

Psyche

Psyche
SCENE ONE

The Royal Palace Garden
(PSYCHE IS SITTING ALONE ON A BENCH)

MUSIC 1.01-SONG #1
"The One Who's Meant For Me"

PSYCHE

You would think that by now in my life
Someone would ask me how I felt once in a while
You would think that now that I'm sixteen
Somebody, somewhere would care what I think.

You'd imagine my opinion when things happen to me
Just might int'rest somebody

It's always "Psyche, here's what you should do!
Psyche, we know what is best for you."

Where is it written that everyone older than you
has the right to tell you what to do?

Things will soon be different
They're in for a big surprise
From now on I'm in control!
The captain of my life!

Won't it really be something when they wake up to see
That I'm safe and warm and happy.
When I've found the one, the destined one,
The one who's meant for me.

(END OF SONG)

(PSYCHE'S FATHER, THE KING ENTERS)

KING

There you are! Everyone is waiting for you, Psyche.

PSYCHE

I'm not going.

KING

Today is The Festival of Venus and you and I are the only royal family left.

PSYCHE

I don't care, I hate being put on display.

KING

You are their Princess!

PSYCHE

I didn't ask to be.

KING

Well I'm sorry about that, Miss Doesn't-Know-How-Good-She-Has-It, but that's what you are, and as such, you have some duties to perform. When are you going to start accepting some responsibility?

PSYCHE

Why should I? You won't let me do anything, anyway!

KING

Because someday, after I'm gone, you will have to be the Queen.

PSYCHE

Fine!

KING

Don't take that tone of voice with me, young lady.

PSYCHE

I'm not taking anything with anyone.

(PSYCHE AND KING EXIT)

SCENE TWO
Venus' Temple Grounds

MUSIC 1.02-SONG #2
"What Need Have We Of Heaven"

YOLANDA

For those in town for our festivities let me now introduce myself.
My name is Yolanda, the seller of fruit and these are my well-stacked
shelves. Now before we begin our activities, of which, as you know I
am in charge. I just want to say, that since I've been worshipping Psyche,
my melons have grown extra large.

CHORUS

That since she's been worshipping Psyche, her melons have grown extra
large.

BAKER

I am the humble baker, over here my exquisite breads and pies.
And like Yolanda it is now my wish to testify kindly come over here to
my area and prepare to feast your eyes!
For since I've been worshipping Psyche my loaves have an extra rise.

CHORUS

For since he's been worshipping Psyche, his loaves have an extra rise!
What need have we of Heaven and its' distant divinities.
When here on Earth is Psyche our Goddess of True Beauty.

SKEPTIC

I myself was a skeptic, my doubt I could not remove.
I could not accept her on faith alone. I needed some tangible proof.
Then suddenly it dawned on me, all at once, in a wink.
That since I've been worshipping Psyche, the sky is more blue, I
think.

CHORUS

That since she's been worshipping Psyche, the sky is more blue, she thinks.

THE DRUNK

I used to have double-vision, perhaps that was 'cause I was drunk. But today my eyesight is perfect, even though I'm as drunk as a skunk.

ALL

Even though he's as drunk as a skunk.

What need have we of Heaven and its' distant divinities.
When here on Earth is Psyche our Goddess of True Beauty.
So let us join our voices on our Venus Festival Day
For our beloved Princess Psyche is here with us today

(END OF SONG)
(PSYCHE ENTERS)

VILLAGE WOMEN
(Spoken)

Look! Here she comes!

THE ZEALOT

So beautiful!

THE BAKER

A vision!

VILLAGE WOMEN

Heaven sent!

THE SKEPTIC

How can mere words describe her?

THE ZEALOT

I'd give my life for her.

PSYCHE

Please, good people, you are too kind.

YOLANDA

Such modesty!

THE BAKER

Such humility!

PSYCHE

Please, good people, if you don't mind!

(THE ORACLE OF VENUS ENTERS)

ORACLE

Stop! Listen to me! All ye who have now strayed from the path of Venus. All ye who have perverted her festival.

All ye who have left her alters befouled and unswept.

DRUNK

Wait a minute! That's my job!

ORACLE

All ye who have allowed her temple to fall into ruin.

Beware! Repent! Or the real Goddess Venus will make the rivers run backwards. She will stop the sun in mid-heaven. Yes, Venus will cause the moon to drop a poisonous dew, and make your melons wither and your loaves fall. And why will she do this, why? Because you worship a false idol, that's why! You worship a mortal, a mere earthling. This Princess Psyche!

PSYCHE

The Oracle of Venus speaks the truth! Don't worship me!

Return to his temple! Make offerings to Venus!

I am not a Goddess! I'm just a girl! Listen to him!

(PSYCHE RUNS OFF.)

ORACLE

Repent, for the end is near!

BAKER

You're Goddess Venus is as distant as the stars.

SKEPTIC

If she exists at all.

YOLANDA

Worship your Goddess Venus if you want to.

THE ZEALOT

The only Venus we need is right here among us.

(ORACLE IS LEFT ALONE)

ORACLE

I am ruined! I am doomed! Soon I'll be unemployed and out on the Appian Way. I might even have to look for a real job; to work for a living...The worst thing that could happen to a holy man.

(VENUS ENTERS)

VENUS

Oracle, what is happening here? Isn't today my festival day!?

ORACLE

Yes. O Perfect One

VENUS

Then why is my feast neglected? Why are my rites discontinued?
Why are my statues ungarlanded?

ORACLE

My Grace, I'm afraid you have been replaced.

VENUS

Replaced!! By whom?

ORACLE

Princess Psyche. She is so beautiful humans worship her instead of you.

VENUS

They what?! This is absurd! It's unbelievable. What are you doing about it?

ORACLE

Believe me, everything I can.

VENUS

Did you tell them that I would make the rivers run backwards?

ORACLE

Yes.

VENUS

And stop the sun in mid-heaven?

ORACLE

They laughed.

VENUS

That I will cause the moon to drop a poisonous dew?

ORACLE

I even told them their melons would wither and their loaves would fall.

VENUS

I don't understand.

ORACLE

Nobody does.

