

DAVID!

The Faces of Love

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ACT 1

CHORUS

WHERE WERE YOU LONG AGO

BEFORE YOUR BIRTH WHO CAN KNOW

WHEN DOES IT ALL BEGIN

IS IT NOW OR WAS IT THEN

LIFE BRINGS JOY, LIFE BRINGS PAIN

LIFE BRINGS LOSS, LIFE BRINGS GAIN

IT'S YOUR LIFE, IT'S A STRIFE

WHAT YOU FEEL, WHAT YOU STEAL

JUST A THRILL, JUST A CHILL

LOVE LOVE LOVE, LOVE LOVE LOVE

WHO KNOWS WHY, WHO KNOWS WHEN

WHO KNOWS WHO, NOW OR THEN

LOVE WILL STRIKE, LOVE WILL KILL

LOVE BEGINS WITH A THRILL

JEALOUSY YOU CAN SEE, JEALOUSY IS
NEVER FREE

ENVY TOO, JUST FOR YOU, ENVY WILL
CORRUPT YOU TOO

REMEMBER LUST, IT'S A MUST

NEVER TRUST, EVIL LUST

JEALOUSY YOU CAN SEE, JEALOUSY IS
NEVER FREE

ENVY TOO, JUST FOR YOU, ENVY WILL
CORRUPT YOU TOO

REMEMBER LUST, IT'S A MUST

NEVER TRUST, EVIL LUST

LIFE BRINGS JOY, LIFE BRINGS PAIN

LIFE BRINGS LOSS, LIFE BRINGS GAIN

A TALE OF ONE WHOSE NAME YOU KKNOW

IT ECHOES STILL A GREAT HERO

LOVE LOVE LOVE LOVE LOVE LOVE

MICHAL

(very excited!) I hear David is coming back
with the army!

SAUL

Victorious again, Michal. And it was all your
idea.

MICHAL

Mine? What idea?

SAUL

To send him off. Well - at least somewhat...
(slyly) I told him I thought he should get
married!

MICHAL

Married?

SAUL

Yes, to you! You've been crazy about him all
your life. Why not?

MICHAL

He's never looked at me that way. He's never shown any interest in me, except as like a sister.

(eagerly)

What did he say?

SAUL

All he said was, (sarcastic) "who am I, or my family, that I should marry the King's daughter?" So, I said, okay go win some battles, if it'll make you feel worthy!

MICHAL

So he liked the idea?

(enter Jonathan during last words of Michal and interrupting.)

JONATHAN

It's been a long time, but David's finally coming back! He's been completely victorious.

MICHAL

He's amazing;

(worshipful)

there's never been anyone like him!

SAUL

(seriously) Glory always seems to follow him, or to find him, doesn't it?

JONATHAN

(laughs with enthusiasm) Yes, that's true... and the people all love him.

SAUL

(somberly) sometimes I think they love him too much.

JONATHAN

Love him too much?

(MORE)

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
(Jonathan and Michal on opposite sides of
stage singing soliloquys)

JONATHAN

IT ALL DID BEGIN, A LONG TIME AGO

WE WERE JUST BOYS, WHAT COULD WE
KNOW

OLDER WE GREW, CLOSER I KNEW

I COULD NOT STOP, WHAT SHOULD I
DO?

JONATHAN

LOVE COMES TO US, AS FREE AS THE
AIR

A GIFT TO RECEIVE, SOMETHING TO
SHARE

BUT FREE IT IS NOT, COSTLY IT IS

FOR HIM TO BE MINE, FOR ME TO BE
HIS

WE BECAME CLOSE, THEN WE BECAME
MEN

YOU CAN'T GO BACK (OR) START OVER
AGAIN

I'M ONLY ALIVE WHEN I AM WITH HIM

CAN THAT NOW BE, WHEN WILL BE THEN

I DO NOT KNOW, CAN I OPEN THE DOOR

GO FURTHER NOW THAN EVER BEFORE

FEELINGS LIKE THIS, I CAN'T IGNORE

IS HE LIKE ME, DOES HE WANT MORE?

MICHAL

DOES HE LOVE ME, DARE I BELIEVE

CAN IT BE TRUE, AM I DECEIVED?

I DO LOVE HIM THAT I'LL ADMIT

I THINK ALL ALONG, MY FATHER KNEW
IT

MICHAL AND JONATHAN

LOVE COMES TO US, AS ALWAYS A DARE

A GIFT TO RECEIVE, A LIFE WE COULD
SHARE

HOW WILL I KNOW, WHAT WILL I DO?

MY FUTURE'S AHEAD, IF ONLY I KNEW

CHORUS

LOVE COMES TO US, AS ONE UNKNOWN

AWAKENS OUR SOUL, FINDS A NEW HOME

LOVE COMES TO US, AS ONE UNKNOWN

AWAKENS OUR SOUL, FINDS A NEW HOME

WE CAN'T GO AHEAD, WE CAN'T BE THE
SAME

WE CAN'T GO BACK, LIFE'S NOT A
GAME

JONATHAN V

LOVE COMES TO US, WHAT SHALL I
SAY?

DO I SAY YES, ADMIT I'M THIS WAY?

LOVE'S NOT FREE, COSTLY IT IS

FOR HIM TO BE MINE, FOR ME TO BE
HIS

CHORUS

MICHAL

So, what's going to happen when he comes back?

SAUL

Well, we'll see!

JONATHAN

(music heard as song intro) I hear them coming;

MICHAL

I'm going to get ready... (exits)

(Saul's army enters singing marching song)

ARMY

WE ARE THE ARMY OF ISRAEL,

WE LIVE AND DIE BY THE SWORD,

WE ARE THE ARMY OF SAUL OUR KING,

WE ARE THE ARMY OF THE LORD.

SOLDIER JOAB SOLO:

THE PHILISTINES ARE OUR FOE,

UP FROM THE PLAINS BELOW

THEY COME UP IN THE DARK OF NIGHT,
BUT WE ARE ALWAYS READY TO FIGHT
REFRAIN

ALL SOLDIERS
Hooray! Hooray!

SOLDIER
Long Live David!

ALL SOLDIERS
Long Live David!

WE ARE THE ARMY OF ISRAEL,
WE LIVE AND DIE BY THE SWORD,
WE ARE THE ARMY OF SAUL OUR KING,
WE ARE THE ARMY OF THE LORD.

JONATHAN
Welcome back! I've missed you!

DAVID
I've missed you too.

JONATHAN
I was worried when you were away, and I'm
worried now that you're back - my father has
become more and more moody.

DAVID
Really?

JONATHAN
You know how he is; more and more often he's
off in that dark world of his own. ... I never
know when I see him what mood he is going to be
in...

DAVID
I'm sorry to hear that...

JONATHAN

(interrupting) Forget that! David, when you were away, I couldn't bear it! Either I worried you'd be killed, or I just missed you... What are we going to do?

DAVID

Do?

JONATHAN

There could be so much more.

DAVID

More? What do you mean....

JONATHAN

I can't ignore my feelings, and thoughts...

FOREVER REMEMBER

WHAT CAN NEVER BE SEEN

FOREVER REMEMBER

WHAT ONLY WE KNOW

MAY GOD KEEP US FOREVER TOGETHER

LOVE IS A MYSTERY

IT WEAVES THROUGH OUR DESTINY

A WHISPER THAT'S ALWAYS HEARD

LOUDER THAN ANY SONG OR WORD

HAND IN HAND, WE MADE A SOLEMN
VOW,

WE GAVE OUR PROMISES AND NOW

YOU ALONE CAN FILL MY SOUL

YOU ALONE CAN MAKE ME WHOLE
FOREVER REMEMBER
WHAT CAN NEVER BE SEEN
FOREVER REMEMBER
THE PLEDGE THAT WE MADE
MAY GOD KEEP US TOGETHER FOREVER

DAVID

Jonathan, I do love you, but my love is
different.. Jonathan, you know...(voices fade
out)

They walk off stage one way as Nathan and
Saul enter from other side....

SAUL

Nathan. You speak for God: tell me what is
going on. What am I to do?

NATHAN

...do about what?

SAUL

The people all love David.

NATHAN

Well, yes...

SAUL

(remembering, as if in a trance) The way I was
loved when I was young. I was the hero then...

NATHAN

Well, yes..

SAUL

(still remembering, trance-like) We were doing
fine as tribes, but then there were so many who
wanted to have a king.

NATHAN

(just agreeing) You're right; everyone wanted to "be like the other nations." Why are you bringing this up?

SAUL

(back to reality) Because I'm trying to figure out my duty! Samuel gave me God's blessing. But now - who will follow me? Jonathan? Or David? Or someone else?

NATHAN

Your duty...is to follow God's will.

SAUL

God's will? (with anger) How do I - how does anyone - know God's will? That "will" is not so clear. Isn't it your job to know, and tell me? (mocking tone)"Saul has his thousands, but David has his ten thousands!" I'm really tired of hearing that! I want Jonathan to follow me. ...But what's going on there?

NATHAN

There? Where?

SAUL

Between Jonathan and David... I think they're too close.

NATHAN

They've been friends forever.

SAUL

(Interrupting and changing subject) Michal! ... she adores him, she's been that way since they were children. I told her she can marry him.

NATHAN

You are the King.

SCENE CHANGE =====

MICHAL

(cheerful, as David enters) Well, well...how is the big hero today?

DAVID

The big hero feels great! And how are you?

MICHAL

My life doesn't change much - I don't have the drama or the excitement of your life!

DAVID

But that's not true! You've always been the one who is secretly running everything! (imitating a child) "Daddy, Jonathan's taking all my things... Daddy, Jonathan's not playing fair..."

MICHAL

Getting your way in the small things isn't necessarily getting your way in the things that matter most...

DAVID

But you're more clever than the others! What is it that you want now... that you don't have?

MICHAL

What does anyone want? To love and be loved...have a home, a family...children...to live to old age.

DAVID

(changing tone) Michal, there's something important... that I want to talk about.

MICHAL

(hopefully) Yes? Something important?

DAVID

Yes, it's...your father... Jonathan said he is becoming more and more irrational.

MICHAL

(let down) Oh...My father, oh... Nothing...You know how his moods change... at times he's jealous of you.

DAVID

Jealous?

MICHAL

Because you're so popular!

DAVID

But no one is more loyal!

MICHAL

He's proud; the feeling that he has lost popularity with age is hard. While you were away, he told me that he told you...is it true? ---that we should marry?

DAVID

Yes... but I didn't know if he was serious.
(hesitating) Umm...Has he told anyone else?

MICHAL

I don't know... You don't like the idea?

DAVID

I didn't say that.

MICHAL

No, but you didn't say...

DAVID

(speaking carefully, reflectively) I didn't think the time had come... for me... to...do anything...Sometimes we have to make decisions on choices we didn't choose.

MICHAL

What does that mean?

DAVID

I don't know. What is love? Something we choose or does it choose us?

