACK

Lie? Of course not. I just told them what they needed to hear.

HUBBARD

But no more than.

HENRY

Grreat! A masterrful, borrrn leaderr!

JACK

I am going to be a duke, you know.

HUBBARD

A duke in Palea? Why not a *king* in Rhimeland?

JACK

King? Me?

HUBBARD

When I... when we get King Cole out of the way, *somebody* has to lead this country. Why not you?

JILL

Because he has to get home, that's why!

HUBBARD

Of course. Don't know what I was thinking. So, Jill. Did you have any luck gaining any converts?

JILL

As a matter of fact, I did talk to Mother Shue and Pop Wietzel. They're with us.

HUBBARD

Shue? She's with us? What did you tell her?

JILL

The truth. I just told her what's been going on, and what we were planning to do about it.

HUBBARD & HENRY exchange glances.

HUBBARD

You told her I was involved?

JILL

Yes. Was I not supposed to?

HUBBARD

No, no, that's fine. And she agreed to support us?

JILL

She agreed to help stop Cole using the elixir. I think she felt like she'd been cheated.

JACK

Cheated?

JILL

Feeling all happy and everything, but only because of something in the water. I like her.

HUBBARD

A softy, that's Mother Shue. Too many children. And she has no discipline. Right, Henry?

HENRY

Rright! Discipline. Spare the rrod, spoil the food.

JILL

Spoil the child.

HENRY

Rright. That's what I said.

HUBBARD

Henry has some very progressive ideas about raising children. Jack, we need to lay our plans for tonight. We can talk at my place.

JACK

Okay. I'll meet you there in a half hour.

HUBBARD & HENRY exit

JILL

Jack, are you sure this is the right way to go about things? It feels, I don't know, underhanded.

JACK

Underhanded? All we're trying to do is get the upper hand. And when we do, we'll get our water. And liberate the people!

JILL

Maybe so. But it just seems like a lot of trouble.

I.1.9 "Uphill"

ALL I WANT IS AN HONEST LIFE,
A SIMPLE LIFE, FREE OF STRIFE
MAYBE SOMEDAY BE A WIFE
NOT TOO MUCH TO BE WANTING
NOT MUCH TO ASK OF THE WORLD
SO WHY IS THE WORLD TAUNTING ME?

JACK

A CHALLENGE WOULD BE ALL I NEED
TO PLANT THE SEED, GUARANTEED
A CHANCE FOR FATE TO INTERCEDE
THAT'S ALL I'M REQUESTING

NOT MUCH TO ASK OF THE WORLD
SO WHY IS THE WORLD TESTING ME?

JACK & JILL

EVERY SINGLE TIME
WHEN WE DANCE THIS LIGHT QUADRILLE
IT'S THE SAME PANTOMIME
LIKE WE DON'T HAVE FREE WILL
BUT JUST AN ENDLESS CLIMB
LIKE WE'RE PAYING FOR SOME CRIME
AND IT'S FOREVER, ETERNALLY UPHILL

IT'S NOT LIKE I'M DEMANDING
EVERYTHING SHOULD JUST STAND STILL
BUT DOES IT SEEM TOO MUCH TO ASK
THAT NOT EVERY SINGLE TASK
ALWAYS LEAD UPHILL?

JILL

ALL I WANT IS A SIMPLE TRUTH,
DON'T WANT PROOF OF ETERNAL YOUTH
MY EGO IS NOT SHATTERPROOF
AND THAT'S WHY I AM PLEADING
NOT MUCH TO ASK OF THE WORLD
SO WHY IS THE WORLD MISLEADING ME?

JACK

NOTHING GOOD WILL COME FOR FREE
YOU PAY THE FEE OR LET IT BE
I WANT WHAT'S BEST FOR YOU AND ME
THAT'S WHERE THIS STORY'S GOING
NOT MUCH TO ASK OF THE WORLD
SO WHY IS THE WORLD IGNORING ME?

JILL

I DON'T NEED MY LIFE SUBLIME
NO, I DON'T NEED A THRILL

JACK

IF YOU PUT YOUR HAND IN MINE
WE JUST MIGHT CLIMB THAT HILL

JACK & JILL

IF WE CAN MAKE THE CLIMB
IF WE CAN MAKE THE CLIMB
AND OUR RHYMES HAVE BEEN FULFILLED
THEN IT MIGHT BE WORTH THE WAITING FOR
IT'S WHAT WE'VE BOTH BEEN WAITING FOR
WAITING FOR THE CLIMB
TO THE TOP OF THE HILL

BLACKOUT

SCENE 2

I.2.1 "Ready For the Ball" - Underscore

Outside the castle, that night.
COURTIERS enter with streamers,
decorations, etc., and begin to
decorate the courtyard for the
ball. MOTHER GOOSE strolls in.

I.2.2 "Mother Goose Recap"

Mother Goose Recap

MOTHER GOOSE
SO JILL AND JACK PLAN THEIR ATTACK
AND NOTHING'S GONNA STOP THEM
MOTHER HUBBARD HAS THEIR BACK
AND COLE, SHE PLANS TO CHOP HIM
THEN THEY'LL FREE THESE PEOPLE WHO
ARE TOO HAPPY FOR THEIR OWN GOOD
BUT PLANS DON'T ALWAYS MANAGE TO
TURN OUT THE WAY YOU PLANNED THEM

BINIMBLE and HEYWOOD enter.

BINIMBLE
Good. Very good. This will be the finest Spring
Ball in Rhimeland history!

DIDDLE
You sure gonna have the finest music you ever had.

BINIMBLE
Really?

DIDDLE
Allow me to present the coolest cats who ever
cooked a chorus. From congas to calliopes, these
cats are completely copasetic.

**A BAND of CAT MUSICIANS enters,
all in dark shades.**

DIDDLE (CONT'D)
These guys'll be purring all night. Plus, we have a
special guest artist...

BILLY BLUE enters.

BILLY BLUE
Mister Billy Blue is gonna blow his horn. Hotcha!

BINIMBLE

Yes. Well, I'm sure they'll be cool.

DIDDLE

Cool? They'll be so cool, they'll be smoking hot!

SIMON enters from castle.

PIMON

The King is coming! Start the music. Start the mu-

BINIMBLE

Excuse me, Simon. But I believe that is my job.

BINIMBLE turns to HEYWOOD.

BINIMBLE (CONT'D)

The King is coming! Start the music!

DIDDLE

Right on, your Nimbleness!

I.2.3 "Ready For the Ball (Procession)" - Underscore

**COLE enters, stands at gate.
TOWNSFOLK process before him, many
act cool. Halfway through, COLE
whispers to BINIMBLE.**

KING COLE

Binimble, why isn't everyone merry? You know how I like things to be merry.

BINIMBLE

I don't know, sire. Perhaps the elixir is losing its power?

KING COLE

Perhaps *someone* didn't put enough in the water.

BINIMBLE

It's one drop. How could I miscount one drop?

**When HUBBARD goes past COLE, they
are very haughty to each other.
Last in line are JACK and JILL.**

KING COLE

Ah, Jill. How is my favorite Palean tonight?

JILL

It's a lovely ball, your majesty. We don't have anything so grand in Palea.

JACK

(looking at CAT MUSICIANS)

We certainly don't have musicians like yours.

KING COLE

Ah, yes, your friend Jan.

JACK

Jack.

KING COLE

Of course. My dear, would you give me the honor of sharing the first dance with me?

JILL

(ignoring JACK)

I'd love to.

KING COLE

Binimble! Music, if you please.

BINIMBLE

Simon! Music, if you please.

PIMON

Heywood! Music-

DIDDLE

Right, man, I dig. Hit it, cats!

