

# Revolutionary Gentleman

THE ROCK OPERA

A comic tragedy based on the life of Benedict Arnold

*Book, Music and Lyrics*

*by*

Steven W Rodgers

Additional Lyrics by

Carolyn Tracy & Wendy Christopher

Based on an original story by Steven W Rodgers & Carolyn Tracy

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# MUSICAL NUMBERS

## ACT I

1. Voices in Your Head.....Ben, Muses & Company
2. Revolutionary Gentleman.....Ben & Company
3. Despicable.....Emily
4. I Can Live With That.....Reed, Josephine & EveryMan (*Servant*)
5. Was It a Dream?.....Orchestra
6. Man of the Hour.....Washington, Reed, Josephine & The Muses
7. Back Up Lover..... Ben, Emily & The Muses
8. Flame in the Dark..... Ben and Peggy
9. We Have a Crisis .....Reed, Josephine & Washington
10. Strange Bedfellows ..... Ben, Peggy & Emily
11. Day Of Reckoning .....Reed, Josephine & EveryMan (*Hawker*)
12. When the Moment is Right.....John & Peggy
13. Alternative Facts.....Ben, Reed & Josephine
14. The Verdict.....Ben, Emily, EveryMan (*Judge*) & Washington
15. Jurors' Remorse .....Ben & The Muses
16. Respect is Only a Redcoat Away!/  
Don't Egg Benedict On .....Ben, John & Peggy  
Ben & The Muses

## ACT II

17. Revolutionary Wives.....Emily, Peggy, Josephine & The Muses
18. Up A Creek .....Emily, Ben, Peggy, John & The Muses
19. Midnight Ride / .....Peggy & John  
Gimme That Address.....John & The Muses
20. General Arnold's Demise .....Reed, Josephine & EveryMan (*Guard*)
21. Without Him .....Peggy with Emily
22. Downward Spiral .....Ben, Peggy & Company
23. Who's To Say?.....Emily
24. Rather Be in Jamaica.....Emily & Peggy
25. Inescapable.... Wash, Peggy, Reed, Josephine & EveryMan (*Carriage Driver*)
26. I've Come Undone.....Ben, Emily, Reed, Josephine & EveryMan (*Announcer*)
27. The Greatest Hero .....Ben, The Muses & Company

*All songs: music & lyrics by Steven W Rodgers, except:*

**FLAME IN THE DARK, WHEN THE MOMENT IS RIGHT,  
VOICES IN YOUR HEAD & WITHOUT HIM**

Music by Steven W Rodgers, Lyrics by Wendy Christopher

**RESPECT IS ONLY A REDCOAT AWAY**

Music by Steven W Rodgers, Lyrics by Carolyn Tracy

**WHO'S TO SAY, REVOLUTIONARY WIVES  
& RATHER BE IN JAMAICA**

Music by Steven W Rodgers, Lyrics by Steven W Rodgers & Carolyn Tracy

# Cast of Characters

5m,6w

**BENEDICT ARNOLD**, A Revolutionary Gentleman

**PEGGY ARNOLD**, A British loyalist

**MR. REED**, President of the Council

**JOSEPHINE**, Mr. Reed's secretary

**EMILY**, Ben's English Nurse

**MAJOR JOHN ANDRÉ**, a British Intelligence officer

**THE MUSES**, a Colonial Greek Chorus

**GEN. GEORGE WASHINGTON**, Head of the Continental Armed Forces

**EVERY MAN**, Soldier, Judge, Servant, Townsperson, Delivery Boy, Mover, Carriage Driver, Hawker, Waiter, Announcer

## Setting

July, 1801. London, England. The Home of Benedict Arnold.

# ACT ONE

## [Overture]

*Total darkness. A cold wind blows. The distant tolling of bells can be heard, answered by barking dogs and coyotes. Lights slowly come up on Benedict Arnold, dressed in his nightgown, lying in his large brass bed. Ghosts of Ben past wander about, some wrapped in blankets. Ben gets up with difficulty and looks around, confused. He spots his blue continental uniform on top of the laundry pile and grabs it, putting it on over his nightgown.*

## [Song: Voices in Your Head]

### Muses

GENERAL ARNOLD  
EVERYONE'S DESERTED  
NOW YOU'RE ALL ALONE  
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?  
HOW'S IT FEEL TO BE THE ONE WHO'S HURTING  
ALL THE ONES YOU HUNTED ARE NOW HAUNTING YOU

YOU ONCE SAID  
THAT NO ONE COULD DEFEAT YOU  
NOW YOU RUN  
FROM EMPTY ROOM TO EMPTY ROOM  
YOU COULD HAVE STAYED AND DEFEATED ENGLAND  
INSTEAD, YOU JUMPED OVERBOARD  
AND NOW YOU'RE LEFT TO FACE YOUR DOOM

### Ben

I CAN'T HEAR YOU  
I DON'T FEAR YOU  
DAMN YOU,  
VOICES IN MY HEAD  
I CAN WIN  
I WON'T GIVE IN  
BE SILENT, VOICES  
VOICES IN MY HEAD

*(overlapping):*

### Muses

GENERAL ARNOLD  
EVERYONE'S DESERTED  
NOW YOU'RE ALL ALONE  
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?  
HOW'S IT FEEL TO BE THE ONE WHO'S HURTING  
ALL THE ONES YOU HUNTED ARE NOW HAUNTING YOU

**Muses (Cont)**

YOU ONCE SAID  
 THAT NO ONE COULD DEFEAT YOU  
 NOW YOU RUN  
 FROM EMPTY ROOM TO EMPTY ROOM  
 YOU COULD HAVE STAYED AND DEFEATED ENGLAND  
 INSTEAD, YOU JUMPED OVERBOARD  
 AND NOW YOU'RE LEFT TO FACE YOUR DOOM

**Ben**

I CAN'T HEAR YOU  
 I DON'T FEAR YOU  
 DAMN YOU,  
 VOICES IN MY HEAD  
 I CAN WIN  
 I WON'T GIVE IN  
 BE SILENT, VOICES  
 VOICES IN MY HEAD

**Company 1**

YOU CAN HEAR US  
 AND YOU FEAR US  
 WE'RE THE VOICES IN YOUR HEAD  
 YOU ABHOR US  
 CAN'T IGNORE US  
 HEAR US, HEAR US, VOICES IN YOUR HEAD

**Ben + Company 2**

NO ESCAPE FROM WANDE'RING SOULS  
 TRY TO RUN BUT THERE'S NOWHERE TO GO

*(Emily, Ben's English nurse, enters, and is surprised to see General Arnold standing on top of his bed, wearing his Continental Jacket)*

**Emily**

General! General Arnold! Just what do you think you're doing out of bed in your condition? You know what the doctor said about that! Now get back in bed this instant. Do I have to call Mrs. Arnold again?

**Ben**

*(Delirious, now putting on his boots)*

Emily! You haven't any time to spare! You must storm the fort at Ticonderoga!

**Emily**

I? Storm the fort at Ticonderoga? Not bloody likely! I've got laundry to do!

**Ben**

God woman! Where is your coat?

**Emily**

My what, sir?

**Ben**

Your coat, damn it! Your coat! That's no way to dress in this kind of weather!

**Emily**

This kind of weather? It's a scorcher if you ask me! It's got to be 90 degrees already!

**Ben**

Well....here. Here—at least take my blanket.

*(He runs back to his bed, pulling off the covers and draping them over her)*

**Emily**

Thank you, sir. I know you're meanin' well. I'll leave you to your dreams now.

*(sympathetically, as music starts to play)*

I s'ppose dreams are about all you got left.

*(Emily exits, Ben looks despondent as the ghosts from his past  
Huddle with each other for warmth)*

**[Song: Revolutionary Gentleman]**

**Ben**

IT'S TIME TO START A REVOLUTION  
IF I JUST KNEW HOW  
ALL I SEE SURROUNDING ME ARE FACES OF DESPAIR  
IS IT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO KEEP THEIR HOPES ALIVE  
WHEN DEATH IS EVERYWHERE?

AM I A REVOLUTIONARY GENTLEMAN  
JUST LIKE ALL THE PAPERS SAY,  
OR CAN IT BE I'M JUST AN ORDINARY MAN?  
CAN I CARVE US OUT A NATION ONE DAY?