(MORE)

DAVID (CONT'D)

Is love between any two people ever the same?
Love, loyalty, friendship - what are they?

MICHAL

What happens when there is a conflict in all
this, what do you do?

DAVID

I don't know...

(pause)

I try to be open to the spirit ...(with
chuckle) it was easier tending sheep. Here
comes Jonathan. (enter Jonathan, changes tone)
We're talking about your father...

MICHAL

Yes...

(recovering)

You think he's really losing his mind, don't
you?

JONATHAN

Sometimes, but not all the time.

DAVID

So, what are we supposed to do? What does love
require? He's your father, and our ordained
King.

JONATHAN

(questioning)

What does love require?

Duet

(Michal and Jonathan - singing
their thoughts as soliloquy)

(the verses are the same with very
small difference - could have one
sing a verse, then the other sing
a verse, etc...)

MICHAL

I'VE NEVER KNOWN ANYONE LIKE HIM
ARE MY CHANCES GOOD OR SLIM
IT'S HARD TO KNOW HOW IT WOULD BE
IS THERE A CHANCE THAT HE LOVES ME

MY FEELINGS ARE ALL OUT OF CONTROL
HOW SHOULD I ACT SHOULD I BE BOLD
WOULD BEING TOGETHER EVER GET OLD?
SHOULD I BELIEVE THE THINGS THAT
I'M TOLD

JONATHAN

I'VE NEVER KNOWN ANYONE LIKE HIM
MY WILL JUST MELTS FROM WITHIN
IT'S HARD TO KNOW IF THIS CAN BE
DARE I BELIEVE THAT HE LOVES ME

MY FEELINGS ARE ALL OUT OF CONTROL
HOW SHOULD I ACT SHOULD I BE BOLD
IT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE THIS
I CAN'T TAKE THE PAIN, I WANT THE
BLISS

DUET

IT TAKES MORE THAN PASSION TO MAKE
A LIFE

AND THERE IS NO LIFE WITHOUT SOME
STRIFE

IT TAKES A LOVE THAT ALWAYS GIVES
AND NO MATTER THE PAIN ALWAYS
FORGIVES

CHORUS

IT TAKES MORE THAN PASSION TO MAKE
A LIFE

AND THERE IS NO LIFE WITHOUT SOME
STRIFE

IT TAKES A LOVE THAT ALWAYS GIVES
AND NO MATTER THE PAIN ALWAYS
FORGIVES

ALWAYS FORGIVES

SCENE CHANGE WHILE THE CHORUS IS
SINGING THAT FINAL VERSE MICHAEL
AND DAVID EXIT, SAUL BEGINS
SHOOTING ARROWS AT TARGET OFF
STAGE, JONATHAN COMES IN

JONATHAN

Hello...how are you doing?

SAUL

I can shoot as well as ever. In some ways I'm
getting older, but not in others! (takes some
shots with bow and arrow)

JONATHAN

David can hit a rabbit at 30 yards...using a
sling or a bow.

SAUL

(suddenly raising voice) Why do you always have to talk about David!

JONATHAN

I was just saying that David...

SAUL

(interrupting) How are you ever going to follow me when the people all love him?

JONATHAN

Is that it? You're jealous of him? Is that why you threw a spear at him?

SAUL

Who told you that?

JONATHAN

He did. He said he was singing to you and suddenly you grabbed a spear and threw it at him. And just missed.

SAUL

(rubbing head, apologetic)

It was... accidental. I don't know where it came from; (with energy) and I told him immediately I was sorry...(sudden change) I think David should marry Michal.

JONATHAN

Marry Michal?

SAUL

Don't you think that's a good idea? For him to marry your sister?

JONATHAN

Does it matter what I think?

SAUL

Wouldn't you want your best friend, (sarcastic) "the great one" ...to marry your sister?

(MORE)

SAUL (CONT'D)

(music begins lightly for next number as Saul goes across stage and then weaves back looking over his shoulder as he goes to be sure no one is watching or following him, asks the following question over music lightly played)

Are you the Witch of Endor?

WITCH OF ENDOR

THE WITCH OF ENDOR IS WHO I AM

I CONJURE THE SPIRITS TO LEARN
GOD'S PLAN

I TAKE THE MONEY BEFORE I TELL

I HAVE MY EXPENSES, - AND OVERHEAD
AS WELL.

IT COSTS YOU SOME MONEY, TO LEARN
JUST A LITTLE

IT COSTS A LOT MORE, TO ANSWER
YOUR RIDDLE

I MAY NOT KNOW THE ANSWER, TO YOUR
PLIGHT

BUT I WILL GET PAID, SO THAT'S ALL
RIGHT

SAUL

I need to know something...

WITCH OF ENDOR

YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE FUTURE
WILL BE

YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT I CAN SEE
YOU WANT TO CHEAT THE MYSTERY
WOULDN'T YOU LIKE, TO KNOW WHAT TO
DO
WOULDN'T YOU LIKE, TO HAVE A CLUE
IF YOU DID, IT WOULD RUIN THE GAME
IF YOU DID, IT WOULD NOT BE THE
SAME

SAUL: (INTERRUPTING)

Tell me! What can you tell me about my son,
what do I need to know...

WITCH OF ENDOR

IT COSTS YOU SOME MONEY TO LEARN
JUST A LITTLE

IT COSTS A LOT MORE TO ANSWER YOUR
RIDDLE

(SAUL PAYS HER)

YOU LOVE YOUR SON; AND HE LOVES
TOO

BUT WHO HE LOVES WILL NEVER DO

FOR LOVE MUST FOLLOW CUSTOM,
THAT'S OUR DESTINY

BEHAVNG LIKE ALL OTHERS IS HOW IT
HAS TO BE

SO YOU MUST PAY ATTENTION, AND
LISTEN TO ME!

SAUL

Stop! That's enough... I can't bear to hear
more...

BLACK THEN LIGHTS UP

SCENE CHANGE - DAVID ALONE

DAVID

(improvising a song)

SING A NEW SONG IN YOUR HEART

SING A NEW SONG WITH YOUR VOICE

SING A NEW SONG WITH

JONATHAN

(entering and interrupting)

There you are... I've been looking for you..

DAVID

What's going on?

JONATHAN

I can't take it. I love you. I want to be with you, hold you... but...my father.... He wants you to marry Michal.

DAVID

Michal... He's said that before... I wasn't sure how serious he was...Marry her...What choices do we have? Do we just do what is expected of us?

JONATHAN

Don't ask me!

DAVID

I want to follow my heart wherever that leads... and to believe it's somehow a part of God's will...

JONATHAN

My Father's not the same person he once was. Ordained King or not, he does not necessarily speak for God.

DAVID

But he was crowned by Samuel, he's more than just your father. Love requires our loyalty, our duty to him, doesn't it? ... love is never about just what I want. (pause) (subject change) Maybe this is just one of his "moments"... Maybe he'll forget it...

JONATHAN

(ignoring David's comment, continuing his thinking) Was that spear God's will? Or God's will that it missed? Or neither? Maybe God has nothing to do with any of this! He's jealous of you, and that is not of God.

DAVID

(reflecting) All I've ever done is... whatever he's asked...

JONATHAN

So, you'll marry Michal - you'll marry her!

DAVID

I didn't say that.

JONATHAN

I have no say in this, do I? I don't count.

HIDDEN THOUGHTS, FORBIDDEN
THOUGHTS,

HIDDEN FEELINGS, FORBIDDEN
FEELINGS

HIDDEN LOVE, FORBIDDEN LOVE,

FORBIDDEN, MY LOVE IS FORBIDDEN

I WISH THE WORLD COULD KNOW

THE FEELINGS I CAN'T SHOW

THE PAIN I FEEL INSIDE

FROM THE TRUTH I HAVE TO HIDE

HIDDEN THOUGHTS, FORBIDDEN
THOUGHTS,

HIDDEN FEELINGS, FORBIDDEN
FEELINGS

HIDDEN LOVE, FORBIDDEN LOVE,

FORBIDDEN, MY LOVE IS FORBIDDEN

THEY'D SAY FORGET YOUR HEART

THEY'D SAY THATY WE SHOULD PART

I DON'T CARE WHAT'S RIGHT OR
WRONG,

IT'S IN HIS ARMS THAT I BELONG.

HIDDEN THOUGHTS, FORBIDDEN
THOUGHTS,

HIDDEN FEELINGS, FORBIDDEN
FEELINGS

HIDDEN LOVE, FORBIDDEN LOVE,

FORBIDDEN, MY LOVE IS FORBIDDEN

(Jonathan throws something? Expresses
anger?)

Enter Michal

MICHAL

Is it true that Dad threw a spear at you?

DAVID

(upset) Yes... more than once... Last night
when I sang for him, suddenly he was in a rage.

MICHAL

He's just not himself; he's getting worse,
and...

DAVID

If I stay here he will kill me, or force me to
hurt him defending myself; I have no choice.
I've got to leave and get away.

MICHAL

What are you talking about? ...Leave? ...Go
where?

DAVID

Away. I'll go back home up in the hills. I
don't want to have to defend myself against
him.

JONATHAN

You can't run away.

DAVID

You call it running away?

JONATHAN

Why not talk to Nathan? Maybe he would have
some advice, or could help.

DAVID

What can he say? "Let him kill you," or,
"defend yourself and kill the King!" No, there
is no good choice.

JONATHAN

Let me talk to him again.

DAVID

All right. Go ahead, but I don't see the point.
He's coming now. You talk to him. (he exits,
Michal goes with him)

JONATHAN

(Saul enters) Dad, how are you? ...I'm worried
about you. It seems to me that you have good
days... and bad days...

SAUL

(with a little anger) I don't know what you're talking about! (then, sudden change) Yes, I do... Some days I feel like myself, like now. But then other times, I feel weighted down, sad.

JONATHAN

Well, we know that's been true a long time...

SAUL

(becoming intense) I don't like it; I don't like it when the darkness comes in. It's as if I am watching someone else, and I try to regain control of myself, but I can't.

JONATHAN

I know, and I'm sorry...

SAUL

(ignoring that question) And what am I to do? I don't know. (losing it, sort of delirious) Can you help? (suddenly serious) I've decided David's going to marry Michal. ...It's not right.

JONATHAN

Not right? Then why are they going to marry?

SAUL

No. What's not right is for you to care more about him than ...than a woman. And you do! Don't you!

JONATHAN

Well...we've always...

SAUL

(interrupting)
You can't deny it... God help me...(exits)

AS SAUL EXITS DAVID COMES BACK IN
AND THEY TALK SILENTLY AND
GESTICULATE ETC ETC FINALLY WITH
DIALOGUE BEGINNING...

DAVID

I'm sorry; it's too much. I don't know what love, duty, responsibility, anything means. I'm going away. I have to go.

JONATHAN

So not knowing means leaving?

DAVID

I told you. He has tried to kill me, more than once.

JONATHAN

But if you married Michal, then he'd leave you alone...