VENUS

Oh, this is not good. Not good at all.

MUSIC 1.03-SONG #3

"Why Can't Things Be As They Once Were?"

VENUS

Being wise, I've embraced and accepted a certain degree of change
Still I was sure some things would be sacred, come what may.
So I never expected this strange twist of fate to find myself being
replaced

ORACLE

For many years I have served in your temple. Devotedly tending
your flock. And always my dictates were valued. And my edicts
eagerly sought. So you can not imagine how it hurts to the core to
find that you're being ignored

(V)VENUS/(O)ORACLE(B)BOTH

(V)Rejected, (O)neglected (V) and abandoned (O) cursed (V)
scorned (O) and rebuked. (B) Oh why can't things be as they once
were? (V) So simple (O) so right (B) and so good.

ORACLE

(spoken)

What a situation!

VENUS

(spoken)

Ridiculous!

ORACLE

(Sung)

There was a time when I was admired by every man, every
woman, and child

VENUS

And I was worshipped and exalted and my glories extolled to the
skies.

ORACLE

Oh why should you tolerate this dreadful mistake?

VENUS

This insult!

ORACLE

This slap in the face.

ORACLE

(spoken)

Tales of Psyche's beauty have spread around the world
and people make pilgrimages just to catch a glimpse of her.

VENUS

(Sung)

Defamed, dethroned and disfavored.

ORACLE

Belittled, befouled and besmirched

(V)VENUS(O)ORACLE(B)BOTH

(B) Oh why can't things be as they once were (V) So simple (O) so
right (B) and so good

ORACLE

(spoken)

Your shrines at Cyprian Pathos, Carion Cnidos and even your
temple on the (lisps) Isthmus of Cythera, where your lovely foot
first touched dry land, now lie abandoned.

VENUS

(delivers the "tongue-twister" perfectly)

Cyprian Pathos, Carion Cnidos and the Isthmus of Cythera!

ORACLE

Well then!

VENUS
(Sung)

Defiled, denounced and dishonored

ORACLE

Emasculated, deflowered and defrocked.

VENUS

So let us put things back together.

ORACLE

Together

VENUS

United

BOTH

And for good! Together. United. And for good!

(END OF SONG)

VENUS
(spoken)

I Venus, the true Goddess of Beauty, Mistress of the Graces and the Muses, The Mother of Eros, Deimos, Anteros, Hermione, Phobus, Hermaphroditus, Priapus, Eryx, and Aeneas, indeed...the mother of all mothers...will not stand idly by and watch my sacred name be dragged through the mud of Earth.

ORACLE

Absolutely not!

VENUS

It meant nothing, I suppose, that Himerus, Pothos, Hymen and Suadela all fought for my hand in marriage.

ORACLE

Really!

VENUS

Nothing, that the shepherd Paris, whose verdict Jupiter himself confirmed, awarded me the apple of beauty over all my Goddess rivals? Oh No...No...No...This is too much!

ORACLE

Too much!

VENUS

We have to do something and quickly. She should fall in love. Yes, that's it. Madly in love. But as her punishment it must be with something hideous. My son Eros will do it.

ORACLE

Not Eros!! Not that home-wrecker, that heartbreaker, that wild and wicked God-boy.

VENUS

Be careful. You're talking about my son.

ORACLE

Sorry. It's a great idea. What about the townspeople?

VENUS

Those ingrates...maybe a famine. Yes! Make a famine.

ORACLE

Yes, a famine...their melons will wither and their loaves will fall.

VENUS

What are you talking about?

ORACLE

Nothing. Forget it.

*BRIEF REPRISE OF SONG #3*VENUS

Yes, soon things will be as they once were

ORACLE

So perfect

VENUS

So right

ORACLE

And so good

BOTH

So perfect. So right. And so good!

(THEY SHAKE)

(END OF SCENE TWO)

SCENE THREE
THE ROYAL PALACE GARDEN

(PSYCHE AND THE KING ENTER.)

MUSIC 1.04-SONG #4
"Do You Remember?"

PSYCHE
(spoken)

No one will ever marry a "goddess." I'm gonna die an old maid!
Don't you see?!

KING
(spoken)

Oh I see, I see...

KING
(sung)

My child, things could be worse. Suppose they said you were a
devil and chased you 'round the village with sticks and stones and
pitchforks?

PSYCHE
(sung)

Father, please Father, how young do you think I am? The years
have gone by now, and I'm all grown up now. Oh please Sir, just
look at me.

KING

Tell me where's that little girl who used to run to Daddy?

PSYCHE

All grown up.

| <u>KING</u> | <u>PSYCHE</u> |
|---|--|
| <p>My child, listen to me, when we are young, we're in a hurry to leave our precious childhood. We believe, for some strange reason that growing up will make us happy.</p> <p>Do you remember? You were always singing songs and sitting on my knee.</p> <p>Princess, my little princess, forgive me while I reminisce. I wish that your mother was here with us to witness the pretty little girl you've become. Do you remember? Do you remember? You were always singing songs and sitting on my knee. Tell me where's that little girl who used to run to Daddy? My child, time goes too fast while you're still young, you must remember to enjoy your precious childhood. Believe me when I tell you that growing old is not a blessing. Do you remember? Do you remember?</p> | <p>How young does he think I am?</p> <p>That was years ago. I'm not a child.</p> <p>The years have gone by now and even though I'm all grown up now, he still calls me his "little princess."</p> <p>He won't even look at me.</p> <p>He's in the past. Lost in the past.</p> <p>How young does he think I am? To him I am still a child.</p> <p>Father, dear Father, for once take me seriously.</p> <p>As long as our people believe I'm a Goddess, then no one will want to marry me. He's in the past. Lost in the past.</p> <p>Yes, I remember.</p> |

(END OF SONG)

PSYCHE

(spoken)

Could you do something for me?

KING

Anything, Psyche.

PSYCHE

Could you ask the Oracle of Venus who I will marry?

KING

The Oracle! Absolutely not!! When the time comes for you to marry I will chose your husband. Remember, we have the future of the kingdom to consider.