I.2.4 "Not What They Seem"

COLE and JILL begin to dance, others joining in after the first few bars. It should be clear from their expressions that COLE & JILL are not singing to each other.

JILL

FLOWING, FLYING, FEELING SO WONDERFUL
CLIMBING A CLOUD, DANCING A DREAM
BUT SOMEHOW, SOMEWHERE THINGS ARE NOT WONDERFUL
HE MUST SUSPECT
THINGS AREN'T WHAT THEY SEEM

KING COLE

LAUGHING, LEAPING, MY HEART JUST WANTS TO SING
I HOPE THIS NIGHT WON'T EVER STOP
EVEN THOUGH I DON'T NEED ANOTHER THING
NOW I SUSPECT
I DON'T HAVE WHAT I'VE GOT

JILL & COLE

WHAT IS REAL? REAL IS WHAT
I DECIDE IT SHOULD BE
IF YOU'RE BLIND OR IF YOU'RE NOT
REAL IS WHAT YOU CHOOSE TO SEE

JACK dances with MISSY MUFFET

JACK

SHOULD I WORRY, WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD
AM I A DUKE? AM I A KING?
AM I WORTHY OF SUCH A POT OF GOLD?
I'M NOT SO SURE
I KNOW EVERYTHING

HUBBARD and HENRY dance by

HUBBARD

PLOTTING, PLANNING, PUTTING THE PARTS IN PLACE
NOTHING IS WRONG, A PERFECT SCHEME

HENRY

SMILING, GRINNING, KEEPING A HAPPY FACE
NO ONE SUSPECTS

HUBBARD & HENRY

THINGS AREN'T WHAT THEY SEEM
THEY'RE NEVER WHAT THEY SEEM

JILL, COLE, JACK, HUBBARD, HENRY

WHAT IS REAL? WHAT IS NOT?
IT'S EASY TO GET LOST
YOU NEVER HAVE WHAT YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT
WHEN YOUR SIGNALS GET CROSSED

SOME PLAY CHARADES, SOME FAKE A SMILE
SOME ACT SINCERE AND SOME ARE BEGUILLED
SOME TELL US LIES, WHO KNOWS WHAT'S TRUE
WE'RE ALL SOMEONE ELSE AND NO ONE KNOWS WHO

KING COLE

KEEPING UP THIS PRETENSE IS DIFFICULT
SOMEONE MAY LEARN THE SECRET I HIDE

HUBBARD

MY REVENGE IS ALMOST IN FRONT OF ME
I MUST BE COOL TIL EVERYTHING'S RIGHT

JACK

DOES SHE UNDERSTAND WHAT I HAVE TO DO
IF I DON'T ACT WE'LL LOSE OUR DREAM

JILL
FALLING, FAILING, FEELING I'VE LOST A FRIEND
EVERYONE HERE IS NOT WHAT THEY SEEM

JACK
ONCE WE HAD A PLAN

JILL
WE DIDN'T HAVE A SCHEME

KING COLE
ONCE I MADE A STAND

HUBBARD
ONCE I HAD A DREAM

JILL, COLE, JACK, HUBBARD
NOTHIN I'S REAL OR GUARANTEED
WHAT WAS A HOPE IS ONLY A DREAM
I CANNOT GET THE THINGS I NEED
WHEN NOTHING'S WHAT IT SEEMS
NOTHING'S REAL OR GUARANTEED
WHAT WAS HOPE IS ONLY DREAMS
I CAN'T GET THE THINGS I NEED
WHEN NOTHING'S WHAT IT SEEMS
NOTHING'S EVER WHAT IT SEEMS

BINIMBLE
There's food and drink for all in the castle!

The CROWD exits into castle.

KING COLE
(privately)
I enjoyed our dance, Jill. I enjoyed it very much.

JILL
So did I, your majesty. More than I should.

**Embarrassed, JILL curtseys to
COLE, then goes to sit on a bench
behind the well. COLE looks at
her, then exits into castle.**

JACK
What a party! Let's go hit the buffet, you guys.

**HUBBARD and HENRY meet in front of
the well. They do not see JILL.**

HUBBARD
Now, if only that wobble-headed Cole would reveal
his elixir, Jack should be able to take it from
him. He has enough support amongst this crowd.

HENRY

(sarcastically)

What a brrave lad he is. Hah!

**JILL's head rises into view, then
disappears on HUBBARD's next words**

HUBBARD

Brave. And stupid. And easily led, like the girl.
These Paleans were just what we needed. Like a
breath of fresh air, they'll help us blow this
kingdom wide open. I'll have the elixir at last!

HENRY

And I'll neVERR know hungerr again. Arooo!

HUBBARD

Never, my pet. Not when I get the elixir. And
especially as long as I have this.

**She pulls a small bowl from
beneath her robe.**

HENRY

Cole's bowl. I'll bet he wonderrrs what everr
happened to his prracious bowl.

HUBBARD

If he knew I had it, he might have been more
cautious. But I do have it. And if I can obtain the
other talisman, together with the elixir, there'll
be no limit to my power!

HENRY

Arooo! The ancient rrhyme-

HUBBARD

"Bring me my pipe, bring me my bowl, and bring me
my fiddlers three." Together with the elixir, I'll
gain control over every molecule in Rhimeland. Now
that there are no longer three fiddlers-

HENRY

Only that idiot Heywood Diddle.

HUBBARD

-they no longer figure into the spell. Therefore,
all I need is the pipe!

HENRY

Unforrtunately, you have no idea what kind of pipe
it is. Water pipe? Peace pipe?

HUBBARD

I'll find out what it is. Then I'll find out *where* it is. It's just a matter of time, Henry. And once I have the elixir, time is something I will have in infinite supply.

HENRY

Arooo!

**They exit into the castle, and
JILL emerges from behind well.**

JILL

Easily led? And stupid!? Well, maybe in Jack's case. What in the world were they talking about? What are they up to? Whatever it is, I've got to find Jack and stop it.

**JILL exits away from castle. COLE
and BINIMBLE enter, followed by
JACK, HUBBARD, and TOWNSPEOPLE.
COLE and BINIMBLE meet downstage.**

KING COLE

(takes elixir from a pocket)

I am not satisfied people are having as merry a time as they should. Take this and add a few drops to the punch. That should liven things up.

BINIMBLE

Are you sure, Sire? You don't want to send everyone home needing a babysitter. For themselves.

KING COLE

Yes, I'm sure. But just a few drops.

**COLE hands the elixir to BINIMBLE.
HUBBARD notices, and signals JACK.
JACK gives her the "OK", then
trails BINIMBLE to the punch bowl.
As he begins to pour, JACK
snatches the flask.**

JACK

I'll take that, Jack B.

BINIMBLE

What?!

JILL re-enters, surveys scene.

JACK

(shouting)

Come on, people of Rhimeland. This is the elixir!

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

This is what King Cole has used to keep you happy against your will! Let's stop him! Now!

JILL

Jack! No! It's a trap! She tricked us-

I.2.4 "Fight or Flight - Chase Music" (Underscore)

HENRY grabs JILL and puts his paw over her mouth. A chase begins, as COLE, BINIMBLE, SIMON and HEYWOOD chase JACK, and are in turn chased by the others. The flask changes hands several times. Finally, it's tossed to HUBBARD as she stands on top of a table. Everyone freezes, she drinks a huge gulp, laughs, jumps down, steals COLE's crown, the cast unfreezes, she takes another huge gulp, staggers behind a tapestry, then emerges, her hood pulled back, revealing her face, *much* younger. The crowd sounds an astonished murmur.

HUBBARD

Now, at last, it's mine!

JACK

Mother Hubbard! What's happened to you?

