

# City of Dreams

a new musical play

*Music by Joseph Zellnik*

*Book and Lyrics by David Zellnik*

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## CHARACTERS

Crown Prince Rudolf	<i>Sole heir to the throne, 30</i>
The Emperor Franz Josef	<i>Rudolf's father, 58</i>
Crown Princess Stephanie	<i>Rudolf's wife, 28</i>
The Empress Elizabeth	<i>Rudolf's mother, 51</i>
Mary Vetsera	<i>A social climbing lady of fashion, 17</i>
The Countess Larisch	<i>Mary's Mentor and go-between, early 40s</i>
Sigmund Freud	<i>An unknown young doctor with radical ideas, early 30s</i>
Gustav Klimt	<i>A society portraitist with dreams of doing more, early 30s</i>
Kaiser Wilhelm II	<i>The very powerful leader of Germany, 29</i>
Bratfisch	<i>Rudolf's Coachman, lower class, 40s</i>
2 Spies	<i>Agents of the Emperor set to follow the Crown Prince</i>

**\*\*\*Note: This musical can be performed with 10 actors (6 men/4 women)**

### MEN

Rudolf  
Franz Josef  
Freud  
Klimt  
Kaiser Wilhelm/Spy 1  
Bratfisch/Spy 2/Singer at top of play

### WOMEN

Mary  
Elizabeth  
Stephanie  
Larisch

- All other roles (the Viennese, Courtiers, etc) can be played with judicious double casting depending on the scenes: most useful for this will be Elizabeth and Larisch for the women, and Freud, Klimt, and Spies for the men - though all actors but Rudolf can be used this way, if appropriate.

## **SONGS**

### ACT 1

City of Dreams.....	Ensemble
A Man Who Slays Dragons.....	Rudolf, Ensemble
An Intelligent Man.....	Freud, Klimt
Women.....	Klimt, Larisch
Another Girl/I'm Not Afraid.....	Rudolf and Mary
He Glows.....	Stephanie, Larisch, Spies, Rudolf, Mary
You Don't Like Me.....	Wilhelm
Let Them Look.....	Rudolf, Mary
He Glows - <i>Reprise</i> .....	Stephanie, Larisch, Spies, Rudolf, Mary

### ACT 2

A Golden Child.....	Carolers, Elizabeth
I Am Vienna.....	Rudolf, Freud, Klimt, Ensemble
A Father and Son.....	Freud
I'm Not Afraid - <i>Reprise</i> .....	Mary and Rudolf
Everything Glows.....	Rudolf, Mary, Ensemble
City of Dreams - <i>Reprise</i> .....	Ensemble, Spies
The End Comes Softly.....	Larisch
All the Same Dreams.....	Freud, Klimt, Rudolf, Ensemble

## **TIME AND PLACE**

The action of this musical takes place during the fall and winter of 1888-1889 in Vienna, the glittering, fading, capital of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

ACT 1, SCENE 1

*A Viennese woman appears (\*\*the actress playing Mary)*

VIENNESE WOMAN

OH MY CITY OF DREAMS  
CITY OF WALTZES TENDER AND SLOW  
ALL THE WORLD IS RIGHT  
DANCING ALL NIGHT IN YOUR GLOW

OH SWEET CITY OF DREAMS  
BRIGHT AS THE DANUBE BLUE  
I WILL STAY FOREVER  
DANCING THERE IN YOU...

*TO: the backstage area of the golden, opulent New State Theatre.*

*Waiting to enter are CROWN PRINCE RUDOLF - 30 years old, handsome, a far-away look in his eyes tonight, along with his mother, the still beautiful, half-mad EMPRESS ELIZABETH, his stern, cold father EMPEROR FRANZ JOSEF, and his clumsy, socially awkward wife, CROWN PRINCESS STEPHANIE.*

STEPHANIE

Rudolf listen, your party's beginning. Guests coming in, gawking at new theatre. Waiting to see you.

RUDOLF

*(In his own world)* I was reading in the paper today about a middle-class girl here in Vienna.

ELIZABETH

Oh?

RUDOLF

Yes. One day before meeting friends for dinner, this young wife went into her bedroom to get dressed, saw her husband's gun on the nightstand, and shot herself through the chest. As she lay dying, her husband implored her as to why she did this. She said: "I have no idea. I was just, all of a sudden, very nervous."

STEPHANIE

Don't be in a mood, Rudolf. You're the host.

RUDOLF

They've started a suicide column in the papers every Friday. They say Vienna not only has the most suicides but, they say, surely the most interesting. I can't help thinking they're proud.

ELIZABETH

Oh Rudolf, I love middle-class people too. Be happy my son, it's your birthday.

*She kisses him on the lips.*

FRANZ JOSEF

*(Coldly)* Crown Prince Rudolf - come.

*They exit as:*

*In another part of the stage, another Viennese woman appears. (\*\*\*)The actress playing Larisch)*

ONE VIENNESE

WHEN I WAS A GIRL  
SITTING ON PAPA'S KNEE  
HE'D SING ME A SONG OF VIENNA  
HE'D SING AND HE'D SIGH  
AS HE STARTED TO CRY  
BUT HE SANG IT SO SWEETLY  
I NEVER KNEW WHY

NOW I AM GROWN  
HOW QUICK THE YEARS FLEW  
AND NOW I SING THE SONG  
AND I CRY WHEN I DO...

THE VIENNESE *(adding on variously)*

OH MY CITY OF DREAMS  
CITY OF WALTZES TENDER AND SLOW  
ALL THE WORLD IS RIGHT  
DANCING ALL NIGHT IN YOUR GLOW

OH SWEET CITY OF DREAMS  
BRIGHT AS THE DANUBE BLUE  
I WILL STAY FOREVER  
DANCING THERE IN YOU...

*The Royal family is now on the stage of the New State Theatre.*

FRANZ JOSEF

Thirty years ago the great hope of the Empire was born, and so to inaugurate this stage, a special chorale has been written for Europe's finest Prince. *(Very formal)* Happy Birthday, Rudolf.

*A chorus sings a birthday song to Rudolf:*

(A MAN WHO SLAYS DRAGONS)

ALL

HAIL TO NOBLE RUDOLF  
OUR WISEST AND BEST!  
A NATION'S FUTURE MADE MANIFEST!  
FAITHFUL PRINCE

ALL (Cont)

MAY GOD'S HAND NOW ANOINT YOU  
THE FAIR PRINCE OF PEACE!  
PRINCE OF JOY!  
PRINCE OF GLORY! -

*Lights change. Music changes.*

*In Rudolf's head:*

RUDOLF

A PRINCE...

SO WHICH IS IT THEN:  
A MAN WHO SLAYS DRAGONS  
OR A MAN WHO PLAYS HOST?  
A GOD AMONG MEN  
A MAN WHOSE WORDS MATTER?  
OR MERELY A MAN WHOM MEN FLATTER  
AND TOAST?

*Back in reality:*

ALL

AND OF VIRTUE!  
FLOWER OF THE EMPIRE!  
WITH HOPE IN OUR HEARTS WE LOOK TO -

*Rudolf inside his head again, again music changes, he wanders through the room, everyone is frozen.*

RUDOLF

WHAT A JOKE IT IS:  
A MAN WHO SEEMS HAPPY  
BUT WHO DREAMS OF ESCAPE  
WHO CRIES IN HIS SLEEP  
AND SPENDS HIS DAYS CHARMING STRANGERS  
IS THAT WHAT I AM?  
IT'S NOT WHAT I THOUGHT I'D BE

AS A CHILD I WAS TAUGHT WHAT PRINCES WERE  
AND I BELIEVED WHAT I WAS TOLD  
STORIES EVERY CHILD IS TOLD:  
PRINCES ARE BRAVE AND DARING  
YOUNG AND BOLD  
SET TO RISE ON A NATION'S WINGS  
I'M 30 YEARS OLD  
I'M NONE OF THOSE THINGS

ALL

- WITH HIS STEADFAST  
TRUST IN GOD  
WE KNOW THE HEAVENS SMILE ON -

RUDOLF

ALL THIS MAKE BELIEVE  
ON A STAGE WITH NO DRAGONS  
IN AN AGE OF MACHINES  
HOW LONG CAN IT LAST  
THIS FAIRY TALE SHOW?  
IN A WORLD THAT IS LIT TOO BRIGHT  
WITH A NEW ELECTRICAL GLOW  
WHERE NO ONE IS SURE ANYMORE  
WHAT A PRINCE SHOULD BE  
LEAST OF ALL ME  
LEAST OF ALL ME

ALL

...AND A FUTURE  
EVER GLORIOUS  
UNTO YOU OUR PRINCE!  
OUR PRINCE! OUR BEST!

RUDOLF

Thank you for coming to my 30<sup>th</sup> birthday at this, the opening of the New State Theatre. There are those who say in this late year of 1888 we must all look to London, Paris, or even New York to see what new ideas the future holds for the civilized world. Well let them look at this lovely new theater that completes the modernization of the center of Vienna. Let them look at our electrical lights, and let them see you, my future people, so that they can know that progress and the future start here in Vienna. Thank you.

*All applaud Rudolf.*

*As scene shifts, we see two women are watching Rudolf - one young and beautiful, the other her senior by 20 years.*

*They are MARY and her mentor, the Countess LARISCH. As he leaves, they nod to each other, sharing some secret...*

SCENE 2

A café.

*SIGMUND FREUD sits, reads his newspaper. To his left, another café-goer GUSTAV KLIMT, who sits sketching patrons for his own pleasure.*

FREUD

"... progress and future start here in Vienna!" The rubbish they make the Crown Prince say, and on his birthday no less!

KLIMT

Excuse me?

FREUD

Nothing.

KLIMT

*(While sketching)* Go to page 16. You'll see what Vienna really leads the world in.

*Freud turns to Page 16.*

"Woman in corset drowns herself in bathtub"

FREUD

No.

KLIMT

With her dog. 2 inches of water.

FREUD

No!

KLIMT

You can't make this stuff up.

FREUD

She was my patient.

KLIMT

Your *patient*?

FREUD

I was the one who said she should get a pet!

KLIMT

You're a horrible doctor! *(Beat)* Ah well. "Suicide Capital of Europe." They've started a column -

BOTH

...every Friday.



FREUD

Shameful, I know.

KLIMT

Did you read last week's?

*Freud nods "No." Klimt stops sketching:*

Oh it was great! The entire brass section of an admittedly second-tier orchestra ordered themselves a torte from the Hotel Imperial. They then added a secret ingredient: a sugar-cyanide mix they whipped up especially for the occasion. And though several notes were addressed to jilted lovers, the trombonist said his prime consideration had been "boredom with the current repertoire."

FREUD

What a city.

KLIMT

At least good old Franz Josef has officially finished celebrating his 40 years on the throne. Page 1. When will that man die?

FREUD

I read the Empress Elizabeth wears 5 pairs of gloves to protect her hands.

KLIMT

No.

FREUD

Yes!

KLIMT

No.

FREUD

In the Free Times. An article a friend got me before the censors pulled it. I sense all is not well with the Hapsburgs.

KLIMT

I hear no one is allowed to touch a member of the Royal Family, not even each other.

FREUD

Crown Prince Rudolf will change everything.

KLIMT

Ahhh Rudolf, idol of the masses, hope of the nation.

FREUD

Rudolf will save us from a depressed populace.