PSYCHE

Politics! What if I don't love the one you choose? What if I end up spending my whole life with some terrible person and never, ever meet the one who was destined for me?

KING

Can we talk about this later?

PSYCHE

If Mother were still alive she'd know what to do.

KING

Psyche, please. That's not fair.

PSYCHE

I'm sorry. Then instead of who, what if we only ask the Oracle if, just ask him if I will ever marry?

KING

Of course you'll marry. If and when I decide!

PSYCHE

Something bad is happening. I feel it in my bones. It's this Goddess Venus business. It's just not right! Please, please. Just this one thing. Only ask if, not who or when, just if.

KING

All right, all right...we'll ask the Oracle, if you will ever marry. Nothing more. Because the rest is up to me. Do you understand?

PSYCHE

I understand. Just if. Nothing more. That's all I want to know.

(THEY EXIT.)

END OF SCENE THREE

SCENE FOUR
(VENUS' TEMPLE GROUNDS, EROS ENTERS)

EROS

From place to place I fly
As fast as fast can be
Shooting my arrows wherever I please
Oh how I love being me

When I feel like being naughty
I'm as naughty as naughty can be
When I feel like being good, occasionally

Well, actually, I never feel like being good
Oh how I love being me

I can not be commanded
I will not be controlled
I do whatever pleases me
But never what I'm told.
No never what I'm told.

(VENUS ENTERS)

EROS

Oh no, it's my Mother.

VENUS

There you are my little darling. I've been looking everywhere for you.

EROS

Remember how busy it gets for me in springtime. Ah, springtime!

MUSIC 1.05-RECITATIVE 4A

“Oh Is It Really Spring?”

VENUS/EROS

Oh, Is it really spring, the season that should bring such happiness to me? Oh, is it really spring that would be offering such misery to me? I've been patient, (Eros) Mother. (Venus) forgiving, (Eros) Mother! (Venus) compassionate, in my way. Yes, compassionate... (Eros)Mother!!!

(END OF RECITATIVE)

VENUS

(spoken)

What!?! Can't you see I'm singing?!

EROS

Is this about Psyche?

VENUS

What did you hear?!

EROS

That because she is so beautiful, humans worship her instead of you.

VENUS

It's ridiculous!!

EROS

I don't know, look at it another way. You're always complaining about how much you have to do. Now with someone taking over for you, maybe you can finally take some time off....go away for a while....unwind...learn to relax.

VENUS

Like you? And do nothing all the time!

I want you to make her fall in love with something hideous.

EROS

What?! Absolutely not!

VENUS

Aren't you the God of Love!?

EROS

Yes! And I must not misuse my powers!

VENUS

Oh, please!

MUSIC 1.06-SONG #6
“And That Is Love”

EROS

You see love must never be a curse.

Venus
(spoken)

For heaven's sake!

EROS
(sung)

For love is like the flowers, their sweet fragrance ev'rywhere.

VENUS
(spoken)

Eros! Not now! Later you can sing. We can sing together.

EROS
(sung)

Because love, must never be a curse.

Because love, should be flowers in the springtime.

Those in love should soar above the world.

Those in love should have joy everlasting. They're in love!

Because love should be beauty and wonder and living without a care.

EROS (cont.)

Because love, must never be a curse
 Because love must be pure intoxication
 Where there's love, happiness must be
 Where there's love, there'll be strains of sweet, sweet music from
 above
 In our darkest hour
 In the depths of our despair
 Let somebody say "I love you" and our problems disappear
 And so love, can never be a curse
 Because love is all mystery and magic
 An elixir, the most potent spell
 Never old, always young and inviting
 Never flawed, always new and exciting.
 For love is all freedom and abandon, complete fantasy, total
 ecstasy,
 And that is love.

(END OF SONG)

VENUS

Don't we have a high opinion of ourselves!

EROS

I just tell it like it is.

VENUS

Fine...love is wonderful, you're wonderful, everything is wonderful
 But your mother, if you still care about her, is miserable.
 Don't think of what I am asking you to do as a curse, then.
 Think of it as a fabulous blessing! I don't care. Bless this Princess
 with something completely, wonderfully, fabulously hideous. But
 do it!!

EROS

Mother, I really don't see a problem here. Being mortal, how long
 can her beauty last, 5, maybe 10 years...Then she'll get old and
 wrinkled and the humans will definitely be reminded of you.

VENUS

Why you little dickens! Come over here!!
Why can't I stay angry with you?

EROS

Because you made me so charming.

VENUS

Yes, my charming little boy.

(EXIT VENUS AND EROS AS ORACLE ENTERS)

ORACLE

Just when things were looking hopeless...this...it's too perfect!
Why bother looking at entrails? Why waste even a single pigeon?
Venus will be so proud. Let's face it. You can't send a boy, a silly
little boy, with some arrows of love, to do the work of a man. It
requires someone like myself. Someone more mature. An expert.
Yes, Psyche will wed a monster just like Venus wanted but it will
be me, not her son, who does this for her. Oh just wait until our
dear little Princess hears who, or should I say what she is to marry.
Sometimes I love this job!

(THE KING AND PSYCHE ENTER.)

KING

Oracle of Venus, did you receive my petition?
Then please ask the Gods if my daughter Psyche will ever marry?

ORACLE

Not only will she marry, but it must be at once. Tonight. Before the
sun rises. Prepare the Princess for her nuptial rites then send her to
the great mountain's high and craggy peak. There she will meet her
husband. No groom of mortal seed. No creature of human birth but
a monster viperous and fierce who flies through the air and
devours all things with fire. So sayeth the Gods!

KING

You're insane!

ORACLE

I am the mere mouthpiece of the Gods.

KING

Psyche, go!

PSYCHE

I knew the Gods were angry with me.

ORACLE

If my edict is not obeyed Venus will destroy this kingdom.

KING

How many times have we heard that one before?!

Psyche! Leave!

ORACLE

Then be prepared for the wrath of the Gods!

PSYCHE

Now I've really done it. Now I am truly cursed.

I knew something was terribly wrong.

If this is my fate, so be it.

I am ready to obey the will of the Gods.