WOULD THESE SUNSHINE PATRIOTS  
KNOW HOW TO FIGHT A WAR?  
OR AT THE SOUND OF ENGLISH CANNON  
WOULD THEY ALL RETREAT?  
WHO AM I TO LEAD THEM ALL  
AGAINST A MIGHTY POWER  
AND SAVE THIS NATION FROM DEFEAT?  
I'M NOT A REVOLUTIONARY GENTLEMAN  
AS ALL THE HISTORY BOOKS WILL SAY  
I'M NOTHING MORE THAN JUST A MAN CONTENT TO KNOW  
A GRATEFUL NATION WILL REMEMBER HIM SOME DAY.

**Company**

WE WOULD NOT HAVE SURVIVED WITHOUT YOU

**Company (Cont)**

NONE OF US HERE WOULD BE ALIVE WITHOUT YOU  
 JUST LOOK AT WHERE WE ARE  
 WE NEVER WOULD'VE MADE IT THIS FAR  
 WITHOUT YOU....WITHOUT YOU...  
 WE WOULD NOT HAVE SURVIVED WITHOUT YOU  
 (NEVER WOULD'VE MADE IT WITHOUT YOU)  
 NONE OF US HERE WOULD BE ALIVE WITHOUT YOU  
 (NEVER WOULD'VE MADE IT WITHOUT YOU)

JUST LOOK AT WHERE WE ARE  
 WE NEVER WOULD'VE MADE IT THIS FAR  
 WITHOUT YOU...WITHOUT YOU...

NEVER WOULD'VE MADE IT  
 NEVER WOULD'VE MADE IT  
 NEVER WOULD'VE MADE IT WITHOUT YOU  
 (WITHOUT YOU)

NEVER WOULD'VE MADE IT  
 NEVER WOULD'VE MADE IT  
 NEVER WOULD'VE MADE IT WITHOUT YOU  
 (WITHOUT YOU)  
 NEVER WOULD'VE MADE IT  
 NEVER WOULD'VE MADE IT  
 NEVER WOULD'VE MADE IT

... 'CAUSE YOU'RE A REVOLUTIONARY GENTLEMAN  
 JUST LIKE ALL THE PAPERS SAY  
 WITH YOU TO LEAD US  
 WE KNOW WE'LL SOON BE FREE  
 YOU'LL BE KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD SOME DAY.

**[Song: Despicable]**

**Emily**

YOU LIKELY THINK THAT BEN'S A TRAITOR  
 BUT ALL OF THAT WOULD COME MUCH LATER  
 HE'D NOT YET BEGUN TO HATCH HIS PLAN  
 YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED TO FIND  
 BENEDICT HAD BEEN ASSIGNED  
 TO BECOME THE MILITARY'S SECOND-IN-COMMAND

STILL SOME PEOPLE CAME TO HATE HIM  
 WANTED TO ANNIHILATE HIM  
 ALWAYS HATEFUL THINGS TO SAY  
 DIDN'T WANT HIM STANDING IN THEIR WAY

**Emily (Cont)**

ENVY AND GREED WERE ALL PERVASIVE  
 MANY HAD HOPED TO TAKE THE PLACE OF  
 THIS FUTURE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF  
 GAVE HIM NOTHING BUT GRIEF

BEN COULD BE UNSAVORY, TOO  
 BUT WHAT'S ALL THAT TO DO WITH YOU?  
 HE SURELY WASN'T LOYAL TO THE KING!

FURTHERMORE, HERE'S THE LATEST:  
 BEN COULD HAVE BEEN THE GREATEST  
 PATRIOT THIS COUNTRY HAD EVER SEEN, BUT...  
 THE LOCAL HEAD AUTHORITY  
 MADE IT HIS PRIORITY  
 TO UNDERMINE THE MAN  
 DIDN'T WANT HIM IN COMMAND AT ALL  
 REED WAS THE MASTER OF CORRUPTION  
 HE WOULDN'T TOLERATE DISRUPTIONS  
 TO HIS MASTER PLAN  
 A DESCPICABLE MAN.

*(As the song ends, lights come up on Mr. Reed, the sniveling, peevish  
 President of the Council, and his efficient, if rather sassy secretary,  
 Josephine, giving him a massage, while his servant (EveryMan) is feeding  
 him grapes)*

**Reed**

Ahhhh!!!!!! Ohhhhhhhh! You know, Josephine, all these years as my chief-of-staff, you may have been the most ineffectual, molly-coddled ingrate it's ever been my misfortune to employ...but...as a masseuse....you are the crème de la crème!

**Josephine**

Oh, sir. You really know the way to a girl's heart!

**Reed**

Josephine, have you ever met Benedict Arnold?

**Josephine**

Sir, this unhealthy obsession with General Arnold has to stop. It's keeping you up at night. It's keeping me up at night....Well.... I hear you moaning endlessly in bed.

*(Getting flustered)*

You in your bed. Me in my bed, of course. What would I be doing in your bed? But through the walls, don't you see?

**Reed**

Josephine, what a peculiar manner of speaking you've adopted. Simply answer my question.



**Josephine**

Well, yes, sir. I did meet the General...once...but, sir...he was no gentleman.

**Reed**

You don't mean--?!?!?

**Josephine**

Oh, no, sir, nothing like that....but he called me vile names...reprehensible names!

**Reed**

General Arnold? Are you sure?

**Josephine**

He bumped into me, and said, quite plainly, mind you, "Pardon me, madam." I? A 'madam'? I'd never been so insulted in all me life! I'm only 26! I still have most of me teeth!

*(Josephine sits at the desk and looks at the newspaper headlines)*

**[Song: I Can Live With That]**

**Reed**

WHAT HAVE YOU GOT IN THE PAPERS?  
YOU NEVER HAVE ANYTHING GOOD

**Josephine**

SIR, DON'T BLAME THE MESSENGER  
I DID THE BEST THAT I COULD!  
GENERAL ARNOLD'S HORSE WAS SHOT

**Reed**

IS THAT ALL YOU'VE GOT?  
IF YOU'D ONLY TELL ME ARNOLD WAS SHOT TOO!

**Josephine**

THE GENERAL SURVIVED THE ENCOUNTER

**Reed**

JUST MY LUCK, OF COURSE

**Josephine**

HE WAS SHOT, TOO

**Reed** *(Hopeful)*

WAS IT FATAL?

**Josephine**

AT LEAST IT WAS FOR THE HORSE!

**Reed**

THIS IS ALL SO DEVASTATING!  
NO ONE IS COOPERATING

**Josephine**

BUT HE MAY NEVER WALK AGAIN!

**Reed**

NOT DEAD, BUT CRIPPLED!

Mmmm.... Not bad.

I CAN LIVE WITH THAT!

**Josephine**

YOUR GENEROSITY IS WHERE IT'S AT!

**Reed**

I CAN LIVE WITH THAT

**Josephine**

MAYBE NOW PEOPLE WON'T TREAT YOU LIKE A DOORMAT

**Reed**

JOSEPHINE, HAVE YOU SEEN  
HOW I NEVER GET A BREAK?  
HOW MUCH MORE'S A MAN TO TAKE?  
BUT...I CAN LIVE WITH THAT

**Josephine**

WATCHING PEOPLE SUFFER IS WHERE IT'S AT!

**Reed**

GENERAL ARNOLD'S DOWN AND OUT!

**Josephine**

SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST IS WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

**Reed**

JOSEPHINE, IF YOU COULD SEE  
HOW HARD THIS WAR HAS BEEN ON ME!

**Josephine**

IF YOU HADN'T GOTTEN OLDER  
YOU MIGHT STILL BE A SOLDIER

**Josephine + EveryMan**

THINK OF ALL THAT THEY GO THROUGH  
AND BE GLAD IT'S NOT STILL HAPPENING TO YOU!

**Reed**

SOME MEN ARE JUST BORN LUCKY  
FOR ME, LIFE IS SO UNFAIR  
WHEN THEY SIGNED THAT FAMOUS DECLARATION  
SADLY, I WASN'T THERE.  
THEY FORGOT TO INVITE ME  
AND THEN, JUST TO SPITE ME  
JOHN HANCOCK SIGNED HIS NAME SO BIG  
THERE WAS NO ROOM LEFT FOR MINE! BUT....  
I CAN LIVE WITH THAT  
ALL MY LIFE I HAVE BEEN REJECTED

**EveryMan**

DON'T COMPLAIN, SOMEDAY YOU'D LIKE  
A STATUE OF YOU TO BE ERECTED

**Reed**

JOSEPHINE, DO YOU FEEL  
I HAVE AN IRRESISTIBLE APPEAL?

