

*Daisy
and
The Wonder Weeds
A musical fantasy*

*by
Jean Elliott Manning*

*Contact: J.E. Manning
2299 Belgrave Ave, Montreal, Qc, Canada H4A 2L9
Email: Jeanelliott514@gmail.com
Phone: 514-483-5205*

Characters

Note: 12 actors can play 30 roles; all roles can be played by individual actors.

DAISY: late teens

DANDELION (DANDY) teens: and DUNMORE

VIOLET: (early teens) and HONEYBEE

TREE: (mature) and TOUR GUIDE, HELMORE

HERMAN PIGEON: and THISTLE, RAGWEED

AUNT DEE: (mature) and NETTLE

JOSEPH: and MILKWEED

ROSE: and BURDOCK

MEGAMORE: and CRABGRASS

FLOWER #1: LILAC, DELPHINIUM, MAYOR AGELESS EVERMORE

FLOWER #2: TULIP, DAYLILY, SIR PENT

FLOWER #3: DAFFODIL, DAHLIA, CLOVER

Add Butterflies, Raccoons, Birds, etc., as desired

SONGS

1. "Spirit of the Garden" Tree and Company
2. "Welcome to Megapolis" Tour Guide, Aunt Dee, Herman, Megamore, Company
3. "When Lilacs are in Bloom" The Flowers
4. "Windy Days" Daisy and Flowers
5. "Weeds!" Weeds and Flowers
6. "Get the Picture" Megamore, Dunmore, Evermore, Helmore
7. "Keep Wishing" Dandelion, Daisy, Flowers, Weeds
8. "When Lilies are in Bloom" Summer Flowers and Weeds
9. "Always Enough" Rose and Company
10. "Dance of Distracted Gardeners" Weeds, Aunt Dee, Megamore
11. "This is My Home" Aunt Dee, Herman, Violet, Daisy
12. "Why do the Wild Weeds Come?" Daisy, Tree and Weeds
13. "Chemical Nightmare" Nettle and Company
14. "Power of a Flower" Violet
15. "I'll be Back" Crabgrass and Weeds
16. "My Favorite Intention" Dandy, Daisy, Flowers, Weeds
17. "Always Enough" (short reprise) Flowers and Weeds
18. "Finale Medley" Tree and Company

SCENE ONE: AUNT DEE'S DOWNTOWN GARDEN- DAWN- "SPIRIT OF THE GARDEN/HERE COMES A MIRACLE"

In mythical Megapolis, somewhere between Oz and Your Home Town, the rosy fingers of dawn creep across the grass of Aunt Dee's downtown garden.

A solitary sunbeam falls on DAISY as she wakes from winter's sleep. Still a tender bud, she stretches luxuriously.

We can almost hear mysterious singing on the breeze. Confused, Daisy rouses TREE, majestic and wise, growing nearby.

DAISY

(grinning, knocking on his trunk)

Knock knock!

TREE

(reluctantly opening one eye)

Who's there...?

DAISY

(repressing a giggle)

'Wood' n't... you like to know! ... Get it?

TREE

(yawning)

Got it. Let me guess; it's 'Daisy... at ... dawn.' Please 'leaf' me alone.

(Tree snoozes, but cannot ignore Daisy's stare.)

TREE (CONT'D)

What.

DAISY

Tree, I know it's early. I would 'leaf' you alone, but ... do you hear mysterious singing on the breeze?

(We HEAR singing, barely perceptible.)

TREE

(listens in a half doze)

Trucks on the boulevard, yes. Fire sirens, all the time. Singing on the breeze? No. Not since they bulldozed the... wait! ...WAIT!

(Tree inhales deeply. As he exhales, he rustles his leaves; the singing grows louder.)

(NOTE: throughout the play, Tree practices deep breathing.)

TREE (CONT'D)

(fully awake, excited)

Hip hip halleluia! Could it be? DAISY!

(During the song, the company enters with their many hats which they place in the decor.)

SONG: "SPIRIT OF THE GARDEN" - COMPANY

TREE

THE SPIRIT OF THE GARDEN GROWS
IN THE CENTER OF THE CITY
THE SPIRIT OF THE GARDEN KNOWS
EXACTLY WHAT WE NEED, HERE COMES A MIRACLE

FLOWERS

EVERY FLOWER TELLS A STORY
EVERY FLOWER TELLS A TALE
BEYOND THE POWER AND
THESE DREARY CITY STREETS
HERE COMES A MIRACLE

TREE

DON'T LET THAT HIGH RISE GET YOU DOWN
HOLD ON MEGAPOLIS
SOMETHING'S GROWING UNDERGROUND
AND I CAN HEAR IT SINGING...

COMPANY

HIP HIP HOORAY, HERE COMES A MIRACLE
 HIP HIP HALLELUIA, IT'S A BRAND NEW SPRING
 WINTER'S ALMOST OVER
 LISTEN TO THE SPIRIT OF THE GARDEN SING

TREE and FLOWERS

EVERY FLOWER HAS A PURPOSE
 HAS A PURPOSE AND A PLAN
 AND IN THE CENTER IS A TENDER MYSTERY
 WE MAY NEVER UNDERSTAND

DAISY

WHEN I CLOSE MY EYES AND LISTEN
 ABOVE THE TRAFFIC AND THE NOISE
 I CAN ALMOST HEAR THE SPIRIT SINGING

COMPANY

HIP HIP HOORAY, HERE COMES A MIRACLE
 HIP HIP HALLELUIA, IT'S A BRAND NEW SPRING
 WINTER'S ALMOST OVER, LISTEN...

BENEATH THE STREET LIGHT
 BESIDE THE BUS STOP
 HERE COMES A MIRACLE
 WAY UP THERE ON THE ROOF TOP,
 BESIDE THE NEWS STAND,
 BELOW THE SIDEWALK, BETWEEN THE CRACKS
 WHERE THE WEARY CITY FEET WALK

A TENDER SEED IS GROWING UNDERGROUND
 AND EVERY WHERE THE GARDEN GROWS
 CONCRETE CANNOT KEEP US DOWN

HIP HIP HOORAY, HERE COMES A MIRACLE,
 HIP HIP HALLELUIA , IT'S A BRAND NEW SPRING
 WINTER'S ALMOST OVER
 LISTEN TO THE SPIRIT OF THE GARDEN... SING!

(END OF SONG)

(We HEAR a front door open and close, then
footsteps on the path.)

TREE

(looking toward the sound)

Uh, oh! Our gardener is ...leaving the Garden!

(calling to HERMAN, clumsy carrier
pigeon)

Herman! Wake up!

(Herman wakes, fumbles for his helmet.)

HERMAN

COO! I'm awake, I'm awake! ...Helmet ...Helmet!Got it!

(Herman dons his helmet, flaps furiously, then
laboriously rises into the air.)

(Careening over the gate, he almost collides with a
street light, then flutters after Aunt Dee.)

TREE

(shaking his head)

How that bird ever learned to fly is a mystery to me.

(calling)

Watch over AUNT DEE, Herman!

(anxiously to Daisy)

These days, she tends to... wander.

SCENE TWO: DOWNTOWN MEGAPOLIS- SONG: "WELCOME TO MEGAPOLIS"

*We follow Herman as he wings after Aunt Dee
across busy boulevards and noisy streets.*

*Anxious CITIZENS jostle to buy oxygen at a
corner dispenser.*

*At a busy crosswalk, a light flashes: 'Run for
your life!'*

Swept across with the stampeding crowd, Aunt Dee frowns at MEGAMORE TOWERS looming overhead,... then stops dead in her tracks.

Confused, she looks right, then left.

AUNT DEE

Herman! Something's wrong! Where did the park go? Where ...am I?

SONG: "WELCOME TO MEGAPOLIS" : COMPANY

CITIZENS

WELCOME TO MEGAPOLIS, WELCOME TO OUR
HONK HONK, BEEP BEEP CONCRETE CITY
WELCOME TO OUR BIG BRAND NEW MEGAPOLIS

AUNT DEE

(speaks to a Tour Guide)

Can you direct me to the bank?

TOUR GUIDE

I CAN SEE YOU'RE A TOURIST
FROM OUT OF TOWN

AUNT DEE

(protests)

No, I was born here!

TOUR GUIDE

(sings)

YOU'LL NEED A MAP TO HELP YOU GET AROUND
FORGET THE OLD MEGAPOLIS
IT'S ALL BEEN REARRANGED
THANKS TO MISTER MEGAMORE
EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED

CITIZENS

WELCOME TO MEGAPOLIS
WELCOME TO OUR HONK HONK,
BEEP BEEP GRIDLOCK CITY
WELCOME TO OUR NEW IMPROVED MEGAPOLIS

AUNT DEE

NOW THE MUSEUM IS A BRAND NEW CASINO
WE USED TO HAVE A PARK
WHERE DID THE PARK GO?

CITIZENS

NOW IT'S A FREEWAY
AND THERE'S NOT A PARK IN SIGHT
AND THANKS TO MISTER MEGAMORE
IT HAPPENED OVERNIGHT

NOW MAIN STREET LOOKS A LOT
LIKE VEGAS OR RENO
WE USED TO HAVE A VIEW
WHERE DID THE VIEW GO?
NOW THERE'S A CONDO
WHERE THERE USED TO BE A VIEW
AND THANKS TO MISTER MEGAMORE
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO

(MR. MUCH MUCH MEGAMORE enters with
HELMORE, his body guard.)

MEGAMORE

WELCOME TO MEGAPOLIS
WELCOME TO OUR DOWNTOWN CORE

CITIZENS
(angrily)

IT'S ONE BIG GIANT PARKING LOT
AND ONE BIG BIG BIG BIG BIG BIG
BIG BIG BOX STORE
AND ANOTHER MEGA HIGH RISE

MEGAMORE

I'VE GOT PLANS FOR MORE

CITIZENS

AND ANOTHER SPRAWLING STRIP MALL

MEGAMORE

I'VE GOT MALLS GALORE

CITIZENS

AND ANOTHER AND ANOTHER
AND ANOTHER AND ANOTHER

AUNT DEE

BENEATH THE STREETLIGHT,
BESIDE THE BUS STOP
WE NEED A MIRACLE
UP THERE ON THE ROOF TOP

AUNT DEE AND HERMAN

BESIDE THE NEWS STAND,
BELOW THE SIDEWALK
BETWEEN THE CRACKS
WHERE THE WEARY CITY FEET WALK

AUNT DEE, HERMAN, CITIZENS

ON EVERY SIDE STREET
WE NEED A DOWNBEAT
WE NEED A MIRACLE
ALIVE IN EVERY HEART BEAT
DOWN IN THE METRO
OH YOU'LL HEAR THE SOUND GROW

(LIGHTS up on Tree and Daisy stage right.)

DAISY

HOLD ON, HOLD ON MEGAPOLIS!

TREE

THE SPIRIT OF THE GARDEN GROWS
IN THE CENTER OF THE CITY
THE SPIRIT OF THE GARDEN KNOWS
EXACTLY WHAT WE NEED

TREE, HERMAN, AUNT DEE

A TENDER SEED IS GROWING UNDERGROUND
AND EVERYWHERE THE GARDEN GROWS

COMPANY

CONCRETE CANNOT KEEP US DOWN!
WELCOME TO MEGAPOLIS, WELCOME TO OUR
HONK HONK, BEEP BEEP FREEWAY CITY
WELCOME TO OUR BIG BRAND NEW MEGAPOLIS

AUNT DEE AND HERMAN

DON'T LET THAT HIGH RISE GET YOU DOWN
MEGAPOLIS IS MY HOME TOWN

COMPANY

WELCOME TO MEGAPOLIS, MY HOME...
HONK HONK BEEP BEEP CONCRETE CITY!

(END OF SONG)

SCENE THREE: AT THE BANK-DAY

*Entering the bank, Aunt Dee triumphantly
hands a check to DIDMORE DUNMORE, teller.*

AUNT DEE

Good morning, Mr. Dunmore! I'm here to pay off my mortgage ... in full!

DUNMORE

Congratulations, Ms. Dee! You must be so proud.

AUNT DEE

I am! And I want to thank you for your kindness over the years. How's your mother?

DUNMORE

We're praying this new therapy will help. It's expensive, but...

AUNT DEE

I wish I could...

DUNMORE

Please! Don't worry. I'm applying for a loan this very afternoon!

AUNT DEE

Wonderful! These are for her.

(She offers a small bouquet of Lilacs.)

DUNMORE

Lilacs! ...My Mother loves Lilacs!

(Aunt Dee turns to go.)

(Dunmore hesitates, troubled...)

DUNMORE (CONT'D)

MS. DEE! I mean, ... um... Don't forget your ... receipt!

(Trembling, Dunmore places the receipt in an ENVELOPE, then hands it to her.)

AUNT DEE

Silly me! All these years I've waited for this moment, and I forget the receipt! Bless you!

(Hugging the envelope to her heart, she exits, almost colliding with Mr. Much Much Megamore.)

MEGAMORE

Aunt Dee!

AUNT DEE

(Surprised, she tosses the ENVELOPE in the air.)

Nephew.... Megamore!

(Herman Pigeon catches the envelope mid-air.)

MEGAMORE

(eying Herman)

What brings YOU downtown?

AUNT DEE

(evasive)

Important business.

MEGAMORE

What kind of business?