DAVID

...is that what I'm supposed to do? Is that my duty?

JONATHAN

If you marry her at least you'll be here. Think about it! (storms off) (David alone, sings)

DAVID

I WILL LIFT MY EYES TO THE HILLS
TO FIND STRENGTH FROM THE LORD
MY STRENGTH COMES FROM THE LORD
WHO HAS MADE HEAVEN AND EARTH
THE LORD PROTECTS ME FROM HARM
THE LORD WHO GUARDS HIS PEOPLE
THE LORD WHO WATCHES OVER ISRAEL
WILL NEVER SLUMBER NOR SLEEP
THE LORD HIMSELF IS MY KEEPER
THE LORD IS MY DEFENSE

SO THAT THE SUN WILL NOT BURN ME
BY DAY

NOR THE MOON AT NIGHT

THE LORD SHALL PRESERVE ME FROM
EVIL

YES IT IS HE THAT WILL FEED MY
SOUL

THE LORD WILL PRESERVE MY GOING
OUT

AND MY COMING HOME FOR EVERMORE

LIGHTS UP ON DIFFERENT SCENE - SAUL AND MICHAL

SAUL

So you two will marry. And I am going to send Jonathan off with the army; he'll win the hearts of the people, just as David has.

(Enter David)

DAVID

You sent for me? Hi, Michal.

SAUL

We've talked about it before. You two have been friends since... since I first brought you in... But now it's time...

DAVID

For us to marry? Michal, is this what you want?

MICHAL

Of course! ...if you do.

DAVID

(hesitates)...well, yes! I don't understand myself at times, but I do care for you as much as anyone...

SAUL

I'll tell Nathan, and we'll make plans...

SAUL EXITS...

MICHAL

Are you marrying me because I am his daughter?
Is this a political thing for you?

DAVID

No! Michal! we've grown up in the same house,
and we've always been close, and I love you
more than a sister, I just hadn't thought of
marriage. He brought me in to sing to him, to
take care of him! (pause) (complete change of
tone) Can you remember when I first came into
your family?

"DAVID" THEME IS PLAYED QUIETLY AT FIRST, BUILDING AS
MARRIAGE SCENE SLOWLY EVOLVES...NATHAN APPEARS AND "MARRIES"
THEM AS MUSIC CONTINUES....AS MUSIC CONTINUES COULD HAVE
"FOREVER REMEMBER" THEME AS DAVID AND JONATHAN LOOK AT EACH
OTHER.... WHEN SCENE IS OVER EVERYONE EXITS, LEAVING MICHAL
AND DAVID AS BEFORE...

DAVID

This is an important day for Israel.

MICHAL

Israel? ...It's an important day for us!
Together we can begin... a life, a family.

DAVID

You are my wife, Michal. And I love you and we
will build a home. (they embrace)

Saul enters the room.

...Well, well that was quite a day!

SAUL

Yes, it was!

DAVID

I have something I need to do... but I'll be back later.

David exits...

MICHAL

How are you feeling?

SAUL

I don't know what makes me happier, that you're married or that David is in our family.

MICHAL

It doesn't matter...

SAUL

I've been thinking about Jonathan. I am going to send him out with the army, and when he's victorious, the people will love him...and then...

SCENE CHANGE...

DAVID

I've been looking for you.

JONATHAN

Really? Looking for me?

DAVID

We need to talk.

JONATHAN

(angry) Really? We need to talk? What is there to talk about?

DAVID

Jonathan, please. (firmly) You have got to understand that your love is different...

JONATHAN

So what am I supposed to do...never admit...
The truth of who I am?

DAVID

You're not the first person who has loved
someone who is forbidden, or who does not
return the same love. The truth of who anyone
loves can't be known by others if their minds
will not accept it. One thing is for sure -
Goliath was an easy giant to kill. But closed
minds and attitudes are the real giants out
there...

JONATHAN

That makes no sense... "the truth cannot be
known"

DAVID

There are always those who cannot accept the
truth - and so they turn it into a lie.

JONATHAN

How can you turn the truth into a lie?

DAVID

Many cannot accept the truth - that you could
love another man with a love that is real,
genuine, and pure - to them that kind of
relationship cannot be... so they say it is
perverse, evil, sick. They cannot accept the
truth, so they create an alternative reality, a
giant, a lie.

JONATHAN

So I am supposed to hide the truth, and live a
lie instead.

DAVID

It's not a lie; your love is a reality that
some accept and understand. But others take
your reality and turn it into their lie, that
it's sick.

JONATHAN

So what is love? Is it a hoax who excites us and then breaks us later? (with indifference and sarcasm) I don't know what matters anymore... I'm off with the army; my father wants me to "become a man." Isn't that great?

DAVID

...there is no better soldier than you.

JONATHAN

But he wants me to be like you, "the great one!" I'm nothing.

DAVID

Please forgive me for disappointing you... I know my love is...

JONATHAN

(interrupting)There's nothing more to say.

DAVID

Stop! Please remember, my love is just as real even if it is different. In life there are giants neither you nor I can kill. Maybe someday they will be slain. Meanwhile...Forever... remember! (they embrace as lights go down)

SCENE CHANGE...

(this is not a funny scene, it's just spooky/bizarre and a break similar to a funny song.)

SAUL

(agitated) I've come to find out what's coming... I need to know, I want to know, I've got to know.

WITCH OF ENDOR

What is it that you want to know?

SAUL

The future ... My son is off with the army, and
is having difficulty... I am going to join
him...what do I need to know? Help me...

WITCH OF ENDOR

YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE FUTURE
WILL BE

YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT I CAN SEE

YOU WANT TO CHEAT THE MYSTERY

WOULDN'T YOU LIKE, TO KNOW WHAT TO
DO

WOULDN'T YOU LIKE, TO HAVE A CLUE

IF YOU DID, IT WOULD RUIN THE GAME

IF YOU DID, IT WOULD NOT BE THE
SAME

LIFE ONLY MATTERS WHEN WE HAVE A
VOICE

WHEN WHAT WE GET IS OUR OWN CHOICE

WE MAKE DECISIONS, WITH RESULTS
UNFORESEEN

IT'S IN OUR HANDS, SO KEEP THEM
CLEAN

MAKE YOUR CHOICES ONE BY ONE

YOU MAKE YOUR LIFE TILL THE DAY
IT'S DONE

SAUL: (INTERRUPTING)

Tell me! What is going to happen?

WITCH OF ENDOR

YOU AND JONATHAN WILL BATTLE THE
FOE

YOU AND JONATHAN WILL FIGHT WITH
SWORD AND BOW

TOGETHER YOU WILL BE IN LIFE AND
IN DEATH

TOGETHER YOU WILL BE AS YOU SHARE
YOUR LAST BREATH

(Saul exits)

SLOW SCENE CHANGE BACK TO DAVID

MICHAL

I hear that Saul and Jonathan are winning
battles daily and pushing back the Philistines.

DAVID

That's what I heard a few days ago..

(enter Joab)

JOAB

David! There's a soldier from Saul's army. He
wants to see you.

DAVID

Send him in!

(Enter soldier.)

DAVID

Why are you here?

SOLDIER

Saul's army was defeated in a battle, and many
were killed. Saul and Jonathan, his son, were
both killed.

DAVID

What? How do you know this?

SOLDIER

Jonathan was killed early in the battle. Near the end, I saw the King badly wounded. He called me over and asked me to finish him so he would not be captured. I did and brought his crown and spear to you, his final wish.

DAVID

(David moves downstage)

O God! ...Jonathan! ...O God: Whoever you are...take care of my Jonathan tonight! ...O Jonathan!

REFRAIN (duet with Jonathan as
"ghost" or offstage?)

FOREVER REMEMBER ALL LOVE IS
FOREVER

FOREVER REMEMBER WHAT NO DEATH CAN
SEVER

MAY GOD KEEP US FOREVER TOGETHER

Saul and Jonathan... Dead...Can this be God's plan? Yes, even though I walk through this valley of darkness and death I will not be afraid, for you are with me...are you?? Are you with me O God? Whoever you are! Where ever you are! take care of my Jonathan tonight!
....(weeps) My friend! My Jonathan!

FULL CHORUS

O GLORY OF ISRAEL, FOR YOU DEATH
HAS BEGUN,

O HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN,
FALLEN

DAVID (SOLO)

O MY JONATHAN WAS LOVED, DEARLY
LOVED,

SWIFT AS AN EAGLE AND STRONG AS A
LION,

IN LIFE AND IN DEATH FOREVER
BELOVED

O MY JONATHAN WAS LOVED, DEARLY
LOVED

CHORUS

O HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN,
FALLEN ON THE FIELD,

O HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN,
FALLEN ON THE FIELD.

DAVID (SOLO)

I GRIEVE FOR YOU JONATHAN MY
BROTHER,

I WILL NOT SEE YOUR LOVE AGAIN.

YOUR LOVE FOR ME WAS LIKE NO
OTHER,

GREATER EVEN THAN THE LOVE OF
WOMEN.

DAVID

FALLEN, FALLEN ARE THE MEN OF WAR;

THEIR ARMOR LEFT, TO BE USED NO
MORE.

CHORUS

FALLEN, FALLEN ARE THE MEN OF WAR,
THEIR ARMOR LEFT, TO BE USED NO
MORE.

FALLEN, FALLEN, O HOW THE MIGHTY
HAVE FALLEN.

DAVID

(after long pause, kneeling) O God, take care
of my Jonathan...Jonathan, forgive me; I failed
you!

*(Trumpet tune introduces massive
scene, slave girls, merchants,
soldiers, townspeople. David
enters with adorned purple robe,
removes it and dances (?) Seated,
single spot on him as music goes
into:)*

ALL

DAVID, O DAVID KING OVER ALL THE
LAND

DAVID, O DAVID GOD'S FAVORED AND
CHOSEN MAN

FROM THE TIME YOU WERE BARELY A
MAN

YOUR FAME HAS SPREAD THROUGHOUT
THE LAND

LIONS AND GIANTS ARE A PART OF
YOUR LORE

YOU TIME HAS COME FOR EVERMORE

DAVID, O DAVID KING OVER ALL THE
LAND

DAVID, O DAVID GOD'S FAVORED AND
CHOSEN MAN

NOW IS THE TIME TO ORDAIN YOU KING

NOW IS THE TIME TO REJOICE AND
SING

NOW IS THE TIME TO PLANT AND TO
BUILD

NOW GOD'S WILL IS FULFILLED

DAVID, O DAVID KING OVER ALL THE
LAND

DAVID, O DAVID GOD'S FAVORED AND
CHOSEN MAN

DAVID

Yours, O lord is the greatness, and the power
and the glory, and the victory and the majesty.
For everything that is in heaven and on earth
is yours. ... (aside) Who am I, that I have
been chosen... I will serve only you O God, all
my days...