**Josephine**

Whaaat?! Oh, puuullllease!

**Reed** (*Shrugging*)

I CAN LIVE WITH THAT

**EveryMan**

EVEN THOUGH HE'S FEELING QUITE DEJECTED

**Reed**

I CAN LIVE WITH THAT

**EveryMan**

AFTER ALL, HE'S COME TO EXPECT IT

**Reed**

JOSEPHINE, IF YOU COULD SEE  
HOW HARD MY LIFE HAS BEEN FOR ME

**Josephine**

YOU MUST BE OPTIMISTIC

**EveryMan**

...AND A LITTLE LESS SADISTIC

**Reed + Jos + EveryMan**

THEN SOMEWHAT BETTER DAYS  
MAY BE ON THEIR WAY!

*(Sounds of fireworks and shouting in the street)*

**Josephine**

Yo, yo yo! Ya wanna keep it down? The President of the Council is highly sensitive to noise. He's a bit metrosexual in that regard!

**Muse 1**

Haven't you heard?

**Muse 2**

The Rebels have finally driven the English out of the city! They're on the run!

**Muse 3**

And Washington's just appointed Benedict Arnold military governor!

*(Reed and Josephine exchange glances and sigh. Excited crowd noises as light comes up on the ballroom. EveryMan is a waiter. The Muses each take a glass of champagne from his tray and excitedly gather round Benedict Arnold, who is seated. The conversation is underscored by music)*

**[Instrumental: Was It a Dream?] (Track 4)**

**Muse 1**

General! I brought you a nice cold glass of champagne!

**Muse 2**

I did, too!

**Muse 1**

I thought of it first!

**Muse 2**

You did not!

**Ben**

Ladies, please! How kind of you both to have noticed that I was...exceptionally thirsty this evening.

*(He takes both glasses, drinking from each. The giggle)*

You'll forgive me for not getting up...

*(Pointing to his left leg with his cane)*

...but this nearly fatal, and unquestionably painful injury, was an honor and a privilege to have received in the defense of your sweet liberties...

**Muses (Dreamily)**

Oh, General!

**Josephine**

I think I'm going to be ill.

**Muse 3**

General, how did you hurt your leg?

**Ben** (*with feigned modesty*)

Oh, I don't think you want to hear about that.

**Muses**

Oh yes we do, yes we do!

**Ben** (*without missing a beat*)

It was a blustery winter's day. The morning frost clung to the withered blades of grass....

**Josephine**

Skip it!

**Ben**

Er...yes. Well, at any rate, I was leading my men into battle, where the heaviest fighting was going on?—

**Muse 3**

General! You don't mean to say that you were —out in front?—leading the charge?

**Ben**

Madam, with me it was never “Go, lads, go!” It was always “Come on lads, follow me!”

**Muse 1**

It must have been awfully dangerous!

**Ben**

I had my hat shot clean through nine times!

**Muse 2**

Oh, my goodness!

**Ben**

The suddenly, my horse was shot out from underneath me. I tried to jump clear, but it was too late—my foot was caught in the stirrup and my leg was crushed beneath the beast.

**Muse 3**

How awful!

**Ben**

More to my immediate concern, however, was what to do about the blasted Redcoat who had chanced to come upon me at this rather inopportune moment. He ran up to me, and pointing his musket in my face, said “You're my prisoner!”

**Muse 1** (*covering her ears*)

I don't think I want to hear any more!

**Muse 2**

What happened next?

**Ben**

I looked him square in the eye and said "Not yet!" Then I drew out my musket and—  
*(Using his cane as a weapon, Ben "Fires" and a loud resonant "boom" is heard. Lights come up on Washington and he calls for everyone's attention).*

**[Song: Man of the Hour]**

**Washington**

GENERAL ARNOLD'S THE MAN OF THE HOUR  
 THANKS TO HIM, WE'RE FIRMLY BACK IN POWER  
*(Placing a key to the city on a chain around Ben's neck)*  
 I'M PLEASED TO HONOR HIM TONIGHT  
 HE MAY BE DOWN AND OUT  
 BUT HE'LL SOON REJOIN THE FIGHT

**Ben**

Thank you, Your Excellency. I assure you, your confidence in me will not be misplaced.

**Washington**

DON'T BE FOOLED, BEN NEEDS NO CONSOLATION  
 WATCH HIM REBOUND  
 HE'S THE FUTURE OF OUR NATION  
 SOME DAY, THIS MAN IN FRONT OF YOU  
 MAY WELL BE LIVIN' ON PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE!

**Josephine** (*To Reed*)

Oh! He did not just say that!!

**Washington**

OH, YEAH!!

**Josephine**

You've got to be kidding me! That's an insult is what that is!

**Muses** (*almost swooning*)

WE KNOW THAT YOU  
 RECEIVED A NEARLY FATAL INJURY  
 SOMEDAY A STATUE  
 WILL BE ERECTED IN YOUR MEMORY! YEAH!

**Ben**

Don't write me off just yet, ladies! There's work still to be done! I may be sidelined for now, but there's plenty more of me comin' your way.

**Josephine** (*To Reed*)

SUCH GREAT REVIEWS!

**Reed**

For him!

**Josephine**

IT'S REALLY KINDA FUNNY  
LOOK AT YOU!

**Reed**

It's rather grim.

**Josephine**

THEY ONLY PRAISE YOU FOR YOUR MONEY

**Reed and Josephine**

WE MUST KEEP HIM IN HIS PLACE  
IT'S TIME THEY FOUND OUT HE IS NOTHING  
BUT ANOTHER PRETTY FACE!

**Reed**

Look at those people surrounding him, seemingly repulsed by my very presence!

**Josephine**

Seemingly, sir?

**Reed** (*Sniffing his armpits*)

Josephine, remind to take my semi-annual bubble bath, won't you?

**Josephine**

With great pleasure, sir.

**Muses**

AND WE TRUST YOU  
YOUR LOYALTY WILL BE OUR GUIDING LIGHT  
IF YOU MUST, YOU  
WILL LEAVE US WHEN THE TIME'S COME  
TO JUMP BACK INTO THE FIGHT. YEAH.

**Washington**

The front lines is where this man belongs, people!

**Ben**

You're too kind.

**Josephine**

It won't be soon enough for me, lemme tell ya!

**Washington & Muses**

HE'LL SOON BE BACK IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE.  
WHOA!!! YEAH!

*(The song ends, the party resumes. John Andre, a dashing British officer, and Peggy's former lover appears with her in a dream. They kiss. Emily looks on, then approaches Ben)*

**[Song: Back Up Lover]**

**Emily (To Ben)**

PEGGY'S OVER THERE  
ALWAYS BEEN SO GLAMOROUS  
SHE'S WITH JOHN, THEY'RE BOTH ACTING AWFULLY AMOROUS

**Ben**

THAT WAS LONG BEFORE THE TWO OF US HAD MET  
EVEN I WAS KNOWN TO HAVE MY TETE-A-TETES

**Emily**

No! Really sir?

**Ben**

Oh, yes. I had three children by a previous marriage!

WHEN MY WIFE DIED  
I WAS BESIDE  
MYSELF WITH GRIEF  
FILLED WITH GLOOM  
LOCKED UP IN MY ROOM  
WOULDN'T COME OUT TILL DINNER TIME

**Muses**

YEAH YEAH YEAH

**Ben**

THEN SHE APPEARED  
BETSY DUBOIS WAS THE ANSWER TO MY PRAYERS

**Emily**

AS IF SHE CARES!



**Ben**

I SPENT DAYS ON A LETTER SURE TO WIN HER HEART  
YOUR CHARMS, MADAM, HAVE LIGHTED A FLAME IN MY HEART

**Muses**

SHOO BE DOO WAH WAH SHOO BE DOO WAH

**Ben**

DON'T WANNA SPEND A MOMENT APART!  
WHEN WILL OUR COURTSHIP FINALLY START?