HUBBARD

Only what should have happened a long time ago.

PIMON

Get her! Grab the bottle!

KING COLE

No! Stay back!

HUBBARD

Oh, yes, I'd stand back if I were you. Cole knows what I can do with this elixir, don't you Cole?

KING COLE

Everybody, keep back.

HUBBARD threatens with the flask.

HUBBARD

Good advice. Why? Because for years, your beloved King Cole has used the contents of this vile vial to keep himself young.

(MORE)

HUBBARD (CONT'D)

And to keep all the rest of you happy and stupid.
But it can do more. Oh, yes, it can do *much* more.

PIMON

(to CROWD)

Don't listen to her. It's only a bottle.

HUBBARD

Only a bottle? Then you, *Pie-man*, are only a fool!
And there's no fool like an old fool!

HUBBARD raises flask, pours some into her hand, mumbling & turning in a circle. She flings elixir at SIMON, who ducks, POP WIETZEL is hit instead. The crowd closes in around him. When they part, WIETZEL emerges a very old man.

WIDOW SHUE

Mr. Wietzel! What has she done to you?

HUBBARD

What I will do to anyone who opposes me. I have the power to make you young, or wither you with old age. Cole kept himself young with this. But that which can take away the years can add them, too.

JACK

What are you doing? You said you wanted to free the people.

JILL

I tried to warn you, Jack. She tricked us.

HENRY

Arooo!

HUBBARD

I *do* want to free them, Jack. But freedom has a cost. And the cost of freedom is obedience. To me! Now, Cole, kneel, before me! Before your queen!

COLE looks around, resigns himself

JILL

No! Don't do it.

HUBBARD

Silence, you stupid girl.

KING COLE

I have to. No one else must be hurt.

COLE kneels. HENRY gestures to others. They hesitate, COLE motions them to kneel, also.

WIDOW SHUE
(to JILL)

I knew I shouldn't trust her. But I trusted you.

I.3.5 "All Downhill From Here"

HUBBARD

IT'S DOWNHILL FROM HERE
A RACE DOWN THE HILL
ALL DOWNHILL FROM HERE
I MUST ADMIT IT'S A HECKUVA THRILL
ON THE TOP OF THE HEAP
IN CHARGE OF THESE SHEEP
FROM HERE I BELIEVE
IT COULD BE A LITTLE STEEP
SO HERE I COME, OH YES I WILL
FROM HERE ON OUT IT'S ALL DOWNHILL

IF YOU'RE NOT ON MY SIDE
WHICH SIDE DO YOU CHOOSE?
IF YOU ARE NOT WITH ME
YOU MUST BE AGAINST ME
I GOTTA KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GONNA DO
YOU CAN BE AN ALSO-RAN
YOU CAN SIT THERE IN A FOG
YOU CAN BE ONE OF THE LAMBS
OR YOU CAN BE THE BIGGEST DOG!

HENRY

AROO!

HUBBARD

YOU CAN SIT THERE ON YOUR HANDS
OR YOU CAN HAVE A THRILL
STAY WITH ME, I'VE GOT PLANS
YOU DON'T NEED TO UNDERSTAND
JUST HOLD ON TIGHT UNTIL WE LAND
WITH ME IT'S ALL DOWNHILL

Some TOWNSPEOPLE, including BABA BLACK & WILLIE WINKIE, begin to join HUBBARD. JACK moves to join.

JACK

C'mon, Jill.

JILL

No! She lied to us!

JACK

She controls the water. That's what we came for.

JILL

Jack, she *used* us! She was planning to take over the whole time. Can't you see that?

HUBBARD

IF YOU'RE NOT ON MY SIDE
WHICH SIDE DO YOU CHOOSE?
IF YOU ARE NOT WITH ME
YOU MUST BE AGAINST ME
I GOTTA KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GONNA DO

JACK

So what if she used us? We need the water. We're not even from Rhimeland! I mean, what difference does it make *which* side we're on?

JILL

(looks at COLE)

It makes a difference to me.

JACK

Oh, really! *He* makes a difference, that's what you mean. Well, I'm joining Old Mother- Miss Hubb-ub-- I'm joining *her*!

JILL

Then join her! Go ahead, make a fool of yourself!

JILL helps COLE, they slowly exit.

HUBBARD'S FACTION

IT'S DOWNHILL FROM HERE
A RACE DOWN THE HILL
ALL DOWNHILL FROM HERE
WE MUST ADMIT IT'S A HECKUVA THRILL
YOU CAN SIT THERE ON YOUR HANDS
OR YOU CAN HAVE A THRILL
STAY WITH US, WE'VE GOT BIG PLANS
YOU DON'T NEED TO UNDERSTAND
JUST HOLD ON TIGHT UNTIL WE LAND
WITH US IT'S ALL DOWNHILL
WITH US IT'S ALL DOWNHILL

HUBBARD

WITH ME IT'S ALL DOWNHILL!

CURTAIN

ACT II

SCENE 1

II.1.1 "Entr'acte"

Outside the castle gate, several days later. People are dejected. MOTHER GOOSE appears.

II.1.2. "Mother Goose Recap #3"

MOTHER GOOSE

IT'S BEEN A FEW DAYS SINCE THE KINGDOM CHANGED HANDS
NO ONE IS HAPPY WITH HUBBARD'S DEMANDS
HENRY'S MAKING THREATS EVERY NIGHT
THE PEOPLE ARE SHAKING AND QUAKING WITH FRIGHT
NO ONE IS MERRY, NO ONE IS HAPPY
THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING IS DECIDEDLY CRAPPY

MOTHER GOOSE sighs, shakes her head, and moves off.

HUMPHREY DUMPTON

I am so hungry!

JACK HORNER

You don't look hungry.

HUMPHREY DUMPTON

Don't be cruel. There's nothing to eat, and nothing but egg-cracking work to do. How can a person exist on the short rations I get from that witch?

MISSY MUFFET

(frightened)

Hush! Somebody might hear you.

BILLY BLUE

Somebody? You talkin' 'bout somebody like Baba Black. Or Willie Winkie.

PIMON

I always said there was something wrong with that guy. Running around in his nightgown at all hours.

HUMPHREY DUMPTON

I don't care. I'm tired. And I'm starving. Life is worse than ever. This could turn me into a bad egg.

BILLY BLUE

I'm with Humphrey. Man, I'd even welcome some of old Cole's "happy juice". Least I could feel like I was feelin' pretty good.

MARY WOOLEY

(whispering)

I don't think anything could cheer up Pop Wietzel.

JACK HORNER

What a horrible way to go "Pop" the Wietzel.

HUMPHREY DUMPTON

Shhh. Here they come.

**WIDOW SHUE, SHUE CHILDREN and POP
WIETZEL enter.**

MISSY MUFFET

Mrs. Shue, is he... alright?

WIDOW SHUE

I thought I didn't know what to do with all these children. But I don't have a clue what to do with Mister Wietzel.

POP WIETZEL

It's not all bad. Mrs. Shue is taking very good care of me.

(he winks)

Maybe she'll even marry me now.

SHUE CHILDREN giggle.

BILLY BLUE

Mama Shue may be takin' care of *you*, Pop, but *nobody* is taking care of *us*. Between slavin' away-

HUMPHREY DUMPTON

And being hungry every day.

MISSY MUFFET

And nothing in the well but plain old water.

HUMPHREY DUMPTON

There's just not much to live for. I may as well jump off the nearest wall. At least somebody could have a nice omelet.

