

BOOK

Psyche

-A New Musical-

Music and Lyrics
by
Jeff Baker

Book
by
Sondra Lee and Jeff Baker

From the Greek myth "Cupid and Psyche"

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CAST

Psyche (Soprano) A beautiful orphan girl.

Cupid (Tenor) The God of Romantic Love.

Venus (Soprano) The Goddess of Beauty. Mother of Cupid.

The Priest (Baritone) The Priest of The Temple of Venus.

The Villagers (SATB Chorus) featuring:

Yelena, the fruit lady (S)

The Skeptic (A)

The Baker (T)

The Drunk (B)

Psyche
SCENE ONE

THE TEMPLE OF VENUS

Villagers gather for The Festival of Venus.

SONG #1: "WHAT NEED HAVE WE FOR HEAVEN"

YELENA

TO THOSE IN TOWN FOR OUR FESTIVITIES
MAY I NOW INTRODUCE MYSELF.
MY NAME IS YELENA, THE SELLER OF FRUIT
THESE ARE MY WELL-STACKED SHELVES.
BEFORE WE BEGIN OUR ACTIVITIES,
OF WHICH I AM IN CHARGE
I JUST WANT TO SAY,
SINCE I'VE BEEN WORSHIPING PSYCHE,
MY MELONS HAVE GROWN EXTRA-LARGE.

ALL

SINCE SHE'S BEEN WORSHIPING PSYCHE,
HER MELONS HAVE GROWN EXTRA-LARGE.

BAKER

I AM THE HUMBLE BAKER,
OVER HERE MY EXQUISITE BREADS AND PIES.
LIKE YELENA IT IS NOW MY WISH TO TESTIFY.
COME OVER HERE TO MY AREA
PREPARE TO FEAST YOUR EYES!
SINCE I'VE BEEN WORSHIPING PSYCHE
EACH LOAF HAS AN EXTRA RISE.

ALL

SINCE HE'S BEEN WORSHIPING PSYCHE,
EACH LOAF HAS AN EXTRA RISE!

WHAT NEED HAVE WE OF HEAVEN
AND ITS DISTANT DIVINITIES.
WHEN SOON WE'LL BE HERE WITH PSYCHE
OUR GODDESS OF TRUE BEAUTY.

SKEPTIC

I MYSELF WAS A SKEPTIC,
MY DOUBTS I COULD NOT REMOVE.
I COULD NOT ACCEPT HER ON FAITH ALONE.
I NEEDED SOME ACTUAL PROOF.
SUDDENLY IT DAWNED ON ME,
ALL AT ONCE, IN A WINK.
SINCE I'VE BEEN WORSHIPING PSYCHE,
THE SKY IS MORE BLUE, I THINK.

ALL

SINCE SHE'S BEEN WORSHIPING PSYCHE,
THE SKY IS MORE BLUE, SHE THINKS.

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.
LET US JOIN OUR VOICES
ON THIS GLORIOUS FESTIVAL DAY
OUR BELOVED GODDESS PSYCHE

ALL (CONT.)
WILL BE HERE WITH US TODAY.

(ENTER PRIEST)

PRIEST
Stop! Listen to me! All ye who have strayed from the path of Venus. Beware! Or the real Goddess Venus will make the rivers run backwards. She will stop the sun in mid-heaven. Venus will cause the moon to drop a poisonous dew. She will make your melons wither and your loaves fall. Why will she do this, why? Because you worship a false idol, that's why! You worship Psyche, a human being.

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

SKEPTIC
If she exists at all...

YELENA
Worship your Venus if you want to...

BAKER
The only Goddess we need is Psyche.

DRUNK
What he said.

(EXIT VILLAGERS)

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

(ENTER VENUS)

VENUS

Where is everyone? Isn't today my festival day!?

PRIEST

Yes, O Perfect One

VENUS

Then why are my rites discontinued? Why are my statues not garlanded?

PRIEST

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

VENUS

Replaced!! By whom?

PRIEST

A human girl named Psyche. Because she is so beautiful the people now worship her instead of you.

VENUS

They what?! This is absurd! A human pretending to be a god! Pretending to be me! What are you doing about it?

PRIEST

Everything I can.

VENUS

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

PRIEST

Yes.

VENUS

And stop the sun in mid-heaven?

PRIEST

They just laughed.

VENUS

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

PRIEST

Yes, yes, and yes...I even told them you'd make their melons
wither, and their loaves fall.

VENUS

I don't understand.

PRIEST

Nobody does.

VENUS

This is not good. Not good at all.

**SONG #2: "WHY CAN'T THINGS BE LIKE THEY
ONCE WERE?"****VENUS**

BEING WISE, I'VE EMBRACED AND ACCEPTED
MORE THAN MY FAIR SHARE OF CHANGE.
STILL I FELT SURE SOME THINGS
WOULD BE SACRED,
COME WHAT MAY.
SO I NEVER EXPECTED
THIS STRANGE TWIST OF FATE
TO FIND MYSELF BEING REPLACED.

PRIEST

FOR MANY YEARS
I HAVE SERVED IN YOUR TEMPLE.
DEVOTEDLY TENDING YOUR FLOCK.
ALWAYS MY DICTATES WERE VALUED.
MY EDICTS EAGERLY SOUGHT.

PRIEST (CONT.)