**Muse 1** (as Betsy Dubois)

WELL THAT'S SO SWEET  
BUT, HE'LL HAVE TO TAKE A BACK SEAT

**Muse 2**

HE'S ALL THE RAGE

**Muse 1**

BUT HE'S TWICE MY AGE

**Muse 3**

YOU'VE HEARD THE TALK  
HE CAN HARDLY WALK

**Muses**

AND MAY STAY THAT WAY

*(She throws the letter down. Ben picks it up)*

**Ben**

THANK GOODNESS, SOMEHOW THIS LETTER STILL IS INTACT

**Muses**

SHOO BE DO WAH WAH, SHOO BE DO WAH

**Emily**

JUST DON'T GIVE IT TO ANOTHER

**Muses**

ONLY AN ASS  
WOULD BE SO CRASS

**Muses + Emily**

TO USE THE SAME LINES ON A BACK UP LOVER

**Ben**

What's wrong with that? Those heart felt words of love were too good to use only once. Now, then, ....let's see...

*(Looking around, he suddenly spots Peggy)*

Ah, yes. Dear.....Peggy!

*(Hurriedly scribbling)*

Your heavenly image is too deeply impressed ever to be erased!

*(Lights dim as Ben approaches Peggy. He cuts in and John exits)*

**[Song: Flame in the Dark]****Peggy**

IS THIS HOW IT STARTS,  
WITH A GAME OF HEARTS  
PASSED LIKE A GIFT OF GOOD WILL BETWEEN MEN?  
OUR LOVE'S SO UNORTHODOX  
I'M LIKE MY LITTLE MUSIC BOX  
OPEN UP MY HEART AND I WILL PLAY FOR YOU AGAIN

**Ben**

YOU RUN FROM THE NIGHTS FULL OF SHADOWS  
I AM YOUR FLAME IN THE DARK

**Peggy and Ben**

CLOSE ALL THE DOORS AND HOLD IN THE LIGHT  
THE REST OF THE WORLD CANNOT TOUCH US TONIGHT  
SOMEDAY YOU'LL BE...FOREVER WITH ME

**Peggy**

I KNOW ALL TOO WELL  
MORNING WILL BREAK THE SPELL  
DUTY WILL CALL AND THEN I WILL LET YOU GO  
YET HERE YOU'RE SAFE FROM ALL THE LIES  
AND WHEN I LOOK INTO YOUR EYES  
THERE THEY ARE THOSE SECRETS  
ONLY WE WILL EVER KNOW

**Ben**

WHEN THE DAY IS OVER AND THE SUN GOES DOWN  
LOOK FOR A FLAME IN THE DARK

**Peggy and Ben**

CLOSE ALL THE DOORS AND HOLD IN THE LIGHT  
THE REST OF THE WORLD CANNOT TOUCH US TONIGHT  
SOMEDAY YOU'LL BE  
FOREVER WITH ME

**Ben**

YOU WILL STAY SAFE AND WARM  
LYING HERE IN MY ARMS  
NOBODY SEES THROUGH THE WINDOWS  
WE ARE JUST FLAMES IN THE DARK...IN THE DARK

**Peggy and Ben**

CLOSE ALL THE DOORS AND HOLD IN THE LIGHT  
THE REST OF THE WORLD CANNOT TOUCH US TONIGHT  
SOMEDAY YOU'LL BE FOREVER WITH ME

*(They kiss. Reed and Josephine look on, disgusted)*

**Reed**

So...it is true, after all! Benedict Arnold is engaged to Peggy Shippen—the daughter of a loyalist judge. I'd be very interested to see what General Washington has to say about this!

**Josephine**

But it's not a crime to be a loyalist. God knows you certainly are, when it suits your purpose!

**Reed**

But all we need do...is plant the seeds of doubt in Washington's mind.

**Josephine**

Mmm....you may be right. And if what you say isn't altogether true, well...that can't be helped. We make mistakes. We're only human!

**Reed**

We'll say he's acting suspicious of late.

**Josephine**

We'll say he's a traitor!

**Washington** *(Storming in)*

Aren't you blowing this out of proportion?!

**Reed**

But, sir....if you'll just look at the evidence.

*(Reed brandishes a paper in his face, which he dismisses)*

**Washington**

I have! And I've seen nothing to shake my faith in my most trusted general.

**Reed**

With all due respect, Your Excellency, your devotion to Arnold is...increasingly suspect.

**Washington** *(Seething)*

How dare you question my loyalty to the cause!!

*(He approaches Reed, who cowers slightly)*

**Josephine**

Oh, oh. Here it comes.

**Washington**

I seem to remember a young officer under my command, during the French and Indian Wars, who went behind enemy lines to negotiate a settlement with the French...behind my back!!!

**Reed** *(With an embarrassed laugh)*

Now, sir...please understand.... I was only doing what I thought best at the time...and that's all I'm doing now. You are in a position to prevent this from turning into a catastrophe!

**[Song: We Have a Crisis]**

**Reed**

WE HAVE A CRISIS  
ITS NAME IS BENEDICT  
WHAT ROCK DID HE CRAWL OUT FROM UNDER?  
HE IS NOTHING BUT A DERELICT  
HE'S GETTING MARRIED TO AN ALLY OF THE KING  
RUMOR NOW HAS IT SHE'S ALREADY EVEN HAD A FLING

**Josephine**

SHE'S BEEN SNEAKING OUT LATE AT NIGHT  
TO SOME ENGLISH OFFICER'S DELIGHT  
HOW LONG BEFORE  
HE WANTS EVEN MORE  
HOLD ONTO YOUR SEATS, FOR WHEN THE SPARKS IGNITE

**Washington**

YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS

**Reed**

YOU MUST BE DELIRIOUS

**Washington**

THESE RUMORS ARE SLANDER  
HE'S OUR BEST COMMANDER

**Reed**

STAVE OFF THE BLEEDING  
SAVE THIS NATION WHILE YOU CAN

**Washington**

I'VE NEVER DOUBTED HIM  
HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY RIGHT HAND MAN!

**Reed**

BUT WE HAVE A CRISIS, AS OF NOW, IT'S NOT TOO LATE  
WHEN YOUR RIGHT HAND'S DISEASED

**Reed (Cont)**

YOU HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO AMPUTATE!

**Josephine**

HE ENTERTAINS THE ENGLISH EVERY NIGHT  
FOR ENEMIES, THEY SEEM RATHER TIGHT  
WHAT UNDENIABLE RAPPORT!  
SOMEONE NEEDS TO TELL THEM  
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE AT WAR!

**Reed**

YOU ARE NAÏVE  
IF YOU BELIEVE  
THIS SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR MEANS

**Reed + Josephine**

NOTHING AT ALL  
WITH HIM AROUND WE ARE ALL DOOMED TO FALL

**[Song: Strange Bedfellows]**

*(Lights go down. Sound of wedding bells and crowds cheering.  
Lights come up. Ben and Peggy enter, followed by wedding guests,  
who are promptly ushered away. Emily stands by the bed)*

**Emily**

ON THE DAY BEN AND PEGGY WED

*(Emily turns down the bed for them, revealing John, in his nightclothes,  
Who sits up in bed, stretching and yawning)*

THEY CAME HOME TO FIND JOHN ASLEEP IN THEIR BED  
AND ALTHOUGH SHE SAID:

**Peggy**

HE MEANS NOTHING TO ME

**Ben (Aside)**

STILL I COULDN'T GET IT OUT OF MY HEAD

*(Cello solo as Peggy crosses to desk and writes a letter. John makes  
Himself comfortable with a cup of tea)*

**Emily**

MORE THAN ONCE, HE SAW HER WRITE  
A LETTER TO JOHN IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT; SHE SAID:

**Peggy**

IT'S MY MOTHER, POOR DEAR IS DYING

**Ben** *(Aside)*  
 BUT SINCE SHE WAS ALREADY DEAD  
 I KNEW SHE MUST BE LYING!

**Emily**  
 STILL, HE TRIED HIS BEST TO PLEASE HER

**All**  
 WHICH WASN'T AN EASY THING TO DO

**Ben**  
 THIS HOUSE COST MORE THAN I CAN AFFORD

*(EveryMan, as delivery boy, brings in boxes of shoes)*

**Peggy & Emily**  
 AND EVERY DAY SHE'D/I'D BUY ANOTHER PAIR OF SHOES

Oy, vey!