II.1.3 "Wish We'd Known"

BREAK AN EGG IN TWO, THROW IT IN THE PAN
FRY IT UP AND ADD A LITTLE BUTTER
SAUTE A LITTLE BACON

MARY WOOLEY

OR JUST A LITTLE LAMB

HUMPHREY DUMPTON AND MARY WOOLEY
TASTES SO GOOD, IT ALMOST MAKES ME SHUDDER

ALL
COOKING UP SOME FOOD, PUT IT ON THE TABLE
TASTE SO GOOD TRAVELING TOWARD MY NAVEL
BETTER THAN THE BONE SHE FOUND IN HER CUPBOARD
WISH WE'D A KNOWN 'BOUT OL' MOTHER HUBBARD

MISSY MUFFET
GIVE ME MY CURDS AND WHEY IN A BOWL
AND I'LL GLADLY FACE A GIANT HARRY SPIDER

BILLY BLUE
RING THE DINNER BELL, HAND OUT THE DINNER ROLLS

WIDOW SHUE
THIS WIDOW WANTS A GOOD HOT MEAL INSIDE HER

ALL
COOKING UP SOME FOOD, PUT IT ON THE TABLE
IT WOULD TASTE SO GOOD TRAVELING DOWN TO MY NAVEL
BETTER THAN THE BONE SHE FOUND IN HER CUPBOARD
I WISH WE'D A KNOWN ABOUT OLD MOTHER HUBBARD

Dance

WE COULD USE SOME SOLID FOOD
LIKE A ROAST WITH MASHED POTATOES
OR SOME BISCUITS TOPPED WITH GRAVY WOULD BE NICE
IF WE DON'T GET SOME VITTLES SOON
WE'LL BE STARVING DESPERADOS
'CAUSE THE SLOP SHE IS SERVING WON'T SUFFICE

JACK HORNER
HOWASBOUT A PIE FULL OF JUICY PLUMS
OR EVEN ONE WITH BLACK BIRDS, I DON'T MIND

PIMON
ANY KIND OF PIE FILLED WITH ANYTHING AT ALL
WILL BEAT THE IMAGINARY KIND

ALL
COOKING UP SOME FOOD, PUT IT ON THE TABLE
IT WOULD TASTE SO GOOD TRAVELING TOWARD MY NAVEL
BETTER THAN THE BONE SHE FOUND INSIDE HER CUPBOARD
I WISH WE'D A KNOWN ABOUT OLD MOTHER HUBBARD

WE ONLY TRADED ONE KING FOR ANOTHER
AND WE DON'T THINK WE'LL EVER RECOVER
NOW WE KNOW WHICH KING WE WOULD DRUTHER
WISH WE'D KNOWN ABOUT THAT MOTHER!

COLE, BINIMBLE, HEYWOOD and JILL enter. COLE seems older now.

HUMPHREY DUMPTON

Your majesty!
(begins to kneel)

KING COLE

No, don't. I'm afraid I'm not anybody's majesty. Not anymore. And definitely not merry. Just an old soul. And getting older every minute.

WIDOW SHUE

Why did you bring her here? If it weren't for her and Jack, we wouldn't be in this mess.

JILL

I didn't know about Hubbard. Not until it was too late. I tried to-

JACK HORNER

Her friend Jack even joined up with *Queen* Hubbard. Oooh, that word leaves a bad taste in my mouth.

HUMPHREY DUMPTON

What do you say to that, missy?

MARY WOOLEY

It's these Palean spies, they caused the trouble!

TOWNSPEOPLE begin to angrily crowd around JILL, shouting.

ALL

Why don't you go back to Palea? Show her the road! Get out of Rhimeland! Haven't you done enough?

JILL

But I'm on your side! She fooled me, too!

KING COLE

Now hold on everyone! I can't speak for Jack, but Jill *did* try to stop Hubbard.

BINIMBLE

Unlike some of our own Rhimeland cowards. I can't believe a true Rhimelandian would forsake our king.

HUMPHREY DUMPTON

Their brains must be scrambled. And they don't even have the excuse of being an egg.

KING COLE

They're just frightened. I know I was.

BINIMBLE

You people cannot imagine what Hubbard would be able to do with that elixir, not if she obtains the-

KING COLE

She can do enough, already, Binimble. She certainly has done me in. Without my daily dose, I'll soon be in worse shape than Pop Wietzel.

JILL

What do you mean?

KING COLE

Getting older. Or, I should say, getting to be my real age. Hubbard told the truth about that. The elixir has kept me young, much younger than I had any right to be. Without it...

JILL

Without it what?

KING COLE

Nothing. Binimble, I'm tired, take me someplace where I can rest.

COLE, BINIMBLE & HEYWOOD start off, as do others.

JILL

Wait! Can't we do something? I mean, she stole the elixir from you. Why can't we steal it back?

KING COLE

Don't forget: I wasn't expecting treachery. Hubbard-

DIDDLE

And her dog, don't forget Henry.

KING COLE

And Henry. They'll be on constant vigil. They know all their power comes from the elixir, so they'll guard it with their very lives.

JILL

But can't we at least *try*? You can't just waste away, I won't let you!

HUMPHREY DUMPTON

Sorry, but I don't want to end up like Pop Wietzel.

BILLY BLUE

Me neither! No disrespect, Pop.

POP WIETZEL

None taken. Even *I* don't want to end up like me.

WIDOW SHUE

(comforting POP)

Oh, you poor dear!

POP WIETZEL

It's not without its benefits.

HUMPHREY DUMPTON

Come on, everybody. Maybe we can beg an extra ration of vittles from Willie Winkie.

MISSY MUFFET

That traitor! He always gave me the creeps, sneaking around after dark like that.

BILLY BLUE

In his dadgum night gown!

EVERYONE exits. JILL pleads with them as they leave.

JILL

Please, don't give up. You've got to do something!

WIDOW SHUE

Jill, I don't think you're a bad person. Not too bright, but not a bad person. But we've been betrayed. Fool us once, shame on you. We won't be fooled again.

WIDOW SHUE exits.

KING COLE

I'm sorry, Jill. But I can't ask them to risk their youth, maybe their lives, just to restore my crown.

COLE exits. JILL goes to the well, looks in, throws a stone. After a moment, JACK enters, whistling.

JACK

There she is! Hey, Jill! Come give us a hug!

JILL

I wouldn't give you the time of day! Not after what you've done-

JACK

What I've done? What have I done? Except accomplish our mission, that's all.

JILL

Oh, she promised you some water, huh? Good luck.

JACK

Not a drop.

JILL

Everybody gets enslaved to that- that- *witch*, and you didn't even get our water? Brilliant!

JACK

I didn't say I didn't get the water. I just said she didn't promise me any.

JILL

But, then how...?

JACK

The king doesn't need any promises. He can do whatever he wants to with his own water. And that includes giving some to Palea.

JILL

King? All you've been crowing about since we got here is how you're going to be a duke.

JACK

That was in Palea. But in Rhimeland, I'll be king.

JILL

You're not even from Rhimeland, remember? How can you possibly be... oh, I get it. She promised you the kingdom, didn't she?

JACK

That's it! You're looking at the future King Jack.

JILL

(under her breath)

King Jackas-

JACK

It's all working out like I planned. Better.

II.1.4 "I Could Be King"

BEING A DUKE IS GREAT, I GUESS
BEING A PRINCE IS MUCH BETTER
BUT BEING A KING, I MUST CONFESS
IT IS THE BEST, AND YES,
I'LL BE KING SOONER OR LATER

I COULD BE KING
I'LL BE THE KING OF RHIMELAND

BEING THE KING IS AN EASY THING
JUST NEED TO STICK TO MY PLAN

JILL

Oh, now it's *his* plan.

