

ACT 2

Prologue

*Empty stage.
Carousel music. Very distant.
A GUARD on duty.
INNOCENT, SAUNA, GLORABELLA
and MAGDA rush in. Stop!*

Hold it!

INNOCENT

A guard!

SAUNA

Oh, my God! What do we do?

GLORABELLA

I'll lure him and -- bam!

SAUNA

I'll lure him!

MAGDA

It's my idea.

SAUNA

Sauna. You lure him. I'll bam him.

INNOCENT

Oh, my God!

GLORABELLA

Oh, young man. Young, young man.

SAUNA

SOLDIER

(Rough)

Yeah?

SAUNA

Wanna copulate?

SOLDIER

(Delighted)

Yeah!

(SOLDIER rushes to her.

SAUNA ducks. Innocent punches
the SOLDIER in the face.

Before SOLDIER falls, PINA enters,
gestures. EVERYONE freezes)

PINA

Now for the Set.

(PINA gestures, snaps fingers.

The set for the Street Party Scene
now moves into place)

And now for the other bodies.

(THEY materialize and freeze into
fun-games tableaux. THEY all wear
either black or white masks.

The JESTER is the last to enter
and PINA zaps him. HE continues walking
in slow motion, trying to overcome the spell
until HE finally freezes.

PINA snaps fingers. CAROUSEL MUSIC -- OUT)

PINA

Seems difficult, doesn't it. It's not. It is as easy as blinking your eyes; and as common to us Pina's as . . . as . . . well—as common as despair.

(SINGS)

SOME LIKE TO THINK MY POWER'S WANING.
BUT, OH, MY FRIEND, IT'S GROWING STRONGER.
THAT'S THE TROUBLE HERE,
IT'S WHAT I'VE COME TO FEAR.
IT NEVER WILL END
UNLESS I SOON DO SOMETHING KIND OF RASH —
BUT THEN I'VE GOT TO PAY—

WAIT FOR THAT BIG CRASH,
BECAUSE THEY'RE BOUND TO SAY,
"SHE LET THEM DOWN." "SHE DOUBLE CROSSED!"
"SHE FLEW THE COOP!" "NOW PINA'S LOST!"

PINA, MY GIRL, DON'T BE A FOOL, LOVE.
LIFE, LITTLE GIRL, IS FOR THE WINNER.
AND IF YOU WANT TO WIN,
THEN YOU'VE GOT TO DEAL WITH THEM.
BLINK WHEN THE EYE DECIDES TO BLINK YOU.
EVEN TURN TO TEARS, IF THAT'S THE WAY THEY WANT IT.
GROVEL THROUGH THE YEARS; THEY'LL PUT THEIR BLESSINGS ON IT.
THEN AGE SIXTY, FOR YOUR TENSION,
LOVE THEIR WATCH AND TAKE THE PENSION.

MOMMA WOULD TELL ME:
"IT'S NOT NINE TO FIVE.
YOU MAKE YOUR OWN HOURS,
BE GLAD YOU'VE ALIVE."

(Speaks)

Alive? Sure.

(SINGS)

PINA

(Continues SINGING)

START AS AN OGRE!
THEN BE A BEAUTY!
GIVE THEM A WHAMMY!
“JUST DO YOUR DUTY!
“DO THIS. DO THAT”
“GO HERE!” GO WHERE?

EVERYWHERE I GO I’VE EITHER BEEN
OR DON’T WANT TO BE.
EVEN IF I’D LET THEM
THEY’D BE TOO SCARED
TO LOOK AT ME.

(Speaks)

Watch.

(Goes to someone)

You. Look at me!

(Person cringes)

And you! Look me in the face!

(Ditto)

And you . . . and you . . . and you! *Boo!*

(ALL turn their backs to PINA and
freeze in frightened attitudes)

Please. I’m really very nice. In my heart I’m only sixteen-and-a-half years old,
and the thing I love most in all the world is my stuffed Koala bear. His belly’s
been rubbed smooth because my cheek hugs him so much. Please look at me
and love me.

(Tough now)

All right, you sons of bitches! Up! Up, and work at playing! Play. Play!

(SINGS)

ROUND AND ROUND AND ROUND AND ROUND
THE WORLD KEEPS SPINNING
IT WILL NEVER END BUT PEOPLE SHOULD

PINA

(Continues SINGING)

I SHOULD.
THE PINA'S OF THIS WORLD SHOULD FADE
AND IF I WANT THIS FADE TO HAPPEN
SOMETHING DRASTIC I WILL HAVE TO DO. . .

SO PLEASE DON'T THINK MY POWER'S WANING.
IN FACT, MY FRIEND, IT'S GROWING STRONGER.
THAT'S THE TROUBLE HERE;
IT'S WHAT I'VE COME TO FEAR.
IT NEVER WILL END
UNLESS I SOON DO SOMETHING KIND OF RASH,
BUT THEN I'VE GOT TO PAY.
WAIT FOR THAT BIG CRASH,
BECAUSE THEY'RE BOUND TO SAY,
"YOU LET THEM DOWN." "YOU DOUBLE CROSSED!"
"YOU FLEW THE COOP!" "NOW PINA'S LOST!"

(Speaks)

Lost? All right! So I'm lost! That's the point, isn't it? Yes! I'm making my choice, Prince Innocent. I *am* weary and I want out. I *will* break the habit. But it will cost you as it costs me. Because, in the process, I'll have to test you like no one's ever been tested. In what remains of this charade. And if you make it, then maybe *you*, at least, will love me. So c'mon, Prince! Show your stuff for Pina!

(SHE puts on the STREET-VENDER'S disguise)

And the rest of you . . . back to so-called life . . .The eye wants us to play . . .
I want you to play . . .So play! PLAY!

(EVERYTHING COMES TO LIFE as
hundreds of black and white masks
on strings are lowered)

CROWD

(SINGS)

WE HAVE TO PLAY:
THAT'S WHAT THE EYE SAID.
DO LOTS OF FUN:
UNTIL WE DROP DEAD.

NEVER THINK OUR THOUGHTS;
THAT'S NOT FOR US TO DO.
WE FOLLOW, WE BOW,
WE SCRAPE OUR NOSES RIGHT INTO THE SHIT--
IF SHIT IS WHAT WE'RE FACING.
JUMP INTO A PIT,'IF THAT IS WHAT THEY'RE ASKING US TO DO
WE'LL DO IT GLADLY;
EVEN GET TO DO IT MADLY;
LONG AS WHEN THE DAY IS DONE,
THEY HAVEN'T PUNISHED ANYONE,
AND WE'RE ALLOWED TO DO OUR FUN . . .
FUN . . .FUN . . .

(MUSIC and SINGING cut off)

PINA

(As LADY VENDER. Speaks)

ACT TWO, SCENE ONE. A STREET PARTY. WHERE PRINCE INNOCENT LOSES HIS
FAITH IN HIS PEOPLE.

(MUSIC UP and CHOREOGRAPHED
activity resumes full out

END OF PROLOGUE)

ACT II

Scene 1

MUSIC and DANCING. Then, MUSIC
and DANCING out, as ALL focus on:

LADY VENDER

Be prepared! Be prepared! Be on the winning side with your reversible buttons!
Prince Innocent on one side. Prince Rudolph on the other! Turn them over fast!
In case of a surprise counter-coup! Be Prepared! Buy your counter-coup buttons
here!

(MUSIC and DANCING. Then MUSIC
and DANCING out, as ALL focus on:)

MALE VENDER

(Black and white mask)

Get your red hot sausages! The food Prince Rudolph loves best!

(MUSIC and DANCING. Then MUSIC and DANCING
out, as ALL focus on JESTER, showing magic tricks
to a LITTLE BOY, who is picking his nose)

JESTER

What about that trick? Great trick, huh?

LITTLE BOY

(Wears a Rudolph black mask; holds a Rudolph
black balloon. Shakes head)

That's a crummy trick.

(MUSIC and Dancing. Then MUSIC and DANCING
out, as all focus on:)

YOUNG MAN

(White mask)

Please. Please let me!

YOUNG GIRL

No. You're just like all the rest. You can't make me come.

(MUSIC and DANCING. Then MUSIC
and DANCING out, as all focus on:)

JESTER

And that trick? Did you like that one?

(Nose-picking LITTLE BOY shales his head
and makes the thumbs-down sign.

MUSIC and DANCING. Then MUSIC and DANCING
out, as ALL focus on:)

YOUNG MAN

I know. Just when I'm ready to pop, I'll think of something sad.

YOUNG GIRL

Like dying? That's sad. And you won't have to use your imagination.

YOUNG MAN

What do you mean by that? Oh, please . . .

(MUSIC and DANCING. Then MUSIC
and DANCING out, as ALL focus on:

TUG-OF-WAR going on between
RUDOLPH MASKS and INNOCENT MASKS)

SCOREKEEPER

1-2-3 . . . Go! Four to two. Favor of Rudolph side.

(On sideline; RUDOLPH MASKS cheer.

MUSIC and DANCING. Then MUSIC and DANCING
out, as ALL focus on:)

NOSE-PICKING BOY

(To JESTER)

Boy, you stink! Why don't you make something disappear?

(JESTER grabs the BOY's balloon and
lets it fly away)

JESTER

Okay. There.

(BOY bites JESTER on the leg and runs)

(JESTER holds his shin with his left hand
and gives the fleeing BOY the middle finger
of his right hand)

JESTER

Ba-fan-gulla!

OLD MAN

(White/black mask. To JESTER)

Serves you right: That trick was shitty. All your tricks are shitty. You're shitty.
And I'll tell you why: Because everyone and everything is shitty. so put me in
jail. See if I care. Even jail can't be any shittier than anything else.

JESTER

If you don't care, how is it you wear a mask?

(Snatches at the OLD MAN's mask)

OLD MAN

(Retreating)

Shitty snot!

JESTER

Pederast!

CROWD

(SINGS)

LONG AS WHEN THE DAY IS DONE,
THEY HAVEN'T PUNISHED ANYONE,
AND WE'RE ALLOWED TO DO OUR
FUN. . .FUN. . .FUN!

MAN

(Biting into hot sausage)

Jesus!

VENDER

I said they're hot!

MAN

My hard palate's melting!

