

***CUPID
AND PSYCHE***

**book & lyrics by
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**music by
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Cast of Characters:

VENUS, Goddess of Love and Beauty – A glamorous, funny, charismatic goddess, in her forties, not yet reconciled to being a middle-aged mom.

CUPID, God of Love & Venus's son – A teenaged heartthrob with a rebel streak.

MERCURY, Messenger of the Gods - Cupid's best friend, a kook with a heart of gold (also plays SUITORS, A DOVE, PAN, CERBERUS, CHARON, PROSERPINA and a ZOMBIE)

PSYCHE, Princess of Illyria – A feisty young mortal still a little uncomfortable with her own beauty.

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A unit set (columns, benches, etc.) is used to suggest various locations but does not represent any one in particular

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Songs:

"SPREAD A LITTLE LOVE"	All
"ONE LITTLE ARROW"	Cupid & Mercury
"DON'T MESS WITH A GODDESS"	Venus
"DON'T TALK ABOUT LOVE"	Psyche
"THE ORACLE"	Cupid & Mercury
"I WANT TO SEE HER SMILE"	Cupid
"ENOUGH!"	Venus & Cupid
"TRUST ME"	Cupid & Psyche
"I HATE LOVE"	Mercury
"ALMOST READY FOR LOVE" (reprise)	Psyche
"DON'T MESS WITH A GODDESS" (reprise)	Venus
"I WANT TO SEE HER SMILE" (reprise)	Psyche
"HISTORY"	Cupid, Psyche & All
"MAGIC TIME"	Pan/Mercury & Psyche
"ENOUGH!" (reprise)	Venus & Cupid
"IMPROVISE"	Venus
"MY EYES ARE OPEN NOW"	Cupid & Mercury
"WHERE ARE YOU LEADING ME?"	All
"HADES SEQUENCE"	Mercury
"MY EYES ARE OPEN NOW"(reprise)	Cupid & Psyche
"FINALE"	All

(The setting is a contemporary version of a classical Roman temple: a few benches, pillars and perhaps a bust or two. At rise the stage is empty, but then with a flash of color and smoke, the goddess Venus appears and addresses the audience.)

(SONG: SPREAD A LITTLE LOVE)

VENUS

HEAR LITTLE DEAR LITTLE MORTALS
GATHERED IN THIS PLACE
HEAR LITTLE DEAR LITTLE MORTALS,
LOOK INTO MY FACE,
MERE LITTLE DEAR LITTLE MORTALS,
HAVE YOU SEEN SUCH GRACE?
SUCH AN EYE? SUCH A DRESS?
WHO AM I? CAN'T YOU GUESS?
I'M VENUS!

You remember me, the goddess of Love and Beauty. Don't get up.

I HAVE TRAVELED TO YOU FROM OLYMPUS
WITH ALL OF MY GREATEST SPEED
TO BLESS YOU WITH BEAUTY, GRACE AND LOVE
WHICH YOU CLEARLY, DEARLY NEED.
I HAVE HEARD THAT YOUR COUNTRY IS HEARTLESS,
SO I'VE COME WITH MY WILES AND CHARMS
TO SET YOU FREE, AND AS YOU SEE,
I DO HAVE BOTH MY ARMS!

EVERYWHERE I GO, I SPREAD A LITTLE LOVE AND BEAUTY
I CONSIDER IT MY DUTY TO THE WORLD BELOW.
YES, I'M HERE TONIGHT,
TO SHARE MY SHEER DELIGHT IN BEING ME,
AND TO SPREAD A LITTLE LOVE AND BEAUTY AS I GO.

Yes, (name of community), it's me. Here. Live. In your humble little community. I've come to tell you a story that will change your lives. Well, all right, it may not change your lives. But it changed mine, and that's what's important, isn't it? And I haven't come alone. I've brought my son, Cupid ...

(CUPID, a handsome and rebellious young god, enters, followed by MERCURY, a slightly goofy young god.)

Isn't he handsome? I was only a child myself when I had him.

CUPID

Yeah, right.

VENUS

Well, I was.

(MERCURY clears his throat to be noticed.)

And my nephew, Mercury.

(MERCURY smiles and waves.)

I forget what you're god of. Thermometers?

MERCURY

I am the Messenger of the Gods. I was chosen for this important position because of my extreme swiftness. Would you like to see a demonstration?

(HE starts to do something very fast.)

VENUS

That won't be necessary.

(to the audience)

He doesn't have a very big part in the play, so we're letting him play all the little parts, too.

MERCURY

There are no small parts ...

CUPID

Just small gods.

VENUS

I could have brought more of the gods, but I thought: why bother? I mean, they do have their uses ...

APOLLO CAN GIVE YOU A SUNTAN,

DIANA CAN HELP YOU HUNT.

JOVE CAN THROW YOU A THUNDERBOLT,

IF YOU LIKE THAT KIND OF STUNT.

DIONYSIS IS ALWAYS IN CRISIS,

AND ISIS IS TWICE AS BAD

BUT I'M THE ONE

WHO'S FIRST IN FUN

AND SECOND TO NONE UNCLAD.

CUPID & MERCURY

EVERYWHERE SHE GOES

SHE SHEDS A LITTLE LOVE AND BEAUTY.

SHE CONSIDERS IT HER DUTY TO THE WORLD BELOW.

VENUS

YES I WANT YOU ALL TO SEE

HOW VERY LOVELY LIFE CAN BE

(PSYCHE enters, unseen by VENUS, and joins in singing.)

ALL 4

WHEN WE SPREAD A LITTLE LOVE AROUND US AS WE GO.

VENUS

Psyche! What are you doing here?

PSYCHE

Well, the show is called CUPID AND PSYCHE, isn't it?

VENUS

Is it? I thought it was called VENUS. Or HELLO, VENUS!

CUPID

It's not.

MERCURY

Or ON A CLEAR DAY, YOU CAN SEE VENUS.

VENUS

How about A LITTLE NIGHT VENUS?

MERCURY

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS VENUS.

VENUS

SUNDAY IN THE PARK WITH VENUS

MERCURY

ONE FLEW OVER THE VENUS

VENUS

FIDDLER ON THE VENUS.

CUPID

It's called CUPID AND PSYCHE. Here, look at the program.

(HE takes a program from the hand of an audience member and shows it to her.)

Now, can we get back to the subject?

VENUS

Which is?

CUPID

Love.

VENUS

What about it?

MERCURY

I think we were saying that

LOVE IS A WONDERFUL FEELING.
IT'S ALMOST AS GOOD AS SEX.

CUPID
SOME PEOPLE LOVE THEIR SONS TOO MUCH.

MERCURY
JUST THINK ABOUT OEDIPUS REX.

CUPID
No thanks.

PSYCHE
SOME PEOPLE LOVE NOT WISELY,
SOME PEOPLE LOVE TOO WELL,
BUT WHEN YOU LOVE ENOUGH,
IF THINGS GET TOUGH
YOU'RE WILLING TO GO THROUGH HADES.

ALL
EVERYWHERE WE GO WE SPREAD A LITTLE LOVE AND BEAUTY
WE CONSIDER IT OUR DUTY TO THE WORLD BELOW
AND WE THINK THE TIME IS RIGHT
FOR SOME MYTHOLOGY TONIGHT
AND TO SPREAD A LITTLE LOVE AND BEAUTY
AS WE GO!

VENUS
And now to our story. I suppose it really all began when I
gave Cupid his arrows of love.
(SHE gives him a magical bow and arrows. PSYCHE
exits.)
Athena warned me against it. She said he wasn't old enough.

MERCURY
(as ATHENA)
You should never mix family and business.

VENUS
Why are you talking like that?

MERCURY
I'm Athena. Remember - small parts?

VENUS
Oh, right. Say it again.

MERCURY
(impatiently?)

You should never mix family with business.

VENUS

But I'm so overwhelmed. You have no idea what an exhausting department Love is.

MERCURY

Actually, being the goddess of Wisdom, I already knew that.

VENUS

And Beauty is even worse ...

MERCURY

I knew that too.

VENUS

The demands are insane.

MERCURY

I know.

VENUS

You're getting on my nerves.

MERCURY

Saw that coming a mile away.

VENUS

Shut up!

(MERCURY/ATHENA huffs away.)

Anyway, I made Cupid my assistant. And he was very good at first. He only shot the people I told him to shoot. But then, after awhile, well, you'll see ...

(SHE turns to CUPID.)

Cupid, darling, I need you.

CUPID

We're in kind of a rush. We're going to the freshman bacchanalia.

VENUS

I need you NOW.

MERCURY

Here we go again.

CUPID

Just chill, okay.

MERCURY

Okay, but if we miss the centaur races ...

CUPID

We won't.

(MERCURY sits on the side, annoyed. CUPID goes to VENUS.)

What's up? If it's about that Medea thing, I swear I thought the kids were with Jason.

VENUS

It's not about that. For once, I don't care what you do with your arrows. In fact, the more damage you do, the better.

CUPID

Cool. Any particular target?

VENUS

Yes. A creature called Psyche.

CUPID

The Illyrian princess? She's supposed to be hot.

VENUS

She's a tramp and I want her punished. Make her fall in love with the most loathsome creature you can find. Maybe a Cyclops.

CUPID

No problem.

VENUS

And don't stop there. Make them all suffer - the entire kingdom of Illyria.

CUPID

Why? What did they do?

VENUS

I've just come from there. It's my festival day, you know ...

CUPID

Oh, yeah, I had a card for you but I forgot to mail it.

VENUS

It's the thought that counts.

(to the audience)

I love my festivals. People flock to my temples with garlands of flowers and little gifts, asking me to bless them with love and beauty. At least they usually do. But this year ... I went to Crete and what did I find? Two mangy

goats and a bunch of wilted daisies. Thebes was even worse: some "Happy Festival Day" cards and a bag of nuts. Then I thought: Illyria. They love me in Illyria. They built a brand-new temple for me. I'll go there! And when I got there, there were crowds in the streets, and they *did* have flowers in their hands, but they weren't for me. They were for some human princess called Psyche. Can you believe they had the nerve to call her the New Venus?

CUPID

Face it, mom, you're not sweet sixteen anymore.

VENUS

I'm as beautiful as ever. You see me as a mother, but other men see me as a vision of loveliness ...

CUPID

Whatever.

VENUS

Just yesterday, a boat full of Phoenician sailors ...

CUPID

Mom, spare me your love life, okay?

VENUS

I don't understand you anymore. You used to be my little confidante ...

CUPID

Yeah, you'd be telling me all about your love affairs, while Dad was sitting in the next room.

VENUS

Your father was never in the next room. He was always in his workshop making thunderbolts for Jove.

CUPID

It's his job, Mom.

VENUS

Gods don't have jobs.

CUPID

Tell Uncle Jove that.

VENUS

You always take his side.

CUPID

I'm not taking any side, Mom. Look, you want me to do this Psyche chick, right?

VENUS

Not just her ...

CUPID

I know, the whole country. Sounds like a twenty-four/seven to me. Mind if I take Mercury with me?

VENUS

Just get it done, darling.

CUPID

(to MERCURY)

Come on.

(THEY exit.)

VENUS

(to the audience.)

I'm not a vengeful goddess. I'm really a pussy cat. But right is right, and wrong is wrong. I'm right and they're wrong.

(SONG: DON'T MESS WITH A GODDESS)

TREAT ME NICE, I'LL TREAT YOU NICE IN RETURN
BUT DO ME WRONG AND YOU WILL SWIFTLY LEARN ...