From suicidal brass players. KLIMT

From the Empire dissolving into a dozen little nations with grudges. FREUD

Hear hear! KLIMT

Save us from the Church. FREUD

From bad art. KLIMT

Bad strudel. FREUD

To Rudolf. KLIMT

To Rudolf. FREUD

*They clink their glasses - music starts. They bring their cups to their lips but right before they drink:*

But seriously... he doesn't look so good these days. FREUD

Nope. Something dead in the face. I like it, but definitely dead. KLIMT

He fascinates me. FREUD

What would you say if he came through that door and sat down right here? KLIMT

(AN INTELLIGENT MAN)

FREUD  
HELLO YOUR HIGHNESS...  
SORRY BOUT THE EMPIRE  
NICE SHOES  
DID YOU CHOOSE THEM YOURSELF?

Nice shoes? KLIMT

Okay okay okay FREUD

FREUD (cont)

HERR CROWN PRINCE  
YOU LOOK HUNGRY  
HAVE SOME STRUDEL  
I ONLY HAD ONE BITE

KLIMT

No wonder your patients kill themselves.

FREUD

Oh, if he were a *patient*. Well Rudolf's very... complex.

KLIMT

That's your diagnosis? Complex?

FREUD

HE'S SUCH AN INTELLIGENT MAN  
AND YET WHAT DOES HE DO?  
HE GETS BY ON HIS LOOKS  
ALL HIS WOMEN  
I READ THE GOSSIP COLUMNS

KLIMT

(Mock shocked) No.

FREUD

IN BETWEEN BOOKS.

*To the chair next to him:*

I'D SAY - RUDOLF  
YOU'RE TOO SMART FOR THIS  
MUCH TOO REFINED  
I'D SAY: LAY OFF THE WOMEN -

KLIMT

Lay?

FREUD

STAY TRUE TO YOUR... MIND

KLIMT

(*To the chair*) Rudi - don't listen to him - go with the women.  
(*To Freud*) So he's good looking. So?

FREUD

Exactly -

HERE HE IS, SUCH A GOOD LOOKING MAN  
WHICH IS RARE FOR A PRINCE

KLIMT

True.

FREUD

YET HE PLAYS SO ALOOF  
ALWAYS IN DISGUISE  
HE HAS THE WORLD AT HIS FEET  
YET HE BARELY TRIES  
RUDOLF - YOU'RE SO PROMISING  
IF LATELY ODD -

KLIMT

Sure, insult him.

FREUD

SHOW US THE PASSION  
BEHIND THE FACADE

KLIMT

Okay he's aloof lately, *but* he's also a political firebrand -  
it's an open secret.

FREUD

Well yes, but then he's also proud heir to the throne.

KLIMT

Proud, but humiliated by his lack of power.

FREUD

The man does seem troubled.

KLIMT

Yet the common people love him - *everybody* loves him.

FREUD

Then why is he so depressed?

KLIMT

Because - *he can't show them how intelligent he is*. Because...  
nobody loves you for being intelligent. For sex, power, a good  
joke, a sense of mystery - sure - but for intelligence, never.

FREUD

That is so depressing... But it explains a lot.

KLIMT

HE'S SUCH AN INTELLIGENT MAN  
SO NO WONDER HE'S LOST  
IN THIS BACKWATER TOWN  
SMART MEN GET NOTHING

FREUD

JUST A PAT ON THE HEAD  
AND A VIENNESE FROWN

KLIMT

RUDOLF - JUST STAY HERE WITH US

WE'LL DRINK -

KLIMT (*cont*)

WE'LL CHAT  
YOU'LL HAVE SOME STRUDEL  
YOUR MOOD'LL IMPROVE -  
LIKE THAT

FREUD

Oh look, I was supposed to have a sitting 10 minutes ago. Ah well  
- tomorrow coffee's on me.

KLIMT

Thank you, Herr -

FREUD

Gustav Klimt.

KLIMT

Sigmund Freud.

FREUD

*They shake hands on the music.*

*Transition into: Klimt whistling "Intelligent Man" as  
he leaves the café, AS:*

SCENE 3

*Franz Josef's office. Rudolf stands with Crown Princess Stephanie. He is even more depressed than he was in scene 1.*

FRANZ JOSEF

At 9 o'clock the Crown Prince and Princess will greet the Czech Millinery Guild, at 10:30 the Slovenian Shoemaker's Guild, and at 11, he will deliver last night's speech to the Moravian and Ruthenian Craft Associations. I trust he will deliver it better than he did at the theatre - very disappointing. Please apologize.

RUDOLF

*(Dutiful)* Forgive me, my Emperor.

FRANZ JOSEF

At noon the Crown Prince will confess his sins at St. Stephens - little Elizabeth should see her father pray - and at one he and the Crown Princess will retire to attend to their marital duties, as a son is needed. At 2 o'clock -

*Empress Elizabeth enters, with suitcases.*

RUDOLF

*(Perking up)* Mother.

FRANZ JOSEF

Cissy, you're early. Your going-away meal is not until two.

RUDOLF

Where are you going?

ELIZABETH

Malta. This afternoon.

RUDOLF

But you just got back last week. Please stay - we need you so much here.

ELIZABETH

You do?

FRANZ JOSEF

Cissy, we are in the middle of a briefing.

ELIZABETH

*(Ignoring Franz Josef)* I remember when you were 8 and for the first time when I left to travel you didn't cry. You were such a little man. You said - just be careful, sometimes angels fall out of the sky. I have looked for them ever since.

RUDOLF

Mother, I meant you.

ELIZABETH

I will miss your sweet face. I can't have our meal today, your majesty. I must do my exercises.

FRANZ JOSEF

You will dine with me at two.

ELIZABETH

Yes your majesty. Goodbye, my son.

*She and Rudolf kiss, strangely romantic.*

FRANZ JOSEF

*Cissy.*

SCENE 4

*Klimt now has arrived at his studio. Waiting for him are Mary and her mentor, Countess Larisch.*

LARISCH

Sir, you are late. Explain yourself.

KLIMT

Important business.

LARISCH

I am the Empress's niece you would do well -

KLIMT

And who is this?

MARY

Don't you recognize the boa?

*Beat.*

KLIMT

Should I?

LARISCH

Mary was the first girl in Vienna to wear one. Everyone's writing about it.

KLIMT

Oh, the "Queen of Fashion." I have read about you in the papers.

MARY

You can read, Auntie wasn't sure.

KLIMT

Auntie?

LARISCH

A friend. Alas Mary is a middle-class girl, Herr Klimt. Her father bought himself a Baron's title, but her mother wants her to move in the real social circles. That's where you come in. Two weeks in the Crown Prince's company and any Count on the continent will want to marry her...

MARY

I've already had one offer of marriage from Count Von Stahl of Bavaria. I turned him down. He was rude. And he smelled.

KLIMT

Yeah well that's a Count. Crown Prince Rudolf is *married*.

LARISCH

Have you seen his *wife*?



MARY

I hear he's very charming. I hear Queen Victoria adores him.

KLIMT

I hear he's melancholic.

LARISCH

Then this will cheer him up. A painting by one of our most promising young artists in Vienna...

KLIMT

Am I?

LARISCH

The Royal family seems to adore the great Gustav Klimt's works.

KLIMT

They have not seen the great Gustav Klimt's works.

LARISCH

It was reported the Crown Prince was quite taken with the murals on the New State Theater ceiling.

KLIMT

Well the Emperor was "disappointed" at the elongation of the women - too *modern*, too *sensual*. He cancelled my contract.

MARY

Rudolf likes new things.

LARISCH

And you must make sure he likes this painting. If he does he'll want to meet her. And if that happens, I can get the painting hanging in the palace. We could all move up if we do our jobs. Now Mary, do be good to Herr Klimt...

*Larisch goes to leaves. Klimt starts arranging Mary in a sexier pose.*

And Herr Klimt, do remember Miss Vetsera is a lady destined for... *(pointedly)* higher things.

*Larisch leaves.*

*Klimt smiles. Mary flirts back.*

(WOMEN)

KLIMT

SUCH A LADY! SO PURE!  
LIKE ALL THE OTHER LADIES...  
SAINTED MOTHERS  
PAINTED DOLLS

KLIMT (cont)

SUCH PRIDE THEY HAVE  
AND SUCH RESTRAINT  
    WHO WANTS TO PAINT SUCH LADIES?  
    VIENNA HAS TOO MANY LADIES  
    I WANT TO PAINT -

WOMEN WHO YIELD  
WOMEN TOUCHED WITH FIRE  
FULL OF LIFE  
YES AND DEATH  
AND DESIRE

WOMEN WITH NOTHING CONCEALED  
NOTHING LEFT TO HIDE  
FLUSHED WITH HEAT  
BRUSHED WITH GOLD  
OPEN WIDE

    WOMEN ARE NOTHING LIKE WE'VE BEEN TOLD  
    NOT PROPER AND PRIM  
    NO, WOMEN HAVE PASSIONS THE SAME AS MEN  
    I CAN'T PAINT THEM PRETENDING THEY DON'T--

WHEN IT'S WOMEN ALONE  
SWELLING, LIKE THE TIDE  
GUIDE MY BRUSH  
MOVE THE PAINT  
MAKE IT GLIDE  
LET ME PAINT WHAT'S INSIDE  
WOMEN

*Klimt is now in position to kiss her, ravish her, she is quite still, ready do whatever it takes for this painting.*

*At maximum turned-on-ness, Klimt gets up, and channels his lust into the painting. Mary might as well not be there. He whistles the tune to himself. Beat, beat.*

MARY

Herr Klimt?

*Music stops.*

KLIMT

*(Without turning) Oh yes you're done. It's all here... (He points to his head) ...and here. (He points lower... to the **brush.**)*

*She leaves.*

*SPLIT SCENE: As he paints, Larisch meets Mary outside:*

LARISCH  
You've finished early. Did everything go well with Herr Klimt?

MARY  
Dirty old man before his time. But he'll finish quickly, I know.

LARISCH  
I'll write the necessary letters.

*Mary exits. Klimt paints, Larisch smiles...*

LARISCH  
WOMEN ARE PRACTICAL THINKING THINGS  
IN THE END WE MUST BE  
WE DO WHAT WE MUST  
SO THAT MEN CAN DREAM  
ALL WITHOUT SEEMING TO TRY  
WE PLAY SHY  
DISCREET AND DEMURE  
BUT INSIDE IS STEEL  
A LITTLE BIT COLD  
BUT STRONGER THAN ANYONE SEES...

KLIMT  
WOMEN ARE DREAMS...  
VIOLENT AND FREE  
MEN... MEN CAN DREAM  
ONLY OF WOMEN...  
THEY'RE RAPTUROUS EARTHLY THINGS  
AS WARM AS A KISS  
AFLAME WITH PASSION  
AND STRONGER THAN ANYONE SEES...

*Larisch takes finished note and tucks it into the picture Klimt has now finished and bundled up. Bratfisch carries picture and Rudolf receives the finished painting.*

KLIMT AND LARISCH  
NO ONE SEES WHAT'S INSIDE...

*Bratfisch pulls the wrappings away and uncovers it...*

RUDOLF  
NO ONE SEES WHAT'S INSIDE...

*Rudolf is taken aback, seems genuinely disturbed, frightened by it. A haunting musical figure from the opening plays...*

*The painting is an empty frame - through it is Mary with a shawl around her head. Rudolf pulls the frame away and they stand together for the first time...*

SCENE 5

*Outside, at the Prince's hunting lodge, Mayerling.*

RUDOLF

Eva?

