

14 Piece
Libretto

WHISTLE *down the* WIND

Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber

Lyrics by Jim Steinman



THE REALLY USEFUL GROUP

Based on the original novel by Mary Hayley Bell and the film produced by Richard Attenborough and directed by Bryan Forbes from a screenplay
by Keith Waterhouse and Willis Hall

With book by Patricia Knop, Gale Edwards and Andrew Lloyd Webber

© Copyright 1997, 1999 & 2012 The Really Useful Group Ltd. & Lost Boys Music. All Rights Reserved. International Copyright Secured.

Permission to Perform

Unauthorised performances of this work are forbidden.

Enquiries regarding permission to perform should be
referred in the first instance to

The Really Useful Group Ltd., 22 Tower Street, London WC2H 9TW

Tel: +44 (0)20 7240 0880

www.stageamusical.com

WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND

Musical in two acts

Music by
Andrew Lloyd Webber

Lyrics by
Jim Steinman

Based on the original novel by Mary Hayley Bell and the film
produced by Richard Attenborough and directed by Brian Forbes
from a screenplay by Keith Waterhouse and Willis Hall

With book by Patricia Knop, Gale Edwards and Andrew Lloyd Webber

© Copyright 1997, 1999 & 2012 The Really Useful Group Ltd
& Lost Boys Music
All Rights Reserved
International Copyright Secured

CONTENTS

ACT 1

SCENE 1:THE BAPTIST CHURCH	2
01. KEYS TO THE VAULTS OF HEAVEN	2
SCENE 2:OUTSIDE BY THE FREEWAY	4
02. OVERTURE	4
03. WHAT'S HE DOIN' ?	4
SCENE 3:EARL APPEARS	10
04. EARL - AMOS	10
SCENE 4:THE TRAILER	13
4C. COLD ON THE RADIO	13
05. GROWN UPS KILL ME	17
06. WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND	18
SCENE 5:OUTSIDE UNDER A STARRY SKY	19
SCENE 6:THE BARN	20
6A. WHISTLE TAG	20
SCENE 7:THE BARN	20
07. I ALWAYS PRAYED	23
SCENE 8:THE BAR	23
08. COLD	23
09. FOR THE SAKE OF THE CHILDREN	26
SCENE 9:THE BARN	27
10. SOLILOQUY	31
SCENE 10:THE BARN	33
11. IF ONLY	34
SCENE 11:THE STREET	36
12. TIRE TRACKS	36
SCENE 12:THE TOWN	40
13. SAFE HAVEN	40
SCENE 13:A CANE FIELD	43
14. LONG OVERDUE FOR A MIRACLE	43
SCENE 14:THE BARN	46
15. ANNIE CHRISTMAS	48
16. NO MATTER WHAT	51

ACT 2

SCENE 1:THE BARN	54
17. OPENING ACT 2	54
18. TRY NOT TO BE AFRAID	55
19. LET'S MAKE A PROMISE	57
20. A KISS IS A TERRIBLE THING TO WASTE	60
SCENE 2:THE TOWN	65
20B. OVER HERE	68
SCENE 3:OUTSIDE THE TRAILER	69
20C. IF YOUR MOTHER	70
SCENE 4:THE TRAILER	71
21. NO MATTER WHAT REPRISE	71
SCENE 5:THE BARN	72
22. ANNIE CHRISTMAS	73
23. SO MANY CRIES	76
SCENE 6:THE TOWN	78
24. OFF RAMP EXIT	78
SCENE 7:THE TOWN...LATER THE SAME NIGHT	80
25. NOW THE NOOSE	80
SCENE 8:THE TENT	81
26. WRESTLE WITH THE DEVIL	82
SCENE 9:CROSS-COUNTRY	87
SCENE 10:CROSS-COUNTRY	88
27. NO MATTER WHAT THE OUTRAGE	88
SCENE 11:THE BARN	89
28. THERE'S A PRAYER	90
28A. THE NATURE OF THE BEAST	91
29A. FIRE SEQUENCE	94
SCENE 12:OUTSIDE THE BARN	95
29B/30. THE THUNDER IS ROLLING	96

ACT 11. ACT 1/SCENE 1 KEYS TO THE VAULTS OF HEAVEN

Two days before Christmas 1959. In a Louisiana country BAPTIST CHURCH.

FARM PEOPLE in their Sunday best sing.

GROWN UPS

THE KEYS TO THE VAULTS OF HEAVEN
MAYBE BURIED SOMEWHERE IN PRAYER
THE KEYS TO THE VAULTS OF HEAVEN
MAY BE HEAVY OR LIGHTER THAN AIR

OPEN UP THE VAULTS
OPEN UP THE VAULTS
WE'VE GOT TO FIND THE KEYS
THE NIGHTS HAVE BEEN GROWING DARKER
THEY'RE DARKER NOW THAN SIN

WE'LL OPEN THE VAULTS OF HEAVEN
THE TREASURES ARE THERE WITHIN

A SOLO VOICE

GROWN UPS

THE KEYS TO THE VAULTS OF HEAVEN	HM
MAY BE SEEN	HM
IN A PURE CHILD'S EYES	
THE KEYS TO THE VAULTS OF HEAVEN	HM
MAY BE HEARD	HM
IN OUR DESPERATE CRIES	OH

SOLO VOICE

CHILDREN

GROWN UPS

OPEN UP THE VAULTS	...THE VAULTS	OOH
OPEN UP THE VAULTS	...THE VAULTS	
WE'VE GOT TO FIND	WE'VE GOT TO FIND	OOH
THE KEYS.	THE KEYS	

THE NIGHTS HAVE BEEN	Ooh	OOH
GROWING DARKER	Ooh	OOH

EVEN DARKER NOW THAN	EVEN DARKER NOW THAN	
SIN	SIN	DARKER THAN SIN

WE'LL OPEN THE VAULTS OF OOH
HEAVEN
THE GLORIES ARE THERE OOH
WITHIN

CHILDREN	GROWN UPS
ONE SWEET DAY,	
WHEN THE WHOLE WORLD'S READY	
	READY
WE'LL AWAKE TO A GLORIOUS SIGHT.	OOH
	WE'LL WAKE UP TO A GLORIOUS SIGHT
OUR SAVIOUR RETURNS TO GUIDE US	
	GUIDE US
WE'LL BE GRATEFULLY BLINDED BY	AH
LIGHT	
	LIGHT

GROWN UPS & KIDS

WE GOTTA FIND THE KEYS
WE GOTTA FIND THE KEYS
TO OPEN UP THE VAULTS
THE NIGHTS HAVE BEEN GROWING DARKER
SO MUCH DARKER NOW THAN SIN

WE'LL OPEN THE VAULTS OF HEAVEN
THE ANSWERS ARE THERE WITHIN

GROWN UPS	KIDS
WE'VE GOTTA FIND THE KEYS	GOT GOTTA FIND THE KEYS
WE'VE GOTTA FIND THE KEYS	GOT GOTTA FIND THE KEYS
TO OPEN UP THE VAULTS	
	TO OPEN UP THE VAULTS
THE NIGHTS HAVE BEEN GROWING	
DARKER	GROWING DARKER
SO MUCH DARKER NOW THAN SIN	AH
	DARKER THAN SIN

KIDS + GROWN UPS

WE'LL OPEN THE VAULTS OF HEAVEN
AND THE ANSWERS ARE THERE WITHIN

MINISTER

One day soon, those heavenly gates will open and our saviour will once again walk amongst us. He *will* return my friends! We have his promise. And those who fail to recognize him will burn in a fiery hell! But those who do see his glory, hallelujah, will never be sick nor weak nor hungry nor lonely again!... no more pain... no more loss ... no more sorrow...

2. ACT 1/SCENE 2 OVERTURE

The wall of the church disappears. The Townsfolk make their way home. SWALLOW, POOR BABY and BRAT head to the edge of the freeway and climb over...

WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND swells instrumentally. BRAT, POOR BABY and SWALLOW escape the adult world and find their own, full of open space and blue sky...

3. ACT 1/SCENE 2 WHAT'S HE DOIN'?

BRAT

Swallow! Look! There's Edward.

SWALLOW

What's he doin'?

BRAT

What's he got in the sack?

SWALLOW

Oh no! It's gotta be the kittens!

BRAT

He's gonna drown 'em.

(EDWARD is lifting the cover off the drain as SWALLOW steps close.)

SWALLOW

Ed!

EDWARD

Lordy Swallow! Where'd you come from?

SWALLOW

What's in the sack, Ed?

EDWARD

Something that doesn't belong...

SWALLOW

Something alive?

EDWARD

Something that'd be better off dead. Better for all of us...

SWALLOW

But Ed-

EDWARD

Something merciful Jesus didn't ever mean to be here in the first place. So the kindest thing to do is to send 'em back to him

(He drops the sack down the hole into the drain.)

EDWARD

Now you kids get on home. Your Daddy'll be wonderin' where you are.

(EDWARD exits)

BRAT

They're gonna drown!

SWALLOW

Jesus doesn't want little kittens to die!

(Lifting the cover off the drain.)

BRAT

What are you doing?

SWALLOW

Hold me tight!

(SWALLOW lies face first on the edge of the drain. POOR BABY & BRAT hold on to SWALLOW'S legs.)

POOR BABY

This is cool!

BRAT

Be careful.

POOR BABY

Can you see 'em?

SWALLOW

They've fallen in the water. I can almost reach 'em.

(Suddenly SWALLOW slips in to the hole.)

POOR BABY

Hurry!

BRAT

Dear Jesus, please don't let the little kittens fall in to the water. Grown ups can be wrong, can't they? Please help Swallow save them. Amen!

(Music stops. SWALLOW comes up holding kitten bag.)

SWALLOW

I got 'em.

BRAT

Thank you Jesus.

SWALLOW

I hope I got 'em in time.

POOR BABY

Open the sack.

BRAT

Are they alright?

SWALLOW

They're beautiful. Now, we mustn't let Dad seem them... We'll hide

`em in the barn and...

POOR BABY

How do we feed `em?

BRAT

Just ask and God will provide.

SWALLOW

We'll sneak `em bits of food at night after Dad's asleep.

POOR BABY

This is cool.

SWALLOW

Now this one is for Brat, and this one is for Poor Baby.

POOR BABY

But he's so small and sick looking.

BRAT

The runt of the litter.

SWALLOW

You'll have to pray to Jesus. He'll make him grow big and strong.

POOR BABY

I pray for all kinds of things and I never get any of `em.

SWALLOW

Poor baby.

POOR BABY

Well I don't.

(Into Prayer)

POOR BABY

I NEVER GET WHAT I PRAY FOR
I COULD PRAY FOR LESS
OR A WHOLE LOT MORE.
IT DON'T EVER MATTER
IT'S A SURE BET
THAT I NEVER GET

WHAT I PRAY FOR.

SWALLOW

JUST PRAY TO THE LORD
AND HE'LL GIVE US A CHANCE.

BRAT

I WANNA JIVE WITH RICKIE NELSON
AT THE HOME COMING DANCE.

SWALLOW

I WANNA BE BEAUTIFUL AND SEXY AND SMART

POOR BABY

I WANT A SISTER THAT DON'T HIC-CUP.

BRAT

WANT A BROTHER THAT DON'T FART.

POOR BABY

I WANNA LOOK LIKE ELVIS IN EVERY WAY.

BRAT

I WANNA LOOK LIKE SANDRA DEE
OR MAYBE DORIS DAY.

SWALLOW

THEY SHOULD SEND US DOWN SOME ANGELS,
WE COULD NEVER HAVE ENOUGH.

POOR BABY + BRAT

THEY SHOULD SEND US DOWN SOME MONEY

ALL THREE

SO WE CAN BUY EACH OTHER STUFF!

KIDS

I NEVER GET WHAT I PRAY FOR,
I COULD PRAY FOR LESS
OR A WHOLE LOT MORE.
IT DON'T EVER MATTER
IT'S A SURE BET
THAT I NEVER GET
WHAT I PRAY FOR.

BRAT

WE SHOULD ALL BE PRAYING FOR DAD.
IT'S SCARY HOW IT'S BEEN

POOR BABY

HE WAS CRYING IN THE TRAILER

BRAT

NO WAY I WAS GOING IN!

POOR BABY

I WANT A FOOTBALL

BRAT

AND SOME LIPSTICK

POOR BABY

AND SOME LICORICE

BRAT

AND A KITE.

SWALLOW

AND I JUST WANT MY MOTHER BACK
IF ONLY FOR ONE NIGHT.

THERE ARE THINGS SHE'S GOT TO TELL ME
THERE ARE THINGS SHE'S GOT TO KNOW.
THEY HAD NO RIGHT TO TAKE HER,
SHE HAD NO RIGHT TO GO.

THERE WERE THINGS I DIDN'T TELL HER
AND SO MUCH I HAD TO SAY.
SO I JUST WANT MY MOTHER BACK
IF ONLY FOR ONE DAY.

4. ACT 1/SCENE 3 EARL - AMOS

(EARL appears)

EARL

(to poor baby)

What's in the sack?

POOR BABY

Some kittens. Want one?

EARL

Sure. This old girl could do with some supper.

(EARL produces a large snake.)

POOR BABY & BRAT

Wow!

EARL

And there's more where she came from.

POOR BABY

Can I see 'em?

EARL

You have to come to the revival meetin' tomorrow night

POOR BABY

What's a "revival meetin"?

EARL

Why don't you come and see?

EARL

YOU GOTTA BE PREPARED

YOU GOTTA BE PREPARED TO WRESTLE

WITH THE DEVIL

IN A HEART BEAT

BEFORE THE MOMENT IS PAST.

(The spell is broken by the arrival of AMOS on his bike.)

POOR BABY & BRAT

Amos!

AMOS

Hey Poor Baby. Who's your strange lookin' friend?

POOR BABY

He's from out of town.

(EARL goes about his business, feeding snakes. The SNAKE - HANDLERS enter.)

BRAT

Amos, what's a revival meeting?

AMOS

It's a place folks go to dance with snakes.

POOR BABY & BRAT

Can we go? Will you take us?

AMOS

(looking at SWALLOW)

I dunno. You have to be a real grown up to play with serpents.