WHEN I WANT A DATE, FETCH ME A DATE
I DON'T WANT A FIG AND I DON'T WANT TO WAIT
DO WHAT I SAY AND WE'LL GET ALONG GREAT
BUT DON'T MESS
WITH A GODDESS

WHEN I WANT WINE, POUR ME WINE
I DON'T WANT RHONE IF I ASK FOR RHINE
DO WHAT I SAY AND WE'LL GET ALONG FINE
BUT DON'T MESS WITH A GODDESS

GODDESSES DON'T LIKE COMPETITION
THE HUMAN RACE
SHOULD KNOW ITS PLACE
GODDESSES DON'T LIKE OPPOSITION AT ALL

GODDESSES THRIVE ON MEEK SUBMISSION
DEVOTEES
ON THEIR KNEES
IF YOU WANT TO PLEASE A GODDESS,
CRAWL!

I CAN BE SWEET AS SUGAR WHEN THINGS GO MY WAY

I CAN BE SOFT AND SILKY WHEN I'M IN THE MOOD TO
PLAY
BUT WHEN I'M IN THE MOOD FOR VENGEANCE
SOMEBODY'S GONNA PAY
CAUSE YOU DON'T MESS
WITH A GODDESS
AS PSYCHE SOON WILL SEE
AND NOBODY MESSES WITH ME

Even a pussycat has claws.

(SHE exits as CUPID and MERCURY enter.)

CUPID

So, we got to Illyria, with a mega arsenal of Love arrows.
They never knew what hit them. It was great. Young hotties
chasing old geezers, nobles chasing slaves ... the country was
in chaos! Hey, Mercury, look at this!

(SONG: ONE LITTLE ARROW)

DADDY'S LITTLE GIRL
NOSE IN THE AIR
GOLD ON HER FINGERS
DIAMONDS IN HER HAIR
WATCH ME TAKE THAT
BLUE BLOODED SNOB
MAKE HER FALL FOR A SLOB
WITH A BLUE COLLAR JOB

JUST ONE LITTLE ARROW
SHOOT STRAIGHT
SHOOT SMART
ALL IT TAKES IS ONE LITTLE ARROW IN THE HEART

MERCURY

You are evil. I like it.

THIS IS REALLY COOL
THIS IS GONNA ROCK
YOU CAN MAKE A FOOL
OUT OF SOME DUMB JOCK
SWINGING HIS BAT
PLAYING WITH HIS BALLS
TIL YOU LET FLY
AND THE BIG GUY FALLS

JUST ONE LITTLE ARROW
SHOOT STRAIGHT
SHOOT SMART
ALL IT TAKES IS ONE LITTLE ARROW IN THE HEART

JUST ONE LITTLE ARROW
SHOOT STRAIGHT
SHOOT SMART
ALL IT TAKES IS ONE LITTLE ARROW IN THE HEART

HIDE NEEDS SEEK CUPID
PUSH NEEDS PULL MERCURY
THE MIGHTY NEED THE MEEK CUPID
AND EUROPA NEEDS A BULL MERCURY
STALLION NEEDS A MARE CUPID
VIXEN NEEDS A FOX MERCURY
GEESE NEED GANDERS MERCURY & CUPID
AND HENS NEED COCKS

JUST ONE LITTLE ARROW
SHOOT STRAIGHT
SHOOT SMART
ALL IT TAKES IS ONE LITTLE ARROW IN THE HEART

By Jove. I think he's got it! CUPID
A COW WANTS A BULL ... MERCURY
SO I FIX HER WITH A RAM CUPID
THE LION LAYS DOWN MERCURY
WITH AN ITTY BITTY LAMB CUPID
DOESN'T MATTER WHY MERCURY
DOESN'T MATTER WHO CUPID
THE CAT GETS A RAT MERCURY & CUPID
AND THE SHEPHERD GETS A EWE

JUST ONE LITTLE ARROW
SHOOT STRAIGHT
SHOOT SMART
ALL IT TAKES IS ONE LITTLE ARROW IN THE HEART
HEART
ONE FUNKY BUT FUN LITTLE ARROW
ONE READY TO STUN LITTLE ARROW
ONE HIT 'EM ON THE RUN LITTLE ARROW
SHOOT STRAIGHT
SHOOT SMART
ALL IT TAKES IS ONE LITTLE ARROW IN THE
ONE TOTAL PENETRATION LITTLE ARROW
ONE EMOTION AGITATION LITTLE ARROW
ONE LIBIDO LIBERATION LITTLE ARROW
SHOOT STRAIGHT,
SHOOT SMART,
ALL IT TAKES IS ONE LITTLE ARROW IN THE HEART

(PSYCHE enters. A romantic arpeggio is heard.)

MERCURY

Who's that?

CUPID

That must be Psyche.

MERCURY

How can you tell?

CUPID

Don't you hear those crowds, calling her name?

MERCURY

No.

(CUPID indicates for MERCURY to become the crowd.)

Oh, right.

(using different voices to indicate a crowd)

Psyche! Psyche! Psyche!

PSYCHE

Oh, not again.

MERCURY

Psyche, you're a goddess!

(another voice)

You're the New Venus!

(another voice)

She's hotter than Venus!

PSYCHE

Stop that! You're going to get me in trouble.

MERCURY

We love you, Psyche.

PSYCHE

Guys, we talked about this yesterday, remember? I'm not interested in love. Can't we talk about something else, just for once?

MERCURY

Like what?

PSYCHE

WE CAN TALK ABOUT WAR.
WE CAN TALK ABOUT PEACE.
WE CAN TALK ABOUT WHICH IS BETTER,
ROME OR GREECE?
WE CAN TALK ABOUT THE HEMLINES ON
THE TOGAS OF
THE BRAND NEW FALL COLLECTION,
OR THE THEBAN INSURRECTION.
WE CAN TALK ABOUT BIRDS AND BEES,
CHESS OR CHEESE,
BUT ON MY KNEES,
DON'T TALK ABOUT LOVE.

WE CAN TALK ABOUT ART.
I LOVE TO PAINT!
WE CAN TALK ABOUT WHY DO MICE MAKE SOME GIRLS
FAINT?

I think they're cute.

WE CAN TALK ABOUT FOOLISH FADS
OR DEMANDING DADS,
WE CAN TALK ABOUT THE PROPER WAY TO STRING A LYRE
OR WHY DID DIDO LIGHT THAT FIRE?
OR HISTORY'S MYSTERIES,
BUT ON MY KNEES,
DON'T TALK ABOUT LOVE.

MERCURY

Why not?

PSYCHE

WHEN PEOPLE FALL IN LOVE, THEY ACT SO ODDLY,
THE CHOICES THAT THEY MAKE ARE SO DRAMATIC.
NOW, MAYBE I'M NEUROTIC,
BUT IT SEEMS THAT THE EROTIC
TENDS TO MAKE A PERSON TOTALLY ERRATIC.

MERCURY

But we love you!

PSYCHE

YOU SAY YOU LOVE MY EYES
AND WANT TO STROKE MY HAIR.
BUT WHEN I ANALYZE MY FEELINGS,
I DON'T CARE.

Sorry.

I MEAN I FIND IT ALL EMBARRASSING
AND SCARY, TOO.
AND YES, I GUESS IT'S POSSIBLE
I'LL CHANGE MY MIND
SOME YEAR AND FIND
I'M SWEEPED AWAY,
BUT TIL THAT DAY ...

*I'LL WAKE AND FIND
I'VE CHANGED MY MIND
AND WANT TO PLAY ...
BUT TIL THAT DAY,*

WE CAN TALK ABOUT SPORTS.
THAT'S A REALLY GOOD PLAN.
I'M A REALLY BIG GRECO-ROMAN
WRESTLING FAN.
WE CAN TALK ABOUT PLATO'S BOOKS
OR MEDUSA'S LOOKS,
WE CAN TALK ABOUT SANDAL BLISTERS
OR SPITEFUL SISTERS
OR TRADE WITH THE PHOENICIANS
OR THAT FORMULA FOR GRECIANS
OR MY MOTHER'S BUN, OR NONE OF THE ABOVE,
BUT PLEASE DON'T TALK ABOUT----
LOVE-----
DON'T TALK ABOUT ...

MERCURY

(in different voice)

Psyche, we love you! We love you! We love you!

PSYCHE

I'm so glad we had this chat.
(SHE exits.)

MERCURY

You let her get away.

CUPID

What?

MERCURY
(pointing into the audience)
Quick -- here's a Cyclops. If we hurry, we can still make it
back in time for the faun toss.

CUPID
Did you see her?

MERCURY
Yeah.

CUPID
The girl is awesome.

MERCURY
Your mom always picks the cute ones.

CUPID
She's more than cute. She's smart. And she likes wrestling.

MERCURY
Yeah, well, you might as well get it over with.

CUPID
Wait a minute. There's no rush, right? I mean, I didn't
promise Mom *when* I'd give her to the Cyclops.

MERCURY
Meaning ... ?

CUPID
Why don't I take her to my place for a week or two first?

MERCURY
Take her to your place, as in ... take her to your place?

CUPID
Yeah.

MERCURY
You can't do that.

CUPID
Why not?

MERCURY
She's a human.

CUPID

So?

MERCURY

You know the rules. No humans. Apollo got in big trouble with that tree girl ...

CUPID

Jove does it all the time.

MERCURY

Yeah, well, he's Jove and you're not.

CUPID

Come on, who's gonna find out?

MERCURY

She will. And then she'll tell her friends and they'll tell their friends and ...

CUPID

So, I won't tell her I'm a god.

MERCURY

Dude, everyone knows what you look like. There's a bust of you at every chariot stop.

CUPID

All right, so I wear a disguise. Come on ...

MERCURY

Where're we going?

CUPID

Where's the place where they keep the oracles?

MERCURY

Delphi?

CUPID

Yeah, let's go to Delphi.

MERCURY

But why?

CUPID

I'll explain when we get there.

(to the audience)

Okay, so are you following so far? The whole kingdom is going nuts. They're all in love but they're all miserable and they don't know what to do.

(slowly, explaining it to MERCURY, as well.)

So they go to Delphi, to get advice from the oracle. Presto change-oh, one oracle coming up!

(HE puts a turban on.)

MERCURY

You'll never get away with it.

CUPID

Hades I won't.

MERCURY

You don't even look like an Oracle.

CUPID

These rubes are from Illyria. What do they know about oracles? Announce me.

(MERCURY grabs a large gong and bangs it)

MERCURY

Ladies and gentlemen, give it up for the guy with the eye, the man with the plan, the oracle with moracle ... Mr. Delphi!

(CUPID enters, impersonating an Oracle, perhaps with an Indian accent.)

CUPID

People of Illyria, I know why you have come to me. I know that Cupid, that coolest of all the young gods ...

MERCURY

Except maybe his even cooler friend, Mercury ...

CUPID

... has been punishing you with his arrows of Love. I also know *why* he has been punishing you. This year, on the Festival of Venus, you neglected to pay tribute to the Goddess of Love.

MERCURY

BIG mistake.

CUPID

But there is one among you more guilty than the rest ... what is her name again?

MERCURY

(pretending to look on his clipboard)

Uh ... Psycho.

CUPID

Yes. Princess Psycho. Let her stand forward.

MERCURY

Paging Princess Psycho!
(PSYCHE enters.)

PSYCHE

It's PsychE.

MERCURY

It looks like an o, but I guess it *could* be an e.

CUPID

So. You're the one who started all this.

PSYCHE

Me? What did I do?

CUPID

The people of Illyria called you "the New Venus."

PSYCHE

I told them not to.

CUPID

Venus is a very touchy goddess.

MERCURY

Trust him on this.

PSYCHE

I can't help what they call me. I wish they'd all just leave me alone.

CUPID

What do you think about wings?

PSYCHE

Excuse me?

CUPID

Wings are kind of sexy, don't you think?

MERCURY

Can we please stick to the subject? We're talking about the wrath of Venus.

CUPID

Oh, yeah, well if you want to save your city from the wrath of Venus, you're gonna have to pay the price.

PSYCHE

I don't have much money.

MERCURY

It's not that kind of price. It's like a sacrifice.

PSYCHE

Sacrifice? You mean like a goat or a sheep?

MERCURY

No, more like a human thing.

PSYCHE

Human?