AUNT DEE

(glares at him)

None of yours, nephew.

MEGAMORE

Having a senior moment, Auntie?

AUNT DEE

I'm a little under the weather, if you must know. And if you weren't my nephew, I'd tell you and our corrupt Mayor where to go.

(angry)

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO OUR CITY? You've bulldozed every park in town!

MEGAMORE

I'm a developer. I ...develop.

AUNT DEE

You OVER-develop! But I don't have time to argue.

(glancing at her watch)

Joseph is coming for a photo shoot this afternoon to celebrate my ...retirement.

MEGAMORE

Retirement? Wonderful! Time to downsize! Take a vacation! Get rid of that overgrown garden of yours. Honestly, Auntie, you look exhaust-

AUNT DEE

(holds up her hand to silence him)

Nephew. I have been teaching small children for thirty-five years. It is a miracle I can still remember my middle name. Worse, I am... soul sick... to see what you and Mayor Evermore are doing to our city. Thank goodness I still have a garden that needs me-

HELMORE

(interrupting)

Boss has big plans for your-

(Megamore muffles Helmore.)

MEGAMORE

What Helmore means is... I'll visit soon. To celebrate your retirement.

AUNT DEE

(glaring at Helmore)

Good. It might bring back fond memories. Come, Herman; we've got to get back to the garden.

HERMAN

....COO!

(Herman swoops dangerously close to Megamore's head; Megamore ducks.)

(Aunt Dee exits; Herman flutters behind.)

MEGAMORE
(to Helmore)

She's up to something.

HELMORE

Your Aunt talks to pigeons?

MEGAMORE

She saved him when he fell out of his nest; now he guards her like a hawk.

SCENE FOUR: AUNT DEE'S GARDEN- MID-MORNING - "WHEN LILACS BLOOM"

Lights up on Aunt Dee's overgrown downtown Garden in full bloom, still beautiful despite rotting logs, untrimmed hedges and ivy-covered walls.

We see an ornate Garden Gate near a street light stage left.

From the porch of Aunt Dee's modest Victorian house, a path leads to the Lily Pond, stage right, where Tree basks in the sun.

A tree house nestles in Tree's branches.

Looming in the background, MEGAMORE TOWERS.

SPRING FLOWERS proudly display their new blossoms; a DAFFODIL bursts into bloom amid TULIPS and LILACS.

Daisy, now in full bloom, fluffs her radiant petals, then nudges VIOLET sleeping nearby.

DAISY

Wake up, Violet! It's a brand new....

(OOF! A flying plastic bag hits Daisy squarely in the face. She flails. Violet struggles to free her.)

VIOLET

Hold on, Daisy! I'll free you!

(ROSE, Queen of the Flowers, enters. All curtsy.)

ROSE

(pointing at a bare patch near Tree)

Egads! Is that a BARE patch on our... almost... perfect lawn?

(Rose swoons. Flowers frantically fan her.)

ROSE (CONT'D)

(staggering to her feet)

No time for emotional displays; we must ...rehearse! The photographer from Glossy Gardening Magazine arrives at any moment. Places everyone!

(Daisy, still entangled in the plastic bag, careens across the stage.)

ROSE (CONT'D)

(glares at Daisy)

Violet! Do something with Daisy! That... bag... must ...go!

(As Spring Flowers promenade in a showy display...)

(Violet chases Daisy back and forth.)

SONG: "WHEN LILACS ARE IN BLOOM"

SPRING FLOWERS

IN OUR BEAUTIFUL DOWNTOWN GARDEN
WHEN THE LILACS ARE IN BLOOM
ALL THE AIR IS FILLED WITH FRAGRANCE
AND THE SCENT OF SWEET PERFUME

(We hear a truck roar by. FLOWERS cough.)

FLOWERS

IN OUR BEAUTIFUL DOWNTOWN GARDEN
WHEN YOU HEAR THE SONGBIRDS SING

DAISY

(flailing)

Help!

FLOWERS

(ignoring Daisy)

IT COULD BE APRIL OR IT COULD BE MAY
YES, IT'S PROBABLY EARLY SPRING

DAFFODILS AND WHIPPOORWILLS
TRILL WHILE THE TULIPS TRILL ALONG
WHILE THE BUGS EAT THE FLOWERS
AND THE BIRDS EAT THE BUGS
ON OUR ALMOST PERFECT LAWN

(Violet tackles Daisy; they roll across the lawn.)

(Flowers ignore Daisy and Violet's struggle as they
continue their promenade.)

WHEN PHOTOGRAPHERS COME CALLING
FROM GLOSSY GARDENING MAGAZINE
IN OUR BEAUTIFUL DOWNTOWN GARDEN
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DOWNTOWN SPRING

FLOWERS (CONT'D)
(whisper among themselves as Rose
inspects them.)

ROSE IS LIKE A ROSE THAT'S BLOOMING
BUT ROSE SHOULD BE BLOOMING
IN THE MIDDLE OF JULY
BUT THE CALENDAR SAYS IT'S NOT EVEN JUNE

ROSE
(dons sunglasses)

Keep smiling!

(Flowers don rose-tinted sunglasses, then pose.)

FLOWERS AND ROSE

WHEN PHOTOGRAPHERS COME CALLING
FROM GLOSSY GARDENING MAGAZINE
DESPITE THE ZANY WEATHER WE'VE BEEN HAVING
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL, BEAUTIFUL,
BEAUTIFUL, BEAUTIFUL DOWNTOWN SPRING

(END OF SONG)

(Spring Flowers pose in an 'arrangement'.)

(Violet pulls Daisy, still entangled, into it.)

ROSE

Say 'Bees'!

ALL

'Bees'!

SCENE FIVE: IN THE GARDEN -MORNING- “WINDY DAYS”

*Suddenly, SIR PENT, wizened garden snake,
barges through the flower ‘arrangement.’*

SIR PENT

Out of my way! Out of my way!

(He adjusts his faux fangs, then his medicine pouch
slung over one shoulder.)

(Sir Pent stumbles over Daisy; they flail.)

(Flowers gossip among themselves.)

VIOLET

Sir Pent is just a garden snake..

DAFFODIL

Who worked magic long ago.

LILAC

Sir Pent is just a ‘has been!’

ALL FLOWERS

And those fangs of his are... FAUX!

(Violet finally frees Daisy and Sir Pent.)

(Sir Pent HISSES; Daisy jumps.)

DAISY

(sarcastically)

Nice running into you too, Sir Pent!

(Sir Pent slithers into the ferns, where he opens a
large TOME, reads.)

DAISY (CONT'D)

(to Violet)

Free at last! Thank you, Violet! I didn't know life under a plastic bag could be so... bleak.
You're my very... best ... friend.

VIOLET

Daisy, I'm your only friend. Except for Tree, of course.

(Daisy and Tree exchange a friendly wave.)

DAFFODIL

(to Daisy)

What were you doing under that plastic bag? Listening to your ..voices?

LILAC

Why would Glossy Gardening want to photograph a WILDflower who hears voices?

(Hurt, Daisy turns away.)

VIOLET

She doesn't hear voices! She hears.... um...

(to Daisy)

What exactly do you hear?

DAISY

(after a moment)

Voices... But sweet voices! Singing on the breeze. Very mysterious.

(Flowers roll their eyes as if to say, "See?")

DAISY (CONT'D)

(attempting to change the subject)

Fun fact: did you know that Tree believes the Spirit of the Garden still grows in ...-

DAFFODIL

...Downtown Megapolis? What a fairy tale!

LILAC

(mockingly)

That's an urban ...MYTH!

(leaning close, whispering)

What do your 'voices' say?

DAISY

I wish I knew.

(Daisy pulls out a wish list that unfurls to the ground. She writes...)

DAISY (CONT'D)

I'll add it to my list.

(Haughty flowers LAUGH.)

SONG: "WINDY DAYS": (DAISY AND THE FLOWERS)

FLOWERS

(sing)

SHE'S SO BIZARRE, WE THINK SHE'S CRAZY
ROSE IS A ROSE, BUT A DAISY
IS A DAISY... IS A DAISY!

TREE

(breathing deeply, to Daisy)

Pay them no mind, Daisy; you blew here on the wind for some wonderful reason.

DAISY

(hugging Tree)

Maybe that's why I love windy days.

DAISY (CONT'D)

(sings)

WINDY WINDY DAYS

I LOVE THESE WINDY WINDY DAYS

WHEN EVERY BIRD AND BEE IS REARRANGING

THE WHOLE WIDE WINDY WORLD IS AMAZING

ON THOSE WINDY AFTERNOONS

WHEN CLOUDS COME BOUNCING LIKE BALLOONS

I WISH THAT EVERY FLOWER AND TREE

THAT'S SINGING WOULD WISH WITH ME

WAY UP HIGH, WISH I COULD SEE

A CLEAR WINDY SKY FLYING OVER ME

WINDY SKIES OF BLUE

WON'T YOU PLEASE COME TRUE

I WISH PATIENTLY ON WINDY DAYS LIKE THESE

MOST DAYS I CAN'T COMPLAIN
 EACH NEW DAY IS A WIDE-EYED WONDERLAND
 NO DAY IS QUITE THE SAME
 I DO MY DANCING IN THE SUN,
 I DO MY DREAMING IN THE RAIN

(Daisy twists her petals, listens. We hear buzzing
 bees, bird song, sirens and traffic.)

DAISY (CONT'D)

AND ON WINDY WINDY DAYS LIKE THESE
 HOW I WISH I COULD HEAR SWEET HARMONIES
 CITY SIDEWALK SYMPHONIES
 WITH HUMMINGBIRDS AND BUMBLEBEES
 DEEP DOWN I KNOW MY WISH WOULD GROW

(To the flowers)

IF ONLY YOU WOULD WISH WITH ME

(Flowers shake their heads, 'No!')

NO?...Oh. OH HOW I WISH YOU'D WISH WITH ME
 WINDY WINDY SPRINGS
 PLEASE GIVE MY WINDY WINDY WISHES WINGS
 HELP ME GATHER MY WISHES IN A BIG BOUQUET
 THEN THROW THEM TO THE WIND
 AND WATCH THEM FLY AWAY
 ONE BRIGHT WINDY DAY

(END OF SONG)

ROSE

But ...where is our Gardener?

DAFFODIL

She's been gone for far too long!

TULIP

Leaving an ugly bare patch ...

LILAC

On our almost perfect lawn!

(Flowers gaze anxiously at the bare patch on the lawn near Tree.)

SCENE SIX: AUNT DEE'S GARDEN- SONG: "WEEDS"

Aunt Dee enters, visibly upset as she talks on her old-fashioned flip phone.

Herman, panting, flutters behind with the ENVELOPE in his beak.

AUNT DEE

(on her flip phone)

But, Florrie! Why didn't you tell me the bank foreclosed? And you can't afford a lawyer?

(fuming)

You and the kids come stay with me. Anytime. We'll think of... something.

(Distraught, she closes her phone, stares into space.)

VIOLET

Herman! What took you so long?

HERMAN

I found our gardener wandering under the off ramp...

ROSE

(dismayed)

Again?

HERMAN

This time, she was looking for Mrs. Florentino's garden, but ...it's an off ramp now.

(Stunned silence.)

(Flowers exchange worried glances.)

ROSE

Another garden ...gone?

DAFFODIL

Don't think about it! Don't think, don't think!

LILAC

(deep breathing)

Everybody stay calm; inhale ...relax....

(Herman drops the ENVELOPE containing the receipt into Aunt Dee's hand.)

(Aunt Dee heaves a sigh, then tucks the envelope in her pocket with a pat.)

AUNT DEE

Herman, you splendid pigeon! What would I do without...

(She suddenly notices Daisy.)

AUNT DEE (CONT'D)

Oh! My! Goodness! Look... who's... here!

(Sir Pent, expecting to be petted, looks up from his tome.)

(But Aunt Dee walks past him to water ...Daisy.)

(Incensed, Sir Pent HISSES.)

TREE

(whispers to Sir Pent)

Don't be jealous, old friend. Our Gardener is not herself.

SIR PENT

(glaring at Aunt Dee)

Jealous? Me? 'Sir Pent the Sage?' No, what I feel is simmering... rage. Dithering and dawdling, she's gone most every day.

(gazing at High Rises on the horizon)

While shadows creep across the lawn, and our garden wastes away!

(A High Rise pops up on the horizon, casting a shadow on the lawn.)

AUNT DEE

(removing her hat)

Announcement! Announcement! I'm HOME dear ones! For good! I know you don't understand me, but I like to pretend you can. Now that I'm ... 'retired,' I have wonderful plans for our garden!

(Tree nudges Sir Pent who scowls despite this news.)

AUNT DEE (CONT'D)

(spying the bare patch near Tree)

Beginning with THAT bare patch. I wonder what I was planning to plant there?

(checking her wristwatch)

Oh, well, it will have to wait! Joseph's almost here for our annual photoshoot! I'll make tea!

(She enters the house. Dismayed Flowers GASP.)

DAFFODIL

TEA?But that dry and dusty bare patch on the lawn needs seeds!

ALL FLOWERS

If our gardener doesn't garden, then all we'll get is ...

(Without warning, a dashing young DANDELION pops up on the bare patch near Tree.)

DANDELION

WEEDS!

(He ROARS, then LAUGHS. Flowers SHRIEK.)

