

THE KINGDOM

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A chamber musical

By

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

LEROY, king of the kingdom

ANNE, queen of the kingdom

CHARLIE, heir to the throne

SARI, Charlie's wife

List of songs

"PRAYER FOR A FALLEN SOLDIER"  
"I HAVE A KINGDOM OF MY OWN"  
"THERE'S NOTHING TO DO"  
"THE LITTLE REMINDERS"  
"YOUR AVERAGE KING"  
"HIS SMILE"  
"BAREFOOT AND PREGNANT"  
"AN UNBREAKABLE CHAIN"  
"HE'S NOT YOURS"  
"I'M GONNA HAVE A SON!"  
"AN UNBREAKABLE CHAIN"-REPRISE  
"LOOK AROUND"  
"KINGDOM'S COME"

PROLOGUE

GREY AND SOMBER GRAVEYARD.

LEROY McKenzie, an officer in British naval intelligence, is attending a funeral for his older brother Richard, a decorated war hero. With him is his wife ANNE and their newborn son, CHARLIE. Also attending are a few cardboard cutout characters: a minister and a couple of grave diggers. A sound track begins the singing with LEROY and ANNE joining in.

("PRAYER FOR A FALLEN SOLDIER")

SAY A PRAYER FOR SOLDIERS  
FALLEN ON THE BATTLEFIELD  
AND SAY A PRAYER FOR SOLDIERS  
FALLEN BY THE WAY

WHO CARES FOR DAMAGED MEN  
WHO CRY IN BARREN SOLITUDE?  
WHO CARES FOR MEN WITH WOUNDS THAT CAN'T BE SEEN?  
LET'S PRAY THAT WARS MAY NOT BE SEEN AGAIN

SAY A PRAYER FOR SOLDIERS  
FALLEN ON THE BATTLEFIELD  
AND SAY A PRAYER FOR SOLDIERS  
FALLEN BY THE WAY

WHO CARES FOR THOSE IN PAIN,  
WHO'S SUFFERING WILL NOT FADE AWAY?  
WHO CARES FOR THOSE THAT CANNOT FACE THE WORLD?  
LET'S PRAY THAT WARS MAY NOT BE SEEN AGAIN

LEROY and ANNE place flowers over  
the grave.

(LEROY sings alone)

WE CAN'T GO BACK AGAIN  
WE LIVE WITH CHOICES MADE  
WE FILL OUR DUTY THERE  
NO MATTER WHAT MAY COME

FOR IN A SOLDIER'S WORLD  
OUR LIVES WE MEN WILL GIVE  
BUT WHEN WE LEAVE A SOLDIER'S WORLD  
SOME ARE AFRAID TO LIVE

(ALL sing)

SAY A PRAYER FOR SOLDIERS  
FALLEN ON THE BATTLEFIELD  
AND SAY A PRAYER FOR SOLDIERS  
FALLEN BY THE WAY

WHO CARES FOR THOSE IN PAIN,  
WHO'S SUFFERING WILL NOT FADE AWAY?  
WHO CARES FOR THOSE THAT CANNOT FACE THE WORLD?  
LET US PRAY THAT WARS MAY NOT BE SEEN AGAIN

SAY A PRAYER FOR SOLDIERS  
FALLEN ON THE BATTLEFIELD  
AND SAY A PRAYER FOR SOLDIERS  
FALLEN BY THE WAY

WHO CARES FOR DAMAGED MEN  
WHO CRY IN BARREN SOLITUDE?  
WHO CARES FOR MEN WITH WOUNDS THAT CAN'T BE SEEN?  
LET US PRAY FOR SOLDIERS NEVER SEEN AGAIN

ANNE

It's a lovely hymn. It speaks to your brother.

LEROY

It's the only thing here that does. Richard was a war hero! And look around. Not one military representative! Besides me, that is. It's disgraceful!

(ANNE does not react)

He would never have died if his country took better care of him. He fought for it and this is how he ends up. I'm not sure our country is worth fighting for anymore. And the military is going off the deep end. They're going to let women on the battlefield? What's that supposed to solve?

ANNE

That women are willing to fight for their country too?

LEROY

Oh pfish!

ANNE

Leroy. Do you ever think the world is passing you by?

LEROY

All the time! But--no. It's not so much passing me by as losing it's way.

(MORE)

LEROY (CONT'D)

Everything is changing for the worse. And guys like Richard and me--we're readily sacrificed for the greedy interests of a few.

They turn to head out of the cemetery and Leroy stops abruptly.

LEROY (CONT'D)

If I'm being "passed by", then maybe it's time I did something about it.

ANNE

What do you mean?

LEROY

I don't know. But I've got to do something. Something that'll give little Charlie here a leg up.

LEROY takes CHARLIE from her arms and holds him up admiringly.

LEROY (CONT'D)

Whatever I do, I'll be doing it for you, my little man!

LEROY hands the baby back to ANNE. Lights fade as they stand in the cemetery, ANNE clutching her baby.

SCENE ONE

EIGHTEEN YEARS LATER. THE MAIN LIVING SPACE ON AN ABANDONED OIL PLATFORM OFF THE COAST OF ENGLAND.

LEROY is introducing his wife to her new home and country. He is leading a blindfolded ANNE to a spot where she can get a good overview of the interior of the "castle", which is pretty much anywhere in the small, cramped space. In place of prominence is a used pub bar that he has installed to remind him of better times back home. The room is even a little dark, like an old fashioned pub. There are two doors, one on each side.

LEROY

Go ahead and take it off!

ANNE

(Removes the blindfold)

It's...

LEROY

Well? What do you think? Our very own castle!

ANNE

(Deflated)

I think the blindfold was a good idea! When you said "castle", I guess I was expecting a little ostentatiousness. Or at least, rustic charm. Or some stonework. I mean, we left our country for this?

LEROY

You...have to use your imagination a little. It's not like castles are a dime a dozen. Especially ones we could afford. And this castle is, well, maybe a metaphor. But we didn't leave our country just to find a better house! We had damn good reasons for leaving and you know it!

ANNE

Leroy, remind me what those reasons were?

LEROY

You remember what I said at Richard's funeral.

ANNE

That was 18 years ago!

LEROY

Well, I didn't know I'd be founding my own kingdom then. Or how I would do it. But these abandoned oil platforms gave me the idea. It just popped into my head!

ANNE

I'm not sure if that's the start of a viable plan. I can somewhat understand repatriating. But starting our own country? Was it all that bad?

LEROY

It's been bad for years. This didn't start overnight. Was I not forced out of the service that I loved? Pensioned off so they could downsize the Navy? What about my experience? What about my service? What about my families' service?

ANNE

Those are valid reasons to be upset.

LEROY

And look who they elected Prime Minister!

ANNE

Well, it is awful...But to abandon your country? It's just that, now that I see it with my own eyes...

LEROY

I want some control of my own life, Annie. Here, I can achieve that! Here, I'm the king! And you are my queen!

(Anne doesn't react)

It won't be that bad. Really! I mean, it'll take some getting used to. I admit it.

ANNE

But why here?

LEROY

Because an available location for a country doesn't come around every day. But these abandoned oil islands are just the ticket. They're cheap! And separate!

ANNE

Does that mean a lot of other nations are going to pop up?

LEROY

Wouldn't surprise me. But the nearest one is miles from here. Don't think we have to worry about any warring factions.

ANNE

That's comforting.

LEROY

Pirates, maybe.

ANNE

What!?

LEROY

Just kidding. The best part...

ANNE

There's a best part?

LEROY

It didn't cost us anything! Beyond fixing it up, I mean.

ANNE

I bet most of it went into that bar there.

LEROY

Nah! Got a great deal on it from an old mate in Shropshire. Pub went out of business. Like everything else!

(ANNE starts resigning herself)

Do you think you can live here?

ANNE

There are no windows.

LEROY

There are in the bedrooms. And you can always go out on the catwalk for fresh air.

(She looks unsatisfied)

I'll try and put in a porthole or something. This place was fortified. Built to withstand some serious weather.

ANNE

And pirates!?

LEROY

There's no treasure buried here.

ANNE

(looking around)

Why is there a treadmill there?

(points to middle of room)



LEROY

Well, there is a limited walking area. About 150 meters.

ANNE

I mean why in the middle of the room?

LEROY

Oh. There's kind of a thingamajiggy there that sticks up. I couldn't figure out how to get rid of it. But we'll stay fit. And that's important. We need to maintain the empire for our heir.

ANNE

I can't believe Charlie's gone. We'll never see him. I don't know why he had to pick an American university.

LEROY

Well, it's damned inexpensive after you establish residency. And you're done in only two years! That's not bad!

ANNE

I do like the name. Community College. It sounds rather comforting.

LEROY

It does, sort of. America's got some foresight. Not like the bloody country we just emigrated from! America gets the future!

ANNE

Well, I hope their future doesn't always include three wars.

LEROY

Hmmmm. Good point. At least Charlie won't get sucked into one of those boondoggles! And he got that job in the pub in Miami. Remember what a great time we had there? (She looks at him wistfully) But! That's initiative!

ANNE

I still think you're supposed to be over 21 to work in a bar in the States.

LEROY

Really? I'm not sure. Anyway, with that kind of drive he should go far.

ANNE

I hope you're right. I'm going to have a look at the kitchen.

LEROY

Galley, my dear. We are Navy, remember!

ANNE goes through the swinging  
"Galley" door.

LEROY (CONT'D)

Yes. It's really more than I could have hoped  
for.

("I HAVE A KINGDOM OF MY OWN")

(sings)

I HAVE A KINGDOM OF MY OWN NOW  
I HAVE MY VERY OWN DOMAIN  
AND THOUGH IT'S SMALL  
IT'S MY OWN COUNTRY AFTER ALL  
WHAT KIND OF MAN WOULD COMPLAIN?

I HAVE A LAND THAT I CAN GOVERN  
I HAVE A STATE WHERE I'M THE LAW  
AND THOUGH IT'S NOT SO VERY WIDE OR VERY TALL  
I'M ITS KING! ITS EMPEROR! ITS SHAH!

WHAT IS KINGDOM BUT A STATE OF MIND?  
ROBES, CROWN AND SCEPTER ON DISPLAY  
WHAT IS KINGDOM BUT A LAND  
WHERE ONE MAN HAS THE RIGHTEOUS STRENGTH TO CLAIM THE THRONE  
AND SEIZE THE DAY!