CUPID

Don't pay any attention to him. He's not an oracle. Does he have a turban? He doesn't know anything.

PSYCHE

But he said ...

(CUPID takes her hand. There is a moment of chemistry between them.)

CUPID

Don't be scared.

PSYCHE

Okay. I guess I'm a little nervous. I've never met an oracle before.

CUPID

So what do you think?

PSYCHE

You're younger than I thought you'd be.

CUPID

Yeah?

PSYCHE

Tell me, do you always wear that turban?

CUPID

Do I ...?

(MERCURY clears his throat significantly.)
What? Oh, yes, of course I do. We oracles always wear
turbans. Now where was I?

MERCURY
You were going to prophesy, oh oracular one.

CUPID
Oh, yeah, that's right. People of Illyria, hear the word of
the goddess and despair:

(SONG: THE ORACLE)

ON THE PEAK OF MOUNT ELAC
ABANDON PSYCHE, DRESSED IN BLACK
THERE TO MEET HER DESTINED FATE
A MONSTER FOR HER MATE

PSYCHE
A monster!

CUPID
HE WHO'LL BE HER DESTINY
FLIES ABOUT WITH WICKED GLEE,
SPREADING CHAOS FAR AND NEAR.
JOVE HIMSELF DOTH FEAR.

SHE MUST BE UNITED WITH THIS
SCOURGE OF LAND AND SEA.
ONLY THEN REQUITED
WILL THE VENGEFUL GODDESS BE.

MERCURY & CUPID
SHE MUST BE UNITED
WITH THIS SCOURGE OF LAND AND SEA
ONLY THEN REQUITED
WILL THE VENGEFUL GODDESS BE.

SHE WILL NOT BE REQUITED,
TIL PSYCHE HAS BEEN SPITED.

MERCURY
SHE WANTS TO REALLY WRECK YOUR LIFE
AND THEN SHE'LL BE DELIGHTED.

CUPID
SHE'S FOUND A FIERCE AND FLYING MATE FOR YOU.

MERCURY
I FEAR IT'S NOT A PLEASANT FATE FOR YOU.

IT'S TERRIBLE ... CUPID

UNBEARABLE ... MERCURY

IT'S REALLY NOT ... CUPID

REPAIRABLE. MERCURY

BOTH
YOU CAN'T RESIST NOW,
SHE IS PISSED NOW ...

PSYCHE
(interrupting them)
Wait! Are you telling me I have to marry some flying monster
just because they called me the New Venus?

MERCURY
Uh ... I don't think we used the word "marry."

PSYCHE
But I don't want to ... mate with anyone. I haven't finished
my research yet.
(to CUPID)
Can't you help me out?

CUPID
Me?

PSYCHE
You've got an "in" with the gods, right? Can't you go to
Venus and tell her it's not my fault ... maybe she'll change
her mind.

MERCURY
Yeah, that's gonna happen.

CUPID
Look, don't worry. It'll be okay.

PSYCHE
How can you say that? My life is over. It didn't even start
yet.

CUPID
I'm telling you it'll be okay.

PSYCHE

How can you know that?

CUPID

I'm an oracle, aren't I? Trust me.

(A funeral march plays as SHE walks.)

So the whole kingdom walks her up to the top of Mount Elac and leaves her there to meet her fate, which isn't a monster at all, just a helpful little wind which lifts her up and carries her through the air ...

(PSYCHE is blown around the stage by a helpful little wind, played by MERCURY.)

... and sets her down at the foot of a beautiful palace.

(MERCURY "reports in" to CUPID. PSYCHE explores her surroundings, frightened.)

MERCURY

All right, now what do we do? More turbans?

CUPID

No, I've got a better plan. We're gonna be invisible.

MERCURY

We can do that?

CUPID

We're gods, aren't we? Come on ...

MERCURY & CUPID

(simultaneously)

One, two, three ... Invisible!

(THEY tiptoe over to PSYCHE and briefly enjoy being invisible, putting their hands in front of her face, etc. SHE hears them giggling.)

PSYCHE

Who's there?

CUPID

Oh, hi. Uh ... welcome to my palace.

PSYCHE

Who are you?

CUPID

I'm ... the guy who lives here.

PSYCHE

Do you have a name?

CUPID

Uh ... yeah ... but I can't tell it to you.

PSYCHE

Why not?

CUPID

Just can't. Sorry.

PSYCHE

Why can't I see you?

CUPID

Cause I'm invisible. Pretty cool, huh? So, what do you think of the palace?

PSYCHE

It's ... big.

CUPID

How was your trip down the mountain? Okay?

PSYCHE

Actually, I feel a little sick. Are you the monster they told me about?

CUPID

I'm not a monster.

PSYCHE

Are you ... human?

CUPID

Look, I can't tell you anything about myself. And you can't ask. Sorry. Can I get you something? Wine?

PSYCHE

Water might be better.

CUPID

Oh, sure. Go get her a glass of water.

MERCURY

Me?

PSYCHE

Is there someone else there?

CUPID

Yeah, it's my ... my butler.

MERCURY

Your *butler*?

CUPID

Yeah ... my butler, Jeevacles. Say hello Jeevacles.

MERCURY

Jeevacles? That's my name?

CUPID

I know that, Jeevacles, now stop fooling around and get her a glass of water.

MERCURY

Like I know where the water is?

CUPID

Like it's in the kitchen of course.

MERCURY

Which is ... ?

CUPID

That big room at the end of the hall. Go on, get moving.

MERCURY

Yes, *Master*.

(MERCURY exits.)

PSYCHE

He didn't know where the kitchen was?

CUPID

He's new. Just started today. I'll probably fire him tomorrow. So, how do you feel?

PSYCHE

Fine.

CUPID

You don't look fine. You look scared.

PSYCHE

Well, it's been a strange day. The wind blew me off the mountain and I thought I was going to die ... and then ... well, I've never known anyone who was invisible before. It's just ...

Strange. CUPID

Yeah. PSYCHE

I'm not gonna hurt you. CUPID

Am I your prisoner? PSYCHE

No. CUPID

You mean I can leave if I want to? PSYCHE

Yeah, but I wouldn't recommend it. You've got this enemy ... CUPID

Venus. PSYCHE

Yeah, Venus. She wants you to end up with a Cyclops. CUPID

Cyclops? I've read about them. They're the ones with the body of a horse, right? PSYCHE

No, that's a centaur. CUPID

Oh, then it's the goat one? PSYCHE

No, that's a satyr. A cyclops is a big smelly giant with one eye. CUPID

Oh great. PSYCHE

Yeah, well keep that in mind. CUPID

How do I know you're not a Cyclops? PSYCHE

CUPID

Here.

(HE takes her hand and puts it on his face.)

One, two.

(HE kisses her hand. SHE pulls her hand back.)

Relax.

PSYCHE

Don't.

CUPID

Why not?

PSYCHE

I don't want you to.

(MERCURY reenters with a glass of water.)

MERCURY

Here you go, *master*.

CUPID

Thank you Jeevius.

MERCURY

It's Jeevacles.

CUPID

That's what I said.

MERCURY

No, you said Jeevius.

CUPID

Well I meant Jeevacles, okay? Now, help our guest up the stairs to the bedchamber.

MERCURY

Me? I thought you ...

CUPID

You're just helping her upstairs. Then you're gonna leave her alone. She needs some rest.

PSYCHE

Thank you.

CUPID

Look, it's gonna be okay. You'll see.

MERCURY

(starting off)
This way, Madame.
(HE starts off but since PSYCHE can't see him,
SHE doesn't follow. HE grabs her water goblet
and holds it in front of her eyes. SHE follows the
goblet offstage.)
(SONG: I WANT TO SEE HER SMILE)

CUPID

SO YOUNG, SO SCARED,
SO COMPLETELY UNPREPARED.
NOT A CLUE WHAT TO DO ...
I WANT TO SEE HER SMILE.

SAD EYES, SAD FACE,
OUT OF BREATH, OUT OF PLACE.
FEELING USED
AND CONFUSED.
I WANT TO SEE HER SMILE.

HOW DOES SHE GET ME TO CARE FOR HER?
WHY DO I WANT TO BE THERE FOR HER?
NEVER CARED BEFORE, THIS IS NEW TO ME
SOMETHING ABOUT HER GETS THROUGH TO ME

AND I KNOW, I'M THE ONE
WHO USED TO THINK BREAKING HEARTS WAS FUN
SO TELL ME WHY, NOW, DO I
WANT TO SEE HER SMILE AND SET HER FREE?
I WANT TO SEE HER SMILE
FOR ME.

(VENUS enters.)

VENUS

(to the audience)
Of course I knew he'd start dating one day. Stand up
straight, darling.

CUPID

Come on, Mom ...

VENUS

I just thought he'd stay within his own species.

CUPID

Very funny.

VENUS

I introduced him to some very sweet nymphs and naiads ...

CUPID

They just suck up to me because I'm a god.

VENUS

I know, dear. Privilege is a terrible burden. It was the same with me. Well, of course everyone wanted to date me. I was the most popular girl in my class. How I ended up with Vulcan I'll never know. I could have had my pick ...

CUPID

Mom, do you mind? We're in the middle of a story ...
(VENUS straightens a lock of his hair.)

VENUS

That's better.
(SHE exits. MERCURY enters.)

MERCURY

So, how's it going?

CUPID

I'm not sure.

MERCURY

You still haven't ... ?

CUPID

Not exactly. She doesn't believe in love.

MERCURY

You don't want love. You just want to ...
(HE makes a suggestive gesture.)

CUPID

She doesn't want that either. Maybe I should take her back.

MERCURY

You could give her to me.

CUPID

You wouldn't know what to do with her.

MERCURY

And you do?

CUPID

All right, so we're both clueless.
(PSYCHE yells from offstage.)

HELLO? ANYBODY HERE? PSYCHE

Here she comes now. CUPID

I'm off. MERCURY

No, stay. CUPID

Can't. I've got a package to deliver to Juno. Swan kibble. MERCURY

But what do I do with her? What would you do? CUPID

Knock her out and jump her bones. Just kidding. Talk to her. MERCURY

Talk to her? CUPID

Chicks like that. MERCURY

Yeah, like you know. CUPID

I saw it on *Olympus Tonight*. MERCURY

(getting closer)
HELLOOO? PSYCHE

Later. MERCURY

Yeah ... CUPID

(enters, yelling loudly)
Jeevacles? Anybody? PSYCHE

It's cool, I'm here. What's up? CUPID

PSYCHE
I broke a vase. I'm sorry.

CUPID
What vase?

PSYCHE
A big white one. In the library.

CUPID
Oh. Okay.

PSYCHE
Actually, I broke a table too.

CUPID
Man, you must be a klutz.
(HE realizes PSYCHE is offended and gets flustered.)
Uh, I mean, what happened?

PSYCHE
I was climbing on the table to get to the books. Why are they so high up?

CUPID
I don't know. My mom decorated the place.

PSYCHE
Doesn't anybody ever read them?

CUPID
Not really.

PSYCHE
But you have such a great collection. Aristotle, Plato ...

CUPID
Books are for dorks. Oh, not you. I didn't mean you.

PSYCHE
Look, I'm sorry about the urn and the table. I won't bother you any more.
(SHE starts to leave.)

CUPID
Don't go. I'm the dork. Please stay.

PSYCHE

What do you want?

CUPID

I just thought ... maybe ... we could talk a little.

PSYCHE

Talk?

CUPID

If you want to. Someone told me chicks ... girls like that.

PSYCHE

Some girls do.

CUPID

(disappointed)

Oh.

PSYCHE

What do you want to talk about?

CUPID

I don't know. What do you usually talk about ... when you ... talk?

PSYCHE

I don't think there's any one special subject ...

CUPID

Yeah, I guess not. So, how do you like it here?

PSYCHE

It's okay. Am I going to be here long?

CUPID

Why? You wanna go?

PSYCHE

Actually no. I've never been on my own before. It's kind of nice.