(transition as crowd disperses and
audience notices an angry Michal standing
alone waiting to speak to David)

MICHAL

What a great day for the King of Israel,
dancing naked in front of the slave girls like
a fool. When I married you I didn't know what I
was getting.

DAVID

Michal, Michal, Michal! What I did was before
God. An act of celebration, praise and
worship.

MICHAL

Worship? Dancing half-naked?

DAVID

It was my offering, Michal.

MICHAL

I'm sure the slave girls will want to have more
"worship," more "offerings."

DAVID

Please, Michal, please.

MICHAL

(sarcastically) Don't let me ruin your special
day, David.

DAVID

I wanted to share it with you.

MICHAL

Really? You've never wanted to share anything
important with me.

DAVID

(breaking down a little)...please, Michal,
please....

END OF ACT I, INTERMISSION

ACT II - MICHAL AND BATHSHEBA

CHORUS

WHO KNOWS WHY, WHO KNOWS WHEN

WHO KNOWS WHO, NOW AND THEN

LOVE WILL STRIKE, LOVE WILL KILL

LOVE BEGINS WITH A THRILL

JEALOUSY YOU CAN SEE, JEALOUSY IS
NEVER FREEENVY TOO, JUST FOR YOU, ENVY WILL
CORRUPT YOU TOO

REMEMBER LUST, IT'S A MUST

NEVER TRUST, EVIL LUST

LOVE LOVE LOVE, LOVE LOVE LOVE

LOVE LOVE LOVE, LOVE LOVE LOVE

SCENE CHANGE TO A ROOM IN DAVID'S HOUSE

JOAB

It's a beautiful day; spring is definitely in
the air.

DAVID

(David walks him over to the window) (pause
while he looks out, then -)

Look! Do you see that woman over there?

JOAB

Where? Oh, yes...she's naked!...Turn
around...Praise the Lord!

DAVID

She's bathing. I've seen her before. Joab, go get her!

(sudden and dramatic tympani strike and roll into CHORUS reprise)

CHORUS

WHO KNOWS WHY, WHO KNOWS WHEN

WHO KNOWS WHO, NOW AND THEN

LOVE WILL STRIKE, LOVE WILL KILL

LOVE BEGINS WITH A THRILL

DAVID

(Bathsheba comes in as Chorus ends)

Welcome, come in, please. Thank you for coming. Come, look, I want to show you something (leads her to window)...you can see that from here I have a view onto your roof! I wanted to meet my neighbor!

BATHSHEBA

Oh, yes, I see.

DAVID

I've seen you several times out there...

BATHSHEBA

Really? You're watching me?

DAVID

Yes... Well, no, not "watching" you, but I've noticed you... a ...few times...But I'm David, tell me your name!

BATHSHEBA

Bathsheba

DAVID

Bathsheba! A beautiful name...and tell me,
where are you from?

BATHSHEBA

I am the daughter of Eliam; he is a shepherd
like your father.

DAVID

So did you grow up tending sheep?

BATHSHEBA

Yes, I did...

DAVID

I think back on those days sometimes... They
seem so wonderful...

BATHSHEBA

Yes, that's true...

DAVID

What did you like the best?

BATHSHEBA

The sheep were all different; I used to give
them names.

DAVID

(interrupting) So did I... And naming them was
always a challenge...to be sure the name was
the right fit!

BATHSHEBA

Yes, yes, yes! ... and some I really liked
...And they knew my voice... I could call to
them and they would come...

DAVID

People think the sheep are stupid, but they're very smart...

BATHSHEBA

The sad part was... When...it came time to kill them.

DAVID

Yes. (pause) It's hard; ... when I was young I always cried. As I got older I guess I hardened...

BATHSHEBA

I never did; my feelings were too strong or too deep... Too something.... (long pause)

DAVID AND BATHSHEBA

DAVID

WHAT'S HAPPENING I KNOW, HASN'T HAPPENED BEFORE

THE FEELINGS I HAVE, I HAVE TO EXPLORE

IT'S HARD TO KNOW, SO HARD TO SEE

CAN WHAT I FEEL BE JUST FANTASY

THERE'S NO DENYING, THE PASSION I FEEL

BUT IS IT LOVE, CAN IT BE REAL?

IT'S DANGEROUS TO RISK, BY JUST LETTING GO

BUT I'M TOO TAKEN, TO WANT TO SAY NO

BATHSHEBA

ARE MY DESIRES AS PURE AS THEY
SEEM

OR IS THIS ALL A ROMANTIC DREAM

HOW CAN I LOVE MORE THAN ONE

IS IT FOR REAL OR SIMPLY FOR FUN?

WHEN I SEE YOU NO WORDS CAN
DESCRIBE

ALL THE EMOTIONS I FEEL EXPLODING
INSIDE

YOUR EYES, YOUR LIPS, YOUR CHEEKS,
YOUR SMILE

MAKE MY HEART ACHE TO HOLD YOU
AWHILE

BOTH:

SO IF YOU'RE WILLING TO TRY
SOMETHING NEW

TAKE A CHANCE ON ME AND MY LOVE
FOR YOU

(pause...) So, uh, why did you come to
Jerusalem?

BATHSHEBA

My husband came because ...

DAVID

You're married?

BATHSHEBA

Yes, to Uriah, he's in your army.

DAVID

Married? Is he here?

BATHSHEBA

No, he's up in Hebron with the troops.

DAVID

Why didn't you tell me you're married?

BATHSHEBA

I...

DAVID

I shouldn't have invited you here. I just was curious...about...

BATHSHEBA

There's nothing wrong with meeting...

DAVID

I know, but...

BATHSHEBA

... we do have much in common...

DAVID

But I do think you probably should go...

(Bathsheba exits. David, paces a bit.)

DAVID

(like a prayer) Lord, you search me out and know me; you know when I sit down and when I get up and my thoughts before I have them.

Enter Joab

Joab: Bathsheba, the woman I was just talking to, she's married to a man named Uriah - do you know him?

JOAB

Uriah? No, - should I?

DAVID

He's in the army. See what you can find out about him. He's up in Hebron.

JOAB

I will do it. Anything else?

DAVID

No... Not now... Thank you.

DAVID MOVES DOWNSTAGE AS JOAB
EXITS

DAVID (REPRISE OF TWO SONGS)

WHAT'S HAPPENING I KNOW, HASN'T
HAPPENED BEFORE

THE FEELINGS I HAVE, I HAVE TO
EXPLORE

IT'S HARD TO KNOW, SO HARD TO SEE

IF THIS IS FOR REAL, OR JUST
FANTASY

MY FEELINGS ARE ALL OUT OF CONTROL

HOW SHOULD I ACT SHOULD I BE BOLD

WOULD BEING WITH HER EVER GET OLD?

IF ONLY MY FUTURE COULD BE
FORETOLD

IT TAKES MORE THAN PASSION TO MAKE
A LIFE

AND THERE IS NO LIFE WITHOUT SOME
STRIFE

IT TAKES A LOVE THAT ALWAYS GIVES
AND NO MATTER THE PAIN ALWAYS
FORGIVES

(LIGHTS GO DOWN WHILE CHORUS
SINGS)

FULL CHORUS

IT TAKES MORE THAN PASSION TO MAKE
A LIFE

AND THERE IS NO LIFE WITHOUT SOME
STRIFE

IT TAKES A LOVE THAT ALWAYS GIVES
AND NO MATTER THE PAIN ALWAYS
FORGIVES

(LIGHTS BACK UP ON DAVID IN ROOM;
JOAB ENTERS)

DAVID

Good morning, Joab!

JOAB

Well, I have found out about that soldier
Uriah. He's a good man, apparently, serving us
well.

DAVID

He is; well that's good.

(Enter Michal)

Uh... Joab (making conversation)...Listen, one
more thing. I want you to investigate the money
changers in the Temple. I've had complaints
that they are overcharging.

JOAB

Yes, I've heard that too. I'll look into it.
(exits)

MICHAL

I hear you're trying to teach our son how to use a sling.

DAVID

You're never too young to learn. Absalom is so talented and physically gifted too. He reminds me of myself as a kid; he likes to do anything, everything!

MICHAL

He gets it all from you...

DAVID

I love playing with him, and teaching him.

MICHAL

I just hope he doesn't get all of your traits.

DAVID

What?

MICHAL

I hear you've been seeing another woman ... whose husband is... ..away with the army...(silent long pause, as she awaits a response) Well,...it's true, isn't it? Do you have any principles? I've tried to live with you, and you know it, and yet...

DAVID

Stop; please...

MICHAL

(increasing energy) When I married you, I wondered what love meant to you. I can take all your concubines... but I hoped you would change... that we could grow together more and more... I hoped that having Absalom would change you -- and now, this Bathsheba - is it true? Is it?

DAVID

I remember...

MICHAL

(interrupting) You remember! I remember...
everything...!

DAVID

Yes, you do. ...and there are things I don't
understand...

(David moves downstage and to the side and
sings.)

HIDDEN THOUGHTS, FORBIDDEN
THOUGHTS,

HIDDEN FEELINGS, FORBIDDEN
FEELINGS

HIDDEN LOVE, FORBIDDEN LOVE,

FORBIDDEN, MY LOVE IS FORBIDDEN

(David continues)

Michal, we've known each other so long, and I
do love you, and care for you... but you know
all my faults, all my weaknesses...

MICHAL

But you won't admit them...and I'm the only one
who sees them.

DAVID

I'm not sure that's true...

MICHAL

...so you admit that it's true... A married
woman.

DAVID

(says nothing... So Michal storms off. David
paces, then offers the following:)

My God, my God, where are you?

(MORE)

DAVID (CONT'D)

I pray morning and night, and get nothing...

(pause, then he shouts:) Hello! Are you there?

exits opposite way.)

SCENE CHANGE...

BATHSHEBA SITTING IN A ROOM,
DAVID ENTERS AND SAYS:

DAVID

May I come in?

BATHSHEBA

O David! (they embrace) God I've missed you!

DAVID

And I've missed you, my love, and thought of
you every minute!

BATHSHEBA

But you've stayed away for over a week. And
I've ached to see you again. How can love
cause such pain?

DAVID

I'm sorry, I was trying to think.

BATHSHEBA

Whether you love me?

DAVID

No, you know how I love you...things never
happen the way we want. We try to control our
lives, but they conspire against us.

BATHSHEBA

Love doesn't know control; love doesn't know
that there are rules.