*Mary takes her shawl off.*

MARY

It's Mary. Mary Vetsera. You received my painting and sent a note to the Countess Larisch... *(She bows deeply to him.)* My Prince.

RUDOLF

Please don't call me that.

MARY

Yes, Your Highness.

RUDOLF

You look so much like my Eva.

MARY

Should we go in? It... looks to start raining again any second.

RUDOLF

Someone once stood out in the rain for me.

MARY

Eva?

(THERE WAS ANOTHER GIRL)

RUDOLF

THERE WAS ANOTHER GIRL  
WHO LOOKED LIKE YOU  
WHO LOVED ME FROM AFAR

THERE WAS ANOTHER GIRL  
WHO LOOKED AT ME  
WHOSE EYES LOOKED INTO MINE  
FOR JUST A MOMENT ONCE  
AND THEN WERE GONE

AND I LOVED HER  
ALTHOUGH I - *BECAUSE* I DID NOT KNOW HER  
MAYBE STRANGERS CAN REACH ME  
WHERE MY FRIENDS ARE SCARED TO TOUCH  
SHE WAS BRAVE  
COULD SHE HAVE MADE ME WHOLE?

THERE WAS ANOTHER GIRL  
WHO LOOKED AT ME  
AND TOUCHED MY SOUL...

MARY

She's dead isn't she?

RUDOLF

Clever girl. She's in a cemetery in Prague, the *Jewish* cemetery. I danced with her at a ball long ago. My father didn't approve and soon I was married off to the Crown Princess. But my Eva waited for me every night outside my castle. My father didn't let anyone tell me until it was too late and she had died of pneumonia in the rain, waiting. Have you ever loved someone like that? I'm sure I seem crazy to you.

MARY

You don't seem crazy.

RUDOLF

Well I should. Have you heard the whispers in court? The Crown Prince is losing his mind!

MARY

No you're -

RUDOLF

What? You'll just say whatever you have to, to get ahead, I know how these meetings work. I thought maybe you were different -

MARY

I am different.

RUDOLF

-or maybe you're just a spy, you know my father does that, sends girls who report back to him, it's true, spies watch everything I do, well are you?

MARY

My prince -

RUDOLF

Don't call me that!

MARY

*(With real fire)* Well then *Rudolf*. What are you so afraid of? Or are you too afraid to say?

RUDOLF

*(Beat)* Go home. I don't care if you do have her face.

*She doesn't move.*

Fine. Stay out in the rain all night. I don't care if you die too.

*Beat. Hurt, disgusted, she turns and walks away.*

RUDOLF (cont)

Wait.

*She stops.*

(I'M NOT AFRAID)

RUDOLF

YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT I'M AFRAID OF?

I'M AFRAID OF MANY THINGS  
I'M AFRAID OF GHOSTS AND SHADOWS  
I'M AFRAID OF WAKING UP  
NOT KNOWING WHO I AM

DO YOU UNDERSTAND?  
YOU CAN'T - AND YET I THINK YOU DO  
YOU STAYED  
AND I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU

MARY

I SHOULD BE AFRAID OF THIS  
THIS IS ALL I EVER LONGED FOR  
YOU'RE NOT HOW I THOUGHT YOU'D BE  
AND YET YOU TOUCH MY SOUL

DO YOU UNDERSTAND?  
I SEE YOUR EYES AND SEE THROUGH  
TO YOU  
AND I'M NOT AFRAID  
I'M NOT AFRAID

*He is terrified, as she crosses towards him and places  
her hand on his chest.*

RUDOLF

FEEL MY HEART  
IT BEATS SO SLOW  
IT SHOULD BE RACING  
BUT NO -

MARY

MY HEART  
BEATS JUST THE SAME  
IT'S SURE

RUDOLF

AT LAST SECURE

BOTH

YOU'RE HERE -  
AND THERE IS NOTHING TO FEAR  
THERE ARE ONLY DAYS  
SIMPLE AND SPARE  
DAYS TO FILL

TO SQUANDER  
RUDOLF

TO SHARE...  
BOTH

THERE IS NOTHING FRIGHTENING  
NOT THE WORLD AND ALL ITS SORROWS  
I WON'T BE AFRAID OF THEM  
I WILL LOOK TO YOU  
I WILL TOUCH YOUR HAND  
LET GHOSTS AND SHADOWS COME ANEW

I'M SAFE  
RUDOLF  
YOU'RE SAFE  
MARY

WHAT CAN SHADOWS DO?  
BOTH  
I'M NOT AFRAID  
WITH YOU

SCENE 6

*The Hofburg. Franz Josef, Stephanie and Rudolf in a main room at the Hofburg. A photograph is being taken - Rudolf smiles broadly. (The Empress's place in the family a noticeable gap.) The flashbulb goes off.*

PHOTOGRAPHER

Wonderful, your highnesses.

*The photographer lifts the camera tripod. Rudolf and Stephanie relax. Franz Josef doesn't - instead he nods slightly to a courtier, who immediately understands.*

COURTIER

That photo plate must be destroyed.

*All look to the Emperor for an explanation.*

FRANZ JOSEF

The Crown Prince was smiling.

*Beat. The group re-assembles. Now very serious faces. New flashbulb goes off.*

An oil painting would have been much simpler.

*Franz Josef leaves. Rudolf immediately smirks. He looks smiles at Stephanie who smiles back. Then:*

RUDOLF

*(Mock-serious, imitating Franz Josef) No smiling, Crown Princess. It is not fitting. (Back to his voice) Well, I have a meeting with the Hungarian handicrafts guild to get to - Father has just made me ceremonial head. I'll be back after to see little Elizabeth, if that's all right with you. I hear from her tutor she's learned her alphabet. (About to leave, then) Stephanie, that's a very nice dress. I think you look lovelier each time I see you.*

*Rudolf gives her a peck on the cheek. Music starts:*

(HE GLOWS)

STEPHANIE

MY HUSBAND IS A STRANGER  
NO - THAT'S NOT EXACTLY TRUE  
HE HAS THE SAME ROUTINE AS BEFORE  
BUT SOMETHING'S NEW  
THERE'S A FIRE THAT CONSUMES HIM  
BUT NOT HOW YOU'D SUPPOSE  
OH NO - HE GLOWS



*SPLIT SCENE: Mary and Rudolf in a carriage*

MARY

How long do you have today?

RUDOLF

Twenty-three minutes.

MARY

*(Glows)* Twenty-three minutes. I brought you something. But I can't give it to you now. They would see.

RUDOLF

They see everything.

MARY

Oh no... not at all.

RUDOLF

Please show me.

MARY

It's flowers. Flowers from a grave.

STEPHANIE

MY HUSBAND DOES HIS DUTIES  
ONE OF WHICH IS ME  
I'M EVERY OTHER TUESDAY  
FROM ONE TILL MAYBE THREE  
AND NOTHING'S VERY DIFFERENT  
HE COMES... AND THEN HE GOES  
AND YET - HE GLOWS...

MARY

How long today?

RUDOLF

Twenty minutes give or take. But I want to spend all afternoon with you...

MARY

You can.

RUDOLF

I can't.

MARY

But you're Crown Prince. You can do whatever you want.

STEPHANIE

HE GLOWS - AND I GUESS HE'S HAPPY  
HE SMILES LIKE THE MAN I MET  
HE'S CHOSEN NOT TO TAUNT ME WITH DETAILS  
AT LEAST NOT YET

*Switch to:*

LARISCH

The two weeks are almost done. In the Court they say you are  
*keeping him at bay* - that's good. That's a good reputation to  
have.

MARY

We move slowly because we have all the time in the world... we  
have just begun.

*Larisch looks disturbed... Mary changes the subject.*

He told me he thinks you're very lovely.

LARISCH

*(Flattered)* You're a little liar Mary Vetsera.

*Switch to: TWO SPIES appear in a spot.*

SPY 1

YES, YOUR HIGHNESS  
HE WAS WITH HER AGAIN  
FOR TWENTY SOME ODD MINUTES  
IN HIS CARRIAGE IN THE PRATER  
THEY TALKED, THEY KISSED  
AND THEN NOTHING ELSE.  
(YES I MEAN NOTHING!)

SPY 2

HE GAVE HER A RING  
TO CELEBRATE THEIR TWO WEEK ANNIVERSARY  
"UNITED IN LOVE UNTIL DEATH"  
(THE JEWELER WHO MADE IT  
CONFESSED WHAT IT SAID!)

SPY 1

YESTERDAY THEY SPOKE OF LIVING IN A HUT.  
A HUT. A HUT.  
YES, A HUT.  
NO YOUR MAJESTY YOU HEARD THE WORD RIGHT.  
OH YES - SHE SPENT THE NIGHT.

*Spot out on Spies.*

*Mary in spot.*

MARY

Dear Auntie Larisch - you must show no one this letter. You will be very displeased with me: last night we both lost our heads. Now I belong to him body and soul.

*Spot on Larisch*

LARISCH

MY MARY IS A WOMAN  
ALL AT ONCE, MATURED  
SHE HAS THE LOOK THAT ALL WOMEN HAVE  
WHEN THEY'RE ADORED  
SHE'S BLOSSOMED IN AN INSTANT  
I THINK SHE KNOWS  
THE WAY SHE GLOWS

SHE GLOWS - AND I CAN'T BELIEVE IT  
HER DREAMS HAVE COME TRUE SOMEHOW  
SHE GOES FROM ONE ENCHANTMENT TO THE NEXT  
AT LEAST FOR NOW...

*In three separate areas - Larisch, Stephanie, and Rudolf and Mary sing:*

STEPHANIE

HE GLOWS AND I CAN'T ESCAPE IT  
HIS SMILES ARE ALL I SEE  
HE SHOWS NO SIGN THAT ANYTHING IS WRONG  
WHY SHOULD THERE BE?

MY RUDOLF IS A STRANGER  
WHO I KNOW TOO WELL  
I KNOW HE THINKS HE'S HAPPY AT LAST  
BUT ITS A SPELL  
I PRAY IT ENDS AS QUICKLY  
AS IT AROSE  
TILL THEN  
HE GLOWS

LARISCH

SHE GLOWS  
SHE SMILES  
AND SHE SEEMS SO SMALL  
SHE SHOWS NO SIGN  
THAT ANYTHING IS WRONG  
WHY SHOULD THERE BE?

MY MARY... IS STRANGE  
BUT SHE ALWAYS WAS  
BUT SHE NEVER SEEMED HAPPY  
AS NOW SHE DOES  
I KNOW IT CANNOT LAST  
BUT WHY TRY STOPPING IT WHEN  
SHE GLOWS

	RUDOLF
IN ALL THE WORLD I AM SUREST OF YOU	
	MARY
YOU'RE ALL I SEE	
	RUDOLF
YOU MUST PROMISE	
	MARY
I PROMISE	
	RUDOLF
YOU WILL STAY WITH ME	
	MARY
I PROMISE	
	RUDOLF
MY MARY -	
	MARY
MY RUDOLF -	
	BOTH
YOU LOOK SO HAPPY	
DO I MAKE YOU SO?	
SOMEHOW YOU MUST BE HAPPY WITH ME	
IT'S GOOD TO KNOW	
	RUDOLF
THE ENDLESS MOMENTS BETWEEN VANISH	
WHEN YOU'RE HERE	
AND I SEE YOU GLOW	
	MARY
MY DAYS ARE EMPTY	
MY LIFE IS HERE	
WHEN I SEE YOUR FACE	
AND I SEE YOU GLOW	

*Song ends. A postcard from Empress Elizabeth*

ELIZABETH

My dearest son - I am in Malta, thinking only of you and your beautiful face. I received your note. I am so glad to hear you are happy.