SO YOU CANNOT IMAGINE
HOW IT HURTS TO THE CORE
TO FIND MYSELF BEING IGNORED.

(V)VENUS/(P) PRIEST/(B)BOTH

(V)REJECTED, (P)NEGLECTED (V) AND ABANDONED
(P) CURSED (V) SCORNE (P) AND REBUKED.
(B) WHY CAN'T THINGS BE LIKE THEY ONCE WERE?
(V) SO SIMPLE (P) SO RIGHT
(B) AND SO GOOD. AND SO GOOD!

PRIEST*(spoken)*

What a situation!

VENUS*(spoken)*

Ridiculous!

PRIEST*(sung)*

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I WAS ADMIRER
BY EVERY MAN, EVERY WOMAN AND CHILD.

VENUS*(sung)*

I WAS WORSHIPPED AND EXALTED
MY GLORIES EXTOLLED TO THE SKIES.

PRIEST

WHY SHOULD WE TOLERATE
THIS DREADFUL MISTAKE?

VENUS

THIS INSULT!

PRIEST

THIS SLAP IN THE FACE.

(spoken)

Tales of Psyche's beauty have spread throughout the world and humans now make pilgrimages to catch even a glimpse of her.

VENUS

(sung)

DEFAMED, DETHRONED, AND DISHONORED.

PRIEST

(sung)

BELITTLED, BEFOULED AND BESMIRSHED.

(V)VENUS/(P)PRIEST/(B)BOTH

(B) WHY CAN'T THINGS BE LIKE THEY ONCE WERE
(V) SO SIMPLE **(P)** SO RIGHT **(B)** AND SO GOOD.

PRIEST

(spoken)

Your shrines at Cypian 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)

Cypian Pathos, Carion Cnidos and the Isthmus of Cythera?!

PRIEST

Well thed!

VENUS

(sung)

DEFILED, DENOUNCED AND DISHONORED.

PRIEST

EMASCULATED, DEFLOWERED AND DEFROCKED.

VENUS

(spoken)

You poor thing.

(sung)

LET US PUT THINGS BACK TOGETHER.

PRIEST

(sung)

TOGETHER

VENUS

UNITED

BOTH

FOR GOOD! TOGETHER. UNITED. FOR GOOD.
TOGETHER, UNITED, AND SO GOOD!

VENUS

(spoken)

I, Venus, the true Goddess of Beauty, Mistress of the Graces and the Muses, Mother of Cupid, Deimos, Hermione, Phoebus, Hermaphroditus, Priapus, Eryx, and Aeneas, indeed...the mother of all mothers...will not stand idly by while my immaculate name is dragged through the mud of the Earth.

PRIEST

Absolutely not!

VENUS

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

PRIEST

I'd marry you.

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!

PRIEST

You know I adore you.

VENUS

She should fall in love. Madly in love. Cupid can do it.

PRIEST

Not Cupid! Not that heartbreaker, that homewrecker.

VENUS

Be careful. You're talking about my son.

(BRIEF REPRISE OF SONG #2)

BOTH

(SUNG)

TOGETHER. UNITED. AND SO GOOD!

(ENTER CUPID)

VENUS

(To priest)

Go.

CUPID

(spoken)

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

CUPID(CONT.)

I cannot 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

There you are my little darling.

CUPID

Oh no, it's my mother.

VENUS

I've been looking everywhere for you.

CUPID

Remember how busy I get in springtime.

SONG #3: "OH, IS IT REALLY SPRING?"
(V)VENUS/(C)CUPID

(V) OHHH! IS IT REALLY SPRING
 THE SEASON THAT SHOULD BRING
 SUCH HAPPINESS TO ME?
 IT REALLY SPRING
 THAT NOW IS OFFERING
 SUCH MISERY TO ME?
 I'VE BEEN PATIENT,
 (C) MOTHER. (V) FORGIVING, (C) MOTHER!
 (V) COMPASSIONATE, IN MY WAY.
 YES, COMPASSIONATE. (C) MOTHER!!!

VENUS

(spoken)

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

CUPID

Is this about Psyche?

VENUS

What did you hear?!

CUPID

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

VENUS

It's ridiculous!

CUPID

I don't know, look at it another way. You're always complaining about how much you have to do. Now with someone replacing you, you can take some time off...maybe travel...learn to relax.

VENUS

Like you? And do nothing all the time?

I want you to curse her; to make her fall in love.

CUPID

I will not!

VENUS

Will not what?

CUPID

Misuse my powers!

VENUS

Oh, please!

SONG #4: "AND THAT IS LOVE"

CUPID

LOVE CAN NEVER BE A CURSE.

VENUS*(spoken)*

Not now, Cupid

CUPID

LOVE IS LIKE THE FLOWERS
THEIR SWEET FRAGRANCE EV'RYWHERE.

VENUS*(spoken)*

Later you can sing. We can sing together.

CUPID

LOVE CAN NEVER BE A CURSE
LOVE IS FLOWERS IN THE SPRINGTIME.
THOSE IN LOVE SOAR ABOVE THE WORLD.
THOSE IN LOVE HAVE JOY EVERLASTING.
THEY'RE IN LOVE!

FOR LOVE IS WONDER, BEAUTY
AND LIVING WITHOUT A CARE.

LOVE MUST NEVER BE A CURSE
LOVE MUST BE TOTAL LIBERATION.