(JESTER picks up a siphon of seltzer,
squirts MAN in the mouth)

GLORABELLA

(To MALE VENDER)

Say, why don't you have Prince Innocent's favorite food? Stuffed clams?

LADY VENDER

(To MALE VENDER)

How do you know Prince Innocent's favorite food is stuffed clams?

(CROWD ad libs: "Yeah!" "How do you know?" "Who she is?" . .

THEY close in on her menacingly)

JESTER

(To SAUNA and MAGDA)

Get some masks! And whatever you see me do not let the Prince say or do anything.

2-1-10

(The JESTER jumps into the midst of the
ugly CROWD and blocks them from
GLORABELLA, just in time)

Do my famous trance-trick, you say? Why, of course. And -- say! -- here is a
perfect subject, I'll bet.

(HE spins GLORABELLA around. HE
snaps fingers; put GLORABELLA
into a trance and leads her away)

And now, perfect subject, you are my rag doll and you allow me to rag you limp
all over the place.

(HE does so, SHE allows it.
Cheers!)

You are a famous ballerina. I'm your partner. And together, a pas de deux we'll
do.

(THEY do. CROWD cheers!
JESTER takes GLORABELLA up to
one end of the tightrope as HE moves
to the other end)

I am the famous Clown of the tightrope -- Le Jest -- and you are my beautiful
assistant. And as I juggle one end of the wire

(HE juggles)

you come to your clown lover . . . Come, come, Columbine . . .

(Drum roll as SHE moves
toward JESTER)

INNOCENT

No! She'll fall! Glorabella!

(MAGDA claps her hand over
INNOCENT's mouth. GLORABELLA
looks down)

JESTER

Please. Please come to your lover!

(SHE dives into INNOCENT's arms.
HE catches her)

CROWD

(Ad lib)

LADY VENDER

(Pointing to INNOCENT)

It is as if she knew he was her lover. --And he called her "Glorabella!" How did he know her name? Who is he? Who is she?

JESTER

(Rushing to GLORABELLA)

I am the fiery Minister-Prophet, Savanarola Jest! You are my acolyte! And as I preach, you act out what I mean.

(HE sings. SHE mimes)

OUR BROTHER WORKS. OUR BROTHER PRAYS.
DOING WHAT THE MAINLAND SAYS.
OUR BROTHER LURKS. OUR BROTHER SLAYS.
DOING WHAT THE MAINLAND SAYS.

THAT'S FINE, MY FRIENDS;
STAY IN THIS FORT;
DON'T QUESTION LIFE;
YOUR LIFE IS SHORT.

PLAY OUT YOUR LONG AND DESPERATE DAYS;
DOING WHAT THE MAINLAND SAYS.

(CHIMES)

ANNOUNCER

Today's 10 PM war count of human beings destroyed: Enemy human beings destroyed — 26. Peasantmanian human beings destroyed — 7. Mainland human beings temporarily disabled — 4.

(CHIMES)

JESTER

(Sings)

THE WAR IS IN ITS FINAL PHASE.
THAT IS WHAT THE MAINLAND SAYS.
JUST SEND YOUR BOYS INTO THE BLAZE.
DOING WHAT THE MAINLAND SAYS.

KEEP LIVING HIGH;
FORGET THE SLAUGHTER;
JUST MIX YOUR DRINKS
WITH POLLUTED WATER.

IGNORE AND JOIN THE LATEST CRAZE!
DOING WHAT THE MAINLAND SAYS.

(EYE appears. PEASANTMANIANS
move and shuffle like machines)

INNOCENT

There it is again! That eye!
(Stopping someone)
I know you all see it! You! --You see it!

(PEASANTMANIANS continue
like machines)

That eye . . . what is it? . . . You! Stop moving like that! . . . And you! . . . And you! . . . All of you! I command you to stop! IT IS ONLY AN EYE!

JESTER

Hey, brothers and daughters! Listen to what the man says!

(SINGS)

BY CHRIST, HE'S RIGHT! LET'S CALL A HALT
TO DOING WHAT THE MAINLAND SAYS.
I'M SICK OF WOUNDS FILLED WITH ALL OF THEIR SALT.
DOING WHAT THE MAINLAND SAYS.

RELAX . . . STAY LOOSE . . . DON'T GET UPTIGHT . . .
BREATHE IN . . . LET GO . . . GET LAID TONIGHT.

C'MON! DESTROY THAT ROBOT HAZE —
SCREWING WHAT THE MAINLAND SAYS!

(MASH and his MEN enter)

MASH

Prince Innocent is still at large! Have any of you seen him?

(Silence)

We're tripling the reward for his capture!

NOOKIE

(Entering with CONFIDENCE)

And we'll— ah — triple that triple reward! IE you turn Innocent over to us! Isn't that right, Brother Confidence?

CONFIDENCE

Right you are, Nookie baby! AND! Throw in a few bags of happy dust to boot!

NOOKIE

A Bonus! A generous bonus!

MASH

We'll give you a new car. *AND* a Water Pik!

CONFIDENCE

Girls for the men! Men for the girls! OR — if it's your preference — men for the men! Girls for the girls!

NOOKIE

You can't -- uh -- beat that!

MASH

3000 Rudolph bumper stickers! AND a complete line of Rudolph torture kits!

(THEY exit, continuing to out-offer each other)

MAN

(Black mask)

Damn! I don't even know what Prince Innocent looks like.

GLORABELLA

He's handsome and tall and good and --

(SAUNA clasps her hand
over GLORABELLA's mouth)

SAUNA

She saw Prince Innocent through the Palace gates!

LADY VENDER

And knew that he was "good?"

OTHERS

"Yeah!" . . . "How did she know that?" . . . Who is she?" . . .

LADY VENDER

THE QUESTION IS! -- What are these two Princes -- one of whom will lead us soon? We all know Rudolph. Or at least that he was one of us, until the late Queen banished him. And why did she banish him? Because of some "tendencies" in him she didn't like. Each of us has "tendencies" in him she didn't

LADY VENDER

(Continued)

like. Each of us has “tendencies” others don’t admire. But do we banish each other for it?

JESTER

Bet your ass we do!

LADY VENDER

The point is — at least Rudolph was one of us. *Plus* for him! Now the other. Gone from the cradle. No contact. No awareness of his countrymen. No participation. Nothing. Is it *plus* there?!

CROWD

Minus -- for Innocent!

LADY VENDER

And whom would this Prince Innocent resemble most?

CROWD

Who?!

LADY VENDER

The “nice” lady! Who banished Rudolph! And even sent her, Innocent, away. as soon as he was weaned! Do we want more “nice lady” government?

CROWD

MINUS!

LADY VENDER

Or do we want the unknown vitality of Rudolph?!

CROWD

PLUS!

INNOCENT

HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT INNOCENT COULD OR COULD NOT DO?!

LADY VENDER

I know. . .

(takes off HER mask)

I know everything.

CROWD

(Gasps)

PINA!!!!

(THEY pull back)

INNOCENT

If she knows everything, how is it she doesn't know that Innocent doesn't want the throne?!

VOICE FROM CROWD

Then why doesn't he give up the throne?

INNOCENT

BECAUSE NO ONE WILL LET HIM!

(STRANGE MUSIC. Lights fade)

PINA

Listen . . . Now doesn't matter . . . Things are going to happen . . . I see it. I see it.

(
SHE goes into a trance. SING -SPEAKS)

TWO MEN ON A TIGHTROPE.

TWO MEN ON A TIGHTROPE.

NAKED ON A TIGHTROPE.

CROUCHING ON A TIGHTROPE.

FACE TO FACE ON A TIGHTROPE.

FACE TO FACE ON A TIGHTROPE.

LEAD PIPES IN THEIR BARE HANDS.

LEAD PIPES IN THEIR BARE HANDS.

PINA

(Continues her SING-SPEECH)

CHARGING AT EACH OTHER.
CHARGING AT EACH OTHER.

(SOUND: Pipe meeting pipe!)

ONE FALLS. . .

INNOCENT

Which one falls?

PINA

(Weary)

It's not yet time to know. But soon, soon . . .

(Rabble-rouser again)

So it's plus for Rudolph, is it? Then what do we do with minus?!

MAN IN WHITE MASK

Is it true the reward has been tripled?

PINA

Yes.

MAN IN WHITE MASK

Then this is what I'm doing . . .

(HE reverses his white mask.

One by one, ALL THOSE who had on white masks
reverse them as well as their INNOCENT BUTTONS.

THEY chant the word "minus" with each reverse of each mask)

INNOCENT

No! Listen! No matter what happens, some of you must stay on Innocent's side.
That's only fair. And, anyway, what's wrong with more "nice lady" government.
If Queen Christina tried to protect her eldest, that meant she loved him. And if
she banished Rudolph, that meant she loved you. You see? Oh, listen . . . the

INNOCENT

(Continued)

son doesn't want the throne, that's true. But don't all of you desert him. For her sake. Please. FOR THE SAKE OF MY MOTHER!

(PINA pulls the mask from INNOCENT's face)

PINA

THAT'S HIM! That's Innocent.

(SHE waves the medallion in his face)

INNOCENT

My medallion!

(An intense spotlight is turned directly on INNOCENT, as the other lights fade)

PINA

Get him!

(The CROWD rushes, AGATE enters)

AGATE

Innocent! Follow me!

(AGATE and INNOCENT run into spot. The CROWD pursues. AGATE takes out pistol and shoots out the spot! The EYE appears. A loud bell is heard. Silence. The EYE remains)

PINA

(Speaks)

Howl! Howl! Howl!

You starving dogs have heard the bell,
and know what's required to fill the bill!
Tuck in your tails! Drool on the ground!
And start to sniff out our kill!

PINA

(Continued SINGS)

YOU'VE GOT TO HOWL, UNTIL YOU FIND HIM!
SLOBBER AND GROWL—UNTIL YOU GRIND HIM
IN YOUR LOYAL JAWS (AND THEN YOU'LL GET YOUR BONE),
WE'LL ALL SHAKE YOUR PAWS AND PUSH YOUR NOSES
RIGHT INTO THE SHIT (IF SHIT IS WHAT YOU'RE FACING!);
JUMP INTO A PIT -- IF THAT IS WHAT WE'RE ASKING YIU TO DO
YOU'LL DO IT GLADLY

CROWD

(SING)

EVEN GET TO DO MADLY.