I HAVE A KINGDOM OF MY OWN NOW  
MY SUBJECTS ROAM THIS STATELY HALL  
IT MAY LACK STATURE AND/OR EVEN RIGHT OF WAY  
YET, HERE I REIGN, WALL TO WALL!

Leroy has gone behind the bar to  
work the tap. He discovers it's  
leaking.

LEROY (CONT'D)

Damn!

Anne emerges from the Galley and  
sees the anxious Leroy.

LEROY (CONT'D)

I've got to go get a wrench.

ANNE

Well, don't dilly dally or we may end up  
underwater.

Leroy leaves through the main  
door.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
(sings)

HE HAS A KINGDOM OF HIS OWN HERE  
BUT IT'S A LAND NONE COULD ADMIRE  
IT'S JUST PLAIN PUNY, RATHER CRAMPED  
AND COLD AND DAMP...  
STILL, IT'S THE WORLD HE DESIRES

WHAT IS KINGDOM BUT A STATE OF MIND?  
ROBE, CROWN AND SCEPTER ON DISPLAY  
WHAT IS KINGDOM BUT THE WILLINGNESS OF OTHERS  
TO BE MANAGED, BULLIED, COERCED OR SWAYED?

HE HAS A KINGDOM OF HIS OWN NOW  
HE HAS A LAND WHERE HE CAN REIGN  
BUT AS OUR LIVES DRAW CLOSER TO THEIR END I ASK  
WHY COULDN'T THIS.....

(She looks around, music plays under)

BE IN SPAIN?

Anne heads back to the galley.

SCENE TWO

TWO YEARS LATER...

There are now three doors, one on one side leading to the outside catwalk. Two on the other side, one titled "Quarters" and one titled "Galley". LEROY enters from the "Quarters" door. He is decked out in a rich velvet robe and crown. The decor hasn't changed much but there is a red emergency light attached to the wall. The treadmill is gone but a card table and two small chairs have taken its place. The room is brighter now, thanks to a skylight, and there is a small round window next to the door. It's a bit high and requires a small stool to actually see out of it. A patriotic march is playing quietly in the background on LEROY'S little stereo. He adjusts a small "Welcome Home My Prince" sign on the bar.

(LEROY (CONT'D))

(looking about quizzically)

Anne! Where are the streamers?

ANNE pops in from the "Galley" wearing an apron around her royal robe.

ANNE

Right here. (points to the table in center of room.) Where you left them.

LEROY

Huh!

ANNE

It took me awhile to find the scissors. Where do you want them?

LEROY

Wherever they'll look festive. I don't want to micromanage. You're my queen. You decorate naturally!

ANNE

I thought you were going to polish the rail?

LEROY

I did say I would, but a King has a wide range of responsibilities.

ANNE

Well, you'd better control that spigot or we'll have one righteous mess!

LEROY

Where is that damned wrench?

ANNE

Down in the hold. It was entertaining the scissors. And we need the champagne.

LEROY

Right! Well, two birds, two birds.

LEROY heads out through the galley. Anne looks around gloomily.

ANNE

I hope Charlie doesn't notice how much I talk to myself.

("THERE'S NOTHING TO DO")

(sings)

THERE'S NOTHING TO DO BUT TIDY UP  
THERE'S NOTHING TO ASK BUT, "WINDY OUT?"  
THERE'S NOTHING TO THINK BUT WHY HERE?  
THERE'S NOTHING TO FEEL BUT WHY ME?  
WHY DIDN'T I SEE THIS COMING?

THERE'S NOTHING TO DO BUT MOP THE FLOORS  
THERE'S NOTHING TO WEAR BUT ROYAL DRESS  
THERE'S NOTHING TO CHALLENGE MY MIND  
THERE'S NOTHING TO WAKE UP MY BRAIN  
JUST THIS REFRAIN REPEATING!

BEFORE THIS (GESTURING), HE WAS GONE MOST OF THE TIME  
BEFORE THIS, MY LIFE HAD INTERESTS GALORE  
SO WHAT WAS HE FOR?  
BUT WHEN HE WAS DONE CHASING THE SUN

HE'D COME BACK TO ME,  
ALWAYS TO ME,  
BY WAY OF THE SEA

THERE'S NOTHING TO DO BUT POLISH HIS SHOES  
THERE'S NOTHING TO ASK BUT, "CATCH ANYTHING?"  
THERE'S NOTHING TO READ HERE THAT'S NEW  
THERE'S NOTHING TO SEE BUT...THE VIEW!  
I NEVER KNEW THIS WAS COMING!

BEFORE THIS, I HAD FRIENDS THAT I ADORED  
BEFORE THIS, WE'D DO A NIGHTLY JOG IN THE PARK  
MY, WHAT GOES ON IN THE DARK!  
BUT WHEN HE RETURNED  
I KNEW THAT HE YEARNED  
ONLY FOR ME  
ALWAYS FOR ME  
DON'T YOU SEE?

BUT IT'S JUST AS WELL THERE'S ALWAYS A MESS  
AND I'M ALWAYS SWABBING THE FLOOR  
NOW LAUNDRY IS NEVER A CHORE  
IT'S A QUEER STAGE OF LIFE  
WHEN SORTING THE CLOTHES IS NO LONGER A BORE...  
(She rushes to finish the streamers)  
THERE'S NOTHING TO DO...  
THERE'S NOTHING TO DO...  
OH, WHAT CAN I DO?

The streamers are now hung. LEROY  
returns from the hold with the  
wrench and a bottle of champagne.  
He doesn't notice the streamers.

LEROY

Can you believe we haven't seen Charlie in two  
years? He's due any minute. I want the  
ceremony to be smooth and efficient.

ANNE

Relax, Leroy. You're getting all worked up.

LEROY

You don't welcome home the heir to the throne  
everyday!

ANNE

Go back to your polishing. And where is  
Charlie?

LEROY

He'll be here in no time.

ANNE

How can you be so certain? You heard the weather report. They've issued a small craft warning!

LEROY

I don't need our former government to tell me how to read a barometer! Anyway, if there's a real problem the emergency light will flash.  
(points to the red emergency light)  
See? It's not flashing. Besides, there's no reason to be concerned about his ability to handle a small cruiser. I was in the Navy!

ANNE

He's alone in a small boat. There could be swells.

LEROY

Of course there'll be swells. And he'll navigate them like the ancient kings of Polynesia.

ANNE

Are you going to go out and help him land?

LEROY

If he needs my help, he'll toot his horn. I arranged a decent sized craft for him and had Harry check the hull from stem to stern. Anyway, I've got to go down into the hold for a bit. But don't worry. I'll hear him.

LEROY puts his hands on ANNE'S shoulders.

LEROY (CONT'D)

This is part of what helps him grow up. Richard would have done the same!

ANNE

(Turns away. To herself)

I'll bet he would.

LEROY

Richard always made sure I did what I was told. He really kind of raised me. Being ten years older and all. Of course, when I think back on it. He always made sure I did what HE told me to. But boy, he was fun. Even when it got me into trouble.

(CONT'D)

ANNE

He let you take the blame.

LEROY

It wasn't like that. He would have gotten into way more trouble than me, a little kid. I understood.

ANNE

Lucky for him.

LEROY

Did you hear that? Was that Charlie?

ANNE

That wasn't him. Leroy, you need to step into the role you've claimed for yourself, if you want Charlie to respect you. So, be calm, your highness. Act wise and reassuring. Be regal.

ANNE returns to the galley.

LEROY

Right! Be regal! Of course!

("I HAVE A KINGDOM OF MY OWN"--REPRISE)

(sings)

'CAUSE I'VE A COUNTRY OF MY OWN NOW  
ONE WHERE I HAVE THE CENTRAL ROLE  
THE LAND IS SMALL  
PERHAPS A POSTAGE STAMP IN ALL  
BUT I AM THE ONE IN CONTROL!

I HAVE A LAND WHEREIN I GOVERN  
A LAND OF LAWS BOTH FAIR AND JUST  
A STATE OF LIMITED RESOURCES ONE MIGHT SAY  
STILL, IT'S MY LAND, BOOM OR BUST!

ANNE comes in with a tray of food to set on the bar. LEROY storms out, cursing his wrench.

ANNE

(sings)

HE HAS A KINGDOM OF HIS OWN NOW  
A LAND WHERE HE THINKS HE'S THE LAW  
IT MAY BE SMALL  
BUT I'M THE ONE WHO CLEANS IT ALL  
THAT IS, FOR ME, QUITE THE FLAW.

HE HAS A COUNTRY HE CAN MANAGE





LEROY reduces the volume.

LEROY

All kings long for a little social interaction.  
State dinners aren't exactly convivial here.

ANNE

State dinners? You mean, frozen kidney pie  
state dinners?

LEROY

I'm being metaphorical.

ANNE

You seem to have a talent for metaphors.

LEROY

I'm just saying social contact might be more  
important than I thought.

ANNE

Well, speaking of social contact, where's  
Charlie?

LEROY

Maybe he's doing a little sightseeing. Or  
circumnavigating the country!

ANNE

That would only take two minutes.

LEROY

He's late. Most likely.

ANNE

Leroy.

LEROY

Yes?

ANNE

You're not going to be disappointed. I mean,  
show your disappointment.

LEROY

At what!?

ANNE

If Charlie hasn't been doing all that well. In  
school and all...

LEROY

That's absurd! Why wouldn't he be doing well  
in school? He's had all the advantages.  
Nothing like it was in my day.

ANNE

That could be the reason. You know. Too many advantages.

LEROY

That's crazy. That's like telling a basketball player he's too tall!

ANNE

It's not the same thing at all.

LEROY

What are you trying to tell me? Is there something that you know that I don't?

ANNE

It's not that. I just want you to be prepared for possibilities. Like you are with the weather.

LEROY

Anne. That's a king's job. To be ready for the unexpected. No one knows what the future will bring.

LEROY looks at the barometer and frowns.

LEROY (CONT'D)

That's odd.  
(He taps it a few times)

ANNE

Anything wrong?

LEROY looks concerned but their demeanor changes when they hear a knock at the door. LEROY rushes to open it.

LEROY

Charlie! Charlie my boy!

LEROY hugs him vociferously.  
CHARLIE just stands there.