WHERE THERE'S LOVE, HAPPINESS WILL BE
WHERE THERE'S LOVE
THEY'LL BE STRAINS OF SWEET,
SWEET MUSIC FROM ABOVE.

(Venus wretches at his bad rhyme)

IN OUR DARKEST HOUR
IN THE DEPTHS OF OUR DESPAIR
LET SOMEBODY SAY "I LOVE YOU"
AND OUR PROBLEMS DISAPPEAR.

CUPID(CONT.)

YOU SEE LOVE, CAN NEVER BE A CURSE
 BECAUSE LOVE IS MYSTERY AND MAGIC
 AN ELIXIR, THE MOST POTENT SPELL.
 NEVER OLD, ALWAYS YOUNG AND INVITING
 NEVER FLAWED, ALWAYS NEW AND EXCITING
 FOR LOVE IS MUSIC, MELODY
 PERFECT HARMONY, TOTAL ECSTASY
 AND THAT IS LOVE.

VENUS

My, my, my, but don't we have a high opinion of ourselves!

CUPID

I 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. That human girl is ruining everything.

*(A "BOING" SOUND EFFECT IS HEARD AS VENUS
 VENTS HER FRUSTRATION)*

CUPID

I 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 everyone will be reminded of you.

VENUS

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

CUPID

Because you made me so charming.

VENUS

Yes, yes, my charming little boy. Here she comes.

CUPID

Who?! What?!

*(EXIT VENUS. ENTER PSYCHE WITH PRIEST.
CUPID HIDES.)*

PSYCHE

Where is everyone? Isn't today The Festival of Venus Day?

PRIEST

Gone home. Every last one of them. How long did you expect them to wait for you?

PSYCHE

Why would they wait for me?

PRIEST

Because you're their new "goddess."

PSYCHE

Me?

PRIEST

Oh come on! You love it!

(EXIT PRIEST)

SONG #5: "LIFE GIVES, LIFE TAKES

PSYCHE

LIFE GIVES
LIFE TAKES
BE HAPPY, THEY SAY.
LIFE TAKES WHAT YOU DON'T NEED
YOU'LL SEE THAT SOMEDAY.

PSYCHE (CONT.)

LIFE TOOK MY FAMILY
 I'VE NO ONE TO CALL MY OWN.
 LIFE TOOK MY FRIENDS
 I'M ALWAYS ALONE.

LIFE GAVE YOU BEAUTY
 HOW DARE YOU COMPLAIN
 WOMEN ARE JEALOUS
 MEN GO INSANE.

IF YOU ASK ME
 BUT NO ONE DOES
 WHAT'S IMPORTANT IN LIFE
 FRIENDS, FAMILY
 SOMEONE TO TALK TO WOULD BE NICE.

GODDESS OF BEAUTY
 I BESEECH THEE TODAY.
 LOOK DOWN ON THIS ORPHAN
 WHO'S LOSING HER WAY.

I'VE TRIED TO BE STRONG
 I'VE TRIED TO BE BRAVE
 FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE
 I'M AFRAID.

(VENUS' "BOING" IS HEARD)

PSYCHE

(spoken)

Ouch! Help. I've been bitten by a snake! Help! Help!
 Somebody help me!

END SCENE ONE

SCENE TWO
CUPID'S CELESTIAL APARTMENTS
(PSYCHE IS UNCONSCIOUS. CUPID OBSERVES HIS PRIZE.)

CUPID

Heaven's most handsome God (me) rescues Earth's most beautiful girl (her) and carries her off to his celestial apartments. Who else could do this? And just look at her.

SONG #6: "IF THAT MAN WERE ME"

CUPID

SO THIS IS PSYCHE
 THE HUMAN 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.

(spoken)

I can picture him

(sung)

"O MY LOVE, UNTIL JUST NOW
 I HAD ONLY WORSHIPPED THEE FROM AFAR.
 I TOLD MYSELF NO ONE COULD BE SO
 LOVELY...BUT YOU ARE."
 I SUPPOSE THIS IS WHAT A MAN IN LOVE
 MIGHT SAY.
 I CAN PICTURE HIM.

I CAN HEAR HIM SAYING,
 "O MY LOVE

CUPID (cont.)

IT SEEMS THAT DESTINY HAS A PLAN FOR US."
 I'M SURE THIS IS WHAT HE WOULD SAY.
 HE WOULD BELIEVE THEY WERE MEANT TO BE
 TOGETHER...ETERNALLY.

I'M QUITE SURE THIS IS WHAT SOMEONE IN LOVE,
 MIGHT BELIEVE.

I COULD SEE THAT HE WOULD LOSE HIS SELF-
 CONTROL,
 AND CAUGHT IN LOVE'S GREAT SPELL WOULD DO
 SUCH SILLY THINGS.
 I CAN SEE THAT SOMEDAY HE WOULD CURSE
 HIMSELF FOR BEING SUCH A FOOL.
 I'M QUITE SURE THIS IS WHAT SOMEONE IN LOVE
 WOULD DO.