LONG AS WHEN THE DAY IS DONE
YOU HAVEN'T PUNISHED ANYONE,
AND WE'RE ALLOWED TO DO OUR FUN . . . FUN . . .*FUN!*

(THEY exit, howling.

Pause. Then the CROWD rushes on shouting,
"Rudolph! Rudolph!" THEY are being chased by
COUNT MASH and his MEN. THEY exit.

AGATE and MAGDA drag INNOCENT in)

AGATE

Now! The medallion! Where is it?!

INNOCENT

I don't have it!

AGATE

I WANT IT!

(HE knocks INNOCENT out)

MAGDA

(Picking up something)

A key! To Confidence's Chapel. I recognize it.

AGATE

Good! Even Confidence wouldn't think we'd go there.

(Makes a motion to kick INNOCENT)

Come on, you!

MAGDA

No! Let me try! Your way has produced nothing but an unconscious man. Leave me alone with him.

AGATE

I don't know, Magda. You seem to be losing your touch lately.

MAGDA

I promise.

(SHE kisses him)

I'll get results. Please.

(Kisses him again. HE bends her head way back, until SHE is in pain. SHE just moans, doesn't fight. THEY have done this before)

AGATE

All right.

(HE lets her fall next to INNOCENT)

All right.

(HE exits)

MAGDA

Losing my touch? Losing my mind is more like it. Hold on, Magda. Don't lose control. Get that medallion. Then everything will fall into place.

ACT II

Scene 2

ANNOUNCER

(Over)

The Copulation Hour commences when the gong sounds.

PINA

(Speaks)

Now the scene shifts to the Fancy Fair.
Start rubbing your eyes,
'cause there's thick smoke there.

(SHE sings the next, as the scene fills with STONED MEN and WOMEN, as the Chapel setting moves into place around INNOCENT, still knocked out, and MAGDA.

Lush pillows on the floor.
Everything seen dimly, as if through smoke.
MEN and WOMEN fold down to the pillows
around INNOCENT and MAGDA.

PINA

(SINGS)

BODIES ALL OVER,
BUT THEY DON'T CARE;
THEY'VE COME FROM THEIR BEATINGS,
NOW JUST SMOKE AND STARE.

THEY STARE. THEY STARE.
THEIR EYES NEVER WATER
OR BLINK FROM THE GLARE.

THEY STARE. THEY STARE.
THEY NEVER STARE INWARD,
THEY WOULDN'T DARE.

PINA

(Continued. SINGS)

THEY STARE. THEY STARE.
INHALING TO KEEP ALL THE PAIN OUT THERE.
THEY STARE. THEY STARE. THEY STARE.

(Speaks)

Scene two!

The Music Meditation Room at Chapel Fancy Fair.
Where Prince Innocent *LOSES HIS CHERRY!*

INNOCENT

(Bolting up! Shouts!)

Vinegar!

MAGDA

Shhh. It's all right.

INNOCENT

Magda! . . .I was dreaming. The Cardinal's wine. It tasted like Vinegar. It . . . oh,
God, the Cardinal . . . that was terrible . . . painful . . . Why couldn't I forgive
him? Why did he have to . . . —Magda, where are we?

MAGDA

Brother Confidence's First Morality Church of Peasantmania. The Chapel.

INNOCENT

Am I safe here?

MAGDA

Yes.

INNOCENT

But all these people —

MAGDA

Don't worry about them: Their bodies are here; their minds are not. They're
concentrating on the Copulation Hour at Fancy Fair. It commences when the
gong sounds.

2-2-22

INNOCENT

And that Agate? Will he hit me again?

MAGDA

No! When Jeremiah hit you, I washed my hands of him! Sent him on his way. I abhor violence. Especially when it's against someone else I'm fond of.

INNOCENT

Why did he hit me?

MAGDA

Because you pretended not to have the medallion.

INNOCENT

I didn't pretend. I don't have it.

MAGDA

It's all right, Prince Innocent. You pretend as much as you like.

INNOCENT

But -- Oh, God . . .

(Gives up. Flops back on pillows)

MAGDA

When you're ready to give up that terrible burden, we'll see to it that the medallion gets in the proper hands.

INNOCENT

Why? So that my wonderful people can be helped? MY people! Rudolph -- plus! Rudolph . . . Magda, for the first time I really believe I have a brother who's pursuing me and . . . Magda, did you know Rudolph?

MAGDA

Yes.

INNOCENT

Did you take part in his "seminars.?"

No. MAGDA

How did you meet him?? INNOCENT

Must we talk about Rudolph? MAGDA

Yes. I've got to know him. INNOCENT

He had rheumatic fever. That's when I met him. I was chosen to amuse him. MAGDA

How? INNOCENT

Read to him, mostly. MAGDA

What kind of books? INNOCENT

Fairy tales. The Grimm Brothers. Anything about the Caesars. And the Renaissance. MAGDA

He appreciated art then. INNOCENT

Only Leonardo. The war machines he designed. And the sketches of criminals being hanged -- their final agony caught just at the moment of death -- those sketches thrilled him. They are thrilling. MAGDA

Did Sauna ever sing for him? INNOCENT

MAGDA

Yes. Once. He tried to strangle her.

INNOCENT

What?!

MAGDA

One thing about Rudolph: He could see through all that phony ingenuousness that everyone else finds attractive; that nymphet nonsense they all fall for; those relaxed responses that no one in this world can have. And as for all that natural talent -- Well -- Rudolph couldn't care less that that bitch had perfect pitch. Anyway, I used to sing to him.

INNOCENT

You? Sing? What?

MAGDA

(Sing-Speaks)

EVERYTHING DIES. OH, YES. OH, YES.
THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT.
SQUEEZE OFF BREATH, AND LET'S SEE DEATH.
'CAUSE THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT.

DOGWOOD IN MAY,
BABIES IN JUNE,
CLING TO THE LIFE THEY CRAVE.

BUT IN THE END --
OH, IN THE END --
FLUTTER AND FALL IN THE GRAVE.

EVERYTHING DIES. OH YES. OH YES.
THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT.
SQUEEZE OFF BREATH, AND LET'S SEE DEATH.
'CAUSE THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT.

INNOCENT

Who wrote that happy ditty? Pina?

MAGDA

No. Rudolph. There was a story that he composed it on the spot -- while choking a cat to death.

INNOCENT

My God! Was the story true?

MAGDA

No more talk. I can feel you tensing up. It's all those burdens. --I know! --A massage! I'm very good at massaging. Turn over . . .Lord! Those shoulders! -- and neck! I can feel the knots!

INNOCENT

That is good.

MAGDA

It's better without the shirt.

INNOCENT

No!

MAGDA

Why?

INNOCENT

My back's full of freckles.

MAGDA

It's dark.

INNOCENT

Magda -- Are you sure their bodies are here but their mind's aren't?

MAGDA

They haven't moved, have they?

INNOCENT

True.

MAGDA

There.

INNOCENT

Ah . . .Oh! You bit me?

MAGDA

Did it hurt?

INNOCENT

No. But if you did it to bring the blood to the surface, I'm afraid you'll have to bite me all over.

MAGDA

All right.

(She nibbles))

INNOCENT

Oh, ah! Ah, oh! —I was joshing. . .It's giving me the chicken skin. —Magda, wait —!

MAGDA

Yes?

INNOCENT

Must you remove my pants?

MAGDA

Yes.

INNOCENT

I'm afraid their minds will join their bodies and they'll peek.

MAGDA

Even if they do, they won't care.

(Pause)

INNOCENT

Magda.

MAGDA

Yes?

INNOCENT

Are we going to copulate now?

MAGDA

Yes.

(Lights down, then quickly up)

MAGDA

Where's the medallion, Innocent? . . . Innocent?

INNOCENT

Oh, it was interesting, Magda, but —

MAGDA

The medallion, Innocent. . . Now, come, I took care of some of your burden. I want to relieve you of the rest.

INNOCENT

Oh, that. I really don't have it.

MAGDA

Innocent, I'm very tired. Now, we just shared the most intimate moment a man and woman can share and --

INNOCENT

I'll tell you, Magda; about that moment: Is it always so disappointing? I mean, most of the books I've ever read have "it" as the main subject and -- why? Just a great deal of effort. And it sure didn't feel good. You were like an unlubricated machine. I was like a machine. Two machines straining to give out. Is it always like that, Magda? Is it --?

MAGDA

(Slaps him viciously across the mouth)

Yes! It's always like that! Yes! Like machines! Because it has nothing to do with feelings! Or any of those other lies you read about! You do it because you need it! It becomes one of your tools! It's a man's world and they won't let you go it alone! -- won't even give you the chance! Oh, maybe -- maybe they allow you to share their power. All right; give them the illusion of sharing. So you get them addicted to you by using all your tools. . . .then why do they break the habit? Because they do, you know. And you're out and you're forced to move on. Your brother was the first one. Yes, I took part in his "seminars;" his right arm, even at that early age! *And* his imagination. "His little Lady Macbeth," he used to say. And I believed him. How could such an evil liar be so attractive? And, oh, the juices flowed for him in those days. . . .But suddenly he got tired of me. "Magda, you've got to go." "I'll kill myself," I said. "I wish you would," he said. I took a poison that almost made me blind. He'd visit me, not to see me improve, but to try to get a glimpse of "how death works." It didn't work then and I staggered on. To others. Then to Confidence. Oh, yes, confidence. Nobody could whip him like I could. God, he needed a lot of strokes to make his juices flow. The iron arm of a man, he said. But all the while he was excluding me from all his plans without my knowing it. When I found out, I went to Jeremiah. Now Jeremiah. I can't lose him, too. Because I am tired. No! Jeremiah must see how much he needs me -- not only the machine. INNOCENT, I MUST HAVE THAT MEDALLION TO GIVE TO JEREMIAH!

INNOCENT

Magda, you're sick -- or something. I know it must be terrible for you; it was painful for me just listening. But I do not know --

MAGDA

(Picks up poker)

I SAID GIVE IT TO ME!

2-2-29

(Attacks INNOCENT.

INNOCENT sidesteps the blow;
grapples with MAGDA; take the poker
from her and pushes her back;

as AGATE and TWO MEN enter)

AGATE

Take him!

INNOCENT

No one ever laid a hand on me before coming to Peasantmania! since I've been here, it has been nothing but bang, bang, bang on the head! NO MORE!