KING

Of all the ridiculous things! Remove yourself from this temple at once.

(PSYCHE RUNS OUT, KING FOLLOWS)

ORACLE

We'll see who removes whom!

(BEGINS A CHANT, BREWING STORM)

Titans of the underworld I now invoke thee.

By removing high Heaven's protecting welkin

I now set all tortured and sleepless souls free!

Demons of Hell, go where you will, do what you please

Set the very air afire

(EROS ENTERS.)

EROS

The things I have to do sometimes. To make somebody fall in love with a hideous beast. It's unnatural. Well guess what, I'm not going to do it and that's that!

(SOUND CUE-THUNDER)

(VILLAGERS ENTER)

MUSIC 1.07-SONG #6

"The Wedding Song."

VILLAGERS

(sung)

It is a omen. It is the end. A great destruction the Gods now send.

ORACLE

(spoken)

I warned you. You didn't believe me. Now you see the price of your disobedience. The real cost of defying the edicts of my temple! Behold the wrath of Venus. Yes, not a single soul will be spared. And why, why, why? Because you have worshipped a false idol! That's why! You took the adoration that belongs to the Gods and gave it to a mere human being. Your problem is Princess Psyche. She is the cause of this curse.

VILLAGERS

(sung)

It is a omen! It is the end! A great destruction the Gods now send!
Where is Psyche? There she is!

(PSYCHE ENTERS IN HER WEDDING GOWN)

PSYCHE

(sung)

How good to see you. Pray, I haven't kept you long?
Now let's get started, beginning with the song.

YOLANDA

Your Highness, what song do you mean?

PSYCHE

The Wedding Song, of course.

ALL WOMEN

The Wedding Song?!

THE BAKER

Your Highness, in light of the circumstance...

PSYCHE

What circumstance is that? This is my wedding! I command you as
your princess to obey my request! You over there. (to The Drunk)
Come here. You will sing the groom's part.

DRUNK

I've not much of a voice.

PSYCHE/VILLAGER

(sung)

To our friends gathered today we now declare we love each other.
And we proclaim to all of you that our love will last forever.

PSYCHE

Now your part! Sing! (villagers are shocked, do not sing)
I command you!

VILLAGERS

(begin singing reluctantly)

All we friends who gather here, pledge we now to help this
marriage. Promise we to share with you, what you may need of our
good fortune.

ALL

Wedding day! Let us sing of the joy our bounty brings.
Pledge we now, here today, to love each other.

(THE KING APPEARS)

KING

Psyche! This must stop! Now!!

PSYCHE

First sing your part, then it will stop.

KING

Family now sends our best, as our dear ones go on without us.
And though we're sad they leave the nest, here in our hearts they
stay forever.

PSYCHE

(Turns and sings to her father.)

Father dear, my family, sad to say, I now must leave you.
Though today we have to part always know what's in my heart.
Some sweet day all of us will be together.

ORACLE

Enough of this it's getting late soon dawn will break
You can not change your destiny by singing songs
We must leave now! March! March!

(THE WEDDING MARCH BEGINS. THE KING CAN NOT STOP IT AND THE SOUND OF BEAST IS HEARD.)

KING

Psyche! Psyche!

ALL

Though today we have to part, always know what's in our hearts.
Some sweet day, all of us will be together.
Wedding day! Let us sing of the joy our bounty brings.
Pledge we now, here today, to love each other.

(WEDDING PROCESSION CONTINUES TOWARDS THE MOUNTAIN UNTIL SOUND OF BEAST CAUSES THE TOWNSPEOPLE TO BACK AWAY. PSYCHE CONTINUES ON BY HERSELF.)

MUSIC 1.08-INTERLUDE 6A

“Do You Remember”

KING

Psyche! Psyche!

Do you remember? Do you remember?
You were always singing songs and sitting on my knee
Tell me where's that little girl who used to run to Daddy?
Oh my love, do you know how much I love you?
Do you know you are my world
My only child, my perfect child, how much I love you.
My sweet, little girl.
Do you remember? Do you remember? Do you remember?
(END OF SONG)

(EROS IS LEFT OBSERVING THE SCENE AS THE ROAR OF THE BEAST IS HEARD ONCE AGAIN)

CURTAIN/ACT ONE ENDS

ACT TWO
SCENE ONE

CELESTIAL PARADISE APARTMENTS

(Beautiful, floating, palace. Psyche is asleep. Eros observes his prize.)

EROS

It was all so very romantic: "The handsome God, Eros, snatches Earth's most beautiful Princess, Psyche, from the jaws of a hideous monster and whisks her off to his celestial palace in the sky." It's unprecedented! Just look at her. I did that! Wow!

MUSIC 2.01-SONG #7

"So This Is Psyche"

EROS

So this is Psyche; that mortal girl whose beauty has disturbed the peace of heaven. Fortunately, she has no effect on me how well I understand these things! Though I could see her having quite the effect upon some poor mortal.

I can picture him.

"Oh my love, until just now, I had only worshipped thee from afar. I told myself no one could be so lovely...but you are."
Yes, I suppose this is what a man in love might say.

I can picture him.

I can hear him saying, "Oh my love, it seems that destiny has a plan for us." Yes, I'm sure this is what he would say. He would believe that they were meant to be together...eternally.
Yes, I suppose that this is what someone in love, might believe.

I can picture him.

Yes, I could see that he would lose his self control, and caught in love's great spell would do such silly things.
Yes, I imagine someday he would curse himself for being such a fool. Yes, I am sure this is what someone in love would do.

EROS(CONT.)

I can picture him.

He's singing, "Oh my love, tell me your heart, say you love me,
take me to paradise."

He'd ask himself, "Could she ever be in love with me?"...and if she
was...

Yes, and if that man were me I might lose my self control and
caught in my own spell would do such silly things.

And I can tell you, someday I would curse myself for being such a
fool. Yes, I am sure that this could even happen to me.

If that man were me.

If that man were me.

(END OF SONG)

(PSYCHE STIRS AND EROS HIDES)

MUSIC 2.02-INTERLUDE 7A

"Hello, Hello"

PSYCHE

Hello. Hello. Is anyone here?

