



THE CLOWNS AREN'T FUNNY

A Musical Comedy in Two Acts

“...the people can always be brought to the bidding of their leaders. That is easy. All you have to do is tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to dangers. It works the same in any country.”

Reichsmarschall Hermann Göring
Nuremberg Trials, 1946

Version 19
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Songs at
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/s50t2q5g52ypfiz/AADQc4bs0qkhFO17rT3tWiFba?dl=0>

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Brief Synopsis

Victoria, the sideshow fortune teller in an English circus during World War I can see the future, but no-one wants to hear how each war only leads to the next war. Caught up in the patriotic frenzy of wartime, she is unjustly arrested as an enemy saboteur. Can she control her power and change the future?

SETTING

A small town in England, 1916. A circus has bravely set up to provide what entertainment it can in these difficult times.

Act 1, Scene 1: The center ring of a one-ring circus

Act 1, Scene 2: Victoria's tent

Act 1, Scene 3: Leah's tent

Act 1, Scene 4: The midway

Act 2, Scene 1: The police station

Act 2, Scene 2: A battlefield in France on one side + Leah's tent on the other side

Act 2, Scene 3: Victoria's tent

Act 2, Scene 4: The midway

Act 2, Scene 5: A battlefield hospital

Act 2, Scene 6: The midway

A note on the setting

Yes, it really is a circus. Perhaps it is also a metaphor for life off the main road, but it is a circus all the same. I have not written much circus activity, but I would expect some circus business while the characters are talking to one another. Due to my affection for and trust of directors, I leave it to you to put in the circus stuff you would like to see.

Dramatis Personae

Victoria, soprano, 20s	A psychic. Victoria has been given the gift of seeing the future, which depresses her. She has trouble finding people who believe her pessimistic forecasts.
Roger the Socialist, baritenor, 20s	A socialist. Roger is committed to his political cause, even militant about it when better judgment would suggest he keep quiet.
Roger the Pacifist, tenor, 20s	A pacifist. Roger is not afraid; he just doesn't see the point in dying in someone else's war. He greets the world with humor.
Ringmaster, mezzosoprano, any age	The circus master of ceremonies. Her narrator's omniscience is nothing compared to Victoria's gift. The Ringmaster can remain onstage and watch the action with us or he/she can retire OS when not involved in the action.
Leah, soprano, 20s	Pronounced "lay-a." A trapeze artist. She is in love with Luke, whom she encouraged to do his duty and go to war. She will have regrets, and she spends Act 1 vacillating between the pro and anti-war factions. Where will she end up in Act 2?
Hilda, mezzo-soprano, 40s	A trapeze artist from parts unknown. Hilda is a patriot and strong advocate of the war. She speaks with an American accent. Doubles as Auntie Gert.
Luke, tenor, 20s–30s	Former trapeze artist, now a soldier. Leah's lover. She pushed him into the army, although he would rather not have gone. Doubles as the Sad Clown.
Policeman, baritone, 40s–50s	A veteran whose injuries in the war resulted in his discharge from the army. He now does what he can on the home front. Doubles as the Happy Clown and plays the guitar.
Teddy Roosevelt, baritenor, 50s	26 th President of the United States. A believer in the fighting of good wars. Remember the Maine!

Songs

Where the demo recording and the book diverge, the lyrics in the book are the most recent.

01 The Colors are Pretty.....	5
Cue 01a The Future (Prelude)	10
02 Dora.....	13
03 Quite a Man.....	15
04 Letter to Leah	19
Ypres underscore 1	22
05 Way of Life).....	23
06 The Future	30
07 My Boy.....	34
08 Community.....	37
09 A Real American Girl.....	42
10 Presidents' Parade	47
11 Catastrophe.....	52
Ypres underscore #2.....	59
12 Death to Us.....	61
13 Letter to Leah reprise.....	64
14 A Boy Named Roger	67
15 Sisters	70
16 Land of the Savages.....	76
17 Your Little Boy	80
18 A Girl Named Hilda	82
19 Dora, Reprise.....	88
20 Land of Peace	90

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Act 1, Scene 1.

(The center ring of a one-ring circus somewhere in England. In the middle stands the RINGMASTER)

(Cue 01 The Colors are Pretty)

RINGMASTER

(HE/SHE speaks over the song introduction.)

Ladies and gentlemen! I give you nineteen sixteen. An amazing year. A year of thrills and chills. Something to entertain and amuse every member of the family.

IT'S NINETEEN SIXTEEN, AND WE HAVE A LITTLE WAR
DESTROYING MOST OF EUROPE THOUGH NO ONE RECALLS WHAT
FOR,
THEY SAY THAT KAISER WILHELM'S A DISTINCTLY NASTY CHAP,
SO IT'S UP TO DEAR BRITANNIA TO WIPE HIM OFF THE MAP.

When the war broke out, I was running this little circus on the continent. Before they could hang us, we scampered away back to merry old England. Except England isn't so merry in wartime, and people don't much feel like going out. Still we do what we can, eh, Victoria?

(VICTORIA steps forward into the light.)

VICTORIA

THE COLORS ARE PRETTY AND THE MUSIC IS SWEET
AS WE TRY TO FORGET THAT THERE'S NOT MUCH TO EAT,

RINGMASTER and VICTORIA
THE TRAPEZE IS LOW AND THE LIONS ARE TAME

COMPANY

AS WE TRY TO FORGET THAT THE WORLD IS AFLAME.

RINGMASTER

Victoria is our fortune teller. She sees things before they happen. Isn't that right, my dear?

VICTORIA

THE FUTURE IS JUST A RIVER THAT FLOWS
OUT OF THE PAST AND ONWARD FOREVER,
WHEN I PUT MY FACE IN AND OPEN MY EYES,
I SEE THINGS AND PEOPLE MIGHT THINK THAT I'M CLEVER.

A gift from my dear departed Auntie Gert, it was. She felt sorry for me sitting alone on my own all the time, so she came back from the dead to visit me.

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AUNTIE GERT

(SHE enters)

You've been so dreadfully alone since your mum and dad died. No brothers, no sisters, no friends. You need a way to meet people!

TAKE THIS LITTLE GIFT, VICTORIA DEAR,
AND SHOW THE FUTURE TO THE WORLD FOR ITS OWN SAKE.

VICTORIA

BUT NOBODY I KNOW IS PREPARED TO HEAR
THAT WE KEEP ON MAKING THE SAME MISTAKE.

I WANT SOME UNDERSTANDING, OH,
I NEED A LITTLE UNDERSTANDING
WHY I MUST SEE A FUTURE I CAN'T FIX,
WITH A GIFT THAT'S ONLY GOOD FOR SIDESHOW TRICKS.

RINGMASTER

Victoria was named after the late queen of course.

AUNTIE GERT

That was in my day, you know. Queen Victoria and Prince Albert had nine children, and their 42 grandchildren got us into this mess. Victoria's son, Edward VII, had a son George V...

POLICEMAN

(HE appears.)

God save the King.

RINGMASTER

...and Queen Victoria's daughter, also called Victoria, gave birth to Wilhelm II, whom we affectionately call Kaiser Bill. Victoria's daughter Alix is the Empress of all the Russias. The kids are now all at war with one another. Talk about a family that can't get on together!

RINGMASTER, VICTORIA, AUNTIE GERT, and POLICEMAN
QUEEN VICTORIA'S HEIRS HAD BECOME THE HEADS OF STATE
IN A EUROPE WHERE NO-ONE LIKED WHAT WAS ON HIS PLATE,
AND NO-ONE HAD MORE NEED TO FLEX THE ROYAL WILL
THAN VICTORIA'S GRANDSON,

COMPANY

THAT SATAN, KAISER BILL.

(AUNTIE GERT exits)

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RINGMASTER

Kaiser Bill started the war by invading Belgium and France, turning what would have been just another Balkan war into a world war. Thanks to Kaiser Bill, our little circus struggles to get by without men. Young men are all dead or waiting in line to be dead. We had a man once. On the trapeze, the unfortunate Luke performing with our love Leah.

(LEAH steps into the light dressed as a trapeze artist. LUKE joins her, and THEY dance.)

LUKE

I love performing with you, Leah. I want to fly with you forever.

LEAH

Sorry, my dear, but you must go off to war. You must fight the Hun in France, so we don't need to fight him on Main Street.

LUKE

I must?

LEAH

You must.

VICTORIA

Don't make him go, Leah. Luke will die a horrible death in France. I can see it as clearly as I see you now!

LEAH

(SHE is huffy.)

What a distinctly unpleasant sentiment. You're so lonely and miserable that you want everyone to be lonely and miserable. Victoria, you must learn to control the dreadful things that you say.

(Addressing LUKE.)

Luke, go. You will come home covered in glory!

(LUKE changes onstage into the SAD CLOWN, is given a rifle, and does a mournful pas de deux with LEAH.)

HANDSOME LUCAS AND I MADE OUR TRAPEZES DANCE,
BUT MY LUCAS HAS GONE TO THE TRENCHES OF FRANCE,
I FLY THROUGH THE HEAVENS BUT MY HEART IS ON THE GROUND
AND IT WON'T COME UP FOR AIR UNTIL LUKE IS SAFE AND SOUND.

135 RINGMASTER
136 Luke has gone off to defend King and country. But, no worries, we were fortunate to get
137 Hilda, a somewhat retired trapeze artist from parts unknown, to fill in.

138 (HILDA enters, dressed as a trapeze artist.)
139 Wonderful Hilda, who swings from the trapeze for your entertainment, although it isn't
140 so good for her arthritis.

141
142 HILDA
143 THE COLORS ARE GAUDY AND THE MUSIC'S TOO LOUD
144 AND I TRY NOT TO SCREW UP AND FALL ON THE CROWD.

145
146 (HAPPY CLOWN enters and makes believe he is slipping on a banana
147 peel, or some other clown business.)

148
149 HILDA and HAPPY CLOWN (accompanying)
150 THE CLOWNS AREN'T FUNNY AND WE HAVE NO HIGH WIRE
151 AS I SWING THROUGH THE AIR WITH MY JOINTS ALL ON FIRE.

152
153 VOICE OFF
154 But where's Dora?!

155
156 RINGMASTER
157 This little circus keeps us from having to work in the factories` but isn't much of a story
158 by itself. To have a story, we need a couple of characters to stir things up, boys who think
159 the circus would be a good place to hide from the war. A couple of blokes named Roger.

160
161 ROGER THE PACIFIST
162 (HE peeks out from one wing).
163 Righto, Guv'nor, that's me. I'm a pacifist.

164
165 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
166 (HE peeks out from the other wing).
167 Hold on a minute, I'm Roger, too. I'm a socialist.

168
169 THE ROGERS
170 WE ARE HEALTHY YOUNG MEN WHO HAVE NOT GONE OFF TO
171 FIGHT,
172 BECAUSE OUR PRINCIPLES SAY IT IS NOT RIGHT,
173 WHICH MAKES US STINKING COWARDS IF YOU QUESTION THIS LOT,
174 AND GIVES US THE CHANCE TO STIR UP WHAT SO FAR IS NOT MUCH
175 OF A PLOT.

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177 RINGMASTER
178 Thank you, gentlemen. Let's wrap it up. Ready, company?
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COMPANY

Ready!

LEAH, HILDA, RINGMASTER, ROGERS,
HAPPY CLOWN, SAD CLOWN
THE COLORS ARE PRETTY AND THE MUSIC IS SWEET

VICTORIA
I WANT SOME UNDERSTANDING...

LEAH, HILDA, RINGMASTER, ROGERS,
HAPPY CLOWN, SAD CLOWN
AS WE TRY TO FORGET THAT THERE'S NOT MUCH TO EAT.

VICTORIA
WHY I MUST SEE A FUTURE I CAN'T FIX

LEAH, HILDA, RINGMASTER, ROGERS,
HAPPY CLOWN, SAD CLOWN
FUTURE SHE CAN'T FIX

VICTORIA and COMPANY
WITH A GIFT THAT'S ONLY GOOD FOR
SIDESHOW TRICKS.

(Button. The company exits in various directions leaving VICTORIA and the RINGMASTER onstage. A stool and dressing table are brought on).

207 Act 1, Scene 2. Victoria's tent

208

209 RINGMASTER

210 Victoria looks so sad, doesn't she?

211

212 *Cue 01a The Future (Prelude)*

213 (VICTORIA takes off her costume and puts on a robe while singing

214 sadly.)

215 ALONE WITH THE FUTURE,
216 A FUTURE I DON'T WANT TO SEE,
217 I'D RATHER SEE A FUTURE WITH A SOMEONE,
218 INSTEAD OF SEEING NO-ONE THERE WITH ME.

219

220 THE FUTURE IS JUST A RIVER THAT FLOWS
221 OUT OF THE PAST AND ONWARD FOREVER,
222 ALONE, ALONE.

223

224 RINGMASTER

225 You are so terribly unhappy.

226

227 VICTORIA

228 My gift of prophesy is such a burden. No one will listen to me, no matter how important
229 the news I bring. No one wants a whiner like me as a friend.

230 I HAVE NEVER HAD SOMEONE WHO CALLED ME A FRIEND,
231 I'M AFRAID MY SAD AND LONELY DAYS NOW WON'T EVER END,
232 I'D BE A GOOD FRIEND FOREVER
233 IF SOMEONE WOULD BE SO KIND TO ME.¹

234

235 AUNTIE GERT

236 (SHE appears)

237 Victoria, if you really need to get rid of your gift, you need to fall in love. Being in love
238 means being totally unable to see the future. How else could anyone stand it?

239

240 RINGMASTER

241 Stop fighting your gift. Accept it. Use your gift to be an agent of change for a better
242 future.

¹ A foretaste of the song Sisters. This excerpt is not on the demo.

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VICTORIA

An agent of change? I don't know how to do that.

RINGMASTER

You change the future by changing the present. Let's try changing your future right now. I want you to meet a young man with whom you might have a life.

(ROGER THE SOCIALIST enters tentatively.)

This lad is Roger. He needs a friend, too. Roger, this is Victoria. We met her in the opening.

ROGER THE SOCIALIST

(HE stands sheepishly, hat in hand. The RINGMASTER exits.)

G'day, miss.

VICTORIA

A young man, how nice. But you're not in the army!

ROGER THE SOCIALIST

Please, don't be hard on me. I was hoping you weren't going to be one of those self-righteous women who think all men should be dying in France for the King. I for one cannot fight in this war.

VICTORIA

If you don't want to go to war, just don't go. People will call you a coward, but you ought to be used to it by now.

ROGER THE SOCIALIST

But I'm not a coward.

VICTORIA

I'm sure I don't care, but just out of curiosity, what are you if not a coward?

ROGER THE SOCIALIST

(With pride)

I'm a socialist!

VICTORIA

A socialist? What's that got to do with it?

ROGER THE SOCIALIST

Socialists don't believe in this fight between decadent capitalist societies to see which of them will be ascendant in the enslavement of the world's workers.

287 VICTORIA
288 What rubbish. Why do you need to bother me with this business? If you're a socialist, go
289 rent an office and pass out your literature.
290
291 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
292 But I can't. It's not allowed. One can't talk against the war.
293
294 VICTORIA
295 This is England. You can talk about anything you like.
296
297 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
298 Not so. It's illegal to talk against the war.
299
300 VOICES OFF
301 Dora!
302
303 VICTORIA
304 All right, calm down. I don't see any policemen after you.
305
306 (A knock on the door)
307
308 POLICEMAN
309 (Offstage)
310 Police!
311 (ROGER THE SOCIALIST, in a panic, jumps under the dressing table,
312 where HE is not well hidden. HE puts his head under VICTORIA's robe,
313 to hide better)
314
315 VICTORIA
316 (To HERSELF.)
317 Odd, I didn't see him coming.
318 (To ROGER THE SOCIALIST)
319 Are you blocking me? And what are you doing under there?
320
321 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
322 (HE is shaking under the robe.)
323 Shhh! Hide me!
324
325 POLICEMAN
326 (HE enters.)
327 Sorry to intrude, miss. We have reports of socialists in the area.
328
329 VICTORIA
330 And what does that have to do with me?
331

332 POLICEMAN
333 Just notifying the population to be on the lookout. If you see anything suspicious, give
334 the local constable a call. We can't be too careful in these times with seditious elements
335 about.

336
337 VICTORIA
338 Well, there are no socialists in here, unless you want to look under my robe.
339 (ROGER'S shaking gets worse.)
340

341 POLICEMAN
342 No, miss, that would be entirely unsuitable. Good day.
343 (HE exits.)
344

345 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
346 (HE emerges.)
347 Are you crazy? What if he had looked under your robe?
348

349 VICTORIA
350 I didn't think there was much chance of that. Of course, I would never have imagined that
351 a stranger, socialist or not, would take such liberties as to dive under my robe.
352

353 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
354 You needn't worry about me. I have no interest in what's under your robe.
355

356 VICTORIA
357 Should I be insulted?
358

359 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
360 Oh, my no,
361 (Cue 02 Dora)
362 You're pretty and all that. But I couldn't focus on that sort of thing. Not now.
363

364 THERE WAS ONCE A TIME
365 WHEN I WOULD HAVE BEEN ENTHRALLED
366 BY A WOMAN SUCH AS YOU,
367 BUT MY LOVE LIFE HAS BEEN STALLED.

