A NEW MUSICAL SHOW "CRAZY FRUITCAKES"

MUSIC, LYRICS, AND BOOK

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ACTORS CHARACTERS

man, age 60 Dr. Jared Lockheart Shamas, III

head psychiatrist

woman in 60's head nurse Stoneheart

man in 60's Shakespeare, a patient

man in 40's Malcolm X Washington, a patient

young man, age 18 Angel, a patient

woman in 50's Tallulah, a patient

young woman, age 18 Julia, a patient

Madeline, Shamas's former wife

man in mid 20's cop

Madeline's lover

SETTING:

TIME: ACT 1: last day of winter ACT 2: first day of spring

PLACE: Beauview State Hospital for the Mentally Insane in Manhattan. A revolving stage alternates between the following:

- 1. A hospital ward with sterile gray walls. At the back stage center is the nurse's station. On stage left is a dining area designated by a large table and chairs. There are bars on both sides of the stage. At the back of stage right there is a barred window indicating a padded cell.
- 2. SHAMAS's private office. It is furnished with an analyst's couch, a desk with plastic flowers, a wall length mirror, a black doctor's kit, and a human skull.
- 3. A group therapy room. It is empty except for a semicircle of folding chairs.

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SHAMAS

LIST OF SONGS: SINGERS: ACT I: SCENE 1: 1. CRAZY FRUITCAKES **CHORUS** SCENE 2: 2. IN THE LIGHT OF THE MOON SHAMASSCENE 4: 3. NO IFS, ANDS OR BUTS SHAKEPEARE SCENE 5: 4. NOW MY TIME IS OVER SHAMAS SCENE 6 5. RADIANCE OF LOVE ANGEL SCENE 7: 6. CRAZY FRUITCAKES (REPRISE I) CHORUS 7. EVERYONE LEAVES ME TALLULAHSCENE 8: 8. CRAZY LADY STONEHEART SCENE 9: 9. CLOWN FACE JULIA SCENE 10. 10. WOMAN WHO WALKS ON FIRE TALLULAH

SCENE 11:

11. CARPE DIEM!

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ACT	II:

SCENE 1:

12. A BOY WHO'LL NEVER BE A MAN MALCOLM

SCENE 2:

13. WITH MUSIC I'M ECSTATIC! SHAKESPEARE

SCENE 3:

14. CARPE DIEM! (REPRISE I) SHAMAS

SCENE 4:

15. BELOVED JULIA AND ANGEL

SCENE 5:

16. LIFE'S A MASQUERADE PARTY MALCOLM AND SHAKESPEARE

17. CARPE DIEM! (REPRISE II) MALCOLM, TALLULAH, AND

SHAKESPEARE

SCENE 6:

18. CRAZY FRUITCAKES (REPRISE II) CHORUS

19. BELOVED (REPRISE) ANGEL AND JULIA

20. A BOY WHO'LL NEVER BE A MAN MALCOLM

SCENE 7:

21. WHO'S THAT WRETCH? SHAMAS

SCENE 8:

22. WE! SHAKESPEARE AND TALLULAH

SCENE 10:

23. NEVER GO AWAY JULIA AND SHAMAS

24. RADIANCE OF LOVE (REPRISE) CAST

ACT I:

Scene 1:

(No curtain. The lights rise on a freezing cold winter morning on the main ward of a present day Manhattan insane asylum. On a wall on stage right someone has painted graffiti that says "Good-bye forever, Sincerely, God." The music to CRAZY FRUITCAKES begins as the cast mills around the stage all wearing white masks over their eyes.)

ALL:

CRAZY FRUITCAKES, WE'RE THE INSANE HUMPTY DUMPTY SPLATTERED HIS BRAIN MAD AS A HATTER, DRUGGED AS WE CAN BE LOCKED IN OUR CELLS AND CAN'T FIND THE KEY NOT MUCH HOPE WE'LL EVER GET FREE WRAPPED IN JACKETS, HELD WITH DISDAIN BATS IN OUR BELFRY, HOPE'S DOWN THE DRAIN RANTING, RAVING, RABID WITH PAIN COME AND JOIN OUR FRENZIED GAME HERE AT BEAUVIEW FOR THE INSANE

CRAZY FRUITCAKES, WE ARE CRAZY CRAZY FRUITCAKES, LIFE'S INANE CRAZY FRUITCAKES, DAFT AND DAZY CRAZY FRUITCAKES, WE'RE INSANE!

GRANDIOSE AND MEGALO-MANIC I'M PSYCHOTIC, WILD, AND FRANTIC SOCIOPATHIC, CLOSET PEDOPHILE ANXIOUS, AUTISTIC, AND VOLATILE O.C.D. BUT WEAR IT WITH STYLE SCHIZOPHRENIC, SLIGHTLY REGRESSED NON COMPUS MENTIS AND I'M REPRESSED SO IMPULSIVE THAT I'M RESTRAINED ALMOST FRIED FROM THE LACED COCAINE BACK AT BEAUVIEW FOR THE INSANE

CRAZY FRUITCAKES, WE ARE CRAZY CRAZY FRUITCAKES, LIFE'S INANE CRAZY FRUITCAKES, DAFT AND DAZY CRAZY FRUITCAKES, WE'RE INSANE!

(The members of the cast move to different places on the DR. JARED LOCKHEART SHAMAS III and nurse STONEHEART remove their masks and begin morning rounds. SHAMAS is a

nice looking psychiatrist with a beard and mustache like Freud's. STONEHEART is a harsh appearing head nurse wearing an old-fashioned nurse's uniform. The instrumental vamping to CRAZY FRUITCAKES continues quietly in the background.)

SHAMAS:

It's time for morning medical rounds, Nurse Stoneheart. I hear we've got a new patient on the ward.

STONEHEART: (deferentially)

Yes, Dr. Shamas... Malcolm X Washington, a 45 year old lawyer brought in after attempting to kill an army major at his son's military funeral.

SHAMAS: (with grandeur)

I may be an exceptional psychiatrist, but there is only so much even I can do for a lawyer.

STONEHEART:

Diagnosis?

SHAMAS:

Rule out homicidal maniac.

STONEHEART:

Treatment?

SHAMAS:

Knock him out with a cocktail of Haldol and Depakote, a splash of Tegretol, and send him to my office. And do <u>not</u> under any circumstances remove his straight jacket!

STONEHEART: (scribbling notes)

Yes, Doctor!

(SHAMAS and STONEHEART put back on their masks. Lights off of them and on MALCOLM, a radical looking caucasian man who manages to remove his mask despite wearing a straight-jacket. He steps forward and sings a selection from A BOY WHO'LL NEVER BE A MAN.)

- I WASN'T THERE WHEN HE NEEDED ME
- I COULDN'T SAVE HIM AND KEEP HIM FREE
- SO NOW HE LIES IN A WOODEN BOX

A BOY WHO'LL NEVER BE A MAN

(Lights back on everyone who sings the chorus to <u>CRAZY</u> <u>FRUITCAKES</u>. MALCOLM puts his mask back on and rejoins the chorus.)

ALL:

CRAZY FRUITCAKES, WE ARE CRAZY CRAZY FRUITCAKES, LIFE'S INANE CRAZY FRUITCAKES, DAFT AND DAZY CRAZY FRUITCAKES, WE'RE INSANE!

(Spotlight back on SHAMAS and STONEHEART who remove their masks.)

SHAMAS:

Next we have, Tallulah. Any sign of improvement?

STONEHEART:

She's still threatening suicide, Doctor. Any change in diagnosis?

SHAMAS:

Still clearly Borderline Personality Disorder with abandonment depression.

STONEHEART:

Treatment?

SHAMAS:

Let's keep her on the same 40 milligrams of prozac, continue to watch for any sharp objects, and ongoing individual and group psychotherapy.

(SHAMAS and STONEHEART put back on their masks and rejoin the chorus. Lights off of them and on TALLULAH, a voluptuous, earthy looking woman who removes her mask, pulls out her hair compulsively, and sings a selection from EVERYONE LEAVES ME.)

EVERYONE LEAVES ME
NOBODY STAYS
EVERYONE TIRES
ALL TINSEL FADES
EVEN THE BEST TIMES
EVEN THE GREAT TIMES
THE ROMANCE ALWAYS ENDS

ON THAT YOU CAN DEPEND

(Lights back on everyone who sings the chorus to <u>CRAZY</u> <u>FRUITCAKES</u>. TALLULAH puts her mask back on and joins the chorus.)

ALL:

CRAZY FRUITCAKES, WE ARE CRAZY CRAZY FRUITCAKES, LIFE'S INANE CRAZY FRUITCAKES, DAFT AND DAZY CRAZY FRUITCAKES, WE'RE INSANE!

(Spotlight back on SHAMAS and STONEHEART who remove their masks again.)

STONEHEART: (dismissive)

Then we have Julia mumbling and staring into space.

SHAMAS: (suddenly lost in thought)
Hmmm. It's such a mystery why she overdosed. I've got to get her to open up more.

STONEHEART:

Same diagnosis?

SHAMAS:

Yes, probable psychotic depression.

STONEHEART:

Treatment?

SHAMAS:

Let's continue the oral Seroquel and suicide precautions and be sure to bring her to group therapy today.

(SHAMAS and STONEHEART put back on their masks. Lights off them and on JULIA, a clean cut college freshman who removes her mask and sings a selection from CLOWN FACE.)

IN A NIGHTMARE SO REAL THAT IT ALL FEELS SURREAL SOMETHING HAPPENS THAT YOU CANNOT FACE WHEN YOU WAKE UP AT DAWN
ON THE DARK, HAUNTING MORN
THERE ARE MEMORIES YOU FIGHT TO ERASE

THROUGHOUT THE DAY IT EATS AT YOU AND FESTERS LIKE A SORE THOUGH YOU HAVE TRIED TO RUN AWAY IT DWELLS WITHIN YOUR CORE

(Lights back on everyone who sings the chorus to <u>CRAZY</u> <u>FRUITCAKES</u>. JULIA puts her mask back on and joins the chorus.)

ALL:

CRAZY FRUITCAKES, WE ARE CRAZY CRAZY FRUITCAKES, LIFE'S INANE CRAZY FRUITCAKES, DAFT AND DAZY CRAZY FRUITCAKES, WE'RE INSANE!

(Spotlight back on SHAMAS and STONEHEART who remove their masks.)

STONEHEART:

And finally our resident clown. He's still referring to himself as Shakespeare, speaking in incessant rhymes to imaginary people.

SHAMAS:

The guy's got every disorder in the Diagnostic Statistical Manual.

STONEHEART:

Any change in treatment?

SHAMAS:

Continue the Lithium for the mania and Zoloft for his O.C.D and don't forget the 10 milligrams of Valium.

STONEHEART:

But, Doctor, Shakespeare's not on Valium!

SHAMAS:

I know that, Stoneheart. The Valium is for me!

(SHAMAS and STONEHEART put their masks back on and return to the chorus. Lights off them and on SHAKESPEARE, an androgynous man dressed in a clown suit. He removes his mask, taps his head repetitively, and walks in aimless circles. He reaches through the air as if to grab something invisible, and then throws fairy dust at the audience, all the while singing a selection from NO IFS, ANDS, OR BUTS.)

> I SUFFER FROM COMPULSIONS AND AM PLAGUED BY MAD OBSESSIONS THAT HAVE ALMOST CAUSED CONVULSIONS AND A DREAD OF RARE INFECTIONS AND I SCRUB THE FLOORS AND WASH MY HANDS LIKE MANY NORMAL PEOPLE DO EXCEPT I DO IT ALL DAY LONG UNTIL I'M RAW AND BLACK AND BLUE

I'M GOING LOONEY. WHEE! I'M GOING NUTS I CAN'T STOP REHASHING IFS, ANDS, OR BUTS ALL OF MY THINKING GOES ROUND AND ROUND LIKE A RAMBLING, NEVER ENDING MERRY-GO-ROUND

(Lights back on everyone who sings the chorus of CRAZY FRUITCAKES. SHAKESPEARE puts back on his mask and joins the chorus.)

ALL:

CRAZY FRUITCAKES, WE ARE CRAZY CRAZY FRUITCAKES, LIFE'S INANE CRAZY FRUITCAKES, DAFT AND DAZY CRAZY FRUITCAKES, WE'RE INSANE!

MORE THAN JUST A LITTLE DEPRESSED GUILTY OF A LITTLE INCEST AGORAPHOBIC, SCARED TO GO OUTSIDE SCHIZOAFFECTIVE, ONE OF A KIND BORDERLINE AND OUT OF MY MIND

ZANY SHRINKS WHO BREAK ALL THE RULES LAWYERS WHO COME FROM IVY LEAGUE SCHOOLS EVERY NUT-CASE AND THEIR SON COME AND STAY FOR THE WICKED FUN OUR PLAY'S ONLY JUST BEGUN!

(The CAST members remove their masks and move to various locations on the ward. SHAMAS moves to the nurse's station to review some medical charts. Lights appear on STONEHEART in the nurse's station. Loud clanging noises are heard.)

STONEHEART:

All right, all patients stand in line. It's time for your morning medication.

(All patients except MALCOLM scurry in line. MALCOLM follows begrudgingly. STONEHEART administers the medication to JULIA, TALLULAH, and SHAKESPEARE who respond compliantly and with some trepidation. STONEHEART approaches MALCOLM.)

STONEHEART:

Open your mouth, Malcolm.

MALCOLM:

No!

TALLULAH:

Malcolm, do what she says. You don't want the head nurse against you!

MALCOLM:

It takes more than that to scare me.

(SHAMAS returns to STONEHEART's side. STONEHEART forces the pills down MALCOLM's throat. MALCOLM gags and recovers.)

STONEHEART:

Back to your rooms, everybody.

(TALLULAH passes SHAMAS on her way off the ward.)

TALLULAH:

Good morning, Dr. Shamas.

(JULIA passes SHAMAS as she exits.)

JULIA:

Good morning, doctor.

(SHAMAS nods. MALCOLM glares at SHAMAS, pauses as if to threaten him, and exits.)

SHAMAS:

Malcolm's going to present an interesting challenge.

STONEHEART:

Excuse me, doctor, would he be a good candidate for the you-know-what?

SHAMAS:

Stoneheart, what is your obsession with that old piece of junk? The technology is out-dated and besides, the damn thing is broken. Beauview is just too cheap to get rid of it.

STONEHEART:

Yes, doctor. Whatever you say.

(SHAMAS and STONEHEART exit.)

SCENE 2:

(SHAMAS's office. SHAMAS closes the door and looks around to make sure he's alone. He is shaking visibly from the cold. He removes a key from his pocket, unlocks his desk drawer, and pulls out a stash of cocaine. He quickly snorts some of the drug, sinks back into his chair, picks up a skull off his desk, sighs deeply, and addresses it directly.)

SHAMAS:

Good morning, Dr. Freud. Another dull day with the dregs of society. Sure, I'm completely adept at treating these patients, but you and I both know I was really meant to become a training psychoanalyst like you, and not just a run of the mill psychiatrist.

(SHAMAS looks at the skull, sighs, puts it back down on the desk behind him, snorts a little more cocaine, and then lies down on the analytic couch and addresses it again.)

I should have had a private practice on Park Avenue and 77th street, treating healthy neurotics rather than be here as a measly psychiatrist doling out pills on a ward full of crazy people. I can almost hear my healthy patients free associating on my analytic couch this very moment. But of course all of that got ripped away from me just because I had one little nervous breakdown. One insy bitsy nervous breakdown and the New York Psychoanalytic Institute revoked my privileges, leaving me with nothing but a pathetic license to practice general psychiatry. As if any of those analysts wouldn't have fallen apart if their wives had dumped them for another man and stolen sway their daughter.

(The music of <u>IN THE LIGHT OF THE MOON</u> begins playing in the background. MADELINE'S GHOST, a very attractive woman in her 20's, enters dancing the waltz by herself. SHAMAS gets off the couch, moves over to dance with her, and begins singing. The chorus dances and SHAKESPEARE plays the violin.)

SHAMAS:

IN THE LIGHT OF THE MOON
AS I LOOKED INTO YOUR EYES
I SAW THE TEAR THAT GOT AWAY

UNMASKING ALL YOUR LIES

IN THE LIGHT OF THE MOON ON THAT CHILLING AUTUMN DAY I KNEW THAT YOU LOVED SOMEONE ELSE THAT I HAD BEEN BETRAYED

PROMISES MADE YESTERDAY COULD NOT BE KEPT TOMORROW VENGEFUL HEARTS DON'T EVER MEND SMOLD'RING SCARS OF SORROW

(While they are dancing together, MADELINE's GHOST LOVER, an attractive man in his 20's, appears and extends his hand toward her. The other dancers disperse and MADELINE'S GHOST moves away from SHAMAS and begins dancing with her LOVER. SHAMAS continues to sing the song from the sideline, reaching out to her.)