HE'S SINGING, "O 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...
 IF THAT MAN WERE ME I MIGHT LOSE MY SELF-
 CONTROL.
 AND CAUGHT IN MY OWN SPELL WOULD DO SUCH
 SILLY THINGS.
 I CAN TELL YOU, SOMEDAY I WOULD CURSE
 MYSELF FOR BEING SUCH A FOOL.
 I'M QUITE SURE THIS COULD EVEN HAPPEN TO ME.
 IF THAT MAN WERE ME.
 IF THAT MAN WERE ME.

(PSYCHE WAKES, CUPID HIDES)

SONG #7: “HELLO, HELLO“**PSYCHE**

HELLO. HELLO. IS ANYONE HERE?
 HELLO. HELLO. I FEEL SOMEONE’S NEAR.
 I KNOW A DREAM SEEMS OFTEN REAL.
 THEN WHEN WE AWAKE HOW FOOLISH WE FEEL.
 WAKE UP PSYCHE! PSYCHE, AWAKE!
 WHAT I RECALL? WAS THAT A DREAM?
 A SNAKE IS SEEN. I’M STRUCK. I SCREAM!
 THE LIGHT IS FADING. I CANNOT MOVE.
 OH NO! I MUST RUN FOR MY LIFE!

*(PSYCHE RUNS. CUPID SHOUTS FROM HIS HIDING
 PLACE.)*

CUPID

Stop!!

PSYCHE

WHO’S THERE? HELLO. HELLO. WHO’S THERE?
 WHOSE VOICE IS THIS?
 DON’T WORRY YOU DON’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.
 STOP BEING SO UNKIND.
 I REALLY DON’T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

SONG #8: "PLEASE DON'T CRY"**CUPID**

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
YOU ARE KIND UNLESS I 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.

CUPID

DON'T COME SO CLOSE.

PSYCHE

ARE YOU THE ONE WHO LIVES 'ROUND HERE?
ARE YOU THE ONE WHO LIVES HERE IN THIS PLACE?

CUPID

I HAVE TO GO.
I'M VERY LATE.
I PROMISE YOU WHEN I RETURN
I'LL BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN EVERYTHING.

PSYCHE

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.

PSYCHE (Cont.)

I KNOW THAT YOU CAN SPEAK
WHY WON'T YOU TALK TO ME!?

CUPID

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 CANNOT SEE MY FACE.
NO YOU MUST NOT SEE MY FACE.

PSYCHE

(spoken)

Fine! Sneak around in the dark with your precious face for
the rest of your life! Who cares? I'm leaving. Good-bye!

*(PSYCHE BEGINS TO EXIT. CUPID RUNS AND THROWS HIS
ARMS AROUND HER TO PREVENT HER FROM GOING OVER
THE EDGE OF THE CLOUD THEY'RE ON.)*

PSYCHE

Whoa. We're up in the air.
(seeing Cupid) Whoa!

CUPID

I know this must be very confusing.
But believe me, you're safe here.
And besides, I really do have to go.

PSYCHE

I'll go with you.

CUPID

I'm sorry. I'm going to see my mother. Maybe next time. Yes, next time we can go together. I'm sure she'd like that. Will you wait for me?

PSYCHE

Where would I go?

(EXIT CUPID)

SCENE THREE
THE TEMPLE OF VENUS
(ENTER VILLAGERS)

YELENA

My melons wither on the vine!

BAKER

No matter what I do, I can't seem to leaven my bread!

SKEPTIC

What have we done to deserve this?

DRUNK

(belches)

SONG #9: "HEAVEN HELP US"

TENORS

UNTIL NOW WHEN THINGS WENT BAD
WE ALWAYS KNEW HOW TO MAKE AMENDS

BASS

BURNT OFFERINGS, A SACRIFICE, A PRAYER

ALL MEN

AND LIFE WOULD BE GOOD AGAIN.

ALL WOMEN

NOW IT SEEMS THAT NO MATTER WHAT WE DO
IT ONLY GETS WORSE AND WORSE

ALL MEN

AND NO POWER HERE ON EARTH

ALL
CAN LIFT THIS AWFUL CURSE.

ALL MEN
WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO?

ALL WOMEN
HOW WILL WE BE ABLE TO SURVIVE?

ALL MEN
WHAT CAN BE DONE TO CHANGE OUR FATE?

ALL
AND SAVE OUR PRECIOUS LIVES.
HEAVEN HELP US!

BAKER
OUR PRIEST'S NOWHERE TO BE SEEN

SKEPTIC
HE STAYS AT HOME ALONE, IN THE DARK

BAKER
HE WILL NOT ACT, HE WILL NOT SPEAK

ALL WOMEN
WHILE HIS TEMPLE IS FALLING APART

ALL MEN
IS IT POSSIBLE HE NOW BLAMES US

ALL
FOR SOMETHING WE WERE POWERLESS TO STOP

ALL WOMEN
WHAT DOES HE EXPECT US TO DO?

ALL MEN

HOW DOES HE IMAGINE WE'LL SURVIVE?

ALL WOMEN

WHO WILL PROVIDE?

ALL MEN

ALL THE THINGS WE NEED.

ALL

TO SAVE OUT PRECIOUS LIVES.
HEAVEN HELP US.

YELENA

IS IT FAIR THAT IT DOES NOT RAIN
AND MY FIELDS TURN TO DUST?

ALL

HEAVEN HELP US.

BAKER

IS IT FAIR THAT WHENEVER THINGS GO BAD
THEY GO EVEN WORSE FOR US?

ALL

HEAVEN HELP US!
HEAVEN HELP US!