CUPID

So ... so tell me about you.

PSYCHE

Me? Why?

CUPID

I don't know. I'm interested.

PSYCHE

Well, I'm a princess. You know that. But Illyria is a very poor country. Mom and Dad are always trying to compete with the richer kings. They wanted to marry their daughters to rich guys ... as a fund-raising strategy.

CUPID

What happened?

PSYCHE

Lydia got a governor. Daphne went to a fig merchant. They wanted to marry me to this king, but I just wasn't ready. So of course they had a fit ...

CUPID

Parents are a drag, aren't they?

PSYCHE

Yours too?

CUPID

My Mom and Dad don't talk to each other. I'm caught in the middle.

PSYCHE

Are they invisible too?

CUPID

No. I'm not always invisible.

PSYCHE

Just with me.

CUPID

Yeah.

PSYCHE

I wish I knew why.

CUPID

I wish I could tell you.

(There's a slight pause. THEY both speak at once.)

PSYCHE

Well, I guess I should ... what?

CUPID

You wanna dance ... what?

PSYCHE

What did you say?

CUPID

I said you wanna dance?

PSYCHE

There's no music.

(CUPID snaps his fingers. The music starts.)

I don't know how.

CUPID

You're kidding. Don't they teach you that in Princessing 101?

PSYCHE

Daphne got knocked up by the dance instructor so Dad cancelled the lessons.

CUPID

Well, we've just got to do something about that, don't we? Come here.

(HE takes her hand. SHE winces.)

Easy. I'm just gonna show you how to dance.

PSYCHE

But I can't see you.

CUPID

Then you'll just have to feel me, won't you?

(HE sings:)

(SONG: TRUST ME)

CLOSE YOUR EYES, BUT OPEN YOUR MIND --

TRUST ME.

NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU MIGHT FIND ...

TRUST ME.

FEEL THE BEAT.

LET IT GUIDE YOU.

FEEL MY HEAT

RIGHT BESIDE YOU

DON'T TRY TO BE PERFECT,

JUST LET IT GO,

HEAD TO TOE.

PSYCHE

This is silly. I should go try to fix the table. Do you have any glue?

CUPID

WORK IS DONE, TIME FOR PLAY --

TRUST ME.

PSYCHE

THIS IS FUN.

CUPID

THAT'S THE WAY.

TRUST ME.

SOMETIMES IT'S WISE TO SHUT YOUR EYES

AND SIMPLY LET YOURSELF GO

SO JUST TRUST ME.

PSYCHE

I can't believe I just did that.

CUPID

CLOSE YOUR EYES.

PSYCHE

GREAT! I'M BLIND.

CUPID

TRUST ME.

PSYCHE

I MUST BE OUT OF MY MIND.

CUPID

TRUST ME.

PSYCHE

WHICH FOOT FIRST?

CUPID

JUST KEEP MOVING.

PSYCHE

UNREHEARSED?

CUPID

YOU'RE IMPROVING.

DON'T TRY TO BE PERFECT ...

PSYCHE

I KNOW, JUST BE ...

WHEE! LOOK AT ME!

CUPID

TAKE MY WORD,

YOU WON'T FALL.

PSYCHE

I KNOW, TRUST YOU.

CUPID

DOING FINE -- WATCH OUT FOR THAT WALL!
JUST KIDDING.

PSYCHE

FUNNY.

CUPID & PSYCHE

(together)

SOMETIMES IT'S WISE TO SHUT YOUR EYES
AND SIMPLY LET YOURSELF GO, SO

CUPID

TRUST ME, YOU'LL SEE ...

PSYCHE

TRUST IS A MUST INDUBITABLY.

CUPID & PSYCHE

SO JUST TRUST ME.

(The music becomes more romantic and there is a
spark of sexual electricity.)

CUPID

SOMETIMES IT'S SMART
TO TRUST YOUR HEART
AND SIMPLY LET YOURSELF GO SO...

(THEY kiss. CUPID and PSYCHE exit. VENUS enters
and speaks to the audience.)

VENUS

I had a fling with a human myself once. Adonis, remember him?
And let me tell you, a tastier hunk of manflesh never tossed
a javelin. It was terrible when he was gored by that bull,
or that boar, or whatever it was. I don't remember the
details, but it was terrible.

But if he hadn't been gored, I'd have had to end it myself.
There was never any future in it. I'm a goddess. I don't
belong in that world. And neither does my son.

(From offstage, CUPID yells.)

CUPID

Enough!

(VENUS exits. PSYCHE enters, reading. CUPID enters from the other direction with a bouquet of wildflowers. PSYCHE sees the flowers.)

PSYCHE

Ooh. Are those for me?

CUPID

No, they're for me.

(HE makes her grab for them a few times and then hands them to her and kisses her. SHE blushes happily.)

This is the first time I ever picked flowers. You know they got a lot of bees and stuff flying around them.

(MERCURY enters, unseen, and watches them.)

PSYCHE

They're beautiful.

CUPID

Yeah, they are, aren't they? I never really noticed before.

PSYCHE

Can you fly?

CUPID

Course I can fly. What's the point of wings if you can't fly?

PSYCHE

It must be lovely.

CUPID

You think it's freaky? A guy with wings?

PSYCHE

Oh, no. It's exciting. Makes you different from the other boys I know.

CUPID

When I was little, the kids used to tease me. "Bird boy," "Wing Thing."

PSYCHE

Kids can be so cruel.

CUPID

I wish I'd known you back then.

PSYCHE

Do you think we would have liked each other?

CUPID

I would have liked you.

PSYCHE

I wouldn't have called you Wing Thing.

(MERCURY clears his throat to be noticed.)

PSYCHE

Who's there?

MERCURY

Pardon the interruption, master ...

PSYCHE

Oh, hi Jeevacles.

MERCURY

But I wonder if I might have a word with you.

CUPID

Sure, go ahead.

(MERCURY signals that HE wants CUPID to
come over to him.)

Excuse me a minute.

PSYCHE

Sure.

CUPID

What's up?

MERCURY

There's this wet toga contest in Cyprus ...

CUPID

Sorry, but Psyche's giving me harp lessons.

MERCURY

Harp lessons?

CUPID

It's fun.

MERCURY

Are you whacked? Last week you blew off the air hockey
finals, this week harp lessons ... what's happening to you?

CUPID

I like spending time with her.

PSYCHE

I think I'll take a swim.

CUPID

Yeah, great idea. Just give me a second.
(SHE goes off to change.)

MERCURY

Dude, what are you thinking? She's been here two months.

CUPID

So?

MERCURY

So? Have you forgotten about the Cyclops?

CUPID

I'm not giving her to a Cyclops.

MERCURY

Doesn't look like you're giving her to anybody, Wing Thing.

CUPID

I like her.

MERCURY

What about your Mom?

CUPID

Who cares about Mom? She's probably forgotten all about it anyway.

MERCURY

Look, going to have to break it off sooner or later, and when you do, she's gonna get hurt. Is that what you want?

CUPID

No.

MERCURY

Well, where is this going?

CUPID

It doesn't have to go anywhere. Look, I'll end it soon. We'll probably get bored with each other. Maybe she'll break up with me. I don't have to do it today, do I?

(PSYCHE reenters, wrapped in a towel.)

PSYCHE

Last one in is a rotten fig.
(SHE runs off.)

CUPID

Now, don't you have a wet toga contest to go to?
(calling after PSYCHE.)

Wait for me.
(HE runs off after her.)
(SONG: I HATE LOVE)

MERCURY

THERE'S SOMETHING GOING ON --
IT'S LIKE MY WORLD IS CHANGING.
A GUY I THOUGHT THAT I COULD COUNT ON HAS LET ME DOWN.
HE'S GOT NO TIME FOR ME.
IT'S LIKE HE'S ALWAYS BUSY -
OOH, I'M STARTING TO DROWN.

WHEN WE WERE KIDS IN SCHOOL,
WE'D HANG AROUND TOGETHER.
WE'D GET IN TROUBLE WITH THE TEACHERS,
THEN FLY AWAY.
HE WAS MY ONLY FRIEND.
I DIDN'T NEED ANOTHER.
OOH, I NEED ONE TODAY.

WE WERE TWO, BUT NOW I'M ONE.
I'M MISSIN' ALL THE FUN.
I WANT MY BUDDY BACK.
OOOH -- I HATE LOVE!

WHEN I GO OUT AT NIGHT,
THE OTHER GODS IGNORE ME.
THE NYMPHS AND NAIADS TREAT ME LIKE I'M A PIECE OF DIRT.
I'M SUCH A LOSER NOW,
DON'T FIT IN ANYWHERE AND
OOH, IT'S STARTING TO HURT.

WE WERE TWO
BUT NOW WE'RE THREE.
THE TWO OF THEM, AND ME.
I'M SO EXTRANEIOUS.
OOOH - I HATE LOVE!

WE USED TO SAY THAT LOVE WAS JUST FOR LOSERS:
ONE LITTLE ARROW AND THEY'D SCRAPE AND BOW.
BUT NOW HE'S LEFT ME AND HE'S JOINED THE LOSERS -
WHO'S A LOSER NOW?

NOW PLEASE DON'T GET ME WRONG.

I'M GLAD THEY FOUND EACH OTHER.
I'M GLAD THEY'RE HAPPY, BUT I WISH I COULD SAY THE SAME.
THEY'RE PLAYING PATTY CAKE.
I'M PLAYING SOLITAIRE
AND OOOH, I'M LOSING THE GAME.

WE WERE TWO,
BUT JUST LIKE ONE.
BUT NOW THOSE DAYS ARE DONE.
I'M FEELING REALLY BLUE, OOH ...
MY LIFE IS ALL ASKEW, OOH ...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO, OOH ...
I HATE LOVE.
I HATE LOVE.
OOOH --I HATE LOVE.

(MERCURY exits, in despair. PSYCHE reenters,
drying her hair, in a pleasant daze, but pensive.)
(SONG: DON'T TALK ABOUT LOVE Reprise)

PSYCHE

HE MAKES YOU SMILE.
THAT'S KIND OF NEW.
YOU NEVER SMILED A LOT,
BUT NOW YOU DO.
YOUR CONCENTRATION'S SHOT,
YOUR BROW FEELS HOT,
AND YOU GIGGLE LIKE A SCHOOL GIRL.
YOU'VE BEEN ACTING LIKE A FOOL, GIRL.
IT'S ALL STRANGE,
NOTHING'S CHANGED
EXCEPT YOUR WHOLE PERSPECTIVE ...

LET'S TALK ABOUT LOVE.

(SHE exits. VENUS enters, champagne glass in hand,
as if on a cruise.)

VENUS

Now you're probably wondering where I was all this time. A devoted mother like me, how could I leave my baby alone for so long?

Well, the fact is I was off on a cruise with Neptune. He really is the most marvelous host. Everything first class, and all the seafood you can eat.

Besides, I didn't forget about Cupid entirely. My friends were keeping an eye on him.

(MERCURY flies on, flapping his wings.)

MERCURY

(sounding more like a chicken than a dove)
Bawk! Venus! Mighty Venus!

VENUS

What are you supposed to be?

MERCURY

A dove. Bawk! Bawk!

VENUS

You sound like a chicken. Doves coo.

MERCURY

Coo, coo ...

VENUS

Yes, what is it?

MERCURY

I've been spying on your son, like you asked.

VENUS

Not spying. Just keeping an eye on my darling.

MERCURY

Whatever.

VENUS

So how is he?

MERCURY

He's got a girl.

VENUS

Another one? I'm sure it's nothing serious. What's her name?

MERCURY

Psyche.

VENUS

WHAT?

(SHE grabs him by his throat)

MERCURY

Careful ... neck ... can't breathe ...

(SHE releases him. HE staggers off.)

VENUS

Psyche! It can't be. He wouldn't do that to me. Neptune!!!

(MERCURY reenters as NEPTUNE, with a big salad
fork as a trident.)
Head for home.