> IN THE LIGHT OF THE MOON AS THE WINTER MONTHS PASSED BY I HAD KNOWN WE'D SOMEHOW GROWN APART AND STILL I WONDERED WHY

IN THE LIGHT OF THE MOON IN A DINGY CABARET AS WE SAID GOOD-BYE, MY DREAMS ALL DIED JUST LIKE THE OLD CLICHE

PROMISES MADE YESTERDAY COULD NOT BE KEPT TOMORROW VENGEFUL HEARTS DON'T EVER MEND SMOLD'RING SCARS OF SORROW

I REMEMBER THE BEGINNING WALTZING OUR FIRST NIGHT WHEN YOU WHISPERED "LOVE'S FOREVER" HOLDING ME SO TIGHT

I REMEMBER THE BEGINNING LOOKING IN YOUR EYES I THOUGHT THAT WE'D STAY TOGETHER REAL LOVE NEVER DIES

PROMISES MADE YESTERDAY COULD NOT BE KEPT TOMORROW

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VENGEFUL HEARTS DON'T EVER MEND SMOLD'RING SCARS OF SORROW

VENGEFUL HEARTS DON'T EVER MEND THEY JUST LEAVE YOU HOLLOW

SHAMAS: (speaking)

Please, Madeline, Hunter! Don't take Jolie away from me! Not my little girl! I beg you!

(MADELINE and her LOVER start to laugh at him. SHAMAS falls on his knees and begins to sob uncontrollably, rocking himself back and forth. The lights dim.)

SCENE 3:

(STONEHEART and MALCOLM appear at SHAMAS'S office. STONE-HEART knocks.)

SHAMAS:

Yes. What is it?

STONEHEART:

Stoneheart, Dr. Shamas. I have Malcolm X Washington. He's here for his comprehensive psychiatric evaluation.

(SHAMAS stands up abruptly, collects himself, and opens the door.)

SHAMAS:

All right. Let him in.

MALCOLM:

At last some face to face time with the big kahuna around here.

(MALCOLM blows a big bubble until it pops and spits the remains at the doctor. SHAMAS wipes away the gum.)

SHAMAS:

Where did you get that gum? I assume you know it's not allowed on this ward. And my name is Dr. Jared Lockhart Shamas MD, PhD, the Third.

MALCOLM:

Shi-it! That's more syllables than a shrink has brain cells. Okay, Dr. Blah Blah the Third. Never you mind where I get my gum. Let me out of this straight-jacket and this cage aux follies! You've got no right to incarcerate me!

SHAMAS: (reading the chart and

speaking in a detached manner)

Insulting me won't get you out of here, Mr. Washington. The fact is, you've been admitted to Beauview, Hospital for the Acutely Insane. You might as well take advantage of this opportunity and let me try to help you. Let's talk about how your son died.

MALCOLM:

Not died! Murdered! He was murdered by the corrupt politicians of this country while they sat safely behind their fancy desks.

SHAMAS:

I'm truly sorry for your loss, Mr. Washington, but I'm a little confused. It says here in your chart that your son volunteered to fight in Iraq.

MALCOLM:

Fuck you and your self-righteous attitude!
Doctors, CEO's, military commanders... You're all the same!

SHAMAS: (calm, sighing and still

detached)

Why don't you tell me about your son.

MALCOLM:

George . George Washington!

SHAMAS: (looks up suddenly from the

chart)

You're kidding. First of all, why would a white man be named after an afro-american radical and secondly, why would he then name his son after an esteemed U.S. president?

MALCOLM:

My parents named me Robert but I changed my name to Malcolm X because I have a reverence for rebellious spirit. And as for George, that was his mother's idea. Josephine never could accept the fact that I became an activist. She named him that just to spite me.

SHAMAS:

Could that have been an act of patriotism on her part?

MALCOLM:

Patriotism or not, it completely screwed George up! (snickers) He never could figure out who the hell he was, poor kid. Out of his

confusion he joined the army and never realized he was fighting on the wrong side of the war. America's the perpetrator of violence in this world, not the poor countries we colonize and destroy. You're putting the wrong people in jails and nut houses, Dr. Corporation!

SHAMAS: (yawning)

Tell me more about your son and your ex.

MALCOLM:

Bitch! She alienated George from me from the beginning. He was young and naive. If only I'd had a few more years with him, maybe he'd have come around.

SHAMAS: (still bored and

detached)

It must be hard for you to accept the fact that he's gone.

MALCOLM: (pointing at the skull)
Yeah, and now he's a bunch of rotting bones like
your friend there. And then they had the nerve to
bury my baby boy in a military cemetery! Can you
believe it! The fucking symbol of everything I
detest. As if killing him wasn't enough!

SHAMAS: (referencing the chart)
So that must have been when you lost control of
yourself and attacked the officer at the
funeral?

MALCOLM:

Damn right, and I'd do it again! That was the last straw! This so called great democracy of yours is just a sham, Dr. Fraud, like those plastic flowers on your desk.

SHAMAS

So first you lost your country, then your son. It's my belief that underneath all your animosity, you must be feeling a lot of pain.

MALCOLM:

Give Dr. Shame-ass a Pulitzer prize for psychobabbling platitudes. Of course I'm in pain, you moron! The irony, though, is that you're not! You lost your country, too; you just don't know it.

SHAMAS:

With all this talk about conspiracy, I'm concerned that you're delusional.

MALCOLM:

And I'm concerned that your naivety is delusional.

SHAMAS: (sighs)

You're going to be here for a very long time. Mr...

MALCOLM:

You bastard! I'll escape one way or another! Maybe over your dead body!

(MALCOLM lunges for SHAMAS and attempts to kick and bite him. STONEHEART hears the commotion, rushes into the room, and shoots MALCOLM in the thigh with a large syringe needle. He collapses unconscious in her arms.)

STONEHEART:

Bye-bye, lunatic!

(STONEHEART and SHAMAS hoist MALCOLM into a wheelchair.)

SHAMAS:

Thank you, Stoneheart. Please bring Mr. Washington back to his room. I'll resume therapy with him at a later time.

(STONEHEART wheels MALCOLM away. SHAMAS sits down on his chair, opens his desk drawer, pulls out his cocaine stash and resumes snorting. He addresses the skull.)

SHAMAS:

Just another run of the mill day on this fucking ward, Dr. Freud.

(The lights dim.)

SCENE 4:

(Group Therapy room. SHAMAS, JULIA, MALCOLM, SHAKESPEARE, and TALLULAH are seated in a semi-circle with STONEHEART standing in the corner.)

SHAMAS:

All right, group. Who would like to begin today's session?

(All the patients sit unresponsively except for MALCOLM who sneers with disgust.)

SHAMAS:

How about you, Julia? We haven't heard much from you since you've been admitted.

JULIA: (continues to stare at the ground and mumbles incoherently)

SHAMAS:

What was that?

JULIA: (embarrassed)

Nothing. It's not important.

SHAMAS:

I've been reviewing your chart. Your case is very serious. Something important must have happened for you to have swallowed an entire bottle of valium.

JULIA:

I don't want to talk about it!

SHAMAS:

If you don't talk about it, I'm not going to be able to help you.

JULIA:

What difference does it make? Nobody in the world cares if I'm dead or alive.

TALLULAH:

What about your family, honey? Your mom and dad must be terribly worried about you.

JULIA: (tears up)

It's not true. My mother never worried about me and besides she's dead. And my father abandoned us when I was three.

TALLULAH:

You poor thing.

SHAMAS:

Is there something about that that caused you to overdose?

JULIA:

I really don't want to talk about it!

SHAMAS: (impatient)

Look, if you're not willing to open up, I'm going to have to give you some medication to free you up more!

JULIA: (yells)

No! Leave me alone!

(SHAKESPEARE appears shaken by her scream, jumps up, and starts leaping around and talking in a pressured manner.)

SHAKESPEARE:

Obsessions! Compulsions! I feel frantic! Too much energy Bubbling inside of me!

(Tapping his head and running around in circles, SHAKESPEARE sings No IFS, ANDS, Or Buts. All the others, except SHAMAS and STONEHEART, sing the chorus section. The latter two sit impatiently, look at their respective wrist watches, and tap their feet nervously.)

SHAKESPEARE:

I SUFFER FROM COMPULSIONS
AND AM PLAGUED BY MAD OBSESSIONS
THAT HAVE ALMOST CAUSED CONVULSIONS
AND A DREAD OF RARE INFECTIONS
AND I SCRUB THE FLOORS AND WASH MY HANDS
LIKE MANY NORMAL PEOPLE DO
EXCEPT I DO IT ALL DAY LONG

UNTIL I'M RAW AND BLACK AND BLUE

CHORUS:

HIS FLOORS, HIS HANDS, THEY LOOK BRAND NEW AND GLISTEN MORE THAN OTHERS DO BECAUSE HE'S CUCKOO IN THE HEAD AND WASHES TILL HE'S ALMOST DEAD

HE DOES THE SAME THING MORE AND MORE FORGETTING WHAT HE'S DONE BEFORE AND THEN HE DOES IT ONE MORE TIME AS IF TO STOP WOULD BE A CRIME

SHAKESPEARE:

I'M GOING LOONEY. WHEE! I'M GOING NUTS I CAN'T STOP REHASHING IFS, ANDS, OR BUTS ALL OF MY THINKING GOES ROUND AND AROUND LIKE A RAMBLING, NEVER-ENDING MERRY-GO-ROUND

I DODGE ALL CRACKS, RELOCK MY LOCKS COUNT EVERY KNOCK, RESET ALL CLOCKS AND CHECK THE STOVE, LOOK UNDER ROCKS MAKE CONSTANT RHYMES, COUNT NEW YORK BLOCKS THEN PAIR MY SOCKS, PULL OUT MY HAIR UNTIL THERE'S NOTHING LEFT UP THERE NEXT WALK IN CIRCLES, TWITCH MY NOSE TAP, TAP MY HEAD, RECOUNT MY TOES

CHORUS:

OH, ME, OH, MY! I DO DECLARE HE'S RIGHT; THERE AIN'T MUCH LEFT UP THERE HE EENIE, MEANIE, MINIE MOES THE TIGER IN HIS BITTIE TOES

NO MATTER WHAT, HE MUST REPEAT TO STOP HIM WOULD BE QUITE A FEAT HE NEVER FEELS A JOB IS DONE IT'S JUST AS IF HE'S JUST BEGUN

SHAKESPEARE:

I'M GOING LOONEY. WHEE! I'M GOING NUTS I CAN'T STOP REHASHING IFS, ANDS, OR BUTS ALL OF MY THINKING GOES ROUND AND AROUND LIKE A RAMBLING, NEVER-ENDING MERRY-GO-ROUND

I TURN MY LIGHTS BACK ON AND OFF

THEN CLEAR MY THROAT UNTIL I COUGH AND CLIMB THE STAIRS FIRST UP, THEN DOWN SPIN ROUND AND ROUND, THEN TOUCH THE GROUND

AND THEN I STAND BACK ON MY HEAD COUNT UPSIDE-DOWN TILL ALMOST DEAD AND HOARD AND HOARD AND CRAM EACH ROOM AS IF I'M BURIED IN MY TOMB

CHORUS:

HE CLIMBS THE STAIRS, FIRST UP, THEN DOWN STANDS ON HIS HEAD JUST LIKE A CLOWN AND THEN, OH DEAR! HE CRAMS HIS ROOM AS IF HE'S BURIED IN A TOMB

CAN YOU BELIEVE THE WAY HE ACTS! THE POOR THING SIMPLY CAN'T RELAX! WITH SUCH A SERIOUS DISEASE HOW WILL HE EVER FEEL AT EASE!

SHAKESPEARE:

I'M GOING LOONEY. WHEE! I'M GOING NUTS I CAN'T STOP REHASHING IFS, ANDS, OR BUTS ALL OF MY THINKING GOES ROUND AND AROUND LIKE A RAMBLING, NEVER-ENDING MERRY-GO-ROUND

(SHAKESPEARE stops singing. The instrumental music continues quietly in the background. SHAMAS goes over to SHAKESPEARE and sits him down in a chair. SHAKESPEARE continues to move around nervously in his seat.)

SHAMAS:

I think you're struggling with your severe OCD this morning. Stoneheart, give our patient a little sedative to help him stop ruminating.

(STONEHEART quickly injects SHAKESPEARE with some medicine. He immediately begins to calm down and continues the song in a belabored, lethargic tone.)

SHAKESPEARE: (singing)

I ALSO HAVE DEPRESSION AND AM PLAGUED BY RUMINATIONS THAT CONTINUE TO TORMENT ME MUCH LIKE MENTAL FLAGELLATIONS AND I FEAR THE WORLD IS ENDING AND THAT EVERYONE IS MOCKING ME BECAUSE I AM THE MOST REPULSIVE CREATURE THAT COULD EVER BE

CHORUS:

HE'S QUITE DEPRESSED; IT'S REALLY TRUE AND SUFFERS MORE THAN OTHERS DO AND SOMETIMES HE FEELS SO MUCH DREAD THE POOR DEAR CAN'T GET OUT OF BED

HE FEARS THE WORLD'S ABOUT TO END AND FINDS IT HARD TO TRUST A FRIEND BECAUSE HE'S GONE COMPLETELY MAD AND REALLY THINKS THAT HE'S THAT BAD

SHAKESPEARE:

I'M GOING LOONEY. Oy! I'M GOING NUTS I CAN'T STOP GROANING THOSE IFS, ANDS, OR BUTS ALL OF MY THINKING GOES ROUND AND AROUND LIKE A HOPELESS, NEVER-ENDING MERRY-GO-ROUND

(SHAKESPEARE stops singing and the instrumental continues.)

SHAMAS: (talking)

Stoneheart, that tranquilizer must have retriggered Shakespeare's depression! Give him a little Dexedrine to pick him up.

(STONEHEART quickly opens a bottle and pours a few pills down SHAKESPEARE's mouth. Immediately he perks up, jumps out of his chair, and continues the song with more energy.)

SHAKESPEARE: (singing)

I ALSO AM QUITE MANIC AND CAN BE A BIT EUPHORIC WHEN I'M NOT JUST FEELING FRANTIC OR DESPAIRINGLY DYSPHORIC AND I SING AND DANCE AND LEAP AROUND AND SOMETIMES THINK THAT I COULD FLY BECAUSE I FEEL SO LIGHT AND FREE ALTHOUGH I FRANKLY DON'T KNOW WHY

(SHAKESPEARE blows kisses at everyone onstage and in the audience.)

CHORUS:

HE'S FULL OF ZEST AND ON THE RUN AND CLAIMS HE'S HAVING SO MUCH FUN AND DANCES, PRANCES, THEN LEAPS MORE BEFORE COLLAPSING ON THE FLOOR

HE NEVER SEEMS TO NEED MUCH SLEEP AND WHEN HE DOES, IT'S RARELY DEEP SOMETIMES HE LOOKS UP IN THE SKY AND FLAPS HIS ARMS, AND TRIES TO FLY!

SHAKESPEARE:

I'M GOING LOONEY. WHEE! I'M GOING NUTS
I CAN'T STOP FIRING IFS, ANDS, OR BUTS
ALL OF MY THINKING GOES ROUND AND AROUND
LIKE A MADD'NING, NEVER-ENDING MERRY-GO-ROUND

SHAKESPEARE AND CHORUS:

I'M(HE'S) GOING LOONEY. WHEE! I'M (HE'S) GOING

NUTS.

I(HE) CAN'T STOP FIRING IFS, ANDS, OR BUTS ALL OF MY(HIS) THINKING GOES ROUND AND AROUND LIKE A MANIC, NEVER-ENDING MERRY-GO-ROUND

RING AROUND THE ROSIES, COUNTING THOSE DAMN POSIES ON THIS FRICKIN' MERR'-GO-ROUND ROUND AND ROUND TILL I(HE) FALL(FALLS) DOWN!

(SHAKESPEARE and the CAST collapse on the floor. Suddenly a cop enters from the back of the theater shoving ANGEL, a handsome young man wrapped in a sheet onto the ward. He is gaunt, shaking visibly from the cold, and somewhat disoriented.)

COP: (shouts)

Keep moving, you son of a bitch!