**Emily**  
 THOUGH PEGGY FELT SHE HAD IT BAD  
 THEY DID WHAT THEY COULD ON WHAT LITTLE THEY HAD

**All**  
 IF WE/THEY RAN OUT OF MONEY WE'D/THEY'D BORROW MORE

**Emily**  
 TILL THE CREDITORS CAME KNOCKING AT THEIR DOOR.

*(Knocking and bell ringing are heard. John exits, Josephine and Reed enter, followed by EveryMan as a mover, wearing coveralls that read "Colonial Moving Company, LTD)*

**Reed**  
 Colonial Moving Company.

**EveryMan**  
 We're here to repossess.

**Ben**  
 Couldn't you extend the deadline, just a few more weeks?

**Reed**  
 Oh, goodness, gracious, no.

**Josephine**

What if everyone did the same? Can you imagine what would happen if your government acted so irresponsibly? Why, someday our national debt could well be in the...the hundreds of dollars!

**[Song: Day of Reckoning]****Reed**

WHAT SERENE CONTENTMENT!  
WHEN BILLS ARE ALL PAST DUE!  
THEIR MISERY IS OUR GREAT FORTUNE

**Reed and Josephine**

SOON WE'LL BE LIVING ON PARK AVENUE

**Josephine**

SEE HOW UNDERHANDED WE CAN BE  
CHARGING TOO MUCH INTEREST

**Reed**

PLUS FEES!

**Josephine**

THEN, WHEN YOU FIND YOU'RE OVEREXTENDED

**Reed and Josephine**

WE SWOOP DOWN, DEMANDING YOU HAND IN YOUR KEYS

**Reed**

TRIPS OVERSEAS!

**Josephine**

SHOPPING SPREES!

**Reed**

EVENING WEAR TO DIE FOR

**Josephine**

ALL THE LUXURIES YOU FIND APPEALING

**Reed**

BUT YOUR DAY OF RECKONING HAS COME

**Josephine**

TIME TO SHOW US ANY MONEY YOU'RE CONCEALING

**Reed**

START THE CELEBRATION

**Josephine**  
BREAK OUT YOUR BALLROOM GOWNS

**EveryMan**  
WE DON'T SELL TOO MANY TICKETS  
BUT YOU'LL FIND

**Reed, Josephine + EveryMan**  
IT'S THE HOTTEST SHOW IN TOWN!

*(During the brief instrumental interlude, Muses, as tourists, enter with pennants that say "Reed, D.C." as they watch the proceedings. EveryMan is now a hawker, selling snacks)*

**EveryMan**  
Popcorn! Get your hot corn mash! Corn pudding! Get it while it's hot! Don't forget your corn fritters! Pretty much anything 'corn,' we got it!

**Josephine**  
HUMILIATE  
HEADS OF STATE

**Reed**  
UNDERMINE THE GENERALS

**Josephine**  
RUINING THEIR LIVES IS NEVER EASY

**Reed**  
BUT DAMN, IF WE DON'T FIND IT FUN!

**EveryMan**  
EVEN IF YOU END UP LOOKING RATHER SLEAZY

**Reed and Josephine**  
LET'S ALL DRINK AND PARTY IN OUR FINEST HOUR  
WE MAKE A FORTUNE OFF OTHERS' MISTAKES  
WE'RE AROUND TO CLEAN THINGS UP  
WHEN IT'S GONE SOUR

**Josephine**  
SUCH ENJOYMENT WATCHING LIVES DECAY

**Reed**  
WE FULFILL A USEFUL FUNCTION

**Josephine**  
BANKRUPTCIES ONLY MAKE US HAPPY



**Reed, Josephine & EveryMan**  
YES WE'RE SCUM, AND WE'RE ALL HERE TO STAY!

[Song: When the Moment is Right]

**Peggy**  
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE  
A LIFE OF MISERY  
DO YOU DREAM AS I DO  
HOW OUR LIVES COULD BE?

**John**  
DON'T THINK ABOUT WHAT MIGHT  
HAVE HAPPENED ON THAT NIGHT  
I WAS FORCED TO FLEE

**Peggy**  
BUT YOU DIDN'T TAKE ME

**John**  
THEY HAD US ON THE RUN

**Peggy**  
SO I MARRIED BEN  
I KNEW EVEN THEN  
I LIKELY WOULDN'T SEE YOU AGAIN

**John**  
BUT I KNEW WHEN THE MOMENT WAS RIGHT  
I'D BE RIGHT BACK WHERE I BELONG  
NOW THAT YOU ARE THERE, BY HIS SIDE  
PERHAPS YOU CAN PERSUADE HIM  
TO HELP US TURN THE TIDE

**Peggy**  
HE'D NEVER AGREE  
TO SUCH DISLOYALTY  
YOU CAN'T IMAGINE HOW,  
IN MY DREAMS, I'VE TRIED

**John**  
WHO'S TO SAY  
THAT TODAY  
WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS WRONG  
MAY WELL BE  
JUST WHAT HE  
WAS THINKING ALL ALONG?  
WHEN THE MOMENT IS RIGHT

**John + Peggy**

HE WILL FIGHT  
LIKE HE HAS NEVER FOUGHT BEFORE!

*(Reed and Josephine. Reed is looking at papers on his desk)*

**Reed** *(at desk, shaking his head)*

Oh, dear, oh dear, oh dear... Josephine, why must you always disappoint me?

**Josephine**

Sir?

**Reed**

I ask for smut on General Arnold, and this is the best you could come up with? Was tardy in getting in his paperwork?? Asked a corporal to go and fetch a barber?!

*(Tossing down the papers in disgust)*

**Josephine**

It's all true!

**Reed**

It's all boring!! I give you three weeks to discredit the general, and instead, what do I find?—his popularity is increasing with every passing moment!! Now I find that the whole city is raving about him, while they all seem to think I'm some sort of a...a....

**Josephine** *(Matter-of-factly)*

A bastard, sir?

**[Song: Alternative Facts]****Reed**

WE MUST FIND A WAY TO BRING HIM DOWN  
I'M TIRED OF PLAYING SECOND FIDDLE  
WHILE HE'S THE TALK OF THE TOWN

**Josephine**

SIR, WE MIGHT HAVE TO FACE FACTS  
GENERAL ARNOLD'S ABOVE REPROACH

**Reed**

LUCKILY  
THERE ARE QUALITIES  
OF EVIL TO BE FOUND IN EVERY MAN

Now what have you got in your notes for me?

**Josephine**

HE BORROWED AN ARMY WAGON

**Reed**

IN MY BOOK, THAT'S CALLED 'THEFT'

**Josephine**

SOLDIERS DIED UNDER HIS COMMAND  
LEAVING SO MANY YOUNG WIDOWS BEREFT

**Reed**

ANYTHING CAN SEEM UNDERHANDED

**Reed and Josephine**

....IF YOU ONLY TRY!!!

**Reed**

What other dirt do you have on him?

**Josephine**

HE WENT OUT ONE NIGHT, TO HAVE A DRINK

**Reed**

WE'LL TELL EVERYONE HE'S A DRUNK!  
HIS FOLLOWERS WILL TURN AGAINST HIM  
WHEN THEY SEE HOW LOW HE'S SUNK

**Josephine**

YOU ARE THE MOST DELICIOUSLY EVIL MAN I'VE EVER KNOW

**Reed**

NO TIME FOR COMPLIMENTS RIGHT NOW....I'M ON A ROLL

Oh, this is fun! What else did he do?

**Josephine**

HE LET A SHIP'S CAPTAIN ENTER PORT  
WITHOUT A CURRENT PASS

**Reed**

HE'S ENDANGERING ALL OF US!  
WHAT A DEPRAVED, DIABOLICAL ASS!

**Ben** (*Angrily entering*)

REED, THESE CHARGES ARE TRUMPED UP  
FAKE MEDIA'S AT IT AGAIN!

**Reed**

SEE HOW HE ACTS?

WHY, THEY'RE NOT LIES—THEY'RE JUST.... UH...

(*Looks to Josephine for help*)

**Josephine**

.... ALTERNATIVE FACTS!