Hello. Hello. I feel someone near

I know a dream seems often real.

Then when we awake how foolish we feel.

So wake up Psyche! Psyche, awake! (pinches self)

What I recall, was that a dream?

the mountain top, the howling wind..

Could this be the hideous monster's lair!

Oh no! I must run for my life!

(PSYCHE RUNS TOWARDS THE EDGE INTO AIR.)

EROS

STOP! Look out!!

PSYCHE

Who's there? Hello. Hello. Who's there. Whose voice is this?
 Don't worry you won't scare me I am not afraid.
 I don't get frightened easily I am really brave.
 Oh please! Stop hiding like that!
 I'm feeling rather lost. I could just cry.
 I really don't know what I supposed to do.

MUSIC 2.03 SONG #8

"Please Don't Cry"

EROS

Please don't cry. Please don't cry. Be assured in this place
 You are completely safe.

PSYCHE

Your voice sounds sweet and comforting.
 How do I know if you are kind unless I see your face?

EROS

Please don't cry.
 Please don't cry I promise
 you. Believe me, there is
 nothing here to fear.
 Don't come so close.
 I have to go. I'm very late.
 I promise you when I return
 I will be able to explain
 everything. You'll be all
 right.
 You have my word that you
 are safe, what more is there
 to say?
 So no more tears and don't
 ask why but you can not
 see my face.
 No you must not see my
 face.

PSYCHE

Why do you hide? Oh please
 come out nearer to me where
 I can see your face. I don't
 care what you look like, it's
 all right. I only want to see
 you. Come into the light.
 Are you the one who brought me
 here? Are you the one who
 brought me to this place?
 Oh please don't go and leave me
 here all by myself, just stay a little
 while.
 I really don't know where I am or
 how this came to be.
 If you're the one who lives here
 you must know more than me. I
 know that you can speak
 Why won't you talk to me?

(END OF SONG)

PSYCHE

(spoken)

Fine! Sneak around in the dark for the rest of your life! Good-bye!

(PSYCHE HEADS FOR THE EDGE AGAIN. EROS RUNS AND
THROWS HIS ARMS AROUND HER.)

EROS

Be careful.

(He turns Psyche around to face him)

PSYCHE

Whoa!

EROS

Listen, I know all this must be very confusing for you.
But trust me, you're in no danger. I will explain everything later.
Right now, I really have to go.

PSYCHE

I'll go with you.

EROS

I'm going to see my mother, and frankly, it takes her a while to
warm up to new people. Maybe next time. Yes, I'm sure that next
time we can go together. Wait for me here.

(EROS TOUCHES HIS FINGERS TO HIS LIPS THEN TO
PSYCHE'S LIPS. EROS EXITS).

PSYCHE

Whoa!

END OF SCENE ONE

SCENE TWO
VENUS' TEMPLE GROUNDS
 (THE KINGDOM IS RACKED BY FAMINE)

MUSIC 2.04-SONG #9
 "Heaven Help Us"

THE BAKER

Up until now when things went bad

THE ZEALOT

We always knew how to make amends

THE BAKER

An offering, a sacrifice, a prayer

THE ZEALOT

And life would be good again.

YOLANDA/THE SKEPTIC

But now it seems no matter what we do, it only gets worse and worse

THE BAKER/THE ZEALOT

And no power here on Earth

ALL FOUR

Can lift this awful curse

THE BAKER/THE ZEALOT

What are we supposed to do?

YOLANDA/THE SKEPTIC

How will we be able to survive?

THE BAKER/THE ZEALOT

What can be done to change our fate

ALL

And save our precious lives.
 Heaven Help Us!
 Heaven Help Us!
 Help us!!

(END OF SONG)
 (ORACLE ENTERS)

YOLANDA

(Spoken)

My crops need water!

BAKER

I've no flour for bread!

SKEPTIC

Why are the Gods punishing us?!!

ORACLE

Because you strayed from the path of Venus
 Because you perverted her festival and neglected her worship.
 Because you left her alters befouled and unswept ...

DRUNK

You're absolutely right. I'm really sorry. Now how 'bout a little drink.

ORACLE

I warned you but you didn't believe me and now you see that my prophecy has been fulfilled!

YOLANDA

But we sacrificed the Princess just like you said.

ORACLE

It wasn't enough.

SKEPTIC

What more can we do!?

ORACLE

Bring more offerings to the temple!

BAKER

We've nothing left...

ORACLE

I'm sure you'll find something. Now go!! The Gods have spoken!

(EXIT VILLAGERS.)

ORACLE

Ah! Yes. It's all coming back. The worship. The adoration. The genuine love of the people. It feels good.

MUSIC 2.05-SONG #10

"There's Nothing Quite Like This!"

ORACLE

How can you go back to simply getting by once you've become accustomed to living a certain way?

I've often read of the virtue called humility, of the value of a simple life. But the very idea of an oath of poverty scares the Hell out of me.

You never realize how precious your success is
'till you contemplate the many things you'd miss
How can you know the joy of rescue 'till you've been lost?
There's nothing quite like this!

You don't appreciate your many fine possessions
'til you see them teetering on the brink.
To see your whole world heading for disaster then grab it back!
It gives one pause to think.

ORACLE(cont.)

Call me crazy, call me wild, call me giddy,
like a schoolgirl after her first kiss.

But to get a new lease at the end of your time.
To be showered with riches when you're down to your last dime.
To face utter catastrophe and be just fine.
How to describe this kind of happiness?
It's just so great!! There's nothing quite like this.
I'm back on top! There's nothing quite like this.

(END OF SONG)

(ORACLE EXITS AS VENUS ENTERS)

MUSIC 2.06-RECITATIVE-10A

“I’ve Never Been Happier”

VENUS

I've never been happier!
It's unbelievable how great I feel!
Once more there is worship in my temples.
And once more there are offerings to me.
What joy for me! What ecstasy!
When things are as they should be.
What could be taking him?
Where in the worlds could that boy be?
This time he has really made me happy.
This time he has made his Old Mum proud.
By helping me with that silly (spoken) what's her name
(sung) We put things back where they should be.
Yes, things are as they should be.
I've never been happier!