(music up)

BATHSHEBA:

STANDING HERE I LOOK INTO YOUR
EYES

BURNING WITH YOUR GAZE, ALL ELSE
IS IN A HAZE

I HAVE TO HOLD THIS MOMENT IN MY
HEART

DAVID:

YOU ARE THERE AND YOU'VE SEEN INTO
MY SOUL

AND I CAN SWEETEN THROUGH YOU

I WANT TO MELT RIGHT INTO YOU

AND WE BOTH KNOW THAT NOW IS JUST
THE START

DUET:

DON'T WE BELIEVE THAT IT'S RIGHT
TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER

IT SEEMS SO RIGHT IT SIMPLY HAS TO
BE

LOVE IS THE HUMAN TRUTH THAT LASTS
FOREVER

BUT RIGHT OR WRONG YOUR LOVE IS
WHAT I NEED

BATHSHEBA:

I CAN'T LOOK BEYOND THE HERE AND
NOW

I'M UNCOVERED BY YOUR EYES, MY
HEART WITHIN ME FLIES

I'LL LET IT GO AND FLY RIGHT TO
YOUR SIDE

DAVID:

THOUGH WE KNOW IT'S ALL FORBIDDEN
FRUIT

I CAN FEEL YOUR LOVELY TOUCH,

I WANT TO HOLD YOU CLOSE SO MUCH

THIS LOVE INSIDE US SHOULDN'T HAVE
TO HIDE

RIGHT OR WRONG YOU LOVE ME, I LOVE
YOU

DAVID

Life always comes as an unexpected surprise,
doesn't it?

BATHSHEBA

And with circumstances and choices and
consequences...

DAVID

I'm not the person I like to think I am.

BATHSHEBA

Love confuses reason...

DAVID

I suppose...and passion overpowers it...Reason,
passion... some things we can control, and some
we can't...

BATHSHEBA

I'm sorry. It's my fault as much as yours.

DAVID

(back to his own thoughts) The things we can,
or can't, or should control... God never offers
easy choices.

BATHSHEBA

These aren't God's choices! - God didn't send for me that first day, you did.

DAVID

I know, but now that we've opened the door, I can't close it... what do I do, what do we do? Sometimes I am not too smart.

BATHSHEBA

We could both be smarter.

(Bathsheba takes her hand and pats her stomach.)

There's a child inside.

(David looks at her, then kneels and embraces her legs. Slowly she pulls away from him.)

DAVID

A child... a child? Ours? You're sure?

BATHSHEBA

Of course I am, Uriah's been off with the army for three months.

DAVID

O no! There's no way out...

(upset and thinking, pacing, yells at full voice offstage)

Joab! Come, Joab!

(Joab enters) (David, now in control, says:)

Joab, go find Uriah, and bring him home. Tell him he can spend the night with his wife.

MUSIC INTRO TO NEXT SONG AS
TRAVELING MUSIC

SCENE CHANGE... (JOAB GOES ACROSS DOWNSTAGE TO FIND URIAH)

JOAB

Uriah, my man, your luck has turned. The King has given you permission to come home to your wife for a day... and a night!

URIAH

Really? A home visit!

JOAB

Yes. (intimating sex) You know the King knows
what it's like to be apart from a woman for too
long...

(this is a comical song, intended to
provide comic relief)

REFRAIN (SUNG FIRST TIME BY JOAB)

LOVING COUPLES DO NOT EVER MISS

ANY CHANCE FOR CONJUGAL BLISS!

INDOORS OUTDOORS DAY OR NIGHTTIME

IT'S GOOD FOR BODY AND SOUL

YES THAT'S THE PRIVILEGE THAT'S
THE PLEASURE

OF THE MARITAL ROLE

WHEN ADAM MET EVE FOR THE VERY
FIRST TIME

WHEN ABRAHAM AND SARAH WERE PAST
THEIR PRIME

WHEN JACOB SAID TO RACHEL "YOU ARE
MINE"

WHAT DID THEY DO? YOU KNOW WHAT
THEY DID!

WHEN SODOM AND GOMORRAH WERE GOING
STRONG

WHEN NO ONE SEEMED TO KNOW RIGHT
FROM WRONG

WHEN MEN WERE WHERE THEY DID NOT
BELONG

WHAT DID THEY DO? YOU KNOW WHAT
THEY DID!

CHORUS

LOVING COUPLES DO NOT EVER MISS
ANY CHANCE FOR INTIMATE BLISS
INDOORS OUTDOORS DAY OR NIGHTTIME
IT'S GOOD WITH CANDLES AND WINE
YES THAT'S THE PLEASURE, THAT'S
THE TREASURE
THAT THEY HOPE TO FIND

Witch of Endor enters (comical
spooky) (smoke machines,
etc.)....(song slows tempo..)

WHEN THE MEN ARE PROWLING, LADIES
BEWARE!

NEVER LET THEM SEE YOUR UNDERWEAR!

WHEN THEY START TO FLATTER AND
YOUR SPACE TO HAUNT

WHAT DO THEY WANT? YOU KNOW WHAT
THEY WANT!

LOVING COUPLES DO NOT EVER MISS

ANY CHANCE FOR CONJUGAL BLISS!
 INDOORS OUTDOORS DAY OR NIGHTTIME
 IT'S GOOD FOR BODY AND SOUL
 YES THAT'S THE PRIVILEGE THAT'S
 THE PLEASURE
 OF THE MARITAL ROLE

(Joab continues) So Uriah, you go on home and see Bathsheba, and enjoy yourself! (Uriah exits)

(SO LIGHTS BACK UP UPSTAGE WHERE
 DAVID IS STILL SITTING. JOAB
 CROSSES BACK UP TO WHERE DAVID
 IS.)

DAVID
 (Joab enters)

Well, what happened with Uriah.

JOAB
 I brought him home and told him you were proud of him and wanted him to have a visit with his wife...

DAVID
 When was this?

JOAB
 Yesterday. But, you won't believe this...this morning, he came and thanked me for his visit, but he didn't sleep with her! He said, "With all of the troops out in the field, and so how could I go enjoy the pleasures of my wife? I just couldn't do it!" So, he spent the night with the troops at the barracks!

DAVID

You've got to be kidding! (PAUSE) All right, listen Joab, (PAUSE) (then sternly) send him back to the front. You take him yourself, put him on the front lines, where the fighting is fiercest. (pause) He had his chance...

(Joab exits)

O GOD...forgive Me...

SCENE CHANGE, TIME PASSES

DAVID

I can tell you're thinking about something... What is it...

BATHSHEBA

I'm not thinking about anything, really... Just this life that is happening inside of me...but what are you thinking about...

DAVID

Something I think about often...Was it I, David, that you loved? ...or was it the idea of the King of Israel?

BATHSHEBA

It's hard to separate... It's all like a dream.

DAVID

But now we're waking up to who we are, ... what we've done...

BATHSHEBA

I woke up a long time ago...but it's still an unreal world.

DAVID

No matter how it began, the question is not just what we want, but what...but what does God expect us to do?

BATHSHEBA

It's little late for that, don't you think? You expect God to somehow rescue us?

DAVID

No, I just mean we have to somehow be open to something more than our own desires...

BATHSHEBA

We should have thought of that sooner...

(messenger enters)

MESSENGER

Excuse me, my Lord. I bring greetings from the front lines, in a recent attack at Joppa there was great loss of life. On orders from Joab, Officer Uriah and his men were sent in. Uriah and seven others were killed.

BATHSHEBA

David! ... (she slumps down in a chair, head in her hands)

DAVID

(to messenger)

You are sure?

MESSENGER

Yes, my Lord.

DAVID

That will be all.

(messenger exits)

(David walks to Bathsheba who is overcome)

BATHSHEBA

O, David. (crying) What have I done? Please, forgive me, I must go.

(she hugs him and leaves)

DAVID

(as prayer) O God, nothing in my life is hidden from you. Save me, for I am drowning...

(Lights down and up)

LIGHTS UP ON BATHSHEBA DOWNSTAGE

BATHSHEBA

HELLO GOD, I SAY HELLO GOD

I DON'T KNOW IF YOU WILL KNOW MY
VOICE

I KNOW THERE ARE OTHERS WHO CALL
ON YOU

TO SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO -

EVERYONE TRYING, HEARTS CRYING,
LIVES DYING,

TO GET SOMEWHERE, JUST ANYWHERE,
BY CALLING YOU

BUT I JUST WANT TO KNOW

DO I GET TO BE ME

OR DID YOU DECIDE

FROM ALL ETERNITY

HELLO GOD, IT'S JUST I AND

I ONLY WANT TO KNOW

DO I GET TO HAVE MY HOPES AND
DREAMS

FASHION A LIFE THE WAY IT SEEMS

OR IS IT ALL A COSMIC CHARADE

WHERE YOU DECIDE WHAT CARDS ARE
PLAYED

BECAUSE HELLO, I JUST WANT TO KNOW
DO I GET TO CHOOSE, TO PLAN
OR HAVE YOU ALREADY DONE IT FOR ME

I'VE SEEN SO MANY WHO TRIED SO
HARD

AND SOME HAVE LIVED A GOOD LONG
LIFE

SOME HAVE KNOWN ONLY PAIN AND
STRIFE

SOME HAVE BEEN BLESSED, WITH GREAT
HAPPINESS

OTHERS JUST PAIN, STRUGGLING IN
VAIN

I WONDER IF, YOU KNOW WHAT'S BEST

SO, HELLO GOD, I JUST WANT TO KNOW
WHO'S REALLY IN CHARGE DOWN HERE
BELOW

DOES ANYONE KNOW OR IS THIS JUST A
SHOW, I JUST WANT TO KNOW

IS IT UP TO ME, OR HAVE YOU
PLANNED ALL ETERNITY

HELLO GOD, I JUST WANT TO KNOW

(Michal enters upstage with David)

MICHAL

(sarcastic) Well, what a great day for the King
of Israel...so now you can marry her... You get
everything you want, don't you...

(MORE)

MICHAL (CONT'D)

How many wives does that make for you? Love has many faces for you.

DAVID

No, I don't get everything I want... I don't even know what I want...

MICHAL

Well, you can now have her too...(sarcastic)
you can make the immoral moral, the illegal legal...and I hope you feel good about it.
...Who am I to you, anyway, what role do I play? Am I the pitied one? Is that who I am?
(she exits)

DAVID

(prayer-like) O God, my God,...can I even pray now...

LIGHTS DOWN AND UP

BATHSHEBA

I can't stop feeling bad, empty, guilty. We have to find a way to...

DAVID

There are... There must be some things... For which there is no forgiveness... the guilt must be carried forever... I've done this before...

(Bathsheba comes down stage and sings.)

FROM NOW ON THERE'S A DIFFERENT
LIFE,

A DIFFERENT POINT OF VIEW

I USED TO FEEL THERE WAS NO
TOMORROW, NOW WE ARE ONE

FROM NOW ON THERE IS MORE TO A
DREAM THAN ENTERTAINS IDLE THOUGHT

DREAMS ARE THE SEEDS OF A LIFE
TOGETHER, NOW WE ARE ONE.

AND ONE IS SHARING SOLITUDE, LOVE
TRANSCENDS THE CHANGING MOOD,

CEMENTS THE BOND, PROVIDES THE
FOOD.

FROM NOW ON THERE'S ANOTHER REWARD
FOR LIVING A LIFE OF LOVE

ONCE WE WERE TWO LOOKING FOR EACH
OTHER NOW WE ARE ONE.