JACK

I COULD BE RULER OF ALL THAT I SEE
A ONE MAN LAW OF THE LAND
SHOWING MY PEOPLE HOW THEY CAN BE FREE
IF THEY DO THE THINGS I COMMAND

I COULD BE KING, OH, WHAT A KING!
THROWING MY WEIGHT ALL AROUND

JILL

A feather weight.

JACK

BEING THE KING IS THE EASIEST THING
I ONLY NEED A CROWN

HOLDING COURT FOR MY ADORING CROWDS
WEARING MY ROBES OF STATE
HEARING MY SUBJECTS SHOUTING OUT LOUD
HOW THEY LOVE WHAT THEY USED TO HATE

I COULD BE KING, THE MAN OF THE YEAR
KING OF ALL I SURVEY
LET ME BE KING AND MY PEOPLE WILL CHEER
WHEN THEY SEE ME GETTING MY WAY
AS I RULE OVER THEM EVERY DAY

JILL

Nobody is gonna cheer for you, Jack.

JACK

Are you kidding? People in Rhimeland will go nuts
when I'm their king.

JILL

You're right about that.

JACK

NO ONE WILL EVER HAVE ANY DOUBT
ABOUT MY MAGNIFICENCE
AND IF SOMEONE DID, THEY KNOW THE WAY OUT
NOBODY CARES FOR DISSIDENCE
RHIMELAND WILL SHINE LIKE IT'S NEVER SHONE
HIS'TRY WILL SAY I'M SUBLIME
NONE OF MY SUBJECTS HAVE EVER KNOWN
A KING THAT'S AS KINGLY AS I'M!

I WILL BE KING, JUST GIVE ME THE CROWN

KING OF THE WORLD YES I WILL
WHEN I AM KING, I'LL HAVE A BALL
WHEN I AM KING, I'LL HAVE IT ALL
WHEN I AM KING, I'LL NEVER FALL
I'LL NEVER FALL DOWN THE HILL
WHO COULD BE KING? WHO SHOULD BE KING?
WHO'LL BE THE KING? I WILL!

JILL

Listen, Jack, I could forgive you for helping her. She had me fooled, too. But when it was obvious she was nothing but a treacherous beast, you joined up with her anyway! Do you have any idea how these people are suffering? You think Cole was a tyrant, but he wasn't. And at least everybody was happy. Now they're miserable, and it's all your fault!

JACK

I don't want anyone to suffer. And they won't! Just wait, when I'm king, I'll fix everything.

JILL

Oh, really? If Hubbard doesn't like what you do, what's to stop her from using her elixir on you?

JACK

What, you think I can't control her? Or run my own kingdom? I'll take care of all that. It's my plan.

JILL

You couldn't plan your way out of bucket of water. Now leave me alone. I don't want to talk to you. I don't like you much anymore.

JACK

But, Jill-

JILL

Just go away! Go on, get away from me!

JACK

Fine! I'll go. But when I'm the king, you'll see. Things will be put right. With no help from you!

JACK storms off. JILL glares after him, then starts toward castle just as HUBBARD, HENRY and her entourage enter. They run into each other. HUBBARD continues to freely drink from the elixir.

HUBBARD

It's our sweet little princess from Palea.

JILL

I'm no princess.

HUBBARD

True. And frankly, I suspect that you never *will* be a princess. In fact, I suspect it's possible you might never see your precious Palea again.

HENRY

Verry unlikely.

JILL

Are you threatening me?

HENRY

She never makes thrrreats.

HUBBARD

Never.

HENRY

She just makes you sorry.

HUBBARD

Always. Have you seen your friend Jack?

JILL

Don't call him my friend. I wouldn't be caught dead being friends with that jerk.

HENRY

That can be arranged.

HUBBARD roughly pulls JILL close

HUBBARD

Now you pay very close attention to what I'm going to tell you, *Jill*. So far, it pleases me to let you stay pretty. And young. And alive. Jack might not understand if something happened to you. But let's be very clear, shall we? I intend to make Jack my king. And when I do, there will be no more use for you. I daresay he'd easily forget some wrinkled, old friend he once knew. Which is what you will be.

She pulls the elixir flask from beneath her robe and waves it in JILL's face.

HENRY

Toothless hags don't rrun very fast. Easy to bite!

HUBBARD

So, try to behave yourself, dearie. People who don't behave themselves in Rhimeland have a tendency to get old well before their time. Haha!

HENRY

Well beforre theirr time. Get it?

Laughing, HUBBARD and her entourage exit.

II.1.5 "No Place For Me"

JILL

We should never have come to this place. Why couldn't we have stayed home? Now it looks like I'll never escape from here.

WHERE SHOULD I TURN, WHERE SHOULD I GO
WHAT SHOULD I DO? HOW CAN I KNOW?

THIS IS NOT THE PLACE FOR ME
THAT IS CLEARER EVERY DAY
I WISH THAT I COULD GO BACK HOME
NOW I CANNOT NOT STAY
I'D BE BETTER OFF ALONE

IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE TO TURN
YOU MIGHT TURN TO ANYTHING AT ALL
IF THERE'S NOTHING YOU HAVE LEARNED
YOU'LL LEARN IT WHEN YOU FALL
AND WHEN YOUR HOPE'S BEEN OVERTURNED
AND WHEN YOUR BRIDGES ALL ARE BURNED
AND IF THERE'S NO CHANCE FOR RETURN
WHO'S THERE FOR YOU TO CALL?

IS THERE STILL A PLACE FOR ME?
A PLACE WHERE I MIGHT STILL BELONG?
WHERE SOMEONE ALWAYS TAKES ME IN?
I'VE STAYED HERE FAR TOO LONG
I HAVE WORN MY WELCOME THIN

AND IF I TURN AWAY, WHAT AM I TURNING TO?
AND IF I HAVE MY SAY, WHO AM I TALKING TO?
I THOUGHT I'D FOUND MY WAY
BUT WHERE'S IT LEADING TO?

THIS IS NOT THE PLACE FOR ME
I'VE NEVER FELT SO ALONE
I WISH THAT I COULD GO BACK HOME
NOW WHERE CAN I GO?

COLE, BINIMBLE, others enter.

HUMPHREY DUMPTON

There she is.

JILL

Yes, here I am. And there's nothing I can do about it. And nothing any of you *will* do about it.

BINIMBLE

Not true, Jill. These people have decided to do something after all.

JACK HORNER

We have to.

MARY WOOLEY

We can't live like this for the rest of our lives.

HUMPHREY DUMPTON

Which, with Hubbard and Henry in charge, might not be that long.

KING COLE

They got to talking, Jill. They were a little ashamed that someone like you, who's not even from Rhimeland, was ready to fight and they were'nt.

WIDOW SHUE

I'm afraid there's a bit of the coward in everyone.

POP

Not you, Mrs. Shue. Isn't she brave? I've always said-

WIDOW SHUE

Yes, Mister Wietzel, I know you have.

JILL

But what will you do?

HUMPHREY DUMPTON

Whatever you and King Cole decide.

DIDDLE

You cats come up with something, we'll be behind you, one thousand percent.

BILLY BLUE

Right on, my man!

BILLY and HEYWOOD high-five.

KING COLE

That's the spirit. Now let's split up. Staying in a crowd will make Hubbard suspicious, and her spies are everywhere.

BINIMBLE shoos everyone off.

BINIMBLE

Split, split, split! Up, up, up!

KING COLE

As soon as we come up with a plan, I'll send messengers to everyone. Be ready!

HUMPHREY DUMPTON

(bowing)

Yes... your majesty!

ALL turn back and bow to COLE.

KING COLE

Hopefully, Humphrey, hopefully. Now off with you!

BINIMBLE

Off! Off! Off!

ALL exit except COLE, BINIMBLE, HEYWOOD and JILL.

DIDDLE

So. Like, what are we going to do?