**Reed and Josephine**

YOU ARE THE ONE WHO DEMANDED  
A HEARING FOR YOUR CRIMES

**Reed**

COULDN'T STAND TO THINK  
WHAT WE'D BE SAYING BEHIND YOUR BACK ALL THE TIME

**Josephine**

YOU WANTED THIS TRIAL  
YOU COULDN'T LET IT REST  
THAT WOULDN'T BE YOUR STYLE  
SO NOW YOU'RE OUR CAPTIVE GUEST

**Ben**

I COULDN'T LET IT GO WITHOUT PUTTING UP A FIGHT  
MY SILENCE WOULD BE DEAFENING  
PEOPLE MIGHT START TO BELIEVE YOU WERE RIGHT

**Josephine**

YOUR HONOR, THIS MAN  
WAS OFFERED COMMAND  
OF THE LEFT WING OF THE ARMY  
IT REALLY ALARMED ME!

**Reed and Josephine**

WE MUST WORK DILIGENTLY TO PREVENT  
GENERAL ARNOLD FROM BECOMING OUR FIRST PRESIDENT!  
THOUGH IT SEEMS UNLIKELY  
CAN YOU JUST IMAGINE?  
SOME DAY IN THE FUTURE  
EVEN STRANGER THINGS MIGHT HAPPEN!

**Judge** (*Banging his gavel*)

Silence! There will be no more outbursts in my courtroom!

**Reed**

A Thousand pardons, Your Honor.

**Josephine**

Forgive our exuberance, your Lordship, but the President of the Council has just always been so damned passionate to see that...justice is done.

**Judge**

Very reasonably argued, Counsel. For you, I will overlook it. Now let's get on with the proceedings.

**[Song: The Verdict]****Ben**

REED, YOU'VE ALWAYS HARRASSED ME  
 WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID THEY'LL SEE?  
 COULD IT BE WITHOUT ME AS YOUR SCAPEGOAT  
 THEY'D SEE YOU QUITE DIFFERENTLY?  
 WE KNOW YOUR TYPE OF POLITICIAN  
 ON A MERCENARY MISSION  
 IF YOU COULD, YOU'D CHARGE ADMISSION ...TO YOUR FUNERAL

**Reed**

The prosecution rests, your honor.

**Emily**

I'M SURE THEY'LL SOON PROCLAIM  
 YOU'RE NOT TO BLAME AT ALL

**Ben**

BUT I SHOULD BE OUT THERE LEADING MY MEN

**Emily**

AND YOU COULD WITH ENOUGH ALCOHOL

**EveryMan (Judge)**

GENERAL ARNOLD, PLEASE RISE

**Ben**

I DON'T MEAN TO CRITICIZE  
 BUT I HAVEN'T HAD MY TURN JUST YET

**EveryMan**

I'M AFRAID THAT'S ALL YOU GET  
 IF IT'S ALL THE SAME,  
 YOU'VE HAD YOUR FIFTEEN MINUTES OF FAME  
 THE JURY'S FOUND THAT YOU'RE TO BLAME  
 YOUR CAREER WILL NEVER BE THE SAME  
 GENERAL WE'RE ALL IN YOUR DEBT  
 SO I SAY THIS WITH REGRET:  
 THIS IS NOT A GAME  
 THIS TRIAL HAS DISGRACED YOUR NAME  
 YOU CAN'T FIND SOMEONE ELSE ON WHOM TO BLAME IT

**Emily**

EVEN THOUGH YOU ALMOST OVERCAME IT

**Washington**

PUBLICLY, I HAVE TO STATE  
YOUR PROMOTION NOW WILL HAVE TO WAIT  
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THIS  
I WOULDN'T HAVE PUT YOU THROUGH THIS

**EveryMan, Emily & Washington**

WE KNOW YOU'VE DONE YOUR BEST  
BUT CONGRESS IS UNIMPRESSED

**Ben**

Your Excellency, what about—well, what I mean is...if I'm not to be given second-in-command, then what exactly did you have in mind for me?

**Washington**

All right Ben...you'll be in charge of uh...West Point.

**Ben**

West Point? An administrative position?

**Washington**

Damn it, Ben! Congress is on my back! Reed has some very influential friends, and this trial didn't help matters any. He has them convinced that you don't have the country's best interests at heart.

**Ben**

Guarding the federal arsenal! Why, it's little more than a glorified secretarial post!

**Washington**

West Point is crucial to our nation's defense!

**Ben**

Don't patronize me!

**Washington**

That will be all, General Arnold!

**[Song: Jurors' Remorse]**

**Ben**

IF YOU ONLY KNEW  
WHAT I WOULD DO  
YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN  
QUITE SO QUICK TO CONDEMN

**Muses**

A CURIOUS SIGHT  
YOU COMING HERE TODAY TO FIGHT

**Muses** (*Cont*)

THE CHARGES WERE SUCH TRIVIALTIES

**Ben**

I WAS CERTAIN  
THAT YOU WOULD BE ON MY SIDE  
YOU DIDN'T FIND ME INNOCENT

**Muses**

OH WELL, WE TRIED...  
YET EVERYONE HERE (EVERYONE HERE)  
IS WONDERING WHY (WONDERING WHY)

**Ben**

I'M LEFT WONDERING WHY  
YOU CHOSE ME TO CRUCIFY

**Muses** (*Overlapping*)

YOU ALLOWED YOURSELF TO BE CRUCIFIED  
IF YOU LET IT GO  
EVERYONE WILL KNOW  
YOU'RE THE HERO THAT YOU'VE LONGED TO BE

**Ben**

THAT'S NOT DONE SO EASILY.

**Muses**

BUT IF THIS IS A REASON  
TO COMMIT SOME KIND OF TREASON

**Ben & Muses**

A REDCOAT IS THE ONLY THING THEY'LL SEE.

**Peggy**

Ben, don't worry. You've made the right choice.

**Ben**

I gave them every chance.

**Peggy**

We know that dear.

**Ben**

Well, at least I will do the honorable thing. I will see Washington in the morning and resign my commission in the Continental Armed Forces.

**John**

You might want to hold up on that for a few weeks, Ben. We actually like you taking on your new found responsibilities.

**Ben**

Oh you do! So glad it meets with your approval.

**Peggy**

Yes, Ben. You see...this couldn't be more fortuitous. With you in command of West Point, if you should...happen to be attacked...you can now quite conveniently surrender the fort to the British!

**John**

And the real feather in your cap will be in you can arrange to have General Washington there at the time, where he'll be arrested...and hanged for treason.

**[Song: Respect Is Only A Redcoat Away!]**

**Ben**

TELL ME I'M NOT HEARING  
WHAT IT IS YOU'RE TELLING ME TONIGHT

**Peggy**

THERE'S NOTHING THAT I'VE SAID  
YOU HAVEN'T THOUGHT YOURSELF  
LONG BEFORE TONIGHT

**Ben**

WHY HAVE I ENDED UP SO TERRIBLY REMORSEFUL?

**Peggy**

YOU CAN TURN THAT AROUND  
YOU'RE BRILLIANT AND RESOURCEFUL  
HOW CAN A NATION BE SO CRUEL  
AS TO TRY TO MAKE THEIR HERO OUT A FOOL  
LOOK WHAT THIS NATION'S DONE TO YOU

**John & Peggy**

WHAT DID YOU EVER GET  
FOR BEIN' THE WAR'S BEST COMMANDER?  
WHAT DID YOU EVER GET  
BESIDES BEING PASSED UP AND SLANDERED

**Peggy**

HOW CAN YOU JUST SIT BACK AND TAKE IT?

**John**

IF WE'RE TO MAKE IT



**John (Cont)**

YOU CAN'T WAIT FOR VALIDATION ANYMORE

**John & Peggy**

TIME TO SHOW THEM ALL  
WHOM THEY MUST NOT IGNORE!  
BE A TRAITOR,  
TELL 'EM YOU WON'T PLAY THEIR GAME  
SAY: "SEE YA LATER,  
I'M OFF TO FIND SOME FAME AND FORTUNE"  
JUST SAY "SEE YOU LATER  
I'M OFF TO BE A TRAITOR"  
RESPECT IS ONLY A REDCOAT AWAY

**John**

WE ALL KNOW THE BRITISH  
WILL SURELY WIN THIS WAR  
AMERICANS ARE LOSING SO MUCH MORE SO  
THAN BEFORE, SO....

**John & Peggy**

BE A TRAITOR  
YOU'LL BE BETTER OFF THIS WAY, SAY

**Peggy**

"SEE YA LATER"  
TELL 'EM YA WANNA TAKE A LITTLE HOLIDAY!