(SWALLOW blushes and walks away)

AMOS

How ya doin' Swallow? Like my new bike?

(POOR BABY & BRAT roll their eyes and return to the more interesting job of watching EARL. They climb up on the side rails of the truck.)

SWALLOW

Ain't new, Amos.

AMOS

It's like new... new paint, new headlight... Re-built the motor myself...

SWALLOW

It's real pretty, shiny too.

AMOS

Like you. Wanna take a ride?

SWALLOW

On the freeway? You should ask your girlfriend, Candy.

AMOS

I'm asking you. C'mon. This baby can fly. It'd be just like when we were kids and you used to sit behind me on a piece of old tin, and we'd race all the way down to Blind Man's Ridge! Remember? You used to hold on real tight.

SWALLOW

That was when we were kids.

AMOS

C'mon. Just see how it feels. We could start real gentle...

(SWALLOW is lured to the bike as the SHERIFF looms out of nowhere.)

SHERIFF

(to EARL)

Hey you! We got enough trouble round here without you scarin' little kids. So keep those crates shut and keep what's in 'em out of sight. You hear me boy?

(EARL puts a snake back in its box. The SNAKE - HANDLERS gather around.)

SHERIFF

Sun's going down Swallow. You'd better get on home and help your Daddy with supper. And don't go talking to any more strangers.

(SWALLOW gathers POOR BABY, BRAT and the sack of kittens.)

SHERIFF

How long you fellas planning to stay in town?

SNAKE PREACHER

Revival meetin' Christmas Eve. Then we're movin' on.

SHERIFF

Well keep your eyes peeled for any strangers hanging around your camp. A guy busted out of the State Pen last night and he could be heading this way.

(The SHERIFF exits. The SNAKE - HANDLERS pack up and drive off.)

SWALLOW

THE LOCUSTS ARE SINGING
THE SUN IS RED
IT'S GOTTEN SO LATE SOMEHOW

BRAT & SWALLOW

THERE'S GONNA BE TROUBLE
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAID

ALL THREE

WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN HOME BY NOW
WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN HOME BY NOW.

AMOS

Swallow, what about that ride?

(SWALLOW ushers POOR BABY and BRAT off.)

SWALLOW

We gotta get home and hide the kittens in the barn... Dad'll kill us if we're late for supper again.

AMOS

Swallow!

(then quietly...)

I wish you wouldn't always walk away when I'm talkin' to you.

4C. ACT 1/SCENE 4 COLD ON THE RADIO

A radio plays in the darkness. Lights slowly reveal a rusty trailer home. SWALLOW and her family are at supper.

**(note that in the West End production, this music was pre-recorded and used as scene change music. It was then interrupted by the Newscaster dialogue when ready.)*

RADIO

THE FLOWERS HAVE ALL DIED
THE SKIES ARE GOING GREY

I BEGGED MY BABY NOT TO LEAVE
I COULDN'T MAKE HER STAY

THE HEAT HAS DISAPPEARED
THE ETERNAL FLAME IS LOW

THE FORECAST AIN'T SO GOOD
I'M ALL MESSED UP NO PLACE TO GO.

NEWSCASTER

We interrupt the Everley Brothers to bring you this flash bulletin about the killer who escaped the State Penitentiary yesterday leaving two guards dead in his wake.

(BOONE frowns and protectively snaps off the radio. SWALLOW, BRAT and POOR BABY seem to have paid no attention. BOONE lingers in the doorway listening to a nearby dog barking.)

BOONE

That dog's been actin' crazy all day. Must be those strangers in town. Seems they turn up every year around Christmas.

(EDWARD is standing in the doorway with a freshly cut Christmas tree.)

EDWARD

Christmas ain't Christmas without a tree for the kids Boone.

POOR BABY & BRAT

Wow!

(BOONE takes the tree, clearly touched.)

SWALLOW

Thanks Ed. You want some supper?

EDWARD

(cheerfully)

I'm singin' for my supper tonight - see you all in the mornin'.

KIDS

Night Ed! Thanks etc...

(EDWARD exits)

BRAT

Our very own Christmas tree.

POOR BABY

It ain't as big as Jackie Henderson's his must be ten feet tall.

(SWALLOW shoots him a shut-up glance)

SWALLOW

Dad, why do grown ups wanna dance with snakes?

BOONE

Where'd you hear about that?

POOR BABY

Those guys in the truck said they were putting up a tent.

BOONE

Now that's a good bunch of fellas for you kids to keep away from.

(Seeing BRAT fiddling with her scrambled eggs)

Something wrong with your supper, Brat?

BRAT

(unconvincingly)

No Dad it's fine.

BOONE

I know it's just eggs but that's all we got goin' right now at the moment and I did 'em the way you like.

POOR BABY

When Ma used to make 'em they weren't so slurpy!

BRAT & SWALLOW

(to POOR BABY)

Ssshhh!

SWALLOW

(changing the subject)

Are those snakes killers Dad?

BOONE

Lethal.

SWALLOW

So what're they for?

BOONE

Some folks have some mighty queer notions about testing their faith in Jesus

(Seeing that none of them have eaten all of what's on their plate)

You finished?

POOR BABY

If we can't afford a Christmas bonfire... so Santa can't find his way here...does that mean no presents on Christmas morning?

BOONE

(sadly and gently)

I'm afraid it might look that way, boy. You know money's scarce.

BRAT

Remember Dad, you only have to "ask and it shall be given!"

POOR BABY

OK. I want a bike like Amos.

BRAT

And I want a brother who doesn't snore.

POOR BABY

And I want my own bed.

BRAT

And I want my hiccups to go away.

POOR BABY

And I don't want to be called Poor Baby anymore.

SWALLOW

All I want is for Ma to come back.

This is the first Christmas she's not here...

(The room is suddenly still.)

BOONE

Hey we got each other, don't we? We've got food on our table and a nice warm place to live...

(BOONE fills the sad silence and tries to lift his family's spirit.)

5. ACT 1/SCENE 4 GROWN UPS KILL ME

BOONE

IF YOUR MOTHER WAS HERE
YOU KNOW WHAT SHE'D SAY
DON'T COMPLAIN, LIFE IS TOUGH
BUT YOU SURVIVE DAY TO DAY
AND THE THINGS THAT MATTER
SURROUND AND EMBRACE US
AND THE COMFORTING PLACES
THEY ALWAYS WILL TAKE US

RE-ASSURE US OUR GOD
HE WILL NEVER FORSAKE US
SO WE REALLY DON'T MISS
WHAT WE THINK THAT WE MISS
AND IT JUST DOESN'T GET

ANY BETTER THAN THIS

(BOONE picks up a photograph of his dead wife.)

BOONE

No matter how bad things got your mother always had the words to put 'em right again.

6. ACT 1/SCENE 4 WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND

BOONE

WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND
LET YOUR VOICES CARRY
DROWN OUT ALL THE RAIN
LIGHT A PATCH OF DARKNESS
TREACHEROUS AND SCARY

HOWL AT THE STARS
WHISPER WHEN YOU'RE SLEEPING
I'LL BE THERE TO HOLD YOU
I'LL BE THERE TO STOP
THE CHILLS AND ALL THE WEEPING

MAKE IT CLEAR AND STRONG
SO THE WHOLE NIGHT LONG
EV'RY SIGNAL THAT YOU SEND
UNTIL THE VERY END
I WILL NOT ABANDON YOU,
MY PRECIOUS FRIEND

SWALLOW

SO TRY AND STEM THE TIDE
THEN YOU'LL RAISE A BANNER
SEND A FLARE UP IN THE SKY
TRY TO BURN A TORCH
AND TRY TO BUILD A BONFIRE

EV'RY SIGNAL THAT YOU SEND
UNTIL THE VERY END I'M THERE

BOONE

SO WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND
FOR I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN RIGHT THERE

POOR BABY

(spoken)

Ma sang it better

ACT 1/SCENE 5

(SWALLOW walks out under a starry sky.)

SWALLOW

HOWL AT THE STARS
WHISPER WHEN YOU'RE SLEEPING
I'LL BE THERE TO HOLD YOU
I'LL BE THERE TO STOP
THE CHILLS AND ALL THE WEEPING

MAKE IT CLEAR AND STRONG
SO THE WHOLE NIGHT LONG
EVERY SIGNAL THAT YOU SEND
UNTIL THE VERY END
I WILL NOT ABANDON YOU,
MY PRECIOUS FRIEND

SO TRY AND STEM THE TIDE
THEN YOU'LL RAISE A BANNER
SEND A FLARE UP IN THE SKY
TRY TO BURN A TORCH AND
TRY TO BUILD A BONFIRE

EVERY SIGNAL THAT YOU SEND
UNTIL THE VERY END
I'M THERE

SO WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND
FOR I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN
RIGHT THERE.

6A. ACT 1/SCENE 6 WHISTLE TAG - UNDERSCORE

SWALLOW enters the barn and pours milk for the kittens who are safe in a basket.

SWALLOW

Lord, Lord... the world is a rotten place for little kittens without a mother. Please protect them. In your son's name. Amen.

(She bears a groan. Suddenly a delirious bearded MAN rises up out of the hay beside her. They stare at each other with terror.)

SWALLOW

Who... are... you?

(The MAN weakly struggles up, sways, softly swears to himself.)

MAN

Jes... sus... Christ

SWALLOW

What!

MAN

I... I am... Jes... sus...

(He collapses, arms outstretched. SWALLOW stares at the bloody wounds that mark the palms of his hands. Unearthly pale, he does look remarkably like who he says he is. His eyes open.)

MAN

Don't tell anyone I'm here

(Lightning. An oncoming storm.)

ACT 1/SCENE 7

In the BARN. Minutes later the unconscious MAN lies where he fell, arms outstretched, wounded palms visible.

POOR BABY and BRAT, in their pyjamas have joined SWALLOW. All three stare at the sleeping figure.

POOR BABY

It can't be him

BRAT

It's Jesus, stupid.

POOR BABY

Is he dead?

BRAT

No he's asleep. Asleep in the hay.

POOR BABY

He's not Jesus... he's just a fella.

BRAT

He came to earth as a man before. Why not again?

POOR BABY

Why'd he choose our farm? Why not Jackie Henderson's? At least they're gonna have a Christmas bonfire.

SWALLOW

Whoever he is, he begged me not to tell. First we've got to hide him, then we've got to stay calm and figure out a way to make him well.

BRAT

He needs bread for his body and wine for his blood... and probably some fishes.

POOR BABY

Look at all that blood. Do you think his feet have holes in 'em too?

SWALLOW

Of course not, silly. It can't be him.

BRAT

But don't you see. Every Sunday the Preacher keeps tellin' us... " He will return! And those who fail to recognise him will burn in a

fiery hell". Besides, why would he lie?

SWALLOW

He's a grown up, right? We all know they can't be trusted.

BRAT

But, we're long overdue for a miracle, ain't we? And if he is Jesus, then maybe all our prayers will be answered... "No more pain... no more loss... no more sorrow."

POOR BABY

Does that mean I might get a new bike?

SWALLOW

C'mon... let's hide him over there. Pull! I know what I'm seeing, I know what I'm feeling... but it can't be him.

(SWALLOW picks up one of the MAN'S hands. BRAT picks his foot up and pulls his shoe off. His foot is pierced and bloody. Music starts.)

POOR BABY

His feet do have holes in 'em

SWALLOW

Dear gentle Jesus...

POOR BABY

Wow...

(SWALLOW still doesn't look convinced)

BRAT

You know how much you want Ma back? Well... Jesus can raise the dead...

SWALLOW

If only he was... If only he could. It can't be him.

(BRAT kneels, removes the MAN'S other shoe)

BRAT

But it is...

(The MAN catches SWALLOW'S hand, holds it tight.)

MAN

You mustn't tell anyone I'm here. Promise...

7. ACT 1/SCENE 7 I ALWAYS PRAYED

SWALLOW

I ALWAYS PRAYED
THAT YOU WOULD COME TO SAVE ME
I BELIEVED
YOU RETURNED FOR US AT LAST

ALL THREE KIDS

WE'LL GIVE YOU SHELTER FROM THE STORMS
AND THE WORLD OUTSIDE
YOU'LL BE SAFE
THIS VOW WE MAKE TO YOU
WE'LL NEVER TELL
THIS VOW WE MAKE TO YOU

8. ACT 1/SCENE 8 COLD

(The BAR. The lights gradually illuminate a smoky dive. The LOCALS are enjoying a drink in the free and easy atmosphere of the BAR. CANDY waits on tables.)

EDWARD

THE FLOWERS ALL HAVE DIED
THE SKIES ARE GOING GREY
I BEGGED MY BABY NOT TO LEAVE
I COULDN'T MAKE HER STAY

THE HEAT HAS DISAPPEARED
THE ETERNAL FLAME IS LOW
THE FORECAST AIN'T SO GOOD
I'M ALL MESSED UP NO PLACE TO GO

EDWARD & PIANIST

COLD LIKE A FROZEN TEAR DROP
THERE'S A CHILL IN THE AIR
AND THERE'S ICE IN MY VEINS
AND IT WON'T STOP

COLD IT'S AN ENDLESS WINTER
THE MOON'S ON THE RUN
AND EVEN THE SUN IS COLD

EDWARD & LOCAL

I GOTTA SEE MY GIRL
I GOTTA SEE HER EYES
THE BAROMETER IS FALLING
ONLY SHE CAN MAKE IT RISE

THERE'S NOTHING ON THE TREES
THERE'S NOTHING FOR ME HERE
I'M SEARCHING FOR SALVATION
AND SOME THERMAL UNDER-WEAR IT'S

MEN & GIRLS

COLD

MEN

AND IT'S GETTING COLDER
THEY'RE EVACUATING SATAN
WHO'S WAITING FOR HELL
TO FREEZE OVER

LORD IT'S

MEN & GIRLS

COLD

MEN

LIKE AN ENDLESS WINTER
THE STARS ARE ALL GONE
AND EVEN THE SUN IS COLD
THE MOON'S ON THE RUN
AND EVEN THE SUN IS COLD

(Piano instrumental)

GIRLS

I GOTTA SEE MY GUY
I GOTTA SEE HIS EYES
THE BAROMETER IS
FALLING
ONLY HE CAN MAKE IT
RISE
THERE'S NOTHING ON THE
TREES
THERE'S NOTHING FOR ME
HERE
I GOTTA FIND SALVATION
AND SOME THERMAL UNDER-
WEAR
IT'S...