FLOWERS

AGHHHHHHDFH!!!!

DANDELION

(laughing, to the Garden)

I love to do that! You're terrified, aren't you...

DAISY

I am NOT!

(Dandelion spins round to spy Daisy.)

(His mouth falls open in a 'Tony meets Maria'
moment. We HEAR VIOLINS, TINKLING bells.)

DANDELION

I... I... Hello! You are so lovely ... to meet me. I mean, I..

DAISY

WHO are you and WHY are you here?

(Little CLOVER pops up.)

CLOVER

We're here on a very important mission! We came to ...

(Dandelion ('Dandy') muffles Clover.)

DANDY

What Clover means is... I heard you call.

DAISY

Who called?

DANDY

You called.

DAISY

I didn't call.

(Violet tugs on Daisy's petals.)

VIOLET

(whispers)

Daisy? When you were under that plastic bag? You called... a lot.

DAISY

I... Oh.

(to Dandy)

Well. I may have called, but I did not call ...YOU.

DANDY

(bowing)

And here I am! A champion for a Daisy in distress! Call me 'Dandy'.

(He winks at Tree, scoops up earth, then frowns.)

DANDY (CONT 'D)

(to the garden)

The soil is very poor, but volunteers are on the way! Welcome my companions, the Wild Weeds! *

FLOWERS

(shrieking)

AGHHHHHHDFH!!!!

SONG: "WEEDS"

DANDELION

I'M THE CHAMPION OF THE WILD WEEDS

DANDELION'S THE NAME

I CONFESS I LOVE TO DRIVE

THOSE GARDENERS INSANE

DEEP DOWN I KNOW THEY LOVE ME

FOR WHEN I BLOOM AND SPROUT

IN THE DEWEY DAWN ON THEIR PERFECT LAWN

I CAN HEAR THEM SCREAM AND SHOUT

FLOWERS

WEEDS! WEEDS! WILD AND WICKED WEEDS

A'CREEPING AND A'CRAWLING

AND THEY GROW WHEREVER THEY PLEASE

DANDY

BEFORE YOU SNEER, WE'RE HERE TO TELL YOU
 WHAT THIS GARDEN NEEDS IS
 //DIGGY DIGGY DON DIGGY DIGGY DEE!
 DIGGY DIGGY DEE DON WEEDS//

WEEDS

WE CAME BY SHIP, WE CAME BY STORM
 WE BLEW HERE ON THE WIND
 BY BOAT, BY BIRD, BY BUFFALO TURD
 WE BLOOMED, THEN BLOOMED AGAIN

UNDERNEATH THE OFF-RAMP
 BY THE DITCH WHERE NO ONE GOES
 IN THE CONCRETE CRACKS
 BY THE RAILROAD TRACKS
 WHERE NO ONE EVER GROWS

WEEDS, WEEDS! WILD AND WONDERFUL WEEDS
 NO ONE REALLY LIKES US
 BUT THE BIRDS AND THE BUZZING BEES
 SO GIVE A CHEER, THE WEEDS ARE HERE
 TO BRING YOU TO YOUR KNEES,
 WE'RE DIGGY DIGGY DON DIGGY DIGGY DEE!
 //DIGGY DIGGY DEE DON WEEDS//

NETTLE

WHEN YOUR TUMMY ACHES
 WHEN YOU'RE FEELING BAD
 WHEN YOU'RE HUNGRY, WHEN YOU BLEED
 I'M EDIBLE AND MEDICINAL
 NETTLE'S WHAT YOU NEED

CANADIAN THISTLE

BET I CAN CLEAN YOUR LIVER
MAKE IT CLEANER THAN A WHISTLE
I'M ALWAYS UP FOR HOCKEY, EH?
...CAUSE I'M CANADIAN THISTLE

DANDY

HE SHOOTS, HE SCORES!

BURDOCK

IN JAPAN THEY CALL ME 'GOBO'
I'M STICKY AND I'M SWEET
HEY, I INVENTED VELCRO!
I'M BURDOCK, NICE TO MEET YOU

MILKWEED

THE MONARCHS ALL ADORE ME
I'M A MILKY WEED ALL OVER

CLOVER

BUT WATCH OUT FOR THE BUMBLEBEES
WHEN YOU'RE ROLLIN' IN THE CLOVER

BURDOCK

(To the Tulips)

Tulips are from the old country, too; if WE are 'aliens,' then, so are YOU!

TULIPS

But we'reBEAUTIFUL!!

(CRABGRASS, in red bandanna and cowboy boots
pops up.)

(Spying Rose, he straightens his red bandana.)

CRABGRASS

WHO CAN GROW THROUGH ASPHALT?
 AND WHO CAN SPLIT A ROCK?
 CRABGRASS GROWS THROUGH CONCRETE
 AND COVERS THAT PARKING LOT

(Rose faints. Flowers fan her.)

DANDY AND CRABGRASS

WE'RE DIGGERS AND WE'RE DIVERS
 WE'RE NATURAL SURVIVORS
 WITH ROOTS AND SHOOTS
 AND LEAVES LIKE THESE
 WHO NEEDS FERTILIZER?

(Aunt Dee greets JOSEPH, dapper photographer, at
 the Gate; he aims his camera at the Flowers.)

(Daisy and Flowers strike a pose. To their horror,
 the Wild Weeds lean in to be photographed.)

ALL WEEDS

GO AHEAD AND CALL US UGLY
 GO AHEAD AND CALL US BAD
 DEEP DOWN WE KNOW WE'RE LOVELY
 AND YES, IT MAKES US SAD
 WHY GET SO EXCITED?
 LIFE SHOULD NOT BE SO STRESSFUL
 ARE YOU FEELING JEALOUS
 'CAUSE WE WEEDS ARE SO SUCCESSFUL?

WE'RE WEEDS! WEEDS!
 WILD AND WONDERFUL WEEDS!
 WE'RE VOLUNTEERS AND PIONEERS
 WE GROW WHEREVER WE PLEASE

(Grinning Weeds pose with distraught Flowers.)

SO COME A LITTLE CLOSER...
 GET SET, PREPARE TO SNEEZE!
 THE WHOLE WORLD IS OUR GARDEN
 THAT'S WHY THEY CALL US
 //DIGGY DIGGY DON DIGGY DIGGY DEE!
 DIGGY DIGGY DEE DON WEEDS//

(END OF SONG)

JOSEPH

(speaks)

Say ...'Bees!'

ALL

"Bees!"

(Joseph snaps a photo.)

(Despite herself, Daisy applauds, catches herself,
 then pretends to swat a fly.)

(Furious Flowers glower, then brighten to see Aunt
 Dee grab gardening SHEARS.)

(Aunt Dee prepares to clip off Dandy's head.)

(Suddenly, HONEY BEE throws herself at Aunt
 Dee's feet, begging in pantomime for Dandy's life.)

(Aunt Dee hesitates; Dandy offers her a leaf; she
 chews ...)

AUNT DEE

(speaks)

I must admit; dandelions are delicious!.. But wait! Are you harboring any Wild
 Poisonous Parsnip?

(Nervous Weeds look around, then shake their heads 'No.')

AUNT DEE (CONT'D)

How about ...Giant Hogweed?

(Weeds SHRIEK.)

(Burdock, terrified, jumps into Crabgrass's arms. Weeds emphatically shake their heads 'NO!')

AUNT DEE (CONT'D)

(to Joseph)

In that case, I say, let them stay. Who's got time for weeding anyway? Time for tea?

JOSEPH

(shrugs and nods 'yes')

Time for tea!

(As the sun sets behind Megamore Towers, Aunt Dee and Joseph enter the house.)

(Flowers gnash their teeth; Weeds YAWN as they sleepily hum 'diggy diggy don' in the Weed Patch.)

(NOTE: For the remainder of the show, we see the Weeds constantly humming, digging and working the soil.)

(Dandy waves to Daisy; Daisy ignores him. Violet waves back.)

(Slithering from under a rock, Sir Pent whispers in Daisy's ear.)

SIR PENT

Take heed, the summer's just begun.

The flowers are doomed; the weeds have come!

SCENE SEVEN: ON THE GLOFF COURSE: MORNING: "GET THE PICTURE"

Lights up on the GLOFF COURSE next to Aunt Dee's garden.

MAYOR AGELESS EVERMORE, her face stretched beyond belief (too much cosmetic surgery).. enters.

Followed by Megamore and Helmore Hench Person who lugs a bag of GLOFF clubs. (foam sticks.) and Gloff balls (whiffle balls.)

MEGAMORE

(to Mayor Evermore)

Ah, Springtime in Megapolis! Who knew bulldozing entire neighborhoods to build pricey condos could be so... invigorating?

MAYOR EVERMORE

(swinging a gloff club wildly)

A good game of 'Gloff' will sharpen our predatory instincts.

(Didmore Dunmore, uncomfortable in Bermuda shorts, enters.)

MEGAMORE

Didmore Dunmore!... Glad you could join us.

DUNMORE

(notices the faux grass at his feet)

Oh look. Fake grass.... Nice touch, Mr. Megamore.

MEGAMORE

Glad you like it, Dunmore. Meet Mayor Ageless Evermore, running for re-election.

(winking at the Mayor)

Didmore Dunmore is our 'new man' at the bank.

MAYOR EVERMORE

I LOVE big banks! Predatory lending! Fraudulent foreclosures....

(Dunmore drops his ball.)

DUNMORE

(coughs)

Actually, Mayor, ... uh...fraudulent foreclosures are... illegal.

MAYOR EVERMORE

I don't really care, do YOU?

(Megamore picks up the ball, hands it to Dunmore.)

MEGAMORE

TEAM PLAYERS! That's what we need! What WAS Megapolis before I redeveloped it?

DUNMORE

(places the ball, prepares to swing)

A once-livable city now in the grip of rampant over-development-...?

(Megamore pushes Dunmore aside, then prepares to swing.)

MEGAMORE

(mutter)

A hodge podge of unsightly, unsanitary neighborhoods! Blocking my highways, impeding my off ramps! Swelling! Spreading! More ...More ...

(shouts as he swings)

MORE!... And I never sleep.

MAYOR

(offering medication to Megamore; he swallows it)

Cheer up, Meggie dear! Before you grabbed it, this was nothing but a public park open to absolutely anyone! Now, thanks to you...

MEGAMORE

(admiring his domain)

It's a gated gloff course with armed guards- ..AhAh...

(Megamore's face contorts; he feels a sneeze coming on; he stumbles blindly across the course.)

(Helmore, waving a handkerchief, chases Megamore.)

DUNMORE

(calls to Megamore)

Allergies, Mr. Megamore?

(Mayor Evermore pulls Dunmore aside, whispers...)

MAYOR

Last year he played the 'Greed Cup.'
But then he felt a sneeze,
He swang, but missed his final shot...
Now he blames those flowers and trees.

(She points at Aunt Dee's garden across the hedge.)

WATCH OUT! His 'Demolition Sneeze' can flatten city BLOCKS!
If he SNEEZES, better HIT THE DIRT! You'll be sorry if you ...DON'T!

(Dunmore frowns at the awkward rhyme.)

MAYOR (CONT'D)
(corrects her rhyme)

'If you do... NOT!'

(Dunmore nods his approval at the corrected rhyme.)

(Megamore returns, then BLOWS his nose. All jump.)

MEGAMORE
(to Dunmore)

Did I mention I own every single vacant lot in Megapolis? Including THAT one?

(Megamore points at Aunt Dee's garden.)

DUNMORE

Um... Your Aunt's garden?

MEGAMORE

My Aunt's garden, as you call it, will soon be MY vacant lot, thanks to...YOU.

DUNMORE
(trembling)

Slight problem, Mr. Megamore? Uh, this morning your Aunt came to the bank? She's a lovely person. And then... she ...uh... she paid off her mortgage. In full. Legally your Aunt owns that property ...free and clear.

MEGAMORE

No, she doesn't.

DUNMORE

Yes, she does.

MEGAMORE

Dunmore.... Dunmore! WHO is the President of the Bank of Megapolis?

DUNMORE

Um...You are?

MEGAMORE

Correct. And according to MOI, my dear doddering Aunt Dee FORGOT to pay her mortgage. She has no proof!... UNLESS you gave her... a receipt?

DUNMORE

(panicked)

I...I...No no no no no! I remember your motto: "Never leave a paper trail."

(frowns)

Although, 'legally' she owns that garden free and clear.

MEGAMORE

(grabs Dunmore by the collar, growls)

You don't get the picture, do you Dunmore. The Mayor and I have plans for that garden, and 'legal' has nothing to do with it.

SONG: "GET THE PICTURE"

MEGAMORE

WE'RE BORED WITH ALL OUR MEGAMALLS
OUR SHOPPING MARTS, OUR MEGASPRAWLS
WE'RE BORED AND NOW WE HAVE A BIGGER PLAN

MAYOR AGELESS EVERMORE

YES, WE'RE GOING RESIDENTIAL
CAUSE WE SEE THE HUGE POTENTIAL
IN THE FUTURE OF THE URBAN CONDOVAN

MEGAMORE

WHEN WE BULLDOZE ALL YOUR HOUSES
YOU WON'T HAVE TO MOVE TOO FAR
YOU CAN BUY A BRAND NEW CONDOVAN
AND MOVE INTO YOUR CAR

MEGAMORE AND MAYOR

GIMME GIMME MORE MORE MORE
GREED IS GOOD BUT MORE IS BETTA,
GIMME GIMME MORE MORE MORE
GREED IS GOOD CAUSE I SAY SO

GIMME GIMME MORE MORE MORE
DON'T FORGET OUR FAVOURITE MOTTO
IF WE WANNA MAKE A BUNDLE
THEN THAT GARDEN HAS TO GO

DUNMORE

BUT, WHERE WILL THEY PARK?