KING COLE

I have no idea.

JILL

I guess storming the castle is out of the question.

BINIMBLE

Not unless you want to come back out with white hair, a walking cane, and wrinkles from your nose to your navel.

DIDDLE

If you come out at all. You get old enough, you just check on out.

DIDDLE sticks out tongue, closes eyes crosses his arms on his chest

KING COLE

Actually, there is a reason she can't go that far. She only has the elixir. Now, if she had the other magical components, it would be another story.

JILL

What other components?

KING COLE

Binimble.

BINIMBLE takes a recitation pose.

BINIMBLE

"Ole King Cole was a merry old soul
A merry old soul was he.
He called for his Pipe
And he called for his Bowl
And he called for his Fiddlers Three."

DIDDLE

That's me! Or it used to be. My brothers and I had
this fiddling trio, man, could we swing!

KING COLE

But no more, my friend. I never understood why
Elwood and Dagwood left Rhimeland.

DIDDLE

I miss those guys.

JILL

What's fiddling got to do with anything?

KING COLE

Once, when I had the three talismans all together,
the Pipe, the Bowl, and the three Fiddlers, I
controlled a tremendous power, a power that made
Rhimeland full of music and merriment and magic.

JILL

Magic like talking animals?

KING COLE

Like talking animals. And kitty cats that play
saxophone. And song and dance, and feasting and
celebration. But when Heywood's brothers left
Rhimeland, the magic began to fade. I didn't want
my country to fall into sadness. So with Hubbard's
help, I concentrated the magic that was left into a
powerful elixir.

JILL

Mother Hubbard was your helper?

KING COLE

More than my helper. She was... well, it's not
important now. We made the Elixir.

(MORE)

KING COLE (CONT'D)

Now, by itself, it can only make people happy, and keep me from aging, and that's a lot. But the Elixir is capable of much more. It's like a lens. It focuses the power from comes from the Pipe and the Bowl. Put all three together, and who ever has possession of them will be unstoppable!

JILL

And Hubbard has the Bowl.

BINIMBLE

She what?

KING COLE

She has the Bowl? How do you know?

JILL

I overheard her telling Henry, before the Spring Ball. Come to think of it, she did mention a Pipe. Thank goodness she doesn't have that!

KING COLE

So she has the Bowl. This is bad, very bad. I had thought it was lost forever. If that's the case, then she must never, ever have this.

COLE goes to well, opens a door, brings out a shepherd pipe

BINIMBLE

If she ever found that...

DIDDLE

Man, that would be a bummer.

JILL

Then we've got to keep it from her. I can't imagine how things could be any worse around here, but if she had the kind of power you're talking about, we'd all find out pretty quick.

COLE starts to put the PIPE back

KING COLE

She'd do anything to get this. If she ever saw it, even, she'd be like a madwoman.

BINIMBLE

She'd lose her mind.

DIDDLE

Crazy, man, she'd go crazy.

JILL

(getting an idea)

Crazy? Crazy enough to let her guard down, maybe?
Enough for someone to grab the Elixir?

KING COLE

Are you suggesting...?

BINIMBLE

It's insane! We could lose everything.

DIDDLE

Including our heads!

KING COLE

No, Jill's right. Hubbard has the Bowl. She has the
Elixir. If she thought she could get the Pipe,
she'd never hesitate.

JILL

And she'd be vulnerable. At least for a moment.

KING COLE

And that's all we'd need. It's a chance, but it's
the only chance we've got. We'll do it!

BINIMBLE

Sire, this is foolish! If any tiny thing goes
wrong, we're all doomed!

KING COLE

Be still, Binimble. This is what it means to be a
king. The risk is great, but the reward is greater.

BINIMBLE

Yes, sire.

BINIMBLE begins to bow.

KING COLE

Oh, get up. We've no time to lose. You and Heywood
get the word out. Quickly. But carefully. Now go!

DIDDLE

Right on, your kingship. And let me say what a trip
it is serving your servitude. Like I always say-

BINIMBLE

Let's go, cat, go!

BINIMBLE and DIDDLE exit.

KING COLE

Thank you, Jill.

JILL

Don't thank me yet. And hold on to that Pipe. It's going to be very useful very soon.

JILL exits. After a moment, HUBBARD enters. When she speaks COLE does not turn, as if he knew she was there

HUBBARD

She's very lovely.

COLE

Yes, yes she is.

HUBBARD

Were you planning on watching her beauty fade, too?

COLE

I never planned on watching you-

HUBBARD

It happens so slowly. Like a glacier. Nothing noticeable from one day to the next, every day the mirror shows you the same person from the day before. But then, somehow, after years of being that same young girl, you glance in the mirror, and there's someone you don't even recognize. Her skin is wrinkled, her hair is gray. Even her voice is cracked. She's *old!*

COLE

I didn't understand what I was doing. Anyway, now you've been restored. Can't you just let it go?

HUBBARD

Restored? *Restored?! Did all those years of living alone get restored? Did a lifetime of waiting and weeping and misery get restored?*

COLE

No. That was a stupid thing to say. I am so sorry, Christine. I am so very sorry.

II.1.6 "Only What We Do"

HUBBARD

Sorry. You didn't realize what you were doing. Really? Is that the best you've got? *Sorry!?*

DO YOU THINK IT EVEN MATTERS
HOW SORRY YOU MAY BE
OR HOW BADLY YOU MIGHT FEEL
FOR WHAT YOU DID TO ME

THE ONLY THINGS THAT MATTER
ARE THE THINGS THAT YOU HAVE DONE
AND IF YOU'D HOPED TO FIND FORGIVENESS
I CAN PROMISE YOU THERE'S NONE
IN LIFE THERE'S ONLY ONE THING THAT IS TRUE
WE MAY WISH THAT WE WERE BETTER
BUT WE ARE ONLY WHAT WE DO

COLE

I CAN'T CHANGE THE PAST BEHIND US
THERE'S NO MAGIC THAT'S THAT STRONG
THE ROAD TO MY REDEMPTION
IS A ROAD THAT'S FAR TOO LONG
I'M NOT PROUD AND I'M NO HERO
FOR THE CHOICES THAT I MADE
I TRIED TO SAVE MY PEOPLE
IT WAS YOU I BETRAYED
IN LIFE THERE'S ONLY ONE THING THAT IS TRUE
I MAY WISH I HAD DONE BETTER
BUT WE ARE ONLY WHAT WE DO

BOTH

WE ARE TRAPPED INSIDE THESE WALLS
WE WORKED SO HARD TO BUILD
SO NOTHING IN OUR HEARTS COULD BE REVEALED
IN THE END EVERY DOORWAY HAD BEEN FILLED
IN THE END EVERY EXIT HAD BEEN SEALED
LOVE MAY WISH THAT SOME THINGS WERE UNDONE
BUT THE HEART WILL ALWAYS KNOW
THAT WHEN THE RACE IS RUN
WHAT WE'VE DONE WILL NEVER LET US GO

HUBBARD

WE CAN'T CHANGE THE PAST BEHIND US

COLE

THERE'S NO MAGIC THAT'S THAT STRONG

HUBBARD

THE ROAD TO OUR REDEMPTION

COLE

IS A ROAD THAT'S FAR TOO LONG

HUBBARD

IF YOU'D HOPED TO FIND FORGIVENESS

COLE

I HAD HOPED TO FIND FORGIVENESS

HUBBARD

I CAN NEVER SAY THERE'S NONE

COLE

BUT I DOUBT THAT IT WILL COME
(HUBBARD: OR IF IT WILL COME)

BOTH

IN LIFE THERE'S ONLY ONE THING THAT'S TRUE
WE MAY WISH THAT WE WERE BETTER
BUT WE ARE ONLY WHAT WE DO
WE MAY WISH THAT WE WERE BETTER
BUT IN THE END, WE ARE ONLY WHAT WE DO

**COLE stands behind her, gently
holding her shoulders**

COLE

Is there no way we can avoid all this senseless
conflict? My people... *our* people are suffering.