MEN (1)

I GOTTA SEE MY GIRL
I GOTTA SEE HER EYES
THE BAROMETER IS
FALLING
ONLY SHE CAN MAKE IT
RISE
THERE'S NOTHING ON THE
TREES
THERE'S NOTHING FOR ME
HERE
I GOTTA FIND SALVATION
AND SOME THERMAL UNDER-
WEAR
IT'S...

MEN (2)

MY GIRL
GOTTA SEE MY GIRL
GOTTA SEE
BARMOETER IS
FALLING ONLY
SHE
SHE CAN MAKE IT
RISE
THERE'S NOTHING
ON THE TREES
THERE'S NOTHING
FOR ME HERE
AND SOME THERMAL
UNDERWEAR

GIRLS & MEN

COLD
AND IT'S GETTING COLDER
THEY'RE VACCINATING SATAN
WHO'S SHAKING
ALL OVER PNEUMONIA

COLD
LIKE AN ENDLESS WINTER
THE MOON'S ON THE RUN
AND EVEN THE SUN IS COLD
THE STARS ARE ALL GONE
AND EVEN THE SUN IS COLD
THE WORLD IS TOO OLD
AND EVEN THE SUN IS COLD

CANDY

We gotta get outta here Amos... head on up Route one to Baton Rouge-
keep right on a goin! You and me, like you promised.

AMOS

Any day now Candy.

CANDY

You promise?

AMOS

I promise!

(The SHERIFF enters)

SHERIFF

You, boy, give me your age.

EARL

Twenty one.

SHERIFF

Get! Collect your money and get out of here, Ed. We got state police arrivin' in town tonight... and I won't be responsible if they find you in a place like this- where you folks don't belong. That means you too Candy.

CANDY

Oh I'm goin'. I'm goin' so far you won't see me for dust!

SHERIFF

Now we just found these prison clothes not half a mile away. That means we got ourselves a real devil on the loose and he's right here among us.

(FOR THE SAKE OF THE CHILDREN music starts)

SHERIFF

Hidden in the shadows. Lyin' in wait. Now that man is wounded. He is desperate and he will not hesitate to kill again.

9. ACT 1/SCENE 8 FOR THE SAKE OF THE CHILDREN

SHERIFF

FOR THE SAKE OF ALL THE CHILDREN
LET'S CUT AWAY EVERYTHING THAT'S SICK

GROUP 1

GET IT DONE

GROUP 2

DO IT QUICK

SHERIFF

FOR THE SAKE OF ALL THE CHILDREN
WE'LL AVENGE THESE AWFUL SINS

CHORUS

THE HUNT NOW BEGINS!

ACT 1/ SCENE 9

The BARN. The MAN has a thermometer in his mouth. He grimaces in pain as SWALLOW bathes and dresses his wounds. POOR BABY, WINSTON and ELIZABETH are hovering nearby.

SWALLOW

Did you have a nice sleep? I'm Swallow. All our names are bird names, don't ask me why. I guess Ma was just nuts about flying and stuff. Oh anyway... My little brother's called Poor Baby, but his real name is Robin... and that's Brat. Her real name is Bluejay. I looked it up in a bird book once and it said she's swift on the wing and her call is a chattering scream.

(BRAT removes the thermometer from the man's mouth)

BRAT

It's a hundred and ten!

MAN

Do you know who I am?

(The KIDS nod fervently)

MAN

Does anyone else know I'm here?

BRAT

I only told Winston and Elizabeth... but they're our friends...

WINSTON

I only told Louis and Ramona.

ELIZABETH

...and I only told my sister LaVonne... but she's only six so she

doesn't count.

MAN

This is our secret. You mustn't tell anyone.

SWALLOW

I didn't... I wouldn't... ever.

MAN

Anything on the news? Any pictures?

Elizabeth

Why don't you wear those long blue dresses anymore?

(POOR BABY lays his kitten down beside him.)

POOR BABY

Spider's feeling poorly too, but I know you'll take good care of him.

BRAT

And here's some bread for your body.

SWALLOW

And wine for your blood. I swiped it from my Dad but I know you'll forgive me.

(The MAN snatches the bottle from SWALLOW'S hand, and takes a desperate swig.)

MAN

They'll kill me if they find me. You know that don't you?

(SOMEONE'S COMING music starts. Everyone freezes at the sound of the barn door latch being shaken vigorously. The pitchfork they set against it comes loose. Panic.)

ELIZABETH

Someone's coming!

SWALLOW

Hide him!

(They hide the MAN. The barn door is forced open by BOONE who

is followed by EDWARD.)

BOONE

What's goin' on?

SWALLOW

Just playin', Dad.

BOONE

With a pitchfork against the door?

SWALLOW

It was just a game.

(BOONE eyes the kids suspiciously but then goes about his business.)

BOONE

Ed, would you hand me that funnel over there?

(EDWARD searches for the funnel just inches away from where the MAN is hiding.)

BRAT

ED!!!!!! Do you expect Jesus would have tattoos if he came back again?

EDWARD

Hell no! He'd be... er... Help me out here Boone. He'd be... Like he is in the pictures in the bible.

(SWALLOW cries out distracting everyone's attention)

SWALLOW

No!!!!

BOONE

What's wrong with you, girl?

(She continues blindly, trying to keep their attention from the MAN.)

SWALLOW

Jesus'd have to be pretty dumb to come back wearing all those long

flowing robes, don't you think? I mean, he'd be so easily recognised! And then everyone would crucify him, just like the last time.

BOONE

What?

SWALLOW

But I guess if he's gonna come back at all, he'd better not choose this town. Folks round here are so cruel they'd crucify him before they've even given him a chance.

BOONE

That's enough!

(To ELIZABETH and WINSTON)

You kids get on home.

(ELIZABETH and WINSTON run off.)

BOONE

I don't know what's got in to you Swallow.

BRAT

What's for supper Dad?

POOR BABY

Hope it's not eggs again.

BRAT & POOR BABY

Yuck!

SWALLOW

(to EDWARD)

I dunno what's got into him! And all the grown-ups round here. Whisperin'. Lookin' worried. What's going on Ed?

EDWARD

There's sick thing's that happen in the world every now and then Swallow. You just wake up one morning and there it is... some foul corrupting thing comes blowin' in from the outside. Comes blowin' in with no warning. Just be rest assured that sick things pass.

The world finds a way of getting' rid o' them. Now get on over to the house and apologise to your Dad.

(EDWARD leaves. SWALLOW hangs back and whispers to the MAN.)

SWALLOW

I'll come back in the morning, and tonight, I'll say a special prayer, just for you.

(SWALLOW exits.)

10. ACT 1/SCENE 9 SOLILOQUY

MAN

THERE'S A PRAYER
FOR THE LIVING AND THE DYING
THERE'S A PRAYER
TO SOOTHE THE SAVAGE SEA
THERE'S A PRAYER IT SEEMS
FOR ALMOST EVERYTHING
BUT YOU
HAVEN'T GOT A PRAYER FOR ME
AND I
I HAVEN'T GOT A PRAYER

SO MANY CRIES IN THE NIGHT
THAT YOU TRY TO IGNORE
WHY DIDN'T I DO THIS?
WHY DIDN'T I DO THAT?

SO MAN UNBROKEN CHAINS
SO MANY UNSETTLED SCORES

THE OLD MAN AT THE BANK THAT SNEERS
THE TEACHERS AND THEIR SLAPS
THE BRUTAL EYES THE UNIFORMS
THE LAWYERS AND THEIR TRAPS

THE LONLEY GIRLS WHO YEARN TO LOVE
AND LEARN TO KISS AND DANCE
THE RICH AND SELFISH WIDOWS
IN THE MARKET FOR ROMANCE

THE SOLDIER WITH THE SMELL OF WAR
THAT NEVER FADES AWAY
THE HERO ON THE PLAYING FIELDS
FORGOTTEN IN A DAY

THE PRIEST IN CONFESSIONAL
THE TREMBLING HANDS AND WHISPERED SIGHS
THE DOCTORS AT THE HOSPITAL
UN-ENDING TESTS AND TWISTED LIES

THE BETRAYERS THE BETRAYED
THE ABANDONED THE AFRAID
THE CORRUPTED AND THE CELEBRATED
THE ENDLESSLY HUMILIATED
GLORIOUSLY BIG PARADE

YOU CAN SAY A PRAYER FOR EVERYONE
THAT THERE COULD EVER BE
SAY A PRAYER FOR ALL OF THESE AND MORE
BUT THERE'S STILL NO PRAYER FOR ME

SAY A PRAYER FOR YOUR PUREST DAUGHTER
TOLL A BELL FOR YOUR ONLY SON
THERE'S NO WAY OUT AND ALL MY PRAYERS
ARE FADING ONE BY ONE

THE STERN AND DISAPPROVING LIPS
THE FRIENDS WHO JUST ATTACK
THE FATHERS THAT THEY TAKE AWAY
THE ONES THAT CAN'T COME BACK

THE DESPERATE BOY WHO SLEEPS ALONE
WHOEVER'S IN HIS BED
THE CHOSEN ONES THEY GET A HOME
THE BLESSED GET AHEAD

THE KIDS OUT PLAYING SOFTBALL
IN THE FADING SUMMER NIGHT
THE TEENAGE LOVERS AT THE DRIVE IN
THE GLOW OF THE DASHBOARD LIGHT

AN AMERICAN FLYER
ON A STEEP INCLINE
THE WIND BLOWING THROUGH YOUR HAIR

THE TROPHIES AND THE HOLIDAYS
THEY VANISHED IN THE AIR

THE BETRAYERS THE BETRAYED
THE ABANDONED THE AFRAID
THE GLORIFIED THE IDOLIZED
THE BASTARDS AND THEIR JEALOUS EYES
AN AMAZINGLY BIG PARADE!
YOU CAN SAY A PRAYER FOR EV'RY ONE
YOU'VE KNOWN OR YOU MIGHT SEE
SAY A PRAYER FOR ALL OF THESE
BUT THERE'S STILL NO PRAYER FOR ME

SAY A PRAYER FOR EVERY LIVING THING
THE UNBORN AND DECEASED
BUT I HAVEN'T GOT A PRAYER I KNOW
THAT'S THE NATURE OF THE BEAST
THAT'S THE NATURE OF THE BEAST

ACT 1/ SCENE 10

The BARN. The MAN, alarmed by the sounds of the door opening, smashes his wine bottle and holds the jagged neck, ready to attack. SWALLOW, carrying supplies, peers in.

SWALLOW

Oh... You broke the bottle

(smiles)

Don't worry, I brought you another.

MAN

You got out of bed in the middle of the night to take care of me.

SWALLOW

And I brought you some food and some nice warm water to wash your wounds.

(She lays the food beside him, feels his forehead, kneels and starts to wash his feet. He stops her.)

MAN

No please don't.

(softly)

What would your mother say if she caught you here?

SWALLOW

Nothing she's gone. She's in heaven now... but you know that already.

MAN

Why are you doing this for me?

SWALLOW

Because I love you. Because I know you love me too. Well, you do, don't you?

MAN

You're so pure. You look like an angel. You look like you came straight down from heaven. What do you want from me?

SWALLOW

I want my mother back.

(IF ONLY Underscore starts)

MAN

You want me to bring your mother back?

SWALLOW

Yes. Please. You can heal the sick and raise the dead. Being the son of God, it can't be that difficult for you.

11. ACT 1/SCENE 10 IF ONLY

SWALLOW

YOU CAN DO THAT,
TELL ME CAN'T YOU?
YOU CAN TAKE SOMETHING DEAD
AND MAKE IT ALIVE AGAIN

CAN YOU DO THAT FOR ME?

MAN

(spoken)

I'll have to think about it.

SWALLOW

OH, BUT YOU CAN,
I JUST KNOW THAT YOU CAN

(spoken)

It'd be such a small miracle for you to perform. Please, dear
Jesus, I'll do anything...

MAN

WE'VE GOT A CHANCE TO WORK SOME WONDERS
YOU CAN HELP ME WITH THE SECOND COMING
WE GOTTA PLAY OUR CARD SO WELL
WE GOTTA BE SO SMART AND CRAFTY
YOU'RE EXACTLY WHAT I NEED
AND I KNOW THAT YOU'RE THE ANSWER

WOULD YOU BE MY FIRST APOSTLE?
MY TICKET TO A NEW BEGINNING
YOU'RE SO INNOCENT AND TRUSTING
CAN I ASK YOU TO DO ANYTHING?

SWALLOW

(spoken)

I'll do anything you want, if only you'd do that one thing for me.

MAN

I don't have the strength to perform miracles right now.
Maybe later... if you take real good care of me.

SWALLOW

I SWEAR I WILL
I'LL CARE FOR YOU
BETTER THAN ANYONE EVER HAS

IF ALL WE LOST
SOMEHOW CAME BACK
IF ALL THAT DIED
AGAIN WOULD GROW
IF ONLY IT WAS SO
THESE ARE THE LONELIEST WORDS I KNOW

IF ALL OUR DREAMS WERE GOLDEN
AND NEVER BLACK OR GREY
IF ALL OUR DREAMS CAME TRUE
THEN WE'D NEVER HAVE TO SAY
IF ONLY IT WAS SO
THESE ARE THE LONELIEST WORDS I KNOW.

(SWALLOW leaves)

MAN

IF ALL I'VE LOST
SOMEHOW CAME BACK
IF ALL THAT DIED AGAIN WOULD GROW
IF ONLY IT WAS SO
THESE ARE THE LONELIEST WORDS I KNOW

12. ACT 1/SCENE 11 TIRE TRACKS

CANDY and AMOS are "hanging out" in the street. She's bored and desperate to "break out"... AMOS works on his bike nearby.

CANDY

ANOTHER AIMLESS DAY

AMOS

ANOTHER USELESS NIGHT

CANDY

I WANT PEROXIDE HAIR

AMOS

I WANT SOME NEON LIGHT

CANDY

I GOT A NEW LIFE WAITING
I CAN'T WAIT TO BEGIN IT

CANDY & AMOS

THE THING THAT GETS ME DOWN
BEING YOUNG IN THIS TOWN
IS THERE'S NO FUTURE IN IT.