MEGAMORE

IN A HIGH RISE PARKING LOT.

DUNMORE

HOW MANY DO YOU PLAN TO BUILD?

MAYOR EVERMORE

WE PLAN TO BUILD A LOT

DUNMORE

A THOUSAND?

MEGAMORE

MORE!

DUNMORE

A MILLION?

MAYOR EVERMORE

MORE! A BILLION WOULD BE NICE
WE'LL NAME IT SOMETHING
REALLY COOL, LIKE 'PARKING PARADISE'

MEGAMORE

WE'LL BUILD A WORLD OF CONDOVANS
 NEW CONDOVANS FOR ALL
 THEN PARK THEM IN OUR NEW GARAGE
 A THOUSAND STORIES TALL

MEGAMORE, EVERMORE AND HELMORE

GET THE PICTURE? GET THE PICTURE?
 OOOEEE OH HONK HONK HONK HONK
 GET THE PICTURE GET THE PICTURE
 OOWEE OH OUT OF MY WAY! OUT OF MY WAY!

MEGAMORE

(sings to the Mayor)

IF I GO BROKE WILL YOU BAIL ME OUT
 WILL YOU BAIL ME OUT, WILL YOU BAIL ME OUT?

MAYOR AGELESS EVERMORE

IF YOU GO BROKE, I'LL BAIL YOU OUT
 AND THEN YOU'LL GET YOUR BONUS

MEGAMORE AND MAYOR

GIMME GIMME MORE MORE MORE
 GREED IS GOOD BUT MORE IS BETTA
 GIMME GIMME MORE MORE MORE
 GREED IS GOOD CAUSE I SAY SO

GIMME GIMME MORE MORE MORE,
 DON'T FORGET OUR FAVORITE MOTTO
 IF WE WANNA MAKE A BUNDLE
 THEN THAT GARDEN HAS TO GO

(to Dunmore)

IF WE WANNA BUILD A PARKING LOT
 THAT GARDEN HAS TO GO

MAYOR EVERMORE AND HELMORE

GONNA NAME IT 'PARKING PARADISE'
 THAT GARDEN HAS TO GO
 GET THE PICTURE GET THE PICTURE
 GET THE PICTURE GET THE PICTURE
 GET THE PICTURE GET THE PICTURE
 THAT GARDEN HAS TO GO

(END OF SONG)

(The Mayor and Helmore exit dancing.)

(Megamore hands Dunmore the heavy Gloff bag to
 carry. As they exit...)

MEGAMORE

Now about that LOAN for your Mother's medicine...

SCENE EIGHT: IN THE GARDEN-MORNING "KEEP WISHING"

*Drenched in morning dew, Violet helps Daisy
 arrange her petals 'just so'...Daisy listens
 hoping to hear her mysterious 'voices.'*

*They are distracted by Weeds snoring and
 mumbling 'diggy diggy don' in their sleep.*

Violet waves to the weeds.

DAISY

(whispers to Violet)

Don't encourage them!... Is he still there?

VIOLET

Wow! Your champion has grown.

DAISY

He's not my champion! Pretend he's just another... 'wild edible.'

(Dandy pops up beside Daisy.)

(A gust of wind pushes Daisy and Dandy together.)

(Dandy catches Daisy in his arms.)

DANDY

Whoopsie Daisy! See? Even the wind conspires to bring us together!

(Daisy pushes Dandy away, straightens her petals.)

DAISY

I don't think so.

DANDY

(bows)

Whatever wish your wish may be...the Daisy flower can wish on me.

DAISY

What?Wish on an invasive WILDflower?

VIOLET

Daisy? Aren't you technically a 'wildflower?'

DAISY

(glares at Violet)

Iwell...technically... maybe.

VIOLET

I think he's sincere. I'll ask him: Daisy wants to know if you hear...:

(Daisy muffles Violet.)

DANDY

Singing on the breeze?

(We hear music to "SPIRIT OF THE GARDEN")

DANDY (CONT'D)

Maybe.....What does it sound like exactly?

(Daisy gazes into the great beyond.)

DAISY

If you must know,... whispering rain drops tinkling in the boundless blue...

(Dandy nods.)

DAISY (CONT'D)

And bluebells babbling in the great beyond...

(swiveling like a satellite dish)

But mostly they sound like 'Aaaaahooooombaaaaa! Aaaaahooooombaaaaa!'

VIOLET AND DANDY

WOW.

DAISY

I know. Crazy, eh? Perhaps you've heard the rumor that the Spirit of the Garden still grows in Megapolis?

VIOLET

(laughing)

For the last time, Daisy! Spirits don't grow downtown!

DANDY

But if they did, they might be saying something about the soil or even ...the weather. Did you know your petals are ...perfect?

DAISY

(brightening)

Perfect?

DANDY

For picking up high end frequencies. Where as I hear-

DAISY

(overjoyed)

You hear it too?!

DANDY

Me? No. I hear 'tha-thunk, tha-thunk' rising from my roots. My roots are very ...vigorous.

(Daisy sneaks a glance at Dandy's manly leaves.)

DAISY

I just wish I knew ...what it all means.

DANDY

Wait! Did you wish on me?

DAISY

No.

DANDY

Did too.

DAISY

Did not.

VIOLET

Daisy wishes day and night on her star up there.

(Violet points at the street light overhead.)

(Dandy studies the streetlight.)

DANDY

Sorry to break the news, but ...that's a....streetlight.

(Awkward silence. Daisy rubs her eyes, squints at the streetlight.)

DAISY

(shakes Violet)

Why didn't you TELL me?

VIOLET

I'm sorry, Daisy, but.....you probably need... glasses.

(Daisy digests this revelation.)

DAISY

Well, that explains why my wishes rarely, if ever, come true.

(throwing her list to the ground.)

I plan to give up wishing by ...July!

DANDY

But, you can't! ...You mustn't!

(Dandy accidentally drops his own folded wish list.
Daisy picks it up, begins to unfold it.)

DAISY
(overjoyed)

YOU have a wish list TOO?

DANDY
(Grabs the list, tucks it in his pocket.)

Of course! But THIS wish list is of no interest WHATSOEVER to anyone. EVER.

DAISY
(glancing at her own list, blushing)

For a 'noxious invasive,' you're surprisingly ...wise. Some wishes are best kept secret.
Tell me: do your wishes always come true?

DANDY
Not... always.

DAISY
Then, why do you keep wishing?

SONG: "KEEP WISHING"

DANDY

I'LL TELL YOU WHY I KEEP WISHING
I'LL TELL YOU WHY I DO
ONCE IN A WHILE IN A BLUE BLUE MOON
WONDER WISHES COME TRUE
WE'LL NEVER KNOW UNTIL WE TRY
JUST HOW HIGH A WISH CAN FLY

AND I'VE BEEN WISHING
FOR SOMEONE TO WISH WITH
SOMEONE TO WISH WITH LIKE YOU
AS LONG AS WE KEEP WISHING
SOMETHING WONDERFUL'S BOUND TO COME TRUE

DAISY

I'LL TELL YOU WHY I KEEP WISHING
 WISHING IN MY DREAMS
 ONCE IN A WHILE EVERY SPRINGTIME OR TWO
 I DREAM SUCH WONDERFUL THINGS
 I DREAM THAT WE CAN SEED THE STARS
 GROW MEADOWS ON THE MOONS OF MARS

DAISY AND DANDY

AND I'VE BEEN WISHING
 FOR SOMEONE TO WISH WITH
 SOMEONE TO WISH WITH LIKE YOU
 AS LONG AS WE KEEP WISHING
 SOMETHING WONDERFUL'S BOUND TO COME TRUE

DANDY

WISH ON EVERY TREMBLING STAR YOU SEE
 AND IF YOU EVER LOSE YOUR STAR
 YOU CAN WISH ON ME

DAISY AND DANDY

WE'LL NEVER KNOW UNTIL WE TRY
 JUST HOW HIGH A WISH CAN FLY
 SOMETHING WONDERFUL'S BOUND TO COME TRUE
 AND THAT'S WHY I KEEP WISHING

COMPANY

WE'LL NEVER KNOW UNTIL WE TRY
 JUST HOW HIGH A WISH CAN FLY
 AND THAT'S WHY I KEEP WISHING

(END OF SONG)

(Gazing into each other's eyes, they drop their lists.)

(Sir Pent enters, then stealthily reads both lists.)

SIR PENT

(to the audience)

HA! ...What those wild flowers fail to mention

(MORE)

SIR PENT (CONT'D)

At the top of these two lists
Both Daisy and Dandelion
Wish to KISS and to be KISSED!

(He crumples the lists, tosses them, then exits.)

(Dandy leans close to Daisy, hoping for a kiss.)

(Suddenly, Crabgrass pulls Dandy aside, whispers.)

CRABGRASS

Hey! You ARE planning to tell Daisy the whole story, right?

DANDY

Of course!...I am her champion!

CRABGRASS

Champion, my crabgrass.

(Crabgrass and Dandy bow to Tree.)

(Suddenly, SUMMER FLOWERS burst into bloom.)

SCENE NINE: IN THE GARDEN: "WHEN LILIES ARE IN BLOOM"

*Spring Flowers remove spring hats, then don
SUMMER FLOWER hats (Daylily, Delphinium,
Dahlia) in a showy display.*

SONG: "WHEN LILIES ARE IN BLOOM"

SUMMER FLOWERS

IN OUR BEAUTIFUL DOWNTOWN GARDEN
WHEN THE LILIES ARE IN BLOOM
WHEN THE AIR IS HOT AND HEAVY
WE'LL BE WILTING BY HIGH NOON

IN OUR BEAUTIFUL DOWNTOWN GARDEN
 WHEN EVENING SONGBIRDS FILL THE SKY
 IN OUR BEAUTIFUL DOWNTOWN GARDEN
 IT'S PROBABLY MID-JULY

(Weeds join the song...)

WEEDS and FLOWERS

THOUGH THE AIR IS HOT AND STICKY
 ALL THE SUMMER FLOWERS ARE PRETTY
 IN OUR LOVELY DOWNTOWN GARDEN IN JULY!

(END OF SONG)

(Summer Flowers rage at the Weeds.)

DAHLIA

Weeds grow with wild abandon!

DELPHINIUM

They don't grow where they should!

DAY LILY

If those Wild Weeds keep on blooming...

(RAGWEED pops up, strikes a Napoleonic stance.)

ALL FLOWERS

There goes the neighborhood!

DAHLIA

(horrified)

It's..... RAGWEED!

RAGWEED

I flew here on the wind!

(awkward silence)

For somewonderful ...reason?

(Violet shrinks as Ragweed blocks her sun.)

DAISY

That doesn't give you permission to barge in...uninvited!

VIOLET

(peeking from under Ragweed)

Um... Like you did, Daisy?

(Daisy contemplates these words for an uncomfortable moment.)

DAISY

Okay, to be fair, Weeds aren't ALL bad. Everybody loves the Bees that Clover brings, don't we?

(Flowers reluctantly nod.)

DAISY (CONT'D)

But now it's.... 'buzz... bzz ... bzz' all the livelong day! Unrelenting. And Senor Milkweed, although we all enjoy your bilingual Monarch butterfly mariachi band from Mexico...

MILKWEED

O la, gracias.

DAISY

De nada... Truth be told, you are driving the Delphiniums to distraction! As for YOU, Crabgrass!

(softening, to Crabgrass)

Over the summer, I have come to admire your crabbiness. We all know where we stand with Crabgrass, do we not?

(The Flowers nod grudgingly.)

DAISY (CONT'D)

(turning on Dandy)

But when YOUR companions steal Violet's SUN, things have gone one flower... too far!

MILKWEED

Oh yeah?

DAHLIA

Yeah!

THISTLE

Says who?

DAY LILY

Says ...us!

WEEDS

Hot house... PETUNIAS!

(Weeds and Flowers square off....)

FLOWERS

Noxious ...PESTS! Who invited you?

WEEDS

It's a long story!

(SPLAT. Dahlia is hit with flying MUD.)

(A brawl erupts; the mud fight intensifies until....)

ROSE

ENOUGH!

SCENE TEN: IN THE GARDEN: "THERE'S ALWAYS ENOUGH"

ROSE

(sings)

ENOUGH OF THIS FUSSING AND FIGHTING
IT'S MORE THAN THIS RED ROSE CAN BEAR

FLOWERS

(speak, aghast)

It is?

ROSE

(sings)

INSTEAD, WE MUST THINK OF UNITING
CONTEMPLATE COMPROMISE IF WE DARE

FLOWERS AND WEEDS

(shout simultaneously)

Never!

ROSE
(sings)

THOUGH THE WEEDS HAVE INVADED OUR GARDEN

FLOWERS

WEEDS!

ROSE

THOUGH I TREMBLE ON THE BRINK OF DESPAIR

FLOWERS

HELP!