HUBBARD

(breaking away)

And do you think I haven't suffered?

COLE

But these are simple people. They've done you no
harm. And the Pallians, Jack and Jill, they're not-

HUBBARD

Oh yes, Jill! You're new "friend".

COLE

They're just a couple of nice young people.
Children, really.

HUBBARD

There is no going back, Cole. There is nothing left
but justice and revenge. Go back to your "nice",
lovely, *young* Jill.

COLE

She's not my-

HUBBARD

And don't expect mercy. There won't be any. Only
justice. *Hard* justice. For you and all your
simpletons. See what you can find merry in *that*,
Old King Cole.

HUBBARD storms off.

BLACKOUT

II.1.7 "Only What We Do" (scene change)

SCENE 2

The courtyard of the castle, that afternoon. TOWNSPEOPLE mill around. COLE is at the well, JILL and BINIMBLE are strategically placed. SOUND: a brazen trumpet. QUEEN HUBBARD, JACK, HENRY, BABA BLACK and WILLIE WINKIE and GUARDS enter from castle.

HENRY

Hearr ye! Hearr ye! The Queen of Rrhimeland will now issue herr new prroclamations. Gatherr rround!

EVERYONE crowds near HUBBARD. As HENRY reads the proclamations, HUBBARD guzzles elixir.

HENRY (CONT'D)

(threatening)

Hearr ye, and ye betterr hearr ye good! Herre arre the new rrules and rregulations forr everyrone in Rrhimeland. Rrule numberr one. Worrkk! Sunup to sundown. All the frruits of yourr laborr go dirrectly to Queen Hubbarrd forr the glorrious defense of Rrhimeland.

JACK frowns, troubled.

JACK HORNER

What? All of it?

HENRY

All of it. Rrule numberr two. Wherreas thrree meals a day interrferres with rrule numberr one, henceforrth, there will only be one meal a day.

HUMPHREY DUMPTON

One meal??!!

HENRY

Brreakfast. Consisting of one egg. Which in yourr case should be morre than sufficient.

HUMPHREY DUMPTON

I feel faint.

JACK

Madame, these rules might not be in the best interests of Rhimeland. They seem, well, cruel.

HUBBARD

Oh, really, Jack? As the future king, surely you understand that productivity must be increased?

JACK

Well, sure, that makes sense, but still-

HUBBARD

We are only making these rules so that everyone will benefit from our overall prosperity. This will only make Rhimeland great again.

JACK

I guess, but it just seems that, well, some of the things you're doing aren't exactly right.

HUBBARD

Who are you going to believe, me or your lying eyes? Our policies are designed so that no Rhimeland citizen will be left behind. Unless they fail to keep up. Simple, right?

HENRY

Grrr. If I might be allowed to continue? Rrule threere. Wherreare-

HUBBARD

Give me that proclamation. I'll read this one. Rule number three. Whereas the water from the well formerly known as "Cole's Well", and henceforth to be known as "Hubbard's Hole", whereas that water has led to excessive idiotic glee and revelry, all citizens are hereby forbidden to drink from said well until further notice.

MISSY MUFFET

But when will we get further notice?

HUBBARD

When the well freezes over.

HUBBARD takes another long swallow of the elixir, hands it to HENRY, who surreptitiously swigs some.

KING COLE

Hubbard, I'd take it easy on that elixir if I were you. It may be stronger than you think.

HUBBARD

You ran your kingdom your way. I'll run your kingdom *my* way. The water from that well made all of you happy. Sappy happy. Crappy happy!

(MORE)

HUBBARD (CONT'D)

Well, you needn't worry about *that* anymore.
There'll be no more laws enforcing mock happiness.
Au contraire.

HENRY

Oooh, quite the *contrairre*. Arooo!

HUBBARD

Let's see. According to Rule Number One, I believe
everybody should be getting back to work. Now!

HENRY, BABA, WINKIE and GUARDS
begin to move the crowd along.
HUBBARD watches with a sneer. JILL
edges behind HUBBARD. COLE speaks
to BILLY BLUE in a loud voice.

KING COLE

Billy Boy Blue, you're the finest horn player in
Rhimeland. I was just wondering. Have you ever
played a *pipe* before?

BILLY BLUE

A *pipe*? Sire, I can forevermore play a *pipe*.

KING COLE

Well, then, would you mind playing this *pipe* of
mine? I'd love to hear you play this *pipe*.

HUBBARD shows him the Pipe. HENRY
trots to HUBBARD and whispers,
pointing at COLE

HUBBARD

The Pipe?! The Pipe!!!

II.2.1 "Fight For Rhimeland" (underscore)

HUBBARD runs to COLE. As she does,
JILL reaches to steal the Elixir
from her outstretched hand. As she
takes the bottle, HENRY lunges at
her, HUBBARD regains the flask.

HUBBARD (CONT'D)

What? Why you sniveling little guttersnipe. How
dare you even *touch* me? I'll turn you into your own
great grandmother!

HUBBARD begins her incantation. As
she spins around, JACK leaps at
her and grabs the flask

Jack

No! You can't do that! Jill, run!

HENRY leaves JILL, lunges at JACK's throat, bites his arm

JILL

Jack! Look out!

A fight ensues, with much shouting, the elixir bottle the object of everyone's attention. During the fight, HUBBARD's clothes apparently get larger, making her look ever smaller. Her voice and pronunciation become more juvenile. Finally, HENRY regains control of the bottle, tosses it to HUBBARD. She leaps to the top of the well.

HUBBARD

(singsong chant)

Nonny-nonny-doo-doo. I'll destroy all of you!

As she begins her incantation, she visibly sinks, obviously "youthening". She drops the elixir, covers her face with her hands, and runs into the castle.

HUBBARD (CONT'D)

Henry! Help me! Help me!

HENRY

Coming, motherrrr! Aroo- Yip! Yip! Yip!

HENRY runs into the castle, yipping all the way.

JACK

She's gone! But she could be back any minute!

KING COLE

I don't think so.

JILL

Jack, your arm!

JACK

It's not that bad. Henry's all bark, not much bite.

COLE tears cloth from his robe

KING COLE

Here, let me. That was a brave thing to do, Jack.

JACK

Jill's the one. She fought Hubbard face to face.

JILL

But she never suspected you. Jack, I'm so proud of you. I knew you were better than you'd been acting.

KING COLE

That was courageous, Jack.

JACK

But you're all so calm. What about Hubbard? She'll be back. She's still a threat, isn't she?

COLE picks up elixir, peers at it

KING COLE

Not without this. There's not much left. And look, here comes your threat.

HUBBARD re-emerges: a little girl in oversize clothing, carrying a cute little black puppy.

HUBBARD

Can somewun help me? I'm wost. And my puppy just wet hissef.

POP WIETZEL

Sure, little girl. I know the kindest, wisest, bravest mother in the world. She'll take care of you. Won't you Mother Shue?

WIDOW SHUE

Oh, what's another shoe to feed? Especially if I have a husband to help me.

SHUE CHILDREN

Hurray!

WHOOPI-TI-SHUE

Whoopti-shoo!

POP WIETZEL

Mrs. Shue! You make me want to go dancing 'round the mulberry bush!

DIDDLE

Whoa! Settle down, Popster!

**Two SHUE children lead HUBBARD &
puppy into the palace**

BINIMBLE

If you ask me, I think she deserves a spanking.