CANDY

(spoken)

What happened to your face Amos?

AMOS

Nothin'. I told my Dad last night that I ain't workin' in that
hell hole of a factory and endin' up a down-beat nobody like him.

CANDY

And he hit you?

AMOS

Ain't the first time. This town's going crazy and I'm goin' crazy
with it. Stir crazy.

CANDY

I WANT A FINE PERFUME

AMOS

I WANT A BLUE CORVETTE

CANDY

IF THERE'S A SLOWER DEATH
THAN LIVING HERE AND NOW

AMOS

THEY HAVEN'T FOUND IT YET

CANDY

I NEED A MAN WHO KNOWS
WHAT I AM REALLY WORTH

AMOS

I DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT LIFE

AFTER DEATH

AMOS & CANDY

BUT I GOTTA GET SOME PROOF
THAT THERE'S A LIFE AFTER BIRTH

TIRE TRACKS AND BROKEN HEARTS
THAT'S ALL WE'RE LEAVING BEHIND
DOESN'T MATTER WHAT WE'RE LOSING
ONLY MATTERS WHAT WE'RE GOING TO FIND

TIRE TRACKS AND BROKEN HEARTS
LET'S GET AWAY FROM THE PAST
SO MANY WAYS TO STAY HUNGRY BABY
SO MANY WAYS TO GO FAST

CANDY

I WANT A PUSH UP BRA
I WANT SOME SATIN SHEETS

AMOS

GIVE ME SOME REAL RICH FOOD
I WANT SOME SUCCULENT SWEETS

CANDY

I WANT YOU BY MY SIDE
YOU'LL BE ALL MY OWN

AMOS

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WANT HALF THE TIME
BUT I KNOW

AMOS & CANDY

THAT I DON'T WANT TO SPEND ANOTHER MINUTE ALONE

TIRE TRACKS AND BROKEN HEARTS
THAT'S ALL WE'RE LEAVING BEHIND
DOESN'T MATTER WHAT WE'RE LOSING
ONLY MATTERS WHAT WE'RE GOING TO FIND

CANDY

THOSE GOOD GIRLS NEVER KNOW WHAT THEY'RE MISSING
BUT US BAD GIRLS ALMOST ALWAYS DO

CANDY & AMOS

AND WHAT WE'RE MISSING MOST ARE THE REAL GOOD TIMES
I WANT 'EM BAD
AND I WANT 'EM NOW
I WAS BORN GOING FASTER
THAN THE LIMITS ALLOW

I WANT 'EM BAD
AND I WANT 'EM NOW
I WAS BORN GOING FASTER
THAN THE LIMITS ALLOW

TIRE TRACKS AND BROKEN HEARTS
LET'S GET AWAY FROM THE PAST
SO MANY WAYS TO STAY HUNGRY BABY
SO MANY WAYS TO GO FAST

TIRE TRACKS AND BROKEN HEARTS
THAT'S ALL WE'RE LEAVING BEHIND
DOESN'T MATTER WHAT WE'RE LOSING
ONLY MATTERS WHAT WE'RE GOING TO FIND.

AMOS

This town's too small for us baby. We gotta get out of here. Fast.
I mean tomorrow.

CANDY

I'll meet you as soon as it gets dark

AMOS

In the parking lot 6.30

CANDY

You promise

AMOS

We'll be in New Orleans for Christmas mornin'

CANDY

This time it'd better be for real

AMOS

6.30 tomorrow night, I promise

(SAFE HEAVEN underscore music starts)

EDWARD

Candy! There's rules in this world and we gotta abide by them—even when we know they're wrong and bein' seen out here in the bright light of day flirtin' with a white boy is breakin' one of those rules. So get back to where you belong.

CANDY

But Ed

EDWARD

You heed my words like your life depended 'em. Now get on home.

(EDWARD takes CANDY off as the townsfolk arrive.)

13. ACT 1/ SCENE 12 SAFE HAVEN

The TOWN

TOWNSFOLK

THIS WAS A SAFE HAVEN
NOW IT'S GONE
DANGER'S ON
IT'S WAY

EVIL CAN SPREAD OUT
LIKE A STAIN
AND DARKEN ALL THE DAY

(EARL is giving out printed leaflets advertising the revival meeting. He approaches POOR BABY and gives him a leaflet.)

EARL

You comin' to the revival meetin' tomorrow night to test your faith in Jesus? Or are you an Unbeliever?

POOR BABY

Depends. What happens to Unbelievers?

EARL

They get bit by snakes and they die.

POOR BABY

I guess that sure enough makes me a Believer. And if Jesus is feeling better, I might even bring him with me.

(EARL looks puzzled)

TOWNSFOLK

BOUND'RIES WON'T PROTECT YOU
LOCKS AND BOLTS
WON'T WORK THE
WAY THEY SHOULD
FOR THE SAKE OF ALL THE CHILDREN
TRACK IT DOWN,
ROOT IT OUT FOR GOOD

POOR BABY

Amos, will you take us to the revival meeting tomorrow night?

BRAT

Please Amos. Please! Will you?

AMOS

What'd you say Swallow?

(SWALLOW walks away)

AMOS

Why do you always walk away when I'm talkin' to you? We used to talk all the time, remember? When we were kids. C'mon, you tell me your secrets and I'll tell you mine.

POOR BABY

We do have the biggest secret in the world.

BRAT

But it's just a secret for kids.

SWALLOW

It's not for anybody. You keep your big mouth shut, you hear?

AMOS

What kind of secret do you have, Swallow?

SWALLOW

The only kind there is... the kind nobody tells.

(The GROWN UPS return as the KIDS head off.)

TOWNSFOLK

THEY SAY HE KILLED AND KILLED
NO MERCY NO REMORSE NO SHAME
THEY SAY HE'LL STRIKE AGAIN
NO FEAR AND NO HOPE AND NO END

THIS WAS A SAFE HAVEN
BRING IT BACK
MAKE IT THAT AGAIN.

(The DEPUTY and a LOCAL SHOP OWNER come forward out of the crowd)

LOCAL SHOP OWNER

What if the son-of-a-bitch was hidin' over there in the cane, then what?

DEPUTY

Simple Buddy. I'd lift my pistol... take aim, and pull the trigger

LOCAL SHOP OWNER

Without any warning first?

DEPUTY

Rabid dogs don't need no warning.

(Aiming his gun into the open space (auditorium) with terrifying determination.)

DEPUTY

BAM! BAM! BAM!

TOWNSFOLK

YOU GOTTA BE PREPARED TO WRESTLE
WRESTLE WITH THE DEVIL IN A HEART BEAT
BEFORE THE MOMENT IS PASSED.
YOU GOTTA BE PREPARED
YOU GOTTA BE PREPARED

TO WRESTLE WITH THE DEVIL IN A HEART BEAT
OR IT COULD BE YOUR VERY LAST

14. ACT 1/SCENE 13 LONG OVERDUE FOR A MIRACLE

Dawn. Christmas Eve. A CANE FIELD. CHILDREN are playing.

VIKKI

CAN IT BE TRUE

LOUISE

WELL WHAT DO YA THINK

VIKKI

DOES HE HAVE THOSE BIG BLUE EYES

CLARENCE

EV'RY ONE'S WHISPERING BACK IN TOWN

LOUIS

I BET IT'S A PACK OF LIES

JACKIE

HE COULD GET MY DAD A JOB

LAVONNE

HE COULD GET MY MUM A DRESS

LOUIS

HE COULD MAKE US ALL HAVE X-RAY EYES

CLARENCE

HE COULD MAKE US ALL CONFESS

VIKKI

LET'S THROW HIM A BIG PARTY

RAMONA

IT'S CHRISTMAS PRETTY SOON

ELIZABETH

WE'LL GET A CLOWN

CURLY

AND A BIRD THAT TALKS

LOUIS

AND A BIG BIRTHDAY BALLOON

LOUISE

HE COULD WALK ACROSS LAKE PONCHARTRAIN

LOUIS

DRAW WATER FROM A STONE

ALL

JUST THINK OF ALL THE THINGS WE'D DO
WITH A MIRACLE OF OUR OWN

ELIZABETH

I SAW HIM CRAWLING THROUGH THE BAYOU

ALL

THAT'S A LIE

ELIZABETH

NO IT WAS HIM

LOUIS

WHY DO YOU THINK HE PICKED THAT BARN

CLARENCE

WHERE'S HE GOIN'

RAMONA

WHERE'S HE BEEN

ALL

WOW

ALL

IF WE GOT JESUS ON OUR SIDE
THAT'LL MAKE US AWFUL STRONG
IMAGINE THAT IT ALL CAME TRUE
WE'RE TOO LONG OVERDUE
LONG OVERDUE FOR A MIRACLE

WE'RE LONG OVERDUE FOR A MIRACLE

VIKKI

WE GOTTA GO AND SEE HIM NOW

BRAT

(spoken)

No maybe he should rest

ELIZABETH

LET'S GO AND GET A BIBLE

CLARENCE

WE'LL MAKE HIM TAKE A TEST

BRAT

I BET THEY'LL TRY AND HURT HIM

CLARENCE

WE'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES

LOUISE

HE ONCE SAVED US NOW WE'LL SAVE HIM

ELIZABETH

WE'RE ALL HE'S GOT FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE

HE'D STOP THE TEACHERS HITTING US

VIKKI

THE GROWNUPS WOULDN'T ACT SO BAD

LOUISE

WE'D GET MORE TOYS AND LOTS OF LOVE

ALL

MUCH MORE THAN WE EVER HAD

BRAT

SHH WE'VE GOTTA KEEP THIS A SECRET

WE GOTTA DO THIS RIGHT

BRAT & POOR BABY

IF WE DON'T SCREW UP

WE COULD SAVE HIS LIFE

+KIDS

THEN THIS COULD BE THE NIGHT
WHEN CHILDREN RULE THE WORLD

THIS COULD BE THE NIGHT
THE NIGHT WHEN CHILDREN RULE THE WORLD

DOVES AND KINGS AND SHEPHERDS WISE MEN
CAME TOGETHER FOLLOWED THE STAR
THEY ALL GATHERED DOWN IN A MANGER
THEY CAME FROM SO VERY FAR

MIDNIGHT IS CLEAR
OUR SAVIOUR IS HERE
HE'S GONNA GUARD EACH BOY AND GIRL
NO HUNGER OR THIRST
THE LAST WILL BE THE FIRST
THE NIGHT THAT CHILDREN RULE THE WORLD
WHEN CHILDREN RULE THE WORLD
TONIGHT
WHEN CHILDREN RULE THE WORLD

ALL OUR GREATEST WISHES ARE GRANTED
LET US SING LET INNOCENCE REIGN
ALL OUR PRAYERS ARE FINALLY ANSWERED

(The CHILDREN have arrived at the barn door)

ACT 1/SCENE 14

Inside the BARN. SWALLOW, alarmed turns to the MAN

KIDS

BLESSED AND FREE OF ALL THE PAIN

CHILDREN

TOWERS OF FIRE
RISE EVER HIGHER
MAGICAL FLAGS
WILL BE UNFURLED
THE DEMONS ARE GONE

THE YOUNG ARE THE STRONG
THE NIGHT THAT CHILDREN RULE THE WORLD

WHEN CHILDREN RULE THE WORLD TONIGHT
WHEN CHILDREN RULE THE WORLD
WHEN CHILDREN RULE THE WORLD TONIGHT
WHEN CHILDREN RULE THE WORLD

SWALLOW

(to BRAT)

Brat, he made us promise not to tell.

BRAT

I sure as hell couldn't stop them

(...realizing her language in front of the Lord...)

Sorry Jesus.

ELIZABETH

Will you tell us a story, sweet Jesus? The blind man!

JACKIE

The money lenders!

VIKKI

The good Samaritan!

LOUIS

The feed the 5,000!

BRAT

The walking on the water

WINSTON

The story of Lazarus

KIDS

...Story! Story! Story!

MAN

(savagely)

Shut up!

(Instant silence. Unnerved the MAN looks around at the stunned faces, tries to regain his composure.)

MAN

Now are you gonna keep quiet?

(They all nod.)

MAN

Alright then...

(He thinks hard)

...Any of you know the tale of ole Annie?

BRAT

Was that in the Old Testament?

MAN

No, but it'll be in the next one. And it's sort of a Christmas story... because her name was Annie Christmas...

(The KIDS eagerly crowd closer. The music for ANNIE CHRISTMAS starts.)

15. ACT 1/SCENE 14 ANNIE CHRISTMAS

MAN

SHE LIVED IN THESE PARTS
SHE WAS A BIG OLD GIRL
MISS ANNIE
WHAT A WONDER

THREE HUNDRED POUNDS
AND SIX FOOT EIGHT
IN HER BARE FEET
ANNIE CHRISTMAS

SHE COULD DRINK
AND SHE COULD FIGHT

SHE HAD A CURLY BLACK MOUSTACHE
SHE WAS FAMOUS ON THE RIVER

SHE WAS MADLY IN LOVE
WITH A WILD GAMBLING MAN
THAT WAS CHARLIE
HOW SHE LOVED HIM!

BUT OL' CHARLIE
HE DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE HER AT ALL
UNTIL ONE DAY
WHAT A ONE DAY

THEN SHE WORE A VERY SPECIAL NECKLACE
AND IT PROVED HOW SHE WAS TOUGH
AND RECKLESS
WITH A BEAD FOR EV'RY EAR AND NOSE
SHE HAD BITTEN OFF AS THE STORY GOES

WHEN SHE FOUGHT
EVE'RY MAN WHO EVER DID HER WRONG
AND THE NECKLACE WAS ALREADY
THIRTY FEET LONG!
AND THE UP SHOT WAS
AND THE UP SHOT WAS

OL' CHARLIE WAS IMPRESSED
AND THE NEXT THING YOU KNOW
THEY WERE MARRIED
WHAT A WEDDING!

AND THE NEXT YEAR
SHE GAVE HIM
A DOZEN SONS AT ONCE
THEY WERE GIANTS!

POOR BABY

WHAT A WONDER!