AND ONE IS JOINING EACH A DREAM,
LOVE DIRECTS THE CHANGING SCENE
AND NEEDLESS PAIN WILL NEVER BE.

FROM NOW ON THERE'S A DIFFERENT
LIFE, A DIFFERENT POINT OF VIEW

BATHSHEBA EXITS, LIGHTS DOWN

(scene shifts back upstage to
david. Joab enters followed by
nathan)

JOAB

Pardon me, my Lord. The prophet Nathan is here
and wants to see you.

NATHAN

(Joab exits). David, this is difficult for me,
so first let me tell you a story.

DAVID

Please do.

NATHAN

Once there was a rich man and he had a large
flock of sheep. The rich man had a servant.

(MORE)

NATHAN (CONT'D)

The servant was poor, and so he had only one small lamb. But that lamb was like a child to him. It stood by the table, and ate from his plate, and drank from his cup. One day the rich man had some guests come for a meal. But rather than feed them from his large flock of sheep, he took that one lamb from his servant and served it to his guests.

(interrupting)

DAVID

That man deserves to die!

NATHAN

David!.. You are this man! You can have all the women you want, and yet... you have taken Bathsheba, and killed her husband with the sword of your enemies. God will not allow that child to live.

DAVID

Oh no... Yes, yes. I did it; I did do it.

(song intro makes transition to Bathsheba
up in lights downstage singing to baby)

BATHSHEBA

(speaking to infant) Hello little one. Hello.

BRING A RAY OF SUNSHINE TO YOUR
NEIGHBOR

WHETHER SKIES ABOVE ARE GRAY OR
BLUE

TAKE A LITTLE TIME AND YOU WILL
FIND MY FRIEND

IN THE END THAT SUNSHINE COMES
RIGHT BACK TO YOU.

FOR LIFE IS IN THE MOMENTS THAT
COME TO YOU AND ME

BUT WE MUST LOOK TO SEE, ALL THAT
LIFE CAN BE,

A GENTLE TOUCH, THE LAUGH OF A
CHILD,

A WORD OF LOVE, A GENTLE SMILE

THE JOY OF EACH MOMENT CAN BE
FOUND

THE HEARTBEAT OF LIFE IS ALL
AROUND

BRING A RAY OF SUNSHINE TO YOUR
NEIGHBOR

WHETHER SKIES ABOVE ARE GRAY OR
BLUE

TAKE A LITTLE TIME AND YOU WILL
FIND MY FRIEND

IN THE END THAT SUNSHINE COMES
RIGHT BACK TO YOU.

(when song is over action returns to
David)

NATHAN

The child...will die. (exits)

DAVID

(takes a moment to take it in...breaking down
says:)

Have mercy on me, O God, for I know what I have
done. Wash me through and through. Create in
me a clean heart. O God, please do not punish
this child, or his mother, for the wrongs of
his father.

Music introduction shifts action
down to Michal, Bathsheba and then
David - trio solo -

MICHAL:

I THOUGHT I WAS HIS

HOPED HE WAS MINE

IT BEGAN LONG AGO

WITH THE JOY WE KNOW

I NEVER KNEW WHAT COULD I DO

WITH THE HEART, WHERE DOES IT
START

THERE'RE MANY THINGS I'VE HEARD

AT FIRST IT WAS CLEAR NOW ITS
BLURRED

HERE TODAY AND GONE TOMORROW,

LOVE IS GONE BUT NOT THE SORROW

IS LOVE NOTHING MORE THAN A
MORNING FOG

THAT GOES QUICKLY AWAY, LIKE A
BURNING LOG

WHOSE ASHES LEAVE A WOUND INSIDE,

THAT WILL NOT HEAL, THAT WE HAVE
TO HIDE

DOESN'T IT LEAVE A SCAR ON THE
HEART,

A LIFE-LONG REMINDER THAT WE'RE
APART

(FOREVER
REMEMBER
OFFSTAGE?)

DAVID:

WHO AM I NOW? WHAT HAVE I DONE?

WHY'D I BETRAY TO HAVE MY SAY

I NEVER MEANT HER HEART TO REND

I THOUGHT I WOULD, BECAUSE I
COULD,

I USED LOVE'S PASSION TO GET MY
WAY

I DIDN'T BELIEVE WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN
SOME DAY

IT'S A GAME THAT'S PLAYED,

WHERE FEELINGS AREN'T WEIGHED

IT'S A GAME THAT'S PLAYED

AND SIN IS REPAID

I NEED TO LOVE, I WANT TO LOVE

TO FEEL THE BEAT, TO KNOW THE
HEAT,

TO KNOW MY HEART IS ALIVE

TO WANT, TO NEED, TO HOLD THE
OTHER

BUT I'VE BROKEN THE RULES,

AND I'VE BROKEN A HEART

CAN I ASK FORGIVENESS, WHERE DO I
START?

YOU THINK YOU CAN CHEAT, YOU THINK
YOU CAN LIE,

BUT THEN COMES THE PAIN, WITH THE
HURT THAT WON'T DIE

AND THEN YOU PAY AND YOU PAY EVERY
DAY

SOME THINGS NEVER HEAL, SOME
THINGS ARE TOO REAL

THEY ALL HURT YOU AT THE END OF
THE DAY

HURT AND REGRET YOU CAN'T REPLAY

BATHSHEBA

MY CHILD IS DEAD; MY CHILD HAS
DIED;

I FEEL LIKE A GHOST EMPTY INSIDE

A SHADOW AT BEST OF WHAT I'VE BEEN

WHAT DO I DO? HOW DO I LIVE?

NO HOPE INSIDE, NOTHING TO GIVE.

WOULD I HAD DIED; SWALLOWED MY
PRIDE

STOOD TALL ALONE WITH NOTHING TO
HIDE

HELP ME HOLD ON, GOD HELP ME MOVE
ON

BLESS ME SOMEHOW, WITH SOME HOPE
NOW

IT CAN'T END LIKE THIS, WHAT BEGAN
WITH A KISS

I WILL NOT DESPAIR, THAT IS MY
PRAYER

I HAVE NO PLAN, BUT PLEASE TAKE MY
HAND,

I WANT TO GROW, SO I HAVE TO GO
BEYOND MY FEARS, BEYOND MY TEARS,

I HAVE TO BREAK OUT FROM ALL MY
DOUBT

NO LONGER NAIVE, I STILL WANT TO
BELIEVE

I WILL BELIEVE, I WILL LIVE ON.

CURTAIN, END OF ACT II
INTERMISSION

ACT III: ABSALOM AND SOLOMON 26 YEARS LATER

CURTAIN UP ON

(Light warms on David again where he was before the trio on his knees head down in prayer. When he lifts his head we see the gray hair of an aging David. He sings Psalm 23)

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD, AND ALL I
NEED

HE GIVES ME A WORLD WITH GREEN
PASTURES

HE LEADS ME BESIDE STILL WATERS

HE RESTORES MY SOUL

HE LEADS ME IN THE PATHS THAT I
SHOULD WALK

FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE

YES WHEN I WALK

THROUGH THE VALLEY WITH DARKNESS
AND DEATH ALL AROUND

I WILL FEAR NO EVIL

FOR YOU ARE WITH ME

YOUR PRESENCE ALWAYS COMFORTS ME

YOU PREPARE A TABLE BEFORE ME

IN THE PRESENCE OF MY ENEMIES

YOU ANOINT MY HEAD WITH OIL

MY CUP RUNS OVER

SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY WILL
FOLLOW ME

ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE

AND I WILL LIVE IN THE HOUSE OF
THE LORD FOREVER.

(David exits as chorus sings)

CHORUS

ABSALOM, ABSALOM,

DAVID'S SON, DAVID'S SON

WHO WOULD THINK WHO WOULD KNOW

WHAT HE'D TRY WHERE HE'D GO

ABSALOM, ABSALOM

DAVID, O DAVID, KING OVER ALL THE
LAND

DAVID, O DAVID, GOD'S FAVORED AND
CHOSEN MAN

Scene change (David and Absalom in a sword
duel, David gets advantage)

DAVID

Absalom, Absalom! No, no, no! I've told you -
never overextend... You leave yourself
vulnerable when you do that!

(they resume dueling and Absalom knocks sword
out of David's hand)

But, well done, Absalom, you've become a real
swordsmen! I'm proud of you!

(Absalom picks up David's sword)

(Solomon enters)

SOLOMON

It could be luck!

ABSALOM

If that's what you think, try your luck
Solomon!

(Throws him David's sword)

SOLOMON

I was teasing, Absalom.

ABSALOM

So am I. Come on, try your luck, brother!

SOLOMON

I don't want to fight anyone. (with sarcasm)
Especially my big brother! (looks at sword)
Where did this blood come from?

ABSALOM

Blood? (believing Solomon he lowers his sword
to look)

SOLOMON

(quickly making a touché) The winner! (then he
jumps behind David)

DAVID

Stop, boys! That's enough of that!

SOLOMON

(hands up) Hey, my fault... I was just on my
way to the market. (exits)

ABSALOM

Enough.. for today...But not good enough...

DAVID

Not good enough?

ABSALOM

You won't give me any responsibility...Joab
says no one is more prepared than me...

DAVID

Joab would know, and you know how I love you...but power can be intoxicating, and I'm afraid it might be for you.

ABSALOM

What?

DAVID

Your time will come. When I was young I made mistakes.

ABSALOM

Everyone makes mistakes...

DAVID

...And some I carry inside as sadness and regret that never goes away. (pause) I killed Goliath. But as I've said, the real giants are inside us...

ABSALOM

(Not really listening) You don't think I could handle that Northern area...

DAVID

(still in his thoughts)...They never die - they keep coming back - again and again.

ABSALOM

You were younger than I am when you became King.

DAVID

It should have been Jonathan...

ABSALOM

Who?

DAVID

My best friend....

LIGHTS DOWN AND THEN BACK UP

SCENE CHANGE... DAVID'S ROOM: SOLOMON AND DAVID ARE SHOOTING
DICE

JOAB ENTERS

JOAB

My lord, there are two women outside who were
fighting. Each claims to be the mother of the
same infant.

DAVID

Ask their husbands if the child is theirs.

JOAB

I did. They agree with their wives.

DAVID

What do you think, Joab?

SOLOMON

Wait... let's tell them that we will cut the
child in half, and give each of them half. If
either mother agrees with that solution, we
will know she's not the mother.

DAVID

Great idea! (with enthusiasm) Go ahead and try
that.