I love Malta - the people here are wonderful - sometimes I wish I could hide inside them. In the mornings, I have taken to walking thirty miles in nothing but my nightgown, causing your father's advisors nothing but consternation. And last night I met three lovely sailors, and I didn't tell them who I was!

I am thinking of getting a tattoo! Your Elizabeth

SCENE 7

*Klimt's studio. Freud reading the paper as Klimt lays on his back, hoisted up, painting a ceiling mural.*

FREUD

*(Reading the gossip columns)* "...and could it be our Crown Prince looks even more dashing these days? Perhaps one fashionable girl could tell us why..." A new 'Sweet Girl'... you think?

KLIMT

Red. A girl I painted.

FREUD

No!

KLIMT

Yes! Made her skin shimmer gold. Rudolf loves my work - my *real* work, not this shit. *(Looking at painting)* Ugh. A Christmas gift for Frau Bundsky from her husband. A mural for their bedroom ceiling, featuring Frau Bundsky as Venus. Ooh, the naughtiness of the bourgeoisie! Their *bedroom!* And this Herr Bundsky was perfect, he demanded "Total Realism" except "Could I paint her ten pounds lighter and with no wrinkles?"

FREUD

Do you think he loves her?

KLIMT

Herr Bundsky? I doubt it.

FREUD

No Rudolf.

KLIMT

She is something else. *(Beat)* So Sigmund, what gives? You're a doctor, shouldn't you be working? You *are* a doctor...?

FREUD

When my superiors allow me patients. I'm really a teacher.

KLIMT

Oh how is that going? Ochre.

FREUD

*(Hands it up)* I just got fired, but good. My students - sorry ex-students - spoke very highly of me to the head of the university. Unfortunately they also told him I contradicted Accepted Views.

KLIMT

Such as?

FREUD

I refused to teach them that leeches applied twice daily to the pelvis cure sexual reticence in females.

KLIMT

Sheesh!

FREUD

Yeah well those professors' power over me won't last forever.

KLIMT

How do you know?

FREUD

Rudolf's day is coming sooner than you think. I can feel it. I've started a paper about him.

KLIMT

The Censor will let you publish *that*.

FREUD

He's going to be stronger than any of them.

KLIMT

Better be. Kaiser Wilhelm is threatening a visit. Riots by pro-Germans in mere anticipation of such an event. Jews killed. Red.

FREUD

Killed? Papers said they were peaceable demonstrations.

KLIMT

Not the *French* papers. *(Beat)* What's in the suicide column?

FREUD

*(Suddenly cheerier)* A great one! "2 young lovers rent out a box at the New State Theatre's production of 'Tristan and Isolde.' When Isolde takes her curtain call they fling roses at her feet and when the roses run out they fling themselves." They lived too. *(Beat)* Though it's the *singer* I worry about.

KLIMT

Rudolf'll save us someday. Or sooner, if this girl can wake him up.

FREUD

*(To the paper)* Come on, Rudolf... Wake up.

SCENE 8

*Spot up on a large man dressed in Prussian Army uniform. KAISER WILHELM is the loud, none-too-intelligent, immensely powerful leader of the new Germany. We don't see it yet, but he has a withered arm. Wilhelm has a thick, comic, German accent.*

*He is about to speak. He looks as if he's about to explode. Then, he screams:*

WILHELM

Deutschland!

*Loud cheers - he is making a speech.*

*SPLIT SCENE: Franz Josef's office. The Emperor is doing paperwork as he speaks.*

RUDOLF

You invited the Kaiser to come? Wilhelm is an idiot, your highness.

WILHELM

Deutschland! My Deutschland!

*Cheers! Spot Out on Wilhelm.*

FRANZ JOSEF

You forget how to talk to the Emperor.

RUDOLF

Forgive me your highness, but I won't just head meaningless committees anymore - and I won't not tell you the truth. Wilhelm is just the sort of person we *shouldn't* invite here. He has said in the Berlin papers he wants to unite Austria with Germany, that's a direct quote. And he'll probably try to gobble up the rest of Europe while he's at it.

FRANZ JOSEF

He is our strongest ally.

RUDOLF

Strongest and most backward. Austria-Hungary needs to align herself with democracies - France and England not Germany. Wilhelm is a big bully who wants to provoke a riot among Austrians traitorous to the Empire. Someone has to tell you.

FRANZ JOSEF

You will escort your cousin through Vienna.

RUDOLF

But -

FRANZ JOSEF

Austria-Hungary has lost every war she has fought in the past 40 years. Germany has lost none. When the Crown Prince understands how the world works he is more than invited to advise the Emperor.

RUDOLF

Of course. Is that all your highness?

FRANZ JOSEF

No. I am disappointed. You have missed several important meetings with the Czech and Slovenian Guilds you are the appointed head of. And I have been informed that your carriage has been at the Prater several days in a row. It is not seemly for the Prince to be seen at a middle-class playground. You should spend more time with your wife.

RUDOLF

*(With contempt)* Stephanie?

FRANZ JOSEF

You need a son. We need an heir.

RUDOLF

There is an heir. And Stephanie was your mistake, not mine - you made me marry her.

FRANZ JOSEF

You should spend more time with her.

RUDOLF

Like you and Mother? Where is she now, Spain? Malta? Do you even know?

FRANZ JOSEF

Dismissed.



SCENE 9

*Immediately following. Again the roar of a crowd.  
Wilhelm on his stage, marching back and forth.*

WILHELM

Und finally my people, I say... Deutschland!!!

*The loudest cheers yet.*

*Rudolf, exiting the scene with his father, wearily  
steps in front of Wilhelm - the love and energy of the  
crowd go from Wilhelm to Rudolf. Now chants of  
"Rudolf!" and "Austria Forever!" Wilhelm has lost his  
momentum.*

*The two exit the podium, going to a backstage area.*

WILHELM

Ja, you ruined my speech. Why are you here anyway? This is my visit.

RUDOLF

I am the head of your welcoming committee.

WILHELM

*(Sitting)* Ja - und something was placed in my boot this morning. Here. Helpen me. Mein shoe.

*Rudolf tries to help pull off Wilhelm's boot.*

Ach. Here, I will do. You are so weak.

RUDOLF

Congratulations. You almost started your first riot.

WILHELM

Ja, you were scared up there, I saw.

RUDOLF

*(Calm)* Willie - I'm sure one day soon you will have the world wide war you seem to desire so.

*Wilhelm finds a pebble in his shoe.*

WILHELM

Ah hah! Ein pebble!

*Looks accusing at Rudolf, then smiles.*

So. Your people love me. Germany is unstoppable.

RUDOLF

Willie, Austria-Hungary has lasted 700 years - Germany 25. I realize you're not good with numbers, but - Wilhelm get off the ground.

*He doesn't move.*

WILHELM

Numbers, ja. 29. That is how old I am. (*Mock gasps*) And you are already 30!

*He gets up.*

Your father has ruled 40 years and will live maybe... 40 more? That girl I saw you kissing today when you thought I was not looking has maybe a 35 inch -

*Gestures to his chest.*

RUDOLF

I don't care what my father asked, I am leaving now. Good day, Wilhelm.

WILHELM

Bye bye.

*When Rudolf is almost gone.*

Oh one more thing cousin. I noticed today as we were inspecting the Lead Cavalry that the horses' saddles were in the *French* style. Why does our closest ally favor French saddles over German ones? The man in charge of this Brigade must be fired.

RUDOLF

I am the man in charge.

WILHELM

*(Mock disbelief)* Nein! You?

RUDOLF

My father appointed me to this position only two months ago, long after those saddles were ordered -

*Wilhelm just smiles wickedly at him.*

My father knows when he gave me my current position in the Imperial Army. He's not going to fire me just because you say so-

(YOU DON'T LIKE ME)

WILHELM

YOU DON'T LIKE ME  
NO IT'S TRUE  
NO DON'T SPEAK

WILHELM (cont)

DON'T PRETEND THAT YOU DO

YOU DON'T LIKE ME  
WHO KNOWS WHY  
I'M SHMART, I'M GOOD LOOKIN'  
A REGULAR GUY

JA, YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR TROUBLE IS?  
YOU BROOD.  
YOU'RE MOODY RUDI.  
- JA, FUNNY! MOODY RUDI - EIN JOKE!

*Rudolf does not smile*

SUCH A GLOOMY PUSS!

(Spoken) Now smile.... Smile for Cousin Kaiser!

*Rudolf remains stony-faced.*

YOU DON'T LIKE ME  
SEE I KNEW  
UND I CRY  
CAUSE I TRY - JA I DO  
FOR THOUGH YOU ARE WEAK  
UND SHKINNY UND SHPEAK TOO MUCH TOO  
I LIKE YOU!

RUDOLF

Oh so you like me.

WILHELM

Ja I do.

RUDOLF

And when you said in the Berlin papers you thought me incompetent to ever rule, it was a joke?

WILHELM

The papers mis-quoted!

RUDOLF

And when you said you wanted Germany to annex all the German-speaking sections of Austria-Hungary?

WILHELM

So we could be closer! Ach mein cousin -

RUDI DO YOU REMEMBER  
WHEN WE WERE 8 UND 9  
YOU'D COME OVER TO MY CASTLE  
UND WE'D PLAY BY DIE RHINE  
I WAS RUSSIA! YOU WERE FRANCE

WILHELM (cont)

WE'D MAKE BELIEVE BATTLE  
(I ALWAYS WON)  
THEN I'D PULL DOWN YOUR PANTS  
YOU WOULD RUN AND TATTLE  
ACH WE HAD FUN

RUDI SAY YOU REMEMBER  
WHAT BUDDIES WE USED TO BE  
DON'T BE A SHIT  
RUDI - WHY NOT ADMIT  
THAT YOU STILL LIKE ME

RUDOLF

You must be thinking of some other cousin you beat up. Good day Wilhelm.

WILHELM

But Rudi - I came all the way from Berlin to talk to you. Ja now you listen. Come closer. Come.

*Rudolf hesitates then crosses over to him.*

You are young, Rudolf. And smart. Maybe even smarter than me. Ja. Unlike your father, I think you should get a chance to rule while you're still young. Let's face it, cousin - your empire is not long for this world. You know it, everybody knows it. The time to act is now.

RUDOLF

What are you saying?

WILHELM

Why not let's break it up together. You take over Hungary from your father, I get cut-off little German-speaking Austria. You and I - the two kings of Central Europe.

*Rudolf looks shocked, also perhaps... intrigued.*

You're not shtorming out. You are interested.

RUDOLF

Wilhelm that is the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard -

WILHELM

YOU DON'T LIKE ME  
THAT'S OKAY  
I'M A TOURIST HERE  
JUST IN THE WAY

BUT YOU'RE LIKE ME  
DEEP INSIDE  
YOU KNOW THAT THE FUTURE  
IS OURS TO DECIDE

WILHELM (Cont)

JA YOUR PA KEEPS YOU BUSY HERE  
IT'S TRUE - RUDI'S DUTIES  
RUDI'S DUTIES!

*(Spoken)* Rudi's duties! Okay, that one's not as good...

WAIT I SAW YOU SMILE!