NEPTUNE
I thought we were going to jet ski Atlantis?

VENUS
Home!

NEPTUNE
Aye, aye!
(HE exits.)

VENUS
WELL, YOU DON'T MESS WITH A GODDESS,
AS CUPID SOON WILL SEE

My son and that ... mammal!

AND NOBODY MESSES WITH ME

(PSYCHE enters, reading. CUPID enters with flowers, as
before. HE floats them in front of PSYCHE's eyes, but
SHE doesn't reach for them.)

CUPID
Hello?

PSYCHE
Hello.

CUPID
Don't you want 'em?

PSYCHE
(taking them out of his hands and laying
them on the bench beside her, matter-of-factly.)
Sure. thanks. Have you ever been to the Zabrac mountains?

CUPID
I guess so.

PSYCHE
(excited)
In the winter?

CUPID
What is this?

PSYCHE

Nothing.

(SHE tries to close the book, but HE takes it away from her.)

No, don't ...

CUPID

(reading the title)

"Strange Creatures From Around The World"?

PSYCHE

It was just something I found in the library ...

CUPID

(reading from the book)

"The Harpy is a winged creature, half bird half man, which spends its winters in the Zabrac Mountains ..."

PSYCHE

(assuming nonchalant)

Oh, does it say that?

CUPID

Have you ever seen a harpy? They're like flying pigs. I can't believe you thought I was a harpy.

PSYCHE

I don't know what you are. That's the problem.

CUPID

I told you not to try to find out who I am. You're gonna wreck everything.

PSYCHE

I'm sorry. Look.

(SHE throws the book away.)

Now tell me about your day.

CUPID

Why? So you can get more clues?

PSYCHE

I was just wondering ... maybe one of these days I could go with you.

CUPID

Go where?

PSYCHE

Wherever you go.

CUPID
You wouldn't fit in.

PSYCHE
Why not?

CUPID
You just wouldn't.

PSYCHE
Is it because I can't fly?

CUPID
No. Look can we drop this?

PSYCHE
Are you really hideous? Is that why you're afraid to show yourself?

CUPID
No.

PSYCHE
Because I'm not that superficial. Even if you're disgusting.

CUPID
I'm not disgusting.

PSYCHE
You don't trust me.

CUPID
Sure I do.

PSYCHE
Sure you don't. You talk about trust all the time, but you don't trust me enough to tell me your name.

CUPID
Look ... are you happy?

PSYCHE
What does that have to do with it?

CUPID
You've got everything you want, right? Why can't you just be happy the way things are?

PSYCHE

Okay, fine.

(SHE puts on an idiotic smile.)

CUPID

What are you doing?

PSYCHE

I'm being happy.

CUPID

Not like that.

PSYCHE

I'm just so darned happy. Happy, happy, happy.

CUPID

You know, there's something you don't know about me.

PSYCHE

I don't know *anything* about you.

CUPID

Well, there's one thing in particular you don't know and if you knew it, you'd understand everything.

PSYCHE

Then tell me.

CUPID

But then I'd have to leave you.

PSYCHE

Says who?

CUPID

I can't tell you.

PSYCHE

Why not?

CUPID

Just drop it will you?

PSYCHE

Fine.

CUPID

Fine!

PSYCHE

(throwing the flowers on the floor)
Fine!

CUPID
(storming offstage)

Fine!

PSYCHE
(starting to storming offstage)

Fine.

(SHE returns and picks up the flowers, then exits, almost in tears. VENUS enters and speaks to the audience.)

VENUS
Oh, dear. The bloom is off their sordid little rose. Sad, isn't it?

(SHE smiles beatifically.)

So here I am, back on land, ready to put an end to this travesty. There are so many ways to end a love affair. She could meet another boy. Or another girl. No, he might like that. She could get fat. Or acne. I could bring her whole family to live with them, that usually works. Well, I'll think of something. But, first, I need a little disguise.

(SHE puts on a shawl.)

It doesn't have to be very good. Humans are so gullible.
(PSYCHE enters.)

PSYCHE
Who are you?

VENUS
(still to the audience)
You see?
(to PSYCHE, going into character)
Just a friendly neighbor, come to pay a call.

PSYCHE
You don't know how glad to see you. I haven't actually seen another person in three months. Everyone's invisible here. At least they are to me. It's really nice to have someone to focus on for once.

VENUS
Wait a minute. You mean you've never even seen the man who lives here?

PSYCHE
No. And he won't tell me his name, or anything about himself.

VENUS

Aren't you curious?

PSYCHE

Not really. Well, a little. Well, yes, actually, it's driving me crazy. But what can I do? He says something bad will happen if I find out. He says he'll have to leave me.

VENUS

Does he really? Well, isn't that interesting.

PSYCHE

So, can I get you something to eat or drink?

VENUS

(suddenly changing gears)

My dear, I don't know what he's told you, but you are in terrible danger.

PSYCHE

Danger?

VENUS

If I hadn't come by, it would have been too late.

PSYCHE

Too late for what?

VENUS

Tonight is the ... Moon of the Monster.

(A sinister chord is played. MERCURY howls like a wolf.)

PSYCHE

Moon of the Monster?

VENUS

Yes. It's a hideous feast when all the local monsters gather. Each of them brings a young maiden ... to eat!

PSYCHE

I don't believe you. I mean, he can be a real jerk sometimes, but he wouldn't eat me.

VENUS

That's what the last girl said, before he kabobbed her.

PSYCHE

No, it can't be.

VENUS

I can prove it.
(SHE conjures a lamp.)

PSYCHE

What is it?

VENUS

It's an anti-invisibility lamp. It doesn't matter what magic he's been using, you'll be able to see who he really is.

PSYCHE

(taking it, thrilled at first)
You're kidding.
(changing her mind, SHE hands the lamp back.)
No, I'd better not.

VENUS

Don't you think you have a right to know who you're living with?

PSYCHE

Yes, but ...

VENUS

Where is he now?

PSYCHE

Upstairs, taking a nap, I think.

VENUS

Perfect. You can just take a little peek and he'll never know.

PSYCHE

Well, a little peek can't hurt.

VENUS

What have you got to lose?
(VENUS holds out the knife. After a moment of hesitation, SHE takes it and starts off to CUPID's chamber. The lamp illuminates CUPID, asleep on the bed. PSYCHE is astonished.)
(SONG: I WANT TO SEE HER SMILE Reprise)

PSYCHE

SO YOUNG
SO FAIR
LIKE AN ANGEL SLEEPING THERE
GENTLE SMILE

GOLDEN HAIR ...

You're not a monster, you're beautiful.

(SHE leans over and accidentally spills some oil
onto CUPID's shoulder. HE wakes up.)

CUPID

OWWWW!

PSYCHE

Sorry, sorry, oh I'm so sorry. Here, let me wipe it off.

(SHE goes to wipe his shoulder)

CUPID

No, don't touch it ... hey, you can see me!

PSYCHE

Yes.

CUPID

How?

PSYCHE

It's this lamp... this woman gave it to me. She told me you
were a monster ...

CUPID

And I see you brought along your knife, just in case.

PSYCHE

No, I wouldn't have ... Wait a minute! I know you.

CUPID

Of course you do. That's why I didn't want you to see me.

PSYCHE

You're that oracle.

CUPID

I knew as soon as ... what?

PSYCHE

The one with the turban, right?

CUPID

Psyche ... that was just a disguise. Don't you know who I
really am?

PSYCHE

You know who else you look like? That love god. You know,
the one with the bow and arrows. What's his name?

CUPID
(producing his bow and arrow)
Cupid?

PSYCHE
Yeah, Cupid. You look just like him.

CUPID
Psyche ... hello!

PSYCHE
You're not really HIM, are you?

CUPID
Yes.

PSYCHE
I've been living with a god?!

CUPID
Congratulations. You want an autograph?

PSYCHE
No. What do you mean?

CUPID
I mean, it's over.

PSYCHE
What?!? Why?

CUPID
How many times did I tell you if you found out who I am I'd have to leave you? Why didn't you listen to me?

PSYCHE
I don't understand.

CUPID
It's against the Code of Olympus for a God to be with a mortal. Apollo got in big trouble with this tree girl, and Jove is always in trouble, so they passed this new law and it's very strict ...

PSYCHE
But we've been together all this time and no one found out.

CUPID

Yeah, well, now that you know, it's over. I could never trust you now.

PSYCHE

Why not?

CUPID

Oh, I don't know ...

(HE picks up the knife.)

This for starters.

PSYCHE

I wouldn't have used that. I knew you weren't a monster.

CUPID

Oh, why couldn't you have just left things the way they were?

YOU COULDN'T TRUST, YOU COULDN'T WAIT.
YOU'RE SORRY NOW BUT IT'S TOO LATE,
WE'RE HISTORY.
YOU HAD TO KNOW, YOU HAD TO PRY.
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO DO BUT TO SAY GOODBYE.
WE'RE HISTORY.

PSYCHE

What do you mean history?

(SONG: HISTORY)

CUPID

WE'RE HISTORY, LIKE YOU READ IN A BOOK,
BUT THE CHAPTER IS OVER, TAKE YOUR LAST LOOK.
THERE'S NO US ANYMORE, JUST YOU AND ME.
WE'RE HISTORY.

THE HISTORY OF A LOVE AFFAIR
THAT ENDED WHILE THE LOVE WAS STILL THERE.
JUST A SHADOW OF WHAT USED TO BE,
WE'RE HISTORY, WE'RE HISTORY.

PSYCHE

DON'T SAY THAT, DON'T SAY THE DAY IS DONE.
NOT NOW, WHEN WE HAVE JUST BEGUN.
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WE CAN DO.
I AM NOT GIVING UP ON YOU.

CUPID

There's nothing we can do. I told you this would happen. Why couldn't you wait?

PSYCHE

BUT WAIT FOR WHAT?
ETERNITY?
WOULD YOU HAVE EVER SHOWN YOURSELF TO ME?

CUPID
No, but we could have gone on like we were.

PSYCHE
BUT FOR HOW LONG?
A MONTH OR TWO?
I STARTED WANTING SO MUCH MORE FROM YOU.

CUPID
Well, now we've got nothing.

WE'RE HISTORY, NOTHING LESS OR MORE
SHUT THE WINDOW, CLOSE THE DOOR.
WE'RE A MAUSOLEUM, CAN'T YOU SEE?
WE'RE HISTORY, WE'RE HISTORY.
THE SUN HAS SET AND THE DAY IS OLD.

PSYCHE
DON'T SAY IT, DON'T SAY THE DAY IS DONE ...

CUPID
HOW SOON THE SUMMER WIND TURNS COLD.

PSYCHE
CAN'T YOU SEE THE SUN?

CUPID
HOW SOON THE MOON HAS TO FLY AWAY.

PSYCHE
I KNOW YOU LOVE ME AND I LOVE YOU.

CUPID
NOTHING GOLD,
NOTHING GOLD CAN STAY.

PSYCHE
NO!

MERCURY & VENUS
(mysteriously, in the background)
IT'S TOO LATE NOW, IT'S TOO LATE NOW.
IT'S TOO LATE NOW, IT'S TOO LATE NOW.
IT'S TOO LATE NOW, IT'S TOO LATE NOW.

PSYCHE

(simultaneous with above)
Don't go now, please. We can't let it end like this. Look,
we'll think of something. Just stay with me for the night ...
please?

CUPID, PSYCHE, MERCURY & VENUS

IT'S TOO LATE NOW.
THE SUN HAS SET AND THE DAY IS OLD.
HOW SOON THE SUMMER WIND TURNS COLD.
HOW SOON THE MOON HAS TO FLY AWAY.
NOTHING GOLD, NOTHING GOLD CAN STAY.

(CUPID exits. PSYCHE collapses.)

VENUS

(to the audience)
This is my favorite part. Poor Psyche is despondent. A
little more despondent, dear.