ANGEL:

Let go of me, please! I didn't do anything! Can I have a blanket? It's freezing!

COP:

Shut up or I'll give you something real to complain about.

(STONEHEART stands up and approaches the two men. The COP addresses her.)

COP:

Good morning, Ma'am. I just found this screwball singing and parading around in his birthday suit in the snow in the middle of Times Square. No name, no ID, no clothes, no nothing. I thought you guys should check him out. Who's in charge here?

(SHAMAS stands up and moves onto the ward while the patients sneak around and look on.)

SHAMAS:

I am! Dr. Jared Lockheart Shamas, MD, PhD, the Third. Is the boy dangerous?

COP:

Not so far, Doc, but you never know with these nut balls. That's why I handcuffed him.

SHAMAS:

That's fine, officer, but we won't be needing those. We've got straight-jackets of our own. (motions to STONEHEART) We'll keep him on an involuntary hold in case he's a danger to himself or others.

(The COP nudges ANGEL again more aggressively, takes off the handcuffs, and exits.)

ANGEL: (in the soft wise Voice of a Divine being, raising his arms up to the sky)

LISTEN, MY CHILDREN. YOU MUST HAVE FAITH IN ME!

(As ANGEL's arms are raised, STONEHEART quickly slips a straight-jacket over his upper body.)

SHAMAS:

Oh, is that so. And who are you?

ANGEL: (Divine Voice)

I AM THE ONE. WITHOUT ME THERE IS ONLY SUFFERING.

SHAMAS: (sarcastic)

Ah, of course, the One! And which One would that be?

ANGEL: (Divine Voice)

I AM THE DIVINE. I SHALL MINISTER TO THE PEOPLE ON THIS WARD. THERE IS MUCH SUFFERING HERE.

SHAMAS:

Really? Stoneheart, remind me, how many deities have we had on the ward this month?

STONEHEART: (refers to her nurse's

notes and yells out)

Ten, Doctor. No wait! Five messiahs, four prophets, two Abrahams, and one Ramtha.

SHAMAS: (to ANGEL)

I see. So tell me, your Oneship. Can you walk on water, raise the dead, read people's minds, or perhaps part the Red Sea?

ANGEL: (Divine Voice)

YOU, DOCTOR, ARE IN SO MUCH PAIN!

SHAMAS:

Thank you for the sermon, Mr. God Almighty. I'm afraid you're acutely psychotic. This God you think you're channeling is actually an auditory hallucination. Don't worry though; you've come to the right place. We'll take care of you. First we'll have to do something about that sheet though. I understand even Moses and Jesus wore clothes.

(SHAMAS and STONEHEART escort ANGEL off the ward.)

MALCOLM:

Poor guy. Now that's someone who clearly needs to be here.

JULIA:

I don't know. He seems really sweet to me.

(Lights dim.)

Scene 5:

(SHAMAS shuts the door, leans back against it, and sighs. He is clearly distressed. He removes a key from his pocket, unlocks his desk, removes his cocaine, snorts some of it, lies down on his couch, and begins to free associate to the skull of FREUD.)

SHAMAS:

Jesus, Freud, I need your help! It's this damn new patient on the ward. He's driving me nuts. Remember I was a devout Christian for years. Christ! God was the center of my existence. then look what happened! I prayed every damn day but still ended up losing everything that had ever mattered to me! I made peace with the fact that God didn't exist a long time ago. Why should this patient's allegedly divine voice be triggering me now? (sits up and glances at the skull) Come on, Sigmund, you're supposed to know everything. must be some part of me that still wants to believe God really does exist, but I've got to be strong and believe in what's really true: Science! my real God! I can't deny that this voice of his is right about one thing though: I am in so much pain. I had such big dreams about my career, my marriage, my daughter, and none of them ever came true. I'm just a nobody who nobody loves!

(SHAMAS sings NOW MY TIME IS OVER.)

THE SUN IS SETTING
THE DAY IS COMING TO AN END
NO USE PRETENDING
WE KNOW WHAT LIES BEYOND THE BEND

SO MANY THINGS I WISHED FOR NEVER DID COME TRUE THE HOURS RUNNING OUT BEFORE I EVER KNEW

DON'T TRUST TOMORROWS
IT'S LATER THAN IT EVER SEEMS
SCARED OF NOT LIVING
OF HAVING NEVER-REALIZED DREAMS

THE YOUTH I TOOK FOR GRANTED

RAN AWAY FROM ME LEAVING A MEMORY OF WHAT I USED TO BE

AND NOW MY TIME IS OVER HOW DID IT PASS ME BY? IF ONLY I COULD GRAB IT AND HAVE JUST ONE MORE TRY

I NEVER GOT MY ENCORE I NEVER TOOK MY BOW SO HOW CAN I SURRENDER AND GIVE IT ALL UP NOW?

WITHIN THE MIRROR I SEE A STRANGER GLARE AT ME A FADED SHADOW HOW SHOCKING LIFE TURNS OUT TO BE

WHAT'S LEFT ARE PHOTOS OF THE PERSON I HAVE BEEN HOW CAN I LEARN TO FACE THIS AGING, WRINKLED SKIN?

I CHASED MY RAINBOWS BUT NEVER FOUND MY POT OF GOLD WON HEATED BATTLES BUT IN THE END THEY LEFT ME COLD

EVEN THE MONEY DIDN'T MATTER IN THE END I WOULD HAVE TRADED IT FOR JUST ONE LOVING FRIEND

AND NOW MY TIME IS OVER HOW DID IT PASS ME BY? IF ONLY I COULD GRAB IT AND HAVE JUST ONE MORE TRY

I NEVER GOT MY ENCORE I NEVER TOOK MY BOW SO HOW CAN I SURRENDER AND GIVE IT ALL UP NOW?

HOW CAN MY TIME BE OVER?

HOW DID IT PASS ME BY?
IF ONLY I COULD GRAB IT
AND HAVE JUST ONE MORE TRY

I'M GONNA HAVE THAT ENCORE!
I'M GONNA TAKE THAT BOW!
I WILL NOT EVER GIVE UP
OR LET IT ALL GO NOW!

IT'S TIME TO TAKE MY ENCORE AND EXIT WITH A BOW!

(Lights dim.)

Scene 6:

(Group therapy office. SHAKESPEARE (who is wearing a clown's outfit), JULIA, TALLULAH, and ANGEL sit in chairs in a semi-circle facing the audience.)

ANGEL:

(Rises out of his chair and throws his arms up. He calls out in the Divine Voice.)

LISTEN, MY CHILDREN. I AM HERE FOR YOU!

(He sits back down and speaks in his normal voice)

Wow! It just happened again! The Voice spoke right through me just like It did on the street and when I first arrived here!

JULIA:

I don't get it. If that wasn't you just talking, then who was it and who are you?

ANGEL:

I don't have a clue! I can't remember a thing! It's like I just woke up and was standing in the street feeling this awesome loving Presence speaking through me. I don't know who I am or where I come from! It's crazy!

JULIA:

Do you think the Voice could be God?

ANGEL:

It sure feels like that! But I'm not sure of anything right now.

JULIA:

Maybe you're an angel! I'm going to call you Angel.

SHAKESPEARE: (tapping his head and

dancing)

Give me paper and some strings! I shall make him pretty wings!

TALLULAH: (pulling on her hair)

What would an angel be doing in this God forsaken hole? In case you haven't noticed, honey, this is hell, not heaven. We're lost souls.

SHAKESPEARE: (walking around rapidly

in a circle and tapping his head)

I'm a soul who's lost his way.
Don't know where I'll go today.

TALLULAH: (addresses SHAKESPEARE

tenderly)

Well, I'm lost, too. We all are. Why don't you come sit next to me, honey. That way we can be lost together.

(She gestures to the chair and SHAKESPEARE hesitantly sits down next to her.)

ANGEL: (in the Divine Voice)

YOU'RE NOT LOST, MY CHILDREN. LOVE IS EVERYWHERE.

(SHAMAS and STONEHEART enter and take seats. SHAKESPEARE stands and bows, then sits back down again.

JULIA and TALLULAH (in unison)

Good morning, Dr. Shamas.

(MALCOLM turns his back away in scorn. ANGEL continues to talk in his Divine Voice.)

ANGEL:

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO DREAM. OPEN UP YOUR HEARTS AND ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE!

SHAMAS: (sarcastically)

Thank you for leading today's group, Mr... Oh, that's right. Now I remember; you don't have a name.

JULIA:

His name is Angel!

SHAMAS:

I see. Okay, Angel. Maybe I should just retire and we can promote you to chief psychiatrist.

ANGEL: (in his Divine Voice)
THERE'S ROOM FOR ALL OF US TO BE HEALERS HERE,
DR. SHAMAS.

(Again reaching out his arms, ANGEL sings RADIANCE OF LOVE in the Divine Voice while SHAMAS cringes.)

YOU ARE SCARED AND ALONE
EVERYONE THAT YOU LOVED BETRAYED YOU
YOU FEEL WORTHLESS AND LOST
AS IF YOU WATCHED THE WORLD DEGRADE YOU

EVERYBODY HAS A FLAME
THAT IS BURNING DEEP INSIDE
A TORRENTIAL STORM SET IN
AND YOUR FLAME HAS DIED

IF YOU OPEN UP YOUR HEART YOU CAN MAKE THAT FLAME RESTART AND FEEL THE RADIANCE OF LOVE

LET YOURSELF CATCH ON FIRE TILL THE PASSION EXPLODES INSIDE YOU YOU'LL BECOME BEAUTIFUL AS THE FIRE THAT'S SURGING GUIDES YOU

EVERYBODY HAS A FLAME
THAT IS BURNING DEEP INSIDE
A TORRENTIAL STORM SET IN
AND YOUR FLAME HAS DIED

IF YOU OPEN UP YOUR HEART YOU CAN MAKE THAT FLAME RESTART AND FEEL THE RADIANCE OF LOVE

ONCE YOU'RE ON FIRE
YOU WILL LIGHT THE SKY
THEN YOU'LL SEE THAT HEAVEN IS REAL
AND ALL YOUR WORRIES WON'T BE SO STRONG
YOU CAN BEGIN TO HEAL

EVERYBODY HAS A FLAME

THAT IS BURNING DEEP INSIDE A TORRENTIAL STORM SET IN AND YOUR FLAME HAS DIED

IF YOU OPEN UP YOUR HEART YOU CAN MAKE THAT FLAME RESTART AND FEEL THE RADIANCE OF LOVE

(The instrumental of the verse plays and ANGEL offers his hand to JULIA to join him in a dance. She shakes her head no. He turns to TALLULAH and again offers his hand. She accepts and they dance together as he resumes singing.)

> EVERYBODY HAS A FLAME THAT IS BURNING DEEP INSIDE A TORRENTIAL STORM SET IN AND YOUR FLAME HAS DIED

IF YOU OPEN UP YOUR HEART YOU CAN MAKE THAT FLAME RESTART AND FEEL THE RADIANCE OF LOVE AND FEEL THE RADIANCE OF LOVE

SHAMAS:

Please! Enough! Stop it! That's more God than I can stand for one day! I've got to take a break! Stoneheart, take over!

(SHAMAS jumps out of his seat and abruptly rushes from the Lights off the psychotherapy group and spotlight on SHAMAS back in his office. He begins talking to himself and pacing up and down in an extremely agitated state. The music to RADIANCE OF LOVE can be heard in the background, first quietly and then getting gradually louder until the end of the scene.)

> Arghh! I can't bear it, Freud! (wringing his hands and crying) If I hear one more word about God, I'm gonna lose my mind! Please, help me!

(SHAMAS kneels on the ground and starts pounding his fists and crying out.)

> What's happening to me! It's too much, I tell you! My brain's exploding! Please make this torture

stop! There is no God I tell you! There is no God!

(SHAMAS wails and mumbles to himself incoherently. Suddenly he stands up, looks around suspiciously, smiles, and starts laughing in an eerie manner.)

Of course! I get it now! I know why there hasn't been any God on this earth all these years. It's because of the Devil. It took over everything. (pause) Yes, that must be! Somehow the devil overthrew God and has been at the root of everyone's misery ever since. (laughs) It's so obvious! Why didn't I see it? It wasn't God that was responsible for my suffering. And now the Devil has invaded Angel's mind. I was wrong! His voice is not an auditory hallucination at all; the boy's possessed! And this must be how the Devil intends to take over first Beauview and then the entire world!

(SHAMAS stands up and starts gesturing downward as if to Hell.)

Well, I'm on to you, you bastard! (screams)

(Lights dim.)

Scene 7:

(The ward. A chorus of patients with white masks covering their eyes is seated in the dining room playing cards. Accompanied by STONEHEART, SHAMAS moves about the patients in his long white attending coat and stethoscope, scribbling down notes on his medical pad. STONEHEART and SHAMAS put on their masks. The entire cast sings the first reprise of CRAZY FRUITCAKES.)

CHORUS:

CRAZY FRUITCAKES, NUTS AS CAN BE GOODNESS GRACIOUS! WHAT YOU DON'T SEE! FRUITY AND FLAKEY, SCHIZO SO-AND-SO DODO AND LOCO, LITTLE BIT SLOW LIKE THE PEOPLE WATCHING THIS SHOW NARCISSISTIC AND SUPPRESSED PASSIVE AGGRESSIVE AND POSSESSED PSYCHOPATH BUT HELL OF A LAWYER EXHIBITIONIST AND A VOYEUR STILL AT BEAUVIEW FOR THE INSANE

(The music ends. Members of the cast remove their masks. SHAKESPEARE, SHAMAS, STONEHEART, and MALCOLM exit, leaving ANGEL, JULIA, and TALLULAH in the dining area playing cards.)

> **ANGEL:** (in his normal voice) I still can't remember anything about my life before now, but I've got a hunch I've never been in any place this weird.

TALLULAH:

You've got good instincts, honey. Beauview gives me the creeps, too, and I've been around the block a few times.

ANGEL:

You're so quiet, Julia. I hardly know anything about you. How did you end up in such a crazy house?

JULIA:

This was the only hospital in New York that had a bed the night I overdosed, so I got stuck here. As terrible as it is, I think I need to be here. I'd probably be dead if I weren't locked up.

ANGEL:

But why did you overdose in the first place?

JULIA: (upset)

I don't want to talk about it. It brings back all the awful feelings.

ANGEL:

I understand. It's okay. Just know I'm here if you need anything. How about you, Tallulah? How did you end up in such a horrible place?

If my neighbor hadn't come into my apartment for a can of beer and discovered me in the bathtub with bleeding wrists, I'd be an angel like you. But I'm with Julia; if I weren't behind these bars, I'd probably go home and do it all over again.

JULIA:

But, Tallulah, I don't get it. Why do you want to kill yourself?

TALLULAH:

Well, first after screwing up about a million relationships with men, I fell in love with the most wonderful woman in the world and realized I must be a lesbian. (smiles and sighs) I never felt happier in my life.

JULIA:

Well, that sounds good. Then what happened?

TALLULAH:

It would have been good if I hadn't then met the most wonderful man in the world, too. I was so confused, I didn't know what to do. Before I could figure it out, they fell in love with each other and ran off together. You know, most people are lucky to find one great love in a lifetime. I found and lost two.

(TALLULAH sings and dances Everyone Leaves Me, one hand pulling on her hair and the other raised as if holding a cocktail glass to toast the others.)

> EVERYONE LEAVES ME NOBODY STAYS **EVERYONE TIRES** ALL TINSEL FADES EVEN THE BEST TIMES EVEN THE GREAT TIMES THE ROMANCE ALWAYS ENDS ON THAT YOU CAN DEPEND

EVERYONE DASHES THEY SPRINT ABOUT AFTER THE PARTY THE HERD MOVES OUT NONE TO SEDUCE ME NO ONE TO GOOSE ME THERE ARE NO LIPS TO KISS WHAT HAPPENED TO MY BLISS?

SO MANY PEOPLE ON EVERY STREET YET I'M JUST WITH ME NOBODY ELSE GOING HOME ALONE HOW LONELY CAN YOU BE?

EVERYONE PROMISED EVERYONE LIED ALL OF OUR BEST PLANS WITHERED AND DIED DON'T TRUST YOUR HUSBAND DON'T TRUST YOUR WIFE 'CAUSE MARRIAGE IS ALL RIGHT BUT NOT FOR ALL YOUR LIFE

EVEN MY VISIONS AND CALLOW DREAMS GOT OLD AND FADED, OR SO IT SEEMS AND "HAPPILY EVER" TURNED INTO "NEVER" AND RAN AWAY FROM ME HOW PATIENT COULD IT BE?