YOU DON'T LIKE ME  
BUT YOU SHOULD  
EUROPE'S A GAME  
JA-UND ONE I PLAY GOOD  
COME VISIT - WE'LL PLAN  
SHOW YOUR POP YOU'RE A MAN  
HE'D SECRETLY TELL YOU "GO ON"  
HE WON'T EVEN NOTICE YOU'RE GONE  
RUDI SAY YOU'LL -

RUDOLF

Wilhelm we are finished!

WILHELM

*(Beat)* As you wish.

*Wilhelm goes to leave, then crosses around Rudolf,  
whispers in his ear.*

I'M MEAN WHEN I'M CROSSED  
BUT I'M SAD YOU'RE SO LOST  
YOU'RE TOO WEAK TO RULE  
JA TRUE  
GOOD NIGHT SWEET PRINCE -  
I DO LIKE YOU

*(Shouts)* DEUTSCHLAND!

SCENE 10

*A Viennese Man singing:*

VIENNESE MAN

WHO BUT YOU MY DARLING CITY  
KEEPS THE WORLD ENTHRALLED?  
WHO BUT YOU MAKES LIGHT  
THE WEIGHT OF THE WORLD?

THE CITY WHERE THE PRETTIEST GIRLS  
ARE DANCING...  
THE CITY WHERE THE WITTIEST MEN  
FULL OF ROMANCE, SING  
OH MY CITY OF DREAMS...

*The singer is the entertainment at a ball for the  
Kaiser.*

*Rudolf stands with his wife. Wilhelm talks to Franz  
Josef. Mary and Larisch are there, as are other (more  
regal) guests.*

STEPHANIE

Who's that girl over there staring at you Rudolf?

*He does not answer.*

I feel sick. Can't we go home? My stomach. I've been feeling so  
sickly lately - the priests tell me nothing is wrong and yet...

RUDOLF

*(Watching Wilhelm and Franz Josef)* The priests? If only they knew  
anything maybe they could help you.

STEPHANIE

If your father could hear your religious views he'd disinherit you!

RUDOLF

*(Softly)* Look how he lets Wilhelm touch him.

STEPHANIE

Rudolf - I feel so awful, maybe... maybe I'm pregnant. Maybe that's  
it. Maybe this is morning sickness.

RUDOLF

It's eight at night.

*Stephanie walks off in a huff. Rudolf crosses over to  
his father and Wilhelm.*

RUDOLF

Good evening my Emperor, Herr Kaiser.

FRANZ JOSEF

Not now Crown Prince Rudolf, there is a party to attend to. You are the host.

RUDOLF

I am also the Prince, my Emperor. I would be most grateful to listen and learn while you two leaders discuss important matters of the state.

*Wilhelm looks at Franz Josef, a small nod of "No."*

FRANZ JOSEF

I believe your wife wishes to dance with you.

*Rudolf turns to look at Stephanie who is looking at him glumly. He turns back to Franz Josef, who is already walking away with Wilhelm.*

RUDOLF

(Loudly) My Emperor, I wasn't finished.

*Heads turn. Franz Josef walks back. Wilhelm does not. Guests begin chattering again.*

FRANZ JOSEF

Nor was I. Herr Crown Prince, I have been meaning to tell you: it has come to my attention *French* saddles have been ordered for the Lead Cavalry Brigade. The man in charge of this battalion must be replaced, which in this case is you. I realize you only had two months of training -

RUDOLF

Wilhelm asked you to do it and you did it.

FRANZ JOSEF

It is my decision. And a sound one. I realize now you haven't been trained at all.

*Franz Josef crosses back to Wilhelm. Rudolf, flush with anger, crosses to Mary and Larisch.*

LARISCH

(*Very public*) Dood evening my most exalted Crown Prince, thank you so much for inviting me and my protégé to this prestigious affair.

MARY

What's wrong, Rudolf?

*Rudolf smiles a warm genuine smile.*

RUDOLF

Nothing my love. Shall we?

*He reaches out his hand to dance.*

LARISCH

Herr Crown Prince, Miss Vetsera does not dance with married men.

*Mary takes his hand and they walk to the center of the room and start to dance.*

*One by one Stephanie, the Emperor, Wilhelm, and other turn to look at them. As they dance:*

MARY

*(Giggling)* We shouldn't be doing this.

RUDOLF

No we shouldn't. You're blushing.

MARY

No I'm not.

RUDOLF

Yes you are.

MARY

You should know your wife is staring at me, Herr Crown Prince.

*He turns her around in a dance move so she is facing the other direction...*

As is Wilhelm, your father... everybody.

(LET THEM LOOK)

RUDOLF

LET THEM LOOK  
LET THEM STARE  
LET THEM WATCH IN ENVY

MARY

WE WILL DANCE UNAWARE  
WE'LL PRETEND THERE'S  
NO ONE THERE

*Now alone in a spot, as the music swirls...*

RUDOLF

WE'RE ALONE IN A DREAM

MARY

NOTHING COMES BETWEEN US

RUDOLF

WE ARE NOT WHAT WE SEEM



WE ARE ANGELS

MARY

WE ARE SPIRITS

RUDOLF

EVEN TIME  
WHICH WATCHES US TOO  
HOLDS NO SWAY

BOTH

TIME LOOKS AT YOU  
AND LOSES ITS WAY...

RUDOLF

*They dance. Mary is blushing, overjoyed.*

TIME LOSES ITS WAY...

RUDOLF

*Music changes - the memory waltz:*

*Mary steps away from Rudolf, and becomes the ghost of  
EVA. Rudolf freezes.*

My Prince.

EVA

Eva... you're here.

RUDOLF

Your father does not approve of your dancing with Mary.

EVA

Fathers are no fun.

RUDOLF

She is beautiful, your Mary.

EVA

As beautiful as you.

RUDOLF

No, more. More. You are quite unlike any other pair of lovers in  
Vienna tonight. For when you dance, the future dances with you.

EVA

I don't understand...

RUDOLF

YOU AND SHE  
ARE NOT ALONE  
NOT ALONE

EVA

FOR I AM HERE TOO  
WATCHING YOU  
WITH HER YOU WILL BE A PRINCE  
UNLIKE THE WORLD HAS KNOWN  
YOU AND SHE  
WILL BE  
WHAT NOBODY WANTS YOU TO BE...  
FREE...

EVA (cont)

I want you with me always.

RUDOLF

You have me.

EVA

No always. Marry me.

RUDOLF

*It is Mary again, now back in his arms.*

What?

MARY

You are my future queen. Marry me.

RUDOLF

*He pulls her close. They dance together softly,  
slowly, then:*

You are already married, Rudolf.

MARY

I am a prince. I can do whatever I want.

RUDOLF

LET THEM LOOK  
LET THEM SEE  
THEY WILL LEARN WHAT LOVE IS  
LET THEM SEE WHAT I SEE

ONE WHO LOVES YOU

MARY

*(Rudolf shakes his head "No")*  
SOMEONE LOST  
RETURNED TO ME  
AND I'M NOT LETTING GO THIS TIME  
NOT FOR THEM  
NOT FOR HIM  
NOT UNTIL WE ARE FREE

RUDOLF

*Rudolf takes Mary's hand and bows deeply to Franz Josef, then to Wilhelm. They turn and bow to Stephanie.*

*Then they turn to each other. Rudolf kisses her passionately.*

*TO: The next day as news sweeps Vienna of what happened at the ball. (\*\*These lyrics all overlap, all ending on the word "glow")*

(HE GLOWS -REPRISE)

STEPHANIE

HE GLOWS - AND IT IS UNEARTHLY  
HE SMILES - BUT THE SMILE'S NOT HIS  
HE SHOWS NO SIGN THAT ANYTHING IS WRONG  
BUT SOMETHING IS  
AN AWFUL RECKONING'S COMING SOON  
TO END THIS GLOW!

LARISCH

SHE'S MAD! HER CHANCE IS THROUGH  
HER DREAMS DESTROYED BY HIS  
SHE SHOWS NO SIGN THAT ANYTHING IS WRONG  
BUT SOMETHING IS  
THE END WILL COME FORE SURE  
SHE'LL BE FORCED TO  
LET GO THIS GLOW

FREUD

SUCH AN INTELLIGENT MAN  
WHO COULD GUESS AT HIS PLAN  
WHAT WILL HAPPEN?  
HE'S CHANGING, TRANSFORMING  
BUT WHAT IS THE MEANING OF - *BEHIND*  
THIS STRANGE AND BRIGHT  
AND MAGICAL GLOW?

KLIMT

WHAT A TRIUMPH!  
SHE ACTUALLY GOT HIM!  
SHE'S FULL OF LIFE  
YES AND DEATH AND DESIRE  
AND A REMARKABLE GLOW!

SPY 1

YES YOUR HIGHNESS IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN

SPY 2

HE ASKED HER TO WED!

SPY 1

YES WE'LL KEEP THEM APART SIR  
WHAT A DISASTER!

WHO LET HER IN?	SPY 2
IT WASN'T ME!	SPY 1
WELL... IT'S OVER	SPY 2
BUT WE CAN'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN!	BOTH
WE'VE GOT TO WATCH THEM IN THE MORNING	SPY 1
I'LL TAKE THE EVENING	SPY 2
AND I'LL WATCH THEM AT THE OPERA	
CHECK THE LOBBY!	SPY 1
TO KEEP THEM FROM DISPLAYING	SPY 2
THIS CRAZY UNHEALTHY UNHOLY	
DANGEROUS GLOW!	
WE'VE GOT TO STOP THIS	SPY 1
OSTENTATIOUS LUDICROUS	
DANGEROUS GLOW!	

*In a spot Rudolf and Mary are smiling, as:*

*Lights fade: End of Act 1*

**ACT 2**

**SCENE 1**

*Elizabeth appears. It's Christmas and she has returned.*

(HELD BY HIS MOTHER FAST)

CAROLERS

HELD BY HIS MOTHER FAST  
A TINY BABE LAY SLEEPING  
FAR FAR FROM COMFORT CAST  
AS CHRISTMAS DAWN CAME CREEPING

LO TO A WORLD UNKNOWN  
A GOLDEN CHILD LAY SLEEPING  
THEN CHERISHED ALL ALONE  
TO A MOTHER'S KEEPING

*Now the three are joined by Stephanie, in a room at the Hofburg. She bears gifts. It's Christmas.*

*Rudolf smiles, Elizabeth is as otherworldly as ever, Franz Josef silent, and Stephanie hides her rage from the previous scene under a cheery facade.*

*Franz Josef is handed a gift from Stephanie.*

STEPHANIE

Merry Christmas, My Emperor. It's a necktie. And now Rudolf. They say in the papers you have two passions.

*Rudolf opens the gift. A gun*

Hunting is one.

RUDOLF

Thank you, dearest. I will treasure it.

*He holds the gun smiling - it is aimed at Stephanie, then Franz Josef.*

ELIZABETH

*(Suddenly troubled)* I should have bought presents in Greece. I always forget to buy things in Greece.

STEPHANIE

And for you, Mama-in-Law.

*Elizabeth opens Stephanie's gift.*

Gloves.

*Elizabeth puts them on over the ones she is already wearing.*

ELIZABETH

Now my hands will be especially protected.

STEPHANIE

They're bigger, to fit over the pairs you wear now.

ELIZABETH

How thoughtful. My Emperor, you remember what they always said about my hands? The most beautiful in Europe. I must protect them, yes my Emperor?

RUDOLF

Hunting is not a passion. It is a sport.