368
369 I WOULD HAVE BEEN CONVINCED
370 BY YOUR HAIR AND BY YOUR EYES,
371 BUT MY ARDOR'S BEEN DERAILED
372 AND NO PASSIONS IN ME RISE.

373
374 IT'S DORA,
375 I THINK OF NOTHING ELSE BUT DORA,
376 I HAVE NO URGING TO EXPLORE A

377 NEW ROMANCE,
378 LET YOUR FACE ENTRANCE
379 ME, GIVE YOUR LEGS A GLANCE,
380 ENTERTAIN A FANCY
381 FOR A LOVELY, LOVELY GIRL LIKE YOU.

382
383 VICTORIA

384 A girl like who?

385
386 (ROGER THE PACIFIST enters and stands next to ROGER THE SOCIALIST, who is
387 annoyed at the interruption.)

388
389 ROGER THE PACIFIST
390 FOR A GIRL LIKE YOU
391 I WOULD HAVE BEEN THE BLOKE,
392 I HAD HEALTHY FANTASIES
393 AND THOUGHT POLITICS A JOKE.

394
395 VICTORIA

396 Who the devil are you?

397
398 ROGER THE SOCIALIST

399 He is called Roger, like me.

400
401 ROGER THE PACIFIST
402 Yes, imagine that. They told me mum she could have the name all to herself for her
403 favorite son, and this bloke's mum goes and swipes it.

404
405 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
406 (To ROGER THE PACIFIST)

407 Must you make everything a joke?

408 (To VICTORIA)

409 Yes, we have the same name. But it's easy to tell us apart. I'm the one with principles.

410
411 ROGER THE PACIFIST
412 Socialist rantings, not principles.

413
414 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
415 You wouldn't know a principle if it jumped up and bit you on the arse.
416 (To VICTORIA, rolling his eyes)

417 Excuse me, miss, he's a pacifist.

418
419 VICTORIA

420 I don't understand. Do pacifists not have arses?

421

422 ROGER THE PACIFIST
423 Of course I have an arse. Quite a nice one, I think. And, yes. I'm a pacifist. I believe in
424 the sanctity of life.

425
426 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
427 You mean the sanctity of *your* life.

428
429 ROGER THE PACIFIST
430 Especially that.

431
432 THE ROGERS
433 THE WORLD'S A STRANGE NEW PLACE,
434 OUR OPINIONS ARE A CRIME,
435 AND FOR LOVELY GIRLS LIKE YOU,
436 WE HAVEN'T GOT THE TIME.

437
438 IT'S DORA,
439 WE THINK OF NOTHING ELSE BUT DORA,
440 WE HAVE NO NOTION TO BECOME YOUR
441 NEW ROMANCE,
442 CHANGE YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES,
443 GIVE OURSELVES A CHANCE TO
444 ENTERTAIN A FANCY
445 FOR A LOVELY, LOVELY GIRL LIKE YOU.

446
447 (No Button. Segue to Quite a Man).

448
449 VICTORIA

450 (to ROGER THE PACIFIST)
451 Are you a coward?

452
453 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
454 Of course he's a coward.

455
456 ROGER THE PACIFIST
457 It's hard to know, isn't it? I mean, since I won't get into a fight on principle, how would I
458 know if I were a coward?

459 (Cue 03 Quite a Man)

460
461 WHEN I'M WALKING DOWN THE STREET
462 I'M NOT AS A SOLDIER DRESSED
463 AND THE PEOPLE THAT I MEET
464 WITH PATRIOTISM ARE OBSESSED.
465

466 THEY ASSUME THAT I'M A COWARD
467 'CAUSE I HAVE NO WILL TO FIGHT,
468 WITH WHITE FEATHERS I AM SHOWERED,
469 KING AND COUNTRY ALWAYS RIGHT.

470
471 ROGER THE SOCIALIST and VICTORIA
472 GOD SAVE THE KING.

473
474 ROGER THE PACIFIST
475 BE A MAN,
476 I'M ALWAYS TOLD TO BE A MAN,
477 UNDER THE ASSUMPTION THAT I CAN
478 TAKE UP A GUN
479 AND AIM IT AT SOMEONE
480 WHO HAS A MOTHER WHO JUST WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.

481
482 IF I MEET A PRETTY LASS,
483 SHE MOST LIKELY WANTS TO KNOW
484 WITH WHICH REGIMENT I FIGHT,
485 AND WHEN OFF TO FRANCE I GO.

486
487 IF I TELL HER THAT I'M NOT
488 WEARING KHAKI, BLEEDING RED,
489 SHE ASSUMES THAT I'M AFRAID
490 TO BE PREMATURELY DEAD.

491
492 ROGER THE SOCIALIST and VICTORIA
493 FOR GEORGE OUR KING, OUR GRACIOUS KING

494
495 VICTORIA
496 (To ROGER THE PACIFIST)

497 I shouldn't think that being a pacifist means that you're not a man.

498 (SHE scolds ROGER THE SOCIALIST)

499 And I don't admire bullying. After all, if he thinks it's wrong to fight a war, what does
500 that make him? An aardvark? Not that it makes much difference to me.

501 YOU'RE A MAN OR YOU'RE NOT,
502 TELL ME WHAT HAVE YOU GOT
503 THAT MIGHT IMPRESS ME A JOT?
504 BULLIES SAY WHAT THEY DO
505 'CAUSE THEY'RE JEALOUS OF YOU,

506 (SHE gestures to ROGER THE SOCIALIST)

507 THIS BLOKE'S FULL OF HOT AIR,
508 I DON'T THINK IT'S RIGHT, BUT I FRANKLY DON'T CARE.

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ROGER THE SOCIALIST
WHILE YOU'RE CRYING LIKE A GIRL,

VICTORIA
Hey, I'm a girl!

ROGER THE SOCIALIST
WITH THE BOSSES STILL IN CHARGE,
YOU ARE USELESS TO THE WORLD,
A WHINING SISSY BY AND LARGE.

YOU THINK FEAR IS PACIFISM,
YOU'RE NOT DOING WHAT YOU CAN,
JOIN THE FIGHT FOR SOCIALISM,
'CAUSE YOU'RE STILL NOT QUITE A MAN.

VICTORIA
HE'S QUITE A MAN.

ROGER THE PACIFIST
I'M QUITE A MAN.
QUITE A MAN,
I LIKE TO HEAR I'M
QUITE A MAN.

QUITE A MAN.

ROGER THE SOCIALIST
EVEN THOUGH WE BOTH KNOW
THAT YOU CAN
PICK UP A GUN AND AIM IT AT A BOSS

ROGER THE PACIFIST
WHO MIGHT HAVE A MOTHER
WHO JUST WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.

THE ROGERS and VICTORIA
MIGHT HAVE A MOTHER
WHO JUST WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.

(Button.)

RINGMASTER
(SHE enters)
Victoria has a problem.

VICTORIA
With which of these two men should I fall in love to get rid of my ability to see the future?

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RINGMASTER

Victoria considers each in turn, tentatively trying a kiss on each. But no relief from her clairvoyance. How will she get out of this mess? Stay tuned. We'll find out.

(VICTORIA and the ROGERS exits. The RINGMASTER takes us to the next scene.)

556 Act 1, Scene 3. Center ring; well, the only ring

557

558 (LEAH and HILDA swing in on trapezes.)

559

560 RINGMASTER

561 Ladies and gentlemen! The circus is proud to offer, for your entertainment pleasure, those
562 daring darlings of the trapeze, the beautiful Leah and, from parts unknown, the
563 mysterious Hilda!

564

565 HILDA

566 What a chore to fling these old bones through the air for the amusement of a handful of
567 women and old men. Can we cut the triple somersault? It's hell on my bursitis.

568

569 LEAH

570 The triple? That was Luke's favorite. Poor Luke. In a trench instead of doing the triple
571 somersault with his darling Leah.

572

573 (Cue 04 Letter to Leah)

574 (Dialog over song intro)

575 I have a letter for you. The postman gave it to me just before we went on.

576 (HILDA hands LEAH a letter. Noise off.)

577 What is that racket outside? It sounds like rats in our rubbish bin again.

578 (SHE exits)

579

580 LEAH

581 A letter from Luke! What does my dear boy say?

582

583 (Spot up on LUKE, who is dressed in a filthy uniform, holding a rifle. HE
584 recites and sings the letter as LEAH reads it. The HAPPY CLOWN enters
585 with a guitar to accompany the song.)

586

587 LUKE

588 My darling Leah, Here I am, defending my country, although I must say, the bullets are a
589 bit intimidating. But only when they are shot at us. Which is all the time. And the shells
590 are so loud. I wish defending King George wasn't such a noisy affair. It makes my ears
591 ring, and it's hard to sleep with the noise and the shrapnel and the bullets. I'd like to sleep
592 so I could dream of you, Leah, and of how wonderful life will be after we've killed the
593 enemy and otherwise taught him a good lesson.

594 THEY SAY THE TIME GOES FASTER

595 FOR THE MEN WHO HAVE NO ROOTS,

596 NO-ONE WHO'S LEFT BEHIND TO MOURN

597 THE CHAPS THE GERMAN SHOOTS

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THE TIME GOES SLOW, I WAIT TO KNOW
IF JERRY'S FIRE WILL HARM ME.

Of course, from time to time I wonder about what it might be like to be hit. Not that I mean to be unpatriotic, but one sees it all the time, the lads being carried back into the trench. They've done their best, haven't they, but the Hun has done a bit better. It makes one think about things. Yet, too much thinking would be unpatriotic, so I try not to do it.

I'M WAITING UNDER CANNON BLASTS
THE GAS THAT'S SENT TO BLIND US,
I PRAY WHEN WE GO OVER THE TOP
THE GERMAN GUNS DON'T FIND US.

LEAH, NO-ONE WILL LAY A
HAND ON MY SWEET LEAH,
YOU CHANGED MY WAY A'
LOOKING AT LIFE,
WILL YOU BE MY WIFE
IF I MAKE IT HOME TO YOU?

LEAH, WHEN I'M AWAY A
PINING FOR SWEET LEAH,
EVERY DAY AH,
YOU ARE MY LIFE,
WHEN YOU ARE MY WIFE
I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU AGAIN.

LEAH

Oh, why did I make you go away? Should I have listened to Victoria?

LUKE

I WENT TO WAR TO FIGHT THE FOE
WHO TRIES TO KILL US NIGHT AND DAY,
BUT GERMAN HORDES WILL ALWAYS FIND
A BRITISH SOLDIER IN THEIR WAY.

MY COUNTRY AND MY KING HAD CALLED,
I WOULD HAVE LET THEM CALL IN VAIN,
BUT YOU TOLD ME I HAD TO GO,
THOUGH IN THIS TRENCH I'M GOIN' INSANE.

640 LEAH
641 BE BRAVE MY LUKE, BE BRAVE MY LAD,
642 YOUR DUTY CALLED AND YOU OBEYED,
643 BUT NOW I'M HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS
644 BECAUSE I'VE MADE YOU SO AFRAID.
645

LUKE	LEAH
LEAH, NO ONE WILL LAY A	AH, LUKE, SWEET LUKE,
HAND ON MY SWEET LEAH,	
YOU CHANGED MY WAY A'	YOU CHANGED MY
LOOKING AT LIFE,	LIFE
WON'T YOU BE MY WIFE	I'LL BE YOUR WIFE
IF I MAKE IT HOME TO YOU?	COME HOME TO ME.
I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU AGAIN.	

646
647 (Button. Spot on LUKE fades out, and HE is gone.)
648

649 LEAH
650 (LEAH is shaken; the first inkling that her enthusiastic support for the
651 war might have been misplaced)
652 He's a fine, fine lad. I do wish I had let him stay here with me, though. It would be lovely
653 to be married.
654

655 HILDA
656 (HILDA enters leading the POLICEMAN)
657 Look what I found loitering outside our tent. *He* was the rat in the rubbish bin.
658

659 POLICEMAN
660 Excuse me, miss. Do you have any socialists in here?

661 LEAH
662 I don't think so.
663

664 HILDA
665 Perish the thought. Say, why aren't you doing your bit in the army instead of bothering
666 citizens like us?
667
668

669 POLICEMAN
670 (Cue Ypres underscore #1)
671 But I was in the army, to be sure. Joined up in '14 and on the first boat to France, I was.
672 Saw a bit off action, and I hope to say that some German families are in mourning as a
673 result. But I was gassed at Ypres², I was. Terrible stuff, that Jerry gas. It makes your
674 lungs bleed and bubble so you drown in your own spit, if you'll pardon my language.
675 Most of the chaps in my regiment fell where they stood and never got up. I was one of the
676 lucky ones that lived to tell about it. Spent six months in hospital before they judged I
677 might be fit to return to the world. But not to the army. No, they wouldn't let me stay in
678 the army. Too weak in the chest I was and always would be. So they sent me to protect
679 the home front.

680
681 LEAH
682 By hunting socialists?

683
684 POLICEMAN
685 Yes, miss. Socialists and other unpatriotic types.

686
687 LEAH
688 Are there no patriotic socialists?

689
690 POLICEMAN
691 None, miss. Socialists say we should quit the war. That kind of talk helps the enemy,
692 which makes socialists the enemy, too. Saying discouraging things about the war is
693 unpatriotic. And it's against the law.

694
695 VOICES OFF
696 Dora!

697
698 POLICEMAN
699 I need to keep our community safe from these rascals, particularly with sensitive projects
700 in the area.

701
702 HILDA
703 (SHE is very interested.)
704 Sensitive projects? Whatever do you mean?

705
706 POLICEMAN
707 Just down the road is the shoe factory.

708
709 LEAH
710 That old shoe factory has been there for years.

711

² He mispronounces it Wipers.

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POLICEMAN

All the same, the shoe factory has become very important in these times of war. Let's just say that good British shoes are quite essential, if you know what I mean. Wink, wink, as it were.

HILDA

Are you saying that the shoe factory is making something other than shoes?

POLICEMAN

No, ma'am. I could never say that, could I? Let's just say that it would be a great loss to the war effort if something were to happen to our shoe factory. That's why I need to round up the socialists before they bring about more mischief. We have a new weapon in our arsenal now. Conscription!

LEAH

Conscription? There is no conscription in England.

POLICEMAN

There is now. It's just been passed. Socialists will have a choice. They can fight for their King or they can rot in prison. I'm not a hard fellow. I support giving a chap what's in error a chance to reform himself. Put him in the army where he can do some good protecting our way of life.

(Cue 05 Way of Life)

THE FELLOW WHO MIGHT HESITATE TO GIVE KING GEORGE HIS
FULL SUPPORT
WOULD TELL YOU THAT THE INFANTRY IS ONLY INESSENTIAL
STRIFE,
BUT WON'T HE BE THE FIRST TO SAY THAT CRICKET IS HIS FAV'RITE
SPORT?
SO LET HIM DO HIS DUTY TO PROTECT OUR BRITISH WAY OF LIFE.

LEAH

But how dreadful to be shot at all the time!

POLICEMAN

I'D WAGER THAT YOU'RE FOND OF DRINKING TEA AND EATING
CRUMPETS,
AND CIVILIZING SANDWICHES BY TAKING CRUSTS OFF WITH A
KNIFE,
SO OFF TO BATTLE MEN MUST GO WHEN BRITANNIA SOUNDS THE
TRUMPETS,
AND TO THE DEATH IF NEEDED TO PROTECT OUR BRITISH WAY OF
LIFE.

757
758 LEAH
759 You mean this war is about our food?
760
761 POLICEMAN
762 Yes, miss.
763
764 (Dance break.)
765
766 POLICEMAN, LEAH, and HILDA
767 (The POLICEMAN conducts.)
768 THE GERMANS WANT TO TAKE AWAY
769 THE TASTY FOOD THAT LIFE'S ABOUT
770 REPLACING TREACLE, CREAM, AND SCONES
771 WITH SAUSAGES AND SOUR SAUERKRAUT.
772
773 LEAH
774 I *am* rather fond of a nice roast pigeon.
775
776 POLICEMAN
777 We don't shoot pigeons anymore, Miss. Pigeons carry important messages.
778
779 LEAH
780 Well, I'm still not buying that the war is about the food.
781
782 POLICEMAN
783 I WANT TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT I'M AS LIBERAL AS ANY GUY,
784 I HAVE A LITTLE COTTAGE WHERE I KEEP A LITTLE BRITISH WIFE
785 WHO DOES MY WASH AND DARNs MY SOCKS AND COOKS MY
786 STEAK AND KIDNEY PIE,
787 NO WONDER I INSIST SOMEONE PROTECT MY BRITISH WAY OF LIFE.
788
789 LEAH
790 SO LUKE MUST DO HIS DUTY?
791
792 POLICEMAN
793 YES, LUKE MUST DO HIS DUTY
794
795 POLICEMAN, HILDA, and LEAH
796 TO PROTECT YOUR/OUR BRITISH WAY OF LIFE.
797
798 (Button.)
799
800 LEAH
801 A war about our food, how curious.

802
803
804
805

(LEAH, HILDA, and the POLICEMAN exit. VICTORIA enters looking into her crystal ball, horrified by what SHE sees. SHE exits.)