SO MANY PEOPLE ON EVERY STREET YET I'M JUST WITH ME NOBODY ELSE GOING HOME ALONE HOW LONELY CAN YOU BE?

THE DAYS GROW SHORT WITHOUT THE ZEST THE NIGHTS ARE LONG WITHOUT MUCH REST AND CHAMPAGNE BUBBLES GROW VERY FLAT AND GORGEOUS BABIES TURN OLD AND FAT! OH, GOD! JUST THINK OF THAT!

AND EVEN FACE LIFTS FALL AND FROWN AS THE MERRY-GO-ROUND GOES UP AND DOWN AND I SING BUT NO ONE'S BY MY SIDE HOW WILL ANYBODY KNOW I DIED? I DIED I DIED. I... DIED

(TALLULAH starts to collapse and ANGEL catches her.)

JULIA:

Tallulah! Tallulah! Wake up! You didn't die!

TALLULAH: (groggy)

I guess I must have dozed off. Huh?

JULIA:

I understand how it feels to want to kill yourself.

ANGEL: (raising his arms and

speaking in his Divine Voice)

MY CHILDREN, YOU HAVE SO MUCH TO LIVE FOR! YOU NEVER KNOW WHO LURKS AROUND THE CORNER!

(Suddenly SHAKESPEARE lurks around the corner and crosses the room wearing colorful wings. He curtsies when he sees TALLULAH, taps his head, turns around in a circle, smiles shyly, sprinkles fairy dust at her, and moves to the railing where he mumbles inaudible magical spells. The others laugh affectionately. SHAMAS rushes onto the ward in a frantic, maniacal state with STONEHEART following closely behind.)

SHAMAS:

Where's Julia? Where's Julia? I must talk to her!

JULIA:

I'm right here, Dr. Shamas. What is it?

SHAMAS: (agitated)

Oh, good! I've been so worried about you! I think I know why you haven't been talking. It's the devil, isn't it? It's trying to take over your brain, too!

JULIA: (uncomfortable)

What? What are you talking about?

TALLULAH:

Dr. Shamas, are you feeling okay?

SHAMAS:

Fine! Just fine! I figured it out! Julia, you must talk to me right now about why you tried to kill yourself!

JULIA:

Dr. Shamas, leave me alone. I'm not ready.

SHAMAS:

Argghh! There's no time!

(SHAMAS starts to walk away from the patients as STONEHEART follows quickly behind. SHAMAS addresses STONEHEART privately.)

SHAMAS: (agitated)

Go ahead and prepare the sedative. It's the only way to get her to talk now.

STONEHEART: (excited)

Yes, doctor! Right away!

(SHAMAS and STONEHEART walk off the stage leaving the patients staring at each other in disbelief.)

TALLULAH:

Oh, my God! What on earth was that! Dr. Shamas was really acting weird! (to Julia) Are you okay, honey?

JULIA:

I don't understand what happened. Why is he behaving like this?

(JULIA notices SHAKESPEARE holding his head and whimpering.)

JULIA:

Shakespeare, are you okay?

SHAKESPEARE:

I am feeling very sad 'Cause my shrink is acting mad.

(TALLULAH goes over and stands next to him in a consoling way.)

> **ANGEL:** (in his normal voice) What do you do on a psych ward when your psychiatrist is crazy?

TALLULAH:

We should talk to Malcolm. He's a lawyer. Maybe he'll have some ideas.

(Lights dim.)

Scene 8:

(Later. Main ward. JULIA is seated alone, looking despondent. STONEHEART enters and approaches her.)

STONEHEART:

Come on, Julia, cuckoo head, it's time now. I'm gonna give you that sedative that Dr. Shamas mentioned. He says it'll help you talk more about what's bothering you.

(STONEHEART looks excited in anticipation.)

JULIA:

Oh, no, you're not! Don't come near me!

(JULIA gets up to run but STONEHEART grabs her by the arm and forcibly lies her on a table.)

JULIA:

Let go of me!

STONEHEART:

There's no escaping Stoneheart!

(Holding her down with one hand, STONEHEART picks up a large syringe with the other.)

JULIA:

No! Not a shot! I'm scared!

STONEHEART:

Don't resist, girly, or it'll really hurt.

JULIA: (trying to fight her off)

Stop! Stop! Please let me go!

(STONEHEART slowly raises JULIA's skirt.)

JULIA:

Oh, my God! You pervert! Noooooo!

(STONEHEART jabs the needle into JULIA's thigh.)

JULIA:

Arghh!

STONEHEART:

Here's your bandaid, Deary!

(JULIA faints. STONEHEART smiles sadistically. She glances around surreptitiously, cackles, and sings, CRAZY LADY, all the while dancing the tango and talking and gesturing to imaginary people all around her.)

> I'M PSYCHOTIC AND SATANIC INSIDE I FEEL WILD AND FRANTIC WATCH YOUR BACK WHAT 'ERE YOU DO YOU NEVER KNOW WHO'S AFTER YOU

GHOULS THAT ONLY I CAN SEE MAKE GROWLS AND SCOWLS ON MY T.V. AND TELL ME WHO I OUGHT TO BE AND THREATEN TO DEVOUR ME

I'M A CRAZY LADY, CRAZY LADY SOON I'LL COME FOR YOU CRAZY LADY, CRAZY LADY YOU MIGHT CATCH IT, TOO!

SCARY GOBLINS POISONED ME I SMELL THEIR GASSES IN MY TREE THEY HAVE A DARK CONSPIRACY AND PLOT MY DOOM RELENTLESSLY

I'M NOT WHO I USED TO BE I THINK I'M YOU INSIDE OF ME WHO SCREAMS AND MOANS BUT I BELIEVE THERE'S NO ESCAPE! WE CAN'T BREAK FREE!

I'M A CRAZY LADY, CRAZY LADY SOON I'LL COME FOR YOU CRAZY LADY, CRAZY LADY YOU MIGHT CATCH IT, TOO!

THEY CALL THIS HEBEPHRENIA A FORM OF SCHIZOPHRENIA BECAUSE I RHYME AND MAKE UP WORDS LIKE SOCKA WUCKY, KOOKLA GUCKY FROCKLING, COCKLING YERDS

THE DOCTORS GIVE ME CLOZAPINE

TO TREAT MY SCHIZOPHRENIA GENE AND LOWER EXCESS DOPAMINE THAT MAKES MY FACE DO WIERD CONTORTIONS THAT ARE QUITE OBSCENE

I'M A CRAZY LADY, CRAZY LADY
SOON I'LL COME FOR YOU
CRAZY LADY, CRAZY LADY
YOU MIGHT CATCH IT, TOO!
CRAZY LADY. CRAZY LADY
I HAVE COME FOR YOU!
CRAZY LADY, CRAZY LADY
WHOOPS! YOU'RE CRAZY, TOO

(Lights dim.)

SCENE 9:

(STONEHEART drags JULIA into the group therapy room. MALCOLM (still in his straight-jacket), SHAKESPEARE, SHAMAS (appearing disheveled and agitated), TALLULAH, and ANGEL follow. STONEHEART forces JULIA into a chair and holds her down. JULIA appears groggy and confused. She attempts to resist STONEHEART's hold.)

STONEHEART:

Don't make Stoneheart angry, lady.

ANGEL: (in his normal voice)

Hey, stop that! Let go of her!

(ANGEL rushes over to JULIA and reaches for her hand but she yanks it away.)

JULIA: (in a slurred voice)

Leave me alone!

(Sniffling, JULIA tries to get up but is subdued by STONEHEART again.)

ANGEL

What's the matter? What's happened to you! (turns to SHAMAS.) What did you do to her?

SHAMAS: (speaking defensively)

Nothing! I just prescribed a mild sedative...

JULIA: (a little more energized)

Liar! You violated me!

(JULIA stands up and begins to pound SHAMAS's chest weakly but starts faltering.)

ANGEL: (to SHAMAS)

You did what!

SHAMAS: (still agitated but becoming

more curious.)

No! No! Wait, everyone, please! You don't understand! I never touched her! I swear! I just had Stoneheart give her an injection; but maybe... (pauses in thought and turns to JULIA) Julia, did getting a shot bring up something

more threatening for you? Sometimes things in the present trigger traumatic memories from the past.

(The others wait on the edge of their seats for her response.)

JULIA:

You're right! I hate him!

SHAMAS:

Who do you hate?

JULIA:

Shawn! He said he was my friend!

SHAMAS:

Who's Shawn?

JULIA:

He was my best friend my first semester at college. We had all our classes together but then he… he…

SHAMAS: (gently)

Did he rape you? Is that what happened at N.Y.U. that made you overdose?

ANGEL: (in his normal voice)
You don't need to talk, Julia, if you don't

want to.

SHAMAS: (enraged)

Oh, yes she does! That's <u>exactly</u> what she needs to do to get better. And don't you dare interfere or you'll be escorted to our padded cell.

JULIA:

Leave Angel alone! I'll talk.

(JULIA sings CLOWN FACE.)

IN A NIGHTMARE SO REAL THAT IT ALL FEELS SURREAL

SOMETHING HAPPENS THAT YOU CANNOT FACE

WHEN YOU WAKE UP AT DAWN ON THE DANK, HAUNTING MORN THERE ARE MEMORIES YOU FIGHT TO ERASE

THROUGHOUT THE DAY, IT EATS AT YOU AND FESTERS LIKE A SORE THOUGH YOU HAVE TRIED TO RUN AWAY IT DWELLS WITHIN YOUR CORE

SO MAKE A CLOWN'S FACE MERRY-GO-ROUND FACE ANY MASQUERADE WILL DO PUT ON A SAPPY FACE UPSIDE DOWN FROWNING FACE SOMETHING THAT CAMOUFLAGES YOU PAINT ON A CLOWN'S FACE MERRY-GO-ROUND FACE MAKE SURE THAT NO ONE CAN SEE THROUGH PRETEND TO LAUGH AND SIGH NOBODY WILL GUESS WHY YOU'RE DYING HIDING WHAT IS TRUE

AS YOUR LIFE PASSES BY THERE ARE GOOD REASONS WHY YOU'RE A PRISONER LOCKED IN YOUR ROOM THE SUN BLAZES BY NOON BUT IT CAN'T HIDE THE MOON OR THE DARK BROODING DREAD IN YOUR WOMB

BEFORE THE STORM THE VULTURES SWARM AND FEED UPON YOUR SOUL LEAVING BEHIND JUST SKIN AND BONES THAT NEVER WILL BECOME WHOLE

SO MAKE A CLOWN'S FACE MERRY-GO-ROUND FACE ANY MASQUERADE WILL DO PUT ON A SAPPY FACE UPSIDE DOWN FROWNING FACE SOMETHING THAT CAMOUFLAGES YOU PAINT ON A CLOWN'S FACE MERRY-GO-ROUND FACE MAKE SURE THAT NO ONE CAN SEE THROUGH PRETEND TO LAUGH AND SIGH

NOBODY WILL GUESS WHY YOU'RE DYING HIDING WHAT IS TRUE

AS THE MASK ROTS AWAY FROM THE YEARS OF DECAY THEN YOUR SECRET'S NO LONGER CONCEALED BUT YOU'RE FILLED WITH SUCH DREAD THAT YOU'LL BE STRICKEN DEAD IF EVER THE TRUTH IS REVEALED

YET NOW IS THE HOUR THE PHOENIX CRIES AND RISES TO ESCAPE NOW IS THE HOUR TO BE REBORN BY SPEAKING OF THE. . . RAPE!

QUICK! WHERE'S THAT CLOWN'S FACE MERRY-GO--ROUND FACE! ANY MASQUERADE WILL DO SLAP ON THAT SAPPY FACE UPSIDE DOWN FROWNING FACE AND PRAY THAT IT STILL COVERS YOU SMEAR ON THAT CLOWN'S FACE MERRY-GO-ROUND FACE EVEN THOUGH EVERYONE SEES THROUGH YOU KNOW YOU'LL HAVE TO LIE THOUGH THEY WILL TRY TO PRY BECAUSE YOU'RE STILL IN HIDING, NOT CONFIDING WHAT YOU KNOW IS TRUE!

SHAMAS: (speaking)

Julia, listen to me. What happened with Shawn at NYU was terrible but it sounds like it brought up something that happened a long time ago that was even more violating. Who was it, honey? Who did that to you?

(JULIA gets quiet and thoughtful. She mutters under her breath.)

You're in a safe place.

JULIA:

My stepfather raped me.

SHAMAS:

Just what I suspected.

(ANGEL reaches out his hand toward JULIA but she doesn't accept it. JULIA stands up abruptly and rushes from the room, knocking over a chair. ANGEL and STONEHEART run after her.)

SHAMAS:

Please, Julia! (yells out) Don't go! We're just beginning to make progress!
(Pushing aside his chair in frustration, SHAMAS exits.
Lights dim.)

Scene 10:

(TALLULAH, SHAKESPEARE, and MALCOLM remain in the group therapy room.)

TALLULAH:

We were all planning on talking to you, Malcolm, about how strange Dr. Shamas has been acting on and off, but I guess you've been seeing some of it yourself.

MALCOLM:

Damn right. It was really upsetting to see how enraged Shamas got at Angel earlier.

TALLULAH:

You should have seen him the other day in the dining hall. He really wasn't making any sense and kept talking about the devil.

SHAKESPEARE:

We weren't sure what we should do. We thought we should come to you.

MALCOLM:

Hell, just because I'm a lawyer doesn't mean I know what to do. Maybe I could help if I wasn't trapped inside this hellhole like you guys.

TALLULAH:

Well then, what on earth are we going to do?

MALCOLM:

Maybe if we could just get some concrete evidence of malpractice out there to the authorities, someone would come to investigate.

SHAKESPEARE:

I can do that; I don't mind. I'll go see what I can find.

(SHAKESPEARE pulls out a small camera from his pocket. The others gasp.)

MALCOLM:

Shakespeare, where on earth did you get that camera! You are quite a magician!

SHAKESPEARE:

I sneak 'round to fight back gloom. Found this stashed in a back room.

TALLULAH: (excited)

How do you like that! I think you're my hero!

SHAKESPEARE: (walking quickly in

circles, excited)

That is very kind of you. I'm a little smitten, too.

(SHAKESPEARE extends his hand to TALLULAH. She takes it in hers and kisses it. SHAKESPEARE smiles broadly and skips away, holding the camera up in the air triumphantly.)

MALCOLM:

I'm gonna check on Angel and Julia.

(MALCOLM exits. TALLULAH remains smiling, strutting around, and sings WOMAN WHO WALKS ON FIRE.)

> I'M A WOMAN WHO WALKS ON FIRE! MOTHER OF THE EARTH DAUGHTER OF THE OCEANS GUARDIAN OF ALL BIRTH

GOT THE SOUL OF THE GODDESS THE STRENGTH OF ANY MAN THE WISDOM OF THE AGES AND THE HEARTBEAT OF A LAMB

SO, TOUCH ME! HEAR ME! EVEN FEAR ME! TAUNT ME! TEASE ME! TRY AND PLEASE ME!

I'M A WOMAN WHO WALKS ON FIRE! DANCING ON THE SEAS FLYING ON MY STALLION, WIND! DARING TO BE FREE

I'M THE HEALER OF THE WOUNDED THE CHALICE OF GOD'S SEED A SISTER OF THE RADIANT SUN THE KEEPER OF THE CREED

SO, LOVE ME! CRAVE ME! DON'T ENSLAVE ME! JOIN ME! MATCH ME! COME AND CATCH ME!

AY YA HA YA AY YA HA!
AY YA HA YA AY YA HA
AY YA HA YA AH YA AH YA HA YA
AY YA HA A-AH
AH-H YA HA!

AY YA HA YA AY YA HA!
AY YA HA YA AY YA HA
AY YA HA YA AH YA AH YA HA YA
AY YA HA A-AH
AH-H YA HA!

I'M A WOMAN WHO WALKS ON FIRE! FIERCE AS FIERCE CAN BE PROUDER THAN A LIONESS DON'T YOU MESS WITH ME!

I LEAPED INTO THE FIRE
A CREATURE WITH NO NAME
THEN ROSE OUT OF THE BURNING ASH
A PHOENIX BIRTHED FROM FLAME

SO RACE ME! CHASE ME! COME EMBRACE ME! GRAB ME! DARE ME! YOU WON'T SCARE ME!

BURN ME! TIE ME! CRUCIFY ME! STAB ME! RAPE ME! YOU CAN'T BREAK ME! HAH!