STEPHANIE

*(Under her breath)* And so are your women.

RUDOLF

Stephanie, stop it!

*Stephanie looks to Franz Josef to say something.*

STEPHANIE

Herr Emperor...?

ELIZABETH

*(To Rudolf, stroking his air)* My baby I've missed your sweet face-

FRANZ JOSEF

Cissy, keep your hands to yourself. He's not 10 years old. There are rules in this court.

*She pulls away.*

Rudolf, I have been advised that you have too many... *distractions* here in Vienna. As my Christmas gift to you, you will have a several months-long trip to Budapest with the Crown Princess.

STEPHANIE

Oh, a second honeymoon - won't that be wonderful?

RUDOLF

This was Stephanie's idea.

FRANZ JOSEF

It was the Kaiser's.

RUDOLF

Clever, wicked man.

STEPHANIE

What a wonderful gift!

RUDOLF

Maybe I will go. They hate you especially there.

STEPHANIE

Rudolf!

ELIZABETH

The Hungarians love your father - and I love them all! They have many fascinating customs. (*Whispers to Rudolf*) At Christmas, I am told, children knock on strangers' doors and are taken in. I have heard that some children never go home again.

RUDOLF

That does sound lovely. Perhaps I will go. I could give them the right to vote while I'm there.

STEPHANIE

They can vote.

RUDOLF

For whom? The people the Emperor selects. Herr Emperor, here is your gift from me. Mother, sing me a Christmas song.

*Rudolf again lays his head on Elizabeth's lap.  
Elizabeth strokes his hair.*

FRANZ JOSEF

Cissy!

*She continues to stroke his head. Franz Josef opens his gift*

ELIZABETH

HELD BY HIS MOTHER FAST  
A TINY BABE LAY SLEEPING...  
THEN CHERISHED ALL ALONE  
TO A MOTHER'S KEEPING

FRANZ JOSEF

(*Joylessly*) A book of photographs. "The Great Cities of America." Thank you Herr Crown Prince. This will please me greatly.

ELIZABETH

America. I could go to America. I could visit New York. (*Looks at a picture, sounding out a word*) Brook-lyn!

RUDOLF

Mother, why do you travel so much?

ELIZABETH

To get away from myself, I suppose.

RUDOLF

Please stay. You don't have to live in the Hofburg with Father. You can stay at my house at Mayerling. And you, Mary, and I can spend the whole season there -

STEPHANIE

Rudolf, we're going to Budapest.

RUDOLF

You're welcome to go -

STEPHANIE

*(Overlapping)* Rudolf!

RUDOLF

- but my Emperor, although a generous gift, I must decline.

ELIZABETH

Who is this Mary?

RUDOLF

You'll love her. Oh and you can sponsor a New Year's ball at a restaurant *(an idea)* at the Sacher- yes, yes instead of letting people idolize us we will show Vienna we are just another family.

ELIZABETH

*(Other-worldly)* Yes... I'll be a waitress.

STEPHANIE

This is too much, Rudolf. My Emperor listen.

ELIZABETH

Can you imagine me a waitress?

RUDOLF

No, not a waitress [only then you could stay here.]

STEPHANIE

*(Overlapping)* A child! She is a wicked little child!

RUDOLF

Stop it -

STEPHANIE

My stomach, I'm sick!

RUDOLF

*(To Elizabeth)* A hotel party will show everyone we support the middle classes as the true anchor of progress.

STEPHANIE

*(Continuing from above)* ... everyone laughing at me!



RUDOLF

I had no idea my happiness [was such a burden to you!]

STEPHANIE

*(Overlapping with above)* She is just a wicked adolescent with a schoolgirl crush is all *(crying)* - my stomach...

RUDOLF

*(Overlapping)* You don't know the first thing about real love, so of course you are jealous -

ELIZABETH

An anchor of progress, yes! Look: I got a tattoo!

*She shows everyone her tattoo, an anchor tattoo on her upper arm. Franz Josef stands.*

RUDOLF

It's beautiful, Mama.

FRANZ JOSEF

Cissy, enough! Rudolf, keep your hands to yourself. Now. You need to spend time with your wife. In Budapest.

RUDOLF

I will stay here with Mary!

FRANZ JOSEF

Your wife needs to bear a son. You will finish with this prostitute at once or she will be sent away.

RUDOLF

*(Standing)* You will not have this one too!

FRANZ JOSEF

Sit down!

RUDOLF

Stop ordering me!

FRANZ JOSEF

You will do whatever I wish! And you will grow up - when I was your age I had run the Empire for 12 years.

RUDOLF

And I will destroy it, you watch! I can!

STEPHANIE

Rudolf!

ELIZABETH

My baby, it's Christmas.

RUDOLF

*(To Franz Josef)* There are things I can do, ways to be heard you can't control!

*Franz Josef snorts to himself at what he sees as adolescent bluster.*

I am more than just what you think I am!

FRANZ JOSEF

Oh? What are you, then? Tell me.

*Beat. Rudolf storms out.*

SCENE 2

*Immediately into SPLIT SCENE.*

*On the street. Freud, excited, shows a paper to Klimt.*

KLIMT

Have you seen it?

FREUD

What?

KLIMT

Someone got past the censors. It's starting, Sigmund - the beginning of the end of the Empire!

FREUD

Page 1. Anonymous. "A City Speaks!"

*Rudolf's article - perhaps he still faces his father.*

(I AM VIENNA)

RUDOLF

I AM VIENNA!  
A CITY IMPRISONED  
SICK OF EXISTING  
AT THE PLEASURE OF ONE MAN'S WHIM

I AM VIENNA!  
A CITY TOO LONG HELD DOWN  
BY THE WEIGHT  
OF AN OLD MAN'S CROWN

*TO: Rudolf with Mary, in his carriage*

MARY

The queen of Hungary?!

RUDOLF

I have petitioned the Pope for a divorce.

MARY

Nothing will ever be the same, my Rudolf! Will it?

*They kiss, AS:*

*Franz Josef holds the newspaper, speaks to spies*

FRANZ JOSEF

Find out who wrote this. Collect all copies and burn them.

SPY 1

How will we find all of them? -

FRANZ JOSEF

You will arrest anyone who possesses one.

RUDOLF

I AM VIENNA!  
A CITY HE STRANGLES  
ONE IN WHICH YOUNG MEN  
ARE OBSTACLES TO IGNORE

I AM VIENNA!

*Freud and Klimt read the article:*

FREUD

I AM VIENNA!

RUDOLF

A CITY WHO'LL WAIT NO MORE

KLIMT

A CITY WHO'LL WAIT NO MORE

RUDOLF

THROUGH WITH  
PARTIES AND PAGEANTS AND PASTRIES  
FAIRYTALE VISIONS AND SUGARCOATED LIES -

KLIMT

ENDLESS CEREMONIES...  
FAIRYTALE ROYALTY...  
PARADES - CHARADES -

FREUD

THROUGH WITH WAITING AND WATCHING  
WAITING AND WATCHING  
STANDING AND STARING AND -

*Rudolf pushes through Freud and Klimt:*

RUDOLF/FREUD/KLIMT

OTHER NATIONS RISE ON STEEL AND STEAM  
GROW STRONG AND UNAFRAID  
THEY DON'T WISH THE WORLD AWAY  
OR RUN ON ONE MAN'S SAY

OTHER NATION'S EYES ARE OPEN WIDE  
THEY HEED THE FUTURE'S CALL  
WE STUTTER WE STALL  
AND IF WE LET IT  
THIS EMPIRE SOON WILL FALL  
WILL TUMBLE  
AND CRUSH US ALL

TO: *Mary and Larisch Freud and Klimt, in separate spaces.*

LARISCH

*(To Mary)* This writer clearly knows nothing of our Empire. Vienna is the center of the world!

KLIMT

*(Reading a bulleting to Freud)* "The Emperor demands all readers turn in their illegal newspapers." Hah!

LARISCH

After all there's the waltz, our operettas. And the best cafes anywhere.

KLIMT

I say here's to whoever wrote this.

LARISCH

*(To Mary)* - oh and the waltz! Don't forget about the waltz...

FREUD

*(To Klimt)* It's the Crown Prince.

KLIMT

No.

FREUD

Who else could get this published?

*Mary joins Rudolf.*

ALL

OTHER NATIONS RISE ON STEEL AND STEAM  
GROW STRONG AND UNAFRAID  
THEY DON'T WISH THE WORLD AWAY  
OR RUN ON ONE MAN'S SAY

OTHER NATION'S EYES ARE OPEN WIDE  
THEY HEED THE FUTURE'S CALL  
WE STUTTER WE STALL  
AND IF WE LET IT  
THIS EMPIRE SOON WILL FALL  
WILL TUMBLE  
AND CRUSH US ALL

*Rudolf and Mary are pulled apart by the spies.*

FREUD

Listen to his words: "sick of existing, a city he strangles..."  
Should have printed this on page 16. It's a suicide note.

SCENE 3

*Freud crosses theatrical space into a medically equipped salon in the Hofburg. Stephanie enters.*

Who are you? You're new.

STEPHANIE

(*Bowing*) Your majesty.

FREUD

Where's the head royal doctor?

STEPHANIE

My superiors are on vacation. Feast of Saint... someone. I'm Jewish.

FREUD

Oh. Very well, I'm sure you'll do.

STEPHANIE

*She sits on examining table.*

I have a pain, a shooting pain, from my womb.

For how many days?

FREUD

3 years, on and off.

STEPHANIE

(*Beat*) Lift the skirt please ma'am... uh, your highness. I'm sorry I don't know the royal etiquette.

FREUD

*She hitches her dress up around her waist.*

Is there some new inflammation? You don't have to be delicate with me.

STEPHANIE

There is a lot of traumatic tissue growth that looks to be the scarring common after a catastrophic bout with gonorrhoea. I'm sorry.

FREUD

The beloved heir to the throne. From a prostitute in Italy.

STEPHANIE

Your highness perhaps I am not the person -

FREUD

STEPHANIE

Everyone knows about these things, though no one talks about them. Everyone knows about me and Rudolf too. They try to keep a lock on it, but people know. Herr Doctor, does gonorrhoea make one crazy years later, like syphilis?

FREUD

Your symptoms don't suggest insanity -

STEPHANIE

No my husband. *(Beat)* He is about to do something terrible, I can sense it.

FREUD

You mean the article.

STEPHANIE

I don't know what I mean. Yes.

FREUD

May I speak candidly?

*She nods.*

First of all, no, it doesn't cause insanity. But in reality I believe... well I don't know what anymore. I used to think the Crown Prince was very complex, and he is. But a few weeks ago I began a paper about him and I've come to think he's not that different from the rest of us - only the stakes are higher.

STEPHANIE

You've been writing about my husband? No one is allowed to write about him. *(Beat)* What did you say?

FREUD

Well here you have a man in a death struggle with his father, desperate for some recognition of his identity separate from his father's and yet wanting - craving - approval for that very identity.

STEPHANIE

I'm sorry, Herr Doctor I didn't understand a word of what you said.

FREUD

Well I'm still working on it. Basically he and his father are fighting over the same turf, which in this case is the empire but also I've come to believe lately his mother, who is quite lovely. *(Quickly)* Although not as lovely as you, your highness.

STEPHANIE

They've arrested him. No one is to know. He wrote that article, I know he did, though no one says anything. And it's... it's worse

STEPHANIE (cont)

than that - he talks to himself day and night in the room they keep him in - always Mary or this dead girl he says he loves. But his mother? It makes no sense.

