

On What It Means To Search For Love Amongst The Stars In The Sky
A Musical Short

by

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EXT. AN OPEN FIELD UNDER THE STARS. NIGHT.

ADRIAN (8) and MASON (38) stand in the center of the field. A silken piano introduces itself, soft and kindly in nature. Unless noted, all lines are sung; a "/" represents a line break. [#1]

MASON

When the universe was a child/ And
the giants roamed the skies/ The
sun was so bright/ It burned up the
air/ And all that were close by/
fell victim to its rays./ But it
was so cold elsewhere/ that many
giants froze in their sleep./ So the
giant Kurim pierced it/ with his
silver-plated arrow/ and broke up
the sun to pieces./ And the light
scattered everywhere/ And created
the stars and the moon./ So
wherever you are/ there will always
be light./ Just look up to the
skies/ and warm your cold, lost
heart./ Look up into the North/ And
there, you'll find your way.

Warm piano chords overwhelm the space to a peaceful darkness. They change after a while into steel and alarming notes, piercing the air before scrapping thin strings away as a knife might to a block of aluminum. [#2]

INT. OFFICE, 3RD FLOOR. DAY.

ADRIAN (now 29) sits stamping papers mechanically into a large stack. It's synchronous with the entire office. There's a loud bang as the door is punched, and KING 3 enters in rage.

KING 3

Adrian, where's Adrian!?!/ Adrien
where's Adrien!?!/ He's stolen my
wine!/ My wine as white as chalk!/
Adrian, stand, Adrien!/ Adrien I'll
have your head!/ I pound on the
wall!

ADRIAN

I slowly stand, trembling before
the king./ My face betrays my fear/
And I begin to sweat.

CHORUS

And the office breaks out into
whispers/ Has Adrien stolen the
wine?

KING 3

Silence! Silence!/ You stand
accused!/ Now give back my wine.

ADRIAN

I don't have it,/ I'm sorry./ But
you have the wrong man/ Here,
search my desk please!

KING 3

Search his desk and find the wine!/
Search his desk and find the wine!

CHORUS

We search his desk,/ all to find
the wine is nowhere to be found!

KING 3

Adrien.../ My face is white with
rage but my voice is calm./ You
have one day./ Find the wine or
you'll be sentenced to death!/ And
that goes for all of you!/ All of
you slaves, all of you!/ I'll
select someone/ each and every day/
until I get my wine back!/ And in a
flustered storm/ I exit the room
and slam the door!

A woeful, yet calm, tune bursts forth [#3]

CHORUS

Woe Adrien what will you do?/ You
have not the magic wine./ The only
way you can find it/ Is to find the
silver monocle/ On the fourth
floor...

ADRIAN

(spoken, faintly)
The fourth floor.

CHORUS

Oh!/ You only visit there in the
night.

ADRIAN

At night there are no guards to
catch me!/ I can see my true love!/
And we can kiss without her father
knowing./ Her name is Pearl./ He
doesn't like I'm from the third
floor.

INT. STAIRWAY. CONT.

CHORUS

Adrian climbed up a flight of the
stairs/ gathering courage with each
step./ And when he stepped onto the
fourth-floor landing/ The guards
took him straight to the fourth-
floor king.

INT. OFFICE, 4TH FLOOR. CONT.

It's a more lavish office, with a throne sitting at the
front of the rows of workers. KING 4 sits with his daughter,
PEARL (29) as the workers work. The guards take ADRIAN up to
kneel before the king.

GUARD

Found this man a sneaking!

PEARL

And Pearl looked right at Adrian
and wanted to hold his hand./ But
she remained sitting softly/ her
lips and emotions sealed.

KING 4

And the king looked at Adrien/ I
know this man who wants to marry my
daughter and take her away/ State
your business scoundrel!/ I haven't
much time for you!

ADRIAN

I need to borrow your monocle/ To
find the magic wine.

KING 4

And I named my price./ See those
dust and ashes/ in the paper
furnace/ spin the dust and ashes/
into a golden flax!

ADRIAN/CHORUS

Take the dust and ashes/ from the
paper furnace/ spin the dust and
ashes/ into a golden flax

ADRIAN

And I ask for just one more thing./
I ask for Pearl's hand/ In sacred
matrimony.

KING 4

No one can complete this task/ so
if you can succeed/ I'll give you
my silver monocle/ and Pearl's hand
in marriage!/ But you must also
give me/ Three of my own hairs/
Plucked from my scalp/ without my
knowing so.

(Spoken)

You have one night.

INT. OFFICE, 4TH FLOOR. NIGHT.

Alarming, purposeful note strings the air. There's a
cyclical, engine-type beat, [#4] as ADRIAN sits in the
center of a darkened office with a pile of dust, and a meat
grinder (or pasta maker. Perhaps even a pencil sharpener).

CHORUS

There's a procedure/ to make gold
flax/ out of dust and/ ashes from a
furnace!/ You must crank the/
machine with more force/ than an
lift has/ going up a shaft!/ And
Adrian spun fast!/ But the dust
remained as dust!/ And he tried
once againe!/ Yet the ash remained
ash!/ He spun at a faster rate!/
But the dust remained as dust!/ And
he tried once againe!/ Yet the ash
remained ash!

ADRIAN

And I wipe sweat from my brow/ And
think of dear Pearl!/ And a life to
live together/ And I think of dear
Pearl...

CHORUS MEMBER 1

He selects coffee!