(MAN approaches INNOCENT.
INNOCENT whacks him first on the wrist
and then on the ankle with the poker.
The MAN, in pain, hobbles back to AGATE)

AGATE

All right, then--

THEY ALL draw knives. Advance toward INNOCENT.

CONFIDENCE, LORD NOOKIE and a FEW OTHER
MEN rush in.)

MAGDA

Jeremiah, get Confidence out of here!

AGATE

(To CONFIDENCE)

Out!

CONFIDENCE

You're forgetting where you are, Brother Jeremiah. This, alas for you, is my turf.

AGATE

And who's there to help you, on your "turf." Them?

(Meaning the drugged-out PEOPLE
on the floor pillows)

They're flying and you know it. Me and my men, baby, are on our toes, ready to take you.

LORD NOOKIE

I-I-I th-th-think he-he-he-he's right, Confidence.

CONFIDENCE

Jeremiah, baby, let's join forces.

MAGDA

Jeremiah, you don't need him!

AGATE

Shut up!

(to his MEN)

Stand behind me, but keep ready!

To CONFIDENCE)

Why join you? What do I gain?

CONFIDENCE

More muscle, Jeremiah. And we're gonna need it. You see, the trouble us -- you and me -- is that we reach beyond our reach. I half expected, when all the chaos was over, to be chosen top man. You did, too. Right? Of course you did. But we're not top men, you and I; could never sit on a throne. This one could. He has a royal instinct for survival; that kingly scent naturally pouring out of his pores. When he sweats, Brother Jeremiah, Innocent produces a following; all we produce is a stink. Just look at him there. More defiant, right? And if I'm not mistaken, some half-conscious reforms are already buzzing around that royal head. Buzz-Buzz, Prince. But it comes too late, that instinct, I mean. 'Cause it does look like rough-Rudolph will make it; that's the buzz on the street. And either of us alone, Agate -- even *with* Innocent as hostage -- could never be strong enough to get what we want from Rudolph. Let's face that fact, baby, I have. But together, with both our followings -- together, *and* with Innocent --

MAGDA

And what about me?

CONFIDENCE

Dear Magda: Do *you* have following that can help us?

MAGDA

You know I don't.

AGATE

We'll use you, Magda. You're too smart not to be of use to --

MAGDA

I can't serve two men!

AGATE

We'll share you then.

MAGDA

Swine!

(SOUND: GONG)

PINA

(Appearing)

THE COPULATION HOUR HAS BEGUN!

(The PEOPLE on the pillows
begin to writhe, moan, undulate)

INNOCENT

Just calmly stand there deciding my fate, huh? It's not going to be that easy!

CONFIDENCE

No? What can you do?

INNOCENT

I know where that goddamned medallion is. I don't intend to give it up.

CONFIDENCE

We'll have to get that information from you then.

(THEY ALL begin to close in on INNOCENT)

SAUNA

(Enters above)

Innocent! We're throwing the light. Up here.

(Lights off. INNOCENT joins SAUNA)

Quick! This way

(SHE takes INNOCENT'S hand and THEY disappear)

CONFIDENCE

There! THEY WENT THAT WAY!

(CONFIDENCE and AGATE give chase)

SAUNA

That bitch! It was Sauna, Sauna!

PINA

Run, Innocent, run; run to the Jester's flat where it's safe and merry.

Run, run, run, run: onto scene three;

WHERE THE PRINCE, FOR A SECOND TIME,
LOSES HIS CHERRY.

ACT II

Scene 3

The JESTER's Apartment.

A trampoline, fun-house mirrors,
balloons all around.

Above, SAUNA and INNOCENT.

SAUNA

Innocent, follow me! Into the Jester's apartment!

INNOCENT

How?

SAUNA

Jump! Don't worry! There's a trampoline below!

(SHE jumps. Lands on trampoline.
Bounces!)

Wheeee! C'mon! The-fatheads-will-get-you-if-you-don't-jump-down!

(HE is terrified; but he jumps, bounces on the
Trampoline. SHE laughs -- deliberately collides
with him. HE tries to avoid her, but SHE' is too
good on the trampoline.

SHE rough-houses him, thinking HE' is enjoying it)

INNOCENT

Sauna! I-I-I can't breathe--

(SHE jumps off the trampoline.
HE stops jumping and lays on the trampoline.
Then HE sits up, catching his breath)

SAUNA

Innocent! I'm sorry!

(Pats him on the back)

Oh, God, now you're crying. Real tears! Please stop!

(SINGS: FUN HIDEAWAY)

TAKE A DEEP BREATH HERE, LOOK AROUND YOU.
IT WILL CHEER YOU UP.
IT'S A CRAZY ROOM OF FUN AND MIRRORS;
A ROOM THAT WILL CHEER YOU UP.

FUNHOUSE MIRRORS. FREAKY MASKS.
RED, YELLOW, BLUE BALLOONS.
COLORED GELS ON ALL THE SPOTLIGHTS.
FAR AWAY FROM PEASANTMANIAN GOONS.

THIS IS MY FUN HIDEAWAY HERE.
THIS IS WHERE I COME
TO SHUT OUT ALL THE MADNESS
THAT KEEPS SCARING ME OUT THERE.

DREAM IN MY FUN HIDEAWAY HERE.
NO ONE HERE WILL CARE
ABOUT THE PAIN YOU FEEL
THAT'S TOO TOO MUCH TO BEAR.

YOU'LL SING HERE.
YOU'LL LAUGH HERE.
YOU'LL STRETCH UP AND BE A GIRAFFE HERE.

YOU'LL JUMP HERE.
YOU'LL DANCE HERE.
IF YOU LET YOURSELF GO
THERE'S ROMANCE HERE.

MAKE THIS OUR FUN HIDEAWAY NOW!
NO ONE ELSE WILL KNOW.

SAUNA

(Continued. SINGS)

STAY IN OUR FUN HIDEAWAY NOW.
C'MON PRINCE, LET GO . . . LET GO!

INNOCENT

(SINGS)

IS THIS MY DREAM HIDEAWAY, TOO?
CAN I REALLY STAY?
AND WILL ALL THIS MAGIC
KEEP MY BROTHER FAR AWAY?
CAN I BREATHE IN MY FUN HIDEAWAY HERE?
DON'T I HAVE TO RUN??
DO YOU MEAN THAT I'LL GO BACK
TO HAVING FUN, FUN, FUN?

SAUNA

(Speaks)

Yes, Inny. Yes.

INNOCENT

(SINGS)

I'LL SING HERE! I'LL LAUGH HERE!
I'LL STRETCH UP AND BE A GIRAFFE HERE!
I'LL JUMP HERE -- AND DANCE HERE!

(Speaks)

What else?

SAUNA

(SINGS)

IF YOU LET YOURSELF,
THERE'S ROMANCE HERE!

TOGETHER

WE'LL MAKE OUR FUN HIDEAWAY GROW!
NO ONE ELSE WILL KNOW!

SAUNA

LET'S MAKE OUR FUN HIDEAWAY GROW.
C'MON, PRINCE, LET GO . . . LET'S GO!

(THEY dance: A follow-the-leader dance,
in which INNOCENT follows SAUNA and
THEY make use of all the props in the room.
When Sauna has INNOCENT on the trampoline
again,

the LAUGHTER is heard
and the EYE appears)

INNOCENT

Sauna! There's that goddamned laughter again! And that eye! Give me
something sharp! Anything --!

SAUNA

Why?

INNOCENT

I want to stab it! Maybe it will stop the laughter. Let go my arm. LET GO!

SAUNA

Forget them! They've always been here! Like the polluted air we breathe!

(INNOCENT breaks loose. runs up
the ramp. EYE and LAUGHTER out.)

I thought you could take the moment!

INNOCENT

What moment?!

SAUNA

This moment! Here! In the Jester's flat! Can't you relax?! You're safe!

INNOCENT

With that creepy eye and goddamned laughter following me all over the place?!

(CHIMES)

ANNOUNCER

Today's 11:30 P.M. war count of human beings destroyed. Enemy human beings destroyed: 21. Peasantmanian human beings destroyed: 7. Mainland human beings temporarily disabled: 3.

(CHIMES)

INNOCENT

And I suppose that's just been part of the polluted air.

SAUNA

That's right.

INNOCENT

And you don't think about that either. The war.

SAUNA

That's right.

INNOCENT

What kind of people are you that I'm supposed to lead?! Our men are being killed somewhere out there and no one bats an eye! Oh, you'd bat an eye all right if someone close to you was off an dying!

SAUNA

I just remembered. someone close to me did die in the war. My brother.

INNOCENT

Your brother? And just remembered?

SAUNA

It was a long time ago. suddenly he was gone. My father was alive then. He went to your mother for help.

INNOCENT

DID SHE HELP?!

SAUNA

How could she? She was only the Queen.

INNOCENT

ONLY the Queen!? You mean she had no power over the Mainland? JUST WHAT IS GOING ON?!

SAUNA

You saw what's going on out there! They're chasing you and they'll catch you if you ever step out! forget about ever getting off Peasantmania. I have. Stay here in this room and I will bring you food and do your laundry and play with you. C'mon! Let us look at ourselves in the crazy mirror. Jester calls it, "The mirror of exorcism." There. It shows us what we really are. All distorted. See? Bloated. See? Or stretched. See? Or squinched. See? It's funny. We're funny. and when we laugh at ourselves, we feel better.

(SINGS)

THIS IS MY FUN HIDEAWAY HERE.
MY ARCADIA, TOO --

C'MON PRINCE --

INNOCENT

No! This is not your Arcadia!

(Picks up mallet and
begins pounding mirror)

It's a phony -- rotten -- idiotic -- crazy --

SAUNA

Don't --DON'T SMASH IT!

INNOCENT

Why won't it break?!

(Throws mallet down and
rips mirror off.

(SOUND: RATS SQUEALING)

SAUNA

INNOCENT PUT IT BACK! THERE ARE RATS! THEY'LL COME IN HERE.

(THEY both manage to put
the mirror back. THEY hold the position.

RATS -- OUT)

PINA

(Above)

You see, Sauna: It's all being eaten away.
Everything he's seen today.

Even this fun hideaway spot;
Forget it; the whole thing underneath is rot.