PIMON

Or at least sent to bed without supper.

HUMPHREY DUMPTON

But be sure to feed her some *breakfast!*

General laughter.

KING COLE

She's gotten what she deserved, and she's where she should have been all along. In a loving home. It's me who should be spanked. This is all my fault.

JILL

Your fault? What did you do?

KING COLE

Remember how I told you that she helped me create the elixir? Well, when I became king, I deserted her. Just left her all alone. I thought it was more important to be king.

JACK

So did I.

JILL

But what happens now?

KING COLE

(taking her hands)

Now you and Jack must let your people know they are welcome to all the water they'll ever need.

JILL

But, I thought maybe... I mean Jack can go back to Palea, and he'll be a duke and everything, and so, maybe I could stay here. You know, in Rhimeland.

KING COLE

Dear Jill, that would never work. I'm far too old, my dear. It's easy to forget, but I'm ever so much older than you. And I know far too much about far too many things in the world. You must learn those things for yourself. With someone your own age. Someone you love. Someone like Jack.

JILL

(taking Jack's arm)

Of course you're right, your majesty. Looks like you broke your crown, Jack. No being king for you.

JACK

Just as long as you're with me.

KING COLE

(addressing crowd)

My friends, for years, Rhimeland has maintained its dominance over its neighbors because of my refusal to share. We have all been lucky to be born in Rhimeland, during a time when so much was possible. We should be thankful for our good fortune, but not when it comes at the expense of our neighbors' misfortune. From now on, Rhimeland will share its water with all our neighbors. Especially Palea.

JILL

Thank you, your majesty.

KING COLE

Folks, we needn't fear our friends. And we needn't fear the future. There's plenty of future for everybody. And one thing we can always be sure of. Magic elixir or not, we can all be young again. Forever. It's just how you look at life.

II.2.2 "Young Again Forever"

WE'LL BE YOUNG AGAIN FOREVER
WE'LL WATCH THE YEARS GO FLOATING BY
THEY WON'T TOUCH US, NO NOT EVER
WE'LL NEVER FEEL THEM, YOU AND I
LAUGHING THE LAUGHTER OF IMMORTALS
EVERYONE OF US, A CHILD AT HEART

COLE & JILL

EVERYONE OF US, LAUGHING EVER AFTER

COLE, JILL & JACK

YOUNG AGAIN FOREVER
AND WE'LL NEVER, EVER PART

ALL

WE'LL BE FOREVER YOUNG AGAIN
AS TIME GOES CHASING AFTER TIME
WHAT COMES WILL BE THE BEST THAT'S EVER BEEN
AND EVERY HILL IS OURS TO CLIMB

LAUGHING THE LAUGHTER OF IMMORTALS
EVERY SINGLE FACE WEARS A GENTLE SMILE
EVERYONE OF US, SINGING EVER AFTER

YOUNG AGAIN FOREVER
IN EVERY HEART A LITTLE CHILD

WE'LL BE YOUNG AGAIN FOREVER
WE'LL WATCH THE YEARS GO FLOATING PAST
THEY WON'T TOUCH US, NOT EVER
'TIL OUR SOULS ARE HOME AT LAST
WE'LL STAY YOUNG AGAIN, FOREVER
HAPPY EVER AFTER YOUNG AGAIN
HAPPY EVER AFTER WE WILL BE FOREVER YOUNG

**MOTHER GOOSE appears, with two men
who carry fiddles strapped to
their backs, like DIDDLE**

MOTHER GOOSE

King Cole! You won't believe who just came marching
up the hill!

HEYWOOD DIDDLE

Dagwood! Elwood! My brothers! I can't believe it!
Where've you guys been?

DAGWOOD

It's a long story.

ELWOOD

I'm talking about an *epic* story!

HEYWOOD DIDDLE

I dig a good story! But the main thing is, you're
back! Your High Coolness, this means we'll be
playing our super fine magical music for you again!

They all hug

COLE

The whole Diddle clan back together! Why, that
means all the talismans are in place again. And
that means the magic of Rhimeland will be
completely restored. No more need for an elixir! So
there's only one last thing to take care of. Mother
Shue, will you do me the kindness of raising Miss
Christine Hubbard back to adulthood?

WIDOW SHUE

It will be my pleasure, your majesty.

KING COLE

And when she grows up to once again become a young
lady, this time I'll do the right thing by her.

JILL

But won't you be terribly old? I mean, the elixir
is all gone.

KING COLE

(peering at bottle)

Not all. There's just enough left.

POP WIETZEL

Say! Any chance a fella could get a swig of that?

KING COLE

Every chance in the world.

WIDOW SHUE

Hallelujah!

**COLE gives POP the bottle, POP
takes a long swig & hands it back,
then kicks his heels together**

KING COLE

Thank you, Mister Wietzel. And there's just enough
left for my needs. Christine, my love, we are going
to be young again together. People of Rhimeland. It
has been my greatest honor to be your king for all
these many years. But it has been too many years,
and the time has come for a new ruler. Jack and
Jill will reign over this merry land from now on.

**He drains the bottle and exits
into the castle, his voice getting
more juvenile the whole way**

KING COLE (CONT'D)

As for me, I'm gonna grow young and then grow up
all over again. Farewell! Yippee! Gee willikers!

II.2.3 "Jack and Jill Are Cool (Reprise)"

MOTHER GOOSE

THINGS ARE NEVER WHAT THEY SEEM
BUT THEY'VE SEEMED TO TURN OUT FINE
OLD KING COLE AND ALL HIS FRIENDS
HAVE SAVED THE LAND OF RHYME
THERE'S NOT MUCH LEFT TO SAY
THAT'S HOW THIS STORY ENDS

ALL

YOUNG KING JACK, KING JACK'S THE MAN
YOUNG KING JACK, HE'LL DO THE BEST HE CAN
YOUNG QUEEN JILL, JILL WILL BE OUR QUEEN
YOUNG QUEEN JILL, SHE'S THE BEST WE'VE EVER SEEN

BINIMBLE
THE BEST WE'VE EVER SEEN

JACK & JILL
THINGS WILL NOW BE JUST WHAT THEY SEEM
THAT'S THE THEME OF OUR NEW REGIME!

ALL
JACK AND JILL, THEY'RE THE QUEEN AND KING
SOON THEY WILL BE WEARING WEDDING RINGS
JILL AND JACK, YOU CAN PLAINLY SEE
LOVE TO LAUGH, THEY'RE MERRY AS CAN BE

BINIMBLE
THEY'RE MERRY, THEY LOVE THEIR FUN

JACK & JILL
IF IT'S FUN, WE DECREE IT WILL BE DONE

ALL
GOOD KING JACK AND GOOD QUEEN JILL
WE'RE GLAD THEY TRAVELLED UP THAT HILL
WE HOPE THEY NEVER GO BACK DOWN AGAIN
AND THIS IS HOW OUR STORY GOES
WE'RE THROUGH WITH SORROW, THROUGH WITH WOES
LIVE HAPPY EVER AFTER WITH OUR FRIENDS

JACK AND JILL, THEY'RE BOTH VERY NICE
JACK AND JILL, THEY'RE AS COOL AS ICE
JILL AND JACK, AS COOL AS COOL CAN GET
THEY'RE IN CHARGE, YOU BEST NOT FORGET
THEY'LL BE COOL IF WE ARE COOL
WHO'LL BE COOL? WE'LL ALL BE COOL!

RHIMELAND IS COOL!
JACK AND JILL ARE COOL!
RHIMELAND IS COOL!
JACK AND JILL ARE COOL!

CURTAIN AND CURTAIN CALLS

II.2.4 "King Cole is Cool" (Curtain Call Music)