(EROS ENTERS. VENUS STARTS A TANGO)

(Spoken) Ah, there you are!!

(Sung)

Once again there is worship in my temples.
And once again there are offerings to me.
By helping me with that Princess, what's-her-name...

EROS
(sings)

Princess Psyche.

VENUS
We put things back as they should be.
Yes, things are as they should be.

(END OF RECITATIVE)

VENUS (CONT.)
(Spoken)

So how did you do it? Tell me everything!
Don't leave out a single delicious detail!

EROS
You really want to hear about Psyche?

VENUS
Yes, my sweet little devil! Who else?!!

EROS
I removed her, or moved her, it's all the same.

VENUS
Moved her? Where!?

EROS
Nowhere special.

VENUS
What are you saying?

EROS
Nothing.

VENUS

Nothing!!! What did you do with her?

EROS

Who?

VENUS

That schemer Psyche!

EROS

Oh her. Well..first I found a hideous thing for her to fall in love with just like you asked me to. You would have been very proud of me, Mother, it was all hairy and slimy and ug....

VENUS

Eros?...

EROS

Lo and behold I come to find out that your Oracle had already arranged for Psyche to be wed. And guess who the groom was...a monster, a really, really horrible monster. That is when I knew that there had to be some terrible mistake. I remembered that you had said to make her fall in love, not marry, and with something hideous, not horrible. That this was not what you wanted at all. I knew I had to act quickly and decisively. I suppose you could call me a kind of hero.

VENUS

You rescued her.

EROS

I rescued her.

VENUS

How could you do that?

EROS

What was I supposed to do? That's not the way I was brought up. So until things calm down she's staying with me. And just for your peace of mind, know that I have no amorous intentions or anything like that. This was purely a noble gesture on my part. "Noblesse oblige." Anyway, that's everything that happened.

VENUS

(spoken)

So right now she is here with us in heaven. Resting up. Sleeping in your bed. Soon I suppose you'll be setting up your domicile. A larger bed, a few chairs, a set of drapes. Please pardon me while I go to see if I've some things for the nursery

EROS

A nursery Mother? Really!

VENUS

Great Jupiter's Ghost! I should have known!
No matter how many eons I live I learn nothing. So now what?

EROS

Now what?

VENUS

What's next? What do you intend to do next?

EROS

I hadn't really thought about it? Why can't I just keep her for awhile? You'd like her if you met her and I know she wants to meet you. And by Jove, she's so incredibly beaut...(stops)

VENUS

So incredibly what!

EROS

Nothing. Just nice. Just very nice.

VENUS.

I think you were about to say "incredibly beautiful."

EROS

Everybody knows that.

VENUS

You're in love with her.

EROS

I'm not in love with her.

VENUS

Goody, then bring her to me.

EROS

What will you do?

VENUS

(speaks as she exits)

What do you care? She's nothing to you, you just said so yourself.

Bring her to me and that's an order!

An idiot. A complete idiot. He gets it from his father...

(EROS IS LEFT STANDING ALONE)

EROS

Oh boy, oh boy!!

(SCENE TWO ENDS)

SCENE THREE
CELESTIAL PARADISE APARTMENTS

MUSIC 2.07-SONG #11
"Could This Be The Day"

PSYCHE

It's just as I had dreamed, a young and handsome Prince
Oh could this be the day when I fall in love? When I fall in love.

(EROS ENTERS SHE DOESN'T SEE HIM. SHE TAKES SOME
BEAUTIFUL FABRIC FROM NEARBY AND WRAPS IT
AROUND HERSELF)

I'll make a pretty dress to wear, find some flowers for my hair.

Oh could this be the day when I fall in love? When I fall in love.

Eros

I can hear him saying,
"Oh my love, tell me your
heart.
Say you love me. Take me to
paradise."
He would believe that they
were meant to be together.

Yes, I'm sure that is what he'd
believe.

Yes, and if that man were me,
I might lose my self control
and caught in my own spell, I
would do such crazy things.

Psyche

Could he be the one who's
meant for me
Oh I'm sure he's the one and
we'll be in love.
Oh could this be the day
when I fall in love?
When I fall in love.

("descant")

Eros (cont.)

And I can tell you someday I would curse myself for acting like a fool. Yes, I am sure that this is what would happen to me. If that man were me.

I can hear him saying, Oh my love until just now, I had only worshipped you from afar. I'd told myself, no one could be so lovely...but you are. Yes, you are.

Psyche (cont.)

Could he be the one
The one who's meant for me?
Oh I'm sure he's the one
And we'll be in love.

Oh this must be the day when
I fall in love.

Yes, I will fall in love.
Yes, we'll be in love.

END OF SONG

(EROS COMES OUT FROM HIS HIDING PLACE)

PSYCHE

(Startled, grabs the corners of her "dress")

Who's there?

EROS

Just me.

PSYCHE

(tucks the garment in)

Oh, Hi. How's your mother?

EROS

Not bad. Actually, terrible.

PSYCHE

Is she ill?

EROS

She doesn't get ill. It's just....

PSYCHE

Just what?

EROS

She thinks I'm an idiot.

PSYCHE

You seem very intelligent to me.

EROS

I do?

PSYCHE

Oh yes!

EROS

What in particular shows my intelligence?

PSYCHE

Everything. Thoughtful. Smart. Really smart, in your own sort-of way.

EROS

You're the first one who's ever noticed that. How about you?

PSYCHE

Am I smart?

EROS

No, I don't care about that. Does your mother criticize you?

PSYCHE

My mother passed away.

EROS

Oh, I'm so sorry, that must be very sad.

PSYCHE

Yes, it was. Still is. But my Father is just like your mother,
He just refuses to see that I've grown up and can take care of
myself.

EROS

Like we're two year olds!

PSYCHE

Exactly.

EROS

You know, it's such a relief to find someone I can really talk to.

PSYCHE

So true! For me, too!

MUSIC 2.08-SONG #12

"Maybe It's Me"

EROS

Everyone loves me, or so they say.
As long as I listen and obey.
But no one really cares how I feel.
Maybe someday, someone, somewhere.