So now, Sauna, what do you do?
You tried to hold on to an illusion.
And now there's nothing but confusion.

My advice: shuffle your feet,
and come out tapping with a brand new beat.

SAUNA

(WITH GREAT JOY)

Innocent! Let's take poison!

INNOCENT

What?!

SAUNA

And then; let us lame love!

INNOCENT

Sauna, please ---

SAUNA

No! Visualize it. We'll set up all the spotlights. Well make them all -- magenta, maybe. And we'll aim them down on the trampoline. and there we'll be. Naked. entwined. Like twisted dough in a magenta oven. And they will come upon us and they will see — beautiful bodies; relaxed, finally. *But* — with smiles on our faces — No! Not smiles! Sort of, “Up yours” smirks.

INNOCENT

Peasantmania's Heloise and Abelard. And where they bury us, there magenta roses will grow. And the legend on our tombstones will read: “UP yours. They died. . .” relaxed?

(HE grabs SAUNA by the throat
and pushes her back)

Doing “it?” The great “it?” No thanks, Sauna! I already had “it” from your sandpaper sister! The poison? It wont be some slow-to-sleep sedative that starts to work just after our climax and gently soothes us to our final rest! No! It'll be the kind that burns out our magenta love nest! Entwined!? They'll find us entwined, all right! From clawing at each other to stop the pain! And you know who'll find us first?! The rats!?

(SOUND: RATS)

They'll chew on all that twisted dough! They'll bite out our noses, our mouths, our eyes!

SAUNA

Innocent, please --

(SOUND; RATS OUT)

INNOCENT

(Embracing her now)

I'm sorry. I'm sorry, Sauna, But death hurts and this place is not Arcadia and all we can do is run and everywhere we run few people will want to make music, and why did she protect me from all this —and *I WANT NO MORE BULL SHIT!*

(Suddenly HE stops.
Then HE grabs her, claws her,
kisses her all over.

Lights out below. Lights up above
JESTER and GLORABELLA)

C'mon. —
GLORABELLA

Wait a minute, Glorabella.
JESTER

But we've got to catch up with Inny.
GLORABELLA

Can't you forget him?
JESTER

Why should I?
GLORABELLA

For one thing, because he may have forgotten you.
JESTER

Never! Inny's my friend. He'd never--
GLORABELLA

—And I need you!
JESTER

Please don't start that again.
GLORABELLA

JESTER

I don't mean for ripky-pipky only.

GLORABELLA

Then what do you need me for, if not for ripky-pipiky?

JESTER

I need you to be with me when I disappear.

GLORABELLA

Where are you going?

JESTER

I don't know. But pretty soon there'll be no need of me. Pina will take over. No surprise. I always knew it would happen. I've been hoping for it to happen. I'm tired, Glorabella. Tired of all the tricks. This is what I mean. Years ago, I developed this beautiful magic act. It happened by accident. I was doing the old bit of striking a match

(HE does so)

which, when I asked a woman to blow it out,

(Indicates for GLORABELLA to
blow it out. SHE does so.

turned into a rose.

(The match becomes a rose)

The same woman reacted so beautifully that I took her scarf

(HE takes GLORABELLA's scarf)

and turned it into a cane.

(HE does so)

By this time she was completely confused and the audience loved it. So I press in on her by producing a lollipop from behind her ear.

(HE does so)

And from her blouse.

(HE does so. GLORABELLA screams!)

She became hysterical. Turned and bent away from me.

(GLORABELLA does so)

JESTER

The audience was besides itself. It would have loved me forever if I had produced a lollipop, as it passed my mind to do, from between her two half pumpernickel loaves.

(Indicating GLORABELLA's buttocks)

But something came over me. I gently turned her around.

(HE gently turns GLORABELLA to him)

And, with just my swaying hand in front of her face, I mesmerized her. Through art, I meant to exorcise some fear in her. She began to talk.

GLORABELLA

(Mesmerized)

Inny and I played together over the years. We played doctor many times. The last time we played doctor -- during the examination period -- I got a case of what Inny used to call, "the cutes;" and I grabbed his stethoscope. The stethoscope was actually a large bottle top from a large bottle of prune juice that was cold to the touch when it touched the tip of my ripening tomatoes. Inny grabbed for the bottle top stethoscope. But even when I got over "the cutes," and tried to offer the stethoscope to him, he kept grabbing at me, at my tender tomatoes, and behind me, kneading on my two half-loaves of pumpernickel. I told him to stop, but he wouldn't. And I got frightened and began to cry, "stop, stop!" Then he backed off and dug his knuckles into his eyes and rubbed like he was going to rub them back into his brains. And he said, "Suddenly I feel, I feel. But I know so little." I didn't know what he meant then, Now I do. I feel. I feel. And I want him to finish the examination!

(JESTER snaps fingers. GLORABELLA snaps out of it)

JESTER

This was a whole new thing for me, you see. So I threw out all that other stuff. The rose from the match? Here.

(HE shows the trick's mechanism)

The cane from the scarf? Here!

(HE shows the trick's mechanism)

The lollipops? Here.

(HE shows the trick's mechanism)

JESTER

(Continued)

And then I'd draw them out of themselves. And I'd be whatever I'd have to be to get them to spit out their inside crap. Husband, wife, lover, enemy, friend. Not overly cruel, you understand. I'd always shape the revelations. Extract choices. Keep it all within bounds. I used, in short, art, because I was, after all, an artist. I don't know what did me in, exactly. My own feeling was that there was honesty in the result and honesty could not be tolerated by the Mainlanders. They stopped the audience from coming to see my act. But Jesting is all I know. So I went back to sheer trickery and the audiences were allowed back to see me. It made me mad. And I took out my rage on the audience. Verbal hostility. *That* they loved. I rubbed their own shit in their faces! *That* they loved! The audience got bigger. So what? By being dishonest to myself, I've destroyed any honest creativity in myself. By being dishonest to myself, I destroyed myself. So it's about time I disappear; like most waste — ffuughssh! — by myself; right down the crapper. . . .Then I met you. Sweet. Loyal. Pretty. Saying what you mean; meaning what you say. They'll get you for being yourself, Glorabella. Come with me before they do. I'd like you to come with me, wherever I go.

GLORABELLA

O. I feel a great sadness and gentleness in you know. So I know you mean well. But I'm Inny's companion.

JESTER

And you want him to finish the examination?

GLORABELLA

What examination? I don't know what you're --

JESTER

But Innocent is finishing the examination. Look, Glorabella . . .

(Forces HER to look down.
SHE hides her face in his shoulder)

Don't you see? It's time for you to disappear, too. C'mon, Glorabella -- ffuughssh -- right down the crapper. With me.

GLORABELLA

(After a pause)

All right.

(Lights out above. Lights up below)

SAUNA

(Sitting on edge of trampoline.

SINGS:)

UP ABOVE, THE GOLDEN ANGEL
CRIES FOR ALL OF HER WOUNDED BRANCHES.
BUT THE SADNESS OF THE TINSEL,
SILVER TEARS NEVER REACH THE GROUND, OH.

CARDBOARD BELLS KEEP SWAYING ON A STRING,
NEVER TO SING. . .NO ONE CAN SING.

ANGEL HEAR, IT CUT MY FINGER;
RED DROPS FALL ON THE PLASTIC SNOW, OH.
DROP BY DROP, ON BROKEN BRANCHES . . .
SEE -- THE TREE. . .IS ME.

INNOCENT

Why so sad, Sauna? It was great! Now I understand. Tired, but relaxed. Sauna,
that other time with Magda wasn't good at all. But this -- so worth wanting
again and again. Right?

(Pause)

And this trampoline! Superb! Beautiful! And I was in charge all the way. Zap! Zap!

(Pause)

Sauna, what's the matter? Wasn't I any good?

SAUNA

Oh, Innocent: I can't be a wise guy anymore. I love you.

INNOCENT

Sauna, don't . . . the pain . . .

(GLORABELLA and JESTER rush down)

JESTER

Hide!

GLORABELLA

They're all coming!

INNOCENT

Who?

JESTER

Agate, Confidence, Magda -- everyone!

INNOCENT

Sauna, Glory, let's go--!

JESTER

NOT OUT THERE! THEY'RE ALL OVER THE PLACE!

GLORABELLA

It's all right, Inny; You and Sauna go. I'll be all right here with the Jester.

SAUNA

No. Inny, Glory, over there. Quick.

(GLORABELLA and INNOCENT hide
behind a wall of balloons.

MAGDA, CONFIDENCE, AGATE
and their MEN enter)

SAUNA

What do you want?

CONFIDENCE

Where is he?

JESTER

Hey! Don't be insulting! I'm right here.

AGATE

C'mon, Sauna; we want Innocent!

SAUNA

Gregory met him. They left. Planned to leave the Island.

CONFIDENCE

That's very amusing.

JESTER

They're probably miles away by now.

AGATE

Ha! Ha!

SAUNA

It's true!

MAGDA

IT'S NOT TRUE!

(SMACKS her sister.

Pause)

SAUNA

Magda. . .please believe me. Prince Innocent is not here. Take them away and make them leave him alone.

MAGDA

Why should I?

2-4-49

SAUNA

Because, for the first time, daddy's youngest daughter is pleading with you. I love Innocent and don't want him hurt.

(Pause)

AGATE

THE TESTING OF HARD-HEARTED MAGDA! WILL SENTIMENTALITY UNDERMINE HER WORTH?

MAGDA

(Smacks SAUNA again!)

WHERE IS HE?!

SAUNA

(Right in MAGDA's face)

WHERE YOUR DRY LOVE MAKING CAN'T HURT HIM!

MAGDA

(EACH word accompanied by a whack)

Bitch! Bitch! Bitch!

SAUNA

(Shielding herself)

Butch! Butch! Butch!

(MAGDA grabs SAUNA by the hair with one hand and, with the other, whacks away, backing her sister up to the trampoline)

CONFIDENCE

That's our girl!

INNOCENT

(Moving out)

Stop that!

CONFIDENCE

Leave it to Magda's arm to flush out the goodies!

INNOCENT

Innocent, why didn't you stay--?!

MAGDA

DRY, HUH?

(Smacks both SAUNA AND INNOCENT.

GLORABELLA sticks her head out and bites
MAGDA on the leg. MAGDA smacks GLORABELLA.
jester comes to the aid of GLORABELLA, as INNOCENT
smacks MAGDA and knocks her down, then pulls SAUNA
behind him.