(PSYCHE moans and writhes.)
Maybe if you try gnashing your teeth.

CUPID

(calling from offstage.)
Leave her alone Mom.

VENUS

All right, she's despondent. She even tries to kill herself.

PSYCHE

I do not.

VENUS

She jumps off a cliff.

PSYCHE

I didn't jump. I fell. Cupid flew away and I was chasing him
and I fell.

VENUS

Whatever you say, darling.

(SHE mouths to the audience "She jumped." PSYCHE
mouths to the audience "I fell.")
Anyway, there she is, abandoned, heartbroken and soaking wet
when ...

MERCURY

I come in.

VENUS

Not you. Pan.

MERCURY

I know that.

(HE adopts a flamboyant, campy personality.)
I'm Pan now, silly.

VENUS

Pan doesn't talk like that.

MERCURY

He does when I play him.

VENUS

Couldn't you at least change your costume? Horns? Goat feet?
Pipe?

MERCURY

Got it.

(HE takes out a pipe for smoking.)

VENUS

Not that kind of ... oh, never mind.
(SHE walks off, disgusted.)

PAN

Pretty chilly for a swim, little fish.

PSYCHE

I wasn't swimming.

PAN

It's not deep enough to drown yourself. You could drown
yourself over there. That's nice and deep. Lots of sharks
plenty hungry for supper, too.

PSYCHE

Who are you anyway?

PAN

You don't know me? I'm going to fire my publicist. I don't
blame you, I blame the press. Apollo smashes his chariot,
that's front page news. Mars starts a war - hold the presses!
But me ...

PSYCHE

Wait a minute. I do know you. You're Pan.

PAN

Oh, sweetness, you don't know how much that means to me.

And you're the god of ... PSYCHE

Come on, you know. PAN

Sure I do. I think I do. Uh ... wine? PSYCHE

Nature. PAN

I meant nature. PSYCHE

Bacchus is the god of wine. PAN

I knew that. PSYCHE

I grow the friggin' grapes and Bacchus gets the glory. PAN
(HE notices that SHE is near tears.)
He's not worth it.

Who? PSYCHE

The brat with the bow. PAN

You know Cupid? PSYCHE

Know him? I'm his favorite target. PAN
(HE pretends to be CUPID.)
Oh, good, there's Pan. Let's make him fall in love with a nannygoat.
(HE mimes shooting and getting shot.)
So, are you gonna fight for him?

How can I? He's a god. It's hopeless. And there's some kind of code ... PSYCHE

Code of Olympus. PAN

PSYCHE

That's the one.

PAN

So, you're gonna give up? Go back to Illyria?

PSYCHE

What else can I do?

(SONG: MAGIC TIME)

PAN

OH LITTLE LAMBKIN,
I KNOW YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO NOW.
BUT DRY YOUR EYES,
AND YOU'LL SEE THE SKIES ARE ALMOST BLUE NOW.
YOUR LITTLE RAMKIN
HAS TURNED HIS TAIL AND RUN AWAY NOW.
BUT NEVER MIND
CAUSE YOU'LL FIND THERE'S SOON ANOTHER DAY NOW.

RING TINGA LINGATY, SING A SONG,
OH SING IT LOUD AND CLEAR.
THUMP ON A JUMPETY LUMP AND BUMP ALONG ...
MAGIC TIME IS HERE!

PSYCHE

Magic time? What's that?

PAN

Magic time is when things change.

PSYCHE

Change? Like what?

PAN

Like you, for instance.

YOU CAN CHANGE FROM A WEEPING VINE,
GOING "BLUBBER BLUBBER BLUBBER,
OH WHERE AM I GONNA GO?"
INTO A FINE YOUNG PINE
WITH HER BRANCHES IN THE SKY
AND HER ROOTS IN THE EARTH BELOW.
YOU CAN CHANGE FROM A "HELP ME, HELP ME,
SOMEBODY HELP ME!
OOPS! I'M GONNA DROWN!"
INTO A FINE YOUNG DOLPHIN,
SPLASHING AROUND.

PSYCHE

But how can I change?

PAN

JUST TAKE A BREATH
AND YOU'LL SEE THAT DEATH CAN WAIT FOR AFTER.
LAUGH OFF THE TRAGIC,
YOU'LL FIND THERE'S MAGIC IN THE LAUGHTER.

PSYCHE

MY LOVE IS GONE
AND I CAN'T GO ON
LIKE YESTERDAY NOW.
THOSE DAYS ARE THROUGH
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING NEW
ALONG THE WAY NOW.

PAN & PSYCHE

(together)

RING TINGA LINGATY, SING A SONG,
OH SING IT LOUD AND CLEAR.
THUMP ON A JUMPETY LUMP AND BUMP ALONG ...
MAGIC TIME IS HERE!

PSYCHE

That's it? I just sing a little song and I'm supposed to
feel better?

PAN

That's it.

PSYCHE

That's the stupidest thing I ever heard.

PAN

I know. Aren't musicals great?

PSYCHE

I DON'T KNOW WHERE
HE HAS GONE, HE'S
LEFT ME ALL ALONE NOW.

PAN

SO SAD ...

PSYCHE

BUT I DON'T CARE
CAUSE I KNOW
I'LL MAKE IT ON MY OWN NOW.

PAN

Good girl!

PAN & PSYCHE

(together)

THE SUN IS WARM
AND THE WIND BLOWS SOFT AND SWEET AS CLOVER.

PAN

JUST TAKE A STEP,
AND YOU'LL FIND
YOUR JOURNEY'S ALMOST OVER.

PAN & PSYCHE

RING TINGA LINGATY, SING YOUR SONG,
OH SING IT LOUD AND CLEAR.
THUMP ON A JUMPETY LUMP AND BUMP ALONG ...
MAGIC TIME IS HERE!

RING TINGA LINGATY SING YOUR SONG -----
THUMP ON A JUMPETY LUMP AND BUMP ALONG ...
MAGIC TIME IS HERE! MAGIC TIME IS HERE!
MAGIC TIME IS HERE!
RING TINGA LINGATY
MAGIC TIME IS HERE!

(THEY exit. VENUS and CUPID enter from different
directions. CUPID has a large bandage on his
shoulder)

VENUS

How is my darling today?

CUPID

Better. It's still sore.

VENUS

That was a nasty burn. And you say you did it to yourself?

CUPID

Yeah ... I was carrying a lamp and I tripped.

VENUS

And the oil sort of whooshed up in the air and burned you on
the shoulder?

CUPID

Yeah ...

VENUS

You never used to be so clumsy. You've been spending too much time on earth.

CUPID

It could have happened to anyone ...

VENUS

Not to a god, dear. Gods don't trip. Sit down, dear.

CUPID

Why?

VENUS

I want to talk to you.

CUPID

Maybe later.

VENUS

Maybe now. Sit.

(CUPID sits)

First of all, I want to thank you for taking care of that Psyche situation for me.

CUPID

Oh, that ...

VENUS

A Cyclops was it?

CUPID

Uh, yeah ...

VENUS

Which one? Onassis or Dukakis?

CUPID

I'm not really sure ...

VENUS

Onassis is the hairy one.

CUPID

This dude was mega-hairy.

VENUS

Then it must have been Onassis.

CUPID

If you say so.

VENUS

He's dead.

CUPID

What? No, I mean, he *wasn't* hairy.

VENUS

Wasn't hairy? Oh, then it must have been Dukakis.

CUPID

Yeah ...

VENUS

"Yeah." We don't always tell each other everything, do we?

CUPID

Like what?

VENUS

Like where you're going tonight. You're not going to meet Mercury are you? You're going to *her*.

CUPID

Her? Who?

VENUS

Psyche.

CUPID

What do you know about Psyche?

VENUS

Everything. You were going to sneak back down to earth and make it up with her, weren't you?

CUPID

Maybe. I don't know. I miss her.

VENUS

VENUS

Humans are addictive. When you break with them, you have to go cold turkey.

CUPID

Look, I'll see her if I want to, okay?

VENUS

No, it's not okay.

CUPID

Mom, it's none of your business.

VENUS

None of my business? You are my son and your behavior reflects on me. Give me that bow.

(SHE takes his bow.)

You are grounded.

CUPID

What?

VENUS

No more trips to earth. No more love affairs. You are grounded until further notice.

CUPID

I'm too old to be grounded.

VENUS

Go to your room and stay there.

CUPID

Mom ...

VENUS

Now!

(HE storms off. SHE speaks to the audience.)

I'm sorry you had to see that.

(SHE starts massaging her temples.)

Are there any other mothers in the house? You know what it's like. Oh why don't they come with a set of instructions?

(SONG: IMPROVISE)

I WAS ONLY SEVENTEEN
WHEN I BECAME HIS MOM.
I HAD TO STAY AT HOME THAT DAY
AND MISS MY SENIOR PROM.
THE PAIN WAS AWFUL, I THOUGHT I WOULD DIE,
AND BOY! HOW THAT BOY COULD CRY.
BUT I DIMMED THE LIGHT
AND I HELD HIM TIGHT
AND I SANG A LULLABYE ...
I IMPROVISED,
AND SOMEHOW I GOT BY.

I WILL ADMIT, FROM TIME TO TIME,
I DIDN'T GET THINGS RIGHT.

LIKE WHEN I SPIKED HIS FORMULA
TO HELP HIM SLEEP AT NIGHT.
IT DID THE TRICK FOR AN HOUR OR TWO
THEN BOY! HOW THAT BOY COULD SPEW!
BUT TELL ME HOW COULD I KNOW
THAT A BIT OF MERLOT
WOULD TURN MY BABY BLUE?
I IMPROVISED
AND SOMEHOW MADE IT THROUGH.

NOBODY GIVES YOU A ROAD MAP,
NOBODY GIVES YOU A PLAN.
NOBODY TELLS YOU HOW TO TURN
YOUR BOY INTO A MAN.

SOMETIMES YOU'RE PLAYING THE JAILER,
SOMETIMES YOU'RE PLAYING THE SHREW.
SOMETIMES YOU REALLY HAVEN'T GOT A CLUE ...

I know you all think goddesses know everything. And we do.
But we only know our own specialties. Mine are Love and
Beauty. You want to seduce a Cretan fig farmer, come to me.
You want to highlight your natural coloring while disguising
unsightly bulges, I'm your girl.

(to someone in the audience)

By the way, red is not your color.

(back to the rest of the audience.)

But domestic things, like bedtimes and birthday parties,
that's someone else's department. Vesta's I think. And
wisdom - that's Athena. Well she has time for all that
thinking. She never has to do her hair.

NOBODY GIVES YOU A ROAD MAP,
NOBODY GIVES YOU A GUIDE.
HE'S GOOD THEN HE'S BAD
THEN HE'S GOOD THEN HE'S BAD
LIKE YOUR PERSONAL JECKYL AND HYDE.
YOU TRY TO BE LOVING AND PATIENT,
KEEP A SUPPORTIVE FAÇADE,
BUT IF YOU SPARE THE ROD
YOU SPOIL THE GOD.

SO WHEN MY DARLING SON COMES HOME
WITH SOMEONE I JUST HATE,
DO I GRIT MY TEETH AND SAY,
"OH HONEY, THAT'S JUST GREAT!"?
DO I JUST SIT THERE AND LET MY BOY MAKE
WHAT I KNOW IS A BIG MISTAKE?
OR DO I STAND UP AND FIGHT
WITH ALL OF MY MIGHT

TO FREE HIM FROM THE FOE?
YES! I IMPROVISE
WITH EVERY TRICK I KNOW.
AND SO
WHENEVER A CRISIS ARISES,
(AND BOYS ARE SO FULL OF SURPRISES)
THE CHOICES I MAKE ARE NEVER BLACK AND WHITE.
I IMPROVISE
AND HOPE I GET IT RIGHT.

(Lights up on CUPID, sitting reflectively.
MERCURY enters.)

MERCURY

Hey -

CUPID

Hey yourself.