806 Act 1, Scene 4. The Midway
807 (The RINGMASTER is onstage.)

808
809 RINGMASTER

810 The midway! Roger and Roger have decided to hide from the events of the world that have
811 gotten into such a state without their approval.

812
813 (The ROGERS skulk onstage. They are crudely disguised. ROGER
814 THE SOCIALIST is a cowboy and ROGER THE PACIFIST is an
815 American Indian. The Indian costume might include long underwear,
816 some feathers, and a few dabs of war paint. Think Mortimer.)



817
818 Ladies and gentlemen, the Rogers!

819
820 RINGER THE SOCIALIST

821 How did you know it was us?
822 (To RINGER THE PACIFIST)

823 I told you these costumes wouldn't work.

824
825 RINGMASTER

826 Your costumes are magnificent. I'm sure your own mothers wouldn't know you.

827
828 RINGER THE PACIFIST

829 His mother doesn't want to know him. She's a Tory.

830
831 RINGER THE SOCIALIST

832 Why don't you stop about my mother?

833 (To the RINGMASTER)

834 We'd be pleased to join your circus, gov'nor, seeing as how we're between engagements.

835
836 RINGMASTER

837 What do you young men hope to do for the circus?

838
839 RINGER THE PACIFIST

840 We will amaze your patrons with scenes from the Wild American West. Savages on the
841 warpath! Tomahawks everywhere! Paleface scalps flying off their heads!

842
843 RINGMASTER

844 I thought you were a pacifist. (beat) Savages on the warpath. It sounds delightful. All right, set
845 yourself up in a tent.

846 (SHE exits.)

847
848 RINGER THE SOCIALIST

849 It's too bad you don't know the first thing about being an Indian.

850

851 (VICTORIA enters.)
852
853 ROGER THE PACIFIST
854 Hello, Victoria.
855
856 VICTORIA
857 What are you two supposed to be, escapees from the lunatic asylum?
858
859 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
860 He thinks we look like cowboys and Indians.
861
862 ROGER THE PACIFIST
863 That's right. We're the new Wild West show at the circus.
864 (The ROGERS pose to give VICTORIA an idea of a Wild West show.)
865
866 VICTORIA
867 (SHE laughs.)
868 You two are a Wild West show? You don't look very wild.
869
870 ROGER THE PACIFIST
871 We have to practice. We've joined the circus. We're a midway attraction, just like you.
872
873 VICTORIA
874 Just like me? All you're doing is taking advantage of tragic stereotypes of a group of people
875 who have been disadvantaged for centuries.
876
877 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
878 What does that mean?
879
880 VICTORIA
881 The native people of North America have been treated extraordinarily badly by people who look
882 like me and you. Well, like you without the feathers. In the future, the little act you're trying to
883 put together will be considered racist.
884
885 ROGER THE PACIFIST
886 Racy? That's good, isn't it?
887
888 VICTORIA
889 Racist. That's bad.
890
891 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
892 Maybe we could do a minstrel show.
893

894 VICTORIA
895 Sorry. A minstrel show would not be better. And you won't attract customers. You have no
896 talent.
897
898 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
899 You have talent? I thought you were a fortune teller. What talent does that take? You just fool
900 people.
901
902 VICTORIA
903 No, I don't.
904
905 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
906 You want us to believe that you really know what's going to happen before it does?
907
908 VICTORIA
909 Sometimes.
910
911 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
912 We don't believe that, do we, Roger?
913
914 ROGER THE PACIFIST
915 No. We're scientific types, we are.
916
917 VICTORIA
918 I thought you were a savage Indian.
919
920 ROGER THE PACIFIST
921 That's me stage persona.
922
923 VICTORIA
924 Well, you'd better work on that stage persona, because the Policeman is coming.
925
926 THE ROGERS.
927 (Looking around)
928 Where? I don't see him? Where is he?
929
930 VICTORIA
931 (SHE taps her head)
932 You don't see him, but I do.
933
934 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
935 What makes you think that two intelligent adults, well, one intelligent adult and a sniveling
936 moron, would be taken in by that sort of nonsense? I can see you taking pennies from children
937 and weak-minded country folk, but we're too sophistica- . . .
938

939 POLICEMAN
940 (Entering, tipping his hat to VICTORIA).
941 G'day, miss.
942 (The ROGERS freeze in terror).
943 And what have we here?
944
945 VICTORIA
946 Cowboys and Indians. Just in from America.
947
948 POLICEMAN
949 America, eh? You're not socialists are you? America is full of socialists, I hear.
950
951 ROGER THE PACIFIST
952 Ojibwa.
953
954 POLICEMAN
955 What?
956
957 ROGER THE PACIFIST
958 Me not socialist. Me Ojibwa.
959
960 POLICEMAN
961 Ojibwa? Sounds as bad as a socialist if you ask me.
962
963 ROGER THE PACIFIST
964 Ojibwa not socialist. Ojibwa spit on socialist (HE spits on ROGER THE SOCIALIST).
965
966 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
967 Hey!
968
969 POLICEMAN
970 (Turning to ROGER THE SOCIALIST)
971 And what's *your* story?
972
973 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
974 Howdy, guv'nor. Me name's Scrappy Jack, just in from driving the cows and such down that
975 dusty trail to Passaic, New Jersey.
976
977 POLICEMAN
978 Look, we don't want any trouble here. We don't want socialists, and we certainly don't want
979 riffraff from Passaic, New Jersey.
980
981 ROGER THE PACIFIST
982 Ojibwa spit on socialist from Passaic, New Jersey.
983 (HE spits on ROGER THE SOCIALIST again).

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ROGER THE SOCIALIST

(Sotto voce)

You do that again and I'll thrash you.

POLICEMAN

We're not accustomed to wild savages in these parts. I'll be keeping an eye on you heathen.
Any sign of trouble, and I'll have you shipped off to the war.

THE ROGERS.

Blimey!

POLICEMAN

So watch yourselves or you'll end up in a big canoe bound for France.
(HE exits.)

ROGER THE PACIFIST

Ojibwa no like France.

VICTORIA

Well, gentlemen, I guess your costumes worked well enough. You've duped your first weak-minded country fool.

ROGER THE SOCIALIST

Say, Victoria, you really did see him coming, didn't you. How did you do it?

(Cue 06 The Future)

(THEY speak over intro and vamp.)

VICTORIA

Sometimes I just see things before they happen.

ROGER THE PACIFIST

You're very special if you can see the future. That must be terrific.

VICTORIA

Not really.

The Future

WHAT WOULD YOU DO

IF I CAME UP TO YOU,

AND I SAID HERE'S THE FUTURE, NOW OWN IT?

YOU WOULD SEE THE NEXT WAR,

AND IT'S REALLY A BORE,

WOULDN'T YOU RATHER CONDEMN THAN CONDONE IT?

1029 ROGER THE SOCIALIST

1030 (THEY speak over vamp.)

1031 So can you see the glorious triumph of socialism!

1032

1033 VICTORIA

1034 You're going to hate it.

1035 YOU WOULD SEE THAT NEXT YEAR,

1036 RUSSIAN WORKERS WILL CHEER,

1037 COMRADE LENIN NEEDS NO INTRODUCTION,

1038 BUT THEN THINGS GO AWRY

1039 AS FREE WILL GOES

1040 Bye-bye,

1041 REVOLUTION BRINGS DEATH AND DESTRUCTION.

1042

1043 (SHE speaks over the bridge.)

1044 But this gift hasn't done anything for my social life. It's only made me more depressed.

1045

1046 ROGER THE PACIFIST

1047 (THEY speak over the bridge and vamp.)

1048 It sounds an awful burden, Vic. I'd love to keep you company in the future. And I wouldn't be

1049 surprised if pacifism comes into its own before long, especially after this bloody foolish war.

1050

VICTORIA

1051 Sorry, Roger. Not quite.

1052 PACIFISM GOES ON

1053 BUT IS NEVER THAT STRONG,

1054 YOU'LL JUST HATE WHAT THE FUTURE WILL BRING,

1055 WE LOVE PACIFISTS, YET NOT,

1056 AS MOST PACIFISTS GET SHOT

1057 MEN CALLED GANDHI, JOHN LENNON, AND MARTIN LUTHER KING.

1058

1059 (A moment of silence. VICTORIA pauses to wipe away a tear.)

1060 Well, I suppose we must get on with it.

1061

1062 ALONE WITH THE FUTURE,

1063 A FUTURE YOU HAVE NEVER KNOWN,

1064 A FUTURE I DON'T SEE AS AN IMPROVEMENT,

1065 FOR IN THIS FUTURE I AM STILL ALONE, ALL BY MYSELF.

1066

1067 THE FUTURE IS JUST A RIVER THAT FLOWS

1068 OUT OF THE PAST AND ONWARD FOREVER,

1069 ALONE. ALONE.

1070 (Button.)

1071

1072 ROGER THE PACIFIST

1073 You poor thing. Imagine having that gift and being ignored!

1074

ROGER THE SOCIALIST

1075

1076 Even so, it's bloody good news about Marxism.

1077

ROGER THE PACIFIST

1078

1079 Weren't you listening? Your Marxist government will be just as bad as any other government.

1080

ROGER THE SOCIALIST

1081 Victoria hasn't predicted a pacifist government. Have you, Victoria?

1082

VICTORIA

1083

1084 No, I'm afraid a pacifist government would be quite impossible.

1085

ROGER THE SOCIALIST

1086

1087 See, no pacifist government!

1088

VICTORIA

1089

1090 The only way for a government to stay in power is to make war on those more intelligent
1091 elements of the society that can see that there are lunatics running things. A pacifist government
1092 wouldn't last two seconds.

1093

ROGER THE SOCIALIST

1094

1095 Is it a foregone conclusion that all governments will be run by lunatics?

1096

VICTORIA

1097

1098 Of course. Who else would want to run a government but a
1099 lunatic?

1100

(TEDDY ROOSEVELT enters, perhaps wearing
1101 life preserver or carrying a barrel boat. This is
1102 theater after all.)

1103

1104

TEDDY ROOSEVELT

1105

1106 I don't agree one bit.

1107

ROGER THE SOCIALIST

1108

1109 Who the devil are you?

1110

TEDDY ROOSEVELT

1111

1112 Theodore Roosevelt, 26th President of the United States of America.

1113

ROGER THE PACIFIST

1114

(To VICTORIA).

1115

1116 Did you bring him here?

1117

VICTORIA

1118



1119 I don't think so.
1120
1121 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
1122 (HE looks at the ROGERS)
1123 What are you two young men supposed to be?
1124
1125 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
1126 I, sir, am a cowboy.
1127
1128 ROGER THE PACIFIST
1129 Me Indian.
1130
1131 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
1132 (HE laughs.)
1133 You're not an Indian. I could carve a better Indian out of a banana.
1134
1135 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
1136 We're cowboys and Indians in the circus, and we belong here. Which is more than we can say
1137 for you. If you're trying to get to America, you made a wrong turn somewhere.
1138
1139 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
1140 I came here to see for myself what this war is all about. Sitting in America, all we hear is what
1141 that jackass Woodrow Wilson has to say about maintaining American neutrality. He wouldn't
1142 know a good war if it went off in his underwear.
1143
1144 ROGER THE PACIFIST
1145 A good war?
1146
1147 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
1148 A good war is when you've got a good enemy, an enemy that is objectively evil. Then it's a
1149 pleasure to risk death to bring an end to the evil. It looks like the Germans fit the bill perfectly
1150 as supremely evil adversaries. Where is everyone? What kind of circus is this?
1151
1152 (The COMPANY enters as circus performers.)
1153
1154 HILDA
1155 (To TEDDY ROOSEVELT)
1156 Who are you?
1157
1158 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
1159 I am Theodore Roosevelt, 26th President of the United States of America.
1160
1161 HILDA
1162 An American!
1163

1164 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
1165 (HIS attention is drawn to HILDA.)
1166 And who is this charming young woman?
1167
1168 RINGMASTER
1169 Hilda, from parts unknown.
1170
1171 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
1172 Parts unknown is it? I'd say you have a touch of the Dakotas in your accent. The problem with
1173 England is that there was no conscription before the war. You should have recognized the
1174 Germans for the devils they were and built up an army of two or three million men. You could
1175 have clobbered the Kaiser before he had a chance to think his first nasty thought. An ounce of
1176 prevention!
1177
1178 ROGER THE PACIFIST
1179 You mean preventing a war by starting a war?
1180
1181 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
1182 Exactly so!
1183
1184 ROGER THE PACIFIST
1185 That's crazy.
1186
1187 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
1188 Your problem, young man, is you're a sissy. American women don't give birth to sissies.
1189 Here's the song of freedom and heroism that American mothers will sing to their sons, our
1190 future soldiers.
1191
1192 (Cue 07 My Boy.³)
1193
1194 MY BOY MUST NEVER BRING DISGRACE
1195 TO HIS IMMORTAL SIRES,
1196 AT VALLEY FORGE AND LEXINGTON
1197 THEY KINDLED FREEDOM'S FIRES.
1198
1199 DAD'S FATHER DIED AT GETTYSBURG,
1200 MINE FELL AT CHANCELLORSVILLE,
1201 WHILE DAD HIMSELF WAS WITH THE BOYS
1202 WHO CHARGED UP SAN JUAN HILL.
1203
1204 AND DAD, IF HE WERE LIVING NOW,
1205 WOULD SURELY SAY WITH ME

³ A poem written for the Four Minute Men program authorized by President Wilson to support the US effort in World War I after the US entered the war. Public domain.

1206 NO SON OF OURS SHALL DARE DISGRACE
 1207 THE GRAND OLD FAM'LY TREE
 1208
 1209 BY TURNING OUT A SLACKER
 1210 WHEN HIS COUNTRY NEEDS HIS AID,
 1211 IT IS NOT OF SUCH TIMBER THAT
 1212 AMERICA WAS MADE.
 1213 (HE plays the air guitar.)
 1214
 1215 ROGER THE PACIFIST
 1216 What is *that*?
 1217
 1218 VICTORIA
 1219 It's called an air guitar.
 1220
 1221 ROGER THE PACIFIST
 1222 What?
 1223
 1224 VICTORIA
 1225 It's the future.
 1226
 1227 HILDA
 1228 I like it!
 1229
 1230 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
 1231 Hilda likes it.
 1232 I'D RATHER YOU HAD DIED AT BIRTH
 1233 OR NOT BEEN BORN AT ALL
 1234 THAN KNOW THAT I HAD RAISED A SON
 1235 WHO CANNOT HEAR THE CALL
 1236
 1237 THAT FREEDOM HAS SENT ROUND THE WORLD
 1238 ITS PRECIOUS RIGHT TO SAVE,
 1239 THIS CALL IS MEANT FOR YOU MY BOY,
 1240 AND I WOULD HAVE YOU BRAVE.
 1241
 1242 (HILDA and LEAH put on a harmony.)
 1243 ~~AND THOUGH MY HEART IS BREAKING,~~
 1244 ~~I BID YOU DO YOUR PART,~~
 1245 ~~AND SHOW THE WORLD NO SON OF MINE~~
 1246 ~~IS CURSED WITH CRAVEN HEART.~~
 1247
 1248 AND IF YOU DIE AND DON'T RETURN
 1249 MY LATER DAYS TO CHEER
 1250 AND I HAVE ONLY MEMORIES

1251 OF MY BRAVE BOY SO DEAR,
1252
1253 HILDA and LEAH
1254 OH OH, TEDDY,
1255 SING IT, TEDDY.
1256
1257 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
1258 I'D RATHER HAVE IT SO, MY BOY,
1259 AND KNOW YOU BRAVELY DIED
1260 THAN HAVE A LIVING COWARD SIT
1261 SUPINELY BY MY SIDE.
1262
1263 TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM SIN, MY BOY,
1264 GOD GAVE HIS ONLY SON,
1265
1266 HILDA and LEAH
1267 HIS SON.
1268
1269 TEDDY ROOSEVELT, HILDA, and LEAH
1270 HE'S ASKING FOR MY BOY TODAY
1271 AND MAY HIS WILL BE DONE.
1272
1273 (Button.)
1274
1275 ROGER THE PACIFIST
1276 And how did Jesus get into your song? In my bible, Jesus is a pacifist.
1277
1278 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
1279 That's because you're uneducated. The German is so wicked, that Jesus, were he here today,
1280 would gladly run him through with a bayonet.
1281
1282 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
1283 But the Germans are Christians, too. And besides, Jesus was a socialist.
1284
1285 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
1286 Actually, Jesus was a Republican. I happen to know this. Personally. Jesus would love the war
1287 not for the war's sake but for its role in the larger war with evil, the war that has no end.
1288
1289 ROGER THE PACIFIST
1290 (HE is sarcastic.)
1291 Thank goodness for war without end.
1292
1293 HILDA

1294 Don't be a bore, young man. The war has been very good for us. It has brought us together.
1295 Before the war, we were an insular society, but now we have found a common cause as a
1296 community.

1297

1298 LEAH

1299 Community?

1300

1301 (Cue 08 Community)

1302

1303 HILDA

1304 You see, my dear, a society is a group of people who happen to live in the same place but who
1305 have little to do with one another. A community, on the other hand, is a group of neighbors
1306 working together for a common cause.