**John**

AMERICANS DON'T HAVE A HELLUVA CHANCE

**Ben**

I'VE ALWAYS HAD THE ATTITUDE  
THAT I DESERVED SOME GRATITUDE  
BUT I'M NOT ABOUT TO USE THIS WAR  
TO MAKE A PROFIT ON

**Peggy**

BUT BEN, HOW I'VE BEEN LONGING FOR  
A LITTLE MONEY, MAYBE MORE  
JUST THINK OF ALL THE FRIENDS  
THAT WE FINANCIALLY DEPEND UPON

**John**

BE A TRAITOR,  
TELL 'EM YOU WON'T PLAY THEIR GAME

**Peggy**

SAY “SEE YA LATER  
I’M OFF TO FIND SOME FAME AND FORTUNE”

**John, Ben & Peggy**

JUST SAY “SEE YA LATER, I’M OFF TO BE A TRAITOR”  
RESPECT IS ONLY A RED COAT AWAY!

**[Song: Don’t Egg Benedict On]**

**Muses**

DON’T EGG BENEDICT ON  
IT WON’T TAKE MUCH FOR HIM TO BE  
PUSHED OVER THE BRINK, SO...  
HEY! DON’T EGG BENEDICT ON  
THERE’S NO TELLIN’ WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN,  
I’M AFRAID TO THINK

**Ben**

AND IF THEY’D ONLY SHOWN SOME ADMIRATION  
FOR ALL THAT I HAVE SACRIFICED FOR THIS NATION  
I MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN SO INCLINED TO DECEIVE

**Muses**

DON’T EGG BENEDICT ON  
WHEN SOMEONE’S ON THE BRINK  
YOU SHOULDN’T EVER THINK OF PUSHIN’  
HEY! DON’T EGG BENEDICT ON  
FALLING FROM SUCH A HEIGHT  
EVEN HE DESERVES A CUSHION

**Ben**

YOU’LL NEVER FIND A MAN MORE DEVOTED

**Muses**

UNLESS HE FINDS OUT HE WON’T LIKELY BE PROMOTED

**Muses**

IT’S NOT TOO LATE TO BE KNOWN  
FOR ALL THE GOOD YOU HAVE DONE

**Ben**

WHY AM I NOT KNOWN  
FOR ALL THE GOOD I HAVE DONE

**END OF ACT ONE**

## ACT TWO

[Instrumental: entr'acte]

[Song: Revolutionary Wives]

**Peggy**

I'M JUST A REVOLUTIONARY WIFE  
I'M SUPPOSED TO BE CONTENT  
WITHOUT A LIFE OF MY OWN  
IT'S MEN WHO PLAN THE FUTURE  
WHILE I'M PUSHED ASIDE

**Emily**

AND THEN YOU'RE TOLD TO KEEP AMUSED  
BY SWEEPING THE FLOORS  
INSTEAD OF VOICING YOUR VIEWS

**Peggy + Emily**

AND WE CAN'T HELP WONDERING  
WHETHER THINGS WILL EVER CHANGE

**Peggy**

I'M JUST A REVOLUTIONARY WIFE  
I'M S'POSED TO BE CONTENT  
WITHOUT A LIFE OF MY OWN  
EXPECTATIONS SET ASIDE  
THERE'S NO USE IN DREAMING

**Emily**

SHE'S JUST A REVOLUTIONARY WIFE  
SHE'S S'POSED TO BE CONTENT  
WITHOUT A LIFE OF HER OWN  
EXPECTATIONS SET ASIDE  
TOO DISCONTENT TO DREAM

**Peggy + Emily**

WOMEN ONLY HOPE AND PRAY  
THAT WE WILL COME TO RULE SOME DAY  
ONLY TIME WILL TELL  
BUT SURELY WE COULD DO JUST AS WELL

**Muse 1**

WHEN YOU FALL IN LOVE AND  
LOSE YOUR HEART  
MUSIC VERY RARELY PLAYS A PART

**Muse 2 & 3**

IT'S PLAIN AS DAY  
IT'S NO PARTY

**Muse 2**

THERE'S NO TUNE PLAYIN' NOWHERE  
THERE'S NO SHOW  
OR ELSE YOU'D GO THERE  
HAPPINESS IS ONLY IN YOUR FANTASIES

**Muse 1 & 3**

THERE'S NO SHOW  
OR YOU'D GO THERE  
HAPPINESS IS JUST A FANTASY

**Muse 3**

WOMEN HAVE NO CHORUS  
THERE'S NO ENCORE WAITING FOR US  
IN OUR LIVES  
THERE'S ONLY SILENT MELODIES

**Muse 1 & 2**

THERE'S NO ENCORE FOR US  
OUR LIVES  
ARE ONLY SILENT MELODIES

**Women**

BUM, BUM, LA, LA, etc...

THEY SAY THAT REVOLUTIONARY WIVES  
WILL FIND A HAPPY LIFE  
IN HEAVEN WHEN WE DIE  
IS IT SO WRONG FOR US TO WISH  
FOR A LITTLE HEAVEN HERE ON EARTH  
BUT HOW LONG WILL WE WAIT  
BEFORE THAT MOMENT FINALLY ARRIVES  
WILL PRAYERS COME TRUE FOR REVOLUTIONARY WIVES?

**[Song: Up a Creek]****Emily**

WELL FINALLY CAME THE DAY  
WHEN TREASON WOULD PAY  
AND JOHN DROPPED IN ON BEN  
FOR A FINAL MEETING

THEN PEGGY JOINED THE BOYS  
AND THEY ALL HEARD A NOISE  
AND THEY LOOKED OUT THE WINDOW  
TO SEE JOHN'S SHIP RETREATING

**Muses**

AMERICANS WERE FIRING ON THEM  
THEIR SENSE OF TIMING COULDN'T HAVE BEEN WORSE!

**Emily**

AMERICANS WERE STRUTTING THEIR STUFF  
DECIDED IT WAS TIME TO FINALLY GET TOUGH  
AND NOW THEY WERE CLEARLY  
ENGAGING THE ENGLISH IN BATTLE  
JOHN'S SHIP WAS HIT, AND IT WENT DOWN

**Peggy (To John)**

THAT SHIP WAS YOUR RIDE OUTTA TOWN!

**Muses**

NOW HE WAS UP A CREEK WITHOUT A PADDLE!

**Emily**

JOHN HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO GO BY LAND  
HE HOPED PEGGY WOULD UNDERSTAND  
BUT HE CLEARLY HEARD THE BATTLE CRY  
AND PUBLIC TRANSIT WAS IN SHORT SUPPLY  
NOW THERE WAS JUST ONE THING LEFT TO DECIDE:  
WHAT COLOR COAT YOU SHOULD WEAR ON YOUR RIDE

**Ben**

THAT RED COAT WILL BE SEEN A MILE AWAY!

**Peggy**

WHY NOT WEAR ONE OF BEN'S COATS INSTEAD?  
YOU'RE A SITTING DUCK ...WEARING BRIGHT RED!

**Muses**

SHE CLEARLY DIDN'T WANT HIM TO LOSE HIS HEAD!

**John**

IT MAY BE TRUE  
THAT IF I WEAR BLUE  
BEN'S UNIFORM WILL HELP ME TO GET BY...

**Muses**

...THE AMERICANS!

**John**

BUT IF INSTEAD  
I WEAR RED  
THEN IF I'M CAUGHT  
I WON'T BE THOUGHT A SPY

**Muses**

...AND WE ALL KNOW THE PENALTY FOR THAT!

**John & Ben**

WHEN YOU'RE CAUGHT BY THE CHARMS  
OF A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN YOUR ARMS  
THERE'S NO REFUSING ANYTHING SHE ASKS OF YOU!

**Emily**

WHO COULD RESIST A GIRL WITH SUCH PRETTY EYES?

**Muses**

EVEN IF IT MEANT HIS EARLY DEMISE

**Emily**

SO JOHN GAVE IN AND WORE BEN'S COAT OF BLUE

**John**  
SHE WANTED ME TO

**Ben**  
YET I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER WHAT ROLE I PLAYED  
OR HOW I'LL BE PORTRAYED.

*(Ben enters Washington's office. Washington working at his desk)*

**Ben**  
Your Excellency?

**Washington**  
Come in, Ben! Come in!

**Ben**  
I, uh....I just wanted to apologize for the way I behaved at the trial the other day. It was most uncalled for.