(Lights dim.)

Scene 11:

(SHAMAS's office. SHAMAS enters and slams the door loudly behind him. He rushes to his desk, retrieves the stash of cocaine, snorts it, takes a deep breath, and lies down on the analytic couch. SHAKESPEARE peers through the window into the office with his camera.)

SHAKESPEARE: (mumbling and tapping

his head)

Peek-a-boo. I see you. This will capture what you do.

(SHAKESPEARE takes numerous pictures of SHAMAS with his camera and departs with a big smile.)

SHAMAS:

Okay, Freud. I know you're disappointed in I should have been more sensitive with Julia today. How come I didn't recognize the poor kid had been raped? No wonder she felt violated when I had Stoneheart give her the injection! Being held down and probed by a phallic syringe brought back memories of all those damn molestations! Sure it's important she remember them, but I think I made it all happen much too abruptly. (sighs) I hate to think I caused that poor girl any more pain than she's already had. Crap! What's the matter with me? God, I hope I haven't failed with her! We were so close! (sighs) But I need to focus on the bigger problem here. It's obvious the devil has begun to take over the ward. First Angel and next it may even be Julia. If I don't act soon, everything will be destroyed. (clearly upset) What am I going to do, Freud. (pauses as if listening) No! You're wrong! Psychotherapy even psychoanalysis - is not enough in a situation this huge! What we need is an actual exorcism. Somehow we need to get the devil out of his mind, but how! I'm no exorcist! (pause) Wait! I know! I think I've finally found a use for that the old machine!

(SHAMAS laughs hysterically and jumps up in a manic frenzy.)

That's it! I'll zap the devil right out of him and destroy it once and for all. Then the true God will be able to return and the world will be saved. At last (increasingly more frenzied) the whole psychoanalytic world will be forced to finally realize what a horrific mistake they made getting rid of me. Why, I might even win the Nobel Prize! (shrieks) I'll be the most revered psychoanalyst the world has ever known!

(SHAMAS laughs maniacally and then sings CARPE DIEM! THE DAY!)

> YOU'RE THE DEVIL, NOW I SEE HOW YOU'VE LORDED OVER ME ALL THE AGONY YOU WROUGHT IT IS TIME THAT YOU BE CAUGHT SINCE YOU GLOAT ON HATE AND FEAR YOU WRECK EVERYTHING THAT'S DEAR STOLEN CHILDREN, BROKEN TIES SEVERED PROMISES, AND LIES

CARPE DIEM! SEIZE THE DAY! I WILL FIGHT TILL DEATH TO GET MY WAY! THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO STOP ME NOW! I'LL DESTROY YOUR POWER NOW THAT I KNOW HOW!

YOU SPAWN CANCER, YOU MAKE WAR STENCH AND TERROR, SHAME AND GORE YOU FEED ON OUR ANGST AND PAIN FLOOD OUR FIELDS WITH ACID RAIN CARRY PLAGUES RIGHT TO OUR DOOR GRIEF THAT CUTS US TO THE CORE TORTURE, HOLAUCOSTS, AND RAPE TILL THERE'S NOWHERE TO ESCAPE

CARPE DIEM! SEIZE THE DAY! I WILL FIGHT TILL DEATH TO GET MY WAY! THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO STOP ME NOW! I'LL DESTROY YOUR POWER NOW THAT I KNOW HOW!

YOU'VE NO CONSCIENCE AND NO PRIDE LURING MEN TO SUICIDE SO BEWITCHING WITH YOUR SPELL TEMPTING US TO JOIN YOUR HELL NOW AT LAST THE TIME HAS COME BLOW THE BUGLES, BEAT THE DRUM YOU WON'T MAKE ME GO INSANE!

I HAVE COME TO SQUASH YOUR REIGN

CARPE DIEM! SEIZE THE DAY! I WILL FIGHT TILL DEATH TO GET MY WAY! THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO STOP ME NOW! I'LL DESTROY YOUR POWER NOW THAT I KNOW HOW! I'LL DESTROY YOUR POWER NOW THAT I KNOW HOW!

SHAMAS: (shouts)

Stoneheart, where are you! Don't throw out the you-know-what after all! We're going to need it!

(Lights dim.)

(END OF ACT I)

ACT II:

Scene 1:

(SHAMAS's office. SHAMAS is tap dancing in a black tuxedo with a top hat and cane. Intermittently he practices his bows. He admires himself in the wall mirror, gets up on a chair, and proceeds to give a speech.)

SHAMAS:

Ladies and gentlemen of the International Psychoanalytic and Nobel Prize Committees, I want to thank all of you for having this conference today in my honor. Vienna is just as beautiful in the Spring as Freud described it. What's that, Madam chairman? Oh! (chuckles with pride) The most acclaimed paper and research ever to be seen in the "International Journal of Psychoanalysis"! Revolutionized the entire field? You're too kind!

(Suddenly he is disturbed by a knock at the door. Quickly he gets down off the chair and calls out.)

SHAMAS: (disoriented)

What? What is it!

(STONEHEART enters the office, looks confused at SHAMAS's strange costume, but quickly collects herself.)

STONEHEART:

Stoneheart, Dr. Shamas. It's time for your followup psychotherapy session with Mr. X.

SHAMAS:

Oh, crap! All right. Let him in... And oh, Stoneheart, Stoneheart! (giggles) Great news! (whispers) I'm ready to proceed with my plan for Angel tonight! Prepare the apparatus right away! Also bring Angel to my office at 4 pm to fill out the consent forms.

STONEHEART: (grins eerily)

Yes, Doctor, of course! I'll start getting things ready!

(STONEHEART cackles and exits. MALCOLM enters in his straight-jacket and sits down next to SHAMAS.)

MALCOLM:

So Dr. Blah Blah the Third. Were the First and Second as bad as you? Instead of taking the Hippocratic Oath in medical school, I think you took the hypocritical one.

(MALCOLM suddenly notices what SHAMAS is wearing and acts surprised.)

Well, what do you know! Is this a black tie head shrinking session?

SHAMAS: (talking rapidly)

Look, we're not here to talk about me, Malcolm. This is your psychotherapy session. Now behave yourself so I can help you.

MALCOLM:

You want me to talk, Dr. Frankenstein? How about telling me about the monsters you and your friend Nurse Igor have hidden in your closet?

SHAMAS: (pacing maniacally)

I can assure you there are no monsters. Only the ones from our past lurking in our unconscious.

MALCOLM:

Yeah, right. And here on Planet Beauview, Stoneheart really gives a damn and you're not a raving lunatic!

SHAMAS: (shouting)

These sessions aren't going to be about me any more! I'm your doctor!

(There is a long, tense pause. Both men stare at each other as if sizing up the situation.)

SHAMAS: (calming down a little) You've been ranting and raving about politics ever since you got onto this ward but have

hardly said one word about your son George's death. I'm still thinking that underneath that tough exterior of yours, you're really suffering terribly.

MALCOLM:

Unlike you, I'm a proud man. I believe in action, not feelings. My situation isn't something that can be fixed by our talking. It's our political system that needs to be changed.

SHAMAS:

I think your grief about George is all mixed up with the betrayal you feel about his going to war. You couldn't stop him!

MALCOLM:

You're right! He abandoned me! And that was true even before the war. George was always rebelling.

SHAMAS:

You know, a lot of that behavior is just the natural separation and individuation of a healthy young man. But I think there's a whole other layer of things going on here. Look, we're both fathers. (looks off in the distance and tears up) I know how hard it is to lose a child.

MALCOLM:

Wow! Could it be that underneath that arrogance of yours there's a real human being?

SHAMAS: (recollecting himself)
Maybe that's true for both of us.

MALCOLM:

But it's this damn country! If it weren't so starved for war, there wouldn't have been a battle for my son to die in.

SHAMAS:

We need to feel... I mean, see if you can feel the pain beneath that rage. I think there's

something much deeper here that you're not talking about! There's someone you're angry at and it isn't just our country!

MALCOLM:

Okay! Okay! It's true, God damn it! I blame myself!

(MALCOLM sobs, then collects himself, and sings A BOY WHO'LL NEVER BE A MAN.)

> MY SON IS LAUGHING AND WHISPERS THAT HE LOVES ME BUT THEN HE LOOKS UP AND TELLS ME IT'S A DREAM AND I SEE FLAMES AND THE GUTS AND GORE OF BATTLE AND WAKE UP TO MY OWN SCREAMS

I WASN'T THERE WHEN HE NEEDED ME I COULDN'T SAVE HIM AND KEEP HIM FREE SO NOW HE LIES IN A WOODEN BOX A BOY WHO'LL NEVER BE A MAN

I HEAR THE SHOTS COMING FROM THE GUN THAT KILLS HIM I TASTE THE BLOOD GUSHING FROM HIS SHATTERED HEART I SMELL THE SWEAT AS HE LIES THERE SEIZED WITH TERROR AND FEEL DEATH RIP US APART

I WASN'T THERE WHEN HE NEEDED ME I COULDN'T SAVE HIM AND KEEP HIM FREE SO NOW HE LIES IN A WOODEN BOX A BOY WHO'LL NEVER BE A MAN

SWEETHEART, HOLD ME TIGHT THROUGH THE RAGING NIGHT WE SHALL BRAVE THE STORM TOGETHER IN OUR SECRET PLACE SNUG, SECLUDED SPACE WE WILL STAY FAR AWAY

ONLY YOU AND ME NO ONE ELSE CAN SEE WE'LL PLAY HIDE AND SEEK FOREVER HUSH! DON'T SAY A WORD BE MY LITTLE BIRD HAVE NO FEAR. DADDY'S HERE!

- I WASN'T THERE WHEN HE NEEDED ME
- I COULDN'T SAVE HIM AND KEEP HIM FREE!
- I DON'T WANT TO KNOW ALL THE REASONS WHY
- I CAN'T BEAR TO WATCH WHILE MY BABY CRIES PLEASE DON'T LET THEM MAKE MY BABY DIE!

SHAMAS:

I have a feeling you don't need that straightjacket anymore, my friend.

(SHAMAS moves over and unwraps MALCOLM from the jacket. MALCOLM stretches his arms.)

MALCOLM:

Maybe you're right, Shamas. Maybe there's something I can get out of these sessions after all.

(Lights dim.)

Scene 2:

(SHAKESPEARE enters stage right wearing a sorcerer's costume. TALLULAH enters stage left. They suddenly notice each other. He's completely flustered and she laughs lovingly.)

TALLULAH:

Oh, honey, you don't need to be so shy with me. I promise I won't bite.

(SHAKESPEARE backs away in fear.)

Oh, come on. Move closer.

SHAKESPEARE:

Don't know what to do with you. You're so sweet and pretty, too.

Well, that's just the nicest compliment I've gotten since I've been here. I guess I don't know what to do with you either. I know so little about you. Why don't you tell me more.

SHAKESPEARE:

There's not much I dare to say. Maybe more another day.

TALLULAH:

Okay, I can wait for another day, but I'm going to tell you something about me. I have a big crush on you.

SHAKESPEARE:

A crush on me! How could that be!

TALLULAH:

Please. Couldn't we talk human to human in real English? I'm a lousy poet and sometimes real life, just as it is, can be beautiful. Why do you always need to rhyme?

SHAKESPEARE:

It is very simple, dear, Songs and rhymes relieve my fear.

(SHAKESPEARE sings WITH MUSIC I'M ECSTATIC!)

MUSIC FILLS MY LIFE WITH MAGIC SO HAPPY ENDINGS CAN COME TRUE GRAYS AND BLACKS TURN VIBRANT COLORS WHILE OLD AND WEARY SOUND BRAND NEW

I COO A LULLABY WHEN LONELY AND DOS-A-DOS WHEN I FEEL SHY SPIN A PIROUETTE WHEN GRUMPY AND TAP MY FEET SO I DON'T CRY

WITH MUSIC, I'M ECSTATIC! I FINALLY COME ALIVE! I FORGET THE REASONS IT'S HARD TO SURVIVE WITHOUT IT, I FEEL FRIGHTENED I CANNOT COPE WITH STRIFE BUT WITH IT, I BECOME SOMEBODY WHO FALLS IN LOVE WITH LIFE!

I "DO RE ME" MY DISMAL DOLDRUMS AND HUM A TUNE SO I FEEL GLAD TRILL THE TRAGIC TILL IT'S COMIC AND TARANTELLA WHEN I'M BAD

I SERENADE MY DEEPEST SORROWS AND WALTZ AWAY MY WHINES AND WOES LET MY PROBLEMS WAX POETIC AND MAKE MY LIFE A BROADWAY SHOW!

WITH MUSIC, I'M ECSTATIC! I FINALLY COME ALIVE! I FORGET THE REASONS IT'S HARD TO SURVIVE WITHOUT IT, I FEEL FRIGHTENED I CANNOT COPE WITH STRIFE BUT WITH IT, I BECOME SOMEBODY WHO FALLS IN LOVE WITH LIFE!

WHEN I'M SAD, WHEN I'M MAD, WHEN I'M DEPRESSED LIFE FEELS SO DARK I CAN'T SEE WHEN I SING, EVERYTHING'S SUDDENLY BRIGHT ONCE AGAIN I'M ME!

WHEN I CROON ANY TUNE, I CAN ESCAPE WHERE I FEEL BLISSFUL AND FREE I BECOME ANYONE MAGICALLY WHO I CHOOSE TO BE!

WITH MUSIC, I'M ECSTATIC! I FINALLY COME ALIVE! I FORGET THE REASONS IT'S HARD TO SURVIVE WITHOUT IT, I FEEL FRIGHTENED I CANNOT COPE WITH STRIFE BUT WITH IT, I BECOME SOMEBODY WHO FALLS IN LOVE WITH LIFE!

TALLULAH:

Well, okay, honey. Guess I can handle your rhyming for now; just as long as I don't have to. But as for all that sadness you were singing about, you don't have to be alone with that anymore.

(They smile at each other and walk together off the stage as the lights dim.)

Scene 3:

(SHAMAS's office. Some time later. SHAMAS is still wearing his black tuxedo with the top hat and cane. He picks up the skull and addresses it.)

SHAMAS: (does a little dance)

Wow, Freudy-pie! I actually did some pretty decent psychotherapeutic work with Malcolm today! It's almost enough to make me believe in psychoanalysis again. But, nah, it's gonna take more than words to destroy the Devil. I've got to get back to my plan right away!

(SHAMAS is interrupted by a knock at the door.)

Oh, Christ! What is it now, for crying out loud!

(STONEHEART and ANGEL enter.)

STONEHEART:

It's Stoneheart, Doctor. I'm here with Angel as you requested.

SHAMAS:

Ah! Yes! Excellent! Let him in! Enter, my boy and have a seat.

(STONEHEART leads ANGEL to a seat at the desk and he tentatively sits down.)

SHAMAS:

I have something very important to discuss with you. I've determined exactly how to get rid of your devil. It's a simple and quick procedure and won't hurt at all. I just need your consent and I've got the forms ready right here! You just need to sign on...

(SHAMAS puts a huge stack of papers in front of ANGEL.)

ANGEL: (in his normal voice) My devil? A procedure? (laughs) You have gone mad, Dr. Shamas! No, I don't need any procedure. I feel wonderful!

SHAMAS:

No, you don't understand, Angel. This Voice of yours... is a demon, just pretending to be your salvation. It's got to be exorcized right away! If we're not careful, it'll destroy your brain and then come after the rest of us, one by one. We're all in terrible danger and...

ANGEL: (interrupts)

Danger? I don't think so! Why would I ever give up my heaven to live in this hell of yours. No thanks, Doctor!

SHAMAS:

 $\underline{\underline{I}}$ am the doctor here! You're possessed, my son!

ANGEL:

Then may the whole world rejoice in such a blissful possession. Good-bye, Dr. Shamas.

(ANGEL rushes out of the office, followed by STONEHEART.)

SHAMAS: (taken aback, addressing the

skull)

This is far worse than I feared, Sigmund! The devil has taken over the boy's brain completely! At a time like this, consent is a luxury. I've got to make the best medical decision I can. (paces up and down) I'm just gonna have to go ahead with the procedure anyway. The stakes are much too high.

(SHAMAS sings the reprise of CARPE DIEM! SEIZE THE DAY!)