1307

1308 (In this song, HILDA wins LEAH back to the cause. VICTORIA and the
1309 ROGERS stand apart.)

1310

1311 THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES WE'VE LIVED APART,
1312 AND NOW THE FOE KNOCKS ON OUR DOOR,
1313 SOCIETY WAS A POOR START,
1314 AS A COMMUNITY WE'LL WIN THIS WAR.

1315

1316 LEAH, MY FRIEND, STAND WITH YOUR COUNTRY,
1317 WHERE FREEDOM STIRS, LET TYRANTS FEAR,⁴
1318 JOIN WITH US, BE FREEDOM'S SENTRY,
1319 MAY GODLESS TYRANNY DISAPPEAR.

1320

1321 WE WERE A SOCIETY,
1322 NOW WE'RE A COMMUNITY,
1323 SOCIETY, COMMUNITY,
1324 WE ARE THE BEST THAT WE CAN BE TOGETHER.

1325

1326 VICTORIA

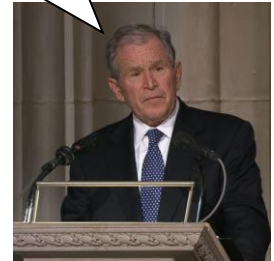
1327 EV'RYONE SPOUTS PATRIOTISM
1328 WITHOUT TAKING TIME TO COMPREHEND
1329 MINDLESS ALLEGIANCE ONLY LEADS TO
1330 MINDLESS DESTRUCTION AND WAR WITHOUT END.

1331

1332 LEAH

1333 Something really should be done with you, Victoria. You don't appreciate the importance of
1334 standing together in times like these. You need to stop speaking if you have nothing good to
1335 say.

"Where freedom stirs,
let tyrants fear."



⁴ "Where freedom stirs, let tyrants fear." George W. Bush. A projection of him and the quotation would work well here.

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1351

HILDA

Leah is right, Victoria. It's time for you to be quiet.

LEAH

RISE UP, MY FRIENDS, STAND UP MY NEIGHBORS,
OUR VOICES ARE OUR VICT'RY'S FOUNDATION,
SEE HOW TOGETHER WE CAN LABOR
TO ACHIEVE THE ENEMY'S EXTERMINATION.

LEAH and HILDA

FIGHTING AS ONE, NO ONE CAN BEAT US,
STRIVING TO WIN, FOES CAN'T DEFEAT US,
WAR WAS OUR OPPORTUNITY
TO BE A STRONGER COMMUNITY.

LEAH and HILDA accompanied by SAD and HAPPY CLOWNS, TEDDY ROOSEVELT, RINGMASTER	THE ROGERS
WE WERE A SOCIETY, NOW WE'RE A COMMUNITY, SOCIETY, COMMUNITY, WE ARE THE BEST THAT WE CAN BE TOGETHER.	WHAT FOOLISHNESS, YOUR SONGS A SORRY MESS, BAH, BAH, POO, POO, THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO

1352
1353
1354
1355
1356
1357
1358

ROGER THE SOCIALIST

Sheep!

ROGER THE PACIFIST

Baaaa.

LEAH and HILDA accompanied by SAD and HAPPY CLOWNS, TEDDY ROOSEVELT, RINGMASTER	THE ROGERS
WE WERE A SOCIETY, NOW WE'RE A COMMUNITY, SOCIETY, COMMUNITY, WE ARE THE BEST THAT WE CAN BE TOGETHER NOW.	WE THINK YOU'RE FULL OF SHITE, WE DO, THAT'S WHY WE'RE NOT QUITE THERE WITH YOU, WE'RE NOT QUITE TOGETHER NOW.

1359
1360
1361
1362
1363

(Button)

VICTORIA

How can you glorify this ugly war?

1364
1365 HILDA
1366 There are no ugly wars.
1367 (SHE looks down her nose at VICTORIA)
1368 Only ugly sentiments.
1369
1370 ROGER THE PACIFIST
1371 Uh-oh, Vic, I think she wants to fight.
1372
1373 VICTORIA
1374 Surely you don't believe this war is justified because it brought together our community in a
1375 common cause. A bake sale could have done just as well.
1376
1377 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
1378 Good come-back, Vic.
1379
1380 HILDA
1381 The war will have a cleansing effect. Before the war, the tensions in the world were unbearable.
1382 This war is like a thunderstorm on a humid summer day, and it will clear the air, letting us move
1383 forward in peace and victory!
1384
1385 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
1386 (HE is smitten.)
1387 Oh, I like your style.
1388
1389 HILDA
1390 And that's why this war will be known as the War to End all Wars.
1391
1392 LEAH, RINGMASTER, THE CLOWNS (*variously*).
1393 The War to End All Wars. Quite right. Jolly good. Smashing name. Wonderful.
1394
1395 ROGER THE PACIFIST
1396 (To VICTORIA)
1397 Is that how the war will be known? The War to End All Wars?
1398
1399 VICTORIA
1400 I'm afraid not.
1401
1402 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
1403 How will it be known in the future? Capitalism's Last Gasp?
1404
1405 ROGER THE PACIFIST
1406 The Great War?
1407

1408 HAPPY CLOWN
1409 The Heroic War?
1410
1411 LEAH
1412 The Final War?
1413
1414 VICTORIA
1415 No. (beat) World War One.
1416
1417 ALL (*horrified*).
1418 World War *One*???
1419 (Big pause while this revelation sinks in)
1420
1421 VICTORIA
1422 This war will not be the last war, not even close to the last war. And as brutal as it is, it will not
1423 be the most brutal war.
1424
1425 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
1426 Surely you exaggerate.
1427
1428 VICTORIA
1429 I never exaggerate. In the face of the monumental stupidity of the human race, exaggeration
1430 would be redundant.
1431
1432 HILDA
1433 I would hardly call patriotism monumental stupidity.
1434
1435 VICTORIA
1436 And yet it is the most monumental of stupidities, isn't it?
1437
1438 HILDA
1439 The call to arms to protect one's homeland is the most honored duty that can be asked of a
1440 citizen. To die in the defense of one's country is the holiest possible death. As the poet writes,
1441 Ah, ye gods! Ye great immortals
1442 In the spacious heavens above us!
1443 Would ye on this earth but give us
1444 Steadfast minds and dauntless courage
1445 We, oh kindly ones, would leave you
1446 All your spacious heavens above us!
1447
1448 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
1449 That was beautiful.
1450
1451 ROGER THE PACIFIST
1452 Far out.

1453 (HE writes it down.)
1454 Can you say it again?

1455
1456 HILDA

1457 Ah, ye gods! Ye great immortals
1458 In the spacious heavens above us!
1459 Would ye on this earth but give us

1460
1461 ROGER THE PACIFIST

1462 (HE is still taking notes.)
1463 Steadfast minds and dauntless courage.
1464 Great stuff, that. Who wrote that? I'll have to look it up.

1465
1466 ROGER THE SOCIALIST

1467 Can you at least tell us whether we will win the war?

1468
1469 VICTORIA
1470 No one wins, everyone loses. The losers lose and the winners lose.

1471
1472 HILDA
1473 Happily, our leaders know better than to pay attention to that kind of nonsense.

1474
1475 VICTORIA
1476 Our leaders are a bunch of clowns.

1477
1478 HILDA
1479 Victoria, that isn't funny.

1480
1481 LEAH
1482 (SHE is angry and near tears)
1483 Victoria, you are so offensive, particularly for someone with a man in the war. It's simply cruel!
1484 Don't our brave soldiers have a difficult enough time without people giving comfort to the
1485 enemy by criticizing our war effort?

1486
1487 VICTORIA
1488 Comfort to the enemy? *We* are the enemy. I can't believe no one sees what has been plainly
1489 written in our history ever since our ancestors were beating one another over the head with
1490 clubs and rocks.

1491 (SHE exits.)

1492
1493 RINGMASTER
1494 (Spoken as SHE follows VICTORIA offstage)
1495 Victoria, wait! Stop fighting everyone. Be an agent of change!
1496

1497 HILDA
1498 (Huffily)
1499 What a distinctly unpleasant women.
1500 (SHE exits in the opposite direction.)
1501
1502 LEAH
1503 It's all so confusing.
1504 (LEAH and the CLOWNS exit.)
1505
1506 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
1507 (Admiringly)
1508 She's quite a little spitfire, isn't she?
1509
1510 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
1511 She certainly is.
1512
1513 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
1514 I just love a girl who can hold her own in a fight. The principles that inspire passion in her;
1515 why, they're good home-grown American values.
1516
1517 ROGER THE PACIFIST
1518 They are?
1519
1520 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
1521 Yes, indeed. In fact, the more I see of that little cutie, the more convinced I am that she's
1522 American.
1523
1524 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
1525 Victoria? American?
1526
1527 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
1528 No, not Victoria. Hilda, from parts unknown. Well, I'll bet the parts unknown are right smack in
1529 the middle of the U.S. of A. Why, that there is a real American girl. I need that woman in my
1530 life.
1531
1532 (Cue 09 A Real American Girl)
1533 (In this song, TEDDY ROOSEVELT and the ROGERS compete with one
1534 another, for example, by singing more quickly and more loudly.)
1535
1536 THERE'S NOTHING TO COMPARE TO A REAL AMERICAN GIRL,
1537 A WOMAN EASY ON THE EYE WHO SETS YOUR HEART A-WHIRL,
1538 SHE PASSES YOUR BULLETS WITH HER LIPPY-STICK ON STRAIGHT,
1539 SHE RAISES UP YOUR BABIES SO THEY KNOW WHOM TO HATE.
1540
1541 A REAL AMERICAN GIRL IS A GEM BEYOND COMPARE,

1542 SHE KNOWS IF SHE'S NOT WITH HER MAN, SHE ISN'T ANYWHERE,
1543 SHE CULTIVATES THE RIGHT DEGREE OF YANKEE LIBERTY,
1544 NOT TAKING ANY LIBERTIES TO DISAGREE WITH ME.

1545
1546 ROGER THE PACIFIST

1547 I THINK IT'S RATHER NICE TO SPEAK YOUR MIND WHEN YOU ARE HOT,
1548 TO INDICATE PRECISELY WHAT WAR IS AND WHAT IT'S NOT,
1549 TO ANSWER JINGOISTIC NONSENSE FROM A PERFECT FOOL,
1550 I THINK MY VIC WAS RATHER QUICK TO WIN THAT VERBAL DUEL.

1551
1552 ROGER THE SOCIALIST

1553 SHE SPEAKS HER MIND, AND WHAT A MIND; THAT WOMAN KNOWS HER
1554 STUFF,

1555
1556 How odd. I never considered that a nice-looking woman like that might have a fine mind.

1557
1558 SHE HANDS YOUR DRIVEL BACK TO YOU WHEN SHE HAS HAD ENOUGH,

1559
1560 If not for Dora, I would have fallen for her long ago, but now I have no choice but to fall in
1561 love.

1562
1563 ALTHOUGH SHE'S NOT ENLIGHTENED YET ABOUT THE TRUTH OF MARX,
1564 I MUST SAY THAT THAT WOMAN LIGHTS MY FIRE WHEN SHE SPARKS.

1565
1566 TEDDY ROOSEVELT

1567 THE OTHER COUNTRIES WISH THEIR WOMEN WERE AS FINE AS OURS,
1568 WITH GIRLISH FRILLS LIKE LAUNDRY SKILLS AND CULINARY POWERS,
1569 AND WHEN YOUR MULE ACTS LIKE A FOOL AND WON'T GET IN THE
1570 PLOW,
1571 YOUR MATE WITH CHARM WILL WORK YOUR FARM AND STOP TO WIPE
1572 YOUR BROW.

1573
1574 THE ROGERS

1575 THE ELOQUENT VICTORIA MADE HILDA LOOK A FOOL,
1576 BEFORE SHE TRIES TO TALK AGAIN, SHE'D BEST GO BACK TO SCHOOL,
1577 WE ARE AMAZED, WITH VIC WE'RE CRAZED, SHE PLAYED A PERFECT
1578 PART,
1579 AND DON'T YOU KNOW HER LITTLE SHOW SPOKE CLEARLY TO MY
1580 HEART.

1581
1582 ROGER THE SOCIALIST

1583 SOME MEN MAY FALL FOR GOLDEN CURLS,

1584
1585 ROGER THE PACIFIST

1586 SOME FOR A CREAMY THIGH,

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1630

ROGER THE SOCIALIST
SOME MEN ARE NUTS FOR SHAPELY BUTTS,

ROGER THE PACIFIST
ON THAT YOU CAN RELY,

THE ROGERS
BUT IT WAS NEAT TO HEAR VIC TREAT
YOUR HILDA WITH DISDAIN,
OH, OH, VICTORIA, WHAT A STORY,
WE'VE FALLEN FOR YOUR BRAIN.

TEDDY ROOSEVELT, THE ROGERS
(THEY sing over one another. The next three parts are sung concurrently.)

TEDDY ROOSEVELT
THERE'S NOTHING TO COMPARE TO A REAL AMERICAN GIRL,
A WOMAN EASY ON THE EYE WHO SETS YOUR HEART A-WHIRL,
SHE PASSES YOUR BULLETS WITH HER LIPPY-STICK ON STRAIGHT,
SHE RAISES UP YOUR BABIES SO THEY KNOW WHOM TO HATE.

ROGER THE PACIFIST
I THINK IT'S RATHER NICE TO SPEAK YOUR MIND WHEN YOU ARE
HOT,
TO INDICATE PRECISELY WHAT WAR IS AND WHAT IT'S NOT,
TO ANSWER JINGOISTIC NONSENSE FROM A PERFECT FOOL,
I THINK MY VIC WAS RATHER QUICK TO WIN THAT VERBAL DUEL.

ROGER THE SOCIALIST
SHE SPEAKS HER MIND, AND WHAT A MIND; THAT WOMAN KNOWS
HER STUFF,
SHE HANDS YOUR DRIVEL BACK TO YOU WHEN SHE HAS HAD
ENOUGH,
ALTHOUGH SHE'S NOT ENLIGHTENED YET ABOUT THE TRUTH OF
MARX,
I MUST SAY THAT THAT WOMAN LIGHTS MY FIRE WHEN SHE SPARKS.

TEDDY ROOSEVELT and THE ROGERS
(THEY try to outdo one another on the last note.)
I MUST SAY THAT THAT WOMAN LIGHTS MY FIRE WHEN SHE SPARKS.

(Button. TEDDY ROOSEVELT storms off.)

1631 ROGER THE PACIFIST
1632 I say, aren't we the moderns, falling for a woman's brain.
1633
1634 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
1635 Yes, we are. Why, I don't know if such a thing will ever be in style. We should ask
1636 Victoria.
1637
1638 ROGER THE PACIFIST
1639 Good idea. I'll ask her.
1640
1641 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
1642 Why shouldn't I ask her?
1643
1644 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
1645 Just a minute, just a minute. I don't see why we can't both ask her.
1646
1647 ROGER THE PACIFIST
1648 All right, we'll both ask her. But, we don't want to overwhelm her. You can come along
1649 but let me do the talking.
1650
1651 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
1652 Well, okay, you can do the talking, but make sure you tell her that we're both asking.
1653
1654 (THEY head off together, having the following conversation as THEY exit.)
1655
1656 ROGER THE PACIFIST
1657 Now, in order not to confuse her, I think you should stay back, so we don't crowd her. In
1658 fact, you should probably stand behind a tree.
1659
1660 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
1661 Behind a tree?
1662
1663 ROGER THE PACIFIST
1664 Yes. And you should face away from Victoria, so she doesn't feel too pressured. In fact,
1665 maybe you could climb into the tree...
1666
1667 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
1668 Wait a minute. I don't see any trees around here. Do you see any trees? (THEY are off.)
1669
1670 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
1671 (HE enters from the opposite direction carrying a bullwhip.)
1672 Now where did the fake cowboy and Indian go? I want to teach them some respect.
1673
1674 (VICTORIA enters, stopping short when she sees TEDDY ROOSEVELT).
1675

1676 VICTORIA
1677 Oh!
1678
1679 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
1680 (HE bows stiffly, hiding the whip behind his back.)
1681 Miss.
1682
1683 VICTORIA
1684 Mr. President. That's quite a nice...bullwhip.
1685
1686 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
1687 Oh, that. It's nothing. A little souvenir that I picked up in Paris.
1688
1689 VICTORIA
1690 I see.
1691
1692 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
1693 I was rather taken aback at your behavior, which I found, well undignified.
1694
1695 VICTORIA
1696 I see. Undignified.
1697
1698 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
1699 Yes. Not at all ladylike. I am accustomed to women being rather more reserved in their
1700 political opinions.
1701
1702 VICTORIA
1703 I understand. I might even have guessed that you are accustomed to women not having
1704 political opinions.
1705
1706 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
1707 Now, don't misunderstand me. I think women are entitled to political opinions as long as
1708 those opinions are patriotic and, well...unspoken.
1709
1710 VICTORIA
1711 Patriotic and unspoken?
1712
1713 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
1714 Yes, supportive of the country, particularly in times of war. In my country, women are
1715 very pleased to support their fighting men.
1716
1717 VICTORIA
1718 Yes, I know. Yours is quite a bellicose society, isn't it?
1719
1720 TEDDY ROOSEVELT

1721 Bellicose? What do you mean?

1722

1723 VICTORIA

1724 You Americans love war.

1725

1726 TEDDY ROOSEVELT

1727 I beg your pardon. We Americans love peace.

1728

1729 VICTORIA

1730 I suppose you think so. Your history suggests otherwise.

1731

1732 TEDDY ROOSEVELT

1733 Our history? What do you know of our history?

1734

1735 VICTORIA

1736 Quite a bit, including that history yet to come. It's really quite distressing. In the next
1737 hundred years, your country will join in many wars to protect its empire.