ALL WOMEN

WHAT HAVE WE DONE THAT'S SO WRONG?

ALL MEN

WE ARE ONLY TRYING TO SURVIVE

ALL WOMEN

WHERE DO WE TURN?

ALL MEN
WHEN FOR NO GOOD REASON.

ALL
WE'VE MISFORTUNE IN OUR LIVES
HEAVEN HELP US!
HEAVEN HELP US!
HELP US!

(ENTER PRIEST)

SKEPTIC
Why are the Gods punishing us?!

PRIEST
Because you desecrated The Festival of Venus
By worshipping a human.
Because you left her alters unswept.

DRUNK
I've been busy.

YELENA
What happened to her? To Psyche?

SKEPTIC
How can someone simply vanish off the face of the earth?

PRIEST
The Gods work in mysterious ways. Now go. I must pray.

BAKER
Will you pray to Venus to protect our beloved Psyche; to
hold her in her loving arms whether she's there with her in
heaven or still here somewhere on earth?

PRIEST

Sure.

(EXIT VILLAGERS)

SONG #10: NOTHING QUITE LIKE THIS!"**PRIEST**

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 A LIFE 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.

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.

PRIEST (CONT.)

TO FACE A TOTAL CATASTROPHY 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.

(EXIT PRIEST. ENTER VENUS.)

SONG #11: "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 TEMPLE.
 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 WORLD 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!

(ENTER CUPID)

VENUS

(spoken)

Ah, there you are!

VENUS
(DANCES A TANGO WITH CUPID)

(*Sung*)

ONCE MORE THERE IS WORSHIP IN MY TEMPLE.
ONCE MORE THERE ARE OFFERINGS TO ME.
BY HELPING ME WITH THAT SILLY WHAT'S-HER-
NAME?

CUPID

PSYCHE.

VENUS

THINGS ARE AS THEY SHOULD BE.
JUST THE WAY THEY SHOULD BE.

(*spoken*)

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

CUPID

You really want to hear about Psyche?

VENUS

Yes, my little devil! Who else?!

CUPID

Isn't it enough that she's out of your beautiful Botticelli hair?

VENUS

Details. Details. I need details.

CUPID

It's not very interesting. I simply moved her.

VENUS

Moved her where?

CUPID

Nowhere special.

VENUS

What are you saying?

CUPID

Nothing.

VENUS

What did you do with her?

CUPID

Who?

VENUS

Psyche!

CUPID

Oh, right....she was bitten by a snake.

VENUS

I know, I know...Wait...Great Jupiter's Ghost.... you rescued her.

CUPID

I rescued her.

VENUS

How could you do that?

CUPID

What was I supposed to do? Let her die? Her perfect beauty lost forever. Well, that's not the way I was brought up.

VENUS

By whom?

CUPID

Anyway, right now she's staying with me. Don't worry, I'm not in love with her or anything like that.

VENUS

Great Neptune's soggy bones! No matter how many eons I live, I learn nothing. Nothing. Now what?

CUPID

Now what?

VENUS

Duh! What do you intend to do next

CUPID

If you met her, mother, I bet you'd like her. And I know she'd really like to meet you. She even said so. And by Jove, she's so incredibly, incredibly beaut... (*stops*)

VENUS

I'm listening. Continue. "So incredibly....

CUPID

"So incredibly nothing..."

VENUS.

Liar!! You were going to say "incredibly beautiful."

CUPID

So? Everybody knows that.

VENUS

Great Zeus' Thunderbolts! You're in love.

CUPID

I already told you, I'm not in love!

VENUS

Goody, then bring her to me.

CUPID

What will you do?

VENUS

What do you care? She's nothing to you. You said so yourself. Bring her to me and that's an order!

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

(EXIT VENUS)

CUPID

Oh boy, oh boy...

SCENE FOUR
CUPID'S CELESTIAL APARTMENTS

**SONG 12: "COULD THIS BE THE DAY"/"IF THAT
 MAN WERE ME"**

PSYCHE.

(FINDS SOME FABRIC AND WRAPS IT AROUND HERSELF)
(ENTER CUPID WHO OBSERVES UNSEEN.)

I'LL MAKE A PRETTY DRESS TO WEAR
 PICK SOME FLOWERS FOR MY HAIR.
 OH COULD THIS BE THE DAY WHEN I FALL IN
 LOVE? WHEN I FALL IN LOVE.

CUPID

I CAN HEAR HIM
 SAYING, "O MY LOVE,
 TELL ME YOUR HEART.
 SAY YOU LOVE ME.
 TAKE ME TO
 PARADISE." HE WOULD
 BELIEVE THEY WERE
 MEANT TO BE
 TOGETHER. I'M SURE
 THAT IS WHAT HE'D
 BELIEVE. IF THAT MAN
 WERE ME I MIGHT LOSE
 MY SELF-CONTROL AND
 CAUGHT IN MY OWN
 SPELL, WOULD DO
 SUCH CRAZY THINGS. I
 CAN TELL YOU
 SOMEDAY I WOULD
 CURSE MYSELF FOR
 BEING SUCH A FOOL

PSYCHE

COULD HE BE THE
 ONE WHO'S MEANT
 FOR ME?
 YES, 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 "AHHS")

CUPID (CONT.)