ROSE

I REMEMBER THE WORDS
THAT A WISE BEE ONCE TOLD ME
HERE'S WHAT THAT BEE DID DECLARE!

VIOLET
(speaks)

Tell us, your Highness!

ROSE
(sings)

THERE'S ALWAYS ENOUGH WHEN YOU SHARE AND
YOUR HEART FEELS LIGHTER THAN AIR
WON'T YOU HAVE SOME AND PASS IT AROUND
THERE'S ALWAYS ENOUGH

THERE'S ALWAYS ENOUGH WHEN YOU SHARE

WHEN YOU DO, YOU SHOW THAT YOU CARE
JUST APPLY THIS HYPOTHESIS
I PROMISE YOU'LL SEE
JUST HOW MIRACULOUS SHARING CAN BE
THERE'S ALWAYS ENOUGH WHEN YOU SHARE

SIR PENT
(speaks)

That's ridiculous!

ROSE

(speaks)

And I'm quoting verbatim!

(sings)

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING
WHILE YOU'RE SHARING
YOUR SHARE IS SHRINKING
YES, IT'S TRUE YOU'LL HAVE LESS THAN BEFORE
BUT THE MIRACLE IS, YOU'LL ALSO HAVE MORE
MORE OF A FEELING THAT GROWS AND IT GROWS

FLOWERS

IT TICKLES MY TUMMY, THEN TICKLES MY TOES

ROSE

THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN YOU'LL FIND
YOURSELF FLOATING ON AIR

FLOWERS

WE'RE FLOATING ON AIR

ROSE AND FLOWERS

THERE'S ALWAYS ENOUGH

SIR PENT

ONLY LOSERS PRETEND THAT THEY CARE
ONLY LOSERS GIVE MORE THAN THEIR SHARE
ONLY FOOLS THINK THAT SHARING IS NICE, HA!
THAT'S PRECISELY WHAT'S WRONG
WITH THIS SONG

(Megamore and Mayor Evermore sing to one side.)

MEGAMORE and MAYOR

(sing)

ONLY DREAMERS THINK GIVING IS GREAT!
SILLY DREAMERS GIVE MORE THAN THEY TAKE!

THEY PRETEND LOVE IS STRONGER THAN HATE!
BIG MISTAKE!

(Ragweed blows his pollen toward Megamore.)

MEGAMORE

THAT'S WHY I SHARE THEAH... AH... AH...!

(The Mayor thrusts a hanky under Megamore's nose
just in time.)

FLOWERS and WEEDS

WHEN WE CLING AND WE CLUTCH
AND WE HOLD ON TOO MUCH
OUR HEARTS GET CONSTRICTED AND COLD

WEEDS

IF YOU LOOSEN YOUR GRIP AND GIVE JUST A BIT
THAT'S WHEN YOUR HEART WILL UNFOLD

FLOWERS AND WEEDS

WE'LL BE BLOOMING! WE'LL BE BLOOMING!

(Ragweed leans aside; sunlight falls on Violet.)

ALL

THERE'S ALWAYS ENOUGH WHEN YOU SHARE
AND YOUR HEART FEELS LIGHTER THAN AIR
JUST APPLY THIS HYPOTHESIS
I PROMISE YOU'LL SEE
ALL WE CAN LEARN FROM THAT GENEROUS BEE!

DANDY AND DAISY

THERE'S ALWAYS ENOUGH

MEGAMORE AND SIR PENT

NEVER ENOUGH!

ALL

ALWAYS ENOUGH! ALWAYS ENOUGH!
ALWAYS ENOUGH WHEN YOU SHARE!

(END OF SONG)

SIR PENT AND MEGAMORE

(shout in unison)

That's... ridiculous!

ROSE

I declare a truce between the Flowers and the Wild Weeds, I mean ... 'wild edibles.'

(Weeds cheer! Flowers muster a feeble smile.)

CRABGRASS

(bowing to Rose)

Wise words from the Queen of Angiosperms in full sun or dappled shade, sandy soil or mixed clay-

(Dandy jerks Crabgrass aside.)

DANDY

Hey! Are you flirting with Our Lady Rose?

(Crabgrass pulls a folded poem from his pocket.)

CRABGRASS

(whispers in an aside)

I wrote a poem.

(He clears his throat to read.)

DANDY

(interrupting)

That's sweet, ole buddy, but ...wait a while. Let love grow.

(Crabgrass heaves a heavy sigh.)

CRABGRASS

What am I thinking? She's a prize-winning antique Rose, whereas I'm a ...a...

DANDY

A gluten free... super food! Don't forget: in Europe, they make MUFFINS with your seeds!

CRABGRASS

(brightening)

Muffins? Really? Gosh darnit, I forgot how nutritious I can be...Thanks, partner. But, when are YOU going to tell Daisy the REAL reason we came?

DANDY

When the time is ripe! I am her... champion!

CRABGRASS

Champion, 'shmampion!' We heard you the first time. When are you going to ACT like one?

DANDY

The minute YOU tell Rose!

(Crabgrass, shamed into silence, stares at the ground, then offers Dandy an awkward elbow bump; together, they bow to Tree.)

SCENE ELEVEN: BY THE POND- SAME

Aunt Dee exits the house with her watering can.

Sir Pent, reading his giant tome in the grass, looks up, expecting to be petted.

Aunt Dee passes him without a word, then lifts the can to water.... Daisy.

We hear a CRASH inside the house. Aunt Dee drops the watering can, then runs inside.

Seething, Sir Pent grabs the can, then approaches Daisy.

SIR PENT

May I?

(Daisy nods. Sir Pent waters her.)

DAISY

Why thank you, Sir Pent. I've never seen your nurturing side before. This summer has been such a... revelation.

SIR PENT

Daisy, Daisy! Little Daisy, don't be so naive!

(glaring at Aunt Dee's house)

I have feelings way down deep that you would not believe.

(whispers as he points at Dandy)

A friendly word of warning: do you truly understand?

Dandelion has a secret.... and a hidden mystery plan.

(Troubled, Daisy spies Dandy whispering to Tree.)

(Daisy counts her petals silently: 'He loves me, he loves me not'...)

SCENE TWELVE: IN THE GARDEN- DAY- "DANCE OF DISTRACTED GARDENERS"

Aunt Dee enters with a wheel barrow piled high with gardening tools.

She waves good-bye to unseen guests off stage.

AUNT DEE

Good bye, Florrie! Good bye, children! Come stay anytime! No no no, don't worry about the lamp! Or the TV! Or my irreplaceable antique vase....

(she pulls out her cell phone, then reads a message)

Dear Ms. Dee, Thanks for inviting our class to play in your garden...We had fun, but I lost my ball in the weeds. If you find it, please call my Dad? Sincerely, Jonathan from Mrs. Orwell's first grade class.

(Squaring her shoulders, Aunt Dee pushes the barrow toward the Weeds.)

AUNT DEE (CONT'D)

(to the weeds)

I'm sorry I have to whack you, but little Jonathan needs his ball.

(To everyone's horror, she grabs a 'weed whacker.')

(Before she revs it up, the Wild Weeds (and any extra butterflies, bees, or birds) sweep her into a lively gig.)

DURING THE DANCE: (Music to "WEEDS")

(Megamore, brandishing Glossy Gardening Magazine, barges through the Garden Gate.)

(He points at the Weeds, then at the cover.)

(Aunt Dee grabs the magazine, proudly holds it high for all to see; The Garden CHEERS!)

(Megamore is swept into the dance, until...)

MEGAMORE

ENOUGH!!

(END OF DANCE)

(All stop dancing.)

MEGAMORE (CONT'D)

This is not a LAWN! It's a ...a...MEADOW! Overrun with noxious, ugly, disgusting, wretched, wicked ...WEEDS !!

(his face contorts)

... Ah... Ah....

(Tree offers Megamore a hanky.)

(Megamore, without thinking, takes it... BLOWS his nose. All jump. Megamore does a double take.)

SCENE THIRTEEN: IN THE GARDEN: "THIS IS MY HOME"

AUNT DEE

(sings)

OH, WHAT A STUBBORN IMPOSSIBLE MAN
HOW CAN I TELL HIM SO HE'LL UNDERSTAND

AUNT DEE (CONT'D)

(speaks)

What happened, nephew? You grew up in this garden! Don't you remember swimming in the pond? The day you built our tree house? How you loved the fireflies?

AUNT DEE (CONT'D)

(sings)

THIS IS MY HOME, I BELONG HERE
AND THIS GARDEN KNOWS
IT'S HERE THAT I MUST STAY
THIS IS MY HOUSE, I WAS BORN HERE
ALL AROUND ME IS THIS SONG

AUNT DEE, DAISY, HERMAN, VIOLET, TREE

AND IF YOU LISTEN WITH YOUR HEART
YOU'LL HEAR IT SAY
THIS IS MY HOME THIS IS YOUR HOME TOO
THIS IS MY HOME I BELONG HERE
AND THIS GARDEN GROWS AROUND ME EVERY DAY

THIS IS MY HOME, I WAS BORN HERE
ALL AROUND ME IS THIS SONG AND IF YOU LISTEN
TO YOUR HEART YOU'LL HEAR IT SING...

(Soft birdsong echoes through the garden.)

(Overcome with emotion, Aunt Dee falls silent.)

HERMAN, DAISY, VIOLET, TREE

(sing)

THIS IS MY ...HOME!

(END OF SONG)

MEGAMORE

I know what you're doing! You're trying to TRICK me! I don't want to remember!

AUNT DEE

(angry)

Of course you don't. Because we were happy until you met the Mayor and your fancy new friends. Why did you chop down the woods in the park? For a GLOFF course? I'm angry and upset and-

MEGAMORE

I would have WON that tournament if I hadn't SNEEZED because of this GARDEN! Face facts, Auntie. You have grown forgetful and can no longer manage this property. Time to sign it over to me.

AUNT DEE

NEVER! I've seen what you've done to our city!

MEGAMORE

Have it your way. Expect the Weed Control Squad first thing... tomorrow morning!

AUNT DEE

You wouldn't dare!

MEGAMORE

Just watch me.

(Megamore exits, slamming the Gate. We HEAR his SUV ROAR away.)

(Aunt Dee shakes her fist at the Garden Gate.)

AUNT DEE

This garden belongs to me now! And I've got the receipt to prove it!

(Shaken, she pulls the receipt out of her pocket, then looks around for a place to hide it, when....)

(Dandy kicks the lost ball from the Weed patch.)

(Smiling, she picks up the ball, then wheels the barrow off stage.)

SCENE FOURTEEN: IN THE GARDEN - EVENING- "WHY DO THE WILD WEEDS COME?"

Upon hearing Megamore's threats, Flowers and Weeds GASP in horror.

FLOWERS

Weed killer? Tomorrow morning? Oh no! Oh no! Oh NOOOOOOOO!

(Weeds, gathered around Tree, look up from a garden plan they have been studying.)

BURDOCK

(to the flowers)

You showy perennials don't have to worry! It's the Weeds they're after!

(Awkward silence.)

HONEY BEE

But weed killer hurts us all...

(Herman and Honey Bee reach for each other.)

(Daisy glares at Dandy.)

DAISY

(to Dandy)

Sir Pent was right! You're nothing but an... opportunist! I should never have trusted a...noxious ...invasiveWEED!

DANDY

(At a loss, to Tree)

Tree! Please tell her... ?

SONG: "WHY DO THE WILD WEEDS COME?"

DAISY
(sings to Tree)

WHY DO THE WILD WEEDS COME
SO BRAZEN AND SO BOLD

TREE

OH ME, OH MY, MY LITTLE ONE
THEIR STORY'S SELDOM TOLD

DAISY

WHY DO THE WILD WEEDS LAUGH
AND SING THE DAY AWAY

TREE

THEY WORK AND TOIL
TO HEAL THE SOIL
AND THEN THEY'RE ON THEIR WAY

BUT FIRST THEY'LL MOCK
YOUR BEST LAID PLANS
THEN THEY'LL STEAL YOUR SUN
FORGIVE THEM IF
THEY BREAK YOUR HEART
BEFORE THEIR WORK IS DONE

BLESS THE WILD WEEDS WHEN THEY COME
BLESS THEM WHEN THEY GO
THEY LIVE AND DIE MY LITTLE ONE
SO MIGHTY TREES MAY GROW

(A shimmering 'spirit forest' rises from the mist.)

WEEDS

WE COME TO SING THE TREES ...

TREE

SHIMMERING GROVES
OF GLIMMERING LEAVES
OAK AND ASH AND HICKORIES

WEEDS

WE COME TO SING THE TREES...

TREE

DAPPLED DANCING CANOPIES
BEECH AND BIRCH AND MAPLE TREES

WEEDS

WE COME TO SING THE TREES...

TREE

MIRACLES AND MAJESTIES
PINE AND PEAR AND POPLAR TREES

WEEDS

WE COME TO SING THE TREES

TREE

TOWERING EMERALD TREASURIES
EVERGREENS AND ELDER TREES.

(END OF SONG)

TREE (CONT'D)

(to Daisy)

Daisy, don't blame Dandelion.... I called the weeds.

DAISY

YOU?!

TREE

I was lonely. I wanted companions. But the soil was poor and compacted, so I called the Weeds for help.

DANDY

It's called 'natural succession.' First, we dive deep into the ground to pull up nutrients from below, then we make room for small shrubs, then larger shrubbery and eventually...