CHARLIE

Hello Dad...  
(playing the part)  
Your Majesty!  
(He bows)

LEROY

Welcome home! Your kingdom awaits you.  
(to ANNE)  
The Prince Regent has returned.

Charlie goes to his mother.

CHARLIE

Hey mum.

(The hug each other.)

ANNE

Oh Charlie!

CHARLIE

So! What festivities do you have planned?  
Royal parade?

LEROY

Heh, Heh. Well, you know....resources are a  
trifle scarce in this kingdom. But there's  
excellent ale or wine. But first, some  
champagne to celebrate your return.

ANNE

Your favorite dip and chips are there on the  
counter. Of course, they come from a tin.

LEROY

We don't get deliveries too often.

CHARLIE

That's okay.

(Charlie sees the CD player.)

And maybe a little music, eh?

CHARLIE pushes play and hears the  
ambient pub sounds.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

What's that?

LEROY

Oh. That just brings back my days in  
Shropshire. Before I went into the Navy.

CHARLIE looks at his mother and  
cues her. They intone together.

(They sing)

SHROPSHIRE

OH SHROPSHIRE

WHERE THE CROPS SURE

WERE THE BEST CROPS IN THE LAND!

(They laugh)

LEROY (CONT'D)

(laughs derisively)

And they were, too! What's wrong with that?  
It was a very friendly place.

(MORE)

LEROY (CONT'D)

People looked out for each other. They weren't so judgemental. They'd overlook a few faults.

ANNE

More than a few, I'd say.

LEROY pours three glasses of champagne. He prepares to toast.

LEROY

Here's to family, country and king. But in reverse order.

(They all laugh)

LEROY (CONT'D)

Alright! Alright. You've had your fun. But enough about all my special qualities. It's you we want to find out about, Charlie.

ANNE

Yes, Charlie. Now that you've graduated, what are you going to do.?

LEROY

Did you learn anything useful?

CHARLIE

Well. I've learned that the world is a far bigger place than I ever imagined. You can sit in your little room making big plans and not even come close to the plan life has waiting in store.

("THE LITTLE REMINDERS")

(Sings)

YOU DREAM OF A LIFE WHERE ALL YOU DO  
IS NOTICED BY EVERYONE AROUND  
YOU DREAM YOU'RE THE NEXT BIG THING THAT EVERYONE'S INTO

YOU DREAM YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S GOT THE GIFTS  
YOU THINK THERE'S NO EFFORT REQUIRED AT ALL  
YOU DREAM IN A YEAR OR TWO THAT YOU'RE GONNA MAKE IT

BUT THEN COME THE LITTLE REMINDERS  
OF THE FAULTS IN YOUR OVERALL PLAN  
THE CRAZY OMISSIONS YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE MADE  
YOU WEREN'T THINKING AHEAD  
AND THEN SUDDENLY... YOUR WORLD IS DEAD!

ANNE

It couldn't be that bad, surely!

CHARLIE

(continues singing)

YOU DREAM THAT YOUR STAR IS ON THE RISE  
 YOU FEEL THAT YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE IT ALL  
 YOU THINK THAT SUCCESS IS WAITING OUTSIDE YOUR WINDOW

YOU DREAM OF A LIFE WHERE YOU'RE IN CHARGE  
 AND YOU'RE AT THE CENTER OF IT ALL  
 YOU THINK OF YOURSELF AS SOMEONE WITH SO MUCH TO LIVE FOR

YOU DREAM YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S GOT THE GIFTS  
 YOU THINK THERE'S NO EFFORT REQUIRED AT ALL  
 YOU DREAM IN A YEAR OR TWO THAT YOU'RE GONNA MAKE IT

BUT THEN COME THE LITTLE REMINDERS  
 OF THE CRACKS IN YOUR BIG MASTER PLAN  
 MAYBE YOUR FOCUS WAS JUST A BIT HAZY  
 YOUR LIFE WAS SO CRAZY  
 THEN SUDDENLY... YOUR WORLD IS DEAD!

LEROY

Well Charlie, with that kind of approach you  
 might find success a little elusive!

ANNE

Leroy!!

LEROY

(sings)

THAT'S NOT THE WAY LIFE WORKS AT ALL  
 THAT SOUNDS LIKE SOME FOOLISHNESS YOU READ

YOU HAVE TO RELY UPON YOUR WITS  
 AND LOOK FOR THE DANGERS UP AHEAD

OR WELCOME THE LITTLE REMINDERS  
 THE KINKS IN YOUR OVERALL SCHEME  
 THE LITTLE EVENTS THAT YOU SHOULD HAVE FORESEEN  
 YOU WERE CAUGHT IN A DREAM  
 NOW THE SHIP'S GOING DOWN  
 AND BOOM! YOU'RE RIGHT OVER THE BEAM!

CHARLIE

What do you know dad? You let someone plan  
 your life for you!

LEROY

Who are you talking about?

CHARLIE

The Navy!

(Sings)

YOU THINK THAT YOU KNOW JUST WHAT YOU WANT

AND HOW IT IS GOING TO BE ACHIEVED  
YOU THINK IT'S SO EASY, YOU JUST HAVE TO TAKE IT

YOU DREAM OF A LIFE WHERE YOU'RE IN CHARGE  
AND YOU'RE AT THE CENTER OF IT ALL  
YOU THINK OF A YOURSELF AS SOMEONE WITH SO MUCH TO LIVE FOR

BUT THEN COME THE LITTLE REMINDERS  
OF THE CRACKS IN YOUR BIG MASTER PLAN  
THE SIMPLE OMISSIONS YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE MADE  
YOU WEREN'T THINKING AHEAD  
IT WAS ALL ABOUT NOW  
NEVER ONCE TAKING STOCK...

ALL THOSE GODDAMN REMINDERS  
STARING ME RIGHT IN THE FACE  
THE OBVIOUS CHOICES I SHOULDN'T HAVE MADE  
THEY WOULD JUST SLOW ME DOWN  
I HAD PLACES TO GO  
I HAD PEOPLE TO SEE...  
AND NOW ALL THOSE DREAMS....ARE JUST...DREAMS...

CHARLIE goes to the bar and pours  
himself another ale.

LEROY

Dreams take perseverance. They don't happen  
overnight.

ANNE

But how did you even get those dreams? You  
don't come from a family that dreams.

CHARLIE

What about this place?

LEROY

This isn't the result of some fantasy. This  
was a practical decision!

(ANNE and CHARLIE both look at him  
dumbstruck)

ANNE

Charlie, it sounds a little like school wasn't  
what you thought it would be.

CHARLIE

I guess you could say that. I could tell  
within the first two months. The other  
students. They weren't like me. They just  
wanted...jobs. I wanted success. I thought I  
had a plan, but...it went awry. I ended up  
owing this guy...a powerful guy, some money. I  
had to leave school.

LEROY

What? You left school? After two months?

ANNE

Leroy. This is what I was talking about...

LEROY

Did you have to go work for him or something to pay him back?

CHARLIE

No. He...He wasn't very understanding. I had to leave the states. I joined the Navy. Just like you, dad!

LEROY

Really? That's....wait. They let you join the U S Navy?

CHARLIE

No. I came back here and did it. I was recently discharged.

ANNE

You came back here and didn't come to see us? You never even called!

LEROY

Anne, we don't have a phone!

ANNE

Leroy! He's been gone for three years! What was he doing with the money we sent him?

CHARLIE

I had expenses.

LEROY

You get a salary in the navy.

CHARLIE

Sure. But I had some expenses my salary didn't cover. And I had some debts.

LEROY

You mean this man in Florida?

CHARLIE

(brashly)

Oh, hell no. He wasn't that powerful. Once I got out of the country....

ANNE

What other debts did you have?



CHARLIE

Do we have to talk about this now? I have a surprise for you.

ANNE

This is important, Charlie.

CHARLIE

My surprise is...well, I don't know about important. But it is going to surprise you. Just wait here.

CHARLIE hurriedly leaves by the front door, slamming it on his way out. The wind is picking up.

LEROY

The wind's really picking up.

ANNE

Leroy!! What are we going to do?

LEROY

We can handle a little wind.

ANNE

I mean about Charlie! Our son has been living a lie for years!

LEROY

Well, it can't be all bad if he was in the Navy. It probably straightened him out.

ANNE

Does he sound straightened out to you?

LEROY

Let's not panic just yet. We need to talk to him some more. Find out why he made these....choices. We haven't seen him in a long time!

ANNE

Alright. But we're going to find out.

LEROY

Right.

The door reopens and CHARLIE steps in accompanied by SARI, his young Indian wife from the slums in the port city of Mumbai. She is dressed in traditional Hindi garb.

CHARLIE

Mum? Dad? This is Sari. My wife.

SARI stays behind CHARLIE and avoids eye contact.

ANNE

Your wife?!

LEROY

You married a wog!?

ANNE

Leroy!

CHARLIE

Shit Dad. I didn't know you were such a racist.

LEROY

I'm not a racist. I had lots of dark-skinned friends in the navy. But I didn't expect them to be in my family. You didn't do that sort of thing in Shropshire.

CHARLIE

Dad! You ditched Shropshire so you wouldn't have to either.

LEROY

I left Shropshire to see the world.

CHARLIE

Yeah! And the world has a lot more interesting customs. Face it! Shropshire was a relic of the past. A lousy past.

LEROY

It wasn't that lousy. Not in those days. That's why we're here now.

CHARLIE

And why are you here?

LEROY

I'm here because here I can maintain my own standards! Here I can control the world around me. Here I decide if I want to let people of color in or not.

CHARLIE

See! You are a bigot!

LEROY

I am not! I just said "people of color" didn't I? (To Sari-haltingly) Do you speak English?

SARI

Yes, your Majesty. I was not sure how to address a king. In a respectful way.

CHARLIE

See dad? She has manners for a wog, doesn't she?

ANNE

Quiet you two. Sari? I'm sorry for this "welcome". We weren't expecting you. You look tired. Can I get you something?

LEROY

Get her a glass of champagne!

CHARLIE

She's Hindi, dad. She doesn't drink alcohol.

ANNE

Oh. A glass of water? Do you want to sit down?

CHARLIE

Yeah. Have a seat Sari. Mum'll get you some water.

ANNE

You get her some water Charlie. From behind the bar.