CHORUS

He selects coffee!

ADRIAN

And I'm given a little push!

CHORUS

And Adrian spins fast!/ But the
dust remains as dust!/ And he tried
once again!/ Yet the ash remained
ash!/ He spun at a faster rate!/ But
the dust remained as dust/ And
he tried once again!

Adrian cries out in triumph as golden flax strands start to
taper to the floor.

CHORUS

And the dust turned to gold!

LATER - The time moves into morning, and the king enters
with Pearl. The music quiets itself as an ocean after a
storm. It's still interrogatingly-sharp, however; by no
means peaceful. [#5]

KING 4

You spun that dust and those ashes
to flax/ all in one night is that
so!?

ADRIAN

Aye that is true, I have completed
your task/ now your debt is due!

KING 4

My face already pale turns quickly
into fury!/ I seize you by the
lapel/ of your grime-filled shirt/
and I shake you to the side!/ Until
I notice my daughter looking!/ What
did you do with the dust and ash!?

ADRIAN

Come now, be a good sport/ they're
right before your eyes!/ And in his
closeness/ I take three hairs/ Off
of his red-tinted scalp!

KING 4

I don't believe you/ You are
lying!/ For no man could possibly
spin that fast/ Dust and ashes into
flax!

(beat)

You have yet to pluck three hairs!

ADRIAN

You are false I already have them!

KING 4

Then present them stop messing
about!

ADRIAN

Here, the three hairs./ Taken from
you without you noticing!/ Now let
me have the monocle/ And set your
daughter free!

There's a silence. The king freezes up in shock and Adrian takes a step forward. He takes another step forward, and realizes that the king is frozen in shock. Drums. [#6]

CHORUS

The fourth-floor king/ has frozen
up./ It's gonna be a while before
he can move!/ So grab the girl and
monocle!/ And run on down to the
safe third floor! Da da da da da da
da da da/ Da dadadadadada dadada
da!

ADRIAN

Come Pearl, let's get out of here!/
Grab the monocle!/ And we'll live
quite happy/ Down on the very third
floor!

ADRIAN, CHORUS, PEARL

Da da da da da da da da da/ Da
dadadadadada dadada da!

PEARL

I'll grab the monocle,/ and we'll
leave this floor!/ My father won't
be happy/ But I'll sure make a
happy wife!

Drums as Pearl, Adrian, and The Chorus run into

INT. STAIRWAY. CONT.

They dance on down the stairs singing the chorus of "da's"
and finally parade onto

INT. OFFICE, 3RD FLOOR. DAY.

The tune stops. Another starts. [#7]. KING 3 waits, standing.

KING 3
Did you find the wine?

ADRIAN
No but I have a monocle that can locate it.

KING 3
Where then is my wine?

ADRIAN
Here, I'll use it to find your wine./ I look around the room through the silver monocle.

The world is black and white through the monocle, and then Adrian sweeps to focus on a bright gold light in a co-worker's desk.

ADRIAN
Right there!/ I see./ It's in that desk there!

CHORUS
We find the magic wine/ In the worker's desk!/ The culprit is found!

KING 3
Ronald how dare you/ I speak quite soft/ Bring me the wine/ Bring me his head/ You have caused chaos/ I won't support/ Bring me the wine/ bring me his head/ You have committed a crime!/ Of stealing from your king!

CHORUS
And we cut off Ron's head/ And bring it to the king/ With the wine as white as chalk.

KING 3
Oh, Adrian please forgive!/ Forgive me for framing you unjustly!/ What can I give to you to make up for your strife?

ADRIAN

You have the wine/ I should like to
taste the wine!

KING 3

Just a taste/ will be enough/ to
last you and Pearl a whole
lifetime./ This will free you/ From
this office./ You can see the stars
at night now/ You can navigate the
world.

ADRIAN

We will drink and take leave/ into
the star-lit night.

PEARL

All our troubles are at an end/ We
are free with one another.

ADRIAN

I drink a drop of wine.

EXT. THE OFFICE. NIGHT.

The stars are out, and a peaceful piano (the refrain of the first song) starts up. [#8]. ADRIAN and PEARL stand outside, walking away from the office. At some point, it disappears into the past.

ADRIAN

As I looked into the night sky/ To
try and find the north star/ My
mind was filled with peace/ And my
soul with tenderness.

PEARL

And as I looked into the East/ I
cried tears of happiness/ And
kissed my love up on the cheek.

ADRIAN

Dear Pear/ Can you find the
northern star?

PEARL

I don't know/ What does it look
like?

ADRIAN

It's the brightest star to see/ It
shines above the other ones./ It's
how we'll find our way/ in this
world./ And as we gazed all around
us/ in the peaceful air/ my eyes
became distracted/ by a brilliant
bright light./ And I turned my head
so that I could see./ It was
Pearl,/ beaming lovingly/ her
figure glowing rapidly./ And just
in the way she looked up/ into the
starry sky/ I realized that I had
been wrong./ Dear stop looking.

PEARL

I glance back at Adrian.

ADRIAN

(spoken)

*You. Are the brightest star in the
sky. Right here on Earth. And I
can't find the North, because you
are my Northern star. And I know
wherever we are I will be home,
with you. And won't need to find my
way. Because we're in love.*

PEARL

And we sat down in the grasses/ of
the quiet night/ and gazed at one
another/ smiling in delight./
Relishing each other's company/ As
we began our new-found life.

FADE TO BLACK.