MAN

AND BEFORE THEY WERE SIX
THEY WERE SEVEN FOOT FOUR
IN THEIR BARE FEET

CLARENCE

THEY WERE GIANTS!

MAN

AND THEY CARRIED MISS ANNIE
ON THEIR SHOULDERS LIKE A PRIZE!
SHE WAS BEAMING LIKE AN ANGEL

SWALLOW

LIKE AN ANGEL

POOR BABY

WITH A MOUSTACHE

MAN

AND SHE ALWAYS WORE
THAT SPECIAL NECKLACE
'CAUSE IT PROVED THAT SHE WAS TOUGH AND RECKLESS
WITH A BEAD FOR EV'RY EAR AND NOSE
SHE HAD BITTEN OFF AS THE STORY GOES

CHILDREN & MAN

AND SHE ALWAYS WORE
THAT SPECIAL NECKLACE
BECAUSE IT PROVED THAT SHE WAS TOUGH AND RECKLESS
WITH A BEAD FOR EV'RY EAR AND NOSE
SHE HAD BITTEN OFF AS THE STORY GOES,

AND THE MORAL IS
AND THE MORAL IS

KIDS

AND THE MORAL IS
AND THE MORAL IS

ALL

AND THE MORAL IS
AND THE MORAL IS

MAN

(spoken)

Stop!... I don't know

16. ACT 1/SCENE 14 NO MATTER WHAT

CHARITY

I GOT A PLASTIC FLOWER
SO IT WILL NEVER DIE
I GOT MY GRANDMA'S HANKIE
IF YOU EVER NEED TO CRY

VIKKI

I GOT A PRETTY BRACELET

LAVONNE

I GOT A MIRROR TOO

LAVONNE, VIKKI & CHARITY

I'M NEVER GONNA NEED 'EM
I'LL GIVE 'EM ALL TO YOU

+LOUISE

I'LL GIVE YOU ALL I'VE GOT TO GIVE
I GUESS THAT'S MY GOOD DEED

ELIZABETH

I JUST WANT TO STAY BESIDE YOU
YOU'RE THE ONLY LOVE I NEED

LOUIS

I GOT A GREAT BIG SEA SHELL
YOU PUT IT TO YOUR EAR.
THEN YOU CAN HEAR THE OCEAN
IT'S LIKE YOU'RE REALLY THERE

CLARENCE

I GOT A GLASS OF FIRE-FLIES
THEY MAKE AMAZING LIGHT

CURLY

I GOT A FOUR LEAF CLOVER
I'LL BRING IT HERE TONIGHT

BRAT

AND I WILL KEEP YOU SAFE AND STRONG
AND FOLLOW WHERE YOU LEAD

SWALLOW

I'LL NEVR LEAVE YOUR SIDE NOW
WE'RE THE ONLY LOVE YOU NEED

ALL KIDS

NOT MATTER WHAT THEY TELL US
NO MATTER WHAT THEY DO
NO MATTER WHAT THEY TEACH US
WHAT WE BELIEVE IS TRUE

ALL KIDS

I CAN'T DENY WHAT I BELIEVE
I CAN'T BE WHAT I'M NOT
I KNOW THIS LOVES FOREVER
I KNOW NO MATTER WHAT

I CAN'T DENY WHAT I BELIEVE
I CAN'T BE WHAT I'M NOT
I KNOW THIS LOVE'S FOREVER
THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS NOW
NO MATTER WHAT

*(The TOWNSFOLK assemble for the first time we are aware that
they are armed - rifles, clubs and pitch forks are at the
ready.)*

MEN

NO MATTER WHAT THE OUTRAGE
NO MATTER WHAT THE CRIME
NO MATTER WHERE HE'S RUNNING
HE'S RUNNING OUT OF TIME

MEN

NO MATTER WHERE HE'S HIDING
NO MATTER HOW HE'S HURT
HE'S BETTER DEAD THAN
CAPTURED
HE'S JUST A SPECK OF DIRT
NO MATTER WHAT HE'S SCHEMING

WOMEN

THIS WAS A SAFE HAVEN
NOW IT'S GONE
DANGER'S ON ITS WAY
EVIL CAN SPREAD OUT LIKE A
STAIN
AND DARKEN ALL THE DAY

MEN & WOMEN

NO MATTER WHAT HE'S GOT
WE'LL TEAR HIM LIMB FROM LIMB

THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS
NO MATTER WHAT

KIDS

IF ONLY TEARS WERE LAUGHTER
IF ONLY NIGHT WAS DAY
IF ONLY PRAYERS WERE ANSWERED
THEN WE WOULD HEAR GOD SAY

NO MATTER WHAT THEY TELL US
NO MATTER WHAT THEY DO
NO MATTER WHAT THEY TEACH US
WHAT WE BELIEVE IS TRUE

I CAN'T DENY WHAT I BELIEVE
I CAN'T BE WHAT I'M NOT
I KNOW THIS LOVE'S FOREVER
THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS NOW NO MATTER WHAT

MEN & WOMEN

YOU'VE GOT TO WRESTLE WITH THE DEVIL
WRESTLE WITH THE DEVIL IN A HEART BEAT

ALL KIDS

MIDNIGHT IS CLEAR
OUR SAVIOUR IS HERE
HE'S GOING TO GUARD EACH BOY AND GIRL
THE DEMONS ARE GONE
THE YOUNG ARE THE STRONG
THE NIGHT THAT CHILDREN RULE THE WORLD

WHEN CHILDREN RULE THE WORLD TONIGHT
WHEN CHILDREN RULE THE WORLD
WHEN CHILDREN RULE THE WORLD TONIGHT
WHEN CHILDREN RULE THE WORLD

MEN & WOMEN

YOU GOTTA WRESTLE WITH THE DEVIL.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO17. ACT 2/SCENE 1 OPENING ACT 2

Sunset. Christmas Eve. The BARN.

ENSEMBLE (*OFF STAGE*)

THEY SAY HE KILLED AND KILLED
NO MERCY
NO REMORSE NO SHAME

THIS WAS A SAFE HAVEN
BRING IT BACK
MAKE IT THAT AGAIN

NO MATTER WHERE HE'S HIDING
NO MATTER WHAT HE'S GOT
WE'LL TEAR HIM LIMB FROM LIMB
THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS NO MATTER WHAT

MAN

I have a favour to ask you

SWALLOW

I'll do anything.

MAN

A friend promised to leave a package for me. Something important.
Something I have to have.

SWALLOW

I'll get it for you.

MAN

It's a long way down the river. Too far to walk this time of
night. Do you know where the old train tunnel is?

SWALLOW

Yes.

MAN

It's in the emergency box as you get on the bridge.

SWALLOW

That's four miles away!

MAN

Can you drive your Dad's pick-up?

SWALLOW

..."steal" the car? Break the seventh commandment?

MAN

(Carefully)

Sometimes laws can be broken...if there's a really special reason...

(Pause)

18. ACT 2/SCENE 1 TRY NOT TO BE AFRAID

SWALLOW

Oh right! I'll get it somehow. I promise. I won't fail you, dear Jesus.

MAN

Right away. Tonight...and no looking at it, understand? No telling' anyone.

(SWALLOW nods eagerly. The MAN leans forward and touches her.)

MAN

You're trembling.

SWALLOW

No I'm not.

MAN

Yes you are.

SWALLOW

You're trembling.

(Music starts)

MAN

TRY NOT TO BE AFRAID
SO MANY THINGS CAN HAPPEN
BUT NOTHING'S EVER QUITE AS BAD
AS IT MIGHT APPEAR

I'LL GIVE YOU ALL I GOT
YOU KNOW I CAN PROTECT YOU
AND TRY AND STOP YOU SHEDDING
EVEN ONE MORE SINGLE TEAR

SWALLOW

SHELTER FROM THE STORMS

MAN

REFUGE FROM THE WORLD OUTSIDE

SWALLOW

SAFETY FROM THE DANGERS

MAN

ESCAPE FROM ALL THE DISAPPOINTMENTS
THAT TIME HAS PASSED

SWALLOW & MAN

HEALING OF THE WOUNDS
THE VANISHING OF NIGHTMARES

MAN

AN END TO ENDLESS TORTURED NIGHTS
UNTRoubLED SLEEP AT LAST

SWALLOW & MAN

THIS IS THE VOW I'VE MADE
I'LL SEE IT ALL COME TRUE NOW
AND ALL YOU HAVE TO DO FOR ME
TRY NOT TO BE AFRAID

MAN

I SWEAR I'LL BE WITH YOU
THIS PROMISE THAT I'VE MADE YOU

SWALLOW & MAN

YOU WILL ALWAYS BE WITH ME

MAN

THINK OF EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT
TRY NOT TO BE AFRAID

SWALLOW

TRY NOT TO BE AFRAID

MAN & SWALLOW

TRY NOT TO BE AFRAID

The sound of a motorcycle fills the air. A blinding light from outside the barn. The police??? Both SWALLOW and the MAN are frozen for one moment in fear. Then a scramble of panic. The MAN grabs a pitchfork while SWALLOW recognises the figure approaching the open barn door. A silhouette against the frosty night gliding slowly towards them, the headlight of his motorbike piercing the darkness of the barn.

Underscore for LET'S MAKE A PROMISE starts.

19. ACT 2/SCENE 1 LET'S MAKE A PROMISE

SWALLOW

It's Amos. I'll get rid of him

MAN

No wait. What did I just say about the commandments?

SWALLOW

(repeating what he said)

Sometimes laws can be broken...if there's a really special reason.

MAN

He has a bike

(SWALLOW smiles in sudden realisation)

MAN

Miracles happen if you play your cards right. Get him to take you to the train tunnel.

(The MAN hides as SWALLOW runs to the door where AMOS is entering)

AMOS

I saw a light in here. I was hoping it was you.

SWALLOW

What do you want?

AMOS

I've come to say goodbye, I'm leavin' town, tonight, for good...But maybe I'll stay for a little while if you want me to.

(SWALLOW blushes, looks around nervously. They can't see the MAN but we can...)

AMOS

Will you tell me your big secret before I go?

(SWALLOW takes a step back while AMOS takes a step closer)

AMOS

I'll tell you one of my secrets if you'll tell me one of yours.

SWALLOW

You first.

AMOS

...I don't wear any underwear.

SWALLOW

I don't like that kind of secret. It makes me feel weird and scared.

AMOS

I'm scared of a lot of things, but I'm not scared of anything tonight.

SWALLOW

I'm never scared of anything, but I'm scared of you tonight.

AMOS

LET'S MAKE A PROMISE
AND THEN LET'S TAKE A VOW
TIME'S RUNNING OUT
THE ONLY TIME LEFT IS NOW
AND YOU KNOW YOU DESERVE MORE THAN THIS

IF YOU TRUST ME AT ALL
THEN JUST GIVE IT A CHANCE
THEY ALL WANT YOU TO CRAWL
BUT I WANT YOU TO DANCE
AND IF WE MAKE A PACT
THEN IT'S ONLY RIGHT WE SEAL IT WITH A KISS

SWALLOW

I've never kissed a boy before.

AMOS

I've never kissed a girl who's never kissed a boy before.

(The MAN watches, listens, as their secrets)

AMOS

When they put me in Juvenile Detention Hall, I cried...but only once.

SWALLOW

Sometimes I cry when I hear a train go by...I don't know why.

(softly)

I didn't cry when my mother died. I couldn't. I only pretended to.

AMOS

Sometimes I feel like killing my Dad.

SWALLOW

Sometimes I feel like killing Brat.

AMOS

Sometimes I feel like killing myself...pretendin' my bike's a red Porsche and driving a hundred and fifty miles an hour into a tree.

SWALLOW

Sometimes I lay awake and feel that too. Nothing. Just the colour black.

AMOS

Sometimes I lay awake at night dreaming of you.

20. ACT 2/SCENE 1 A KISS IS A TERRIBLE THING TO WASTE

(They face each other openly. AMOS steps closer)

AMOS

IF YOU LISTEN TO THE NIGHT
YOU CAN HEAR THE DARKNESS CALL
I CAN BARELY STAND TO WAIT
I CAN BARELY STAND AT ALL

C'MON CLOSER TO ME NOW
LIKE WE'RE SHARING THE SAME SKIN
WE GOTTA GET OUT OF THIS JAIL
WE GOTTA LET THE FUTURE IN

SO MANY THINGS IN YOU LIFE
THAT YOU'RE BOUND TO REGRET
WHY DIDN'T I DO THIS?
WHY DIDN'T I DO THAT?

SO MANY CHANCES YOU'VE LOST
THAT YOU'LL NEVER FORGET
WHY DIDN'T I TAKE IT?
WHY DIDN'T I MAKE IT COME TRUE?

AMOS

THE LONELIEST WORDS
YOU'LL EVER KNOW
IF ONLY
IF ONLY IT WAS SO

SWALLOW

AH

IF ONLY

AMOS & MAN

THE EMPTIEST WORDS
THAT THERE'LL EVER BE
"IT COULD HAVE BEEN ME
IT COULD HAVE BEEN ME!"

AH

IF ONLY

[illegible]

THE EMPTIEST WORDS AH
THAT THERE'LL EVER BE
"IT COULD HAVE BEEN ME IF ONLY
IT COULD HAVE BEEN ME!"

AMOS

YOU'LL HAVE TO PAY FOR IT LATER
IF YOU DON'T GET IT WHEN IT'S GOING FOR FREE
BELIEVE ME
BELIEVE ME

SO COME WITH ME NOW
WE CAN FLY AWAY
THERE'S A TIME TO BE SAVED
AND YOU'RE DAMNED IF YOU STAY
PUT YOUR FOOT ON THE GAS
AND LET'S GO

TAKE CHANCE ON A PROMISE
AND A ROLL OF THE DICE
WE CAN SET A FEW FIRES
WE CAN MELT ALL THE ICE
WE CAN HAVE MORE ADVENTURES
THAN YOU EVER EVEN DREAMED THAT YOU WOULD KNOW

THERE'S A FEAST WAITING FOR YOU
AND YOU'VE NEVER EVEN GOTTEN A TASTE

SWALLOW

THERE'S A LOT I HAVEN'T GOT

AMOS & MAN
IT'S LATER THAN YOU THINK

AMOS
AND A KISS IS A TERRIBLE THING TO WASTE

MAN

IF YOU LISTEN IN THE NIGHT
YOU CAN HEAR YOUR PLANS FALL THROUGH
ONE MORE FIGHT YOU'LL NEVER WIN
ONE MORE DREAM THAT WON'T COME TRUE

AMOS

YOU SHOULDN'T TREMBLE WHEN WE TOUCH
LET ME SHOW YOU WHAT TO DO AND HOW
CAUSE WE'LL NEVER BE AS YOUNG
AS WE ARE RIGHT NOW

SWALLOW, AMOS & MAN

WE'LL NEVER BE AS YOUNG
AS WE ARE RIGHT NOW

MAN

SO MANY CRIES IN THE NIGHT
THAT YOU TRY TO IGNORE

AMOS

WHY DIDN'T I DO THIS?