AGATE draws a knife and is about
to move in on INNOCENT.

MAGDA rises and runs to CONFIDENCE)

MAGDA

Confidence, don't let Agate near the Prince. He plans to double-cross you.

AGATE

What are you --?

MAGDA

It's true! I heard him whispering to his men on the way over

AGATE

She's crazy!

CONFIDENCE

(Taking out gun)

Just a minute.

MAGDA

He was only waiting for you to find out where the medallion is. Then he planned to join forces with the Cardinal.

AGATE

She's lying!

INNOCENT

She's not lying. The Cardinal has been strengthening his forces. "Going modern" he called it. He and Agate are allies. He told me.

AGATE

You filthy--

MAGDA

You see?

INNOCENT

But Magda has her own plans, too. Don't you, Magda? And they don't include you, Confidence.

MAGDA

What's he doing? Don't listen.

INNOCENT

She's already had contact with my brother. Your old "seminar" chum, eh, Magda? And, when she sits at Rudolph's right hand, it's going to be "operation clean sweep," with thumbs down on all the old boys who failed to shape up.

MAGDA

He's lying!

INNOCENT

She told me, even as she diddled me!

CONFIDENCE

Villains all! Well, well, well!

MAGDA

No! No! I'll prove it to you!

CONFIDENCE

Who to take care of first? I think friend Jeremiah --

(ONE of AGATE's MEN knocks the gun from CONFIDENCE's hand and kicks it across the floor. AGATE attacks CONFIDENCE. THEY fight.)

JESTER

Prince, get the gun!

(INNOCENT goes after the gun)

INNOCENT

Sauna, the lights.

(General fight. MAGDA stabs AGATE)

MAGDA

YOU'LL SHARE ME, HUH?!

(SHE stabs AGATE again and again, pursuing him as HE tries to get away

EVERYONE freezes in horror. Finally, HE falls dead.)

Everything dies, oh yes, oh yeas. . .

'Cause that's what it's all about. . .

(MAGDA drops the dagger and falls to her knees and stares ahead.

SAUNA moves quietly to MAGDA)

SAUNA

Oh, Magda . .

(Kneels next to MAGDA;

puts her arm around her)

CONFIDENCE

Touching.

(Moving toward INNOCENT)

But now, Prince baby; the time, it has a-come--

GREGORY

(Entering with his MEN)

Stand back, Confidence.

(ONE of GREGORY's MEN overpowers
CONFIDENCE. OTHER MEN threaten
the rest)

INNOCENT

Gregory! Wonderful! You can help us escape!

GREGORY

And you can help me by handing over the medallion!

INNOCENT

I don't have it.

GREGORY

I warn you, Prince; I don't have anymore time for this.

INNOCENT

Lord Gregory, what does this mean?

SAUNA

(Rising. Weary)

It means he's as much of a son-of-a-bitch as the rest of them.

INNOCENT

But why now? You had me at your mercy earlier.

GREGORY

Because I thought I could get you crowned. Then I would have shown you to be incompetent. The Mainlanders would have put me in charge. But it will be Rudolph on the throne of Peasantmania. And I'll need you to bargain my way to the top.

(INNOCENT laughs)

DON'T LAUGH AT ME!

INNOCENT

It's on you, Greg! On all of you. The laugh, I mean. I really don't have the medallion. And even if I did, now I'd never let you have it -- or me! So this game of tag has been for nothing.

(Starts to leave)

GREGORY

I said you won't get by me. I'm serious.

INNOCENT

I am, too. Because you're not funny anymore. Confidence was right. You don't have the royal instinct, and I just can't be afraid of you.

(The LAUGHTER is heard)

Hear that, Lord Gregory? A desperate situation and they laugh. Since it doesn't mean a thing to me, they must be laughing at you.

GREGORY

No!

(GREGORY rushes at INNOCENT.
INNOCENT knocks him down)

PINA

(From above; dropping rope ladder)

Innocent, climb!

(INNOCENT grabs SAUNA; pushes her up the ladder)

MASH

(Entering with MEN; holding gun)

Innocent -- Stop!

(GREGORY draws gun. GREGORY and MASH
fire at the same time -- as INNOCENT jumps and climbs.

GREGORY AND MASH kill each other.

INNOCENT, seeing the almost slapstick absurdity of
the double killing, laughs and loses his footing)

SAUNA

Innocent! Innocent!

(Lights flicker. Whirring sounds.
Cacophony of voices and laughter.
Moving shadows, as INNOCENT falls down
the black pit.

BLACKNESS when HE hits bottom.

In the dark, a dimly-lit lantern comes forward
and illuminates INNOCENT, who is lying on the ground)

PINA

You're only stunned. I prepared the fall.

INNOCENT

Where am I?

PINA

The battlefield. The sewers of Peasantmania.

INNOCENT

Pina!

PINA

(Swinging medallion in his face)

Now catch your breath. You'll need it.

INNOCENT

My medallion!

(Grabs for it)

PINA

(Not letting him get it)

Yours? We'll see.

(Leaving)

Don't try to crawl after me. Save your strength for the meeting.

(PINA exits)

INNOCENT

What meeting? Do you mean . . . between me . . . and Rudolph?

(FOOTSTEPS -- Amplified -- heard
up above. THEY come nearer and nearer)

Is That Rudolph coming?

(FOOTSTEPS stop)

Is that my brother?

(INNOCENT waits)

ACT II

Scene 4

RUDOLPH explodes in to the cave. HE's blind-folded and his hands are tied behind his back. HE stumbles down the ramp, sometimes almost stepping over the edge.

Suddenly HE falls and rolls down the ramp. When HE reaches the cave floor, HE rises.

Pause.

INNOCENT moves and a loose stone falls to the ground.

RUDOLPH

(Turning to the sound)

Mon frere?

(INNOCENT doesn't answer)

Mi chiamono Rudolfo.

(INNOCENT laughs)

I thought that would get you.

(Pause)

All right. That's enough! I'm bruised and helpless and you laugh. Don't tell me they lied and you're really a sadistic son-of-a-bitch, my brother?

INNOCENT

I thought I was being chased by Mephisto, King Kong, Dracula! You're human!

RUDOLPH

I wanted to stay a spook. They made me materialize. It's a world of treacherous bastards. You can't even trust your own --

INNOCENT

Brother?

(HE laughs harder?)

RUDOLPH

Stop laughing! Get over here and scratch my back! It itches! It itches! Christ, it's killing me, it itches so much!

INNOCENT

(Still laughing)

You think I'm crazy? To get near you?

(RUDOLPH rubs his back against the ground)

RUDOLPH

Pebbles. That feels good.

(INNOCENT moves to him.

RUDOLPH moves back on his haunches
as HE hears his BROTHER approach)

Stop! Who needs you?! You selfish bastard!

(RUDOLPH suddenly gets to his
knees, bends over and moans)

INNOCENT

What is it?!

RUDOLPH

In my . . . my right pocket . . . needle . . . the pain--

(INNOCENT rushes to him.

2-4-65

Finds the needle)

INNOCENT

What do I do with it?

RUDOLPH

(Still on his knees, pushes his
arms straight out in back of him)

In the arm! In the arm!

INNOCENT

It's as long as a dagger!

RUDOLPH

Yes. and It kills like one. But it also soothes. Please. Please.

INNOCENT

I -- I can't.

RUDOLPH

(Relaxing. Sits on the ground)

Okay. You won't stick it -- then shove it.

INNOCENT

(Putting down the needle)

You were trying to trick me. You're not really in pain.

RUDOLPH

Will you listen to the lucky fart! I carry around that needle and priceless shit just
to trick people.

INNOCENT

Yes. Or hurt them.

RUDOLPH

How?

2-4-66

INNOCENT

Truth serum.

RUDOLPH

(Laughs)

Yes. That would hurt them.

INNOCENT

Essence of paralysis. something painful to constrict the arteries. God know what's really in that needle.

RUDOLPH

You wrong me. I wouldn't hurt my fellows. I love them.

INNOCENT

That's not what I heard.

RUDOLPH

They still lie about me?

INNOCENT

They say you're sadistic , degenerate, power hungry, vicious -- evil!

RUDOLPH

Shrewd?! If I'm so shrewd, how come I'm tied up?

INNOCENT

I don't know. Who did it?

RUDOLPH

They did! The treacherous bastards! They had me running through this cute country, listening to their lies and cries! Claiming they were on my side; that you were a pushover. Baaaaaals! It was that -- that Pina who finally did me in! "You must not have an advantage when the contest starts," she said. Advantage? "The contest must be equal," she said. Equal? I'm completely at your mercy.

INNOCENT

I wouldn't harm you.

2-4-67

RUDOLPH

You'll harm me. Everybody harms me.

(LAUGHTER heard.

Turning to the LAUGHTER)

STOP LAUGHING!

INNOCENT

You hear the laughter, too?

RUDOLPH

Sure.

INNOCENT

You know what it's all about?

RUDOLPH

Of course.

INNOCENT

What?

(LAUGHTER out)

RUDOLPH

Look -- at least remove the blindfold.

INNOCENT

No.

RUDOLPH

Why not?

INNOCENT

How do I know? You'll bite me.

RUDOLPH

So? You're calling the shots. You can knock my teeth out.

INNOCENT

Maybe it will be too late then. Maybe -- in a cavity --you have a vial of poison that will break when you bite me--

RUDOLPH

Oh, Christ!

INNOCENT

Maybe your tongue is really a dagger just waiting to stab me in the tonsils. I don't know. Maybe, at close range, your breath is mustard gas! Maybe--!

RUDOLPH

INNOCENT! Take the blindfold off! Please! I want to look at my brother!

(Pause. INNOCENT walks over to RUDOLPH,
takes off his blindfold and moves back quickly)

I once found a picture of our father -- the only one she kept hidden in the locket. I found it on her vanity table on one of my pecking rounds. "The darling little woodpecker." That's what Gregory called me. Because I was always poking in and out of places -- making holes where I had to --

(Long pause)

The locket on our mother's vanity contained the face of our father -- who art in hell, I guess. I never saw the rest of him. Only the face.

(Pause)

I resemble no one.

(Pause)

She caught me at her vanity and punished me as she always did. By saying that "Innocent would never do such a thing."