*Realizing the truth of all of it, burying her head*

And yet it does...

FREUD

Shhh. It's okay.

STEPHANIE

(Upset) No it's not.

FREUD

You're right.

STEPHANIE

What did they do to make him this way? He used to be so good.

FREUD

I don't know.

STEPHANIE

What do I do for him now?

FREUD

I don't know, your highness.

STEPHANIE

(Drying her eyes) And this - is there some new infection?

FREUD

I don't believe so. I think it is in your heart, and head. Your highness... you have a daughter, correct?

STEPHANIE

Little Elizabeth.

FREUD

Be good to her. Let her be good to you. (Soft) She will be your only child.

STEPHANIE

I know. Thank you, Herr Doctor. Please don't publish your paper. They'll arrest you.

FREUD

Don't worry. Nobody publishes my work.

*She leaves.*



(FATHER AND SON)

FREUD

HE'S SUCH AN INTELLIGENT MAN  
AND YET WHAT DOES HE DO?  
HE DESTROYS WHAT HE HAS  
LACKING ALL CONTROL  
HE LASHES OUT AT THE WORLD  
DOES HE KNOW THE TOLL?

*He puts his coat on. He leaves.*

SUCH AN INTELLIGENT MAN  
WITH THE WORLD AT HIS FEET  
YET HE ACTS LIKE A CHILD...

*He realizes an underlying truth - music changes:*

A FATHER AND SON  
THE OLDEST OF STORIES  
HIDDEN, YET PERSISTENT  
ALL THE PAIN AND PRIDE  
THEY HIDE FROM ONE ANOTHER  
THE LOVE THEY SHARE... DENIED

*Rudolf and Franz Josef appear: The Emperor in his  
office, Rudolf under house arrest in his room.*

A FATHER UNDONE  
BY FEAR AND COMPETITION  
A SON GROWING DISTANT  
IT'S A TALE  
EVERY MAN KNOWS WELL  
NO ONE WANTS TO TELL

HOW MEN SMILE  
HOW MEN PLAY  
YET HOW MANY WARS BEGUN  
OVER WHAT'S LEFT UNSAID  
THE RAGE... THAT CAN'T BE SPOKEN  
BETWEEN TWO MEN  
TIED BY A THREAD  
THAT CAN'T BE BROKEN

EVER IT GOES  
A RACE INTO THE FUTURE  
MEN CEASELESSLY RUN  
AND I WONDER  
WHAT COULD BRING PEACE  
BETWEEN A FATHER AND SON?

AND I WONDER:  
WILL THERE BE PEACE FOR US ALL  
AND FOR A FATHER AND SON...

SCENE 4

*Rudolf in a locked room in the Hofburg. Franz Josef enters.*

FRANZ JOSEF

Herr Crown Prince. Good evening.

RUDOLF

What have you done with Mary, where is Mary?!

FRANZ JOSEF

Rudolf. Mary's mother felt a convent was the best place for her.

RUDOLF

You can't do this. Let me out.

FRANZ JOSEF

*(Holding Rudolf's article up)* 2 weeks I have been waiting. You can bribe your way past the censors with this, surely you can get an apology printed.

RUDOLF

You pig.

FRANZ JOSEF

Scores dead in riots because of this article. Reckless, just like your journal entries -

RUDOLF

*(Overlapping)* So you do read them -

FRANZ JOSEF

- you and your words, always this adolescent nonsense. You have been such a disappointment to me. And to your Mother.

RUDOLF

No that's you. She's always hated having to let you put your hands on her.

*Franz Josef goes to strike him. Rudolf doesn't flinch:*

No one is allowed to touch in this court. Your rules. And Mother knows you have never been fair to me! Never! You made me wed a woman who you knew wouldn't love me -

FRANZ JOSEF

Rudolf -

RUDOLF

...a clumsy desperate woman -

FRANZ JOSEF

Silence. You must give me an heir.

RUDOLF

There *is* an heir! I am the heir! I have petitioned for a divorce from the Vatican.

FRANZ JOSEF

He will turn it down. Divorce is a sin.

RUDOLF

Mary and I are getting married -

FRANZ JOSEF

You already are married. You have responsibilities.

RUDOLF

I have no responsibilities, only duties -

FRANZ JOSEF

Silence.

RUDOLF

- the duty to be the prop that keeps your sagging empire -

FRANZ JOSEF

Silence.

RUDOLF

- afloat while every real problem grows worse! You think you and your decrees and your *paperwork* can save this empire? No - it's me, people's hope in me. In new ideas they pray will lead us away from the edge of... *(Changing tone)* Let me help you. Please.

FRANZ JOSEF

You will produce a son. You will then graciously step out of line for the succession.

RUDOLF

I am the heir. Let me help you.

*Rudolf reaches to touch him. All at once the simmering rage in Franz Josef boils as he pulls away:*

FRANZ JOSEF

You are not fit to be the heir! In the head! Paintings of dead girls? Atheist journal entries? Ridiculous feeble-headed views on my empire - this empire would disintegrate the moment you are allowed to touch it. *And you never will - I will see to that.*

*Beat.*

RUDOLF

Fine.

FRANZ JOSEF

Yes?

RUDOLF

Yes. Fine. I will do whatever you want. May I leave now? *(Beat)*  
I will print a retraction. I will end things with Mary. If you  
let me have one night. Let me say goodbye to her.

*Franz Josef goes to the door.*

FRANZ JOSEF

If you try to go to Hungary you will be arrested at the border.

*Rudolf nods. Franz Josef opens the door, Rudolf is  
free to leave.*

RUDOLF

Thank you Father.

FRANZ JOSEF

You will remember how to address the Emperor.

SCENE 5

*Immediately following - Rudolf looks up - he is at Mary's convent window.*

MARY

I knew you would come for me!

RUDOLF

He thinks there is nothing I can do. He's wrong.

*She now runs to him. They are in the yard in front of the convent. Before she can hug him she sees something is wrong:*

MARY

What is wrong, my love?

RUDOLF

I have come to say goodbye. And I wanted to see your lovely face again. They will let you out of here soon, have no fear.

MARY

I am coming with you.

RUDOLF

Where I am going I go alone.

*He kisses her on the forehead, goes to leave. She stops him with:*

(I'M NOT AFRAID - REPRISE)

MARY

THERE IS NOTHING FRIGHTENING  
NOT THE WORLD, AND ALL ITS SORROWS  
I WON'T BE AFRAID OF THEM  
I WILL LOOK TO YOU  
AND I'M NOT AFRAID...  
I'M NOT AFRAID...

*She goes to him, takes his hand:*

MARY

FEEL MY HEART  
IT BEATS SO SLOW  
IT SHOULD BE RACING  
BUT NO -

RUDOLF

MY HEART BEATS JUST THE SAME  
IT'S SURE

AT LAST SECURE

MARY

YOU'RE HERE  
AND THERE IS NOTHING TO FEAR  
THERE ARE ONLY DAYS...

BOTH

*They hug. They leave together.*

*TO: A Viennese Woman and Man enter.*

WHO BUT YOU MY DARLING CITY  
KEEPS THE WORLD ENTHRALLED?  
WHO BUT YOU MAKES LIGHT  
THE WEIGHT OF THE WORLD?

VIENNESE WOMAN

THE WEIGHT OF THE WORLD...

ANOTHER VIENNESE

*NOW: Rudolf and Mary are in their underclothes, at Mayerling.*

*Rudolf opens a box, takes out the gun Stephanie gave him. They both smile.*

*Mary watches him as he puts the gun in his mouth... then: he takes it out.*

(EVERYTHING GLOWS)

HOW STRANGE  
THE ROOM GROWS BRIGHT  
AND PERFECTLY STILL  
EVEN MY HANDS  
SAVOR THE GLOW...  
THE THRILL

RUDOLF

AND NO, THERE IS NO GOING BACK  
BUT STRANGE, IT IS SWEET  
HAVING NOWHERE TO GO  
MY HEAD IS SPINNING  
BUT ODDLY CLEAR  
THE WORLD GROWS HUSHED AND VAST

THE FUTURE AND PAST  
ARE JOINED FOR JUST ONE MOMENT  
TOO PURE TO LAST...

Do you think anyone in Vienna could guess what I will do tonight?

MARY

What we will do.

*Rudolf nods "No"*

I am Eva. I am already dead. I think somehow they do know - they know that this is Before they are living in.

ALL THROUGH THE STREETS  
THEY WHISPER  
SOMETHING IS NEAR  
OR JUST BEGUN  
A STORM IS FAST APPROACHING  
THE WAIT ALMOST DONE  
AND EVERYTHING GLOWS...

*Behind her the Viennese slowly appear, dancing,  
otherworldly - dressed in white, their underclothes.*

*A strange sad waltz that Rudolf and Mary soon join.*

ALL

EVERYTHING GLOWS  
THE WORLD GROWS STRANGELY BRIGHT  
THIS MOMENT BEFORE

SWEET AND INTENSE  
LIVING BETWEEN WHAT IS GONE  
AND IN STORE

AND NO THERE IS NO GOING BACK  
AND NO, THERE IS NO TELLING  
WHERE WE WILL GO

RUDOLF AND MARY

THERE ARE ONLY MINUTES  
WHEN ALL IS CLEAR  
THEY RISE AND FALL AWAY

ALL

THE FUTURE AND PAST  
CONJOINED FOR JUST ONE MOMENT  
TOO PURE TO LAST...

*The Viennese disappear. Rudolf and Mary now alone  
again... Mary pulls the gun to her head, though it is  
still in Rudolf's hand.*

RUDOLF

THE FUTURE AND PAST  
CONJOINED FOR JUST  
ONE MOMENT...

*Rudolf and Mary's eyes locked.*

*The Viennese woman re-enters in her previous (day)  
clothes*

VIENNESE WOMAN

WHERE THE PRETTIEST GIRLS  
ARE DANCING  
THE CITY WHERE THE WITTIEST MEN  
FULL OF ROMANCE, SING -

*A gunshot, though we still see Rudolf and Mary in  
their embrace, with the gun at Mary's head.*

*Then they part slowly as ghosts, remaining onstage  
through this scene.*

*TO: Franz Josef, Elizabeth, Stephanie and Bratfisch at  
the Hofburg.*

BRATFISCH

The blood was everywhere -

ELIZABETH

No, no, stop.

BRATFISCH

There was one shot and the Prince said he misfired and then -

*A second shot is heard. All on stage wince.*

There was another shot and I broke down the door...

ELIZABETH

My Emperor may I be excused.

FRANZ JOSEF

No. *(Suddenly fierce)* It was your insanity which I tried to  
protect him from -

ELIZABETH

You starved him, you murdered him -

STEPHANIE

Silence.

BRATFISCH

There were notes for his wife. And for you, my Empress. *(He hands  
Stephanie and Elizabeth their notes.)* Also another for me.

*Franz Josef holds his hand out. Silence.*

That is all your majesty. I'm sorry.



*It dawns on Franz Josef that his son has not written him any note. He sinks to the floor. Starts weeping. Bratfisch rushes to him.*

ELIZABETH

Don't touch him.

*Elizabeth leaves.*

*Bratfisch and Stephanie watches as Franz Josef cries on the floor.*

*Then, with no tears left, he stands. He sits back at his desk. There is much to be done.*

FRANZ JOSEF

Herr Bratfisch, please alert my secretary that several important announcements will be made about the Crown Prince's death and funeral, and the girl's as well.