1738

1739 TEDDY ROOSEVELT

1740 Empire? The United States does not have an empire. You have us confused with your own
1741 country perhaps.

1742

1743 (Cue 10 Presidents' Parade)

1744

1745 VICTORIA

1746 GREAT BRITAIN ADMITS WITH PRIDE

1747 THAT SHE HAS AN EMPIRE

1748 FOR WHICH MANY A BRITON HAS DIED

1749 IN THE QUEST TO ACQUIRE

1750 YET MORE LAND, TO KEEP BRITANNIA GRAND

1751 AND OUR POETS INSPIRE.

1752

1753 We haven't concealed our ambitions. You have and will continue to do so.

1754

1755 YOUR COUNTRY WILL OUTDO MINE

1756 AS YOU BUILD YOUR OWN EMPIRE,

1757 A SECRET SHRINE TO THE BOTTOM LINE

1758 AS YOUR LEADERS CONSPIRE

1759 TO WIN LOOT WITH THEIR POWER,

1760 YOU'LL WORSHIP THE GREAT DOLLAR SIGN.

1761

1762 You will fight wars to protect spheres of influence in countries that have never flown the
1763 American flag. The invocation of liberty and democracy for all will be your excuse for
1764 invading weaker nations that threaten important markets. In your day it was sugar cane.
1765 Before long it will be oil.

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1805

TEDDY ROOSEVELT

That nasty ooze? Never!

VICTORIA

YOUR PRESIDENTS WILL BE A PARADE
OF MENTAL DWARFS AND SOCIAL MISFITS,
WITHOUT SCRUPLES ARE SUCH PEOPLE MADE,
WITH DEADLY RESULTS FROM THEIR DIM-WITTED SNITS.

YOUR PRESIDENTS WILL ALL GO TO WAR
FOR THE LAND OF THE PAWNEE AND HOME OF THE SLAVE,
THE WAGE SLAVE WITH NO HOPE ANYMORE
EXCEPT TO ESCAPE TO AN EARLY GRAVE.



(The COMPANY enters, disguised as Presidents. Dance break.)

COMPANY

WE'RE FOOLS AND CROOKS, YOU CAN BET YOUR MOUSTACHE,
WE'LL TAX YOUR INCOME LIKE NEVER BEFORE,
WE'LL MAKE GRAND EXCUSES FOR TAKING YOUR CASH
TO PAY OFF OUR FRIENDS WHO MAKE PROFITS FROM WAR.

WE'LL WATCH WITH GLEE WHILE YOUR BRIDGES CRUMBLE,
WITH ROADS CAVING IN ON YOUR DAUGHTERS AND SONS,
SO WE CAN ARRANGE A FOREIGN POLICY FUMBLE,
AND SEND ALL YOUR CASH TO OUR BUDDIES WHO MAKE GUNS.

THANK GOD FOR POWER IN THE HANDS OF THE FEW,
THE FEW OF US WHO CLASHED UNAFRAID,
'CAUSE WE DIDN'T CARE WHOM WE HAD TO SCREW
AS WE FOUGHT LIKE HELL TO GET IN THE PARADE.

VICTORIA

LET'S GET IN LINE FOR THE PRESIDENTS' PARADE,
A LINE OF MORONS WHO DROOL AND SPIT,
OVER TIME WE'VE HAD OUR HOPES BETRAYED,
BECAUSE THESE SAD CREATURES JUST ARE NOT WORTH

VICTORIA	COMPANY ⁵
VERY MUCH AT ALL,	SHIT!

⁵ Except TEDDY ROOSEVELT

1806 VICTORIA and COMPANY⁶
1807 VERY MUCH AT ALL.
1808
1809 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
1810 Your disrespect cannot go unanswered.
1811
1812 I DON'T AT ALL LIKE YOUR STYLE,
1813 AND YOU'VE EARNED MY DEEPEST ENMITY,
1814 YOU'LL LEARN IN A VERY SHORT WHILE
1815 IT'S UNWISE TO DEFAME MY GOOD NAME,
1816 I'M A VERY POWERFUL ENEMY,
1817 A VERY POWERFUL ENEMY.
1818
1819 (Button. TEDDY ROOSEVELT storms off. Everyone onstage dances off
1820 except for VICTORIA. RINGMASTER enters or takes off HER disguise.)
1821
1822 RINGMASTER
1823 What was that old boy so steamed about?
1824
1825 VICTORIA
1826 I predicted the future of his country.
1827
1828 RINGMASTER
1829 He didn't care for it?
1830
1831 VICTORIA
1832 Not at all. He's angry at me for what his country will become. And I don't even vote there.
1833 As a matter of fact, it's 1916, I can't vote anywhere. Except Wyoming. What's that all
1834 about?
1835
1836 RINGMASTER
1837 One day, the world will appreciate you and your gift.
1838
1839 VICTORIA
1840 I can't see it. This gift of mine has some serious blind spots. You really think I will be
1841 appreciated some day?
1842
1843 RINGMASTER
1844 Remember, learn to control your power and your mouth so you can be an effective agent of
1845 change. How are things progressing with your new friends, Roger and Roger?
1846

⁶ Ditto. TR has his say next.

1847 (RINGMASTER exits or steps back as the ROGERS enter. Maybe high
1848 fives or some other interaction between RINGMASTER and the ROGERS.
1849 The ROGERS are still yammering at one another.)

1850
1851 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
1852 I still don't see how I can get up in a tree when there are no trees.

1853
1854 ROGER THE PACIFIST
1855 How about a tent pole? You could shimmy up and stay quiet.
1856 (HE sees Victoria.)
1857 Here she is. Now be quiet.

1858
1859 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
1860 (HE ignores the instruction; ROGER THE PACIFIST makes faces.)
1861 Victoria, you were wonderful speaking your mind, even if the President didn't like it.

1862
1863 ROGER THE PACIFIST
1864 Yes, in fact, we love you for it.

1865
1866 VICTORIA
1867 You do?

1868
1869 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
1870 We do. We decided we love you...

1871
1872 ROGER THE PACIFIST
1873 Both of us...

1874
1875 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
1876 ...for your fine mind.

1877
1878 VICTORIA
1879 My, that's strange.

1880
1881 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
1882 What's strange?

1883
1884 VICTORIA
1885 For a man, two men, to love a woman for her mind.

1886
1887 ROGER THE PACIFIST
1888 Surely, we're just advanced. Won't it be common in the future for men to love women for
1889 their minds?
1890

1891 VICTORIA
1892 (SHE scans the audience with her hand shading her eyes like a scout.)
1893 No, not as far as I can see.
1894 (SHE points out the reasons for love that SHE sees in the men in the
1895 audience.)
1896 Fine body, family money, cooks like mum, does that special thing with her tongue, but no,
1897 no fine mind.
1898
1899 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
1900 I guess it's only us, then.
1901
1902 VICTORIA
1903 That's just lovely.
1904
1905 ROGER THE PACIFIST
1906 Which of us do you love, then?
1907
1908 VICTORIA
1909 I can't say. Why would I love either of you?
1910
1911 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
1912 It's customary, I think, for the girl to love one of the boys. We both love you, you love one
1913 of us.
1914
1915 ROGER THE PACIFIST
1916 It gives some dramatic thrust to the plot, doesn't it?
1917
1918 VICTORIA
1919 There really hasn't been much groundwork for me loving either of you, has there? I mean,
1920 have either of you earned my love?
1921
1922 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
1923 (to ROGER THE PACIFIST).
1924 She has a point, Roger.
1925
1926 ROGER THE PACIFIST
1927 I suppose she has. We haven't earned her love.
1928 (HE addresses VICTORIA.)
1929 We'll set about right away earning your love.
1930
1931 RINGMASTER
1932 (SHE enters or steps forward.)
1933 The Rogers' love story will need to wait until the next act. We first have one more piece of
1934 business: the shoe factory. You remember the policeman being secretive about the shoe
1935 factory? Of course, any idiot could figure out that it wasn't really a shoe factory but a

1936 munitions plant. And where there are munitions plants, there are saboteurs. Here comes the
1937 good constable with some terrible, terrible news.

1938

1939 (The POLICEMAN runs on screaming.)

1940

1941 POLICEMAN

1942 Terrible! Catastrophe! Help!

1943

1944 (The rest of the COMPANY including the SAD CLOWN come on stage to see
1945 what the noise is about.)

1946

1947 COMPANY

1947 What is it? What's the matter?

1948 (Cue 11 Catastrophe)

1949

1950 POLICEMAN

1951 A TERRIBLE CATASTROPHE,
1952 EXPLOSION AT THE FACTORY,
1953 IN OUR TOWN SEDITION LURKS,
1954 THEY'VE BLOWN UP THE MUNITIONS WORKS.

1955

1956 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
1957 IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE WORKERS THERE
1958 BECAUSE THE BOSSES DIDN'T CARE.

1959

1960 HILDA
1961 MORE LIKELY IT WAS SOMEONE WHO
1962 HAD SOCIALIST LEANINGS, PROB'BLY YOU.

1963 (Dance break. TEDDY ROOSEVELT goes to give HILDA a kiss. SHE is
1964 not pleased by HIS attentions and shoos HIM away.)

1965

1966 POLICEMAN
1967 THE CIRCUS SHOULD HAVE STAYED AWAY,
1968 I KNEW THAT THERE'D BE HELL TO PAY,
1969 YOU WORK YOUR TRICKS, YOU MESMERIZE,

1970

1971 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
1972 YOU ARE A DEN OF GERMAN SPIES.

1973

1974 (Dance break. TEDDY ROOSEVELT is still trying to play up to HILDA.)

1975

1976 RINGMASTER, LEAH, VICTORIA, THE ROGERS, SAD CLOWN
 1977 THE CIRCUS IS A FORCE FOR GOOD,
 1978 WE'RE VALUED IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD,
 1979 WE QUITE RESENT YOUR AWFUL LIES,
 1980
 1981 HILDA
 1982 WE DON'T KNOW ANY GERMAN SPIES.
 1983
 1984 LEAH
 1985 I MISS MY LUKE,
 1986 WHAT HAVE I DONE
 1987 SENDING HIM TO WAR?
 1988 I WISH HE'D RUN AWAY.
 1989
 1990 VICTORIA and ROGER THE PACIFIST
 1991 ONE LESS BOMB PLANT,
 1992 WHAT DO WE CARE?
 1993 FEWER BOMBED PEOPLE,
 1994 THAT SOUNDS PRETTY FAIR TO US.
 1995
 1996 POLICEMAN
 1997 OH WOE IS ME, I'VE FAILED THE KING,
 1998 I NEEDED TO DO EV'RYTHING
 1999 TO KEEP THE BOMBS FALLING FOR THE CROWN,
 2000 AND NOW I'VE LET MY COUNTRY DOWN.
 2001
 2002 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
 2003 I GUESS YOU'RE JUST A SILLY TWIT,
 2004 THE BOSSES' DOG WAITING TO BE HIT...
 2005
 2006 HILDA
 2007 A SOLDIER BRAVE, DON'T MIND HIS STUFF,
 2008 YOU DID YOUR DUTY, THAT'S ENOUGH.
 2009
 2010 LEAH
 2011 I'M SO ALONE
 2012 PLEASE GIVE LUKE A CHANCE
 2013 TO COME HOME TO ME,
 2014 TO LIVE THROUGH FRANCE FOR ME.
 2015
 2016 POLICEMAN
 2017 (HE reproaches LEAH.)
 2018 But what about our bombs?
 2019

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2064

VICTORIA

(Reproaching HIM in return.)

MAKES NO SENSE AT ALL,
WHEN MEN WORRY THAT
(SHE gestures dismissively at HIS crotch)
THEIR PENISES ARE TOO SMALL
THEY NEED TO DROP BOMBS ON EV'RYONE.

RINGMASTER

There is general shock and consternation. The P word wasn't used in public in 1916.

TEDDY ROOSEVELT

(Addressing the POLICEMAN)

Did you hear the mouth on that woman? Blaming the war on small...well you heard her!

POLICEMAN

WITH A CRIME AGAINST THE CROWN,
THERE'S MY DUTY TO BE DONE,
AND THOUGH IT MAY MAKE YOU FROWN,
I MUST APPREHEND SOMEONE.

NOW YOUR CIRCUS I'M DECIDING,
IS A REFUGE FOR THE HUN,
AND THAT REPROBATE IN HIDING
KNOWS THAT JUSTICE WILL BE DONE.

TEDDY ROOSEVELT

MAY I BE OF ASSISTANCE?

(HE indicates VICTORIA.)

She

HAS CAUSED THIS CATACLYSM,
HAVE YOU NOTICED HER PERSISTENCE
CRITICIZING PATRIOTISM?

(Aside to VICTORIA)

I'M A VERY POWERFUL ENEMY!

SHE'S A NASTY LITTLE TRAITOR,

THE ROGERS

BUT WE LOVE HER, YOU MISINFORMER.

TEDDY ROOSEVELT

AND YOU REALLY OUGHT TO HATE HER.

RINGMASTER

2065 BUT SHE'S OUR STAR PERFORMER.

2066

2067 POLICEMAN

2068 (As the POLICEMAN takes Victoria into custody and the ROGERS attempt
2069 to protect her. TEDDY ROOSEVELT sings Ahs to accompany.)

2070 SINCE VICTORIA'S A CRIMINAL

2071 SHE MUST BE LOCKED AWAY,

2072 'CAUSE MY CHARITY IS MINIMAL,

2073 SHE GOES TO JAIL TODAY.

2074

2075 POLICEMAN and TEDDY ROOSEVELT

2076 (HILDA sings Ahs to accompany)

2077 THE WICKED OF THIS EARTH MUST KNOW

2078 WE'VE GOT THEM ON THE RUN,

2079 WE'LL SHOW SATAN IN HIS REALM BELOW

2080 THAT JUSTICE WILL BE DONE.

2081

2082 Add HILDA

2083 JUSTICE WILL BE DONE.

2084

LEAH + SAD CLOWN	HILDA + TR	ROGERS, VICTORIA, RINGMASTER	POLICEMAN
I'M SO ALONE	A TERRIBLE CATASTROPHE	ONE LESS BOMB PLANT	OH WOE IS ME I'VE FAILED THE KING

2085

2086 VICTORIA (LEAH sings Ahs)

2087 I WANT SOME UNDERSTANDING,

2088

LEAH + SAD CLOWN	HILDA + TR	ROGERS, VICTORIA, RINGMASTER	POLICEMAN
PLEASE GIVE LUKE A CHANCE	EXPLOSION AT THE FACTORY	WHAT DO WE CARE	I NEEDED TO DO EVERYTHING

2089

2090 VICTORIA (LEAH sings Ahs)

2091 I NEED A LITTLE UNDERSTANDING,

2092

2093

LEAH + SAD CLOWN	HILDA + TR	ROGERS	POLICEMAN
TO COME HOME NOW	IN OUR TOWN SEDITION LURKS	ROGERS, VICTORIA, RINGMASTER	TO KEEP THE BOMBS FALLING FOR THE CROWN
TO LIVE	THEY'VE BLOWN	THAT SOUNDS	AND NOW I'VE LET

THROUGH FRANCE FOR ME	UP THE MUNITIONS WORKS	PRETTY FAIR TO US	MY COUNTRY DOWN
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VICTORIA
HOW CAN I WIN MY FREEDOM
FROM THESE VILLAINS WHO MISLEAD 'EM,

VICTORIA, LEAH, LUKE, the ROGERS
WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD IN STORE FOR ME?

COMPANY
(THEY all point, HILDA, POLICEMAN, and TEDDY ROOSEVELT at
VICTORIA and VICTORIA, LEAH, SAD CLOWN, RINGMASTER, and
the ROGERS at HILDA, POLICEMAN, and TEDDY ROOSEVELT.)
YOU'VE BLOWN UP THE MUNITIONS WORKS.
(Button. End of Act 1)

2109 Act 2, Scene 1. The Police Station.
2110 (The ROGERS enter during the entra'acte, dressed in outlandish military-
2111 like clothing.)
2112
2113 ROGER THE PACIFIST
2114 Where is everyone?
2115
2116 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
2117 I don't know. This place gives me the creeps. What a bad idea to come here.
2118
2119 ROGER THE PACIFIST
2120 You want to save Victoria, don't you? It will make us worthy of her love. Rescuing her is a
2121 useful plot device. A way to earn her love.
2122
2123 (The POLICEMAN enters.)
2124
2125 POLICEMAN
2126 May I help you? Why, I know you two, don't I?
2127
2128 ROGER THE PACIFIST
2129 G'day, your Honor. We used to be circus performers.
2130
2131 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
2132 (*Sotto voce*).
2133 Shhh! Are you crazy? Don't tell him that. He hates the circus.
2134
2135 POLICEMAN
2136 That den of spies, I hate the circus. I should arrest you both on the spot.
2137
2138 ROGER THE PACIFIST
2139 But, your Honor, we've seen the error of our ways.
2140
2141 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
2142 We want to be patriots.
2143
2144 ROGER THE PACIFIST
2145 And we've come to you for guidance.
2146
2147 POLICEMAN
2148 You've come to the right place, you have. I am proud to say that I am something of an
2149 expert on patriotism, I am.
2150
2151 ROGER THE PACIFIST
2152 As patriots, we're anxious that the traitor who bombed the munitions plant is securely
2153 incarcerated. Where is she?