JOAB AND SOLOMON (EXIT)

ABSALOM DOWNSTAGE

I HAD TO DO IT, AND SO I DID IT
AMNON RAPED MY SISTER, MY SISTER TAMAR
SO I KILLED MY BROTHER, (YES) HE WAS MY HALF BROTHER
BUT HE RAPED MY SISTER, YES HE RAPED MY SISTER

HER HONOR GONE, HER LIFE DEFILED
NO DEATH FOR HIM COULD BE AS VILE
I HAD TO AVENGE IT AND SO I DID IT
I DON'T REGRET IT, (NO) NOT ONE BIT

NOW I HAVE TO FLEE, BEFORE MY FATHER FINDS ME

I CAN NOT WAIT OR IT WLL SEAL MY FATE
DAVID WOULD NOT ACT AND SO I DID
NOW HE'LL COME FOR ME WITH NO SYMPATHY
WHERE I GO, HE'LL NOT KNOW
SO I WILL FLEE WHERE HE CANNOT FIND ME

I HAD TO DO IT, AND SO I DID IT
AMNON RAPED TAMAR, SO I MUST GO FAR
BUT HE RAPED MY SISTER, YES HE RAPED MY SISTER
SO I KILLED MY BROTHER, HE WAS MY HALF BROTHER

SCENE CHANGE: DAVID AND BATHSHEBA THREE YEARS LATER

BATHSHEBA

I have been thinking about our son Solomon.

DAVID

What about him?

BATHSHEBA

I think he should succeed you when the time comes. You know how even tempered he is, how thoughtful, wise.

DAVID

Adonijah's the logical heir, but he's not the one.

BATHSHEBA

Everyone knows what Absalom did, and now he's hiding out in the hills. He wasn't willing to face you or the consequences of his action.

DAVID

The boys are all different, but he's so gifted.

BATHSHEBA

He reminds you of yourself, doesn't he?

DAVID

We all make mistakes.

(LIGHTS DOWN AND UP SLOWLY)

DAVID

Joab, how long has Absalom been gone.

JOAB

I don't know, about two years, don't you think?

DAVID

Yes, and I think it's time for us to bring him home. Go find him, and tell him that we have forgiven him, and that I want him back.

JOAB

Many of us have been hoping this day would come, and I know how you love him.

DAVID

No matter what happens, I want him to come home.

SCENE CHANGE, DAVID AND MICHAL

MICHAL

I heard you were looking for me.

DAVID

Yes. I sent Joab out to find Absalom and to tell him we want him back here, with us.

MICHAL

Really!

(rushes up and hugs him)

I can't believe it. I'm so happy. But what will you do to him?

DAVID

Nothing. I told Joab to tell him he is forgiven, and to come home. What he did was wrong; but if we can't learn to love and forgive as a family, how can we possibly live as a country?

MICHAL

But what if he doesn't want to come back?

DAVID

I'm sure he loves and misses us as we miss him.
He'll trust Joab and he'll trust me.

SOLOMON

SCENE II BATHSHEBA IN HER ROOM, MICHAL ENTERS

MICHAL

You've heard Absalom is coming back.

BATHSHEBA

Yes, I've heard it; David told me himself.

MICHAL

So...I understand you're trying to manipulate things.

BATHSHEBA

Manipulate?

MICHAL

Yes.. and I know what you're doing.

BATHSHEBA

What are you talking about?

MICHAL

You know what I'm talking about. You're jealous of Absalom. Everyone knows the people all love him - he's like his father. He's a natural leader.

BATHSHEBA

So, what's the point?

MICHAL

I've heard it from others. You want Solomon to succeed David.

BATHSHEBA

David has other sons. I can't tell him what to do...

MICHAL

But you want your Solomon to succeed him.

BATHSHEBA

What are you talking about? He's not the oldest.

MICHAL

I know what they say.

BATHSHEBA

"They" say?

MICHAL

That you're always talking about how "Solomon is smarter," "Solomon is kinder..." And you know that Absalom is the obvious choice. That's why David sent for him.

BATHSHEBA

He is a murderer; does that make him the obvious choice?

MICHAL

He's the only one who had the courage to avenge his sister's honor.

BATHSHEBA

So killing is an honorable thing?

MICHAL

Courage, leadership, honor and duty - that's what Absalom represents.

BATHSHEBA

But not kindness, or compassion, or...

MICHAL

God demands justice! Absalom is strong; Solomon is weak. You know it, I know it, and David knows it.

BATHSHEBA

Is this about our boys, or is this about us?

MICHAL

David and I grew up together; I know him better than you'll ever know him.

BATHSHEBA

Really?

MICHAL

I am Saul's daughter but you're just a shepherd's daughter.

BATHSHEBA

Yes, and David is just a shepherd's son.
(Michal leaves.)

(lights up on Absalom)

ABSALOM

I'VE JUST BEGUN TO LIVE

SO MUCH TO TAKE, SO MUCH TO GIVE

IT'S ALL BEFORE ME, LIFE'S JUST
BEGUN I CAN REACH THE STARS, I CAN
TOUCH THE SUN.

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHICH WAY THE
WIND WILL BLOW

I CAN CHOOSE WHERE THE ROAD WILL
GO

I CAN STAND ALONE, I'LL MAKE IT ON
MY OWN

AND I'LL LET NOTHING STAND IN MY
WAY

I'LL MAKE MY OWN FUTURE, STARTING
TODAY.

I'M NOT AFRAID OF STANDING ALONE

I'LL MAKE IT OWN MY OWN

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHICH WAY THE
WIND WILL BLOW

I CAN CHOOSE WHERE THE ROAD WILL
GO

I CAN STAND ALONE, I'LL MAKE IT ON
MY OWN

SCENE CONTINUES WITH ABSALOM COMING UP TO SOLOMON

SOLOMON

Absalom! I heard you were back! How are you?

ABSALOM

I'm glad to be home. Our father said that he'd
forgiven what I did. But I think I did the
right thing.

SOLOMON

We don't get to decide what justice is - except
in our own eyes. So... you're back - what are
your plans?

ABSALOM

I'm rejoining my old army group. I hope that
I'll be given some responsibility now.

SOLOMON

Good luck!

Solomon exits one way, while
Absalom goes across and downstage
to a group of men who recognize
him.

GROUP OF MEN

(all speaking at the same time) Hey Absalom,
Hi, look who's here, welcome!

PERSON 1

(to Absalom)
Our sheep all pasture together and at the end of the day, we take our own. But his neighbor has been taking some of his.

ABSALOM

Really?

PERSON 2

Yes. At first I tried to be a good neighbor. Finally, I had to bring him to court, but the judge didn't believe me.

ABSALOM

That's terrible! If I were in charge, I would see to it that you got justice.

PERSON 2

Absalom, many of us wish you were in charge.

SOLOMON AND DAVID DOWNSTAGE
TALKING

DAVID

Do you remember years ago, when Joab had the baby with two women each claiming to be its mother?

SOLOMON

Oh yes; I suggested that they cut the baby in half and give each mother half.

DAVID

So, what happened?

SOLOMON

As soon as I proposed it, one mother said "yes," but the other burst into tears. So, of course we gave the child to her.

DAVID

I was thinking about that.. Our first child did die. It broke your mother's heart.

(MORE)

DAVID (CONT'D)

But now I think the time has come. I want you to succeed me as King.

SOLOMON

(unbelieving) Are you sure?

DAVID

Yes.

SOLOMON

But am I the right choice? What about Adonijah? he's the oldest!

DAVID

This needs to be done before there are any questions like that.

SOLOMON

But Absalom is older too, and he's so popular.

DAVID

I've thought about it many nights. And Michal keeps reminding me that he's Saul's grandson.

SOLOMON

WILL I KNOW WHAT I AM TO DO

WITH EV'RY DAY A DIFFERENT CLUE

MOTHERS AND BROTHERS ALL TOGETHER

THAT'S WHAT IT'S LIKE IN MY FAM'LY

NOTHING I KNOW BUT RIVALRY

CAN WE NOT LOVE, CAN WE NOT CARE

CAN WE NOT TRY, CAN WE NOT DARE?

I MUST ALWAYS CHOOSE TO LOVE

FORGIVING'S NOT JUST FROM ABOVE
IF WE CAN'T LOVE OUR VERY OWN
IT WILL BE OUR FUTURE THAT WE
BEMOAN

SCENE CHANGE, ABSALOM AND OTHERS
(a group of men are talking and Absalom
walks by)

PERSON 1

Absalom, come here please.

ABSALOM

What are you talking about?

PERSON 1

The king has raised the taxes again on us, but
not on the merchants.

ABSALOM

If I were in charge I'd be sure that the taxes
were fair. The merchants should pay more.

PERSON 2

I hope your day will come!

SCENE CHANGE, LIGHTS UP ON
SOLOMON DOWNSTAGE

DAVID

So, I'm going to announce it soon.

SOLOMON

I will do whatever you say.

DAVID

We have choices every day... and they determine
who we become, and what our memories will be.
I've often learned the hard way.

SOLOMON

Doesn't everyone?

DAVID

Yes, but the temptation always begins with what "I" want... Do you know how sheep get lost? They don't do it on purpose, they nibble their way, little by little by little they nibble, until they're lost.

SOLOMON

But we have choices...

DAVID

The wrong choice is usually easy and tempting, and so we nibble... and nibble...

SOLOMON

And lose our way?

DAVID

Yes ...it's like Urim and Thummim: (pretends to roll dice) we never get the rolls we want - so we nibble, and nibble

SOLOMON

But look what you've done!

DAVID

Yes, it's always true - seek for yourself and you may achieve many things, but you will end up destroying yourself...

SOLOMON

You sound like Moses.

DAVID

Moses gave us our laws, but laws are really about making choices. We are all equal in one way: we all have the same number of hours in the day --and how we use them will determine what life we end up with.

SOLOMON

You've said that before.

DAVID

Words are just words until we live them.
Knowing and choosing are two different
things...

(Across stage, new scene)

ABSALOM

(CHORUS, ABSALOM FIRST TIME ALONE)

THE WORLD OF POLITICS THE WORLD OF
POWER,

THE TIME IS COMING IT WILL BE MY
HOUR

TO LEAD THE PEOPLE YOU TAKE
CONTROL

IF SOME MUST DIE, WELL THEN THAT'S
THE TOLL

DAVID HAS APPEAL, THE PEOPLE ALL
LOVE HIM

I WILL WAIT UNTIL HIS SUPPORT IS
SLIM

I KNOW WHAT I'M GOING TO DO

AND I PLAN TO SUCCEED BEFORE I'M
THROUGH

THE WORLD OF POLITICS THE WORLD OF
POWER,

THE TIME IS COMING IT WILL BE MY
HOUR

TO LEAD THE PEOPLE YOU TAKE
CONTROL

IF SOME MUST DIE, WELL THEN THAT'S
THE TOLL

DAVID PRAYS TO GOD FOR GUIDANCE
EACH DAY

HOPING HE'LL HELP HIM ALONG SOME
WAY

GOD MAY RULE THE HEAVENS ON HIGH

BUT I'M GOING TO RULE WHAT'S UNDER
HIS SKY.

THE TIME IS COMING IT WILL BE MY
HOUR

TO LEAD THE PEOPLE YOU TAKE
CONTROL

IF SOME MUST DIE, WELL THEN THAT'S
THE TOLL

DAVID

Is it true? Is it true?