PSYCHE

Maybe it's me. Each of us hopes some day to find
someone, somewhere, who'll take the time,
to really care, truly care, how we feel.
Maybe someday, someone, somewhere.

EROS

Maybe it's me.

PSYCHE

Isn't it funny, how no one really sees...

EROS

That deep inside you're really so unhappy.

PSYCHE

You might be a Princess.

EROS

You might be a God.

PSYCHE

But unless someone touches your heart

BOTH

They never know just who you are.

PSYCHE

I am known as a beautiful face.

EROS

They all call me the carefree boy.

BOTH

Does anyone take the time to really see?
But maybe now, would you like to try with me...possibly.

EROS

Isn't it sad that what you may be inside...

PSYCHE

So often, you end up having to hide.

EROS

You could be a Princess...

PSYCHE

The most handsome by far.

BOTH

But unless someone touches your heart,
they'll never know just who you are.

I want to know just who you are.

Will you show me who you are?

(END OF SONG)

(THEY EMBRACE. PSYCHE'S MAKESHIFT DRESS FALLS
TO THE GROUND AS VENUS ENTERS)

VENUS

Eros!

EROS

Mother!

PSYCHE

Your mother?

VENUS

Yes, I am Venus.

PSYCHE

The Goddess?! (to Eros) Who are you?!

EROS

I meant to tell you. I am Eros, son of Venus.

PSYCHE

The God!

VENUS

So much for introductions. Why are you seducing my son?

EROS

Mother! That's not what was happening

VENUS
(to Eros)

You stay out of this!

(to Psyche)

Answer me! Wasn't it enough to steal the worship from my temples? Now you want to take my son as well?

PSYCHE

I never wanted to be worshipped.

EROS

That's right, she didn't.

VENUS

I'm not talking to you! Did you really think that by seducing my son you could win a place in heaven?

PSYCHE

No I didn't. I really didn't know where I was or what happened or anything.

EROS

It's true! She never knew where she was or who I was or anything!

VENUS

(to Eros)

You be quiet! You're in enough trouble already! (to Psyche)
Do you think we keep a place in heaven for ev'ry little girl with a pretty face?

PSYCHE

I'm really very sorry. Just show me where to go and I'll leave immediately.

EROS

Mother! Enough! I was the one who saved her from the monster on the mountain. I saved her life. I will take full responsibility.

PSYCHE

You saved me?!

EROS

(To Psyche) Yes. (To Venus) She's completely innocent. I'll take care of this. Just calm down.

VENUS

Calm down? Calm down? You calm down!!!

(VENUS WAVES HER ARM AND CAUSES EROS TO BE SURROUNDED BY A GLASS VAULT.)

SOUND CUE: BREAKING GLASS

PSYCHE

(Psyche runs to the vault)

How can you do that to your own son? He saved my life.

VENUS

Then you think I should release him?

PSYCHE

Yes! Please!

VENUS

All right, but first you must do something for me.

PSYCHE

Name it!!

MUSIC 2.09-RECITATIVE 12A

“There Is A Special Potion”

Venus

There is a special potion I desire that has a most fantastic spell. It imparts eternal beauty. (Spoken) Not that I really need it.

Psyche
(spoken)

Where is it?

Venus
(Sung)

In Hell.

Psyche
(spoken)

In Hell?

(VENUS WAVES ARM AND A VESSEL APPEARS)
(SOUND CUE: BOING)

VENUS

This lovely vessel will be provided to make your short trip comfortable. How I wish I too were going. It's so very nice there, this time of year.

PSYCHE
(sung)

Do not think it can be done. Do not think that I can't do it.
For where I come from, when someone saves your life and they need your help, we are honor bound.

(PSYCHE GETS IN THE VESSEL)

Close it!

(WITH A WAVE OF HER HAND VENUS CLOSES THE
VESSEL)
(END RECITATIVE)

MUSIC 2.10-INTERLUDE 12B

“Have I Gone Too Far?”

VENUS

I act because I must act. That's a fact!
I do because I must do. That's that!

Everything depends on the rightness of things
And every rightness depends on me.
Have I gone too far?

VENUS(cont.)

She broke the rules, that's all that happened, truth to tell.
 She went too far. Why did she do that? So she's in hell.
 Everyone can not do whatever they please.
 Everyone can not be like me.

Have I gone too far?
 I don't believe I ever could.
 Have I gone too far?
 I do exactly what I should.

She's the one who sealed her own sad fate.
 She's the one who forgot her place.
 Have I gone too far?
 Have I gone too far?
 Have I gone too far?

(PSYCHE IS HEARD FROM AFAR)

MUSIC 2.11-INTERLUDE 12C

“Don't Worry My Love”

PSYCHE

Don't worry my love, soon you'll be released.
 I have achieved the impossible and it was all for you.

From the fires of hell I have brought the precious urn of eternal
 beauty. And it was all for you.

(PSYCHE OBSERVES HER REFLECTION IN THE GLASS)

Oh no! My face! My skin! My hair! I am hideous. He will never
 have me. The potion; it's my only hope.

(SHE DRINKS THE POTION AND COLLAPSES AS THE
 ORACLE ENTERS)

ORACLE

What happened?

VENUS

I kept the real one in case she succeeded. That one's just a sleeping spell.

ORACLE

Amazing...how did you know she would drink it?

VENUS

I know a few things. Step over there.

(ORACLE STEPS BACK INTO THE SHADOWS. THE VAULT IS LIFTED.)

EROS

Psyche! What has happened to your beautiful face? It's all burned. You're all burned. Mother, what happened?

VENUS

She went to Hell to free you.

EROS

Is she dead?

VENUS

Just asleep. I gave her a task. I told her that if she brought the urn of eternal beauty from Hell I would release you. She did it but I already switched it for a sleeping potion that she drank to become beautiful again.

EROS

You tricked her!! Of course she wanted to be beautiful; to be with me. Is that so terrible? She gave up everything, everything...for me...all for me.

VENUS

You're right. I've changed my mind. You can have her.

EROS

You'll make her beautiful again?