MAN

WHY DIDN'T I DO THAT?

AMOS & MAN

SO MANY UNANSWERED PRAYERS
SO MANY UNOPENED DOORS

AMOS

WHY DIDN'T I TAKE IT?

AMOS & MAN

WHY DIDN'T I MAKE IT COME TRUE?

AMOS & MAN

SWALLOW

THE LONELIEST WORDS
YOU'LL EVER KNOW
IF ONLY
IF ONLY IT WAS SO

AH

IF ONLY

THE EMPTIEST WORDS
THAT THERE'LL EVER BE

AH

"IT COULD HAVE BEEN ME IF ONLY
IT COULD HAVE BEEN ME!"

AMOS & MAN

THE LONELIEST WORDS
YOU'LL EVER KNOW
IF ONLY
IF ONLY IT WAS SO

THE EMPTIEST WORDS
THAT THERE'LL EVER BE
"IT COULD HAVE BEEN ME
IT COULD HAVE BEEN ME!"

YOU'LL HAVE TO PAY FOR IT LATER

AMOS

IF YOU DON'T GET IT
WHEN IT'S GOING FOR FREE

AMOS & MAN

BELIEVE ME

SWALLOW

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I BELIEVE

AMOS & MAN

BELIEVE ME
BELIEVE ME

AMOS

A KISS IS A TERRIBLE THING TO WASTE

AMOS & MAN

A KISS IS A TERRIBLE THING TO WASTE

AMOS

IT'S SOMETHING THAT'S ALWAYS BEEN SO

SWALLOW

HOW I WISH I COULD LET GO

AMOS

A KISS IS A TERRIBLE THING TO WASTE

MAN

YOU MAKE ONE MISTAKE
AND IT CAN'T BE ERASED

AMOS

AND ONE OF THESE NIGHTS
YOU'RE GONNA SHOW ME THAT YOU ALREADY KNOW

SWALLOW

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I KNOW

AMOS

THERE'S A FEAST WAITING FOR YOU
AND YOU'VE NEVER EVEN GOTTEN A TASTE

MAN

I'LL KILL HIM IF HE HURTS HER

SWALLOW

IT'S LATER THAN YOU THINK

AMOS & MAN

AND A KISS IS A TERRIBLE THING TO WASTE

AMOS

NOW'S THE TIME WHEN YOU'VE GOTTA LET GO

MAN

I REMEMBER LETTING GO

AMOS

A KISS IS A TERRIBLE THING TO WASTE

MAN

DON'T LOSE WHAT YOU GOT
'COS IT CAN'T BE REPLACED

AMOS

AND ONE OF THESE NIGHTS,
I'M GONNA SHOW YOU THAT YOU ALREADY KNOW

SWALLOW

I THINK I'M READY TO LET GO

AMOS

THERE'S A FEAST WAITING FOR YOU
AND YOU'VE NEVER EVER GOTTEN A TASTE

MAN

WHAT AM I ASKING HER TO DO?

AMOS

IT'S LATER THAN YOU THINK

SWALLOW, AMOS & MAN

AND A KISS IS A TERRIBLE THING TO WASTE

(SWALLOW almost gives in, then pulls back and whispers in his ear instead)

SWALLOW

Not yet. Please... There's some place I'd like you to take me first. On your bike...

AMOS

I'll take you to the moon and back if you want.

SWALLOW

No - it's some place closer - the train tunnel!

(SWALLOW and AMOS drive out of the barn on the bike. The MAN is left alone)

ACT 2/SCENE 2

TOWN. CANDY waits in the parking lot at 7pm. AMOS is already half an hour late.

CANDY

TIRE TRACKS AND BROKEN HEARTS
THAT'S ALL WE'RE LEAVING BEHIND
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT WE'RE LOSING
ONLY MATTERS WHAT WE'RE GOING TO FIND

TIRE TRACKS AND BROKEN HEARTS
LET'S GET AWAY FROM THE PAST

SO MANY WAYS TO GO HUNGRY BABY
SO MANY WAYS TO GO FAST

CANDY & SWALLOW
THOSE GOOD GIRLS NEVER KNOW WHAT THEY'RE MISSING
BUT US BAD GIRLS ALMOST ALWAYS DO

SWALLOW & AMOS
AND WHAT WE'RE MISSING MOST
ARE THE REAL GOOD TIMES
I WANT 'EM BAD
AND I WANT 'EM NOW
WE WERE BORN GOING FASTER
THAN THE LIMITS ALLOW

I WANT 'EM BAD
AND I WANT 'EM NOW
WE WERE BORN GOING FASTER
THAN THE LIMITS ALLOW

SWALLOW
Wow, Amos. This is great. We're flying.

AMOS
I told you we could go to the moon on this thing.

SWALLOW
Let's go now! Faster!

AMOS
Whatever you want, baby.

SWALLOW & AMOS
TIRE TRACKS AND BROKEN HEARTS
LET'S GET AWAY FROM THE PAST
SO MANY WAYS TO GO HUNGRY BABY
SO MANY WAYS TO GO FAST

TIRE TRACKS AND BROKEN HEARTS
THAT'S ALL WE'RE LEAVING BEHIND
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT WE'RE LOSING
ONLY MATTERS WHAT WE'RE GOING TO FIND

AMOS

THERE'S A FEAST WAITING FOR YOU
AND YOU'VE NEVER EVEN GOTTEN A TASTE
IT'S LATER THAN YOU THINK
AND A KISS IS A TERRIBLE THING TO WASTE

SWALLOW

A KISS IS A TERRIBLE THING TO WASTE

AMOS

A KISS IS A TERRIBLE THING TO WASTE

(SWALLOW climbs down a ladder into the tunnel. She feels inside the emergency box for the package. Suddenly there is a blast of a train whistle and a blinding light. She freezes)

AMOS

Swallow! Swallow!!

(In the white, swiftly advancing light AMOS grabs SWALLOW. Thrown clear, they tumble as the train screams by. Music stops as Train approaches. Terrified, excited, they cling to each other)

SWALLOW

You saved my life, Amos. That means I owe you one now.

AMOS

Then run away with me.

SWALLOW

You're crazy.

AMOS

Did you get what you came for? What's in the package that's so important.

(He goes to grab it but she pulls away hiding the package behind her)

AMOS

C'mon what's the big secret?

SWALLOW

Will you promise you won't tell?

(AMOS nods)

Say it. Promise you won't tell.

AMOS

I promise I won't tell.

SWALLOW

What would you say if I told you Jesus had come back?

(AMOS grins. Hushed and fervent, SWALLOW whispers)

He's back, Amos. Jesus is in my barn.

DEPUTY

We got him! Over here.

(Flashlights! The SHERIFF and DEPUTY appear out of the darkness with a few locals. Music for OVER HERE begins)

20B. ACT 2/SCENE 2 OVER HERE

SHERIFF

Don't move. Keep your hands above your head.

(Rifles are aimed at what they've mistaken for the escaped convict. As they come closer they recognise AMOS)

God dammit! What're you doin' out here in the middle of the night, boy? As if we didn't know...

(The flashlight illuminates SWALLOW. The DEPUTY sniggers)

Your Daddy know you're out here, Swallow?

(to DEPUTY)

Take her to the car. We'll drop her off away's from home so ol' Boone doesn't have to deal with any more grief.

(As the DEPUTY guides SWALLOW away, the SHERIFF yanks AMOS closer)

What the hell d'ya think you're doin' bringing that little girl out here in the middle of nowhere, in the dark, when we've got ourselves an escaped killer on the run. Don't you listen to nothin'? If I catch you out here again, you'd wish you'd never been born. And that's a promise.

(The SHERIFF shoves AMOS aside and the search party moves on. AMOS watches them go and begins to put the pieces of the puzzle together. EARL appears out of nowhere. Perhaps he's been watching?)

EARL

YOU GOTTA BE PREPARED
YOU GOTTA BE PREPARED
TO WRESTLE WITH THE DEVIL IN A HEARTBEAT
BEFORE THE MOMENT IS PAST

ACT 2/SCENE 3

In the dark outside the trailer. BOONE is up waiting for SWALLOW. EDWARD leans against the trailer, cleaning his gun. It's three hours since supper time.

BOONE

Where the hell have you been until this hour of the night?

SWALLOW

I just went to watch the snake handlers puttin' up their tent...

BOONE

I told you those people dance with the devil.

SWALLOW

You told me they test their faith in Jesus. That can't be a bad thing.

BOONE

Swallow, there's danger out there in the darkness. We got a real

devil on the loose.

SWALLOW

Then Jesus will protect me.

BOONE

(incredulous)

What?

SWALLOW

I'm not a kid anymore

(she exits heading for the trailer)

BOONE

(to EDWARD)

I don't know what's happenin' to her lately. It's like my little girl upped and went and there's another bein' livin' in her body.

EDWARD

I seem to remember, close on sixteen years ago - a young farm boy who was head over heels in love with a little girl not much older than Swallow.

(Silence)

Get some sleep Boone. I'll see you in the mornin'!

(EDWARD exits into the darkness)

20c. ACT 2/SCENE 3 IF YOUR MOTHER

BOONE

IF YOUR MOTHER WAS HERE
YOU KNOW WHAT SHE'D SAY
DON'T COMPLAIN, LIFE IS TOUGH
BUT WE SURVIVE DAY TO DAY

`COS THE THINGS THAT MATTER

SURROUND AND EMBRACE US
AND THE COMFORTING PLACES
THEY ALWAYS WILL TAKE US
REASURE US OUR GOD
HE WILL NEVER FORSAKE US

(BOONE sadly exits)

21. ACT 2/SCENE 4 NO MATTER WHAT REPRISE

SWALLOW discovers POOR BABY, sitting up late, with his dead kitten. BRAT stands by helplessly. She sits down beside him. He holds up his kitten, lifeless and still.

POOR BABY

His name was Spider

THE RUNT OF THE LITTER
IT JUST ISN'T FAIR

I gave him my kitten to take care of and he let him die.

(Saddened, SWALLOW wraps an arm round his shoulder)

SWALLOW

There has to be a reason, don't you think? We should go ask him.
For sure, he'll tell us what it is.

(A tear rolls down POOR BABY'S cheek. Trying to stay tough, he brushes it away...)

POOR BABY

He ain't Jesus. He's just a feller.

SWALLOW

IF ONLY TEARS WERE LAUGHTER
IF ONLY NIGHT WAS DAY
IF ONLY PRAYERS WERE ANSWERED
THEN WE WOULD HEAR GOD SAY

SWALLOW & POOR BABY

NO MATTER WHAT THEY TELL US

NO MATTER WHAT THEY DO
NO MATTER WHAT THEY TEACH US

SWALLOW

WHAT WE BELIEVE IS TRUE

I CAN'T DENY WHAT I BELIEVE
I CAN'T BE WHAT I'M NOT

(SWALLOW leads POOR BABY to the barn. BRAT follows)

ACT 2/SCENE 5

The BARN. SWALLOW enters. POOR BABY stays back, reluctantly, with BRAT in the doorway.

SWALLOW

IF ONLY IT WAS SO
THESE ARE THE LONELIEST WORDS I KNOW

Jesus?

MAN

If he tried anything on you, I swear I'll kill him.

SWALLOW

(holding out the package)

I got what you asked.

(The MAN grabs it)

Is there anything else I can do for you?

MAN

Is there anything else I can do for you?

SWALLOW

You could tell Poor Baby why you let his kitten die. I know you must have a good reason.

(BRAT pushes POOR BABY forward and SWALLOW leads him in)

MAN

I've had a lot on my mind lately.

SWALLOW

But you know everything. Please tell him.

BRAT

Please, dear Jesus.

(The MAN looks at the three expectant faces looking back at him. Finally...)

MAN

You want me to tell you why your kitten's died? Remember the story I told you about Miss Annie and Old Charlie? Well, Old Charlie, he, uh...

(The three KIDS reverently sit)

22. ACT 2/SCENE 5 ANNIE CHRISTMAS

MAN

...you listenin' now?

(They nod)

OLD CHARLIE WENT OUT
TO THE GAMBLING HALL
AND HE STARTED TO PLAY
ON THE ROULETTE WHEEL

WITH A QUARTER ON THE RED
AND HIS HEAD IN HIS HANDS
AS HE WATCHED AND HE WAITED
'TIL THE BALL CAME TO REST

OLD CHARLIE NEVER MOVED
HE JUST LET HIS MONEY RIDE
THE RED WON AGAIN
AGAIN AND AGAIN

IT WON SIXTEEN TIMES

BEFORE THEY FOUND THAT HE'D BE DEAD
FOR THE WHOLE TIME!
WHAT A WONDER!

HE WAS DEAD
BUT STILL A WINNER!

IMAGINE THE SHOCK
AND THE STUNNING LOSS OF PRIDE
FOR THE HOUSE HAD BEEN LOSING
TO A MAN WHO HAD DIED

AND THERE'S GOTTA COME A TIME
WHEN WE'VE ALL GOTTA GO

YOU START OUT ALWAYS FAST
BUT THE ENDING ALWAYS SLOW

SWALLOW

AND THE MORAL IS?
AND THE MORAL IS?
AND THE MORAL IS?
AND THE MORAL IS?

MAN

WHEN MISS ANNIE FOUND OUT
SHE PUT A GUN TO HER HEAD
IT WAS LOADED!
SIXTEEN BULLETS!