JOAB

Yes. Absalom is leading a revolution. He's
taken some officers with him and has the
northern area in his control, and they are all
marching this way.

DAVID

He asked me if he could go to Hebron. I said,
"yes." I had no idea what he was planning. My
own son! Revolting against me. How can this
be? How I have failed!

REFRAIN (DAVID ALONE)

A CHILD CAN NEVER KNOW, THE WAY A
PARENT FEELS,

A CHILD CAN NEVER KNOW THE WAY A
PARENT LOVES,

ABSALOM THINKS ITS A THRONE HE
STEALS,

BUT CROWNS DON'T BREAK THE WAY A
HEART DOES,

A CHILD CAN NEVER KNOW.

LUST FOR POWER GREED FOR GAIN

IT'S NOT JUST KINGS WHO FEEL THE
PAIN

FAMILIES ARE BROKEN JUST LIKE MINE

BY THOSE WHO WANT MORE ALL THE
TIME

A CHILD CAN NEVER KNOW, THE WAY A
PARENT FEELS,

A CHILD CAN NEVER KNOW THE WAY A
PARENT LOVES,

ABSALOM THINKS ITS A THRONE HE
STEALS,

BUT CROWNS DON'T BREAK THE WAY A
HEART DOES,

A CHILD CAN NEVER KNOW.

IS IT WORTH A BROKEN HEART TO GAIN
A GOAL?

IS SUCCESS WORTH HAVING IF IT COST
YOUR SOUL?

WHAT IT IS WORTH, EACH PERSON MUST
SAY

WE TELL WITH OUR LIFE EVERY DAY

CHORUS

A CHILD CAN NEVER KNOW OOOOHH

A CHILD CAN NEVER KNOW OOOOHH

A CHILD CAN NEVER KNOW.

(Bathsheba enters, runs and hugs David)

I told Absalom a few days ago that Solomon would follow me, and this is his response.

BATHSHEBA

What's going to happen?

DAVID

What happens is in God's hands...(firmly) And in ours. We shall see.

(Joab enters)

Joab, we must retreat... We cannot let this city of Jerusalem be attacked. Ready the army, we will retreat.

(Joab leaves; David to Bathsheba)

Absalom, my son, my son... The lamb that ate from my plate, and drank from my dish. How I have failed him!

CHORUS **OMITTED IN THIS VERSION**

FULL CHORUS

O JERUSALEM! O JERUSALEM!

WE STOP AND WE WEEP WHEN WE THINK
OF YOU

A CITY TORN AND DIVIDED IN TWO

O JERUSALEM!

O SADDEST DAY! O SADDEST HOUR!

WHEN A FATHER AND SON MUST FIGHT
FOR POWER

A FAMILY TORN AND DIVIDED IN TWO.

O SADDEST HOUR!

THE GREATEST LEADER WE HAVE EVER
KNOWN,

IS FORCED TO FLEE BY HIS VERY OWN

IS ABSALOM DOOMED IS HIS FATE SURE

DOES GOD LOVE DAVID WILL HE ENDURE

O ISRAEL! O ISRAEL!

IS THE REIGN OF DAVID THROUGH

A NATION TORN AND DIVIDED IN TWO!

O ISRAEL!

(withdrawal, David, Bathsheba, Joab
leaving...)

SCENE CHANGE TO ABSALOM

ABSALOM

What is the latest with my father?

SOLDIER

He has fled to the east.

ABSALOM

Are you sure?

SOLDIER

Yes, I saw the King and all his followers
leaving the city across the Kidron Valley.

ABSALOM

Should we go after them right now?

SOLDIER

Yes. They are on the run, and so it should be an easy victory for us.

HUSHAI

I disagree. David is very smart. If you attack too soon, and lose, everyone will desert you. I suggest you wait until all your forces are here. Then you can attack him and know victory for certain.

ABSALOM

I think that's the best advice; for once I'll try to be patient.

CHORUS

ABSALOM, DAVID'S SON

DAVID'S SON, ABSALOM

WHO WOULD KNOW, WHO KNOWS WHY

HE WOULD TRY HE WOULD LIE

SCENE CHANGE - DAVID AND JOAB

DAVID

(as Joab comes in)

What is going on today, anything?

JOAB

Yes, Absalom is leading his army out of the city to find us.

DAVID

So, we'll divide into three groups. I'll be at the foot of the hill to draw the attack. Joab, you will be around one side out of sight. Abishai will head another group from the other side.

(MORE)

DAVID (CONT'D)

I will draw the attack, and then retreat up the hill letting them pursue us, and at that moment, both of you will come from around each side, we will turn to fight, and we will have surrounded them.

JOAB

Sir! you cannot be in the battle. If we lose it is only one fight, but if you are killed, all is lost. It's a good plan; leave it to me.

DAVID

Joab, I don't like it, but all right.
I have to send troops out against my own son...

JOAB

Don't think about him, think of those who have joined his revolt instead...

DAVID

Yes... But, Joab... there is one more thing.

JOAB

Yes?

DAVID

When you go into battle, no matter what happens...deal gently with my son Absalom...and tell the others: deal gently with my son.

AS EVERYONE EXITS DAVID SINGS

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD, AND ALL I
NEED

HE GIVES ME A WORLD WITH GREEN
PASTURES

HE LEADS ME BESIDE STILL WATERS

YES WHEN I WALK

THROUGH THE VALLEY WITH DARKNESS
AND DEATH ALL AROUND

I WILL FEAR NO EVIL

FOR YOU ARE WITH ME
 YOUR PRESENCE ALWAYS COMFORTS ME
 YOU PREPARE A TABLE BEFORE ME
 IN THE PRESENCE OF MY ENEMIES

SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY WILL
 FOLLOW ME

ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE

AND I WILL LIVE IN THE HOUSE OF
 THE LORD FOREVER.

(sounds of troops filling out to
 war...music illustrates sounds of
 war...David watches with a watchman)

WATCHMAN

I see a man running this way.

DAVID

Alone? He must have news.

RUNNER

Praise God, for delivering us.

DAVID

My son Absalom, how is he?

RUNNER

May every one who revolts against you meet the
 same death.

DAVID

What! Dead! No! No! Leave me... All of you...O
 God!

O MY SON! ABSALOM, O MY SON, MY
 SON ABSALOM!

IF ONLY I HAD DIED, DIED INSTEAD
OF YOU!

O ABSALOM MY SON, MY SON!

O MY SON! ABSALOM, O MY SON, MY
SON, ABSALOM!

IF ONLY I HAD DIED! IF ONLY I HAD
DIED! DIED INSTEAD OF YOU!

ABSALOM, MY SON, MY SON!

O MY SON ABSALOM, ON MY SON, MY
SON, ABSALOM!

IF ONLY I HAD DIED! IF ONLY I HAD
DIED! DIED INSTEAD OF YOU!

ABSALOM, MY SON, MY SON!

(scene changes as David returns to
Bathsheba's room)

BATHSHEBA

(as David enters) I hear we've won!

DAVID

Yes, but Absalom, is dead.

(David starts to break down, she comforts
him and says:)

BATHSHEBA

... he was trying to overthrow you.

DAVID

He was my son, ... my son! I failed him...

BATHSHEBA

David, he brought it on himself.

DAVID

He was my son...damn how the false gods seduce us... Those giants: passion, temptation and deception...

BATHSHEBA

He did not get them from you..

DAVID

Or did he? No, they're inside us all, waiting for our moment of weakness.. The apple on the tree..But I could not show him the way. (pause)
Life is too precious, too costly.

BATHSHEBA

He did not get this from you.

DAVID

Love always causes pain..Why do we only learn through suffering?

BATHSHEBA

He had his choices and he made them.

DAVID

...why is the most important thing the hardest thing to do? To love...with all of its faces: joy, grief, kindness, compassion, forgiveness...

BATHSHEBA

You showed him forgiveness, but he chose treachery.

DAVID

Bathsheba, I feel nothing but loss and emptiness. It's hard to hold on...how do I hold on to what I believe, or believe at all...(Pause)...(determined) But I do, and I will...

THIS IS GOD'S WORLD, ALWAYS AND AGAIN

A CHANCE TO BEGIN TO DO MORE THAN WIN

WITH THE SUN'S NEW DAY THE DEW
BURNS AWAY

WHEN PRIDE DOES THE SAME THERE'S A
NEW GAME

LOVE IS THE WAY THAT WE CAN GROW

LOVE IS THE LIFE THAT WE CAN SHOW

FOR LOVE WITHOUT LIMITS AND LOVE
WITHOUT END

IS WHAT GOD GIVES FOREVER AMEN

(transition to big finale)

FINALE DAVID (TO SOLOMON) (David facing audience directly,
Solomon with back to audience kneeling in front of him.)

I'VE LIVED A LIFE WITH RIGHT AND
WRONG

GOD KNOWS I TRIED MY WHOLE LIFE
LONG

OUR NATION'S STRONGEST ON THE
EARTH

ITS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED SINCE YOUR
BIRTH

YOUR TIME HAS COME, NOW'S YOUR
HOUR

TAKE THE THRONE, HAVE THE POWER

TRUST YOUR PASSION, YOUR HEART
YOUR GUIDE

MAY THE SPIRIT, BURN INSIDE

GO FORTH EACH DAY WITHOUT FEAR

WITH GOD AS YOUR GUIDE THROUGHOUT
THE YEAR

DON'T LOOK FOR A LIFE OF COMFORT
AND EASE

CARE FOR ALL, HEAR THEIR PLEAS

BE OPEN TO IDEAS WHEREVER THEY
COME

CHANGE IS ADVENTURE, THE BEAT OF
THE DRUM

HEARTBREAK AND JOY, LOVE AND PAIN

COME TO US ALL, LIKE SUNSHINE AND
RAIN

IT'S UP TO YOU, TO SHOW THE WAY

TO FACE THE CHALLENGE OF EACH NEW
DAY

TRIUMPH DISASTER, VICTORY DEFEAT,

THE SIGNS OF GROWTH, THAT YOU WILL
MEET

WHEN ALL SEEMS HOPELESS, PERSEVERE

WHEN NOTHING SEEMS RIGHT, HEED THE
VOICE YOU HEAR

LOVE IS THE GREATEST POWER OF ALL

LEARN TO LOVE, AND YOU WILL STAND
TALL

NEW IDEAS BRING NEW CHOICES

BURY THE OLD, HEAR NEW VOICES

YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER THESE WORDS I
GIVE

BRING HOPE TO ALL, DARE TO LOVE
AND LIVE

BRING HOPE TO ALL, DARE TO LOVE
AND LIVE,

BRING HOPE TO ALL, DARE TO LOVE
AND LIVE,

("David" reprise to words
below) (As Nathan crowns solomon,
who stands and turns around as
david goes upstage and sits on
chair as old man)

SOLOMON O SOLOMON KING OVER ALL
THE LAND

SOLOMON O SOLOMON, GOD'S FAVORED
AND CHOSEN MAN

Curtain