YES, I AM SURE THAT
THIS WOULD HAPPEN TO
ME, IF THAT MAN WERE
ME, I CAN HEAR HIM
SAYING, O MY LOVE
UNTIL JUST NOW I HAD
ONLY WORSHIPPED YOU
FROM AFAR, I TOLD
MYSELF NO ONE COULD
BE SO LOVELY BUT YOU
ARE. YES, YOU ARE.

PSYCHE (CONT.)

("AHHS" CONT.)

COULD HE BE THE ONE?
THE ONE WHO'S MEANT
FOR ME?
OH, I'M SURE THAT HE IS
AND WE'LL BE IN LOVE.
OH, THIS MUST BE THE
DAY WHEN I FALL IN LOVE.
YES, I'LL FALL IN LOVE.
YES, WE'LL BE IN LOVE.

(CUPID KNOCKS OVER A STATUE OF VENUS)

PSYCHE

(Startled, gathers her "dress" around her.)

Who's there?

CUPID

Just me.

PSYCHE

Hi. How's your mom?

CUPID

Not bad. Well actually, terrible.

PSYCHE

Is she ill?

CUPID

No. She doesn't get ill. It's just....

PSYCHE

Just what?

CUPID

She thinks I'm an idiot.

PSYCHE

You seem very intelligent to me.

CUPID

I do?

PSYCHE

Yes!

CUPID

What in particular shows my intelligence?

PSYCHE

Everything. Thoughtful. Smart. Really smart.

CUPID

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

PSYCHE

Am I smart?

CUPID

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

PSYCHE

My mother died.

CUPID

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

PSYCHE

Yes, it was. Still is. My father also. But they were just like your mother. Refused to see that I'd grown up and could take care of myself.

CUPID

Like we're two years old, as humans say!

PSYCHE

Exactly.

CUPID

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

PSYCHE

So true! So true! For me, too!

SONG 13: "MAYBE IT'S ME"

CUPID

EVERYONE LOVES ME
OR SO THEY SAY.
AS LONG AS I ALWAYS OBEY
NO ONE REALLY CARES HOW I FEEL.
MAYBE SOMEDAY, SOMEONE, SOMEWHERE.

PSYCHE

MAYBE IT'S ME.
EACH OF US HOPES
SOMEDAY TO FIND
SOMEONE, SOMEWHERE
WHO'LL TAKE THE TIME,
TO REALLY CARE, TRULY CARE
HOW WE FEEL.
MAYBE SOMEDAY, SOMEONE, SOMEWHERE.

CUPID

MAYBE IT'S ME.

PSYCHE

ISN'T IT FUNNY, HOW NO ONE REALLY SEES...?

CUPID

THAT DEEP INSIDE YOU'RE REALLY SO UNHAPPY.

PSYCHE

YOU MIGHT BE A GODDESS.

CUPID

YOU MIGHT BE A GOD.

PSYCHE

BUT UNTIL SOMEONE TOUCHES YOUR HEART

BOTH

THEY'LL NEVER KNOW JUST WHO YOU ARE.

PSYCHE

I AM KNOWN FOR MY BEAUTIFUL FACE.

CUPID

THEY ALL CALL ME THE CAREFREE BOY.

BOTH

DOES ANYONE TAKE THE TIME TO REALLY SEE?
MAYBE NOW, WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY WITH ME...
POSSIBLY?

CUPID

ISN'T IT SAD WHAT YOU MAY BE INSIDE...

PSYCHE

SO OFTEN, YOU END UP HAVING TO HIDE.

CUPID

YOU COULD BE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL...

PSYCHE

THE MOST HANDSOME BY FAR.

BOTH

BUT UNTIL SOMEONE TOUCHES YOUR HEART,
THEY'LL NEVER KNOW JUST WHO YOU ARE.

BOTH (CONT.)

I WANT TO KNOW JUST WHO YOU ARE.
WILL YOU SHOW ME WHO YOU ARE?

*(CUPID REACHES OUT AND PSYCHE REACHES BACK
CAUSING HER MAKESHIFT DRESS TO FALL TO THE
GROUND AS VENUS ENTERS)*

VENUS

Cupid!

CUPID

Mother!

PSYCHE

Your mother?

VENUS

Venus to you!

PSYCHE

The Goddess?! *(to Cupid)* Who are you?!

CUPID

I am Cupid, God of Love, son of Venus. I meant to tell you.

PSYCHE

You didn't think that was important!

VENUS

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

CUPID

Mother! That's not what was happening.

VENUS

(to Cupid)

You stay out of this!

VENUS (CONT.)

(to Psyche)

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

PSYCHE

I never wanted to be worshipped.

CUPID

She's telling the truth, Mother. She never wanted to be worshipped.

VENUS

(to Cupid)

That's enough out of you, Little Mr. Echo!

(to Psyche)

Do you think we keep a place in heaven for ev'ry human girl with a pretty face?

PSYCHE

I'm sure you don't. I'm very, very sorry. Just show me where to go and I promise you'll never see me again.

CUPID

Mother! That's enough! Since I was the one who saved her from the snake, that makes her mine.

PSYCHE

You saved me?

CUPID

(To Psyche) Yes. *(To Venus)* So calm down. I will take care of everything.

VENUS

Calm down!? Calm down!?