SHE WAS ALL DRESSED IN BLACK
AND SHE HAD HER NECKLACE ON
WHEN SHE FIRED
SIXTEEN BULLETS!

HER SONS PUT HER IN A COFFIN
AND THEN PUT IT IN A HEARSE
IT WAS DRAWN BY
SIXTEEN HORSES

AND THEY ALL GOT ON A BARGE
AND THEY DRIFTED OUT TO SEA
A FALLEN ANGEL
WHO'S FALL WAS OVER

A FALLEN ANGEL
WITH A MOUSTACHE!

AND THERE'S GOTTA COME A TIME
WHEN WE'VE ALL GOTTA GO
YOU START OUT ALWAYS FAST
BUT THE END IS ALWAYS SLOW

AND THERE'S GOTTA COME A TIME
WHEN WE'VE ALL GOTTA GO

(The MAN's voice trails off until he's barely audible)

YOU START OUT ALWAYS FAST
BUT THE END IS ALWAYS SLOW

SWALLOW & KIDS

AND THE MORAL IS?
AND THE MORAL IS?
AND THE MORAL IS?

(The MAN searches for an answer)

MAN

It was their time to go so they went...

POOR BABY

Y'see. I told you he was just a fella.

(POOR BABY runs out of the barn. BRAT hesitates, then goes after him...)

SWALLOW

I'm sorry Jesus. He's just upset. Please forgive...

(She is close enough to the MAN to notice...)

SWALLOW

You're shaking

MAN

God I wish I had a cigarette. What I'm trying to say, Swallow, is that everyone dies. Even the cat. Even Old Charlie dies.

(pause)

Even your mother.

SWALLOW

You mean...there isn't a reason?

MAN

Well I sure as hell can't find one.

SWALLOW

But you're...

(she is about to say "Jesus" but doesn't finish the line)

MAN

(intimate and close)

Swallow, the world is a confusing place. Things just happen.

(SO MANY CRIES music starts)

23. ACT 2/SCENE 5 SO MANY CRIES

MAN

...terrible things - without you understanding why.

SWALLOW

Is that what happened to you?

(AMOS appears unseen by them, watching)

MAN

Sort of.

SWALLOW

That's because folks didn't understand you. They didn't see the goodness - they didn't see how beautiful and sweet and full of light you are and so they...

MAN

(quietly)

...crucified me

SWALLOW

But I understand. And I love you.

(They look at each other intensely. The moment is held. She goes to leave. He takes her hand)

MAN

Will you kiss me goodnight?

SWALLOW

I was almost killed tonight but I wasn't frightened because I knew you were with me - in my heart - and I knew you love me too.

(The MAN stops. SWALLOW kisses him on the forehead, backs away, and exits)

MAN

SO MANY CRIES IN THE NIGHT
THAT YOU TRY TO IGNORE
WHY DIDN'T I DO THAT?
WHY DIDN'T I DO THIS?
SO MANY UNBROKEN CHAINS
SO MANY UNSETTLED SCORES

(The MAN slowly unwraps a package revealing a shining revolver)

YOU CAN SAY A PRAYER FOR EVERYONE
THAT THERE COULD EVER BE
SAY A PRAYER FOR ALL OF THESE AND MORE
BUT THERE'S STILL NO PRAYER FOR ME

SAY A PRAYER FOR YOUR PUREST DAUGHTER
TOLL A BELL FOR YOUR ONLY SON
THERE'S NO WAY OUT
AND ALL MY PRAYERS ARE LOADED IN THIS GUN.

(We are aware that AMOS has witnessed all this and he now steals away into the darkness)

24. ACT 2/SCENE 6 OFF RAMP EXIT

The TOWN later that night. CANDY, now furious, waiting for AMOS.

CANDY

SOMEBODY TOLD ME THERE'S AN OFF RAMP EXIT
TO PARADISE
ONLY TIME WILL TELL IF THERE'S AN OFF RAMP EXIT
TO PARADISE

GOING ANYWHERE HAS GOT TO BE HEAVEN
COS STAYING HERE HAS GOT TO BE HELL

I'M GETTING OUT OF THIS HOLE
I'LL BE STRONG AND ALONE
NO REGRETS, MAYBE ONE,
MAYBE TWO OR THREE

IF I HAD IT TO DO OVER AGAIN
I'D DO IT TO HIM
BEFORE HE DID IT TO ME

IF I HAD IT TO DO OVER AGAIN
I'D DO IT TO HIM
BEFORE THEY DID IT TO ME

SOMEBODY TOLD ME THERE'S AN OFF RAMP EXIT
TO PARADISE

(AMOS runs in distracted and searching...)

AMOS

Candy, have you seen Swallow?

CANDY

I've been standin' here since 6.30. Where were you?

AMOS

A lot's been happening, Candy. But I gotta find Swallow. She's
in real trouble.

CANDY

That's what happens when a girl falls prey to a no-good, two
timin' liar and cheat. Trouble. You got that dirty word tattooed

on your heart and it's always gonna be there. I realised somethin' tonight Amos. You ain't going anywhere on that shiny big bike of yours. You're gonna stay in this Godforsaken town, grow old here and rot, 'cos you talk like black leather but act like wet wool.

AMOS

Candy, I gotta go. Swallow's life's in danger, don't you see?

CANDY

What'd you mean?...

(silence)

...What's the big secret?

AMOS

I promised her I wouldn't tell.

(He leaves. CANDY goes to follow him but EARL appears)

EARL

I saw what happened tonight. I saw Amos and Swallow together in the dark over by the train tunnel just before the Sheriff caught 'em

CANDY

Amos was with Swallow.

EARL

And I know why Amos is rushin' off to be a hero.

CANDY

You know the secret?

EARL

Amos saw the devil tonight hidin' out in Swallow's barn. She thinks he's Jesus. He looked mighty like a man to me... a man on the run.

CANDY

The killer?

EARL

And he's got a gun...

CANDY

IF I HAD IT TO DO OVER AGAIN
I'D DO IT TO HIM
BEFORE HE DID IT TO ME

25. ACT 2/SCENE 7 NOW THE NOOSE

Later the same night. The CROWD is gathering

MOB

NOW THE NOOSE IS TIGHTENING
CLOSING IN
WRAPPIN ROUND OUR PREY

THERE'S THUNDER AND THERE'S LIGHTNING
STORMS ARE COMING
WASH THE SINS AWAY

*(The CROWD disperses, revealing POOR BABY sitting alone.
SWALLOW and BRAT enter)*

SWALLOW

Poor Baby, where have you been? I've been looking for you
everywhere.

POOR BABY

I ASKED FOR A CHRISTMAS BONFIRE
Didn't get it
I ASKED FOR ANSWERS TOO
Didn't get 'em

NOBODY KNOWS WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT
NOBODY HAS A CLUE

SWALLOW

EVEN JESUS WOULDN'T GIVE ME AN ANSWER
ALTHOUGH HE MUST HAVE KNOWN
SO I'VE BEEN THINKING THE ANSWER IS
COMING UP WITH ANSWERS OF OUR OWN

BRAT

Maybe Jesus thought it was kinder to send Spider away.

POOR BABY

Is that why he sent Ma away?

SWALLOW

SHE WAS SICK FOR SUCH AN AWFUL TIME
SO MAYBE HER TIME JUST CAME
MAYBE HE THOUGHT IT WAS KINDER

POOR BABY

THEN WHY'D HE MAKE HER SICK IN THE FIRST PLACE

SWALLOW

HE WOULDN'T MAKE ANYBODY SICK NO NEVER!

POOR BABY

THEN WHO'RE WE GONNA BLAME? WHO ARE WE SUPPOSED TO BLAME?

(EARL appears out of the darkness...)

EARL

YOU GOTTA BE PREPARED TO WRESTLE *(POOR BABY races off after*
WRESTLE WITH THE DEVIL *EARL...)*
IN A HEARTBEAT SWALLOW
BEFORE THE MOMENT IS PAST. Poor Baby. Get back here!

(SWALLOW and BRAT run after him)

ACT 2/SCENE 8

Revival meeting. The TENT. 11:00pm. POOR BABY hides in the truck.

TOWN'S PEOPLE

YOU GOTTA BE PREPARED
YOU GOTTA BE PREPARED
TO WRESTLE WITH THE DEVIL IN A HEART BEAT
OR IT COULD BE YOUR VERY LAST

26. ACT 2/SCENE 8 WRESTLE WITH THE DEVIL

PREACHER

And the Lord said: "They shall take up serpents". And those who believe, will be saved. And those whose faith is weak will perish with the Devil. Test your faith! Put your life in the hands of the Lord. Who amongst you shall take up serpent?

(The TOWNSFOLK voice their enthusiasm.)

Y'ALL KNOW 'BOUT THE DEVIL
DON'T CHA BREATHREN
I BE HE'S GOT YOU SCARED

CAUSE YOU CAN FEEL IT IN YER HEARTS AND BONES
THAT HE'S IN THIS VERY TOWN
AND HE WANTS YOUR SOULS NOW
YOU GOTTA BE PREPARED

CROWD

YOU GOTTA BE PREPARED

PREACHER

YOU GOTTA BE PREPARED
TO WRESTLE WITH THE DEVIL IN A HEARTBEAT
BEFORE THE MOMENT IS PAST

YA'LL KNOW 'BOUT THE DEVIL
DON'T CHA DON'T CHA?
YA DON'T THINK THAT YOU'LL BE SPARED?

HE'S GONNA TEMPT YOU WITH A LIFE OF SIN
TEASE YOU WITH HIS FLASH AND CASH
BUT WE GOT THE LORD HERE

(EARL holds up a live snake, which he shows to the assembled group)

CROWD

OH YES

PREACHER

WE GOT THE TRUTH NOW

CROWD

OH YES

PREACHER

YOU GOT THE LIGHT SEE

CROWD

OH YES

PREACHER

YOU GOTTA BE PREPARED

(SWALLOW arrives in the tent searching for POOR BABY)

CROWD

NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO
HE'S COMING AFTER YOU
SO WRESTLE WITH THE DEVIL
'TIL YA BREAK HIM
UNTIL HE'S GONE FROM YOUR HEAD
YOU GOTTA FACE THE TEST

PREACHER

THE DEVIL DOESN'T REST

*(the PREACHER hands the snake to one of the TOWNSFOLK.
Everyone watches, tensely waiting to see if the snake
strikes. It is eventually handed on)*

CROWD

SO WRESTLE WITH THE DEVIL TIL YOU TAKE HIM
UNTIL HE'S FIN'LLY COLD AND DEAD.

PREACHER

HE'S THERE IN THE REFLECTIONS
OF THE RIVER SKIDDING BY
HE'S THERE IN THE CLOUDS
AS THEY BLACKEN THE SKY

HE'S THERE IN YOUR BEDROOM
HE CAN CRAWL INTO YOUR DREAMS

WOMAN

HE'S ANYTHING HE WANTS TO BE

BUT HE'S NEVER WHAT HE SEEMS

PERSON 1

HE'S THERE IN THE FOREBODING
YOU FEEL IN YOUR BONES

(CANDY arrives in the tent)

PERSON 2

HE'S THERE IN THE GRAVEYARD
CHIPPING NAMES ON THE STONES

CROWD

HE'S THERE IN YOUR MEMORIES
TURNING GOOD TIMES INTO BAD
HE'S THERE IN THE FUTURE
THAT YOU WISH YOU NEVER HAD

CROWD & PREACHER

NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO
HE'S COMING AFTER YOU

(AMOS arrives in the tent)

SO WRESTLE WITH THE DEVIL 'TIL YA BREAK HIM
UNTIL HE'S GONE FROM YOUR HEAD

CROWD

YOU GOTTA FACE THE TEST

CROWD & PREACHER

THE DEVIL DOESN'T REST

CROWD

SO WRESTLE WITH THE DEVIL 'TIL YOU TAKE HIM
UNTIL HE'S FIN'LLY COLD AND DEAD

PREACHER

YOU SEE HIM IN THE MOVIES BROTHER

CROWD

(shout)

Yes!

PREACHER

THINKIN' 'BOUT SEX AND GUZZLIN' GIN
YOU'LL SEE HIM IN THE COURT HOUSE SISTER

CROWD

(shout)

Yes!

PREACHER

TRYING TO MAKE IT LEGAL EV'RY HORRIBLE SIN
YOU'LL SEE HIM IN THE CHURCHES BROTHERS

CROWD

(shout)

Yes!

PREACHER

ACTIN' LIKE HE LOVES THE LORD ABOVE!
YOU'LL SEE HIM IN YOUR FAM'LIES SISTERS

CROWD

(shout)

Yes!

PREACHER

BETTER TAKE A LOOK AT WHO YOU LOVE

(The CHORUS, AUNT DOT among them, is mesmerized by the sight of the SNAKES - some reach out to touch them. The SOLOISTS sing, as if in a trance. Suddenly CANDY steps into the middle of the circle of TOWNSFOLK)

AMOS

Swallow! Swallow!

CANDY

Y'ALL KNOW 'BOUT THE DEVIL
DON'T CHA? DON'T CHA?
Y'ALL KNOW HE'S LYING IN WAIT

AND HE'S LYING IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE
EVERY TIME HE USES YOU
BREAKS A PROMISE AND BREAKS YOUR HEART
THAT'S WHEN LOVE TURNS TO HATE

(CANDY picks up one of the snakes)

ARE YOU GONNA SAVE ME AMOS?
ONE MORE CHANCE TO SAVE A LIFE
SHOW ME THAT YOU CARE!

(to SWALLOW)

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TIME THAT YOU GREW UP
SUCH A GULLIBLE STUPID GIRL!
A LITTLE ANGEL A LITTLE TRAMP
YOUR SECRETS OUT AND I DON'T CARE

AMOS

I SWEAR I DIDN'T TELL
MAY I BURN AND GO TO HELL!
I TOOK A VOW
YOU KNOW I'D NEVER BREAK IT
I'D NEVER LIE AT ALL TO YOU

CANDY

HOW MANY GOD DAMN VOWS
HAVE YOU TAKEN UP TO NOW
HAVE YOU KEPT A SINGLE ONE?
FORGET IT
YOU'RE PATHETIC
AND THAT'S THE ONLY TRUTH!