CHARLIE

And what's with this bar Dad? Couldn't you just have a refrigerator like everyone else.

ANNE

Your father isn't like everyone else.

LEROY

Now, hold on.

CHARLIE

C'mon Dad. What sort of king holds court in a pub?

LEROY

(Sees SARI standing meekly)

Is Sari the only subject who shows their king any respect? I just happen to think that I am a king like "everyone else". That's what makes me truly suited to this position! Truth is...

("YOUR AVERAGE KING")

(sings)

I'M YOUR AVERAGE,  
 YOUR MIDDLING,  
 YOUR NOT-SO-SPECIAL KING  
 MY THOUGHTS ARE PLAIN AND SIMPLE  
 LIKE SONGS ABOUT THE SPRING  
 I'M YOUR AVERAGE  
 YOUR MIDDLING  
 YOUR LESS THAN REGAL LORD  
 WHY THE THOUGHT OF ROYAL DUTIES  
 LEAVES ME WEARY, PISSED AND BORED

I'M A KING WHO LOVES TO WAVE TO ALL HIS SUBJECTS  
 I AM A KING WHO LOVES TO THROW A SPLENDID BALL  
 DISPENSING HONORS OR A KNIGHTHOOD IS MORE MY CUP OF TEA  
 THAN SAY, PROCLAIMING ROYAL EDICTS IN THE HALL!

ANNE  
 (sings)

HE'S YOUR AVERAGE,  
 YOUR MIDDLING,  
 YOUR KING OF THE MUNDANE  
 HE'LL GLADLY SHIRK HIS DUTIES  
 HE MERELY LIKES TO REIGN

HE'S YOUR AVERAGE,  
 YOUR MIDDLING,  
 YOUR LESS-THAN-MIGHTY KING

LEROY  
 (sings)

I DON'T PROCLAIM OR PONTIFICATE  
 IN FACT, I'D RATHER SING

ANNE

HE FEELS HE UNDERSTAND THE NEEDS OF ALL HIS SUBJECTS  
 HE FEELS A PULSE ON ALL THEIR WORRIES AND THEIR WOES

LEROY

LIKE PAYING BILLS AND DAILY CHORES AND FIGHTING BUREAUCRATS  
 I'D LIKE TO STRING THEM UP TO DANGLE BY THEIR TOES!

ANNE  
 Just your average guy?

LEROY  
 Exactly! (to Charlie) Not like your uncle  
 Richard! He wasn't ordinary in any way. I  
 wish you could have met him, Charlie.

CHARLIE

Me too, though I have to admit, some of the stories I've heard seem to fantastic to be true.

LEROY

He was fantastic! And as a kid, always getting me into trouble.

ANNE

One thing's for sure, he would have made a lousy king.

(LEROY scoffs)

But your dad here...

(sings)

WHILE IT'S TRUE  
THAT I AM QUEEN  
AND A QUEEN CAN HAVE HER SAY  
BUT QUEEN WHO HAS NO SERVANTS  
HAS LOTS TO DO EACH DAY!

I'M STILL THE COOK  
THOUGH I HATE COOKING  
I'M THE MAID,  
THAT'S SUCH A THRILL  
HE'S THE ONE  
WHO DOES THE LOOKING  
FOR REASONS TO SIT STILL

CHARLIE

(sings)

HE'S A KING WHO THINKS HE KNOWS WHAT PEOPLE WISH FOR  
HE'S A KING WHO THINKS HE HAS THE COMMON TOUCH  
HE WANTS HIS SUBJECTS TO HAPPY  
AND THINK THEY ARE CONTENT  
WHEN THE TRUTH IS, WELL, MAYBE NOT SO MUCH!

ANNE, CHARLIE AND SARI

(sing)

HE'S YOUR AVERAGE  
YOUR MIDDLING  
YOUR MONARCH OF THE GLEN  
IT'S NOT SHOULD HE RELAX A BIT?  
IT'S SIMPLY WHERE AND WHEN!

LEROY

(sings)

I MAY BE AVERAGE,  
I MAY BE MIDDLING,

I MAY BE AN ORDINARY KING  
 BUT I AM KING  
 OF A THING  
 OF WHICH YOU ARE ALL A PART  
 I AM KING OF A KINGDOM  
 FOUNDED ON GOODWILL AND HEART!

ANNE, CHARLIE AND SARI  
 (sing)

HE'S OUR KING  
 HE'S OUR KING  
 HE'S OUR NOT SO SPECIAL, ORDINARY KING!!

ANNE  
 Now that we now how ordinary you are, why don't  
 you and the prince do something ordinary  
 together, like bring in the luggage and unpack!

LEROY  
 With pleasure, my Queen! Adieu!

LEROY and CHARLIE leave through  
 the front door. The wind  
 continues to howl. ANNE has Sari  
 sit down.

ANNE  
 I'm so sorry, Sari. For them, I mean.  
 (to self)  
 Though I am somewhat responsible. (To SARI)  
 You are quite a surprise. I almost can't  
 believe it!

SARI  
 (Awestruck)  
 And I would never have believed that I would  
 ever meet a queen!

ANNE  
 At least you show some sense. But where are  
 you from? Do you have family?

SARI  
 I am from India.

ANNE  
 Yes. I guessed that.

SARI  
 From Mumbai. It is a very busy city. With a  
 large population.

ANNE  
 So I've heard.

SARI

My small neighborhood had over a million people living in it.

ANNE

Well, I suppose one more won't make much of a difference.

SARI

What do you mean?

ANNE

(Doesn't respond to her question)

How did you meet Charlie?

SARI

My father...introduced us.

ANNE

Oh! He knew Charlie?

SARI

Yes. They had some dealings together.

(Tries to shift the subject)

My first meeting with Charlie was very...how do you say...awkward? But he was most charming. And his smile is....

ANNE

His smile?

SARI

Oh yes...

("HIS SMILE")

(sings)

HIS SMILE MAKES ME FEEL  
 THAT HAPPINESS IS REAL  
 HIS SMILE IS A WONDERFUL, MAGICAL CHARM  
 IT MAKES ALL MY FEAR  
 SOMEHOW SIMPLY, DISAPPEAR  
 AS THOUGH NOTHING COULD CAUSE ME MUCH HARM

HIS SMILE IS A DOOR  
 TO A WORLD WITHOUT STRIFE  
 HIS SMILE IS A RIDE TO A FABULOUS LIFE  
 IT MAKES THE WORLD'S EVIL  
 AND CHAOS' UPHEAVAL  
 AS DISTANT AS A STAR

WHEN HIS SMILE IS GONE, I DESPAIR  
 I AM NOT SURE IF I'M ABLE TO SUFFER THIS LIFE  
 WHEN HIS SMILE RETURNS, IT'S A PRAYER  
 A PRAYER THAT SUDDENLY MELTS ALL THE WOES OF THE WORLD

ANNE

His father had that. I'm not sure I felt the  
same way you do though

SARI

(sings)

HIS SMILE IS A TALISMAN LETTING ME FEEL  
HIS SMILE IS AN AMULET HELPING ME HEAL  
THE ACHES OF MISFORTUNE WITH VISIONS OF HOPE  
OF LIVING A LIFE THAT'S REAL

HIS SMILE MAKES ME  
WANT TO EMBRACE HIM  
HIS SMILE MAKES ME  
JUST WANT TO DANCE

I LOOK AT HIS EYES  
AND DOWN HIS FINE NOSE  
AND HOPE TO EXPOSE  
THE LOOK THAT MAKES MY LIFE STANDS HALF A CHANCE

HIS SMILE IS A WINDOW  
FROM WHICH I SEE  
A BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY THAT'S HAPPY AND FREE  
HIS SMILE IS A MYSTICAL TRANSFORMING GIFT  
HIS SMILE...  
HIS SMILE...IS TRULY....THE KEY

SARI (CONT'D)

You believe the king no longer has this charm?

ANNE

No. It's not that. But I don't want to talk  
about his father. I want to hear more about  
you! And...your family?

SARI

...No. There is no one. I have no relations.

ANNE

Except...except for Charlie...and the baby.

SARI

You can tell?

ANNE

Oh yes. I was only able to conceive Charlie. I  
often think about what it was like carrying a  
child. They say some women only have several  
children because they can't remember how  
miserable they were each previous time. But it  
wasn't like that for me. I don't mean to judge  
but you seem quite young to be having a child.



SARI

Oh no. I am not that young. I am sixteen.

ANNE

Sixteen!? Well, I...guess things are different in Mumbai.

SARI

Yes. A little.

ANNE

Is Charlie very excited?

SARI

I am not sure.

ANNE

Really? I can't believe he's ambivalent about it. Ambivalence is not is his father's genes.

SARI

He...He is not aware of it.

ANNE

You haven't told him?

SARI

No...I was...afraid...

ANNE

Oh my.

(thinks)

When is it due?

SARI

In four months.

ANNE

Why don't you come into the galley with me. I want to be sure we have food you can eat.

They go into the galley. LEROY and CHARLIE come in with the luggage. They plop it down and return to their drinking.

LEROY

She's a beautiful girl. I have to give you that.

CHARLIE

Oh yeah. She's beautiful. Though she's getting a little plump.

LEROY

Hardly!

CHARLIE

But there's more to her than that. She takes care of me. I mean, she pampers me. You know, gets me my slippers and all that. If I had any slippers. When we're alone we aren't wearing much anyway.

LEROY

Uh...right. I don't think the King needs to know that much about his subjects.

CHARLIE

Yes, your majesty.

LEROY

But I do admire the old fashioned values you've established with her.

CHARLIE

Oh, I didn't even have to do that. She came that way. Right out of the box!

LEROY

Where'd you find a store like that?

CHARLIE

In Mumbai. At the "Barefoot and Pregnant" store.

LEROY

Ah...the good old days.

("BAREFOOT AND PREGNANT")

(sings)

BAREFOOT AND PREGNANT  
ONCE A WOMAN'S NATURAL STATE  
BAREFOOT AND PREGNANT  
AND MAKING MEALS THAT FLEW RIGHT OFF THE PLATE!