VENUS

No I will not! If you had done what you were told, none of this would have happened. You had no business getting involved with her!

EROS

We were in love.

VENUS

In love! What do you know about love?! You shoot little arrows at people, for heaven's sake.

EROS

She's waking up! Mother, do something. Take care of this for me. Pleeze! Pleeze!

(THE ORACLE GOES OVER TO PSYCHE WHO IS STILL UNCONSCIOUS)

VENUS

Oracle! Take her home!

(HE PICKS UP HER BODY IN HIS ARMS.)

ORACLE

That was priceless. Did you see the look on Eros' face when he realized that he would have to spend the rest of eternity with a woman in this condition? Too much.

(VENUS TURNS. WE SEE HER WIPING TEAR FROM HER EYES.)

ORACLE

Why are you crying? You should be happy.

VENUS

Happy?! How can we enjoy this?! It's awful. This whole thing is so awful.

(HE EXITS CARRYING PSYCHE'S SLUMPED BODY)

MUSIC 2.12-SONG #13

"I Did Not Want This"

VENUS

I did not want this, I do not need this, it hurts.
 Why do I need this stupid heart? It's such a curse.
 I am beauty eternal will always be.
 They will perish, I'll live forever.
 What are they to me?

And why should I care if I am wrong or right?
 If I am wrong who will condemn me?
 Who will commend me if I am right?
 No one can diminish or destroy who I am.
 No woman, no child, and certainly no man.
 Yes, especially no man!

I did not want this, to have to second-guess what I do.
 They are below me, I am above them, that is the truth.
 I am as much of a victim as anyone else.
 As much of a victim, of myself.

Oh stupid heart! Oh stupid life! O stupid me!
 I have ev'rything one could hope for but inexplicably
 I still care about others and want them to care about me.
 And what is worse I even worry that they might all do well.
 And all this worry has made my heaven, a perfect hell.

Yes, love has made high heaven, a Holy Hell.

(END OF SONG)

END OF SCENE FOUR

SCENE FIVE
The Royal Palace Garden

(IT IS YEARS LATER, PSYCHE'S FACE IS HEALED SHE IS
MUCH OLDER. SHE IS NOW A QUEEN.)

MUSIC 2.13-SONG #14
"Once I Believed"

PSYCHE

Once I believed that unless I acted very quickly
I'd lose the chance to find the one meant for me.
I was so sure then, without the slightest evidence
This was the only way to find my happiness

I thought if I was clever I'd find a handsome prince
I found him for ten minutes and haven't seen him since.
I knew that in the throes of love I'd lose my common sense
But I never imagined the cost to get it back again

For though it's obvious that kind of love never lasts
How often I sit dreaming about the past.
Though it's ridiculous with everything I now know
From time to time I still miss him so.

And while it's wonderful to wish upon a distant star
You may be better off wishing closer to where you are.
Once I believed.

(END OF SONG)

(EROS ENTERS)

EROS

Psyche?

PSYCHE

Eros?!! How long have you been here?

EROS

Why?

PSYCHE

Please go away!! I really don't want to see you!!

EROS

Just let me explain. It will only take a minute.

PSYCHE

After what I did for you? Did you have a minute for me?

EROS

That's why I'm here.

MUSIC 2.14-SONG #15

"My Arrows and my Bows"

EROS

Once I thought love was the simplest of things...
 Always beautiful, like flowers in the spring.
 I often spoke of love, the words seemed nice.
 I was so sure that love was an eternal paradise.

But what to do when the problems start
 With the inconvenience of the heart
 Where to go when you know you should stay
 But even then you run away.

So now my love, I will give you my arrows and bow
 Take them so you will know.
 Try and understand, try to believe
 that finding real love has taken some time for me.

(END OF SONG)

EROS (CONT.)

I have the urn! The real one. Just drink it and you'll be perfect again.

(PSYCHE TAKES THE URN AND ALMOST DRINKS.)

PSYCHE

That's all right. Here.

(Gives the urn back to him)

And take these, too.

(Gives the arrows and bow)

Now go. Be who you are and be it magnificently.

EROS

I don't understand? You'll be beautiful for all time. Everyone will fall in love with you.

PSYCHE

Oh Eros, believe me, there was a time when all this would have been fine.

EROS

No woman could refuse what I just offered you.

PSYCHE

You might be surprised. Now go! I really want you to go.

EROS

Just give me another chance because I think, well, I love you. Yes, that's it, I've said it. I love you! Oh boy that feels good! I love you. I love you. I love you! I love you! I love you. It's like magic!

PSYCHE

I love you, too. But to show up after all these years and expect things to be exactly like they were. There's no magic for that.

MUSIC 2.15-SONG #16
 “Blame Love”

PSYCHE

I do not blame you if you remember the way I was.
 A pretty girl, so fair and lovely looking for love.

EROS

I do not blame you if you remember the way I was.
 A handsome boy, foot-loose and fancy-free looking for love.
 It was as much your dream as mine.

PSYCHE

To be forever young

EROS

Forever beautiful

BOTH

For all time.

(VENUS ENTERS)

VENUS

I do not blame you if you remember the way I was.
 Unhappy mother, angry goddess no one could love.
 I thought the only way was mine.

PSYCHE

As if only ourselves

EROS

Were all that mattered

ALL THREE

For all time.
 Blame love if you need someone to blame
 For it's love that is asking us to change.

(ORACLE, KING AND CAST ENTER)

ORACLE

I do not blame you if you remember the way I was.
 A selfish man with selfish plans who could not love.
 I thought that everything should be mine.

KING

As if only ourselves
 Were all that mattered

CAST

For all time
 Blame love if you need someone to blame
 For it's love that is making us change.

PSYCHE, EROS, VENUS, ORACLE

How can we blame you if you remember the way we were?
 Lost in ourselves our dearest ones did we hurt.

KING

We only had ourselves in mind.

PSYCHE

As if only ourselves

KING AND PSYCHE

Were all that mattered

ALL

For all time.
 Blame love if you need someone to blame
 For it's love that wants us to change.

KING

Yes, it is love that needs us to change.

FINAL CURTAIN