HOW CAN YOU BE SO BLIND?
DIDN'T ANYBODY KNOW?
THE DEVIL'S BEEN HERE ALL THE TIME
HE'S WAITING
PLAYING HIDE AND SEEK

HE'S UP IN SWALLOW'S BARN
HE'S DANGEROUS AND ARMED
HE'S GOT A GUN
HE'S NOT AFRAID TO USE IT
THE KILLER IS STRONG
AND YOU'RE ALL SO WEAK!

SHERIFF

IT'S TIME THAT THIS WAS OVER

LOCAL 1

NERVES ARE RAW

LOCAL 2

HEARTS BEGIN TO POUND

SHERIFF

BRING HIM IN HUNT HIM DOWN

TOWNSFOLK

A LITTLE BIT OF SLAUGHTER IS JUSTIFIED
TO BRING US BACK OUR TOWN

(The TOWNSFOLK run out of the tent)

SHERIFF

(To CANDY)

There's a Greyhound bus leaves the interchange around midnight. I
sure as hell hope you're going to be on it.

*(The SHERIFF exits. CANDY is left alone and slowly leaves
the stage)*

ACT 2/SCENE 9

*Midnight. As she runs cross-country to the MAN in the barn,
SWALLOW bumps into BOONE.*

BOONE

Where the hell are you going?

SWALLOW

Get out of my way Dad.

BOONE

My little girl! What's happening to you?

SWALLOW

You don't understand a goddamn thing.

BOONE

You think I don't know about you sneaking out to meet that boy tonight? Stealin' my wine...? I'll pray for you Swallow. I sure as hell don't know what else to do.

SWALLOW

It's you who needs praying for Dad! You're nothing like you used to be anymore!

BOONE

Get inside!

SWALLOW

You don't even laugh! You don't even talk anymore!

BOONE

I talk! I talk and you don't listen.

SWALLOW

You used to talk but you don't anymore!

BOONE

Well, I'm talking to you now and you don't hear a goddamn word I'm saying!

SWALLOW

We never even talked about Ma when she died! I tried, but you didn't even care!

(He raises his hand to strike her. Thunder)

SWALLOW

He talks to me! And he loves me! I won't let them hurt him.

(She runs. BOONE is left standing there stunned. He is overtaken by the MOB)

27. ACT 2/SCENE 10 NO MATTER WHAT THE OUTRAGE

MOB

NO MATTER WHAT THE OUTRAGE

NO MATTER WHAT THE CRIME

NO MATTER WHERE HE'S RUNNING
HE'S RUNNING OUT OF TIME

NO MATTER WHAT HE'S SCHEMING
NO MATTER WHAT HE'S GOT
WE'LL TEAR HIM LIMB FROM LIMB
THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS NO MATTER WHAT

(The CHILDREN run on as the MOB begins to exit. BOONE and ED watch with growing realisation before following the MOB)

CHILDREN

TOWER OF FIRE
RISE EVEN HIGHER
MAGICAL FLAMES
THAT LEAP AND TWIRL

THE POWER OF SONG
THE YOUNG ARE THE STRONG!
THE NIGHT THAT CHILDREN
RULE THE WORLD

WHEN CHILDREN RULE THE WORLD TONIGHT
WHEN CHILDREN RULE THE WORLD
WHEN CHILDREN RULE THE WORLD TONIGHT
WHEN CHILDREN RULE THE WORLD

(The CHILDREN run off singing)

WHEN CHILDREN RULE THE WORLD TONIGHT
WHEN CHILDREN RULE THE WORLD

ACT 2/SCENE 11

In the BARN, SWALLOW rushes in the door.

SWALLOW

They know you're here! The whole town's headin' this way. And I saw cop cars on the road, and state police and troopers.

MAN

I gotta run for it.

SWALLOW

No! I'll keep you safe. Please stay.

MAN

You've got me all wrong, Swallow. Now get out of here.

SWALLOW

I know who you are

MAN

What if I told you I spent the last five years in prison? What if I told you I wounded my foot on a pitchfork just to get into the infirmary, just to make it easier to escape? What if I told you I tore up my hands climbing over barbed wire?

SWALLOW

I wouldn't believe you!

MAN

Would Jesus lie?

SWALLOW

If he's disguised as a man, he would!

MAN

What if I told you I did something too terrible to even imagine?

SWALLOW

I would forgive you.

28. ACT 2/SCENE 11 THERE'S A PRAYER

SWALLOW

IT SEEMS TO ME
YOU WAITED 'TIL THE TIME CAME
I BELIEVE
YOU RETURNED FOR US AT LAST
SEEMS TO ME
YOU'VE TESTED ME SO MANY WAYS
I BELIEVE
THAT EV'RY TEST I PASSED

SEEMS TO ME
THAT EV'RY TEST I PASSED

MAN
Swallow, I can't bring your Mother back.

SWALLOW
I understand that now. I don't want you to leave me. I need you!
I need you to be who you are.

28A. ACT 2/SCENE 11 THE NATURE OF THE BEAST

MAN
IF YOU GO DEEP DOWN INSIDE MY EYES
DO YOU SEE A SAVIOUR? A PROPHET? OR EVEN A PRIEST?
DO YOU ONLY SEE THE BLACKNESS THERE
THAT'S THE NATURE OF THE BEAST

THE ONES THAT YOU SHOULD FEAR THE MOST
MAY BE THE ONES YOU FEAR THE LEAST
IF YOU KNOW ME THEN YOU'LL HAVE TO KNOW
THE NATURE OF THE BEAST

THERE ARE HUNGRY DEVILS EVERYWHERE
IT'S ON MY HEART THEY FEAST
LET ME RISE ABOVE THE CARCASS
OF THIS ALL TOO MORTAL BEAST

IF I HAD A CHANCE I'D FLY AWAY
I'D SEE MYSELF RELEASED
I'D FLY ABOVE THE CARCASS
OF THIS POOR PATHETIC BEAST

SWALLOW
I DON'T KNOW WHY
YOU TRY TO MAKE ME DOUBT YOU
DON'T KNOW WHY
WHEN I BELIEVE MY SPIRIT SOARS

SOMEDAY SOON
THEY'LL NO LONGER THREATEN YOU
'TIL THAT DAY

ALL MY PRAYERS ARE YOURS
UNTIL THEN
ALL MY PRAYERS ARE YOURS

MAN

THE THINGS THAT YOU DESIRE THE MOST
MAY BE THE ONES YOU UNDERSTAND THE LEAST
THERE ARE BLOOD CURDLING THINGS YOU'VE YET TO LEARN
ABOUT THE NATURE OF THE BEAST

THERE'S ALWAYS WARS AND PLAGUES AND DEATH
THE TERRORS HAVE NEVER CEASED
THERE'S NOTHING YOU OR I CAN DO
ABOUT THE NATURE OF THE BEAST

SWALLOW

I'M NOT AFRAID, YOU'VE TAUGHT ME THAT!

MAN

YOU'RE A FOOL WHY CAN'T YOU SEE?

SWALLOW

I'M NOT LISTENING TO A WORD YOU SAY
IT WAS GOD SENT YOU TO ME!

I know you're trying to scare me... so when you leave, I won't try
to follow.

MAN

Look closer. You'll see I'm scared too... scared of staying... scared
of leaving... scared of losing you

(softly)

I'm not who you think I am.

SWALLOW

You can say what you want... I know who you are.

MAN

WHAT'S THE ONLY SOUND LEFT IN THE WORLD
WHEN THE OTHER SOUNDS HAVE CEASED
IT'S THE BREATHING IN AND THE BREATHING OUT
IT'S STILL

IT'S STILL
IN ME
IT'S STILL
THE NATURE OF THE BEAST

THERE ARE HUNGRY DEVILS EVERYWHERE
IT'S ON MY HEART THEY FEAST
LET ME RISE ABOVE THE CARCASS
OF THIS PITIABLE BEAST

IF I HAD A CHANCE I'D FLY AWAY
I'D SEE MY SOUL RELEASED
AND I'D FLY ABOVE THE CARCASS
OF THE NATURE OF THE BEAST

SWALLOW

THERE'S A PRAYER
FOR THE LOST AND FOR THE LONELY
THERE'S A PRAYER
TO MAKE THE BLIND ONES SEE

BUT IF YOU
IF YOU ARE NOT WHAT YOU MUST BE
THEN IT'S TRUE
YOU HAVEN'T GOT A PRAYER FOR ME
AND I
I HAVEN'T GOT A PRAYER

SWALLOW

I have nothing

MAN

That's not true

SWALLOW

I have nothing

MAN

Don't ever say that!

SO MANY THINGS IN YOUR LIFE
THAT YOU'RE BOUND TO REGRET
WHY DIDN'T I DO THIS?!
WHY DIDN'T I DO THAT?!

SO MANY CHANCES YOU'VE LOST
THAT YOU'LL NEVER FORGET

SO MANY UNSPOKEN VOWS
SO MANY UNOPENED DOORS
SO MANY UNBROKEN CHAINS
SO MANY UNSETTLED SCORES!!

WHY DIDN'T I TAKE IT?!
WHY DIDN'T I MAKE IT COME TRUE?!

(SWALLOW and the MAN look at each other intently and move towards each other)

SWALLOW

NO ONE'S EVER LOOKED AT ME

SWALLOW & MAN

NO ONE'S EVER LOOKED AT ME
THE WAY YOU'RE LOOKING AT ME NOW

(SWALLOW lifts her face to his, clearly offering herself to him. It looks like he's going to kiss her passionately, but he pulls back, restrains himself, kisses her tenderly on the forehead instead. Pandemonium outside the barn as the CHILDREN form a protective barrier to keep the GROWN-UPS back. SWALLOW runs to the barn door as it is closed by the children and the MAN retrieves his gun)

29A. ACT 2/SCENE 11 FIRE SEQUENCE

CHILDREN

SHERIFF *(Off Stage)*

Get those kids out of the way!

DOVES AND KINGS
AND SHEPHERS AND WISEMEN

BOONE *(Off Stage)*

Swallow! Are you in there Swallow?

CAME TOGETHER
FOLLOWED THE STAR

SWALLOW

Dad!

BOONE *(Off Stage)*

Don't hurt her mister! Let her go.

THEY ALL GATHERED
DOWN IN A MANGER

SHERIFF (*Off Stage*)
I'm ordering you kids out of the way

THEY CAME
FROM SO VERY FAR

BOONE (*Off Stage*)
Don't shoot. My daughter's in there.

MAN
I'm taking you hostage

CHILDREN
ALL OUR GREATEST WISHES ARE GRANTED
LET US SING, LET INNOCENCE REIGN
ALL OUR PRAYERS ARE FINALLY ANSWERED
BLESSED AND FREE OF ALL PAIN

TOWERS OF FIRE
RISE EVEN HIGHER
MAGICAL FLAMES
THAT LEAP AND TWIRL

(*He seizes SWALLOW around the neck and place the gun against her head but finally makes a decision... He throws SWALLOW out of the barn and pulls the doors shut. The CHILDREN'S voices grow stronger as the MAN grabs a can of kerosene and begins to pour*).

THE POWER OF SONG
THE YOUNG ARE THE STRONG
THE NIGHT THAT
CHILDREN RULE THE WORLD

(*CHILDREN repeat the following section until the MAN throws down the match*)
(*The MAN strikes a match and holds it above his head*)

WHEN CHILDREN RULE THE WORLD
TONIGHT
WHEN CHILDREN RULE THE WORLD

(*The CHILDREN continue singing until the MAN throws down the match. Fire. The MAN vanishes*).

ACT 2/SCENE 12

Outside the ADULTS are reunited with their KIDS. SWALLOW is pulled away from the burning barn.

SWALLOW
I gotta find him! Let me go!

BOONE

Swallow, he wasn't who you thought he was. He was just a man

SWALLOW

No Dad, you're wrong.

BOONE

That wasn't Jesus in there.

SWALLOW

But how do you know?

AMOS

Swallow, I promise I didn't tell. I wouldn't do that ever.

SWALLOW

Thanks Amos.

SHERIFF

He's gone. There's not a trace of him left.

29B/30. ACT 2/SCENE 12 THE THUNDER IS ROLLING

SWALLOW, BOONE and AMOS slowly walk away as they gaze into the sky

ALL KIDS

THE THUNDER IS ROLLING

THE SKY IS BLACK

IT'S GOTTEN SO DARK SOMEHOW

HE SAID THERE'D BE TROUBLE

BUT I KNOW HE'LL BE BACK

AND I HOPE THAT HE'S HOME BY NOW

HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN HOME BY NOW

Dawn - The rising sun illuminates the charred ruins of the still smouldering barn. THE FAMILY pick their way through the ashes.

BRAT

He's free now, isn't he?

SWALLOW

He'll be back. I just know he will.

POOR BABY

I prayed for a Christmas bonfire, and look... we got the biggest one of all.

SWALLOW

WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND
LET YOUR VOICES CARRY
DROWN OUT ALL THE RAIN
LIGHT A PATCH OF DARKNESS
TREACHEROUS AND SCARY

(BOONE comes gently forward to her side. They look into each other's forgiving faces)

BOONE

HOWL AT THE STARS
WHISPER WHEN YOU'RE SLEEPING
I'LL BE THERE TO HOLD YOU
I'LL BE THERE TO STOP
THE CHILLS AND ALL THE WEEPING

MAKE IT CLEAR AND STRONG
SO THE WHOLE NIGHT LONG
EVERY SIGNAL THAT YOU SEND
UNTIL THE VERY END
I WILL NOT ABANDON
YOU MY PRECIOUS FRIEND

(BOONE wraps an arm around SWALLOW's shoulder. She doesn't pull away. The other CHILDREN crowd closer, singing the song their mother used to sing to them)

FAMILY

SO TRY AND STEM THE TIDE
THEN YOU'LL RAISE A BANNER
SEND A FLARE UP IN THE SKY
TRY TO BURN A TORCH
AND TRY TO BUILD A BONFIRE

EVERY SIGNAL THAT YOU SEND
UNTIL THE VERY END

I'M THERE
SO WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND
FOR I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN
RIGHT THERE

END OF ACT TWO.

Property of The Really Useful Group Ltd.
For perusal only