YOU'VE NO CONSCIENCE AND NO PRIDE LURING MEN TO SUICIDE
SO BEWITCHING WITH YOUR SPELL TEMPTING US TO JOIN YOUR HELL NOW AT LAST THE TIME HAS COME BLOW THE BUGLES, BEAT THE DRUM YOU WON'T MAKE ME GO INSANE!
I HAVE COME TO SQUASH YOUR REIGN

CARPE DIEM! SEIZE THE DAY!
I WILL FIGHT TILL DEATH TO GET MY WAY!
THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO STOP ME NOW!
I'LL DESTROY YOUR POWER NOW THAT I KNOW HOW!

I'LL DESTROY YOUR POWER NOW THAT I KNOW HOW!

(SHAMAS tears open his coat like Superman with his hands on his hips, proudly revealing his shiny stethoscope, rolls up his sleeves, throws the huge pile of consent forms in the trash, grabs his black doctor's kit, and frantically rushes from the room. Lights dim.)

Scene 4:

(The ward. Lights on JULIA. She is huddled in a corner, stage left, talking to herself and crying. She is unaware of ANGEL, off stage right, watching her. She sings BELOVED. ANGEL sings along with her though JULIA does not hear him until towards the end of the song.)

JULIA:

HOW DID I GET BACK HERE AGAIN LOST IN THE DARKNESS OF THE NIGHT? HOW DID I LOSE MY WAY BACK HOME? WHERE ARE THE GLIMPSES OF THE LIGHT?

ANGEL: (slowly approaching her and

singing in his Divine Voice)

I AM RIGHT HERE WITH YOU, BELOVED YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN WE ARE ONE HIDDEN BENEATH THE VEIL OF NIGHT THERE GLOWS THE RADIANCE OF THE SUN

JULIA:

DEAR BELOVED, I CAN SENSE YOU'RE NOT TOO FAR FROM ME

ANGEL:

DEAR BELOVED, I CAN SENSE YOU'RE NOT TOO FAR FROM ME

JULIA:

COULD I KNOW THE ECSTASY THAT LIFE IS MEANT TO BE?

ANGEL:

YOU CAN KNOW THE ECSTASY THAT LIFE IS MEANT TO BE

JULIA:

BE MY SAVIOR, SHOW ME ALL THE LIGHT I LONG TO SEE

ANGEL:

I'M YOU'RE SAVIOR, I'LL SHOW YOU THE LIGHT YOU LONG TO SEE

JULIA:

DEAR BELOVED, TAKE MY HAND

WITH YOU I CAN BE FREE

ANGEL:

DEAR BELOVED, TAKE MY HAND WITH ME YOU CAN BE FREE

JULIA:

ARE YOU THE VOICE THAT WHISPERED FRIEND? WITHOUT YOU I CANNOT SURVIVE IF I AM MEANT TO WALK ALONE I CANNOT BEAR TO STAY ALIVE

ANGEL:

I AM THE ANSWER TO YOUR PRAYERS I AM THE ONE WHO IS YOUR FRIEND I AM THE HOPE THAT YOU HAVE LOST I'M THE BEGINNING AND THE END

JULIA:

DEAR BELOVED, I CAN SENSE YOU'RE VERY CLOSE TO ME

ANGEL:

DEAR BELOVED, YOU CAN SENSE YOU'RE VERY CLOSE TO ME

JULIA:

I CAN FEEL THE ECSTASY THAT LIFE IS MEANT TO BE

ANGEL:

YOU CAN FEEL THE ECSTASY THAT LIFE IS MEANT TO BE

JULIA:

YOU'RE MY SAVIOR, SHOW ME ALL THE LIGHT I LONG TO SEE

ANGEL:

I'M YOU'RE SAVIOR, I'LL SHOW YOU THE LIGHT YOU LONG TO SEE

JULIA:

DEAR BELOVED, TAKE MY HAND WITH YOU I CAN BE FREE

ANGEL:

DEAR BELOVED, TAKE MY HAND WITH ME YOU CAN BE FREE

JULIA:

NOW THAT WE'RE NO LONGER APART I LONG TO OPEN UP MY HEART I'VE NEVER FELT SO HELD BEFORE ARE YOU THE DREAM THAT I'VE WISHED FOR?

OH, MOTHER, FATHER, COULD IT BE?

ANGEL:

I'M HERE WHERE I WILL ALWAYS STAY

JULIA:

YOU ARE THE BREATH THAT GIVES ME LIFE

ANGEL:

AND I SHALL GUIDE YOU ALL THE WAY

JULIA:

THERE IS NO REASON TO DESPAIR

ANGEL:

YOU SHALL NOT EVER BE ALONE

JULIA:

I AM FOREVER IN YOUR ARMS

JULIA AND ANGEL: (in unison)

WHERE YOU ARE(I AM) SAFE AND BACK AT HOME

JULIA:

DEAR BELOVED, I CAN SENSE YOU'RE NOT TOO FAR FROM ME

ANGEL:

DEAR BELOVED, I CAN SENSE YOU'RE NOT TOO FAR FROM ME

JULIA:

COULD I KNOW THE ECSTASY THAT LIFE IS MEANT TO BE?

ANGEL:

YOU CAN KNOW THE ECSTASY THAT LIFE IS MEANT TO BE

JULIA:

BE MY SAVIOR, SHOW ME ALL THE LIGHT I LONG TO SEE

ANGEL:

I'M YOU'RE SAVIOR, I'LL SHOW YOU THE LIGHT YOU LONG TO SEE

JULIA:

DEAR BELOVED, TAKE MY HAND WITH YOU I CAN BE FREE

ANGEL:

DEAR BELOVED, TAKE MY HAND WITH ME YOU CAN BE FREE

(ANGEL slowly extends his hand towards JULIA. She hesitates, but this time she takes it in her own, moves closer, and lets him hug her. SHAMAS approaches ANGEL with STONEHEART by his side.)

SHAMAS:

Stoneheart! Quick! Give the boy the sedative for his procedure.

ANGEL: (in his normal voice)

Procedure! I told you, I don't agree to it. want you to let Julia and me out of Beauview right now!

STONEHEART: (preparing the syringe) Now, now, listen to Doctor. This is for your own good!

SHAMAS:

There's no need to get riled up, son. No one's gonna hurt you! I'm your doctor and I just want to help! Julia, this would be an auspicious time for you to leave. Stoneheart, sedate him now!

(STONEHEART and SHAMAS reach to restrain ANGEL as he struggles unsuccessfully to escape.)

JULIA:

No, not Angel! Take me instead!

SHAMAS:

Stoneheart, I've got Angel; you get Julia out of here! Take her to the padded cell!

ANGEL: (in a faltering voice)
Leave the girl alone. Julia get out of here! It's okay.

(JULIA hesitates and then backs off stage. STONEHEART moves towards ANGEL with the needle.)

ANGEL: (still struggling to free

himself from SHAMAS)

Get away from me with that needle!

(STONEHEART injects ANGEL.)

SHAMAS:

It's just a little sedation. I promise it won't hurt.

(ANGEL collapses in SHAMAS's arms, and SHAMAS and STONEHEART drag him to a table. The table is slightly elevated so that the audience can see it. STONEHEART, laughing, straps him down and places probes on his head. SHAMAS preoccupies himself with a wired panel.)

SHAMAS:

Now, clear the table, Stoneheart, so I can pull the lever! (shouts) Come on! Quick!

(STONEHART jumps aside, cackling. Jolts of electricity are sent through ANGEL's whole body. They are seen and heard as loud, abrasive noises and wild, flickering electric flashes. His body contorts in slow-motioned, exaggerated convulsions.)

SHAMAS: (talking maniacally)
That's the end of you, you devil. (laughing) I,
Dr. Jared Lockheart Shamas, M.D. PhD. the Third
have defeated you!

CRAZY FRUITCAKES

by Patricia Stamm copyright 7/10/13

(The jolts continue quietly in the background as the orchestra plays the instrumental chorus of <u>CARPE DIEM! SEIZE</u> <u>THE DAY!</u> Lights dim.)

Scene 5:

(The ward. Late at night. The former graffiti sign has been changed to, "BACK FROM VACATION. ACCEPTING PRAYERS. YOURS TRULY, GOD." MALCOLM, TALLULAH, and SHAKESPEARE (dressed as a sorcerer), are seated in the dining room. JULIA runs onto the stage looking frantic and encounters them.)

JULIA: (upset)

I think they just did something terrible to Angel!

MALCOLM: (stands up)

What do you mean? What happened?

JULIA:

Oh, my God! I don't know! They sedated him and there was this big machine.

MALCOLM:

I wonder what on earth they did to him! Things are getting completely out of control around here.

TALLULAH:

Oh, my God! Poor Angel!

MALCOLM:

I don't care how much psychiatric care we all need. We've got to act now! The risks outweigh the benefits.

SHAKESPEARE:

What can we do? We're in a stew.

MALCOLM:

Shakespeare, I guess you never found any evidence of malpractice?

SHAKESPEARE: (rustles with his

pockets and pulls out a picture)

There's one thing I did obtain.

Dr. Shamas snorts cocaine.

(Everybody gasps with surprise.)

TALLULAH:

I can't believe it! Shamas a cocaine user?

MALCOLM:

Doesn't surprise me one bit! He's been acting really strange. This is good, with this evidence there's enough to prosecute.

TALLULAH:

Well, great, but how can we turn him in if we're still locked up inside this hospital?

MALCOLM:

We need to break out of here.

TALLULAH:

But how?

MALCOLM:

First we need to get Stoneheart out of the way. Let's try to get her into the padded cell. we need to find the key to the ward to escape. It's got to be around here somewhere.

SHAKESPEARE: (running around in

circles and tapping his head in an agitated state)

No, No!

I can't go!

TALLULAH:

Honey, what's wrong?

SHAKESPEARE:

Locked in Beauview I can hide all the weirdness that's inside. If I leave, others will see all the craziness in me!

MALCOLM:

Look, kid, I wouldn't worry about that. Everyone out there is just as crazy as you are. They're just pretending to be sane.

(MALCOLM sings LIFE'S A MASQUERADE PARTY.)

JUST PRETEND TO BE NORMAL LIKE THE PEOPLE OUT THERE ACT AS IF YOU'RE NOT CRAZY HIDE YOUR DEVILS SOMEWHERE TRY TO QUIET THOSE VOICES THAT CALL OUT IN THE NIGHT KEEP THEM LOCKED UP INSIDE YOU WHERE THEY SCREAM OUT OF SIGHT

LIFE'S A MASOUERADE PARTY PICK A MASK, CHANGE YOUR NAME EVERYBODY IS HIDING EVERYONE PLAYS THE GAME LIFE'S A MASQUERADE PARTY HAVE A DRINK, MAKE IT TWO THEY DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE CRAZY THEY'RE AS CRAZY AS YOU!

JUST PRETEND TO BE NORMAL LIKE THE PEOPLE OUT THERE PASTE A SMILE ON YOUR GRIMACE TAKE A BOW IF THEY STARE OTHER'S WHISPER YOU'RE CRAZY WHEN, IN TRUTH, THEY'RE THE SAME THEY DON'T TELL YOU THE SECRET THAT THE WHOLE WORLD'S INSANE!

LIFE'S A MASQUERADE PARTY PICK A MASK, CHANGE YOUR NAME EVERYBODY IS HIDING EVERYONE PLAYS THE GAME LIFE'S A MASQUERADE PARTY HAVE A DRINK, MAKE IT THREE NO ONE CARES IF YOU'RE CRAZY THEY'RE AS NUTS AS CAN BE!

YOU'VE GOT DELUSIONS OTHERS JUST LIE GET OUT OF BEAUVIEW OR YOU'RE GONNA DIE THEY PLAY CHARADES ON THE OUTSIDE JOIN THE RAT RACE ON THEIR MERRY-GO-RIDE

LIFE'S A MASOUERADE PARTY PICK A MASK, CHANGE YOUR NAME EVERYBODY IS HIDING EVERYONE PLAYS THE GAME

LIFE'S A MASOUERADE PARTY HAVE A DRINK, MAKE IT FOUR YOU'LL FORGET WHO YOU CAME AS BUT WON'T CARE ANYMORE

(MALCOLM and SHAKESPEARE speak as the instrumental music continues.)

MALCOLM:

Okay, Shakespeare? Get my drift, dude? It's time to come out of your closet!

SHAKESPEARE:

I think I do, but let me see if this is what you're telling me.

(SHAKESPEARE sings a verse of LIFE'S A MASQUERADE PARTY.)

LET ME OUT OF THESE DOLDRUMS I'M SO TIRED OF SAD I'M HUNGOVER FROM HEARTACHE AND QUITE BORED FEELING BAD

OTHERS ACT LIKE THEY'RE NORMAL FRANKLY, I'VE COME TO SEE EVERYONE OF THEM'S CUCKOO I'D AS SOON STICK WITH ME

SAY GOOD-BYE TO THE ZOLOFT TOSS THAT XANAX AWAY SEND THE SHRINK ON VACATION TAKE A MENTAL HEALTH DAY LET US EXIT THIS PALACE SAY "ADIEU" TO OUR WOE CATCH THE SUBWAY TO BROADWAY SEE A MUSICAL SHOW!

MALCOLM: (speaking)

Now you're talking, kid! Just remember...

(MALCOLM sings a chorus of LIFE'S A MASQUERADE PARTY.)

LIFE'S A MASOUERADE PARTY GRAB THAT MASK. SCREW YOUR NAME IT'S ALL JUST ONE BIG CIRCUS WE FORGOT IT'S A GAME

LIFE'S A MASQUERADE PARTY WHERE'S THAT DRINK? I'LL TAKE FIVE NO ONE EVER WILL NOTICE IF YOU ARE STILL ALIVE!

MALCOLM: (speaking)

Now let's get to work. We need to get Stoneheart and we need to find the key!

JULIA:

But wait! What about Angel! We've got to rescue him!

MALCOLM:

Of course we will! As soon as we take care of Stoneheart, we'll go find Angel.

TALLULAH:

I'll go search for the key!

MALCOLM:

Great! Julia, you keep an eye out for Shamas. could be the one who can lead us to Angel. Shakespeare, let's you and I find a straight-jacket for Stoneheart.

(MALCOLM, JULIA, AND TALLULAH sing the refrain to CARPE DIEM! SEIZE THE DAY!)

MALCOLM:

I NO LONGER FEEL SUCH RAGE

I DON'T NEED THIS STUPID CAGE

TALLULAH:

I NO LONGER WANT TO DIE BEAUVIEW, YOU CAN SAY GOOD-BYE

ALL:

CARPE DIEM! SEIZE THE DAY! WE WILL FIGHT TILL DEATH TO GET OUR WAY! THERE IS NOTHING THEY CAN DO TO STOP US NOW! WE'LL DESTROY THEIR POWER NOW THAT WE KNOW HOW!

JULIA

NOW THAT I DON'T FEEL SUCH FEAR I CAN FACE LIFE OUT OF HERE!

SHAKESPEARE:

I AM WEIRD LIKE EVERYONE MY TIME HIDING HERE IS DONE

ALL:

CARPE DIEM! SEIZE THE DAY! WE WILL FIGHT TILL DEATH TO GET OUR WAY! THERE IS NOTHING THEY CAN DO TO STOP US NOW! WE'LL DESTROY THEIR POWER NOW THAT WE KNOW HOW! WE'LL DESTROY THEIR POWER NOW THAT I KNOW HOW!

(The instrumental to the chorus of CARPE DIEM! SEIZE THE DAY! repeats in the background. TALLULAH runs off. JULIA assumes her post standing guard at the entryway. SHAKESPEARE and MALCOLM move to the nurse's station, where they grab a straight-jacket and some duct tape. STONEHEART enters unsuspectingly from offstage and they rush her, wrapping her in the straight-jacket.)

STONEHEART: (screaming)

Hey! What do you think you're doing!

(They place the duck tape over her mouth. As she tries to escape, they carry her off stage screaming in a muffled voice. Lights fade.)

Scene 6:

(The ward. Sometime later at night. The muted music to CRAZY FRUITCAKES can be heard in the background. SHAKESPEARE wears a long nightgown and a wizard's hat and is waving a stick that he treats as a magic wand. He leaps around and does a bizarre, tortured dance as if performing some clandestine magical spell that could undo the negative energy on the ward. He points the wand periodically at the audience and then joins the cast in singing the new reprise to CRAZY FRUITCAKES, disguised now with black masks over their eyes.)