MERCURY

I thought we were gonna meet at the forum and shoot some lawyers.

CUPID

I'm grounded. Mom found out about me and Psyche and she flipped.

MERCURY

Oh, man ...

CUPID

But I'm glad you came. I want you to take a message to Psyche. Tell her I want to see her. Tell her to chill in the palace for a couple of weeks and I'll sneak down as soon as Mom cools off. Got it?

MERCURY

Uh ... you sure about that chief?

CUPID

Course I'm sure. What do you mean?

MERCURY

I mean, for starters, she left the palace. Right after you left her.

CUPID

She probably went back to Illyria. You can find her.

MERCURY

Log on, dude. She freaked out. She jumped off a cliff.

CUPID

What?

MERCURY

I mean, she's okay, it wasn't much of a cliff, more like a dune. Pan straightened her out.

CUPID

Pan?

MERCURY

Yeah. You know I never realized what a great god Pan is. Smart, good looking. Great singer too.

CUPID

Why did she do it?

MERCURY

Gee, I don't know. Maybe because we kidnapped her and messed with her head and then you dumped her.

CUPID

I didn't mess with her head.

MERCURY

Look. Psyche loves you, wingboy. Really loves you. And you ... I guess you love her too, right?

CUPID

I guess so.

MERCURY

I was mad at first. I mean, I didn't see why you had to go and fall and love but ... it's okay, I guess.

CUPID

Thank you.

MERCURY

But my point is, if you really love her, then do what's best for her. It can't go anywhere, between you. Right? So be nice to her. Let her go.

CUPID

What if I can't?

MERCURY

Next time it'll be a real cliff.

CUPID

But I wanna marry her. I've thought about and I decided I don't care if they kick me out of Olympus. Earth's not so bad.

MERCURY

Dude, either you just lost your last marble, or ...

CUPID

Or what?

MERCURY

Or you're not Wing Boy anymore. You're Wing Man.
(SONG: MY EYES ARE OPEN NOW)

CUPID

I NEVER KNEW HOW MUCH I DIDN'T KNOW
ABOUT LOVE.
I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A GAME
THAT I COULD PLAY WITH A BLUE MOON AND A DOVE.
ALL THE TIME MY HEART WAS SEARCHING
FOR SOMETHING TRUE.
SHE TAUGHT ME
HOW MUCH I NEVER KNEW.

MY EYES ARE OPEN NOW.
THE PAST IS PAST
AND I'M A MAN AT LAST.
MY EYES CAN CLEARLY SEE,
AND WHAT A SUN BRIGHT
AND BOUNTIFUL WORLD IT CAN BE.
IT'S AMAZING TO ME --
SHE HAS SET ME FREE.

MERCURY

YOU'VE BEEN A STEP OR TWO AHEAD OF ME
ALL ALONG.
WHEREVER YOU LED, I FOLLOWED,
EVEN WHEN I KNEW THAT YOU WERE LEADING ME WRONG.
NOW YOU'VE FOUND YOUR HEART FOREVER
AND I'M PROUD OF YOU.
I'M THINKING:
MAYBE I'LL FIND LOVE TOO

BOTH

MY EYES ARE OPEN NOW.
THE PAST IS PAST

AND I'M A MAN AT LAST.
MY EYES CAN CLEARLY SEE,
AND WHAT A SUN BRIGHT
AND BOUNTIFUL WORLD IT CAN BE.

MERCURY
IT'S AMAZING TO ME ...

CUPID
IT'S AMAZING TO ME ...

MERCURY
IT'S AMAZING TO ME ...

CUPID
IT'S AMAZING TO ME ...

BOTH
MY EYES ARE OPEN NOW.
THE PAST IS PAST
AND I'M A MAN AT LAST.
MY EYES CAN CLEARLY SEE,
AND WHAT A SUN BRIGHT
AND BOUNTIFUL WORLD IT CAN BE.

MERCURY
WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT IT COULD BE?

CUPID
SHE HAS SET ME

BOTH
FREE!

(THEY exit. PSYCHE enters and throws herself down
in front of VENUS.)

PSYCHE
Mighty Venus ...

VENUS
You! What are you doing here?

PSYCHE
I know you hate me, but you're the only one who can help ...

VENUS
Help you? Why on Olympus should I help you?

PSYCHE

I love him.

VENUS

So do half the girls on earth.

PSYCHE

He loves me. I want to marry him.

VENUS

(picks up a phone)

Hello, security?

PSYCHE

Don't throw me out.

VENUS

I'd like to report an intruder.

PSYCHE

Give me a chance to prove myself to you.

VENUS

How could you possibly do that?

PSYCHE

A task. Isn't that what they usually do? Give me a task and I'll do it.

VENUS

And what will that prove?

PSYCHE

It will prove that I'll do anything for him.

VENUS

And what if you fail my task?

PSYCHE

Then I'll go away and never bother you or him again.

VENUS

Swear it.

PSYCHE

I swear.

VENUS

Very well. I'll give you a task. Here.
(SHE hands her a basket)

Bring me a basket of wool from the Wild Rams of the Sun.

PSYCHE

Where do I find them?

VENUS

Over there.

(SHE points out a window. PSYCHE looks and is horrified.)

PSYCHE

But they're huge. They'll tear me to pieces.

VENUS

That would be a shame, wouldn't it? Bring me the wool by morning or you're history, earth girl.

PSYCHE

Nice rammy rammies ...

(SHE exits, timidly.)

VENUS

(to the audience)

And so, Psyche was trampled by the Wild Rams of the Sun and was never heard from again ...

(PSYCHE reenters with a basket full of wool.)

No, this is impossible! How could you have gotten this?

PSYCHE

Well, see, at first I was really scared because they're so big and all, and then I noticed that they kept charging into the bushes, and sometimes little bits of their wool got stuck in the branches. So I just waited til they went to sleep and I picked the wool out of the branches.

VENUS

You know, that's really clever. I don't think I would have thought of that.

PSYCHE

Does this mean I can see Cupid?

VENUS

No, it means I have to think of another task.

PSYCHE

But why?

VENUS

You didn't shear the rams.

PSYCHE

You just asked for the wool.

VENUS

I know I asked for the wool but I wanted you to shear them and that task doesn't count because I'm the goddess, okay? You're clever, I can see that. But are you brave?

PSYCHE

Not particularly.

VENUS

My daughter-in-law needs to be clever and brave. Now let me see ...

(SHE thinks a moment.)

Aha. Perfect. I want you to fetch something from my cousin, Proserpina.

PSYCHE

I see. All right.

VENUS

Maybe you didn't understand me. She's in her *winter* palace.

PSYCHE

I know. Hades. The land of the dead.

VENUS

Not many humans get there alive. Fewer still return.

PSYCHE

What do you want me to get?

VENUS

A box of beauty. This has all taken a terrible toll on me.

PSYCHE

On all of us.

VENUS

Yes, you're not looking quite so fresh, yourself. Look, you're not a bad girl. I can see that. I've got nothing against you personally. I'm just trying to save us all a lot of heart ache. Why don't you give up now?

PSYCHE

Because I love him.

VENUS

Well, get over it.

PSYCHE

I can't.

VENUS

I could fix you up with anyone else in the world. Theseus, Midas, ... Oedipus is single again ...

PSYCHE

How long do I have to bring back the box?

VENUS

One day. If you're not back by sunset tomorrow, you'll never be back.

PSYCHE

I'd better get started.

(SHE starts to go. VENUS stops her.)

VENUS

You might want to take one last look at the world of the living before you go.

(PSYCHE starts on the road to Hades.)

(SONG: WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ME?)

PSYCHE

I'VE READ ABOUT HEROES
WHO TRAVELED TO HADES
AND SOMEHOW THEY CAME BACK ALL RIGHT,
BUT READING IS ONE THING
AND DOING'S ANOTHER,
AND SOON IT IS GOING TO BE NIGHT.
I KNOW THAT I'M CRAZY,
CAUSE IF I WERE SANE, I'D TURN BACK.
OH, LOVE, WHERE ARE YOU LEADING ME?

VENUS

OH WHEN DID I CHANGE
FROM THE GODDESS OF BEAUTY AND LOVE
TO THE GODDESS OF HATE?
I GUESS ON THE DAY
WHEN MY SON TOOK HIS VERY FIRST GIRL
ON HIS VERY FIRST DATE.
WHY CAN'T THEY STAY CHILDREN FOREVER?
WHY MUST THEY GROW UP?
OH, LOVE, WHERE ARE YOU LEADING ME?

PSYCHE & VENUS

WHERE ARE YOU LEADING ME?

ARE YOU MY FRIEND OR MY FOE?
ALL THAT I KNOW
IS WHEREVER YOU LEAD
I MUST GO.

(In another part of the stage, MERCURY and CUPID enter. CUPID has packed up and is preparing to leave Olympus.)

MERCURY

Dude, are you sure about this?

CUPID

I'm sure. They'll never let me live with her up here.

MERCURY

Yeah, but Olympus is your home. To say nothing of the God perks. Two for one nectar night.

CUPID

I NEVER BELIEVED I'D BE
LEAVING OLYMPUS
AND EVERYTHING ELSE THAT I KNOW,
LOOKING MY LAST
ON THE STREETS OF MY PAST,
AND I'M SAYING GOODBYE TO MY BOW ...

MERCURY

Not your bow!

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT AT ALL!

CUPID

Dude, it's all right.

MERCURY & CUPID

OH, LOVE,
WHERE ARE YOU LEADING ME?

MERCURY

(to the audience.)

I love him like a brother - Get your mind out of the gutter!

ALL 4

WHERE ARE YOU LEADING ME?
ARE YOU MY FRIEND OR MY FOR?
ALL THAT I KNOW
IS WHEREVER YOU LEAD
I MUST GO.

FINDING MY WAY
THROUGH A FOREST OF FEAR
IN A LAND OF CONFUSION AND DOUBT.
EVERY STEP TAKES ME
ANOTHER STEP FARTHER AWAY
FROM THE ONLY WAY OUT.
DARKER AND DEEPER
AND HARDER AND FASTER
TO SOMEWHERE I DON'T WANT TO BE ...
OH, LOVE, WHERE ARE YOU LEADING ME?
(one at a time)
WHERE ARE YOU LEADING ME?
WHERE ARE YOU LEADING ME?
WHERE ARE YOU LEADING ME?
WHERE ARE YOU LEADING ME?
LOVE, WHERE ARE YOU LEADING ME?

VENUS

Well, to make a long story short, she gets to Hades and back.

MERCURY

Oh, you can't skip Hades. That's the best part!

VENUS

But I'm not in that scene at all!

MERCURY

We'll go fast, right, guys? Triple-time.

VENUS

Oh, for crying out loud ...

MERCURY

Okay, so, she goes down this long, creepy pathway until she comes to this cave with this ugly gargoyle who comes to life:

(SONG: HADES SEQUENCE)

LIVING MORTAL, COME NO FURTHER
PAST THIS POINT OF NO RETURNING
DO NOT DARE
THOSE WHO TRAVEL THIS WAY
LACK FOR LIGHT AND AIR
THOSE WHO ENTER HADES
DESPAIR

(PSYCHE runs around, fearfully.)

So she's totally freaked and she doesn't know what to do but then, just in the nick of time, I fly up!

(HE jumps down in front of her, as if landing.)

PSYCHE

Aaah! Who are you?

MERCURY

It's cool. I'm Jeevacles.

(HE pulls out the goblet and moves it as before.)

PSYCHE

Jeevacles! What are you doing here?

MERCURY

It's a long story ...

(HE looks at VENUS who is impatient)

and I don't have time to tell it now. Here. Take this bread.

(HE gives her some pieces of bread.)

PSYCHE

Thanks, I'm really hungry.

MERCURY

No, they're not for you! They're for Cerberus, the three-headed dog.

PSYCHE

The WHAT?