2154
2155 POLICEMAN
2156 (HE pats his breast pocket.)
2157 Don't you worry. She's safely under lock and key.
2158
2159 THE ROGERS.
2160 (THEY pat their breast pockets.)
2161 Good!
2162
2163 POLICEMAN
2164 Now, what about you young men? Not interested in joining your fellow circus traitor in the
2165 slammer are you?
2166
2167 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
2168 No, gov'nor. We want to be patriots like you.
2169
2170 POLICEMAN
2171 To be a patriot like me, you need to join the army and kill Germans.
2172
2173 ROGER THE PACIFIST
2174 That sounds like just the ticket. Why didn't we think of that?
2175
2176 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
2177 Yes, what a splendid idea.
2178
2179 ROGER THE PACIFIST
2180 We'd like to know what it's like, your Honor. You were on the field of battle, weren't you?
2181
2182 POLICEMAN
2183 Yes, I was, but I got too big a whiff of Jerry gas. Nearly killed me, but I was a splendid
2184 soldier right up to that moment.
2185
2186 ROGER THE PACIFIST
2187 Can you tell us, your Honor, how to be good soldiers?
2188
2189 POLICEMAN
2190 The main thing is to be brave, never to hesitate to do whatever you're ordered to do.
2191
2192 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
2193 Don't use your mind at all, right?
2194
2195 ROGER THE PACIFIST
2196 (To ROGER THE SOCIALIST)
2197 That should be natural for you, Roger.
2198

2199 POLICEMAN
2200 Exactly. Them what's officers know best.
2201
2202 ROGER THE PACIFIST
2203 But what if they order you over the top, and the enemy has a steady barrage of machine
2204 gun fire?
2205
2206 POLICEMAN
2207 Run like the dickens and hope your legs don't get shot out from under you.
2208
2209 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
2210 Your legs shot out from under you? Does that happen?
2211
2212 POLICEMAN
2213 It certainly does.
2214 (Cue Ypres underscore #2)
2215 Why, I recall one day at Ypres⁷, we were dug in well and feeling snug. Then, without
2216 warning there come the Jerries, running like hell for our position. Well, our gunners lay a
2217 steady bit of fire into their lines, shooting the legs off the bastards. I swear, this one little
2218 fella just kept running, or trying to, with no legs to take him anywhere. But he kept
2219 pumping his arms, and shouting his battle cry, all the while his torso is bumping along the
2220 ground. It was rather comical, it was.
2221
2222 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
2223 Yes, it sounds extremely funny.
2224
2225 ROGER THE PACIFIST
2226 It must be awfully good fun. We'll do it. We'll march over and enlist.
2227 (HE produces a flask)
2228 Now, will you help us drink to it?
2229
2230 POLICEMAN
2231 I cannot. I am on duty.
2232
2233 ROGER THE PACIFIST
2234 (HE pours three glasses. Each of the ROGERS takes one).
2235 What a pity. And this is high quality schnapps.
2236
2237 POLICEMAN
2238 Schnapps?
2239
2240 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
2241 Taken off the mutilated corpse of a German officer.

⁷ Again, he pronounces it Wipers

2242
2243 POLICEMAN
2244 (HE picks up the glass and sniffs it.)
2245 So this is what the Boche officers drink.
2246
2247 ROGER THE PACIFIST
2248 (HE raises his glass.)
2249 God save the King!
2250
2251 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
2252 God save the King!
2253 (HE addresses the reluctant POLICEMAN.)
2254 You can't ignore a toast to the King, can you?
2255
2256 POLICEMAN
2257 (*Lifting his glass*) I suppose a little one won't hurt, will it? God save the King (*he takes a*
2258 *sip*). Not bad at all. No wonder the Germans can show a little pluck on the field.
2259
2260 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
2261 God save the Queen!
2262
2263 ROGER THE PACIFIST
2264 To Queen Mary!
2265
2266 POLICEMAN
2267 God save the Queen!
2268 (HE drinks a bit more.)
2269
2270 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
2271 (HE addresses the POLICEMAN, refilling his glass)
2272 Your turn.
2273
2274 POLICEMAN
2275 God save England!
2276
2277 ROGER THE PACIFIST
2278 Good one. God save England!
2279
2280 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
2281 God save England!
2282 (THEY drink.)
2283
2284 ROGER THE PACIFIST
2285 Death to the enemy!
2286

2287 ROGER THE SOCIALIST and POLICEMAN
2288 Death to the enemy!
2289 (THEY drink.)
2290

2291 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
2292 Death to the socialists!
2293

2294 ROGER THE PACIFIST and POLICEMAN
2295 Death to the socialists!
2296 (THEY drink.)
2297

2298 POLICEMAN
2299 (HE slurs his speech.)
2300 A glorious death to the two of you!
2301

2302 THE ROGERS.
2303 Death to us!
2304 (THEY drink.)
2305 (Cue 12 Death to Us)
2306 (During the song, the ROGERS keep refilling the POLICEMAN's glass,
2307 getting HIM drunk while THEY only pretend to drink.)
2308

2309 DEATH TO US!
2310 SURVIVAL'S TREASONOUS,
2311 THE MOMMAS WHO BORE US
2312 WOULD BE FIRST TO IMPLORE US
2313 TO DIE MERITORIOUS.
2314

2315 POLICEMAN
2316 DEATH TO YOU!
2317 AND TO YOUR MOMMAS, TOO,
2318 EXTERMINATED LIKE VERMIN
2319 YOU'LL BE KILLED BY THE GERMAN,
2320 GREAT HEROES WILL DEATH MAKE OF YOU.
2321

2322 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
2323 SO HERE'S TO FRIENDSHIP, HERE'S TO HONOR,
2324

2325 ROGER THE PACIFIST
2326 HERE'S TO JUST ABOUT ANYTHING,
2327

2328 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
2329 AND IF WE NEED TO GET YOU HIGHER,
2330

2331 ROGER THE PACIFIST
2332 WE'VE ONLY JUST TOAST THE KING.
2333
2334 POLICEMAN
2335 Here, here!
2336
2337 (Dance break)
2338
2339 THE ROGERS
2340 LET'S TOAST SOME MORE,
2341 KAISER BILL'S AN OPEN SORE.
2342
2343 POLICEMAN
2344 I'll drink to that.
2345
2346 THE ROGERS
2347 THE MORE THAT WE DRINKIE,
2348 THE WORSE THAT HE STINKIE,
2349 AND HIS MOTHER'S A THREE-SHILLING WHORE.
2350
2351 POLICEMAN
2352 Oh, that's nasty.
2353 TWO SOLDIER BOYS WITH LOVE OF COUNTRY
2354 TAKE THEIR PLACE AGAINST THE FOE,
2355 AND SURELY, IT'S MY SAINTLY DUTY
2356 TO LIFT A GLASS BEFORE THEY GO.
2357
2358 THE ROGERS
2359 TWO CIRCUS LADS WHO LOVE VICTORIA
2360 HAVE GOT HER CAPTOR ALL AGLOW,
2361 AND SURELY, IT'S OUR SINCERE PLEASURE
2362 TO LIFT A KEY BEFORE WE GO.
2363
2364 (ROGER THE PACIFIST takes the key from the POLICEMAN'S shirt
2365 pocket while ROGER THE SOCIALIST distracts him with a drink. ROGER
2366 THE SOCIALIST exits and then re-enters with VICTORIA. The
2367 POLICEMAN sees HER, shrugs, and lifts HIS glass to her as THEY sing
2368 together.)
2369
2370 THE ROGERS, VICTORIA, and POLICEMAN
2371 TWO CIRCUS LADS WHO LOVE VICTORIA
2372 FOOLED YOU/ME WITH THEIR SOLDIER CLOTHES,
2373 THEY GOT YOU/ME DRUNK AND STOLE THE LADY RIGHT
2374 UNDERNEATH YOUR/MY SHINY RED NOSE.
2375

2376
2377
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2379

POLICEMAN
RIGHT UNDERNEATH MY SHINY NOSE.

(Button. End of scene.)

2380 Act 2, Scene 2. A battlefield in France on one side of the stage and Leah's
2381 tent on the other. LUKE is writing a letter on the eve of battle. LEAH is
2382 sitting in her tent, reading the letter. The RINGMASTER is stage center,
2383 between the two tableaux.
2384 (Cue 13 Letter to Leah reprise)

2385
2386

RINGMASTER

2387 Ladies and gentlemen! I give you July 1, 1916. The Allies are not doing well in the war and
2388 have decided to throw everything they have at the German positions in France. The Battle
2389 of the Somme begins after five days of allied bombardment. On the first day of battle, there
2390 will be 60,000 British casualties including 20,000 dead. On the eve of that battle, Luke is
2391 bitter.

2392 (RINGMASTER exits or steps back.)

2393
2394

LUKE

2395
2396 FIVE DAYS WITHOUT A WINK OF SLEEP,
2397 WE'RE READY TO GO TO OUR DEATH,
2398 DON'T TELL US OF OUR HOLY CAUSE,
2399 DON'T WASTE YOUR LOVELY BREATH.

2400

2401 YOU TOLD ME OF TWO BOYS YOU KNOW
2402 WHO WON'T PICK UP A GUN,
2403 LEAVE THEM ALONE, THEY KNOW THAT WE'RE
2404 NOT HELPING ANYONE.

2405

2406 THERE'S NONE OF US BELONGS IN FRANCE,
2407 WE'VE NO EXCUSE TO BE HERE,
2408 YOU PATRIOTS AT HOME ARE BLIND,
2409 IN MUD AND BLOOD WE SEE CLEAR.

2410

2411 THEY TELL US TO PUSH ON SO THAT
2412 OUR COMRADES WON'T HAVE DIED IN VAIN,
2413 BUT DIE IN VAIN IS WHAT WE DO,
2414 WE SEEK OUR DEATH, WE DON'T COMPLAIN.

2415

2416 LEAH, I'LL NEVER LAY MY
2417 EYES ON MY SWEET LEAH,
2418 I'LL BE ALONE WHEN
2419 I LOSE MY LIFE,
2420 IF YOU WERE MY WIFE
2421 THEY WOULD SEND A FLAG TO YOU.

2422 Ha!

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Act 2, Scene 3

VICTORIA's tent. The ROGERS and VICTORIA sneak on.

ROGER THE SOCIALIST

I'm telling you, Vic, it's the last place he'll think to look for you. Your own tent.

VICTORIA

But what if he *does* look for me here? He'll take me back to jail.

ROGER THE PACIFIST

Then we'll just break you out again.

ROGER THE SOCIALIST

He's really not all that bright. Roger can easily come up with another plan. Right, Roger?

ROGER THE PACIFIST

Roger, Roger.

VICTORIA

You fellows are awfully kind to risk yourselves for me.

ROGER THE SOCIALIST

We like risk. Danger. Peril. Right, Roger?

ROGER THE PACIFIST

No, not right. We like Victoria.

(To VICTORIA)

Besides, you're innocent. We just need to keep you hidden until we can prove it. Come on, Roger, we've got work to do.

(The ROGERS exit as the RINGMASTER enters.)

RINGMASTER

Hello, my dear, you seem on the way to changing your future as I suggested. Though, being arrested for treason and breaking out of jail are not what I had in mind.

VICTORIA

Things have gotten quite complicated, haven't they? I may not be alone much longer, although being in Wakefield prison with hundreds of other women is not what I had in mind.

RINGMASTER

At the least you and the Rogers seem to have become great friends.

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VICTORIA

What a couple of sweethearts. I must say, I haven't been quite as lonely with those two around. There's nothing like a daring rescue to make a girl fall in love, but one usually falls in love with a single person, doesn't one? And these two are quite a pair.

RINGMASTER

So which one do you like best?

VICTORIA

Neither of them is just right. No matter how fabulous men seem, they all have some flaw that in the end will make a girl nuts. The socialist is very passionate, very intense. I like passion. It's very exciting. But that kind of passion all the time? I might have to kill the poor dear. And the other one, the pacifist. I like his irreverence. I like a free thinker, of course, but his lack of respect for the usual conventions might one day become a lack of respect for *me*. I wouldn't like that at all.

RINGMASTER

It would be quite convenient if you fell in love with one of them. It would likely end your visions. After all, falling in love would make it impossible to see the future. Now, who could stand that?

VICTORIA

Why were men made so imperfectly? Why can't we build our own man to suit us. But I suppose it's impossible.

(Cue 14 A Boy Named Roger)

I suppose I'll have to settle for one man, as irritating as he may be.

(RINGMASTER adds harmony.)

I LIKE A BOY NAMED ROGER,
INTO MY TENT AND LIFE CAME HE,
MY ROGER COULD BE EV'RY THING TO ME,
BUT WHICH OF THESE TWO ROGERS WILL IT BE?

RINGMASTER

WHO WILL IT BE?

VICTORIA

I HAVEN'T HAD MUCH LUCK WITH MEN,
I TALK TOO MUCH OF THINGS AND THEN
THE GUY CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE,
HE'S RUNNING SCREAMING FOR THE DOOR.

RINGMASTER

SCREAMING FOR THE DOOR.

2522 VICTORIA
2523 BUT ROGER'S DIFFERENT, ROGER'S KIND,
2524
2525 RINGMASTER
2526 KIND.
2527 VICTORIA
2528 HE SAYS HE LOVES ME FOR MY MIND,
2529
2530 RINGMASTER
2531 YOUR MIND
2532
2533 VICTORIA
2534 HIS HEART IS GOOD, HIS LOVE IS TRUE,
2535
2536 RINGMASTER
2537 SO TRUE.
2538
2539 VICTORIA
2540 I ONLY WISH HE WEREN'T
2541
2542 VICTORIA and RINGMASTER
2543 TWO.
2544
2545 RINGMASTER
2546 It would be lovely to see you paired up with one of these fine lads. If you can stay out of
2547 jail, of course.
2548
2549 VICTORIA
2550 Yes, but oddly enough, I don't see my future with either of them. Perhaps it's just one of
2551 my blind spots.
2552
2553 ONE ROGER HAS HIS PRINCIPLES,
2554 HIS SPIRIT IS INVINCIBLE,
2555
2556 RINGMASTER
2557 INVINCIBLE.
2558
2559 VICTORIA
2560 THE OTHER KNOWS JUST WHAT TO SAY,
2561
2562 RINGMASTER
2563 AH, WHAT TO SAY.
2564
2565 VICTORIA
2566 HIS TALENT IS FOR REPARTÉE.

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RINGMASTER

AH, SUCH REPARTÉE.

VICTORIA

ONE ROGER'S FEET ARE ON THE GROUND,

RINGMASTER

ON THE GROUND.

VICTORIA

THE OTHER IS A GOOF, A CLOWN,

RINGMASTER

A GOOFY, GOOFY, GOOFY, GOOFY CLOWN.

VICTORIA

ONE-HALF MY BEAU IS SERIOUS,
THE OTHER HALF'S HILARIOUS.

RINGMASTER

HA, HA, HA, HA, HA, HA, HA, HA.

(Segue without Button. LEAH enters holding Luke's letter. SHE is crying and is in terrible shape. SHE points wordlessly to the letter, she points to VICTORIA, the sky, SHE doesn't know what to do.)

RINGMASTER

News from the front?

(LEAH hands HIM/HER the letter and puts her head in her hands. The RINGMASTER reads the letter.)

VICTORIA

May I read it?

LEAH

No! You have no right. You brought us this tragedy with your attitude

RINGMASTER

Now, Leah, I'm sure Victoria had no role in Luke's difficulties.

(The RINGMASTER goes to embrace LEAH, but LEAH pushes the RINGMASTER away. The RINGMASTER exits, shaking HER head. LEAH turns on VICTORIA.)

2612

2613

(Cue 15 Sisters)

2614

2615

LEAH

2616

IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT, VICTORIA,

2617

ALL YOUR FAULT.

2618

2619

VICTORIA

2620

Oh, Leah, I am so terrible at giving bad news ahead of time.

2621

LEAH, POOR DEAR LEAH,

2622

LUKE'S AT THE END OF HIS CAMPAIGN,

2623

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN YOU'D BE IN PAIN,

2624

THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO,

2625

THOUGH I HAD A SNEAK PREVIEW.

2626

2627

LEAH

2628

WHY DID I SEND LUKE TO HIS DEATH AND

2629

HOW COULD YOU HAVE LET ME?

2630

NOW THAT LUKE'S CAUGHT IN THIS TERRIBLE TRAP,

2631

HOW THE HELL WILL HE GET FREE?