(VENUS WAVES HER ARM, "BOING" IS HEARD. CUPID IS ENCLOSED IN A GLASS CAGE.)

VENUS

YOU CALM DOWN!

PSYCHE

How can you do that to your own son?

VENUS

You want me to release him?

PSYCHE

Yes!!

VENUS

Then you must do something for me.

PSYCHE

Anything! Name it!

SONG #14: "I DESIRE A CERTAIN POTION"

VENUS

I DESIRE A CERTAIN POTION THAT HAS A MOST
MARVELOUS SPELL. IT IMPARTS ETERNAL
BEAUTY. NOT THAT I REALLY NEED IT.

PSYCHE

(spoken)

Where is it?

VENUS

IN HELL.

PSYCHE

IN HELL?

*(VENUS WAVES HER ARM, ANOTHER “BOING” IS
HEARD AND A VEHICLE APPEARS)*

VENUS

TRANSPORTATION WILL BE PROVIDED, TO MAKE
YOUR JOURNEY COMFORTABLE. HOW I WISH I TOO
WERE GOING. IT'S SO VERY NICE THERE, THIS TIME
OF YEAR.

PSYCHE

DO NOT THINK IT CAN'T 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, YOU ARE
HONOR BOUND.

VENUS

How quaint...

(EXIT PSYCHE IN VEHICLE)

SONG #15 “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 EV'RY RIGHTNESS DEPENDS ON ME.
HAVE I GONE TOO FAR?

SHE BROKE THE RULES THAT'S ALL THAT
HAPPENED, TRUTH TO TELL.

VENUS (CONT.)

SHE WENT TOO FAR.WHY WOULD SHE DO THAT?
NOW SHE'S IN HELL.

EVERYONE CANNOT DO WHATEVER THEY PLEASE.
EVERYONE CANNOT BE ME.

HAVE I GONE TOO FAR?
I DON'T BELIEVE I EVER COULD.
HAVE I GONE TOO FAR?
I DO EXACTLY WHAT I SHOULD.

THEY'RE THE ONES WHO SEALED THEIR OWN SAD
FATE. THEY'RE THE ONES WHO FORGOT THEIR
PLACE. HAVE I GONE TOO FAR? HAVE I GONE TOO
FAR? HAVE I GONE TOO FAR? TOO FAR?!

*(A CLOCKLIKE SOUND STRIKES SIX TIMES.
FOLLOWED BY A MOMENT OF SILENCE AND...
PSYCHE ENTERS, BURNED. URN IN HAND. SHE GOES
TO CUPID WHO IS SLEEPING. ENTER PRIEST. PRIEST
AND VENUS OBSERVE.)*

SONG #16: "DON'T WORRY MY LOVE"**PSYCHE**

DON'T WORRY MY LOVE
SOON YOU'LL BE RELEASED.
I HAVE ACHIEVED THE IMPOSSIBLE
IT WAS ALL FOR YOU.

FROM THE FIRES OF HELL

PSYCHE (CONT.)

I HAVE BROUGHT THE PRECIOUS URN OF ETERNAL
BEAUTY
ALL FOR YOU.

HOW BEAUTIFUL YOU LOOK WHEN YOU ARE
SLEEPING.
NOW I SEE HOW REALLY PERFECT YOU ARE.

HOW FORTUNATE, WE FOUND EACH OTHER,
CONSIDERING HOW ALIKE WE ARE.
I AM THE MOST BEAUTIFUL OF EARTH
YOU ARE HEAVEN'S FAIREST BY FAR
HOW PERFECT WE ARE!

(PSYCHE SEES HER REJECTION IN CUPID'S GLASS CAGE)

(Spoken)

Oh no! My face! My hair! I am hideous. The potion...my
only hope.

*(PSYCHE DRINKS THE POTION AND COLLAPSES. PRIEST
COMES OUT OF HIDING)*

PRIEST

What happened?

VENUS

I sent her to Hell to fetch the Urn of Eternal Beauty

PRIEST

Why did she collapse when she drank it?

VENUS

I already have the real one. That one's just a sleeping spell.

PRIEST

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

VENUS

I know a few things. Hide.

(VENUS "BOING" CUPID AWAKENS, RUNS TO PSYCHE.)

CUPID

Psyche! Mother, what's happened to her?

VENUS

I told her that if she brought me the urn of eternal beauty from Hell, I'd release you. I kept my part of the bargain. But she drank it herself.

CUPID

Of course she drank it. Look at her. She gave up all her marvelous beauty for me....

VENUS

You're right. Alright, you can keep her.

CUPID

Thank you. Thank you. Now make her beautiful again.

VENUS

I will not! If you did what you were told, none of this would have happened.

CUPID

But we were in love.

VENUS

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

CUPID

She's waking up! Mother, do something!

(CUPID RUNS AWAY)

VENUS

Priest! Come here! Take her home!

(PRIEST PICKS UP PSYCHE'S LIMP BODY.)

PRIEST

Did you see the look on his face when he realized that he would have to spend the rest of eternity with this burned out mess? Priceless!

(VENUS TURNS AWAY. HER EYES ARE FULL OF TEARS.)

PRIEST

Why are you crying? You should be happy.

VENUS

Happy?! Happy?! How can you enjoy this?! What kind of vile creature are you?!