CHORUS:

CRAZY FRUITCAKES CAN'T FALL ASLEEP
ALMOST MIDNIGHT COUNTING OUR SHEEP
HAUNTED AND TAUNTED, FILLED WITH HORRID DREAD
TERRIBLE NIGHTMARES FILL EVERY HEAD
MAYBE WE'D BE BETTER OFF DEAD
DESPERATE FRUITCAKES LOST IN THE NIGHT
HOW CAN WE FIND OUR SOULS WITHOUT LIGHT?
NO MORE REASON THAT WE SHOULD PRAY
GOD GOT BORED AND HE FLEW AWAY
NOW THE DEVIL THREATENS TO STAY!

(All of the characters exit. At the side of the stage, away from the nurse's station, ANGEL stumbles, looking dazed and agitated. He is hiding a rope underneath his shirt. He examines the bars until he discovers one that is positioned horizontally and at a high elevation. He finds a stool and places it beneath the railing, steps onto it with difficulty, and almost loses his balance. He makes a noose out of the rope and puts it around his neck. All the while he is looking around surreptitiously. Finally, his eyes closed, he pauses briefly as if to collect himself, and knocks away the stool. MALCOLM enters from the other side of the ward, sees ANGEL, and screams out:)

MALCOLM:

No - 0000000000!

(MALCOLM charges in ANGEL's direction. He catches ANGEL's body, holds it up in the air, and quickly pulls the noose off ANGEL's neck. He lies the boy on the ground and cries.)

Angel! Son! Talk to me!

(MALCOLM tries to shake him awake but ANGEL remains motionless.)

MALCOLM:

You can't die! Please, Jesus, don't let him die!

(MALCOLM tries awkwardly to perform artificial respiration on the body. Giving up, he holds the lifeless ANGEL in his arms, sobs, and rocks him frantically back and forth.)

MALCOLM: (starts crying)

No! Please, not again!

(JULIA, TALLULAH, and SHAKESPEARE come running onto the ward from stage left. JULIA screams and goes over to the body. She grabs onto it, sobbing. TALLULAH puts her hand on JULIA's shoulder. SHAKESPEARE stands by, looking at them in a terrified state, and starts walking in agitated circles. SHAMAS rushes in from stage right.)

SHAMAS: (shouting)

Oh, my God! What happened!

MALCOLM:

You son of a bitch! whatever you did made him kill himself!

(MALCOLM moves very slowly but ominously toward SHAMAS.)

SHAMAS:

"Wait! Don't do this! Please!

(SHAMAS shrieks. MALCOLM starts strangling SHAMAS and ripping his tuxedo to shreds. SHAMAS gags and collapses in his arms. ANGEL awakens.)

ANGEL: (in his normal voice)

No! Malcolm! Don't!

(All of the others look toward ANGEL in alarm. MALCOLM lets go of SHAMAS and his body collapses on the floor. MALCOLM rushes over to ANGEL.)

JULIA:

Oh, my God! Darling, you're alive! (rushing to ANGEL and throwing her arms around him)

ANGEL:

God, forgive me! I never meant to...

JULIA:

Why did you try to kill yourself, Angel?

(He puts his hands over his face and sobs like a baby.)

ANGEL:

I'm not any angel! My name's Jay and I'm a murderer. I don't deserve to live after what I've done!

JULIA:

Murderer? What are you talking about? You're no murderer! You're my sweet angel. You wouldn't kill anyone!

ANGEL:

Well, I did! He's dead and it's my fault!

JULIA:

Who's dead, Angel? I mean Jay. What happened?

ANGEL: (sobbing)

It's all coming back to me! My father, my miserable, drunk, violent father! He was beating my mother like always, only this time was the worst! Oh, God! All that blood! He strangled her! I tried to pull him off, but he wouldn't stop! So I... I.. put my arm around his neck and yanked... until... Until... Oh, God! (sobs louder) It cracked! I didn't mean to but I murdered him! I murdered my father!

(ANGEL scratches at his eyes as if trying to eradicate a horrible sight.)

JULIA:

Please, don't hurt yourself! (gently pulls his hands from his eyes)

ANGEL:

I tried to save her and now both of them are dead!

(He extends his two hands and glares at them in horror as if reliving strangling his father.)

ANGEL:

I remember everything now! I freaked out, tore off my bloody clothes, and ran out the door. Suddenly I was naked on the street. I didn't know who I was. And then I heard this... this Voice out of nowhere! Some cop appeared. That's it! The whole ugly mess! Oh, God! (He weakly stands up, raises his arms up to the sky and calls out.) Where did You go?

JULIA:

Oh, sweetheart, don't you see? It was an accident that your father died. You were just trying to rescue your mother! You're not a murderer; you're a loving son!

ANGEL: (unable to take in what she

says)

The Voice has deserted me! God, please come back! (sobs deeply) I don't want to be a murderer!

(ANGEL sings the refrain to BELOVED, joined by JULIA.)

ANGEL:

HOW DID I GET BACK HERE AGAIN LOST IN THE DARKNESS OF THE NIGHT? HOW DID I LOSE MY WAY BACK HOME? WHERE ARE THE GLIMPSES OF THE LIGHT?

JULIA:

I AM RIGHT HERE WITH YOU, BELOVED YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN WE ARE ONE HIDDEN BENEATH THE VEIL OF NIGHT THERE GLOWS THE RADIANCE OF THE SUN

ANGEL:

DEAR BELOVED, I CAN SENSE YOU'RE NOT TOO FAR FROM ME

JULIA:

DEAR BELOVED, I CAN SENSE YOU'RE NOT TOO FAR FROM ME

ANGEL:

COULD I KNOW THE ECSTASY THAT LIFE IS MEANT TO BE?

JULIA:

YOU CAN KNOW THE ECSTASY THAT LIFE IS MEANT TO BE

ANGEL:

BE MY SAVIOR, SHOW ME ALL THE LIGHT I LONG TO SEE

JULIA:

I'M YOU'RE SAVIOR, I'LL SHOW YOU THE LIGHT YOU LONG TO SEE

ANGEL:

DEAR BELOVED, TAKE MY HAND WITH YOU I CAN BE FREE

JULIA:

DEAR BELOVED, TAKE MY HAND WITH ME YOU CAN BE FREE

(JULIA slowly extends her hand towards ANGEL. He hesitates, but this time he takes it in his own, moves closer, and lets her hug him. JULIA pulls him close to her and holds him tenderly. TALLULAH moves over to SHAMAS's body to examine him. He begins to show some signs of life.)

TALLULAH:

Thank goodness! Dr. Shamas is okay!

(TALLULAH starts pulling on her hair compulsively and then begins to pull on SHAMAS's. She discovers he has a toupee and holds it up.)

What do you know! Look what I found!

(Laughing, TALLULAH twirls SHAMAS's toupee in the air like a lasso.)

Here, Shakespeare! Catch!

(SHAKESPEARE retrieves it, and tries it on his own head.)

SHAKESPEARE:

I'm afraid it doesn't fit. Here, Malcolm, you try it.

SHAMAS: (becoming more alert)

What the hell!

(SHAMAS discovers the bald spot on his head. Somewhat delirious, he stands up unsteadily.)

SHAMAS:

Hey! Give me my toupee!

(He grabs the now shredded object back from MALCOLM.)

What's left of it!

(Fumbling with it, he tries to put it back on his head, only to realize it is beyond repair.)

Oh, fuck it!

(Frustrated, SHAMAS gives up and stuffs the remains in his pocket, suddenly noticing ANGEL is alive.)

Angel! There you are! Son! Are you okay? Please, speak to me! Can you still hear the Voice?

MALCOLM: (moving between them

menacingly)

The boy's fine, no thanks to you, Dr. Mengele! Now get away from him or I'll finish the job I started!

SHAMAS:

I'm the doctor and I'll take care of my patient as I see fit.

MALCOLM:

Well, you shouldn't be the doctor. Not with your cocaine addiction and psychosis.

SHAMAS: (pretending ignorance)

What are you talking about?

MALCOLM:

As if you don't know. (pulls out the photo) What we have here is hard evidence of your misconduct. I think the medical board would be very interested in this.

SHAMAS: (distraught and withering,

stepping back)

Oh, my God! Oh, my God! What am I gonna do now?

MALCOLM:

You can get the hell out of here!

(SHAMAS slowly backs offstage, holding his head uneasily as the patients look on bewildered. MALCOLM moves back over and puts his arms around ANGEL.)

MALCOLM:

How are you feeling, son?

ANGEL:

I think I'll be okay.

(TALLULAH and JULIA both help ANGEL over to a chair and continue to attend to him, while SHAKESPEARE crouches in a corner. MALCOLM sings reprise to A Boy Who'll Never Be A Man.)

AT LAST I HELPED WHEN HE NEEDED ME
AT LAST I SAVED HIM AND KEPT HIM FREE
I THINK THAT I KNOW THE REASONS WHY
NO MORE DO I NEED TO JUST WATCH HIM CRY
I DON'T HAVE TO WATCH THIS ANGEL DIE

(Lights fade.)

Scene 7:

(A light comes up on SHAMAS, looking disheveled, sitting in his office staring at the skull.)

SHAMAS:

What are you leering at, Dr. Miserable Son of a Bitch! Some help you've been! I've made them all hate me so much, I've practically been assassinated. And now I've gotten busted for my cocaine abuse! Worst of all, I seem to have driven Angel to attempt suicide. And God only knows what's happened to the Devil! He could be loose and flying around here anywhere!

(Looking around the room suspiciously, SHAMAS tries unsuccessfully to put his toupee back on.)

Oh, screw it! And screw you, too, Dr. Fuckhead!

(SHAMAS slaps the skull harder and harder in a fury, finally knocking it on the floor.)

Whoops! A Freudian slip. No! A Freudian slap! Sorry, your royal anus!

(SHAMAS laughs hysterically. Suddenly the same Divine Voice that spoke earlier through ANGEL calls out.)

VOICE:

SHAMAS!

SHAMAS: (shocked)

Huh? Who said that!

VOICE:

SHAMAS!

SHAMAS:

Arghh! What in heaven's name! Who's calling me?

(SHAMAS frantically looks up and around, then under the desk and the couch.)

VOICE:

I'M YOUR FRIEND!

SHAMAS: (terrified)

I don't believe you. Are you a ghost here to haunt me?

(SHAMAS picks up a stool and his cane and starts lunging and dueling with the air.)

VOICE:

I'M NO GHOST AND I'M NOT HERE TO HAUNT YOU.

SHAMAS:

Ah Hah! Then maybe you're my conscience, my superego punishing me for my sins! *Mea culpa!* The medical board hasn't caught me for my misconduct yet, so I'm punishing myself!

VOICE:

I'M NOT YOUR SUPEREGO!

SHAMAS:

Then you must be an hallucination! That's it! I've finally gone insane! Where's that bottle of Haldol? Just a few anti-psychotic pills and you'll disappear and leave me alone!

(SHAMAS searches frantically in his desk, finds the bottle, swallows several pills, and makes a disgruntled face.)

VOICE:

I'M NOT AN HALLUCINATION!

SHAMAS: (pausing then exclaiming)
Then my worst fear has come true! You're
the devil! You've been exorcized from the boy's
brain and now you've come after me! Haven't
you done enough harm already? You took away my
wife and daughter! What more do you want from me!

VOICE:

I'M NOT THE DEVIL.

SHAMAS:

I don't understand. Then who are you?

VOICE:

I AM THE LOVE YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN.

SHAMAS: (laughs as if the idea is

absurd)

LOVE! You've got to be kidding me! think you are? Some kind of God?

VOICE:

This is not a joke.

SHAMAS:

Oh, yeah! Then prove it! Raise the dead! Make the heaven's open up! (shouts) Give me a miracle!

VOICE: (shouting)

I DO HAVE A MIRACLE WAITING FOR YOU, BUT RIGHT NOW, I'M HERE TO HELP YOU FIND SOME PEACE.

SHAMAS: (crying and shaking)

I don't believe it. If you are some sort of God, why would you have any interest in me? I've been such a heinous creature! I should be punished!

VOICE:

PUNISHMENT IS THE LAST THING YOU NEED.

SHAMAS: (pausing to mull it over as if he wants to believe it)

> But, wait, I thought you were destroyed by the devil ages ago and that's why there's been so much suffering on earth.

> > VOICE:

SHAMAS, I'VE NEVER LEFT. I'VE BEEN BY YOUR SIDE ALL ALONG EVEN AMIDST ALL THE SUFFERING. YOU'VE BEEN HOLDING ONTO THIS DEVIL DELUSION OF YOURS FOR TOO LONG. IT'S OKAY TO LET IT GO.

SHAMAS:

Maybe I can believe you. If you've been here all long, then I'm the one who turned away. Wow! I see it now! This whole Devil thing has been a delusion! I've been in a psychotic state ever since Angel arrived and it was probably on its way a long time before that. Now that I'm lucid again, I need to undo all the harm I've caused.

(Long silence)

Hello? Are you still here?

(Another pause in which SHAMAS appears relieved)

It's ok. I've gotten the message. I don't need to hear your voice now to know you're with me.

(SHAMAS catches a look at himself in the wall mirror.)

Wow! Am I a mess! I certainly have my work cut out for me.

(SHAMAS starts to sing WHO'S THAT WRETCH, slowly dancing the waltz by himself.)

> WHO'S THAT WRETCH I SEE GLARING BACK AT ME? POISONED WITH BITTERNESS AND SCORN HEARTLESS AND FORLORN DEATH IS MARCHING NEAR BRINGING WHAT I FEAR IF TIDES DON'T CHANGE, I'LL DIE ALONE FRIENDLESS AND UNKNOWN

IF ONLY I COULD HAVE ONE MORE CHANCE IF IT ISN'T TOO LATE! MAYBE THE GODS COULD FORGIVE MY SINS LET ME CHANGE MY FATE

WHO'S THAT WRETCH I SEE SCREAMING OUT TO ME? SOMEBODY BROKEN TO THE CORE WANTING SO MUCH MORE SUDDENLY I FEEL SOMETHING START TO HEAL NO LONGER DO I NEED TO HIDE MY FAITH HASN'T DIED!

IF ONLY I COULD HAVE ONE MORE CHANCE MAYBE IT'S NOT TOO LATE! SOMEHOW THE GODS MIGHT FORGIVE MY SINS LET ME CHANGE MY FATE!

THERE WAS A WORLD THAT I ONCE KNEW AND LOVED SOMEWHERE SOME TIME LONG AGO

IF THERE WAS JUST SOME WAY THAT I COULD FIND MY WAY THAT'S WHERE I WOULD GO

I HEAR IT ECHOING, GENTLY BECKONING TEMPTING WITH A GLOW AS IF IT'S STILL SOMEWHERE WAITING FOR ME OUT THERE IF I DARE TO GROW!

WHO'S THAT BOY I SEE REACHING OUT TO ME? SOMEONE SO FRIGHTENED BUT NEW AND RAW FIGHTING TO LOVE ONCE MORE!

SHAMAS: (speaking)

Maybe a miserable wretch like me can be saved!

(SHAMAS moves to pick up the skull and return it to the desk but hesitates.)

> Funny, somehow it doesn't feel right to put you on my desk anymore. After Madeline died. I put all my faith in you but now it's back where it belongs. Guess today is our last session, Dr. Freud.

(Laughing, SHAMAS goes to put the skull in his drawer and discovers the cocaine.)

> And speaking of unhealthy attachments, (picks up the bag of cocaine and looks at it) it's time that I let go of this, too, and face my life for a change.

(SHAMAS throws the cocaine in the garbage can, pauses, laughs at himself, takes off his coat, and looks at a calendar on the wall.)

> March 20th! It's the first day of spring! (laughs, feeling exhilarated) How do you like that as a metaphor for my rebirth!

(SHAMAS looks to the sky again.)

You know, I think it's finally time for me to retire. But first I've got to save the day, free, I mean discharge, the patients, and find that disturbed nurse! I should have let go of her a long time ago. If only I hadn't been so burned out myself, I would have realized what lousy shape she was in. (calls out) Stoneheart! Where are you?

(SHAMAS rushes out of his office. Lights dim.)

Scene 8:

(Back on the main ward. SHAKESPEARE, wearing his clown costume, still looks despondent.)

TALLULAH:

Shakespeare, I've been looking all over for you! What's the matter, honey! Are you still upset about what happened with Angel?

(SHAKESPEARE pulls away as if frightened.)

SHAKESPEARE:

You should not come close to me. There's something awful you can't see.

TALLULAH: (touching one of his

billowing sleeves)

Look how cute you are in this outfit. You're just adorable. What is it you think I can't see?

SHAKESPEARE:

Underneath my clown veneer, There's a monster lurking here!

TALLULAH: (gently reaching for him

again)

Oh, come on! Don't you remember what Malcolm said? You're not any more monstrous than the people outside of here.