2632

It's so unfair. Luke is in trouble. He expects to die soon. Oh, Victoria, what can I do?

2633

(SHE falls weeping into VICTORIA's arms.)

2634

2635

VICTORIA

2636

I can see the future, but I don't know how to change it.

2637

2638

LEAH

2639

(Calming down just a little.)

2640

You change the future by changing the present. And I missed my chance when I had Luke

2641

here in the present. Now, he'll always be in the past for me. I can't blame you for that, can

2642

I?

2643

2644

IT'S ALL MY FAULT, VICTORIA,

2645

ALL MY FAULT.

2646

2647

VICTORIA

2648

No, Leah, it's not your fault at all. You mustn't blame yourself. It's been drummed into our

2649

heads since we were children, that we must take on the world to ensure the survival of

2650

civilization. You and I are not the perpetrators here. We are the victims. Oh, Leah. We're

2651

not so different. We've both been so terribly abused by the wicked and powerful of the

2652

world. You're like a sister to me.

2653
2654 SISTERS, FOREVER WE ARE SISTERS,
2655 I DIDN'T THINK SO WHEN YOU SENT
2656 YOUR MAN TO JOIN A REGIMENT,
2657 BUT YOU'VE CHANGED YOUR VIEW
2658 AND I'M PLEASED TO STAND WITH YOU.
2659
2660 LEAH
2661 SISTERS, FOREVER WE'RE LIKE SISTERS,
2662 WE DIDN'T KNOW BEFORE TODAY,
2663 WE'VE GONE THROUGH LIFE THE SAME SAD WAY,
2664 TRYING NOT TO MIND
2665 THAT THE WORLD IS SO UNKIND.
2666
2667 I BELIEVE THAT LIFE IS TO LIVE AND
2668 GOVERNMENTS ARE ROTTEN,
2669 MAKING IT HARD FOR MEN TO ESCAPE
2670 FROM THE CHAUVINIST TRAPS THAT THEY'RE
2671
2672 LEAH and VICTORIA
2673 CAUGHT IN.
2674
2675 VICTORIA
2676
2677 SISTERS ARE THOSE WHO KNOW HOW TO LIVE IN
2678 PEACE WITH ONE ANOTHER
2679
2680 LEAH
2681 'NOTHER
2682
2683 VICTORIA and LEAH
2684 WHERE IS THE MAN WHO KNOWS HOW TO GIVE
2685 A FRIENDLY, SISTERLY HAND TO HIS BROTHER?
2686
2687 LEAH
2688 SISTERS, WE ARE SISTERS, WE ARE,
2689 AGAINST THE DREAD FRATERNITY
2690
2691 VICTORIA
2692 OF TOXIC MASCULINITY,
2693
2694 LEAH
2695 THOUGH THERE'S A TRENCH DUG THROUGH MY HEART,

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2738

VICTORIA and LEAH
BEING SISTERS IS A START.

LEAH
I don't think Luke will be coming home to me.

VICTORIA
I will be there for you, Leah. I've never done something like that before, but I've never had this kind of connection with anyone before. We can be there for each other
I HAVE NEVER MET SOMEONE WHO CALLED ME HER FRIEND,
COULD MY SAD AND LONELY DAYS NOW BE AT AN END?
I MIGHT WANT TO STAY FOREVER
IF YOU'RE GONNA BE SO KIND TO ME.

VICTORIA
I WAS NOT AWARE OF WHAT WAS

LEAH and VICTORIA
POSSIBLE HERE,
NOW MY WORLD IS SPINNING IN A
NEW ATMOSPHERE,

VICTORIA
EVEN THOUGH I CAN STILL SEE TROUBLE,
COMING AT US AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT,

LEAH and VICTORIA
SISTERS CAN BE TOUGH GUYS IN A FIGHT.

SISTERS, WE ARE SISTERS, WE ARE,
IF YOU NEED ME, I'LL BE THERE
BECAUSE OF ALL THE HURT WE SHARE,
AND THOUGH TIMES ARE TOUGH,
BEING SISTERS IS ENOUGH.

(Button.)

LEAH
But what are you doing here? I thought you were in jail. You escaped?
(VICTORIA nods.)
It's too dangerous to be sitting here. The policeman will be looking for you.

2739

VICTORIA

2740 Of course he will, but the Rogers don't think he would think to look in here. It's too
2741 obvious.

2742

2743

LEAH

2744 The Rogers are a bit daft, you know. Of course he will look in here. But he won't look in
2745 my tent. You can hide there.

2746

2747

VICTORIA

2748 That's very kind of you. Of course, you're right.

2749

2750

LEAH

2751 (Embarrassed)

2752 Victoria, I had a vision. I saw them, as clearly as I am seeing you, women like me who are
2753 sick to death with worry. They sat with me in my tent, wringing their hands, twisting their
2754 handkerchiefs. You don't think I'm crazy, do you?

2755

2756

AUNTIE GERT

2757 (SHE enters)

2758 Because you see people who aren't there? It's an everyday occurrence for Victoria. It only
2759 means you are more connected with the world. That's not crazy. It's a good thing.

2760

2761

VICTORIA

2762 Auntie Gert, hush please. You'll frighten Leah. She's not used to dead people. Not yet
2763 anyway.

2764

(AUNTIE GERT exits.)

2765

2766

LEAH

2767 One of the women looked just like me. She turned to me and spoke as though we were old
2768 friends.

2769

2770

VICTORIA

2771 Happens to me all the time.

2772

2773

LEAH

2774 She spoke German, Victoria. And right then I knew. Somewhere in France is a boy like
2775 Luke, a German boy, who has no more idea why he is there than does Luke, who has no
2776 more wish to hurt Luke than Luke does to hurt him. But one of them, in the end, will hurt
2777 the other.

2778

2779

VICTORIA

2780 Everyone is a victim. Except for the men who start the wars.

2781

2782

LEAH

2783 Who put men in charge?

2784

2785

VICTORIA

2786 You ask a question that women have asked for centuries.

2787

2788

LEAH

2789 I don't suppose we can solve it all now, can we? Thank you, Victoria.

2790

(THEY embrace, LEAH exits as ROGER THE SOCIALIST enters.)

2791

2792

ROGER THE SOCIALIST

2793

(HE wears HIS cowboy costume and is carrying an Indian headdress.)

2794

Here, Victoria, put this on. I have an idea for getting you out of this mess.

2795

2796

(VICTORIA reluctantly puts on the costume as THEY exit into the next scene.)

2797

2798 Act 2, Scene 4. The midway.

2799

2800 VICTORIA

2801 I have a bad feeling about this costume.

2802

2803 ROGER THE SOCIALIST

2804 You look smashing. You will be a big success in America.

2805

2806 VICTORIA

2807 I'm not feeling like a big success. And how do you know we'll like it in America?

2808

2809 ROGER THE SOCIALIST

2810 President Wilson promises they will never be a part of this war.

2811

2812 VICTORIA

2813 Why do you believe him? He's not a socialist, is he?

2814

2815 ROGER THE SOCIALIST

2816 No, he's a Presbyterian. But I don't think that's too far off.

2817

2818 VICTORIA

2819 What does Roger think of this idea?

2820

2821 ROGER THE SOCIALIST

2822 I don't know. He's gone off. I haven't seen him.

2823

2824 VICTORIA

2825 He wouldn't like the idea of us running away without him. He loves me, too, you know.

2826

2827 ROGER THE SOCIALIST

2828 Well, if he turns up, he can come along. We'll find something for him to wear.

2829

2830 VICTORIA

2831 But what will we do in America?

2832

2833 ROGER THE SOCIALIST

2834 We'll find a circus to join. They have circuses there, you know. I hear most of Washington
2835 is a circus. We'll settle there.

2836

2837 VICTORIA

2838 I suppose I can earn my living in any circus, but what will you do? You have no talent
2839 whatsoever.

2840

2841 ROGER THE SOCIALIST

2842 Then, Washington's the place for me!

2843
2844 (TEDDY ROOSEVELT enters. VICTORIA turns her back; SHE doesn't
2845 want to be recognized.)
2846
2847 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
2848 Washington? You're going to Washington?
2849
2850 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
2851 Yes, your honor. Or to America, at any rate.
2852
2853 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
2854 I hope not, young man. You don't belong in America.
2855
2856 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
2857 And why not?
2858
2859 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
2860 Because you're a scoundrel.
2861
2862 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
2863 But there are lots of scoundrels in America.
2864
2865 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
2866 But they are *American* scoundrels. It makes all the difference. If they are American, they
2867 are okay. Anything American is okay. Anything foreign is not.
2868
2869 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
2870 Well, sir, you may not have noticed, but I'm a cowboy. Quite American, after all.
2871
2872 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
2873 You're as much a cowboy as the Emperor of Japan. Listen, my boy, if you get to America,
2874 your first stop will be New York City, my hometown. And let me tell you, it's rough in
2875 New York. You have to be tough to survive. A cream puff like you wouldn't last a day.
2876
2877 (Cue 16 Land of the Savages)
2878 (The COMPANY [except ROGER THE SOCIALIST and VICTORIA]
2879 enters in disguise to accompany TEDDY ROOSEVELT. This song is part
2880 recited, part sung.)
2881
2882 SO YOU'RE GOING TO AMERICA,
2883 ALL THE BOYS WILL BE HYSTERICAL
2884 TO SEE YOU DRESSED UP LIKE A CLOWN,
2885 THEY GONNA TAKE YER ASSES
2886

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2928

COMPANY

DOWN.

TEDDY ROOSEVELT

THEY'LL TWIST YOUR ARM, APPLY SOME TORQUE,
THEY'LL BEAT YOU, THOSE BOYS IN NEW YORK,
THEY'LL STICK THAT HAT RIGHT UP YOUR TAIL,
THEY'LL LOCK YOUR UGLY

COMPANY

BUTT IN JAIL.

TEDDY ROOSEVELT

AMERICA'S TOO TOUGH FOR YOU,
DO ALL THE PRAYING YOU CAN DO,
THEY DON'T WRITE POEMS OR READ ULYSSES
OR LISTEN TO BACH AND ALL THEM

COMPANY

SISSIES. SISSIES!

TEDDY ROOSEVELT

WHEN YOU GET OFF THE BOAT, BETTER RUN TO YOUR MOMMA
CAUSE YOUR CLAUSE IS GONNA END WITH A COMA NOT A

COMPANY (Divided parts)

COMA NOT A COMMA/COMMA, COMMA, COMMA

TEDDY ROOSEVELT

THE LAND OF THE FREE AND THE HOME OF THE BUCK,
BUT WE DON'T LIKE STRANGERS AND YOU CLEARLY

COMPANY

SUCK.

TEDDY ROOSEVELT

YOU'RE A DRUNK, WORTHLESS PUNK,
ALL YOU IMMIGRANTS SMELL LIKE SKUNK,
KEEP YER FACE OUTTA OUR PLACE,
YOU BELONG TO SOME LESSER RACE.

(HE gestures at VICTORIA's headdress)

2929 WELCOME TO THE LAND OF THE SAVAGES,
 2930 IF SAVAGES ARE WHAT YOU WANT TO BE,
 2931 DON'T BE TOO QUICK TO UNPACK YOUR BAGGAGES
 2932 IN CASE OUR WELCOME GIVES YOU CAUSE TO FLEE.
 2933
 2934 SO YOU WANT TO BE AMERICAN,
 2935 WE SAY NOPE, YOU'RE A HOPELESS BOGEYMAN,
 2936 WE WELCOME YOU LIKE WE WELCOME THE FLU,
 2937 KEEP YOUR SORES OFF OUR SHORES, AND YOUR FOREIGN MANNERS,
 2938 TOO.
 2939
 2940 WE DON'T LIKE FLIES, WE DON'T LIKE POO,
 2941 WHICH TELLS YOU WHY WE DON'T LIKE YOU,
 2942 YOU'RE A
 2943
 2944 COMPANY
 2945 CREEP,
 2946
 2947 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
 2948 MAKE US
 2949
 2950 COMPANY
 2951 WEEP,
 2952
 2953 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
 2954 YOU SHOULD FALL INTO THE
 2955
 2956 COMPANY
 2957 DEEP,
 2958
 2959 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
 2960 DEEP BLUE
 2961
 2962 COMPANY
 2963 SEA,
 2964
 2965 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
 2966 LEAVE US
 2967
 2968 COMPANY
 2969 BE,
 2970
 2971 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
 2972 YOU WON'T LIKE OUR
 2973

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3006

COMPANY

BIGOTRY.

WELCOME TO THE LAND OF THE SAVAGES,
WE HOPE YOU WON'T BE TOO INCLINED TO STAY,
IF YOU'RE TOO FAR FROM OUR VIEW OF THE AVERAGES,
WE DON'T WANT YOUR KIND IN THE U.S. OF A.
DON'T WANT YOUR KIND IN THE U.S. OF A.

(Button.)

ROGER THE SOCIALIST

I must say, I'm somewhat discouraged by your manner. I had rather hoped to go to America.

TEDDY ROOSEVELT

Look, Buffalo Bill, I'll make a deal with you. Give up your idea of polluting my country with your pitiful carcass, and I'll arrange passage for you to go to Cuba. It will get you away from here, and you and the missus can get yourselves a nice suntan. I've got lots of connections in Cuba, having conquered the place once upon a time.

ROGER THE SOCIALIST

That's mighty friendly of you, Mr. President.

TEDDY ROOSEVELT

Don't mention it. Be here at 8 this evening with your bags packed. I'll take care of all the arrangements to send you away.

VOICES OFF

Dora!

(TEDDY ROOSEVELT laughs diabolically. Of course, HE is planning on setting a trap for THEM. End of scene.)

3007 Act 2, Scene 5. A battlefield hospital on one side, LEAH's tent on the other
3008 side. LEAH is reading a letter, VICTORIA comforts her. LUKE stands in
3009 the hospital. HE is dead, but HE can still sing to us.
3010 (Cue 17 Your Little Boy)

3011
3012 LEAH

3013 (reading, tearfully)
3014 Dear Madam. The King and Queen deeply regret to hear of the loss you and the Army have
3015 sustained by the death of your young man in the service of his country, and I am
3016 commanded to convey to you the expression of Their Majesties' true sympathy with you in
3017 your sorrow.

3018
3019 LUKE

3020 MAMA, WHEN YOU GAVE HIM BIRTH,
3021 YOU HELD HIM CLOSE WHEN HE BEGAN TO CRY,
3022 YOU GAVE HIM WARMTH, YOU GAVE HIM LOVE,
3023 YOUR LITTLE BOY'S NOT CRYING ANYMORE,
3024 ANYMORE.

3025
3026 MAMA, WHEN YOU RAISED HIM UP,
3027 YOU TOLD HIM THAT IT'S DANGEROUS TO RUN
3028 WITH SCISSORS OR ON SLIPPERY STONES,
3029 YOUR LITTLE BOY'S NOT RUNNING ANYMORE.

3030
3031 YOUR CHILD WAS A SPECIAL MAN,
3032 HE HELD YOUR HEART AS YOU HELD HIS HAND,
3033 THERE ISN'T ANYBODY WHO
3034 SHOULD HAVE TAKEN YOUR BABY AWAY FROM YOU.

3035
3036 IF HE DIDN'T GET HIS WAY,
3037 HE'D FUSS AND FRET AND MAKE HIMSELF A PEST,
3038 A MOTHER'S LOVE WAS STRAINED A TAD,
3039 YOUR LITTLE BOY'S NOT FRETFUL ANYMORE,
3040 ANYMORE.

3041
3042 IT'S DANGEROUS TO RUN
3043 WITH FIXED BAYONET ON A FOREIGN BATTLEFIELD,
3044 YOUR LITTLE BOY'S NOT RUNNING ANYMORE.

3045
3046 Good-bye Leah.

3047
3048 LEAH

3049 Good-bye my Luke.

3050
3051 (Button. End of scene.)

3052 Act 2, Scene 6. The midway at 8 pm. It is deserted. HILDA appears from the
3053 shadows carrying a travel bag. SHE is wearing a cloak and moving furtively.
3054 TEDDY ROOSEVELT appears; HE has been waiting.

3055
3056 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
3057 Ah, Hilda, my dear. I was hoping you would happen along.

3058
3059 HILDA
3060 (SHE draws back. SHE is not happy to see HIM. SHE pulls her cloak more
3061 tightly around HER.)
3062 Why, Mr. President...

3063
3064 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
3065 Call me twenty-six.

3066
3067 HILDA
3068 What a surprise to see you out here.

3069
3070 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
3071 I've been restless, Hilda.

3072
3073 HILDA
3074 You should try warm milk.

3075
3076 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
3077 I don't think it will help.

3078
3079 HILDA
3080 Prune juice, then.

3081
3082 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
3083 I don't think so. I have that wonderful ailment for which there is no cure.

3084
3085 HILDA
3086 My heartfelt condolences.

3087 (SHE tries to move off).
3088

3089 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
3090 Hilda, wait! I must speak frankly to you.

3091
3092 HILDA
3093 Perhaps tomorrow, Mr. President. I only speak frankly during the daylight.

3094
3095 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
3096 What a joker! You're amazing, Hilda.