BAREFOOT AND PREGNANT  
THE WAY THAT MOST YOUNG WOMEN WERE  
IN COUNTRY AFTER COUNTRY  
THEY NEVER RAISED THE BAR  
FOR WOMEN WITH NO SHOES COULD NOT GO FAR

A WOMAN DOES THE BIDDING  
OF MEN WHO SHOULD PROVIDE  
THE BASIC BARE NECESSITIES  
TO KEEP THEM PACIFIED  
A CHILD HERE, A CHILD THERE  
WHY, SOON YOU HAVE A TEAM!  
AT FIRST THERE MIGHT BE CHAOS  
BUT OH, THE SELF-ESTEEM!  
WITH EIGHT THEY'LL KNOW YOU'RE MANLY

WITH TEN YOU'RE NO ONE'S DUD  
AN EVEN DOZEN LEAVES NO DOUBT THAT YOU ARE QUITE THE STUD!

BAREFOOT AND PREGNANT  
ONCE A WOMAN'S NATURAL STATE  
BAREFOOT AND PREGNANT  
WHILE MAKING MEALS THAT FLEW RIGHT OFF THE PLATE!

BAREFOOT AND PREGNANT  
THE WAY MOST WOMEN WERE  
IN COUNTRY AFTER COUNTRY  
THEY NEVER RAISED THE BAR  
FOR WOMEN WITH NO SHOES COULD NOT GO FAR

CHARLIE

She's like Mum, in a way, isn't she?

LEROY

And there's no end to your mother's skills.  
(sings)

THERE'S THE DUSTING  
AND THE LAUNDRY  
HELL, AREN'T SOCKS A MYSTIC QUANDARY?  
I'VE NO SKILL WITH MOP AND BUCKET  
SHE HAS MERELY BUT TO NOD  
AND THE MOP WILL BEGIN TO TROD ACROSS THE FLOOR  
IT'S A MAGIC OF A SORT  
AS THE MOP SAILS BACK TO PORT  
WHILE SHE CALMLY TAKES YOUR COAT AT THE DOOR.

(Both sing)

BAREFOOT AND PREGNANT  
ONCE A WOMAN'S NATURAL STATE  
BAREFOOT AND PREGNANT  
AND MAKING MEALS THAT FLEW RIGHT OFF THE PLATE!

A WOMAN'S PLACE WAS  
BEHIND HER HUSBAND  
ENSURING HIS WORLD FUNCTIONED WELL  
HOW COULD THEIR MEN KNOW  
THEIR WIVES WERE SEETHING  
SILENTLY SCREAMING  
OF THEIR LIVES IN HELL!

BAREFOOT AND PREGNANT  
BAREFOOT AND PREGNANT  
BAREFOOT AND PREGNANT  
ALL IS WELL!

LEROY begins pulling another pint.

CHARLIE

Say...Your Highness. Why does Mum always turn away when you speak of your brother?

LEROY

Well...don't think I'm jealous--I know your Mum loves me, but I think she misses Richard more than she lets on. They spent a fair amount of time together when I was deployed. And he was there for her when they thought I'd been killed.

CHARLIE

Did he leave the Navy?

LEROY

He was discharged. On a medical. He was wounded trying to save his men.

CHARLIE

Life is pretty unfair.

LEROY

That it is, my boy. You remind me of him sometimes. He always leapt before he looked! That's probably why he was wounded.

CHARLIE

Or maybe he was just brave.

ANNE and SARI return from the galley. LEROY wipes foam from his mouth.

ANNE

Charlie? Why don't you show Sari her room? She may want to lie down.

SARI

Oh no.

ANNE

And take the luggage.

CHARLIE hoists the bags and SARI follows him out.

CHARLIE

(To SARI)

Maybe you can massage my feet!

ANNE freezes up as they exit to the galley.

LEROY

Lovely girl!

ANNE

Leroy? Do you know how Charlie "got" Sari?

LEROY

(unsure)

At the "Barefoot and Pregnant" store?

ANNE

That's not funny. But he may as well have. He "won" her in a poker game.

LEROY

But that's not possible! Is it?

ANNE

In her neighborhood, it is, apparently. Her father was in a poker game with Charlie and lost. He promised to pay but when the "payment" showed up--it was Sari! Charlie went looking for him but he just disappeared. And then your son took advantage of that poor girl!

LEROY

What do you mean? They got married didn't they?

ANNE

Not at first. He let her "service" him for two weeks. She felt it was her duty to honor her father's debt.

LEROY

That shows character.

ANNE

And what about Charlie's "character"? He was called back to his ship and left her to fend for herself.

LEROY

It's not like she's unfamiliar with adversity. She's from India.

ANNE

Well, I guess there's something to that. After her father lost his bet he could no longer support her.

LEROY

What a crummy bastard. What kind of a father abandons his child like that?

ANNE

The kind that commits suicide. She was forced to work in a brothel.

LEROY

Does Charlie know that!?

ANNE

(Long pause)

I don't know. I didn't ask her. I was too flabbergasted.

LEROY

I can't believe he would get involved with her, let alone marry her if he knew!

ANNE

She didn't chose to work in a brothel because of career day. She was starving.

LEROY

When I was a kid half of India was starving. Did they all work in brothels?

ANNE

No. They just starved. Is that the kind of adversity you were hoping for?

LEROY

I'm not glad she's suffered adversity. I just feel it builds character.

ANNE

Maybe Charlie should have experienced more adversity.

LEROY

What are you implying? That he lacks character?

ANNE

He's got character, all right. He wasn't "called back" to ship. He was in the brig. Then he found out he could be released early if he were married and took a discharge. She had been writing to him daily. He finally wrote her back and got what he wanted. I have no idea how long he's planning to stay with her.

LEROY

That may be a good thing!

ANNE

She's carrying our grandchild!

LEROY

(Taken aback. Recovers)

How do we know? She might have gotten pregnant at the brothel.

ANNE

They wear condoms at brothels.

LEROY

I thought condoms were forbidden in the Hindu religion.

ANNE

Maybe. But so is prostitution and it still happens!

Leroy sits down, unable to move.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Not so easy being king, is it?

LEROY

(reprise)

I'M JUST YOUR AVERAGE,  
YOUR MIDDLING,  
YOUR NOT-SO-SPECIAL KING  
MY THOUGHTS WERE NEVER FORGED  
FOR MATTERS BURDENED WITH A STING

I AM MEANT FOR FACING ISSUES THAT ARE COMMON  
I...

ANNE

This isn't such a common moment.

CHARLIE returns alone and heads  
for the bar.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Where's Sari?

CHARLIE

She's lying down. She was a little seasick and I think she got over excited. So! What do you think of her?

LEROY and ANNE just stand still  
staring at him.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

What? Not what you envisioned? Join the club.

ANNE

She worked in a brothel.

LEROY

She's a prostitute!

CHARLIE

She's not a prostitute. She needed money. And a place to go. It's different there.

ANNE

How come you didn't help her?

CHARLIE

I did. Eventually. I was....at sea.

LEROY

Don't lie to me.

ANNE

Leroy!

CHARLIE

OK, ok! So I was in the brig. I started getting letters from her. But I didn't get them right away. I couldn't do anything about her. I mean, I liked her. I didn't figure on that. My two weeks with her were amazing. I just ran into some bad luck.

LEROY

Bad luck?

CHARLIE

I hit an officer who was trying to proposition her. Said he knew her. Really well....

ANNE

Charlie!

LEROY

He probably did know her. Did you ever think about venereal disease? Or AIDS or something?

ANNE

I told you Leroy. They wear condoms in brothels.

CHARLIE

Not in Mumbai, they don't.

ANNE

Oh my god.

CHARLIE

What? She had a blood test before we got married. She said it was all good.

ANNE

She said? Well, did she also say she was pregnant? Did you know that?



CHARLIE

Pregnant?

LEROY

And how do you know you're the father?

CHARLIE is stunned. He sits down.

LEROY (CONT'D)

It's a nice little mess you've created.

ANNE

Leroy? I think you and Charlie should check the drift nets and drop some new lines. Sari could use some fresher food than we've got stocked up here. There are going to be a few changes around here!

LEROY

Uh...Yes, my Queen! Annie.

LEROY helps CHARLIE up and heads out the door. The gale is picking up.

ANNE

I guess, for once I'm going to have to make the changes happen.

("AN UNBREAKABLE CHAIN")

(sings)

I NEVER THOUGHT MY LIFE  
WOULD TURN OUT QUITE THIS STRANGE OR ODD  
OR IS IT JUST COMPLETELY FLAWED?

IS IT ME  
AM I SO HELPLESS?

I CHOSE A PARTNER WHO SEEMED STRONG TO ME  
AND RIGHT AND GOOD  
THE WAY ONE THINKS A PARTNER SHOULD  
BUT NO PERSON  
IS SO PERFECT

THOUGH I MAY WONDER  
WHAT ALL THIS MEANS  
MY LOVE IS ANCHORED TO HIM  
BY AN UNBREAKABLE CHAIN

THERE IS NO MOMENT OF DOUBT  
WHERE MY HEART TRULY LIES  
THE BONDS WE SHARE ARE DEEP AND WISE  
HE'S MY LIFE'S GREAT  
COMPENSATION

AND THOUGH MY WORLD MAY SUFFER  
 FROM A DARK AND BRUTAL STORM  
 MY HEART WILL ALWAYS FIND HIM WARM  
 HOPE IS ALWAYS  
 ON THE HORIZON

THOUGH I WONDER  
 WHAT ALL THIS MEANS  
 MY LOVE IS ANCHORED TO HIM  
 BY AN UNBREAKABLE CHAIN

I CANNOT PROMISE THE STARS  
 BUT I PROMISE TO LOVE  
 AND ASSIST  
 AND BELIEVE

AND THOUGH MY WORLD MAY SUFFER  
 FROM A DARK AND BRUTAL STORM  
 HIS PRESENCE KEEPS THE FIRE BRIGHT  
 HIS PRESENCE KEEPS THE FIRE WARM

LEROY and CHARLIE return.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Charlie. I think you need to have a heart to  
 heart with Sari.

CHARLIE

What am I going to say?

LEROY

Find out who the hell the baby belongs to, boy!

CHARLIE

I can see you're figuring it isn't mine. You  
 must be relieved.

ANNE

That's not what your dad thinks. But we should--  
 -you should--know what you're getting into.

CHARLIE

Yeah.

CHARLIE leaves through the galley.

LEROY

We didn't even speak outside. What the hell  
 would I say to him?

ANNE

Fatherly things. Words of advice or wisdom.