BURDOCK

A stand!

NETTLE

A...wood!

THISTLE

A grove!

CLOVER

A.... forest!

(The Weeds lift their leaves to reveal little seedling trees growing underneath.)

DANDY

Allow me to introduce Sweet Chestnut, Sugar Maple, Saskatoon Berry and a little Butternut tree.

(The Garden GASPS with delight.)

DAISY

You've been nursing seedling TREES? ...But why didn't you tell us?

CRABGRASS

(anxiously glancing at Rose)

We were afraid you might not approve.

(Rose nods and smiles. Crabgrass beams.)

DAISY

(to Tree)

Forgive me, Tree, I didn't realize how lonely you must be.

(humbly, to the seedlings)

Welcome to our garden, little ones! I'm sure you volunteered for many wonderful reasons.

(to the Weeds)

We owe you an apology...

(glaring at the Flowers)

.... DON'T we?

(Prompted by Daisy, Flowers mumble
apologies... 'so sorry', etc.)

(Weeds mumble 'that's OK, not to worry', etc.)

DAISY (CONT'D)

(to Dandy)

Dandy?... Will you forgive me? I was.. so wrong. Sir Pent warned me that you were
keeping a secret, but now that I understand WHY, you don't have to pretend to be my
'champion' any longer.

DANDY

But I WANT to be your-

ROSE

(interrupting, to the Garden)

WEED KILLERS! That's who we must face tomorrow!! Who's WITH us?

DAISY AND DANDY

We are!

NETTLE AND DELPHINIUM

Bring it on!

BURDOCK AND DAYLILY

Anytime!

CRABGRASS AND NETTLE

We're so ready!

(As the Sun sets behind Megamore Towers, Flowers
and Weeds huddle together to plot their resistance.)

SCENE FIFTEEN: IN THE GARDEN- MORNING- "CHEMICAL NIGHTMARE"

The Garden prepares for battle.

*Commander Rose, adjusting her WWI helmet,
shouts orders.*

ROSE

Battle stations, everyone!

(to Herman and Honey Bee)

Can we count on the Birds and the Bees?

HERMAN AND HONEY BEE

(They salute; Herman ruffles his feathers)

Birds and Bees at the ready, m'Lady!

HONEY BEE

(admiring Rose in her battle gear)

Oh, m'Lady! You look so ...fierce!

ROSE

(brandishing her thorn sword)

I was wild once! ...Beware these... thorns!

(Crabgrass gazes at Rose with mute admiration,
pulls out his love poem.)

CRABGRASS

(clears his throat)

“IF ONLY ROSE WOULD LOVE ME! It’s tearing me apart.

I’d love my Rose with all I got, her thorns stuck in my heart!

I’d bleed and bleed if I had blood, and then I’d bleed some more.

I’m stuck on Rose ‘cause thanks to Rose, I know what bleeding’s for!”

(Rose is ...speechless. Before she can react, we hear
Megamore and Helmore arrive at the gate.)

SCENE SIXTEEN: OUTSIDE THE GARDEN GATE-MORNING

*Megamore enters. Helmore follows dressed in a
full Hazmat suit. He lugs a tank of
WEEDKILLER.*

MEGAMORE

You know what to do. Spray them all, flowers AND weeds!

HELLMORE

(mumbles through his mask)

Even the dandelions? I love dandelions!

MEGAMORE

Well, I HATE dandelions!

(Helmores clumsily points the nozzle at Megamore.)

MEGAMORE (CONT'D)

(flailing, waving his hanky)

Watch out, you idiot! Destroy those pests running rampant over my property before I FIRE you!

(Megamore exits.)

SCENE SEVENTEEN: IN THE GARDEN-SAME "CHEMICAL NIGHTMARE"

Helmores waddles into the Garden.

NETTLE

(to Helmore)

Hey... you!

HELMORE

(mumbles)

Who me...?

NETTLE

Yeah, you!

SONG: "CHEMICAL NIGHTMARE"

NETTLE

YOU THINK A LAWN SHOULD BE
A PICTURE OF PERFECTION
AND HEAVEN HELP THE LOWLY WEED
THAT FAILS INSPECTION
BEFORE YOU SPRAY
THAT POISON SPRAY

(MORE)

NETTLE (CONT'D)

HEY, LISTEN UP! THE WEEDS
HAVE GOT SOME FINAL WORDS TO SAY

WEEDS

BEFORE YOU SPRAY YOUR POISON
WE HAVE A LITTLE QUESTION
IF WHAT YOU SPRAY IS SAFE
WHY DO YOU NEED PROTECTION?
WHY THAT RESPIRATOR AND A MASK?
ARE YOU TERRIFIED YOU COULD GET A RASH
IT'S A NIGHTMARE, IT'S A CHEMICAL NIGHTMARE // STOP IT//

WEEDS (CONT'D)

YOU THINK IF YOU SPRAY THE WEEDS
THAT WEEDS WON'T LIVE MUCH LONGER
WELL, WE'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU
IT ONLY MAKES US MUCH STRONGER
YOU SHOULD LEAVE THAT POISON ON THE SHELF
EVERY TIME YOU SPRAY ME, YOU SPRAY YOUR...
CHEMICAL NIGHTMARE, IT'S A CHEMICAL NIGHTMARE

CRABGRASS

YOU CALL THIS ... 'LAWN CARE'?"

WEEDS

STOP IT! STOP IT!

HERMAN

IT'S STICKING TO YOUR HAIR
IT'S STICKING TO YOUR SLEEVE
IT LINGERS IN THE AIR

WEEDS

REMEMBER NOT TO BREATHE
ARE YOU HAVING TROUBLE BREATHING
IT COULD BE JUST THE FLU
BUT THEN AGAIN, NO TELLING WHAT
THOSE CHEMICALS CAN DO!

DAISY

SORRY ABOUT YOUR LITTLE DOGGIE
SORRY THAT HE DIED, BUT WHEN YOU
SPRAYED YOUR LAWN LAST WEEK
HE SHOULD HAVE STAYED INSIDE

CLOVER

RUNNING DOWN THE DRAIN
IN THE RUN OFF, IN THE RAIN

BURDOCK

IN THE RIVERS AND THE STREAMS
IN YOUR NIGHTMARES, IN YOUR DREAMS

THISTLE

IN THE WATER THAT YOU DRINK
THE WATER'S TURNING TOXIC

ALL

CAN'T YOU HEAR THE FROGGIES
AND THE FISHES SCREAMING
STOP IT! STOP THOSE CHEMICALS!

WEEDS

ONE DAY THE WIND COULD SHIFT
I PRAY YOU WAKE UP SOONER
THAT TOXIC DRIFT COULD LEAVE
YOUR LANDSCAPE LOOKING LUNAR
SO GO AHEAD AND SPRAY IF YOU INSIST
BUT IF YOU DO...

(Helmore aims the nozzle at Rose.)

(Crabgrass dives in front of her.)

(Helmore sprays Crabgrass mercilessly.)

WE WILL RESIST NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA
YOUR CHEMICAL NIGHTMARE,
NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA

(Rose rips Helmore's mask off.)

(We hear BUZZING. Helmore swats unseen Bees.)

(We hear Herman's 'Battle COO!')

(Looking up, Helmore winces, then wipes his eyes.)

(In a final assault, Ragweed releases his pollen...)

YOUR CHEMICAL NIGHTMARE

(MORE)

WEEDS (CONT'D)

NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA
//HEY YA HEY YA HEY YA HEY YA//

(Helmores flees, wheezing and sneezing.)

(END OF SONG)

(CHEERS!)

ROSE

(extending her hand to Crabgrass)

You saved my life! I will be forever grateful...

(More CHEERS!)

CRABGRASS

(kissing her hand)

I wasn't alone. Ragweed helped.

RAGWEED

(kneeling before Rose)

At last! I know my life's purpose!

ROSE

(dubbing' both with her thorn sword)

Arise....Sir Crabgrass... and Sir Ragweed!

SCENE EIGHTEEN: IN THE GARDEN: SAME: "POWER OF A FLOWER"

Sir Pent interrupts the celebrations.

SIR PENT

(sneering)

Don't celebrate too soon,
There's more!
You've won the battle,
Not the war!

DAISY

That does it, Sir Pent! Why are you so bitter all the time?

SIR PENT

(points at Dandy)

Better be bitter than trust a Weed!
Do you know what plans he's got?
This Dandelion will leave you
'Cause Dandelion loves you... NOT!

(All eyes on Daisy, who has been counting her petals: 'he loves me he loves me not.')

(Awkward silence.)

ROSE

The real question is... how does Daisy feel about Dandelion?

CRABGRASS

She loves him, but it's supposed to be a secret.

DELPHINIUM

Any flower can see that.

BURDOCK

Since the beginning! The question is... how much?

(Daisy and Dandy exchange sheepish glances.)

DAISY

(to Dandy)

May I sweep you into a leafy embrace?

DANDY

I've been wishing you would... all summer long!

(Daisy sweeps Dandy into a smoldering WWII Victory Day kiss. It goes on for a while.)

DANDY (CONT'D)

Announcement! Daisy and I wish to be...perennial companions!

DAISY

In field or forest, on lawn or berm...wherever wildflowers bloom!

(More CHEERS and congratulations.)

ROSE

A few words from Mr. Bird and Mrs. Bee?

(Grinning, Honey Bee pulls out a botanically correct drawing of a flower.)

HONEY BEE

(to Daisy and Dandy)

When two flowers love each other very very much...

SIR PENT

Oh... Stop!

DAISY

...Why?

SIR PENT

Ask your PARENTS!

DANDY

(to Sir Pent)

You're just jealous because our gardener has forgotten all about you!

SIR PENT

(seething)

No matter. We'll all be compost once they bulldoze the LAST garden in Megapolis.

(He points at High Rises popping up around them.)

(The Garden GASPS.)

DAISY

Herman, is it true? Is this the last garden in Megapolis?

HERMAN

(defeated)

For once... the reptile is right.

SIR PENT

I'm ALWAYS right, you flying vermin!

(We HEAR children weeping off stage.)

VIOLET

(to Sir Pent)

Stop it, Sir Pent! You're frightening the Buttercups!

(to little flowers off stage)

Little ones! Don't despair! Remember the power we possess!

SONG: "POWER OF A FLOWER"

VIOLET
(sings)

IT SOUNDS SO SIMPLE AND YET
IT'S ALL TOO EASY TO FORGET
THE POWER OF A FLOWER

PLEASE REMEMBER
THE POWER OF PERFUME
ONE FRAGRANT LITTLE FLOWER
CAN CHEER A COLD AND LONELY ROOM
WITH EVERY BLOSSOM YOU SHARE
YOU HEAL A HEART, YOU BLESS THE AIR
THAT'S THE POWER OF A FLOWER

VIOLET (CONT'D)

PLEASE REMEMBER THE POWER OF A WORD
WHEN VOICES RISE IN ANGER
A TENDER WORD CAN STILL BE HEARD
IT'S THE BRAVE WHO REMEMBER
IT TAKES COURAGE TO BE TENDER
THE POWER OF A FLOWER

DAISY, VIOLET, FLOWERS AND CHOIR

THOSE DAYS THAT HIGH RISE SEEMS SO TALL
THOSE SMOGGY DAYS YOU FEEL SO SMALL
YOU REMIND THIS WEARY WORLD
THERE'S A LOVE THAT GROWS US ALL
WHATEVER YOU DO
I'M BEGGING OF YOU
REMEMBER ALL THE POWER
OF A TENDER LITTLE FLOWER

(END OF SONG)

SCENE NINETEEN: IN THE GARDEN. SONG: "I'LL BE BACK"

Without warning, Crabgrass suddenly collapses.

ROSE

Oh, no!.... Crabgrass has turned... yellow!

CRABGRASS

(gasping for breath)

Weed killer... finally got me...

(Everyone gathers round Crabgrass.)

DANDY

Don't die, 'ole buddy! We need you! The garden needs you!

CRABGRASS

(coughs)

Tell worm and slug, no chompin on me. I'm totally toxic now.

(Rose kneels beside him.)

ROSE

Oh, *Digitaria Ciliaris*!

(Flowers and Weeds exchange confused glances.)

ROSE (CONT'D)

(clearly distraught)

I've never called him his latin name till it was ...too late!

(All 'ooooo' and 'ahhhhhh' in admiration.)

DAISY

(to the garden)

Did you know that in 1849, the U.S. Government imported Crabgrass to be forage for ruminants?

(Flowers and Weeds exchange puzzled looks.)

BURDOCK

Ruminants: cows and sheep... Anyone who eats grass.

(Louder OOO's and AWWWWW's)

VIOLET

And that's not all! Tell them, Crabgrass!

CRABGRASS

(enjoying the attention)

If there's an oil spill, I can... suck it up!

ROSE

(through her tears)

It must be said! Crabgrass is a fearless phytoremediator!

CRABGRASS

I am?

(Rose nods lovingly.)

CRABGRASS (CONT'D)

(invigorated, staggering to his feet)

So you think you've seen the last of Crabgrass? Well, I'm here to tell you...