3097
3098 HILDA
3099 Yes, I am. Now good night. Sleep tight. See you in the morning
3100
3101 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
3102 Hilda! I love you!
3103
3104 HILDA
3105 That's nice, Mr. President, see you in the morning.
3106
3107 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
3108 But doesn't that mean anything to you?
3109
3110 HILDA
3111 (SHE stops, puts down her bag, and turns to face TEDDY ROOSEVELT.)
3112 You don't even know me, Mr. President. If you knew me, you'd see that I'm just a tired old
3113 woman. I want to go home.
3114
3115 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
3116 But with me, you are home.
3117
3118 HILDA
3119 No, with you I'm standing out in the midway at night.
3120
3121 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
3122 But, Hilda . . .
3123 (Cue 18 A Girl Named Hilda)
3124 I LIKE YOUR SPUNK, I LIKE YOUR FIRE,
3125 YOUR POLITICS FILL ME WITH DESIRE,
3126 YOUR FACE IS PRETTY AND YOUR MIND IS QUICK,
3127 MAY I SPEAK TO YOU SOFTLY OF MY BIG STICK?
3128 OF MY, MY BIG STICK.
3129
3130 I LOVE A GIRL NAMED HILDA,
3131 INTO MY LONELY LIFE CAME SHE,
3132 AND WHEN I SEE MY HILDA STANDING THERE,
3133 I WONDER IF SHE CARES FOR ME.
3134
3135 SOME PEOPLE SAY THAT I'M TOO OLD FOR LOVE,
3136 THAT I SHOULD USE MY BED TO SLEEP,
3137 THOSE PEOPLE HAVE NOT SEEN
3138 Hilda!
3139 OR THEY'D KNOW WHY I'M IN SO DEEP,
3140 SO DEEP,
3141 THEY'D KNOW I'M IN DEEP.

3142

3143

HILDA

3144

A MAN YOUR AGE SHOULD BE IN BED,
YOU'LL CATCH A CHILL AND WAKE UP DEAD,

3145

3146

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU SEE IN ME,

3147

I'M NOT THE GIRL YOU WANT, YOU WANT,

3148

YOU WANT ME TO BE.

3149

3150

TEDDY ROOSEVELT

3151

But, Hilda . . .!

3152

(Button. HILDA exits.)

3153

3154

RINGMASTER

3155

(SHE enters.)

3156

3157

Sometimes love comes from parts unknown. But, sorry, Mr. President, this story is not
3158 about your aborted love affair with the mysterious Hilda. We have more important
3159 business.

3160

(ROGER THE SOCIALIST and VICTORIA enter opposite, disguised,
3162 carrying valises)

3161

ROGER THE SOCIALIST

3162

3163

We're ready to go, Mr. President. Off to Cuba!

3164

3165

TEDDY ROOSEVELT

3166

Wonderful. One moment.

3167

(HE pulls a whistle from his pocket and blows it. At once, the
3169 POLICEMAN appears.)

3168

3169

There you are, constable. Your fugitives.

3170

3171

VICTORIA

3172

What? You betrayed us. You lied to us.

3173

3174

RINGMASTER

3175

Lied to by an American president. Who'd have thought it?

3176

3177

TEDDY ROOSEVELT

3178

Now, now. You two are terrorists. I could have sent you to Cuba and let them deal with
3180 you...

3179

3180

3181

VICTORIA

3182

...but Guantánamo won't be a detention camp for another 85 years.

3183

3184

TEDDY ROOSEVELT

3185

So you'll have to wait in a British jail until then. Take them away, officer.

3186

3187
3188 POLICEMAN
3189 Right, gov'nor.
3190 (HE addresses ROGER THE SOCIALIST and VICTORIA)
3191 I arrest you in the name of the King for the malicious destruction of His Majesty's
3192 munitions plant. And, no, I don't care for a drink.
3193
3194 VICTORIA
3195 But we're innocent.
3196
3197 POLICEMAN
3198 Of course you are.
3199
3200 (ROGER THE PACIFIST enters.)
3201
3202 ROGER THE PACIFIST
3203 (HE angrily addresses ROGER THE SOCIALIST)
3204 Making off with my girl, are you, you miserable socialist.
3205
3206 POLICEMAN
3207 (HIS ears perk up.)
3208 A socialist?!
3209
3210 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
3211 Quiet, you idiot, I'm in enough trouble. And besides, she's not your girl.
3212
3213 ROGER THE PACIFIST
3214 (HE punches ROGER THE SOCIALIST in the nose, then addresses
3215 VICTORIA.)
3216 Pardon my manners, Vic, but I've been thinking of punching him in the nose for a long
3217 time.
3218
3219 VICTORIA
3220 Not a very pacifist thing to do, is it?
3221
3222 ROGER THE PACIFIST
3223 In love, there is no pacifism. Victoria!
3224 (HE gives her a big kiss on the lips. SHE barely responds.)
3225
3226 VICTORIA
3227 Thank you, Roger, but I'm not ready to commit to you. I don't really love you.
3228
3229 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
3230 So you love *me* after all!
3231

3232 VICTORIA
3233 Frankly, no, I'm not in love with either of you. Maybe someday, but not right now. I have
3234 too much trouble telling you apart.
3235
3236 POLICEMAN
3237 (HE addresses VICTORIA)
3238 Please excuse me for disturbing your love festival, but there is the matter of your arrest for
3239 blowing up the King's munitions works.
3240 (HE places HER in manacles.)
3241
3242 ROGER THE PACIFIST
3243 Actually, Victoria is innocent.
3244
3245 POLICEMAN
3246 Innocent?! We've got an airtight case against her.
3247
3248 (LEAH enters, pushing HILDA before her. LEAH carries HILDA's travel
3249 bag.)
3250
3251 ROGER THE PACIFIST
3252 You've got nothing, copper, nothing except the wrong lady.
3253 (HE points to HILDA.)
3254 There's your bomber.
3255
3256 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
3257 Hilda?
3258
3259 ROGER THE PACIFIST
3260 Yes, Hilda.
3261
3262 LEAH
3263 From parts unknown.
3264
3265 HILDA
3266 But, everyone knows I am His Majesty's most loyal subject.
3267
3268 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
3269 Yes, of course you are, my dear.
3270 (HE addresses ROGER THE PACIFIST)
3271 What proof do you have?
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ROGER THE PACIFIST

You remember that sappy song she sang,
(HE sings mockingly.)

WE WERE A SOCIETY,
NOW WE'RE A COMMUNITY.

Well, this society and community thing is straight out of 1914 Berlin. Gesellschaft, or society, was replaced by Gemeinschaft, or community, in the new Boche vision of a world made better by the war. Pure propaganda, of course, but very popular with the rank and file. Right, Frau Hilda?

HILDA

You can't prove anything with your little German lesson.

ROGER THE PACIFIST

Ah, but what about that weird poem. Remember, my friends? Now how did it go? Oh, yes,
(Mockingly)

Ah, ye gods! Ye great immortals
In the spacious heavens above us!
Would ye on this earth blah blah blah!

Now, just who do you think wrote that bit?

TEDDY ROOSEVELT

Shakespeare?

EVERYONE ELSE.

(THEY mutter, variously).
Shakespeare?! Dumb Yank. What a moron.

ROGER THE PACIFIST

No, not Shakespeare, genius. Goethe.⁸

RINGMASTER

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe! Considered the greatest German literary figure of the modern era. There is general shock and consternation.

POLICEMAN

My, my, Goethe. This begins to look serious for you Miss Hilda.

TEDDY ROOSEVELT

In my country, we don't accuse people of crimes based on the poetry they recite. Do you have any real evidence?



⁸ Pronounced Ger'-ta.

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LEAH

(SHE dumps out the contents of HILDA's travel bag.)

How about her code book, radio set, and the floor plans for the munitions factory?

TEDDY ROOSEVELT

Hilda!

HILDA

(SHE throws off her cloak revealing a Wagnerian costume. There are a few bars of Wagner's Flight of the Valkyrie)

Brünhilde!

(The POLICEMAN takes off VICTORIA's manacles and puts them on HILDA).

VICTORIA

(To LEAH)

You saved me!

THE ROGERS

(ROGER THE SOCIALIST rubs his nose.)

What about us, Victoria?

VICTORIA

As people will say one day, we can just hang out. Maybe I will become attached to one of you. Or at least used to you.

LEAH

Yes, we can all just hang in.

VICTORIA

Hang out.

POLICEMAN

Once again, I must spoil this hangout party.

(HE pushes ROGER THE SOCIALIST to where HILDA is standing.)

You're still under arrest.

ROGER THE SOCIALIST

What? I didn't do anything.

POLICEMAN

You're still a socialist, you discourage the war effort, and you give assistance to the enemy. Those are crimes. It's right there in the Defense of the Realm Act.



3361 COMPANY
3362 DORA!
3363
3364 RINGMASTER
3365 (HE spells it out, maybe in the air, maybe on a blackboard, whatever)
3366 Defense of the Realm Act.
3367
3368 (Cue 19 Dora, Reprise)
3369
3370 VICTORIA, LEAH, and the ROGERS
3371 THE WORLD'S A STRANGE NEW PLACE
3372 OUR OPINIONS ARE A CRIME,
3373 AND FOR LOVING ANYONE,
3374 WE HAVEN'T GOT THE TIME.
3375
3376 IT'S DORA,
3377 I THINK OF NOTHING ELSE BUT DORA.
3378
3379 THE ROGERS
3380 (THEY sings to VICTORIA.)
3381 WE LACK THE FREEDOM TO BECOME YOUR NEW ROMANCE,
3382 CHANGE YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES,
3383 GIVE OURSELVES A CHANCE
3384 TO ENTERTAIN A FANCY
3385 FOR A LOVELY, LOVELY GIRL LIKE YOU.
3386
3387 VICTORIA, LEAH, and the ROGERS
3388 IT'S DORA,
3389 I THINK OF NOTHING ELSE BUT DORA,
3390 I WANT THE FREEDOM TO BECOME YOUR NEW ROMANCE,
3391 CHANGE YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES,
3392 GIVE MYSELF A CHANCE
3393 TO ENTERTAIN A FANCY
3394 FOR A LOVELY, LOVELY GIRL/BOY LIKE YOU.
3395
3396 (Button.)
3397
3398 POLICEMAN
3399 (To ROGER THE SOCIALIST)
3400 It's my duty to arrest you under the Defense of the Realm Act.
3401
3402 COMPANY
3403 DORA!
3404

3405 POLICEMAN
3406 (HE is annoyed at the interruption.)
3407 Quiet! I rather doubt they will send a hearty young fellow like you to prison, though. Not
3408 with so many empty spots in the trenches.

3409
3410 LEAH
3411 (SHE goes to ROGER THE SOCIALIST and puts HER arms around HIM.)
3412 May I interrupt, your Honor? This gentleman is my new fiancé. We will be married.

3413
3414 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
3415 (To LEAH)
3416 Excuse me, do I know you?

3417
3418 LEAH
3419 (Privately to ROGER THE SOCIALIST)
3420 Do be quiet. I'm trying to save your life.
3421 (To the POLICEMAN)
3422 I don't believe it's quite fair that this war will take two fiancés from me in such rapid
3423 succession. I am certain that the King would disapprove.

3424
3425 VICTORIA
3426 He most certainly would disapprove

3427
3428 TEDDY ROOSEVELT
3429 Having so recently been disappointed in love, I have to support her position, Constable.
3430 What harm would it do to let the lad go free?

3431
3432 POLICEMAN
3433 Very unfortunate, I'm sure, but there is no room in the law for personal considerations.

3434
3435 LEAH
3436 But my Luke died a hero.

3437
3438 LUKE
3439 (Enters, in uniform. HE looks dead; after all he *is* dead.)
3440 I died a victim.
3441 (LUKE marches up to the POLICEMAN, in HIS face)
3442 You will let the boy go.

3443
3444 POLICEMAN
3445 (HE is trembling.)
3446 There's my duty to be done.
3447



3448 LUKE
3449 (Louder, menacing)
3450 You will let the boy go. Now.
3451
3452 POLICEMAN
3453 I don't like the idea of Socialists in my territory.
3454 (Still trembling, HE addresses ROGER THE SOCIALIST, with a look over
3455 his shoulder at LUKE)
3456 I will release you under the condition that you leave this precinct at once.
3457
3458 (THE POLICEMAN and TEDDY ROOSEVELT lead HILDA offstage;
3459 LUKE gives LEAH a kiss on the forehead in benediction and exits on THE
3460 POLICEMAN's heels.)
3461
3462 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
3463 Okay, we have to leave. Where shall we go?
3464
3465 LEAH
3466 (SHE takes VICTORIA by the hand.)
3467 I go nowhere without my sister.
3468
3469 ROGER THE PACIFIST
3470 We can all go together. Since we're already dressed for it, let's go "hang on" in America!
3471
3472 VICTORIA
3473 Hang out.
3474
3475 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
3476 America!
3477
3478 VICTORIA
3479 America?
3480
3481 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
3482 America! You heard Mr. Roosevelt. President Wilson will never enter the war. America
3483 will be the land of peace.
3484
3485 VICTORIA
3486 Don't be ridiculous. I can see the future of America very clearly...
3487
3488 (Cue 20 Land of Peace)
3489 RINGMASTER
3490 (SHE calms VICTORIA.)
3491 Victoria, you change the future by changing the present. Be agents of change in America.
3492 Turn your visions into dreams.

3493
3494 LEAH
3495 Yes, dreams. We must have our dreams.
3496 (SHE takes VICTORIA's hand.)
3497 Come, my angel of change. To America.
3498
3499 (In this finale, all the actors appear. Part names are indicated, but for the
3500 doubled parts, it is not important which costumes are worn. The
3501 RINGMASTER conducts.)
3502
3503 THE ROGERS, VICTORIA, and LEAH
3504 A PLACE WHERE YOUR
3505 TENSIONS ARE RELEASED,
3506 A PLACE OF QUIET
3507 A LAND OF PEACE.
3508
3509 LEAH
3510 NO MORE THINKING OF THE WAR,
3511
3512 ROGER THE SOCIALIST
3513 NO MORE FEARING THE POLICE,
3514
3515 VICTORIA and LEAH
3516 LEAD US TO A PLACE FOR LIVING,
3517 BRING US TO THE LAND OF PEACE.
3518
3519 THE ROGERS, LEAH, and VICTORIA
3520 FOUR PEOPLE HOLDING HANDS,
3521 STARTING A NEW LIFE TOGETHER,
3522 DREAMING OF A LAND OF PEACE
3523 WHERE ALL ALL MEN ARE BROTHERS.
3524
3525 LEAH, VICTORIA, HILDA, RINGMASTER
3526 OR SISTERS.
3527
3528 THE ROGERS, LEAH, and VICTORIA
3529 ALL MEN ALL MEN
3530 ALL MEN ALL MEN
3531 ALL MEN ARE BROTHERS OR SISTERS.
3532
3533 (TEDDY ROOSEVELT and HILDA enter.)
3534
3535 TEDDY ROOSEVELT and HILDA
3536 TWO PEOPLE SAYING NO

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HILDA
TO THE PRESIDENT

TEDDY ROOSEVELT
AND THE COLLUDER,

TEDDY ROOSEVELT and HILDA
DREAMING OF A COUNTRY WHERE
ALLE MENSCHEN WERDEN BRÜDER.

COMPANY (from Beethoven's 9th Symphony)
ALLE MENSCHEN, ALLE MENSCHEN,
ALLE MENSCHEN, ALLE MENSCHEN.

WE ARE NOT PROUD
OF THE RULING CROWD
OF PEOPLE ANXIOUS FOR A FIGHT,
WE NEED TO GO
WHERE THE WINDS THAT BLOW
CARRY BIRDS NOT BOMBS ON THEIR CAREFREE FLIGHT.
WE NEED TO GO
WHERE THE WINDS THAT BLOW
CARRY BIRDS NOT BOMBS ON THEIR CAREFREE FLIGHT.

LEAH
A PLACE TO HEAL
WHEN YOUR FIANCÉ IS HORRIBLY
(The music stops. SHE speaks softly.)

Deceased

VICTORIA, LEAH, HILDA, RINGMASTER
SISTERS HAVE NO CHOICE
BUT TO DREAM OF A LAND OF PEACE.

THE COMPANY.
(THEY join hands, put arms around one another, or lean together.)
A PLACE OF HAPPINESS WHERE
YOUR LOVELIEST DREAMS HAVE FLOWN,
A PLACE OF LOVE
WITH A SOMEONE FROM PARTS UNKNOWN.

VICTORIA
A PLACE OF QUIET

3582 (The music changes as VICTORIA steps forward. She is seeing something
3583 very clearly about America, something that really alarms her about the
3584 future, something awful. LEAH sees how upset she has become and gives
3585 her a kiss. VICTORIA shows her relief and her joy as her visions
3586 disappear.)

3587

3588

THE COMPANY

3589 Being in love means being totally unable to see the future.

3590

3591

A LAND OF

3592

A LAND OF PEACE,

3593

A LAND OF PEACE,

3594

A LAND OF PEACE,

3595

A LAND OF PEACE, OF PEACE.

3596

3597

(Button. End of Act 2)