LEROY

I don't know any of that stuff.

ANNE

You seem to think you know what a king wants for it's kingdom.

LEROY

Well, that's different. A kingdom is...just a place. A place has rules. And they're based on the nature of a place. A son has his own nature. Or should have, if he's going to be a man. He should be like his father, really. I mean, what's the point of having children, if they're not like you?

ANNE

Charlie is like his father. A lot like him.

LEROY

What? Just because he joined the navy? I didn't join it to hide out!

ANNE

No. You didn't. But he's still his father's son.

(Pauses. Looks very anxious)

I think you'd better sit down.

(music cue)

LEROY

Why? What are you trying to tell me?

ANNE

Charlie isn't, what you kings would call, a "product of your loins".

LEROY

What?!!

ANNE

("HE'S NOT YOURS")

(sings)

HE'S NOT YOURS

LEROY

(sings)

BUT THOSE BROWN EYES!

ANNE

HE'S NOT YOURS

LEROY

AND THAT SQUARISH CHIN

ANNE

HE'S STILL NOT YOURS

LEROY

AND THAT UNMISTAKABLE GRIN!

ANNE

JUST THE SAME...

LEROY

YOU KNOW IT MAKES NO SENSE!

ANNE

JUST THE SAME...

LEROY

WHY, BY LOOKING YOU CAN SEE.

ANNE

HE'S NOT YOURS

LEROY

THE GENETIC CODE IS ME!  
And you, of course...

ANNE

Thanks. But...

LEROY

But what?

ANNE

I ADMIT THERE IS A FAMILY RESEMBLANCE.  
IT'S QUITE TRUE THAT NOT A SOUL WOULD EVER GUESS  
BUT I CONFESS...

LEROY

Confess what?

ANNE

HE'S NOT YOURS

LEROY

BUT THAT CURLY HAIR!

ANNE

HE'S NOT YOURS

LEROY

AND THAT DIMPLED SMILE!

ANNE

HE'S STILL NOT YOURS

LEROY

AND THAT UNMISTAKABLE STYLE!

ANNE

ALL THE SAME

LEROY

YOU KNOW THAT IT'S A LIE!

ANNE

ALL THE SAME

LEROY

JUST BY LOOKING I CAN TELL

ANNE

HE'S NOT YOURS

LEROY

AND LIKE ME HE CANNOT SPELL!

ANNE

I KNOW IT'S HARD  
BUT THE FACT IS HE'S ANOTHER'S

LEROY

IT CAN'T BE TRUE

ANNE

DENIAL WILL NOT CHANGE  
THE FACT THAT IS HE'S ANOTHER'S...

LEROY

You're trying to...

ANNE

She puts her hand on his mouth to  
silence him.

ANNE (CONT'D)

HE'S YOUR BROTHER'S

LEROY

Richard?

Leroy pulls away, in shock.

HE'S YOUR BROTHER'S...

HE RAPED ME...

HE RESHAPED ME....

LEROY (CONT'D)

What the hell are you saying? Richard would  
never have done that!

ANNE

I know this is hard for you. Though, it was a  
little harder on me.

LEROY

My brother Richard was a man of honor. He was  
the most decorated veteran of our family. He  
was a war hero! He eventually died from the  
wounds he received.

ANNE

(pauses)

All untrue.

LEROY

How can you say these things? How could you  
know.

ANNE

He left a suicide note.

LEROY

Suicide! Suicide? That's preposterous!

ANNE

Unfortunately, it's true.

LEROY

But the inquest...

ANNE

...was inconclusive. They put it down to  
accidental, because of his record.

LEROY

There was no note!

ANNE walks to a small bureau and opens the door. She pulls out a small envelope. She extends it to LEROY.

LEROY (CONT'D)

(reads the cover)

It's addressed to me. Why didn't you ever show me?

ANNE

Because he kind of made it sound like the problems in his life were all your fault. I couldn't let you think that.

LEROY

(Opens the letter and reads)

"Truth is Leroy, it's really all your fault."

(Stops reading and drops the letter.)

I....I knew. At least, I guess I knew.

ANNE

What?! How?

LEROY

During our first years together I wanted a child so bad. Every time we were in port I was trying like mad.

ANNE

And here I was thinking you were happy to see me.

LEROY

I was. I was! But, I thought, if you had a child, you wouldn't be lonely. You wouldn't miss me as much. I didn't want you to leave me. You were the best thing that had ever happened to me. Anyway, I finally went to the base doctor and he ran some tests. It was me. Then, when the mission failed and...

ANNE

I thought you had been killed. It wasn't fair. You had only been here a week after being gone a whole year. I was just getting to know you again. I was so angry.

LEROY

I know. I'm sorry. But that's the Navy. But when they found me and sent me home, you were pregnant! I was thrilled!

(MORE)

LEROY (CONT'D)

I thought the doctor was wrong. I denied the value of those tests. But...it wasn't me, after all. It was Richard. Even his sperm was better than mine. He could do everything better than me.

ANNE

No! He couldn't do anything that was really important better than you. He couldn't have been a better husband. He couldn't take care of the men under his command.

LEROY

What are you talking about? He was a war hero!

ANNE

Read on. (LEROY picks up the letter and peruses a bit further) He was the only one to survive. He could say what he wanted.

LEROY

I can't believe it.

ANNE

Believe it. And believe...He could never make me love him. Like I love you.

LEROY

Then...why?

ANNE

Because he wanted what you have. He was jealous of you! You had been gone a year before your leave and then it was cut short. I was already so depressed when you were reported missing that I succumbed to Richard's "comforting". I kept drinking and he took advantage of me, if that's what you call holding me down and forcing himself on me. I was so ashamed I told myself I allowed it to happen. He acted like nothing had happened. But I never let him back in the house and I wouldn't speak to him. When we heard that you were OK...Well, that's when he did it. He didn't have the courage to face you.

LEROY

I can't think of him like this. It doesn't fit.

ANNE

Then stop trying to make everything fit. It doesn't work. It's not a ship. It's life.



LEROY  
 But not my life...  
 (sings)

HE'S NOT MINE  
 HE'S MY DISGRACE  
 IT'S NOT MY NOSE  
 OR MY DIMPLE  
 OR MY FACE

HE'S NOT MINE  
 I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN  
 HE'S....

CHARLIE enters, cheery as all get out.

CHARLIE  
 Wow. Sari gives the most amazing foot massages. Makes you want to dance.

He grabs ANNE and starts whirling her around, oblivious to the present circumstances.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
 Hey Dad, you want to take over?

LEROY just stares and then heads out the door. The wind is increasing. CHARLIE and ANNE stop dancing.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
 What's up with him? His disappointment reach critical mass?

ANNE  
 Disappointment in himself, maybe.

CHARLIE  
 Then he should keep it to himself. I'm ready to celebrate. I'm going to have a kid!

("I'M GONNA HAVE A SON!")

(sings)

I'M GONNA HAVE A SON  
 HE'S GONNA BE LIKE ME  
 ANOTHER LEAF ON THE BRANCH  
 OF THE BIG OLD FAMILY TREE

I'M GONNA HAVE A BOY  
 MY DNA

I'LL WATCH HIM GROWN  
 AND LET HIM KNOW HE'S A-OK  
 I'M GONNA HAVE A SON  
 WHO WILL LOOK LIKE ME  
 HE'LL MAKE ME INTO THE HONEST MAN I NEED TO BE

I'M GONNA HAVE A BOY  
 HE'LL BE A PAL  
 AND ALWAYS BOOST MY  
 FLAGGING, DISMAL LOW MORALE

I'LL DO MY BEST TO SHAPE HIS WORLD  
 I'LL WORK REAL HARD  
 TO PROVIDE FOR ALL HIS NEEDS  
 I'LL GET A JOB FROM NINE TO FIVE  
 AND TAKE OUT LIFE INSURANCE!  
 ...AND HAVE TRUST DEEDS!

ANNE

YOU'RE GONNA HAVE A SON  
 HE'LL LOOK LIKE YOU  
 BUT HE CAN'T MAKE YOU  
 INTO ONE WHO'S RIGHT AND TRUE

YOU'RE GONNA HAVE A BOY  
 BUT NOT A FRIEND  
 WHEN YOU'RE A FATHER  
 THOSE POSITIONS CANNOT BLEND

CHARLIE

What do you mean mum?

ANNE

Charlie! A dad has to show his love but know when to set boundaries. Your son might think you're punishing him when you're really just trying to keep him safe. That sort of thing might end a friendship. And another thing! If you want to be a steadfast, honest man, you have to want it for yourself. You'll be let down at every turn if you expect others to provide you with your moral foundation!

CHARLIE

You make it sound like a drag!

ANNE

There's plenty of fun to be had. But it's a lengthy process. And much of the time you're pulling your hair out! Do you have any idea what it really takes to raise a baby? The physical reality?

(sings)

THEY POOP AND PEE AND VOMIT  
 THEY NEED YOUR CONSTANT CARE  
 THEY KEEP YOU UP ALL NIGHT  
 AND YOU CAN'T COME UP FOR AIR

CHARLIE

What did get myself into!

(sings)

I THOUGHT THIS WAS THE BEST THING  
 THAT EVER HAPPENED TO ME  
 BUT NOW I REALLY WONDER  
 SHOULD I GO BACK TO SEA?

ANNE

Oh Charlie. I don't mean to scare you. I only  
 want you to know, it's not just a stroll in the  
 park.

(sings )

YOU'RE GONNA HAVE A BOY!  
 I CANNOT WAIT  
 HAVING A GRANDSON  
 WILL BE REALLY, REALLY GREAT!

CHARLIE

I'M GONNA HAVE A SON  
 HE'S GONNA BE LIKE ME  
 ANOTHER LEAF ON THE BRANCH  
 OF THE BIG OLD FAMILY TREE

I'M GONNA HAVE A SON  
 IT'S REALLY TRUE

BOTH

AND NO MATTER WHAT  
 IT MEANS A LOT  
 TO KNOW THAT I HAVE YOU!!

CHARLIE

Well, that was a dose of reality!

ANNE

Speaking of reality, you're confident it's your  
 baby?

CHARLIE

Well, Sari seems to think so, but what if it  
 isn't? She's still my wife. You might not  
 believe it, but I think I really love her.

ANNE

That should help. But it's just a start.

CHARLIE

Well, nothing ventured. Nothing gained.