SONG: "I'LL BE BACK"

CRABGRASS

I'LL BE BACK ONE SUNNY DAY
THOUGH YOU MAY DO YOUR BEST
TO MAKE ME GO AWAY
YES, YOU MAY THINK
I'M DEAD AND GONE
BUT I'LL BE BACK
ONE DAY IN SPRING
TO PROVE YOU WRONG

YOU CAN HACK ME, YOU CAN HOE ME
YOU CAN PULL ME UP, AND MOW ME
YOU CAN STOMP AND SQUISH ME
TILL I'M FLAT

SO I'LL SAY GOODBYE FOR NOW,
ADIOS, AMIGOS, CIAO,
I'LL SAY GOODBYE FOR NOW,
BUT I'LL BE BACK

DEATH DON'T SCARE ME

(MORE)

CRABGRASS (CONT'D)

DEATH IS BUT A CHILLY WINTER'S DREAM
 MY ROOTS ARE DEEP
 MY LOVE IS STRONG
 AND MY SOUL BELONGS TO SPRING

WEEDS

HE'LL BE BACK ONE DAY IN JUNE
 THOUGH YOU MAY THINK THAT
 HE'LL BE COMING BACK TOO SOON
 NO, CRUEL DEATH CAN'T KEEP HIM DOWN
 CAUSE HE'S A WEED
 AND WEEDS WILL RISE UP FROM THE GROUND

STOP YOUR MOANING AND YOUR GROANING
 THOUGH HE MAY BE COLD AS STONE BECAUSE...
 HE'S JUST PRETENDING TO BE DEAD

HE MAY BE GIVING UP THE GHOST
 BUT IF YOU LISTEN TO HIM CLOSELY
 HE'S NOT REALLY DEAD,
 JUST MOSTLY, LIKE HE SAID

WEEDS (CONT'D)

HE'LL BE BACK
 ONE SUNNY DAWN
 HE'LL BE BACK CAUSE
 NO ONE STAYS TOO DEAD FOR LONG

CRABGRASS

I WILL RETURN ONE HAPPY MORN
 I'LL RISE AGAIN AND TELL THE WORLD
 I'VE BEEN... REBORN!
 WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECT IT
 I'LL BE RESURRECTED
 YOU CAN COUNT ON ME
 AND COUNT ON THAT

SO I'LL SAY FARE THEE WELL
 WITH A SHOUT AND WITH A YELL
 I'LL SAY FARE THEE WELL,
 BUT I'LL BE BACK

(Aunt Dee stands defiantly in front of Tree.)

MEGAMORE

Wrong. The bank owns this property.

AUNT DEE

Not anymore. I paid off my mortgage. In full!

MEGAMORE

Really? ...When?

AUNT DEE

(faltering)

When I was downtown...! That nice man at the bank-

MEGAMORE

(interrupting)

Strange. According to that 'nice man at the bank,' you never paid your mortgage. And now the bank has decided to ...foreclose.

AUNT DEE

(searching her pockets)

But I have the receipt right here... I...

(She empties her pockets. Nothing.)

MEGAMORE

There you go again! Imagining things! Confess! You didn't 'retire' from teaching! You were FIRED because of you've lost your marbles, Aunt 'Dementia!'

(Joseph enters, then listens by the gate.)

AUNT DEE

That's not true! I'm just ... distracted and overwhelmed... I...

MEGAMORE

Pack your bags, Auntie! Tomorrow morning, I'm moving you into a 'home!'

(Aunt Dee kicks Megamore in the shins.)

MEGAMORE (CONT'D)

Ow!!!

(Megamore limps to Tree, then ties an orange ribbon around his trunk: a death sentence.)

(The Garden GASPS.)

(Joseph enters in a rage.)

JOSEPH

Get out, you conniving thief! Dee has friends who love this Garden. We won't let you steal it!

MEGAMORE

(to Aunt Dee)

I WAS going to invite you to tomorrow's Ground Breaking Ceremony for Paved Paradise High Rise Parking Lot! But now you're...UNINVITED!

(to Joseph)

And so are you!

JOSEPH

Get lost, you greedy garden grabber!

(Joseph hustles Megamore out the gate...)

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

(to Aunt Dee)

Dee! Are you OK?

AUNT DEE

The receipt! It was right here in my pocket. What's wrong with me, Joseph? Do I have dementia?

JOSEPH

Yes, you are distracted and forgetful, but who wouldn't be with a nephew like Megamore?

AUNT DEE

I forgot to mention it, Joseph; I'm sorry 'Glossy Gardening Magazine' went... bankrupt.

JOSEPH

(fighting tears)

I didn't know how much I would miss it 'til it was... GONE.

(Aunt Dee bursts into tears. Joseph weeps with her. Together they weep and wailuntil they are spent.)

AUNT DEE

(blowing her nose into her hanky)

Well...THAT felt good.

JOSEPH

(regaining his control)

I agree; a good cry clears the mind....and ...DEE! I remember a DREAM I had last night, which gave me ...an idea! I'll tell you about it after a cup of camomile tea...

AUNT DEE

Camomile? ...What's 'camomile?'

(Joseph, grief stricken, stares at Aunt Dee.)

AUNT DEE (CONT'D)

Ha ha!Gotcha!

(Laughs, then frowns wearily)

Seriously. I'm tired of camomile. I want something with morepizazz.

JOSEPH

Okay, Okay! I get the picture.

(Joseph and Aunt Dee enter the house.)

SCENE TWENTY-ONE: IN THE GARDEN: NIGHT: SONG: "MY FAVOURITE INTENTION"

The Moon rises over an anxious Garden.

Amid flickering fireflies, we hear CRICKETS.

Flowers and Weeds solemnly gather round Tree.

*All gasp to see Dandy's HAIR, now a puffy
GLOBE.*

TREE

(addressing the garden)

The time has come. We must gather with one heart for one purpose. Time to call...

DAHLIA

Ghost Busters!

DAY LILY

The fire department!

TREE

(coughs, clears his throat)

No...The Spirit of the Garden.

DELPHINIUM

But no one has heard the Spirit of the Garden since they chopped down the woods.

DANDY

Ask Daisy. She hears it all the time.

(All eyes on Daisy.)

DAHLIA

(sarcastic)

DAISY? Why ask Daisy? I trust the 'Spirit of the Off ramp' more than a silly WILDflower!

(Silence.)

DAISY

(shouts)

Dahlia! Why... don'tyou... just... GO BACK TO YOUR FLOWER BED and let the Wildflowers and the Weeds save... ourHOME!

(After a moment of shock, the garden LAUGHS.)

BURDOCK

That's our Daisy!

NETTLE

You go, girl!

(Dahlia hangs her head, then hides behind a fern.)

(Dandy helps Daisy place her petals 'just so.')

DAISY

(under her breath, to Dandy)

Did you see that? She provoked me! But I ...showed... her!

DANDY

...You sure did.

DAISY

Who does she think she is? A prize winning perennial featured on the cover of Glossy Gardening Magazine?

DANDY

Yeah, well there WAS that; great photo, you gotta admit. But... hey, you have every right to be angry. Even IF Dahlia is stressed because of the heat.

(As Dandy helps place her petals, 'just so.' Daisy continues to glower at Dahlia.)

(Tree lifts his branches to the Moon, intones a solemn plea...)

TREE

(inhales deeply)

We call upon the great green Spirit the Garden that grows us all! SPEAK, SPIRIT! How can we save our garden?

(Daisy, still glaring at Dahlia, takes her 'wish stance', then waits.)

(Under the rising moon, Weeds yawn, Fireflies twinkle; Crickets drone.)

(Little by little, we HEAR tinkling bells, fairy song, cosmic chimes.)

DAISY

(in a trance)

Ahhhhhhooooombaaaaa! Ahhhhhhhooooombaaaaa!

VIOLET

Translate, Daisy, translate!

DAISY

When you're hungry, call for pizza!

'Pizza Karma,' we deliver!

(Herman's eyes light up.)

HERMAN

Pizza!?

(Daisy faints; Dandy catches her.)

DANDY

Whoopsie, Daisy!

(The Garden GROANS.)

DAISY

(waking)

What...what... happened?

DANDY

Your petals got crossed, that's all.

(Violet tugs on Daisy's petals, then points at Dahlia sobbing behind a fern.)

(Daisy listens with a heavy heart; when she can't bear it any longer...)

DAISY

(to Dahlia)

DAHLIA!... Please don't cry! I'm ...sorry I yelled at you. I know you're stressed because of the heat and...I guess I'm ...jealous cause you're a prize winning perennial featured on the last cover of Glossy Gardening Magazine whereas I'm just an ordinary... wildflower.

DAHLIA

(between sobs...)

Normally I LOVE full sun, but this summer it's been relentless! And ...and...I've always admired you 'cause Daisies grow almost ANYWHERE! Can I be 'wildflower?'

(They share a forgiving hug.)

DAISY

You bet! Tonight we need all the wildflowers we can get.

(Daisy turns to Dandy in despair.)

DAISY (CONT'D)

Is it too late? Did I ruin our only chance ..?

DANDY

Not if you keep wishing! This time, focus on your favorite intention.

SONG: "FAVORITE INTENTION"

DAISY

(sings)

I WISH THAT I COULD CLIMB THAT HIGH RISE,
IT'S NOT THAT TALL
I WISH THAT I COULD GROW RIGHT UP
AND OVER THAT GARDEN WALL
DID I FORGET TO MENTION
MY FAVORITE INTENTION
IS TO GROW THIS WORLD
A GARDEN GREEN SO I KEEP WISHING

DANDY

(speaks)

I can see it! Keep wishing!

DAISY

AND JUST BEYOND THAT FLASHING BILLBOARD
WISH I COULD SEE THE VIEW
AND JUST BEYOND THAT SMOGGY HAZE
WISH I COULD SEE A SKY OF BLUE
I'M A DREAMER ON A MISSION
TELLIN ANYONE WHO'LL LISTEN
IT'S TIME TO WISH A WISH AND SEED THE SPRING

DANDY

WE MAY BE WILD AND CRAZY
BUT WE'RE WISE ENOUGH TO KNOW

DAISY AND DANDY

EVERY LITTLE WISH WE WISH
IS A SEED WE SOW
THAT'S BOUND TO GROW

(Dandy reaches up, gathers his puffy seeds into a bouquet, then offers it to Daisy.)

(She hugs it to her heart, then turns to the audience.)

DAISY

Will you wish with me?

(The Sun rises over Daisy and Dandelion.)

DAISY AND DANDY

CALLING ALL YOU WIDE-EYED DREAMERS
CALLING EVERYONE WITH WINGS
ALL YOU STARRY-EYED BELIEVERS
AND EVERYONE WHO SINGS
WON'T YOU LIFT YOUR SHIMMERING BLOSSOMS TO THE SUN
HELP US WISH THIS WORLD A GARDEN BLESSING EVERYONE

(END OF SONG)

(Closing her eyes, Daisy blows Dandy's seeds; they
soar into the air.)

(For a magic moment we hear tinkling bells,
celestial strings, angel choirs.)

DAISY

Ahoombaaaaa ! Ahoombaaaaa ! ...Yes!...No! Repeat please? ...Got it!

(Daisy's eyes pop open.)

DAISY (CONT'D)

Call the Flowers and Wonder Weeds! I have a wonder plan!

(Daisy whispers to Dandy, who whispers to Violet
etc. in a 'daisy chain.')

(Rose, at the end of the chain, turns to whisper to...)

ROSE

(overjoyed)

CRABGRASS!

CRABGRASS

(flexing his muscles)

Told you I'd be back! And now....I'm a ...super-weed!

(The Garden celebrates the risen weed.)

(Suddenly, to everyone's surprise...)

DAISY

Sir Pent!... Sir Pent!

(Sir Pent looks up from his ancient tome, then
HISSES.)

DAISY (CONT'D)

Please don't hiss at me, Sir Pent. I need your help to decipher this message:
"To heal forgetful gardeners and whatever's ailing you
Brew a magic mystery drink, a wonder tea... for two....?"

SIR PENT

(mutters under his breath..)

"Cha cha cha..."

(dismissively)

I won't even bother hissing, 'Ridiculous!'

(Daisy turns away in despair.)

(Sir Pent returns to his tome. Reading, his eyes
grow wide.)

(Frantically flipping pages, he GASPS.)

SIR PENT (CONT'D)

Wait! Wait! You're in luck. I might be persuaded to help ...under ONE condition.

(He whispers in Daisy's ear.)

DAISY

(she nods 'yes.')

Okay, I promise.

(Sir Pent rips a page from the tome, then SLAMS it
shut.)

(The Garden jumps.)

HERMAN
(aside to Daisy)

Why are you trusting HIM?

(Smirking, Sir Pent brandishes an official diploma
in Herman's face.)

HERMAN (CONT'D)
(reads)

This official diploma certifies that 'Sir Pent the Reptile' is a Master Herbalist and
Botanist, unsurpassed by none, revered by all... bla bla bla...

(he crumples the paper, tosses it aside)

Oh, give me a break!

SIR PENT
Jealous, much, bird brain? What did YOU do this summer?

DAISY
(pulls Herman aside, whispers)
Don't upset Sir Pent; he's got the... recipe!

SCENE TWENTY-TWO: GARDEN: EARLY MORNING : REPRIS: "ALWAYS
ENOUGH WHEN YOU SHARE"

*Following the recipe, Sir Pent gathers petals
and seeds from flowers and weeds, then stirs
them into a smoldering cauldron.*

Honey Bee offers a spoon of honey.