(Pause)

She'd say that on the average of 10 times a day. Or Gregory would . . . or somebody.

"Innocent would never do such a thing." Would you?

INNOCENT

What?

2-4-69

RUDOLPH

Snoop.

INNOCENT

No. I don't know. I don't think so.

RUDOLPH

'Course not. For one thing, you wouldn't have to. They'd let you in on everything. and for another . . . Well, guess whose face I was looking for when I found Pop's picture? Yours. I wanted desperately to see the face of my older brother. They never let me forget I had one. But they never let me see him. I hated the Mum for that. And I hated you for being older, alive, and somewhere else. Because I had marvelous plans, and I wanted my older brother to help me accomplish them. That's what older brothers do. No, you'd never snoop around -- 'course not -- not for my picture anyway; because you didn't care about Der Junger. You didn't care that nobody listened to him. Like them, you didn't give a shit if he lived or died.

INNOCENT

How could I. I didn't know you existed.

RUDOLPH

Come on. You were her favorite. You must have known everything.

INNOCENT

I hardly knew her. And when she came she hardly talked. No. I knew nothing, saw nothing, was prepared for nothing. I was--

RUDOLPH

Innocent?

INNOCENT

Rudolph, I don't have the medallion.

RUDOLPH

You have it all right. And the thing you didn't want you now find hard to give up. Because you've been force to mingle with, and inhale of, people and people

RUDOLPH

(Continued)

rot. Oh, yes, they've sniveled. Right in front of you. And at first it pains you to see that; then sickens you; then angers you. Then pleases you when you stand back and sense it for the first time. Your superiority. And suddenly a medallion is the means to do whatever you want with them. Control them. Take out all your spite on them. Whip them. Step on their heads and push their faces in garbage while you piss on them--

INNOCENT

(Clutching his chest)

Rudolph! Stop! I can't stand it!

RUDOLPH

What?!

INNOCENT

Your pain!

RUDOLPH

You punk! I'm no sniveling, rotten, groveling--!

INNOCENT

What's the point? I don't have the medallion!

(PINA throws the medallion into the room)

PINA

Now you have it!

(The medallion falls between INNOCENT and RUDOLPH. INNOCENT dives for it. Clutches it. RUDOLPH, whose hands with one foot and, with the other, kicks the medallion away. Then HE runs to where HE's kicked it, gets to his knees, bends over, and picks up the medallion with his teeth.

INNOCENT, on his feet, runs to
RUDOLPH, grabs the medallion and
viciously yanks it out of RUDOLPH'S
mouth.

RUDOLPH screams, spins around and
falls to the floor)

RUDOLPH
BLOOD! I TASTE BLOOD! MY MOUTH IS FULL OF BLOOD!

INNOCENT
(Shaking)
THIS IS MINE!

RUDOLPH
WHO SAYS?!

INNOCENT
I SAY! BECAUSE I HAVE IT! AND BECAUSE YOU'RE TIED AND CAN'T DO
ANYTHING ABOUT IT!

Rudolph
(Still on knees)
OH, INNOCENT! WHAT KIND OF A BROTHER ARE YOU?! YOU HURT ME!
(Sits on ground)
AH-HA! I SAID YOU'D HURT ME AND YOU DID!
(Bangs his heels against the ground)
OH, GOD, RUDOLPH, YOU'RE A JOY WHEN YOU HIT IT SO SQUARELY-DIRECTLY
ON THE HEAD!

(Back on knees.
HE says the next rapidly)
Yesssss: You hurt the little woodpecker bad! --Now I'll get canker sores in my
mouth. --I just bite my lip and I get canker sores. --Oh, God, will it be like that
time? --Two under the tongue. --One on the other side of the tongue. --Three
on the cheek lining. --Five -- count them, five -- around the lips. --My mouth was
on fire then. --I couldn't eat, I couldn't sleep. --All I could do was walk around
and soothe the membranes by sipping warm milk. --BUT WARM MILK
CONSTIPATES ME, BROTHER! --See how the tortures snowball?

2-4-72

(Stands and imitates a boom-voiced God)

And he shall be afflicted!!

(Imitates a trumpet)

Bah-bah, bah-bah! --The result: CANCER SORES AND IRREGULARITY Not only that! I've had the Syph, the clap, the plague -- you name it! Whatever there is to catch, I catch! --Whatever disease there is to inherit, I inherit! Whatever --

(The other LAUGHTER is heard,
reverberating throughout the cave)

STOP! STOP! STOP! Oh, Innocent, I can't stand it. They laugh if you win. They laugh if you lose!

INNOCENT

What is it? What's that laughter all about?

RUDOLPH

That's the Mainland laughter! Laughter from the Mainland bosses! The bosses who control this Island!

(LAUGHTER -- out)

INNOCENT

Control? You mean now, while there's a power vacuum.

RUDOLPH

I mean always. They control everything here. They know everything. They allow or deny everything. when mother was in power, it was because they wanted sweetness and light. when father was in power, they wanted corruption. Whatever they want -- they get.

INNOCENT

Then what's all this fighting about? Why should Gregory, Confidence --any of them-- want to fight for something already --

RUDOLPH

Because the Mainlanders threw it open for grabs this time. To give the prize to the strongest. That's how we all read it.

INNOCENT

And whoever the strongest is, must be subservient to them?

RUDOLPH

Of course.

INNOCENT

But, people have been killed. Why would they allow it to go that far?

RUDOLPH

That's easy. I understand that. FOR KICKS!

(A rumble is heard. The earth
shakes, the torches flicker)

PINA

(Her voice amplified; echoes)

HURRY, HURRY -- FIGHT IT THROUGH!
A BROTHER PRINCE MUST FALL
BEFORE THE WALLS DO.

(Rumbling stops. Lights steady)

RUDOLPH

If I read that bitch right --!

INNOCENT

--this cave will collapse soon!

RUDOLPH

Then there's not much time. We've got to come to terms!

INNOCENT

I can't give up the medallion, Rudolph.

RUDOLPH

All right. --How's this? We'll share the throne.

INNOCENT

No.

RUDOLPH

--Why not?

INNOCENT

Once you have half the throne, you'll manage to trick me out of my half.

RUDOLPH

Jesus! They really brainwashed you! Made me out an evil Superman. Think! For Christ's sake! Use your eyes and brains! I was banished! Remember? I couldn't stop that. And my evil, superhuman abilities couldn't get me back for many years. And when I finally do return--

(Holds out his bound wrists,
straight back)

This! C'mon, Brother. Sharies, eh?

INNOCENT

No!

RUDOLPH

It's insane for you to want the throne of Peasantmania!

INNOCENT

That's what I thought yesterday.

RUDOLPH

And you were right, yesterday! And today? --What do you think you can accomplish here as King today?

INNOCENT

"ACCOMPLISH?"

(Pause)

Do you know . . . the lines around all their mouths go down. The Cardinal, Magda, Gregory, The Jester, even Sauna -- I see them all shivering, their arms down straight against their sides -- making tight fists. Tight brows, all wrinkled. round shouldered with sunken chests. Is that from breathing -- or the pain?

INNOCENT

(Continued. Contracts)

—The pain!

(Pause)

Accomplish. Maybe we can get rid of the pain together. Or at least find out what it is.

RUDOLPH

What it is? Why that's the pressure from that scream down there. And all that spite . . . and rage . . . and hate. And that --that pressure of a scream building up down there. FROM BEING CHEATED! That's what it is. And you can't do anything about that. But you can punish them; that you can do. Can you punish them?

INNOCENT

No.

RUDOLPH

Then you have no business in this business. Because that's what they want -- need -- to be pun--

(Doubles over)

Innocent! The pain . . . my needle--

INNOCENT

That silly game. Not again.

RUDOLPH

Not . . . game--

INNOCENT

It is! And I'm not going to play it!

RUDOLPH

The needle . . . please . . . I'm not playing . . .

INNOCENT

Just what is wrong with you?

RUDOLPH

I don't know . . .something else I caught . . .— stabbing at my insides . . .

INNOCENT

You can even sweat at will. That's a damned good trick!

RUDOLPH

. . . slicing it away . . .

INNOCENT

And drain the blood from your face. Marvelous --

RUDOLPH

Nooooooooo! Not stabs. Innocent! There are . . . things inside me . . . biting away huge chunks--

INNOCENT

Sure. Schools of Piranha fish swimming around the Isles of Langerhans, chomping on your liver and--

RUDOLPH

(Fetal position. Crying and moaning)

Brother. Brother. Please. . . . It hurts so much!

(Pause)

INNOCENT

Its really does? . . . Rudolph . . .

(Moves closer)

You're not joking? You're not . . .

(Very close)

You are in pain.

RUDOLPH

(Tripping INNOCENT)

'Course I'm in pain. Isn't everyone?!

(When INNOCENT is down, RUDOLPH takes INNOCENT's neck in scissor-lock with his legs)

RUDOLPH

(Continued)

Don't struggle so much, my brother! Everything else has deteriorated! But not the pins! If I wanted, I could snap your neck like a dried wishbone!

(During the following, INNOCENT struggles. HE twists his body, beats the ground with his heels and uses his hands to try to unscissor RUDOLPH's legs from around his neck.)

RUDOLPH, inches his way backwards on his buttocks to the jagged rock, dragging INNOCENT with him.

At the jagged rock RUDOLPH rises, managing some fast and fancy footwork, so that HE stands with one foot on INNOCENT's neck. During the following, RUDOLPH rubs his tied wrists against the jagged wall, to cut the ropes)

RUDOLPH

Now you'll pardon me while I get free! --Because the time has come to collect some back payments from my kingdom! --They owe old Rudolph plenty! -- Because they threw him from the nest too soon!

INNOCENT

Rudolph . . . please . . . I . . . can't . . . breathe . . .

RUDOLPH

Good! That's the -- whole point! -- And fair's fair! You blew your chance before for justice! Not that I would have given it to you; but you're "please" would have had more point. And for awhile you might have survived and --

(HE cuts the ropes)

INNOCENT! I'M FREE!

(HE presses his foot down harder on INNOCENT's neck and leans down)

RUDOLPH

I have a comforting thought for you, my brother. something that has finally sunk in. We all must die. Even I. So you see, I won't get away with it. It will get me, too; even while you couldn't. And it will be soon, Innocent. That's what that needle is all about. That really is to kill the pain .. thought I find that I can stand a great deal more of it than I used to. And do. That's my way of giving death the finger.