MERCURY

Then you'll need two gold coins, for the ferry -- it leaves at a quarter past or a quarter to, I can never remember. Anyway it's usually late. Oh, and pretend you're dead. Got it?

PSYCHE

No.

MERCURY

Good!

(HE rushes off. PSYCHE walks on toward Hades.)

So, she gets to Cerberus ...

(HE imitates a 3-headed dog)

Ruff ruff ruff... arf arf arf ... yip yip yip! And she gives him the bread.

(SHE throws him 3 pieces of bread, which HE eats noisily. HE then rolls over on his back for her to scratch his belly. PSYCHE does, then walks on.)

And then she gets to the ferry landing, where she meets a bunch of dead people...

(MERCURY imitates a zombie, with his arms in front of him. PSYCHE approaches him.)

PSYCHE

Excuse me ...

(in a zombie voice)

... is this the line for the ferry?

(MERCURY turns and nods, zombie-like.)

I hope it's not too late. I'm in sort of a rush. Do you have the time?

VENUS

Nine twenty-five! (or whatever the real time is)

PSYCHE

Oh! Here it comes now.

(MERCURY becomes CHARON, a ghostly boatman.)

MERCURY

GOLD FOR THE FERRYMAN,
GO- ...

VENUS

Nine twenty-six.

MERCURY

Watch out for the closing doors.

(PSYCHE jumps on board and HE rows her across the river.)

And they get across the river where she meets ... Proserpina!

(HE becomes PROSERPINA)

Welcome to Hades, honey! Have a diet nectar.

PSYCHE

I'm sorry, I can't eat anything. I just came for ...

MERCURY (PROSERPINA)

I know, a box of beauty. Here ya go. Careful, it's dangerous.

PSYCHE

It's not for me, it's for Venus.

MERCURY (PROSERPINA)

Yeah, I know. Like she doesn't have enough beauty of her own, she has to borrow mine? You know, the Gods are all on your side. It's high time that bitch got her comeuppance...

VENUS

That's it! That's it! We skip the rest of Hades.

MERCURY

You understand that was *her* talking, not me ...

VENUS

Nobody seems to realize that if a god can marry a mortal, the whole social order will crumble.

MERCURY

It's not about social structure, Mrs. V, it's about love.

VENUS

Well, she made it out of Hades, but she hasn't beaten me yet.
(CUPID enters.)

CUPID

Mom, I've made up my mind. I'm going to marry Psyche. I know you don't approve and I know Uncle Jove can kick me out of Olympus, but I don't care. I'm going to marry her.

VENUS

Fine.

CUPID

We'll live down on earth and no one can ... what?

VENUS

I said fine.

CUPID

You mean it?

VENUS

I only want you to be happy. You know that.

CUPID

What's the catch?

VENUS

There is no catch. You can marry her. I think it's very sweet of you, considering.

CUPID

Considering what?

VENUS

Mortals die. Or had you forgotten? But first they get old and feeble...

CUPID

That won't happen for years.

VENUS

But what will you do when it does?

CUPID

I'll love her just the same.

VENUS

How noble, darling, and I'm sure you mean it. But think about *her* for a minute. Growing older and older while you stay young and golden. She'll become your little granny, sitting at home waiting for you to come and feed her. Would she want that?

CUPID

No ...

VENUS

Wouldn't she rather have someone who could grow old with her?

(CUPID is silent, disturbed.)

I know you love her, dear. But do you love her enough to do what's best for her?

(HE exits, perplexed.)

And now, for our little princess, another elaborate disguise.

(SHE puts on a pair of sunglasses. PSYCHE enters, box of beauty in hand, looking seriously bedraggled - dress ripped, hair askew, etc.)

Excuse me, Miss, but have you seen a woman named Psyche? I've got a message for her.

PSYCHE

I am Psyche.

VENUS

No, I'm looking for another Psyche. Cupid's girlfriend.

PSYCHE

That's me.

VENUS

She's supposed to be the most beautiful woman in the world.

PSYCHE

Well, I've had a rough trip. I've been to Hades and back.

VENUS

I guess that explains it ...

PSYCHE

Do I look that bad?

VENUS

Y- no. Nothing a little soap and water can't fix. And a month or two at the spa ...

PSYCHE

I get the picture. What's the message?

VENUS

Oh, yeah. It's from Cupid. What a cutie. He says he'll meet you here. Too bad you can't freshen up before he gets here. Still, I suppose he loves you for your inner beauty.

PSYCHE

Yes ...

VENUS

That's what they all say. Inner beauty my eye. What's that?

PSYCHE

It's a box of Beauty. The Beauty of the Gods. I'm bringing it to my mother-in-law.

VENUS

Well, there you go. Sprinkle a bit of that on and you'll be right as rain.

PSYCHE

Oh, I can't. It's supposed to be very dangerous.

VENUS

How dangerous can a bit of beauty be? You don't want to lose him, do you?

PSYCHE

No, really, I'd better not.

VENUS

Well, suit yourself.

(SHE exits. PSYCHE looks at the box, then puts it away. SHE tries to neaten herself up a little. CUPID enters.)

PSYCHE

Cupid!

(SHE rushes over to embrace him.)

CUPID

Psyche, what happened to you?

PSYCHE

I've been to Hades and back. I must look a mess.

CUPID

No ...

PSYCHE

Yes I do but I don't care. I'm so glad to see you. Now I was thinking we could go to Jove ... he's the head of the gods, right? We could go to him and ...

CUPID

Psyche, don't.

PSYCHE

No, listen, I could tell him ...

CUPID

Psyche, stop it.

PSYCHE

What? Don't you even want to try?

CUPID

It's not that. It's just ... I was thinking ... maybe it's better for both of us if we kind of move on ...

PSYCHE

Move on?

CUPID

Yeah. You know, see other people.

PSYCHE

I don't want to see other people.

CUPID

But you should be with a human. You'd be happier.

PSYCHE

Is it your mother? Cause she said she would let you marry me if I brought her this box.

CUPID

It's not her.

PSYCHE

Is there someone else?

CUPID

What? No, I just think it's better for you.

PSYCHE

There's someone else, isn't there?

CUPID

(making a decision to lie)

All right, yes. There's this ... naiad. She's really hot.

PSYCHE

Really hot.

CUPID

Look, you'll be happier this way. You'll forget all about me.

PSYCHE

It's the way I look, isn't it? I've lost my beauty.

CUPID

Don't do this to yourself.

PSYCHE

Tell me.

CUPID

Look, you're beautiful. But mortals change. Gods don't.

PSYCHE

But what if I were beautiful again? As beautiful as a goddess?

CUPID

Will you listen to me? It's over.

PSYCHE

Look, if it's just a matter of beauty, I've got the beauty of the gods right here.

(SHE opens the box of beauty.)

CUPID

Psyche don't!

(SHE breathes it in.)

No!

(PSYCHE falls limp. CUPID runs to her and holds her.)

I was lying. There is no naiad. You're more beautiful than you ever were. I love you. I was doing it for your own good. Psyche - no!

(VENUS enters, followed by MERCURY.)

She's dead.

VENUS

Well, it would have happened sometime.

CUPID

NO!

VENUS

Darling, please ...

(SHE goes to comfort him and HE pushes her away.)

CUPID

Go away!

(HE embraces PSYCHE, desperately.)

VENUS

Don't do this to yourself.

CUPID

She was the only woman I'll ever love. And I destroyed her.

VENUS

It's not your fault.

CUPID

Yes, it is. I'll never forgive myself. She was beautiful and sweet and she loved me. She didn't even know I was a god and she loved me.

VENUS

You'll love again.

CUPID

I don't want to love again. I love her.

VENUS

Darling, please ...

(SHE looks at CUPID, confused, then turns to the audience.)

He never cried when he was a baby. I used to cry myself to sleep, wondering what would become of us. But he'd just lie there, smiling at me.

MERCURY

Help him.

(VENUS looks at CUPID again.)

VENUS

I could never deny him anything.

(SHE goes over to PSYCHE. CUPID tries to keep her away.)

I won't hurt her.

(SHE pulls something invisible away from PSYCHE'S eyes. Then SHE hands him a goblet.)

Here.

CUPID

What's this?

VENUS

Make sure she drinks it all.

(CUPID pours the drink down PSYCHE's throat. PSYCHE coughs and is shaken by a spasm.)

CUPID

(to VENUS)

Thank you.

PSYCHE

(waking up)

Where am I?

CUPID

You're all right. I'm here.

PSYCHE

Cupid?

(THEY embrace.)

CUPID

Psyche, I was lying to you. There is no naiad. There's no one but you. I love you.

(THEY kiss.)

(SONG: MY EYES ARE OPEN NOW reprise)

MY EYES ARE OPEN NOW.

THE PAST IS PAST

AND I'M A MAN AT LAST.

PSYCHE

MY EYES CAN CLEARLY SEE

CUPID & PSYCHE

AND WHAT A SUNBRIGHT

AND BOUNTIFUL WORLD IT CAN BE ...

(PSYCHE has a slight spasm.)

CUPID

What's the matter?

PSYCHE

I feel weird.

(SHE has another spasm, more severe.)

CUPID

Mom? What did you do? Uncle Jove! Help, Uncle Jove!

VENUS

Relax. That's just her immortality kicking in.

PSYCHE and CUPID

(simultaneously)

What?

VENUS

Well, you don't expect me to settle for a human daughter-in-law, do you?

CUPID

You can really do that?

VENUS

I'm a goddess, aren't I? And now ... much as it pains me to admit it ... so is she.

PSYCHE

Me? I'm a goddess?

VENUS

It was the only way to save you.

PSYCHE

Goddess of what?

VENUS

I beg your pardon?

PSYCHE

Doesn't every goddess have a specialty, like love or wisdom or ... ?

VENUS

Don't push it. You're a very low-ranking, generic goddess.

PSYCHE

I know I'm not worthy of your son, but I love him. And there's something else too. I think I'm ...

VENUS

(guessing what PSYCHE is going to say.)
Don't say it.

PSYCHE

I think I'm pregnant.

CUPID

What?

PSYCHE

I can't believe you didn't know. I thought gods knew everything.

VENUS

We do.

CUPID

Obviously we don't.

VENUS

I am too young to be a grandmother!

MERCURY

Sorry, but we are out of time.

VENUS

So soon?

MERCURY

If you want to catch the 9:45 back to Olympus.

VENUS

Well, it can't be helped. After the 9:45 they're all locals. Never mind. I'll come back some other time and tell you about another of my triumphs: Helen of Troy.

CUPID

How come you always pick on the cute ones?

VENUS

It's not my fault. They all have Venus Envy.

MERCURY

(to the pianist.)
Hit it.

(SONG: FINALE)

THAT'S THE WAY IT GOES,
EVERY TIME THE SAME:

CUPID
LOVE IS GONNA CHANGE
THE WAY YOU PLAY THE GAME.

PSYCHE
NOW THE STORY'S TOLD,
NOW THE PLAY IS DONE:

VENUS
BOY GETS GIRL AND
MOTHER LOSES SON.

ALL
JUST ONE LITTLE ARROW,
SHOOT STRAIGHT, SHOOT SMART.
ALL IT TAKES IS ONE LITTLE ARROW IN THE HEART,
HEART.
ONE FUNKY BUT FUN LITTLE ARROW,
ONE READY TO STUN LITTLE ARROW,
ONE HIT 'EM ON THE RUN LITTLE ARROW,
SHOOT STRAIGHT, SHOOT SMART,
ALL IT TAKES IS ONE LITTLE ARROW IN THE
ONE TOTAL PENETRATION LITTLE ARROW
ONE EMOTION AGITATION LITTLE ARROW
ONE LIBIDO LIBERATION LITTLE ARROW
SHOOT STRAIGHT,
SHOOT SMART,
ALL IT TAKES IS ONE LITTLE ARROW IN THE HEART

(One by one, THEY exit. VENUS, last to leave,
takes the box of beauty. Blackout. The End.)

(THE END)