REPRIS: "ALWAYS ENOUGH WHEN YOU SHARE"

FLOWERS AND WEEDS
(singing)

THERE'S ALWAYS ENOUGH WHEN YOU SHARE
AND YOUR HEART FEELS LIGHTER THAN AIR
JUST APPLY THIS HYPOTHESIS
I PROMISE YOU'LL SEE

(MORE)

FLOWERS AND WEEDS (CONT'D)
 JUST HOW MIRACULOUS SHARING CAN BE
 THERE'S ALWAYS ENOUGH WHEN YOU SHARE

(END OF REPRISE)

(When no one is watching, Sir Pent slips a pinch from his medicine pouch into the cauldron, stirs, then tastes.)

(Grimacing, he hesitates, then dumps the entire pouch into the cauldron, then stirs.)

(Sir Pent dips a goblet into the cauldron, then lifts it triumphantly to his lips.)

(With a mighty 'COO!' Herman swoops down to pin Sir Pent to the ground like Saint George conquering the Dragon.)

HERMAN

I'm watching you, Slippery Snake! What did you slip into that tea?

SIR PENT

(Hisses)

Bitter tears? ...Some apple seeds?... A dash of lemon zest?
 I'll NEVER share my recipe! You'll simply have to GUESS!

HERMAN

(pinning him to the ground, glaring)

I ...LOVE lemon zest.

SIR PENT

(through clenched teeth)

...It refreshes the palate.

HERMAN

(grudgingly releases Sir Pent)

Pour... it ...back!

(Sir Pent pours the mystery tea into the cauldron.)

SIR PENT

Fool! I was merely cooling it ...so that our gardener doesn't... burn her tongue.

SCENE TWENTY-THREE: GARDEN: LATE MORNING: SONG: "SPIRIT OF THE GARDEN"

A searing Sun rises over bustling preparations for the Ground Breaking ceremony.

Over the podium on the porch, a banner reads: "Paved Paradise High Rise Parking Lot."

Joseph enters, adjusts the name tag on his multi-colored coat. He speaks into his cell phone..

JOSEPH

Joseph Rosenblatt here, streaming LIVE from Aunt Dee's downtown Garden, with our new podcast, "Make it Stop."

(Mayor Evermore enters.)

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

Mayor Evermore! Our listeners want to know: why did the Bank of Megapolis fraudulently foreclose on entire neighborhoods forcing us to move into our cars?

MAYOR EVERMORE

FAKE NEWS!

HIDDEN IN THE FERNS:

(Daisy dips the goblet into the cauldron.)

SIR PENT

(hovering over her shoulder)

Make sure there's enough for TWO!

HERMAN

(whispers to Daisy)

Why is SIR PENT delivering the wonder tea?

DAISY

(whispers)

I promised him the second cup!

(Furious, Herman turns to go...)

(Sir Pent plucks a feather from Herman's tail.)

(Herman attacks Sir Pent in a rage.)

HERMAN

It was YOU! ...YOU pushed me out of my nest!

SIR PENT

You should thank me! I taught you to FLY!

HERMAN

Don't pretend to be the good guy!

(Daisy pries them apart.)

DAISY

This is not... the... time!

(Herman exits in a huff.)

(Sir Pent tucks the feather behind his ear, then begins to shed his skin.)

DAISY (CONT'D)

(to Sir Pent)

Sir Pent... I...um...Are you shedding yourskin?

SIR PENT

Today is a very... special... day.

DAISY

Of course it is...I...um...

(feigning faux cheer, Daisy cleans her
'rose colored glasses)

What a wild and wacky summer we've had, wouldn't you agree?

SIR PENT

Horrible. Terrible. DON'T sing about it.

DAISY

OK, no singing. I just wanted to...

SIR PENT

What.

DAISY

(she dons her 'rose colored glasses')

Apologize. I've been doing a lot of that lately. I misjudged you, Sir Pent. Despite that awful 'hiss' of yours...I believe your intentions are ... probably... noble. Deep down, I know you love this garden.

SIR PENT

Nice glasses.

DAISY

Thank you. Rose gave them to me...

SIR PENT

May I...?

(Daisy hands the glasses to Sir Pent...)

(He crushes them underfoot, dons a cape with a hood, then grabs the goblet which Daisy relinquishes ambivalently.)

AT THE PODIUM:

MAYOR AGELESS EVERMORE

(at the microphone)

FREE parking! Isn't that what Megapolis WANTS? What Megapolis NEEDS?

JOSEPH

Wait!... Breaking news!

(Joseph points to Aunt Dee, perched in Tree.)

(In her STRAW HAT, tie-dye tee shirt and camouflage pants, Aunt Dee unfurls a banner reading: "Heck, No! We won't go!")

(Everyone GASPS.)

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

Our very own Aunt Dee has occupied her Tree House and refuses to come down! Aunt Dee! What is your message to our listening audience?

AUNT DEE

You can inform my garden-grabbing nephew that I'm not... I'm not, no, I WON'T!

(We hear CHEERS.)

(Megamore grabs the microphone...)

MEGAMORE

(to the crowd)

My Aunt has dementia and can no longer manage this property. As her loving nephew, I only want to help ...

(To Aunt Dee)

You're gonna love your seniors' condovan! They only lock you in at night!

MAYOR EVERMORE

(grabs the microphone, drones on...)

PAVED PARADISE HIGH RISE PARKING LOT! Bla bla bla.... bla bla bla...

AS THE MAYOR DRONES ON IN PANTOMIME....

(After climbing Tree, Sir Pent grudgingly offers Aunt Dee the goblet.)

AUNT DEE

(distracted, she drinks)

Thank you, who ever you are. It's not camomile, is it?

(Sir Pent shakes his head: 'No.')

(Aunt Dee drinks deeply.)

(Suddenly, we hear tinkling bells, angel choirs; Aunt Dee shudders, grins a radiant grin, then...)

AUNT DEE (CONT'D)

(embracing Sir Pent)

Sir Pent! Sir Pent, it's YOU! I've been neglecting you for AGES! Will you forgive me?

SIR PENT

No!

(They tussle for the goblet.)

AT THE PODIUM:

MEGAMORE

(to the agitated crowd)

My Aunt didn't pay her mortgage, so naturally, the Bank is repossessing.

AUNT DEE

That's a lie! I paid my mortgage... in full!

MEGAMORE

Then where is the receipt?

(to the crowd)

She doesn't have one.

(Aunt Dee reaches into her hat, then triumphantly waves the missing receipt.)

AUNT DEE

HERE! ... IT! ...IS!

(Enraged, Mayor Evermore climbs to the tree house, grabs the receipt, stuffs it in her mouth, then swallows.)

MAYOR EVERMORE

There never WAS a receipt!

(Sir Pent HISSES.)

(Mayor Evermore flees down the ladder, then out the Gate, pushing aside....)

MAYOR EVERMORE (CONT'D)

SNAKE! SNAKE!

(Didmore Dunmore enters still holding the bag of Gloff clubs.)

(Throwing the clubs to the ground, he shouts...)

DIDMORE DUNMORE

(waving the receipt)

Do not despair, Ms. Dee! Here is the ORIGINAL receipt!

(waving to Aunt Dee)

I gave you a ...copy!

AUNT DEE

Hip hip halleluia! I've always liked you, young man! How's your Mother?

DUNMORE

Better, thank you!

(Megamore, enraged, pushes Dunmore aside then climbs to the Tree House.)

MEGAMORE

Dunmore! You can say good-bye to that promotion at the bank! Start the bulldozer...ah... ah... ah!

(We hear the ROAR of a Bulldozer.)

(Megamore's face contorts.)

DUNMORE

HIT THE DIRT!... He's gonna ...SNEEZE!

(The Crowd cowers. The action continues in Slow Motion.)

(Megamore flails; his mouth opens wide.)

(Triumphant, Sir Pent wrests the goblet from Aunt Dee. Suddenly, Daisy's voice rings forth.)

DAISY

Sir Pent! PLEASE! Now's your chance to save... our ... garden!

(Glaring at Daisy, Sir Pent hesitates.)

(Daisy points at Megamore's open mouth.)

DAISY (CONT'D)

'There's always enough... when you share!'

SIR PENT

I HATE that song!

(We hear the Bulldozer ROAR closer.)

DAISY

But the message is more important than ever... given our present predicament!

(The garden holds its breath; all eyes on Sir Pent.)

(Sir Pent, conflicted, gnaws his tail.)

(Daisy musters her friendliest smile, then waves.)

(Despite himself, Sir Pent instinctively waves back, then CURSES under his breath.)

(The Bulldozer roars closer; the Garden cowers...)

(HISSING with rage, Sir Pent pours the Wonder Tea into Megamore's mouth.)

(A curious expression dawns on Megamore's face.)

MEGAMORE

Ah...Ah....?

(with a sigh of pleasure)

Ahhhhhhhhhhh....!

(Megamore pats his tummy, grins, then waves amiably to the crowd. The action continues at NORMAL SPEED.)

JOSEPH

(confused, into his phone)

What miracle is this? Has Megamore's 'demolition sneeze' been short-circuited by a Garden Snake? But the bulldozer is at the gate! Is this the end of our Garden home?

MEGAMORE

NO!... Stop the bulldozer!

(All GASP as the Bulldozer falls silent.)

MEGAMORE (CONT'D)

This IS my Aunt's garden, after all! Suddenly I feel love and inspiration and...and... my allergies have... disappeared! Tree, I blamed you, when all this time, I was allergic to my own GREED!

(He drinks the last drops from the Goblet.)

WHAT is in this TEA?

(turning to Aunt Dee)

Auntie, will you ever forgive me?

AUNT DEE

(hesitates...)

Will you promise to restore all the City parks, remove the fake grass and replant our woods?

(he reluctantly nods 'yes')

Uncover the river under the freeway? Add a bike path?

(nods yes)

Install solar panels and rooftop gardens on every single building in Megapolis?

MEGAMORE

Don't be ridiculous...

(The crowds GROANS.)

MEGAMORE (CONT'D)

JUST KIDDING! I'll do that and... MORE!

(Aunt Dee and Megamore share an awkward hug.)

(The crowd goes wild.)

JOSEPH

Good beginning! Aunt Dee, do you have any other wishes you'd like to share?

AUNT DEE

(whipping out her long wish list)

Indeed I do! Secretly, I've always wanted to be Mayor!Just joking, ha ha! No, what I've always wanted... is a community garden in my own front yard. With a Cafe called 'Lawn to Table' where we can feed our neighbors and have... Firefly Festivals! With veggies and berries and dancing and music and..

(Aunt Dee continues her speech in pantomime.

Lights fade... then rise on Joseph who continues his pod cast.)

JOSEPH

Yes, dear listeners... that was ‘The Day we Turned It All Around.’ In a delicious twist, Mayor Evermore lost her re-election to ...you guessed it! Aunt Dee! ...who regretfully declined after urging Didmore Dunmore to run. His mother is doing much better, by the way...

(dreamily gazing at Didmore Dunmore)

Isn't he dreamy? But I digress....

(returning to his senses)

As it turns out, Aunt Dee didn't have dementia; she was suffering from ‘Solastalgia,’ in other words, grief at the thought of losing her home. The cure? Love and gardening! But you knew that. Meanwhile, Megamore's change of heart reverberates around the world! Cities are tearing up highways, restoring rivers and streams, while urban forests are springing up like ...

(Lights up on Dandy and Daisy as they prepare to depart with their belongings in a handkerchief.)

DAISY

Violet! Come with us! We're wildflowers! We can grow almost anywhere.

VIOLET

Thank you, Daisy, but my roots are here. Promise you'll be back?

(A gust of wind blows everyone together.)

DAISY

First thing next spring! With all those leafyvegetables!

FLOWERS

Vegetables??? NOOO! ... Not...Vegetables!

SONG: “SPIRIT OF THE GARDEN” REPRISE

COMPANY

THE SPIRIT OF THE GARDEN GROWS
IN THE CENTER OF THE CITY
THE SPIRIT OF THE GARDEN KNOWS
EXACTLY WHAT WE NEED, HERE COMES A MIRACLE

EVERY FLOWER HAS A PURPOSE
HAS A PURPOSE AND A PLAN
AND IN THE CENTER IS A TENDER MYSTERY
WE MAY NEVER UNDERSTAND

WHEN I CLOSE MY EYES AND LISTEN
ABOVE THE TRAFFIC AND THE NOISE
I CAN ALMOST HEAR THE SPIRIT SINGING

BENEATH THE STREET LIGHT
BESIDE THE BUS STOP
HERE COMES A MIRACLE
WAY UP THERE ON THE ROOF TOP,
BESIDE THE NEWS STAND,
BELOW THE SIDEWALK, BETWEEN THE CRACKS
WHERE THE WEARY CITY FEET WALK
A TENDER SEED IS GROWING UNDERGROUND
AND EVERY WHERE THE GARDEN GROWS
CONCRETE CANNOT KEEP US DOWN

WE'LL NEVER KNOW UNTIL WE TRY
JUST HOW HIGH A WISH CAN FLY
AND THAT'S WHY I KEEP WISHING....!

(END OF SONG)

(HISSING to show off his new fangs, SIR PENT
THE DRAGON rises from the cauldron, spreads his
WINGS, then flies into the sky.)

THE END