SHAKESPEARE: (hangs his head and

turns away from her dramatically)

Angel was so close to dead.

It should have been me instead.

TALLULAH:

Why would you say such a horrible thing? You're so precious to me. Don't you dare talk about hurting yourself.

SHAKESPEARE:

But you don't know quite what I am. If you did, you'd scream and scram!

TALLULAH: (pauses and speaks gently) Did somebody leave you?

SHAKESPEARE: (still closed off)

My mom and dad gave me away.

I haven't seen them to this day.

TALLULAH: (pulling on her hair)
That's terrible. Why on earth would they give you away?

SHAKESPEARE: (turns around and looks

back at her)

I'm afraid if I tell you,
You'll be off and running, too!

TALLULAH:

I'm not the kind of gal who runs away, so, enough already! Time to take off the clown mask!

SHAKESPEARE:

Well, you see, I'm not a "he" And also I'm not quite a "she"

TALLULAH: (startled and concerned) You mean you're a transsexual!

SHAKESPEARE: (screaming)

No! I am a hermaphrodite!
Now you'll want me out of sight.

(TALLULAH puts her hand over her mouth, pauses, and then laughs.)

SHAKESPEARE:

That's exactly what I feared; That you'd hate me 'cause I'm weird!

TALLULAH:

You wonderful fruitcake! I'm laughing at myself!
Don't you see how perfect this is? I'm a bisexual!
Just when I was afraid you'd tell me there was
nothing there, I find out you're doubly endowed!
(laughs) At last I've found someone who's got
everything I want! I think you're a beautiful swan
under the illusion it's an ugly duckling.

(SHAKESPEARE starts laughing and crying and reaches over to give TALLULAH a tight hug. She puts her arms around him and lets him rest against her.)

SHAKESPEARE: (starts to tap his head

and stops himself)

You're the first person in my entire life who ever made an effort to be kind to me!

TALLULAH: (pauses and looks stunned)
And you just spoke a sentence without rhyming!

SHAKESPEARE:

I don't need to rhyme anymore. (stares at TALLULAH smiling for a moment) But I'm feeling so happy right now, I'd love to sing you just one little rhyming song.

TALLULAH: (laughing)

Well maybe we can sing it together.

(They kiss gently and begin to sing and tap dance the duet, WE!)

SHAKESPEARE:

CRONIES AND COMRADES AND CHUMS, WE'LL ALWAYS BE

TALLULAH:

TWEEDLE-DEE

SHAKESPEARE:

AND TWEEDLE-DUM

SHAKESPEARE AND TALLULAH:

TOGETHER, WE

TALLULAH:

THERE ISN'T ANYTHING I WOULDN'T DO

SHAKESPEARE:

SAME GOES FOR ME, KID, ONLY FOR YOU!

TALLULAH:

MON AMOUR ET MON AMI

SHAKESPEARE:

WE'LL DARE TO BE ANYTHING WE WANT TO BE AND EVEN MORE!

TALLULAH:

SUITORS WHO BEDDED

SHAKESPEARE:

WOOERS WHO WEDDED

SHAKESPEARE AND TALLULAH:

AIN'T IT THE BEST THAT WE'RE WE!

TALLULAH:

SWEETHEARTS AND LOVE BIRDS WHO DATE

SHAKESPEARE:

WHO CARES IF WE'RE HONEYS AND DARLINGS WHO MATE

TALLULAH:

WE'RE QUITE A PAIR

SHAKESPEARE:

BED FELLOWS, PARAMOURS, 'BEAUX GENTIL-HOMMES'

TALLULAH:

ARE YOU PROPOSING?

SHAKESPEARE:

YES, I SUPPOSE!

TALLULAH:

SIDEKICKS AND BUDDIES AND FRIENDS FOREVERMORE

SHAKESPEARE:

BLOOD BROTHERS SWORN TILL THE END DOWN TO THE CORE

TALLULAH:

WE'RE SUCH HOT HONEYS

SHAKESPEARE:

WE FEEL LIKE BUNNIES

SHAKESPEARE AND TALLULAH:

AIN'T IT THE BEST TO BE WE!

(They dance while the instrumental music to the verse plays in the background.)

AIN'T IT THE BEST THAT WE'RE WE!

SHAKESPEARE:

EVERYONE KNOWS JULIET AND ROMEO WE'RE BETTER KNOWN AS "HEY, YOU" AND "SO AND SO"

TALLULAH:

YET, WHEN IT COMES TO LOVE, WE'RE THE ELITE!

SHAKESPEARE:

EVEN BILL SHAKESPEARE COULDN'T COMPETE

TALLULAH:

OUICK! SOMEONE PINCH ME! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE REAL!

SHAKESPEARE:

I'D BE DELIGHTED

I'D LOVE TO HAVE A FEEL

TALLULAH:

IT'S GOT TO BE TABOO

SHAKESPEARE:

TO FEEL SUCH LOVE FOR YOU

SHAKESPEARE AND TALLULAH:

PERFECTIONIST TO BE WE!

TALLULAH:

AIN'T WE THE GREATEST!

SHAKESPEARE:

AIN'T WE THE LATEST!

TALLULAH:

'UNO AND UNO'

SHAKESPEARE:

HELL-OF-A DUO!

TALLULAH:

ISN'T IT FABULOUS!

SHAKESPEARE:

AREN'T WE MIRACULOUS!

SHAKESPEARE AND TALLULAH:

IT'S SURREALIST TO BE WE!

TALLULAH:

SWEAT AND TEARS, GUTS AND SKIN WHAT A KICK! I'VE GOT A TWIN!

SHAKESPEARE:

FLESH AND BLOOD, BRAINS AND BONES OH, MY GOD! I THINK WE'RE CLONES!

TALLULAH:

LIKE AMOS AND ANDY

SHAKESPEARE:

HARRY AND SALLY

TALLULAH:

LAUREL AND HARDY

SHAKESPEARE:

HAVING A PARTY

TALLULAH:

BY THE WAY, ONE THING MORE "S'IL VOUS PLAIT, JE T'ADORE!"

SHAKESPEARE: (points to the

audience)

NOW THAT YOU KNOW THE SONG, EVERYONE SING ALONG!

SHAKESPEARE AND TALLULAH:

AIN'T IT THE BEST THAT WE'RE WE!

TALLULAH:

AIN'T IT THE RITZ TO BE

SHAKESPEARE:

JUST LITTLE YOU AND ME!

SHAKESPEARE AND TALLULAH:

MAYBE WE'LL EVEN TRY THREE! WHEE!

TALLULAH: (speaking)

My great aunt Elsie used to say, "Tallulah, you gotta live your life as if your hair were on fire!" Well, baby, I sure feel hotter than hell right now, and you're the only doctor who can heal this fever!

(SHAKESPEARE pulls TALLULAH towards him and the two of them kiss. Lights dim.)

Scene 9:

(Main ward. JULIA and ANGEL are sitting in the dining area. MALCOLM is standing on guard. SHAKESPEARE and TALLULAH enter together holding hands. He is wearing slacks and a lacy blouse and she is wearing pants with suspenders. SHAMAS enters from stage right. The patients notice SHAMAS approaching and cringe out of disgust. MALCOLM remains standing with a scowl on his face and looks ready to pounce.)

SHAMAS:

I know. I know. I'm not exactly Mr. Popularity around here.

TALLULAH:

For good reason!

SHAMAS:

Look, I... I'm here to take responsibility for what I've done if you'll hear me out.

MALCOLM:

Egads! Now I'm the one hearing voices!

SHAMAS:

Angel's suicide attempt was a real shock to me. It's like I just woke up from a long nightmare and realized... how deluded I've been.

MALCOLM:

Trying to appease us isn't going to stop us from reporting you and your sidekick to the medical board!

SHAMAS:

Malcolm, I understand why you would do that. You need to do what you think is right but also you should know I'm going to be stepping down as head psychiatrist. And Stoneheart, wherever she is... I can't seem to find her... is going to be fired from this establishment.

MALCOLM:

Don't worry. She's quite safe and taking a vacation in the padded cell where she belongs. By the way she could really use some good

psychiatric attention if there is a reasonably decent hospital around here.

SHAMAS:

You're absolutely right. She hasn't been well. I'll make sure she's looked after immediately. Meanwhile as for me, I'm handing in my letter of resignation today.

ANGEL: (in his normal voice)

But, Dr. Shamas...

SHAMAS: (interrupts)

No, please, Jay, son, let me finish. All I've got to offer you now is my very humble apology and your freedom. Somehow with a bit of my help, but mostly despite it, you're all finally healthy enough to be back in the world. I'll make sure to write appropriate discharge orders for all of you. By the way, here's the key out of here.

(He removes a chain from around his neck with the key on it.)

TALLULAH:

So, there it is! No wonder I couldn't find it in your office!

SHAMAS:

Liberation, mes amis! You are emancipated from hell!

MALCOLM: (grabs the key)

Give me that!

TALLULAH:

I guess there isn't any reason to stay here. I certainly don't feel suicidal any longer and Shakespeare's, well, a new (smiles and pauses) person!

SHAMAS:

I haven't been a very good doctor for a long time but I feel there are some insights I can still offer a few of you. After a lifetime of feeling rejected, Tallulah and Shakespeare seem to have finally found love for each other. In truth

each of you is really just a mirror for the other. It's actually been your own self-love that's healed you. You had it in you all along.

SHAKESPEARE:

I think you're right, Dr. Shamas. Tallulah helped me discover my true identity. I feel reborn.

SHAMAS: (smiles)

That's great! Happy birthday, Shakespeare!

TALLULAH:

And Shakespeare's become my symbol of hope and transformation.

SHAMAS:

And you, Jay, don't you see? Julia was right, my boy. You <u>are</u> a loving son. First you risked your life for your mother. You never meant to kill your father, but you saved the life of a different father… me! Do you realize Malcolm would have killed me if you hadn't intervened?

MALCOLM:

You got that right!

SHAMAS:

And you, Malcolm, almost got yourself a murder rap again. But under the circumstances, I think you deserve a reprieve. Meanwhile, you couldn't save your own son, but you saved somebody else's.

MALCOLM:

You're right. As much as I'll always miss George, I think he'd be proud of me because of that.

SHAMAS:

Julia, I wish I had something helpful to say to you, too. All I <u>can</u> say is I would have liked to have gotten to know you better and helped you more.

(JULIA and SHAMAS glance at each other sadly for a moment.)

MALCOLM:

Alright, alright, Dr. Shamas, these are very nice sentiments but what on earth is it that you did to Jay that made him want to kill himself?

SHAMAS: (looking ashamed)

It's hard for me to admit this. I actually believed that Jay's Voice was the devil and that I needed to exorcize it. Now I realize I was having a psychotic episode probably due to too much stress and a lot of cocaine. I was wrong and I feel terrible about it. But I'm so relieved he's okay! Anyhow, that's the truth: a crazy Godforsaken doctor who has finally seen the Light. Maybe what the field of medicine needs is a little less audacity and a lot more soul. Well, you'll have to excuse me for a moment. I've got a few bags to pack.

(SHAMAS exits. Stunned, the others sit back down, huddled together speechless. Lights dim.)

Scene 10:

(Back in his office, SHAMAS empties several items from his desk into a briefcase, then picks up a framed portrait of MADELINE.)

SHAMAS:

It's been a <u>very</u> long time, Madeline. I really loved you, but God knows I've been an idiot... living under the delusion you might change your mind and come back to me after fourteen years. (laughs soberly) And I thought my <u>patients</u> were crazy! Good-bye. (pause) You know, I couldn't figure out anything to say to poor Julia before; but saying good-bye to you has suddenly given me some clarity. The loss of our daughter made it too confusing for me to relate to Julia as a psychiatrist instead of somehow trying to be the father she never had.

(SHAMAS puts the rest of his belongings in the suitcase. He picks up the portrait of MADELINE again, glances at it nostalgically one last time, and decides to leave it behind on his desk. He blows it a kiss, exits, and rejoins the others.)

Julia, can I speak to you for a moment? I guess I realize I've got something to offer you, after all. I've been wishing so much that I could turn back the clock and magically put you in a wonderful home. It's prevented me from helping you see that there <u>are</u> good men in this world all around you that you can let into your life and trust. I think you're starting to do that now with Jay.

JULIA: (feeling more confident)
That makes sense to me, Dr. Shamas. I've been so focused on my past and what Hunter did to me that it has been hard for me to trust anyone.

SHAMAS:

What? Did you say Hunter! Your step-father's name was Hunter!

JULIA:

Yeah, why?

SHAMAS:

Your mother... Her name wasn't Madeline, was it!

JULIA:

How could you possibly know that?

SHAMAS:

But that's impossible! It can't be! You're not! Are you? I mean, oh, my God!

JULIA:

Dr. Shamas, you're not making any sense.

MALCOLM:

Could be he's still snortin' the you know what.

SHAMAS:

But didn't you tell me your father abandoned you? Unless . . . Could it be Madeline lied?

JULIA: (interrupts)

You knew her?

SHAMAS:

And your name! How could it be Julia... unless...

JULIA:

I changed it when I left London and returned to New York so my step-father could never find me. I've always loved my real name because my real father gave it to me before he left. It's...

SHAMAS:

Jolie!

(He starts to sob, looks up into the sky, gasps in awe, and raises up his arms in gratitude.)

SHAMAS:

My miracle!

(SHAMAS slowly reaches out his hand to JULIA. She hesitates, then takes it in her own.)

JULIA:

Dad?

(SHAMAS leads JULIA slowly in a dance as they sing NEVER GO AWAY. The others circle around them and watch.)

JULIA:

WHY DID YOU LEAVE? WHERE HAD YOU GONE? I DIDN'T KNOW IT'S BEEN SO LONG IT BROKE MY TRUST IT CRUSHED MY HEART TO LOSE YOUR LOVE TORE ME APART

ALL THOSE YEARS I WAS SO LONELY WHEN YOU WENT AWAY I HAD NO ONE TO PROTECT ME THOSE DARK NIGHTS AND DAYS

SHAMAS:

IT WASN'T ME I DIDN'T GO I'VE BEEN BEREFT I'VE LOVED YOU SO! THEY BROKE MY SOUL STOLE YOU AWAY I COULDN'T TELL DARKNESS FROM DAY

ALL THOSE YEARS I WAS SO LONELY WHEN YOU WENT AWAY HOW I HUNGERED TO PROTECT YOU BUT THERE WAS NO WAY

JULIA:

IS THIS THE TRUTH? CAN I BE SURE? I'VE HAD MY HOPES DESTROYED BEFORE HOW DO I KNOW YOU'RE WHO YOU SAY? ARE YOU FOR REAL? DO I DARE PRAY?

ALL THOSE YEARS I WAS SO LONELY

WHEN YOU WENT AWAY I HAD NO ONE TO PROTECT ME THOSE DARK NIGHTS AND DAYS

SHAMAS:

I SPEAK THE TRUTH YOU CAN BE SURE I, TOO, HAVE LOST ALL HOPE BEFORE YOU HAVE MY WORD! I'M WHO I SAY! I'M HERE AT LAST! THIS IS THE DAY!

ALL THOSE YEARS I WAS SO LONELY WHEN YOU WENT AWAY HOW I HUNGERED TO PROTECT YOU BUT THERE WAS NO WAY

SHAMAS AND JULIA:

NOW I CAN DREAM NOW I CAN HOPE NOW THERE IS LIGHT NOW I CAN COPE BECAUSE YOU'RE HERE RIGHT BY MY SIDE

JULIA:

I CAN FEEL SAFE

SHAMAS:

I'LL BE YOUR GUIDE

SHAMAS AND JULIA:

HERE AT LAST THE TIDES ARE CHANGING IT'S A BRAND NEW DAY YOU'VE COME BACK AND (YOU'LL/I'LL) PROTECT (ME/YOU) NEVER GO AWAY

MALCOLM:

Well, now I've seen everything!

(The CAST sings the reprise of RADIANCE OF LOVE.)

EVERYBODY HAS A FLAME THAT IS BURNING DEEP INSIDE

CRAZY FRUITCAKES by Patricia Stamm copyright 7/10/13

A TORRENTIAL STORM SET IN AND THAT FLAME HAS DIED

IF YOU OPEN UP YOUR HEART YOU CAN FEEL THAT FLAME RESTART AND FEEL THE RADIANCE OF LOVE AMD FEEL THE RADIANCE OF LOVE

(SHAKESPEARE opens both hands and throws his fairy dust at the audience. Lights dim.)

(END OF ACT II)