ANNE

Now you sound just like your father.

CHARLIE

Dad? Dad would never do that!

ANNE

I didn't mean your dad. I meant your father.

CHARLIE

What's the difference?

ANNE

Leroy is not your natural father.

CHARLIE

What are you talking about? Look at our chins!

ANNE

Your biological father was Leroy's brother, Richard.

CHARLIE

What!?

ANNE

But Leroy is your dad. He...

CHARLIE

Uncle Richard is my father? The hero? That's cool! That explains a lot. No wonder dad's always been disapproving.

ANNE

Your dad never knew about Richard's "involvement". Until now. I just told him.

CHARLIE

You never told him either? And why didn't you tell me? Us?

ANNE

I was ashamed. I can't really explain it to you. Not yet, anyway. But Leroy understands. I think. I hope.

CHARLIE

Is that why he wouldn't look at me? As soon as he discovers I'm not "his", he dumps me? Is that it?

ANNE

No. That's not it. It's partly it...the shock, I mean.... But he'll get over that.

CHARLIE

It's because he envied Richard, isn't it? God, I wish I'd known him. He might have given me direction in life.

ANNE

He might have. But not solid direction, like Leroy. Your father, Richard, wasn't quite what you've been lead to believe. And he committed suicide.

CHARLIE

What!? Do you have any other good news you've been keeping from me?

ANNE

I don't have any more news. But Leroy--your dad--no matter how it looks to you at this moment, loves you more than anything. Right now, he's frustrated and confused and disappointed. Just like you. He doesn't know how to deal with all this new "intelligence" he's received. His whole "world", his whole imaginary world has just collapsed.

CHARLIE

Well mine's not doing too well either!

ANNE

I don't doubt it. And both of you are ignoring what's happening to mine, as well! But if we want to get out of this quagmire, we need to look in a new direction. We need to look to Sari.

CHARLIE

Sari? What's she got to do with it? She got me into this mess!

ANNE

You don't really mean that. Sari is intelligent. She wasn't raised in the slums, she ended up there thanks to her father. She's gone through adversity we can't even begin to imagine. And she's pulled herself through. As long as we--and especially you--don't let her down again.

CHARLIE

Here I am celebrating over being a dad...and what for? Being a dad sucks! I've just made one bad mistake after another. I should just kill myself too.

ANNE

Don't talk like that. You're stronger than that.

SARI enters from the galley.

SARI

Your highness.

ANNE

Sari. I think it would be better if you just called me "mom".

CHARLIE

Oh that's great! So now I've married my sister? This is...this is all too much!

CHARLIE heads outside, slamming the door though it blows back open. ANNE shuts it.

SARI

Charlie is experiencing many emotions today. The loss of his mother may be one too many. Perhaps I can call you Anne when the King is not around?

ANNE

You can do that when he is around.

SARI

I hope Charlie has gone to meditate. I have been trying to teach him. To show him that the woes of this life mean nothing. It is all fleeting. In my religion, you learn to accept your fate. You cannot solve every problem.

ANNE

That's true. But that doesn't mean you can't solve some of them. You have to try, or nothing will happen. You wouldn't have made it this far if you had just accepted your fate.

SARI

(stares at ANNE)

Do you think it would be alright if I think of you as my mother as well? I won't tell Charlie.

ANNE

I would love it. It would be wonderful to have a daughter.

SARI

I think I know what you mean.  
(They hug)

SARI suddenly puts her hand to her tummy.

SARI (CONT'D)

I am feeling I should go lie down.

SARI heads through the galley back to her quarters.

ANNE

("AN UNBREAKABLE CHAIN"--REPRISE)

(sings)

I NEVER THOUGHT MY LIFE  
WOULD TURN OUT QUITE THIS STRANGE OR ODD  
BUT I DON'T THINK IT IS COMPLETELY FLAWED

THINGS CAN CHANGE AND  
I'M NOT HELPLESS

I CHOSE A PARTNER WHO SEEMED STRONG TO ME  
AND RIGHT AND GOOD  
AND YES, THE WAY ONE THINKS A PARTNER SHOULD  
BUT YOUR WORK MUST  
WORK TOGETHER

THOUGH I MAY WONDER  
WHAT THIS ALL MEANS  
MY LOVE IS ANCHORED TO HIM  
BY AN UNBREAKABLE CHAIN

I CANNOT PROMISE THE STARS  
BUT I PROMISE TO LOVE  
AND ASSIST  
AND BELIEVE  
AND ACHIEVE

AND THOUGH MY LIFE MAY SUFFER  
FROM A DARK AND BRUTAL STORM  
HIS PRESENCE KEEPS THE FIRE BRIGHT  
HIS PRESENCE KEEPS THE FIRE WARM

LEROY returns via the galley. He's been in the hold, drinking.

They don't speak at first but attempt to clean up or rearrange things in the room.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Did you see Charlie?

LEROY

I wasn't looking for him.

ANNE

Have you been drinking?

LEROY

I've been adjusting to a new state of affairs.

ANNE

Some king you're turning out to be. The first crisis and you're fiddling while Rome burns.

LEROY

That was an emperor. Not a king.

ANNE

Well, your highness, you still have your duty, no matter how you want to dress it. Charlie needs your guidance more than ever. I just told him about Richard.

LEROY

Bet he's thrilled.

ANNE

He's not as thrilled as much as he's hurt. Now he feels abandoned by two fathers.

LEROY

I haven't abandoned him. I'm trying to teach him a lesson. A life lesson.

ANNE

By ignoring him? That's how a child behaves. Not a grown up.

LEROY

Whoever said a king had to be a grown up? Nero wasn't very grown up!

ANNE

He was an emperor, not a king. When Charlie heard about Richard's suicide, he said he may as well do the same thing.

LEROY

What?! That's crazy! That doesn't solve anything.

(MORE)



LEROY (CONT'D)

That only makes matters worse for everyone else. It's so selfish! I would never do anything that selfish.

ANNE

What about coming here? Founding a kingdom?

LEROY

That's not the same thing! You wanted it too!

ANNE

Did I? Was I excited to come here? Or was I resigned to come here because I am your wife. Your partner.

LEROY

Well, you should have said something!

ANNE

You're right. I should have said something. I admit it. But I'm telling you now.

LEROY

When I last saw Charlie, he was standing at the edge of the dock. Staring down.

ANNE

What?! Ohmigod!

LEROY

It doesn't mean he's planning to actually kill himself.

ANNE

Go out there!

LEROY

(He hesitates)

I'll look first.

LEROY stands on the rickety stool under the high port hole and peers out.

LEROY (CONT'D)

I don't see him. Wait. There he is. And Sari is with him holding his hand. Boy, is it windy. They're both facing the sea at the edge of the drop off.

LEROY hops off the stool as he loses his balance.

ANNE

Sari was talking to me about the meaninglessness of this life! Maybe they're going to jump together!

LEROY

What makes people think that being "one with the universe" is any better?

LEROY tries to get back up on the stool but it breaks. He grabs at the window and pulls himself up.

LEROY (CONT'D)

(grunting)

I...I don't seem them.  
(He falls)

They go to the door and LEROY swings it open. CHARLIE and SARI are standing there, the wind blowing fiercely. They rush in.

CHARLIE

Wow. It makes you appreciate shelter when you're in a gale like that.

SARI

He was enjoying it. I had to make him come in.

ANNE and LEROY are holding each other, staring in disbelief.

CHARLIE

(seeing them, stares back)

I'm glad I went out there. That bracing air forces you to think straight. I can see you're still freaked out by all this news but you don't have to worry. Sari and I are going to head out tomorrow and see about making our way in the world. I know I'm not great at decision making, but at least you won't have to be around to experience my failure.

ANNE

But what about our grandchild?

CHARLIE

You don't even know if it's yours, remember? But it's coming from Sari, my wife, so it will be mine. My son!

LEROY shakes his head but doesn't speak. SARI begins to speak but isn't fast enough. She frets throughout the conversation.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

And anyway, we're not going to have the baby here. Sari will need proper care.

ANNE

You see. You can make good decisions.

CHARLIE

No son of mine is going to be put at risk just because of my ego.

LEROY

It isn't my e...

SARI

(interrupting)

Wait. Please. Wait.

ANNE

What is it Sari?

SARI

My baby.

CHARLIE

Is everything alright?

SARI

Yes. Yes. But my baby will not be your son.

LEROY

See! I told you!

SARI

It will be your daughter.

ANNE

How do you know?

SARI

After Charlie married me so he could get out of the brig, much of my shame was erased. I contacted a friend from school. She helped me get an ultrasound.

LEROY

An ultrasound? In Mumbai?

SARI

It is a city of haves and have nots. If you are lucky, you can have.

CHARLIE

(tenderly)

Why didn't you tell me?

Suddenly, on the wall, the big red light lights up, flashing. Everyone stops and stares.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

What's that mean Dad?

LEROY

When that light goes on, it means the pressure has fallen way too fast. It means were about to be in for a storm. A major storm.

They all look at each other in apprehension.

CHARLIE

But we'll be OK, right? This place has been around for years.

LEROY

It should be, though some of the modifications I made to make it more livable might be vulnerable.

ANNE

You're telling us now?

LEROY

I didn't think it would come to this. Or at least, happen so fast.

(He looks at the barometer)

I've never seen it get that low.

CHARLIE

So much for isolating yourself from the rest of the world. You can't even control the weather.

ANNE

This isn't the time to criticise.

CHARLIE

But it's OK for him to criticise me?

LEROY

When I criticise, it's for your own good. It's to help you.

CHARLIE

To help me!? You mean....

LEROY

I don't really have time to address your grievances right now. I've got to get this place secure.

LEROY grabs his raincoat and hat and heads outdoors. The wind blasts through. SARI begins crying uncontrollably. CHARLIE comforts her.

ANNE

Charlie, you've got to go help your father.

CHARLIE

He's not my father.

ANNE

I mean your Dad. He is your Dad.

CHARLIE

I've got to stay with Sari. She needs me now.

ANNE

I'll take care of Sari. You need to help Leroy make sure we're all safe.

CHARLIE

Yeah, right. OK. I'll go "help" him. 'Cause you know where he is, don't you? He's not out there "fixing" things. He's most likely down in the hold "fixing" himself in the wine cellar.

CHARLIE heads to the galley to go to the hold.