STEPHANIE

There was no girl.

*Beat.*

FRANZ JOSEF

There was no girl.

SCENE 6

*Rudolf is pulled away from Mary, without breaking eye contact...*

*Then his coffin is carried through the streets. Stephanie and Viennese follow. Mary still ghostlike, watches...*

*City of Dreams is sung softly in a canon.*

QUARTET

OH MY CITY OF DREAMS  
CITY OF WALTZES  
TENDER AND SLOW...

*Klimt reads to paper:*

KLIMT

It is the Emperor's sad duty to announce that on January 30<sup>th</sup>, our beloved Crown Prince passed away due to a self-inflicted gun-shot wound. The Church concludes there were numerous structural abnormalities in his head at the time of death, proving the Crown Prince was mentally ill and was therefore not a suicide.

*TO: Franz Josef sees Elizabeth, dazed, smiling slightly, lost in her own world (her line, however, comes directly in response to Klimt's previous one.) Music from the Christmas scene.*

ELIZABETH

He was not sick.

FRANZ JOSEF

You must come, Cissy.

ELIZABETH

You made them say he was sick, but he was not.

FRANZ JOSEF

*(Very stern)* Cissy. You must be seen at the funeral.

ELIZABETH

He was not sick -

HE WAS MY BABY  
AND HE WAS PERFECT  
A GIFT FROM GOD

*He takes her hand. Leads her, as he would a child.*

*On the other side of the stage: The pallbearers knock on the door of the Hapsburg Holy Crypt.*

VIENNESE 1

Who knocks on the gate of the Holy Hapsburg Crypt?

FRANZ JOSEF

It is Crown Prince Rudolf, Heir to the sacred crown of Austria-Hungary.

*Silence. The door to the crypt does not open.*

*The pallbearers knock again.*

VIENNESE 1

Who knocks on the gate of the Holy Hapsburg Crypt?

FRANZ JOSEF

A miserable sinner in the eyes of god.

*Rudolf's body proceeds...*

*TO: Mary becomes frozen and is placed into a carriage by the two spies. "City of Dreams" plays underneath - merry, not mournful at all.*

*The spies arrange Mary's clothes and boa to make her look more alive. Her body falls at first - she is sitting between them - but neither wants to touch the body. They push her corpse this way and that.*

SPY 1

Here, get her.

SPY 2

She's slipping.

*She is now straight up, bouncing slightly with the rhythm of the carriage.*

SPY 1

So where are we taking her?

SPY 2

Somewhere obscure.

SPY 1

Filthy business.

*Spy 1 whistles City of Dreams.*

SPY 2

So. Things aren't so good in Vienna these days.

SPY 1

Why do you say?

SPY 2  
I don't know. Lately I've been depressed.

SPY 1  
Really?

SPY 2  
Yeah. I don't know why.

*They ride.*

SPY 1  
Would it have been so hard to wait until morning?

SPY 2  
Orders are orders. Whole thing makes me sick.

SPY 1  
DEAR OLD CITY OF DREAMS  
SWEETER A PLACE I NEVER WILL KNOW...

SPY 2  
Yeah right.

SPY 1  
WOMEN, SONG, AND WINE  
ALL TOO DIVINE TOO FORGO...

BOTH SPIES  
THOUGH THE WORLD RACES PAST  
THOUGH IT GROWS FAST AND NEW  
I WILL STAY FOREVER  
DANCING THERE IN -

SPY 2  
Stop!

*Music stops.*

We're here.

SPY 1  
Where?

SPY 2  
Exactly.

SPY 1  
That song's no fun anymore.

SPY 2  
It's cold. Digging's going to be hard. She was beautiful, you know.

SPY 1

Yes. Like Vienna.

*They look at her.*

SPY 2

Yes... Exactly like Vienna.

*TO: Larisch alone, but also able to commune with Mary,  
watching her, frozen.*

(THE END COMES SOFTLY)

LARISCH

THE CITY WEEPS FOR THE PRINCE  
CRIES FOR THE PRINCE  
FOR HIM THE WORLD STOPS  
BUT FOR YOU...

THE END COMES SOFTLY  
UNLIKE EVERYTHING YOU PLANNED BEFORE  
NO SECRET VOWS, NO CIVIL WAR  
ONE DAY YOU DISAPPEAR

SOFT AND SILENT  
I'M GLAD YOU DIDN'T TELL ME WHY  
GLAD YOU DIDN'T SAY GOODBYE  
I WOULDN'T WANT TO HEAR

ENDINGS DON'T FALL FROM THE SKIES  
THEY'RE WITH YOU AT THE START  
BUT I MISSED EVERY CLUE  
I THOUGHT *I* GUIDED *YOU*  
WHILE YOU WERE RACING PAST  
YOU ALWAYS RAN SO FAST...

THE END RINGS HOLLOW  
WHAT TREASURES DID YOU SEE IN STORE  
YOU COULD HAVE GOTTEN SO MUCH MORE  
BUT NOW THE REST IS CLEAR:  
THE WORLD GOES ON, AS IS ITS WAY  
AND OTHER GIRLS WILL HAVE YOUR DREAMS  
DREAMS YOU NEVER LEARNED TO LET GO  
DREAMS YOU'LL NEVER LIVE TO OUTGROW

SCENE 7

*A street in Vienna. Snow is falling. Freud stands, all bundled up. A man comes up behind him.*

KLIMT

Sigmund!

FREUD

Gus. How are you?

KLIMT

I was looking for you at the funeral all day. You missed quite a show. Black velvet around the Hofburg, black roses. Lines of fawning schoolgirls. Where were you?

FREUD

*(Very troubled)* I've been trying to finish my paper on him. I can't seem to get- there's an answer and I can't seem to get it. I can't stop thinking about him.

KLIMT

Sigmund they won't let you publish it.

FREUD

I don't care.

KLIMT

We're not even supposed to be talking about him. Emperor's orders.

FREUD

Society portraiture not enough, you need to become one of the Emperor's censors too?

KLIMT

He was a coward and an idiot, and if he ever was a hero of mine he is no longer. *That's* the truth. And it's fine by me if we don't talk about him - killed the girl too.

FREUD

It was a mutual suicide pact.

KLIMT

How do you know?

FREUD

I know! I know him!

KLIMT

No you don't!

FREUD

I do!

KLIMT

Then why did he do it? We needed him.

FREUD

I don't know! But it's in his whole family. They're all as sick as he was.

KLIMT

You don't know what you're saying.

FREUD

Sick in the head. Neurasthenic.

KLIMT

Neuras - what does that mean?

FREUD

It means they're sick in the head and we don't know why.

KLIMT

Don't make excuses for him. He was a ridiculous dreamer. And we were too. Well I refuse to be a fool for his sake anymore. Society portraiture pays the bills -

FREUD

You're better than that.

KLIMT

So was Rudolf. Didn't help him.

FREUD

You must paint new things.

KLIMT

*(Interrupting)* We lost Sigmund. He let us all down. I say good riddance that man -

FREUD

Not "that man"! Rudolf! Say his name.

KLIMT

No.

FREUD

Gus -

KLIMT

No. They won. Because he quit. And now what? Society portraits for me and unpublished papers for you. Forever. He left us a pretty dark world.

*Beat.*

Goodbye Sigmund.

*He goes to leave. Freud's words stop him.*

(ALL THE SAME DREAMS)

FREUD

THERE IS NO DARK SO DARK  
IF THE TRUTH IS SPOKEN  
TRUTH WILL NOT EASE THE PAIN  
BUT IT FREES YOUR HEART TO GRIEVE  
TO HEAL WHAT'S BROKEN

AND THOUGH THE GRIEF IS VAST  
THE GRIEF HE CAUSED US  
WE CANNOT HIDE HIM OUT OF SHAME  
THERE IS NO DARK WE CANNOT BEAR  
ONCE DARKNESS HAS A NAME

*The ghost of Rudolf appears. Freud sings to him.*

AND MAYBE THE SUM OF HIS LIFE  
COMES TO NOTHING BUT DREAMS  
BUT DREAMS ARE ALL WE HAVE  
TO GIVE SHAPE TO THE FUTURE

AND THOUGH HE RAN FROM THEM - AND US  
AND SHOULD HAVE BEEN STRONGER  
THE LIVING CANNOT RUN  
NOT ANY LONGER

*He turns back to Klimt:*

FOR SOMETHING DARK AND NEW  
MUST NOW BE SPOKEN  
MUST NOW BE PAINTED  
AND BE KNOWN  
TRUTH HAS A VENGEANCE  
WHEN IT IS HIDDEN  
AS HE HAS SHOWN  
LET TRUTH BE HEARD  
THERE IS NO DARK  
EXCEPT OUR OWN

FRANZ JOSEF

It is my solemn duty to announce a suitable heir has been found: the Archduke Franz Ferdinand. It is also hereby made law that Crown Prince Rudolf's name be stricken from the public record and - under penalty of prison - is never be mentioned in print or speech again.

FREUD

WHAT HE DID WAS WRONG  
AND WEAK  
BUT NOT UNSPEAKABLE  
AND NOT UNIQUE



*The ensemble joins Freud and Klimt. Only Franz Josef doesn't sing.*

FREUD/KLIMT/ALL  
FOR ALL OF US  
LIVE WITH ALL THE SAME DREAMS

HALF ENSEMBLE  
DREAMS WE CANNOT CHOOSE  
BOTH OF LIGHT AND OF DARKNESS  
OF LOVE AND FEAR

HALF ENSEMBLE  
AND IF WE RUN FROM THEM  
THEY ONLY GROW STRONGER  
WE MUST NOT LOOK AWAY  
NOT ANY LONGER

HALF ENSEMBLE  
WE MUST FACE THEM  
SAY THEIR NAMES  
NO STAYING SILENT  
OR FEARFUL  
NOT ANY LONGER

ALL  
FOR SOMETHING DARK AND NEW  
MUST NOW BE SPOKEN  
IF IT IS EVER TO BE KNOWN  
AND THERE IS BEAUTY  
AND FREEDOM  
WHEN TRUTH IS SHOWN  
  
THE TIME IS NOW  
FOR NOW THE WORLD ITSELF IS NEW  
WE MUST BE STRONG  
THERE IS WORK TO DO

RUDOLF  
ALL THE DREAMS I DREAMED  
I RAN AWAY...

RUDOLF  
BUT OTHERS WILL NOT RUN  
OTHERS WILL BE STRONGER

RUDOLF  
SOMETHING NEW  
MUST BE HEARD AND KNOWN

A WORLD NOW SET FREE...

THE TIME ITSELF IS NEW...  
  
BE STRONG  
THERE IS WORK TO DO

EPILOGUE

FREUD

*(To the audience)* ... and though Rudolf's official existence was indeed erased, the Vienna we all lived in was the one he created.

KLIMT

And what we thought had gone terribly wrong in Vienna, was soon to go wrong in all Europe, and then the world, in 1914. And those of us who painted or composed or created out of this sense that Progress had failed us - that the modern age had left us behind - soon found we were the modern age.

FREUD

A dark but rich future started that year, which made Vienna - as Rudolf might have wished - truly the most modern city of all.

*Rudolf and Mary are alone, dancing.*

VIENNESE WOMAN

I WILL STAY FOREVER  
DANCING THERE IN YOU...

*Lights slowly fade to black as Rudolf and Mary waltz together.*

*End of show.*