INNOCENT

Rudolph. You're crazy! You're dying! What do you want?!

RUDOLPH

TO GET EVEN!

(RUDOLPH doubles over in pain, clutches his stomach. Then HE bends, picks up the needle and is just about to inject himself when INNOCENT reaches up, grabs RUDOLPH'S ankles, throws him off!

INNOCENT rolls away. RUDOLPH hits the wall and, for a moment, is stunned. INNOCENT gets to his feet, as RUDOLPH regains his senses. THEY circle each other.

PINA appears at the top of the ramp, with two long, thin, solid lead pipes. Drops them down)

PINA

Hurry! Hurry! The Time is ripe!
Have it! Choose your pipe!

(SHE disappears.

INNOCENT and RUDOLPH scramble for the pipes, which are clanging and rolling around the floor.

When THEY each have one, THEY circle
each other again)

RUDOLPH

You've not facing a tied brother now, brother!

INNOCENT

But I am facing weak arms, I see!

(Clang!)

I, on the other hand, have very strong arms!

(Clang!)

Ten overhead pull-ups on the Beech tree every day.

(Clang!)

Forty push ups!

(Clang!)

Swimming in the Lagoon!

(Clang!)

Strong chest --from tennis -- and one dazzling BACKHAND!

(INNOCENT has forced RUDOLPH
to the floor, his pipe pressing down
on RUDOLPH's. They are both very weak;
but INNOCENT seems to be regaining
his strength)

INNOCENT

(Continuing)

GIVE UP, RUDOLPH! Please.

(RUDOLPH tries to kick INNOCENT
in the groin. INNOCENT avoids the
kick, knocks the pipe out of RUDOLPH's
hands and stands over him, ready to smash
down the pipe on RUDOLPH's face)

RUDOLPH

I won't give up the crown, Innocent! It's mine!

INNOCENT

It's not!

RUDOLPH

While I'm alive, I say it's mine! --While I'm alive!

(SOUNDS of celebration above.
Fireworks, bands playing,
shouts dimly heard.

SAUNA, GLORABELLA and the JESTER
APPEAR AT THE TOP OF THE RAMP)

SAUNA

(rushing down)

Innocent!

INNOCENT

Sauna!

GLORABELLA

(Rushing down)

Inny! Are you all right?

SAUNA

Thank God! I saw you fall.

JESTER

I led the way!

GLORABELLA

Is that --?

RUDOLPH

Goliath, Madam. Hi there, Sauna.

INNOCENT

(To GLORABELLA)

This is my younger brother.

GLORABELLA

He doesn't look like much.

RUDOLPH

Neither do you, you titleless little--

JESTER

Wait a second, your highness --

RUDOLPH

You just hold your goddamned tongue. Fool! I've picked up a whole series of refined tortures that will make what torments I made you suffer in the past --

SAUNA

The monster didn't change!

RUDOLPH

Change? That's contrary to Nature. One builds on what one is. How's your sister?

SAUNA

Innocent -- Magda's dead. She killed herself.

INNOCENT

Oh, no!

RUDOLPH

Ha! Everything ends! Oh, yes!

GLORABELLA

But there's good news, too!

SAUNA

It's over, Inny! We got word from the Mainland. They want it stopped.

JESTER

They had enough amusement. And they want Rudolph to be King!

GLORABELLA

No you can leave, Inny!

RUDOLPH

No wonder they're celebrating. For a moment there was chaos. Now the Established order will reestablish things.

(A CHOIR is heard)

The Choir! Ah! A little benediction after the bloodshed.

INNOCENT

What if I don't stop? What if I don't allow Rudolph to be King?

RUDOLPH

Our mother, brother, tried to defy the Mainland once. Know what they did? They turned off our lights -- which they control. They stopped the flow of drinking water -- which they also control. They set up a blockade and prevented certain life-giving foodstuffs from entering our harbors. And if that didn't work - - they planned to overwhelm and spank their naughty children -- by attacking. Of course, it never came to that.

INNOCENT

No one ever really called their bluff.

RUDOLPH

Bluff?

INNOCENT

I won't give in! He's sick! He takes a needle to kill something that's eating up his insides. He said he won't last long -- and I believe him. But even if he's in power for only one day, he'll use the throne to stomp on the face of everyone in Peasantmania. Isn't that what you said?

RUDOLPH

While pissing on them! Yes, that's what they said.

INNOCENT

(To SAUNA)

Can I reason with them?

JESTER

Are you serious?!

SAUNA

No.

INNOCENT

Can we fight them?

JESTER

He's lost his mind!

SAUNA

No.

INNOCENT

Why?

SAUNA

Well . . . we never . . .

(To JESTER)

Did we ever?

JESTER

Never.

INNOCENT

I'll start.

JESTER

Fight with what? Those few show-piece cannons ringing the Island?

INNOCENT

Everyone had weapons before.

SAUNA

Only to use against each other.

JESTER

Anyway, those few weapons were supplied *by* the Mainland.

RUDOLPH

And what about me?

INNOCENT

You're in no position to do anything.

RUDOLPH

While I exist, I am. and I do exist. and they want me.

INNOCENT

All right! They want you -- then they'll have you! I'll prop you up on the throne myself, my diseased brother. And I'll see to it that you put on a good show as King for the Mainlanders. But all the while I'll have a knife at your throat. No! Better still: I'll just take charge of this precious needle -- dole out your fix, just so long as you play this charade the way I want you to. And while you play, I'll arm my people. Time. Time! That's what I need and what you'll give me.

GLORABELLA

Oh, Inny! what's happened to you? Don't you want to leave this place?

INNOCENT

I can't, Glory! They chased me, beat me, betrayed me. And I've got to find out why. What is there in them that makes them mean and ugly and vicious? -- makes them, in their agony, need to punish each other? Yes: EACH OTHER! The answer's there --there--in that daisy-chain of pain! Each one the torturer! Each one the victim! Chasing each other with electric prods around the rim of -- what . . .the Cardinal's abyss! How can that be? when it's only for the amusement of the Mainland? --Oh, God; there's the horror! Performing that dance of pain for their sick laughter! --I'm babbling, Glorabella! But the answer is simply . . .I must

INNOCENT

(CONTINUED)

stay. Because, finally -- and I'll never understand this -- the ones who chased me, beat me, betrayed me . . . I love them all.

(RUDOLPH moans.

Rumbling begins. Tremors.)

JESTER

Let's get out of here! I'll lead the way! Glorabella, take my hand!

SAUNA

Innocent, we've got to hurry!

INNOCENT

Rudolph! Come on!

RUDOLPH

(Crawling back against the wall)

No! Not if you're in charge!

INNOCENT

You've got to! It's going to collapse!

RUDOLPH

I won't be your puppet!

INNOCENT

Why not? You were going to be theirs.

RUDOLPH

But they would have let me alone -- to get rid of my spite. With them I would have --!

INNOCENT

RUDOLPH! YOUR KING ORDERS YOU--!

2-4-86

RUDOLPH

Strength! Strength! My God, he's really got strength. And one is tempted to follow him. But your brother can't, my King. It doesn't go with what's inside me. No. Better to be crushed down here with Peasantmania's rats, shit and condoms. Besides . . . chomp, chomp. Do you hear that? Inside. Chomp, chomp. Listen . . . King-sized bites. And they're nibbling around the heart. Soon --

GLORABELLA

Inny, please --

INNOCENT

All of you! Go on!

SAUNA

(To GLORABELLA and JESTER)

You two go. I'll stay and show him the way.

(GLORABELLA and JESTER exit)

INNOCENT

(Leaning close to RUDOLPH)

I I can't leave you, Rudolph. I am your older brother and I am responsible for you. I accept that responsibility. Because you're the only family I have now -- and I can't turn my back on you.

RUDOLPH

(Trips INNOCENT. Leg business again)

Strength's gone! You've flunked your first test as King, my brother! Sentimentality has done you in!

SAUNA

(Trying to un scissor his legs)

Rudolph, stop! There's no time! You'll kill him, too!

RUDOLPH

Precisely! And your concern touches me. Touches and enrages me! Oh, Sauna, the girlies wanted tenderness and I didn't know how to give them tenderness.

RUDOLPH

(Continued)

But he does. Where did he get that instinct from? And why isn't his heart being chomped on like mine? Why?! Why?! We were ripped from the same cunt!

SAUNA

(Getting behind him and digging her fingers into his eyes!)

Noooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo!

(RUDOLPH screams, releases INNOCENT, rises and viciously smashes SAUNA against the wall, knocking her out. INNOCENT, in a fury, picks up the dagger-long needle and stabs his brother)

RUDOLPH

There . . . I . . . I said you'd do it . . . Bye-bye, chomp-chomp . . . Oh, Brother . . . I'm sliding, sliding . . . Oh . . .

(A terrible CRASH. Debris falls and blocks the passageway at the top of the ramp. PINA enters from another passage-way on the floor level)

PINA

(Pointing up)

That way is blocked. Glorabella and the Jester have been killed. Take her and go through the passageway.

(SHE points to another area.

INNOCENT picks up SAUNA and exits)

My work is done.

(Darkness -- as the cave collapses)

ACT II

SCENE 5

INNOCENT and COUNTRYMEN

INNOCENT

Lord Gregory is dead. Jeremiah Agate is dead. Pina is dead. Sister Magda killed herself. My dear friend, Glorabella, and the Jester are dead. And I killed my brother, Prince Rudolph, in the sewers of Peasantmania. This is a litany of horror that mustn't be ignored. But it happened -- when . . . Oh, in another time. And we'll take the time to mourn them all when we are free.

(HE places the crown on his head)

Now to our country's business. We've received word that our defiance has perplexed the Mainland. They're not quite sure how to handle us. We can keep them off guard if we engage them with the kind of ferocity we only used to use on each other. Turn them back once and we may have turned them back forever. I can't promise you victory. But I promise you we'll win. In any case: The time has come to fight.

(The EYE appears above.)

INNOCENT grabs a sword, runs to the EYE and stabs it. It cracks, resembling stained glass)

Now we can fight.

(Lights fade as a resolving musical chord brings the play to a close)

CURTAIN