ANNE

C'mon, Sari. Let's go to your room.

They also exit through the galley. It's momentarily empty and quiet until the pub sounds cd timer turns itself on and the sounds of the pub return. After a few moments, LEROY returns from outside. He removes and shakes off his coat and hat, which are now quite wet.

LEROY

(looks around)

Abandoned ship, have we?

LEROY heads behind the bar and pulls himself a pint. He turns off the pub cd.

LEROY (CONT'D)

("LOOK AROUND")

(sings)

LOOK AROUND  
IS YOUR KINGDOM COLLAPSING?  
LOOK AROUND  
IS YOUR WORLD ON THE  
BRINK OF DISASTER?  
COULD IT BE FASTER? WELL.....(PROBABLY NOT...)

LOOK AROUND  
CAN YOU NOT SEE WHAT'S COMING?  
LOOK AROUND  
CAN YOU NOT HEAR DISTINCT DISTANT DRUMMING?  
TELLING YOU, YOU MUST RUN

I JUST WANTED A WORLD THAT'S SENSIBLE  
I JUST WANTED A WORLD DEFENSIBLE  
BUT IT'S NOT

I'M AFRAID  
IS YOUR FAMILY IN TATTERS?  
I'M AFRAID  
MAYBE NONE OF THIS MATTERS?  
HOW COULD I GO SO WRONG?

I JUST WANTED A WORLD WHERE I COULD FIT  
I JUST WANTED A WORLD I WOULDN'T QUIT  
SO MUCH FOR THAT!

LOOK AROUND  
THERE'S A NEW WORLD APPROACHING  
MAYBE NOW, YOU SHOULD SEEK OUT SOME COACHING  
OR SOMETHING "NEW AGE" LIKE THAT....

LEROY opens a closet and pulls out  
some heavy rope. As he does,  
CHARLIE bursts in from the front  
door, soaking wet.

CHARLIE  
(sees LEROY)

I've been looking all over for you!

LEROY  
Well, here I am.

CHARLIE  
I thought...well, I couldn't find you in the  
hold...I thought maybe...it was all too much  
for you.

LEROY

I'm not like your father.

CHARLIE

Don't I know it.

LEROY

Don't get me wrong. I spent most of my life-- in fact--up until about an hour ago--wanting to be just like him. I worshipped him. So I guess I know a little about being let down.

CHARLIE

Welcome to the club. Only in this club, I'm the Royal Highness. I've been let down by two dads.

LEROY

That's where you're wrong. I don't mean wrong, that's where you're mistaken. When I heard about Richard, I admit, everything that stemmed from him for an instant was poisoned. You, your mother, my dreams of this country. But I realize, I didn't need Richard to have those things. Except for you, of course. And as much as I hate him now for who he was, or who he became, I have to thank him for you. The day you were born was the greatest day of my life. Having you has been the thing that gave my life real purpose. Maybe it shouldn't have, but it did. I built this country for you. So you would have a place that would be yours one day. A place where others couldn't impose their will on you.

CHARLIE

I guess we have one thing in common. We're not very realistic. This place will never be mine because you built it. I didn't. It's a kingdom, not a country. We didn't build it together.

LEROY

Maybe you're right. I was so busy thinking about having a place where my will--the right will--would prevail, I wasn't thinking about what you needed from me. That's where I let you down. But not by not loving you. You're my son. My boy.

CHARLIE

Yeah, the fuck-up son.

LEROY

It's not the end of the world to mess up. I should know. I built this place.

CHARLIE

I have to admit, in some ways, my screw-ups seem tame compared to what you did here. Especially for a former "intelligence" officer.

LEROY

And you're a lot younger. It's easier to be forgiven when you're young. I just hope you can forgive your old man.

CHARLIE stares at him for a long moment then hugs him fiercely. LEROY squeezes back.

CHARLIE

(sings)

LOOK AROUND  
THIS COULD BE THE BEGINNING  
LOOK AROUND  
WHAT WE'RE SEEING IS  
IS NOT THE LAST INNING  
BUT A NEW COURSE TO LIFE

LOOK AROUND  
THERE'S A FUTURE EMERGING  
LOOK AROUND  
THERE IS HOPE IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION  
A KIND OF CORRECTION

LEROY

I JUST WANTED A WORLD THAT'S SENSIBLE  
I JUST WANTED A WORLD DEFENSIBLE  
MAYBE I'M A FOOL

CHARLIE

I'M AFRAID IT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY  
I'M AFRAID BEING A DAD WILL BE  
TOO HARD TO HANDLE  
HOW WILL I DO IT?

LEROY

DON'T BE AFRAID  
I'LL BE THERE TO HELP YOU

CHARLIE

I REALLY HOPE SO  
MUM SAYS IT'S DAUNTING



LEROY

SHE'S PROBABLY RIGHT  
SO, MAYBE WE ALL CAN  
TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER...

CHARLIE interrupts.

CHARLIE

Dad? Are we going to be alright here? I mean,  
this weather?

LEROY

I don't for sure. But...

(sings)

IT'S NOT TOO LATE  
THERE'S JUST TIME TO FIX THIS  
NOW WE MUST FIND OUR WAY

BOTH

(sing)

NOW WE MUST SAVE THE DAY...

LEROY

The skylights could be a problem.

CHARLIE

How? Why?

LEROY

If the winds reach hurricane strength, the  
holes from the skylight tunnels could create a  
vortex sucking up everything in this place.

CHARLIE

That doesn't sound good.

LEROY

It isn't. There may be a way to limit the  
danger. But I'll need your help. I can't do  
it alone.

CHARLIE

I may be more help than you think. There is  
one thing I learned in the navy.

LEROY

Really? What's that?

CHARLIE

How to batten down the hatches!

They start moving furniture about, securing much of it to one wall. Leroy. The lights flicker on and off. We hear hammering and noises. ANNE and SARI enter from the galley

ANNE

What's all the noise? And something's happening with the lights.

LEROY

I think the solar panels are gone. We'll still have the generator but that we'll need later. Everyone come into the center and get on the floor.

LEROY pulls down the large rope that's been hanging on the wall behind the bar. He moves the card table, exposing a large steel eye hook imbedded into the floor. He begins tying rope around everyone and then securing it to the big eye hook.

Now we wait.

LEROY (CONT'D)

("KINGDOM'S COME")

(sings)

KINGDOM'S RISE

CHARLIE

(sings)

KINGDOM'S FALL

(Both sing)

KINGDOM'S FAIL  
KINGDOM'S BREAK  
ONE AND ALL

CHARLIE AND LEROY

(sings)

(ANNE and SARI sing alternately in brackets)

KINGDOM'S RISE [IN TIME]

KINGDOM'S FALL [WOUNDS HEAL]

KINGDOM'S FAIL [HEARTS MEND AND THEN THEY FEEL]

KINGDOM'S BREAK  
ONE AND ALL

WOMEN  
(sing)  
(CHARLIE sings alternately in brackets)

KINGDOM'S COME [ALL THINGS MUST PASS]

KINGDOM'S GO [ALL THINGS ARE]

KINGDOM'S FADE [EVER CHANGING]

KINGDOM'S DIE [EVER MOVING]

KINGDOM'S KNOW [FORWARD]

(LEROY sings)

WHAT IS KINGDOM BUT A STATE OF MIND?  
NEITHER ROBE, CROWN NOR SCEPTER IS REQUIRED  
WHAT IS KINGDOM BUT A GATHERING OF PEOPLE  
WHO DEPEND ON ONE ANOTHER  
AND DEFEND EACH ONE AND OTHER  
TO CREATE A LAND WHERE ALL CAN LIVE INSPIRED

(ALL sing)

KINGDOM'S RISE  
KINGDOM'S FALL  
KINGDOM'S FADE  
KINGDOM'S DIE  
ONE AND ALL

Huddled together on the floor,  
they await the onslaught of the  
storm. But their wait is brief. A  
lot of noise, thunder and  
lightning ends quickly.

CHARLIE  
What's happening?

ANNE

Is it over?

LEROY

I don't know. That was too quick!

SARI

Perhaps we are all in the afterlife!

LEROY

I don't think, Sari.

Leroy gets up to check the barometer. It hasn't changed.

LEROY (CONT'D)

It can't be over yet. We must be in the eye of the storm.

ANNE

But it's so quiet! Go look outside, Leroy!

Leroy taps on the barometer to see if anything changes. Charlie gets up and starts to pry the boards off the door.

LEROY

That's funny.

ANNE

What is it?

Charlie gets the last board off and swings open the door.

CHARLIE

Look!

They all get up to look. Leroy keeps fiddling with his barometer.

SARI

It's beautiful!

CHARLIE

It's clear as a bell.

LEROY

That's what the eye of the storm looks like. Don't let it fool you.

CHARLIE

C'mere, Dad.

Leroy walks over to the door.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

The storm's over that way. But we're not in the middle of it. It's over! What does the barometer say now?

LEROY

Uh....I think it may be broken.

ANNE

What!!

LEROY

Last time I tapped it, the needle just swung down to the bottom and stayed there. That's not the weather. That's gravity...

ANNE

Omigod! We were depending on that useless thing?

LEROY

I...

CHARLIE

Forget about, mom. We're safe. That's all that matters. We're all safe.

Charlie hugs Sari, then places his hand on her belly.

LEROY

Well. That is lucky.

CHARLIE

I'm going to go check and see if our boat is in one piece. Maybe we can get off this...place!

Charlie opens the door to see if the boat is still there.

ANNE

Good idea!

Anne goes to Sari and hugs her to keep her comforted

LEROY

(To ANNE)

It was working fine.

ANNE

It's okay. But, I think I'm ready to go. Are you ready to come with us?

LEROY  
(looking around)  
More than you know.  
(sings)

I NEED NO COUNTRY OF MY OWN NOW  
I ONLY NEED THE ONES I LOVE

ALL  
(Sing)

AND THOUGH WE FALL  
WE STAND AGAIN, WE STAND UP TALL  
WE ARE KINGDOM  
WE ARE COUNTRY  
WE ARE FAMILY  
A HOME!

The three hug each other.  
Suddenly, the door bursts open  
with Charlie panting.

CHARLIE  
Dad! (Breathing heavily) Do you have any  
contingency plan for pirates?

THE LIGHTS GO BLACK...

THE END