SCENE FIVE
THE TEMPLE OF VENUS

*(CLOCKLIKE CHIME IS AGAIN HEARD. PSYCHE
 ENTERS AS AN OLDER WOMAN. HER HAIR IS GRAY.)*

SONG #17: "ONCE I BELIEVED"
PSYCHE

ONCE I BELIEVED
 UNLESS I ACTED REALLY BRAVELY
 I'D MISS THE CHANCE
 TO FIND THE ONE MEANT FOR ME.
 I WAS SO SURE THEN
 WITHOUT A SHREAD OF EVIDENCE
 THIS WAS THE ONLY WAY I'D FIND MY HAPPINESS

I THOUGHT IF I WAS BOLD
 I'D FIND MY 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
 I'D NEVER FIND IT 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
 EV'RY DAY. I MISS HIM SO.

WHILE IT'S WONDERFUL
 TO WISH UPON A DISTANT STAR
 YOU'D BE BETTER OFF WISHING
 NEARER TO WHERE YOU ARE.
 ONCE I BELIEVED.

(ENTER CUPID)

CUPID

Psyche?

PSYCHE

Cupid? How long have you been here?

CUPID

Been where?

PSYCHE

Go away.

CUPID

Wait. I can explain. It'll just take a minute.

PSYCHE

Did you have a minute for me? All those years ago. And after what I did for you?

CUPID

I know. I know. I feel terrible about it.

SONG #18: "MY ARROWS AND BOW"

CUPID

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 A PERFECT PARADISE

WHAT DO YOU DO
WHEN THE PROBLEMS START?
WITH THE INCONVENIENCE OF THE HEART.

CUPID (CONT.)

WHERE TO GO
 WHEN YOU KNOW YOU SHOULD STAY?
 BUT EVEN THEN, YOU RUN AWAY.

SO, MY LOVE
 LET ME GIVE YOU MY ARROWS AND BOW.
 TAKE THEM SO YOU WILL KNOW.
 TRY TO UNDERSTAND
 TRY TO BELIEVE
 FINDING REAL LOVE
 HAS TAKEN SOME TIME FOR ME.

(Gives arrows and bow. Psyche approaches to embrace him.)

Wait! Good news! I have the urn. The real one. Not the sleeping spell. Drink it and be beautiful again.

(Psyche takes urn.)

PSYCHE

That's all right. Here.

(Gives urn back to him)

Take these, too.

(Gives back the arrows and bow)

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

CUPID

I don't understand. You'll be beautiful forever.

PSYCHE

Look at me, silly. I'm old.

CUPID

You don't have to be?

PSYCHE

So, it's really for me?

CUPID

Yes.

PSYCHE

Then give it to me.

(Takes the urn and sets it aside)

I'm not doing this anymore.

CUPID

Psyche, please. I...I...I can't stop thinking about you.
I love you. There, I said it. I love you! Boy, that feels good. I
love you! I love you! I love you!

PSYCHE

Are you sure you didn't stick yourself with one of your
arrows?

FINAL SONG #19:
“LOVE IS NEVER FAR AWAY”

PSYCHE

I DO NOT BLAME YOU
IF YOU REMEMBER THE WAY I WAS.
A LOVELY GIRL, SO LONELY
LOOKING FOR LOVE.

CUPID

I DO NOT BLAME YOU
IF YOU REMEMBER THE WAY I WAS.
A LOVELY BOY, SO LONELY
LOOKING FOR LOVE.

PSYCHE

I DON'T REGRET
MAKING YOUR BURDEN MINE.

CUPID

HOW I REGRET I COULD NOT SEE THAT...

BOTH

AT THE TIME.

(ENTER VENUS)

VENUS

I DO NOT BLAME YOU
IF YOU REMEMBER THE WAY I WAS.
ANGRY MOTHER, JEALOUS GODDESS
NO ONE COULD LOVE.
I THOUGHT THE ONLY WAY WAS MINE.
AS IF MY NEEDS
WERE ALL THAT MATTERED...

ALL THREE

FOR ALL TIME.
LOVE IS NEVER VERY FAR AWAY
LET YOUR HEART SHOW YOU THE WAY

(ENTER PRIEST AND VILLAGERS)

PRIEST

I DO NOT BLAME YOU
IF YOU REMEMBER THE WAY I WAS.
A GREEDY MAN WITH GREEDY PLANS
NO ONE COULD LOVE.

MY AMBITION HAD MADE ME BLIND.

PSYCHE

HAD MADE YOU MEAN...

VENUS

UNFEELING...

PRIEST

UNKIND.

ALL

LOVE IS NEVER VERY FAR AWAY
LET YOUR HEART SHOW YOU THE WAY

VILLAGERS

WE DO NOT BLAME YOU
IF YOU REMEMBER US FROM THOSE DAYS.
LIKE BLIND SHEEP
WE WERE SO EASILY LED ASTRAY...

PSYCHE

MY FRIENDS
UNBURDEN YOURSELVES
I FORGIVE YOU
CAN YOU FORGIVE ME AS WELL?

DRUNK

FORGET IT! GO TO...(HELL)

*(CAST QUICKLY SING TO COVER DRUNK UP("HELL"),
BEING VERY CONCERNED AS THEY'VE EACH HAD
SOMETHING TO DO WITH SENDING PSYCHE THERE IN
THE FIRST PLACE)*

ALL

AHH, AHH, AHH, AHH....

END