**Washington**  
Not at all, Ben, not at all.. I understand completely! You were treated very unfairly and not given nearly the credit you deserve. And that's why I made a special trip to Congress on your behalf. "Ben is too good a Soldier to be cooped up behind some desk" I said. "A man like Arnold deserves to be out on the field of battle with his men" I told them. And Ben.... I'm happy to say they came around to my way of thinking!

**Ben** *(Worried)*  
Huh?

**Washington**  
They acquiesced. Ben? Did you hear me? The left wing is yours!

**Ben** *(Frantic)*  
Not—West Point?

**Washington**  
But Ben! I thought this was what you'd always wanted!

**Ben**  
Oh, it is---I...I, uh....your Excellency...I am truly grateful for all you've done on my behalf....and I accept your gracious offer. Ooooooooooh!  
*(BEN suddenly grabs his leg, limping around the room).*

**Washington**  
Ben, are you all right?

**Ben**

Oh, don't concern yourself with me, your Excellency. It's nothing, really. It comes and goes.

**Washington**

Well, you are in good enough health to take the post, aren't you?

**Ben**

Your Excellency, please don't tell me that my services are no longer needed. That would be worse than death.

*(Ben starts limping around again).*

Look! I can still hobble as fast as any man!

**Washington**

Well now, Ben, we don't have to make a hasty decision on this. If you think it might be wiser to hold off for a few weeks, the position will still be there for you.

**Ben**

Well, if...if you're sure it wouldn't inconvenience you.

**Washington**

Not at all, not at all. But, Ben—until your leg is better, would you mind...that is, would you still consider taking command of West Point?

**Ben**

Your Excellency, for you, I will make that sacrifice.

**[Song: The Midnight Ride / Gimme That Address]**

*(The clock strikes Twelve. Ben and Peggy kiss goodbye in the moonlight.)*

**Peggy**

THE MIDNIGHT RIDE IS DRAWING NEAR  
THE MOMENT I FEARED IS SUDDENLY HERE

**John**

SUDDENLY HERE

**Peggy**

AND WHAT WILL HISTORY HAVE TO SAY  
WHEN YOU HAVE LONG SINCE

**Peggy and John**

GONE AWAY....

**John**

WHEN I'VE GONE AWAY.

**Peggy**

WHAT WERE WE DREAMING OF?  
HOW CAN WE KEEP OUR WORLD FROM CLOSING IN SO FAST?

**Peggy and John**

LIFE IS SUCH A SAD DREAM  
ILLUSIONS THAT WERE  
NEVER MADE TO LAST

**John**

THE MIDNIGHT RIDE MAY BE MY LAST  
THE MOMENT I FEARED HAS NOW COME TO PASS

**Peggy**

IT'S COME AT LAST.

**John**

IRONICALLY  
THIS NIGHT WILL ONLY BE  
A MINOR FOOTNOTE IN HISTORY

**Peggy**

BUT NOT FOR ME

**Peggy and John**

HONEY  
IT'S FUNNY  
IT SEEMS ALMOST LIKE I'M SAYIN' GOODBYE  
FOR THE LAST TIME  
BUT IT'S PAST TIME  
TO GO...SO...GOODBYE

**John**

I HOPE I SEE YOU SOMEDAY SOON

**Peggy**

WELL HERE'S YOUR LUNCH  
NOW DON'T FORGET TO STOP AND EAT AT NOON  
AND DON'T YOU TALK TO STRANGERS ON THE WAY  
OH NO! NO, DON'T YOU TALK TO NO STRANGERS

**John**

YOU WON'T CATCH ME TALKIN' TO NO STRANGERS  
OH HO, OH HO....

**John & Peggy**

OH HO, OH HO.....



**John**

IT'S GONNA BE A LONG AND LONELY RIDE  
 LORD, I ONLY WISH I KNEW WHICH SIDE  
 YOU WERE ON, IN THIS WAR

THEY SAY THAT ENGLAND WILL WIN  
 BUT WHO REALLY KNOWS?  
 ONLY YOU CAN GUARANTEE HOW IT GOES  
 WHO ARE YOU FIGHTING FOR?

**John**

I'M JUST A REDCOAT  
 WHO COULD USE A LITTLE REST  
 IF YOU KNOW A PLACE I CAN GO  
 TO ESCAPE THIS HELLISH MESS  
 THEN GIVE ME THAT ADDRESS,  
 WHOA, YEAH  
 GIMME THAT ADDRESS, WHOA

GIMME THAT ADDRESS, WHOA,  
 OH...OH YEAH

IF YOU COULD FIND  
 ANOTHER POOR SOUL  
 WHO'D MAKE THE RIDE  
 AND WHO'D DO WHAT HE'S TOLD  
 WELL THEN, I'D HARDLY OBJECT

JUST SAY THE WORD  
 AND I'LL STEP ASIDE  
 I'D LET MY OWN GRANDMOTHER  
 MAKE THIS LONG RIDE  
 I'M AN EMOTIONAL WRECK

I'M JUST A POOR MAN  
 WHO COULD USE A LITTLE REST  
 IF YOU KNOW

A PLACE I CAN GO  
 TO ESCAPE THIS HELLISH MESS  
 THEN GIVE ME THAT ADDRESS  
 GIMME THAT ADDRESS, OH YEAH  
 GIMME THAT ADDRESS WHOA  
 GIMME THAT ADDRESS  
 OH YEAH

**Muses**

HE'S JUST A REDCOAT

DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE CAN GO?

WHAT'S THAT ADDRESS?  
 WHAT'S THAT ADDRESS?

WHAT A MESS  
 GIVE HIM THAT ADDRESS  
 TOO MUCH STRESS!  
 HE COULD USE A HOLIDAY!

YOU NEED TO FIND HIM

SOME POOR SOUL  
 NO ONE WOULD OBJECT

FIND HIS GRANDMA

HE'S A POOR MAN  
 WHO COULD USE A LITTLE REST

IF YOU KNOW  
 A PLACE THAT HE CAN GO

OH YEAH  
 WHOA

OH YEAH

**John (Cont)**

OH, DEAR LORD, GOD ABOVE  
 ONLY YOU KNOW  
 WHAT A MAN WILL DO FOR LOVE  
 I DIDN'T HAVE TO COME HERE TONIGHT  
 BUT WHAT ELSE COULD I DO?  
 SHE WAS THE LOVE OF MY LIFE

I'VE NEVER MINDED  
 HELPING DAMSELS IN DISTRESS  
 BUT SAVING A NATION  
 IS JUST A LITTLE BIT HARDER, I'D GUESS

I'M STILL WAITIN' FOR THAT ADDRESS!  
 GIMME THAT ADDRESS, WHOA

**Muses (Cont)**

OOH, etc.....

HE'S NEVER MINDED  
 DAMSELS IN DISTRESS  
 SAVING A NATION  
 GIVES HIM TOO MUCH STRESS  
 SHOO BOP, SHOO DING-A-LING!

SHOO BOP, SHOO DING-A-LING  
 GIVE HIM THAT ADDRESS!

**[Song: General Arnold's Demise]**

*(Darkness except for the thin blue light from the moon  
 Through the windows. Mr. Reed is sleeping. Josephine  
 enters in her nightgown, with a candle, waking him up)*

**Josephine**

Sir, sir! Wake up!

**Reed**

What? What is it? Was I snoring again?

**Josephine**

SIR, I DON'T MEAN TO DISTURB YOU

**Reed**

THIS HAD BETTER BE GOOD  
 I NEED MY SLEEP TO LOOK ENCHANTING

**Josephine**

OH, IF ONLY YOU COULD  
 WE CAUGHT A REDCOAT ON THE BORDER  
 GENERAL ARNOLD SIGNED THE ORDER  
 NO MORE CAN THEY TURN A BLIND EYE  
 WE'VE CAPTURED A SPY!

**Reed**

Josephine! Bring me the prisoner!

*(Josephine motions, and the guard [EveryMan] brings in John)*  
 CAN IT BE TRUE?—

**Reed (Cont)**

I STUMBLED ON A WAY  
 TO SABOTAGE THEIR RENDEVOUS?  
 GENERAL ARNOLD'S DEMISE...IS LONG OVERDUE  
 AND BEST OF ALL  
 WASHINGTON WILL HAVE TO PAY ME A LITTLE CALL  
 WHEN HE FINDS OUT I WAS RIGHT AFTER ALL  
 WHAT A THRILL IT'LL BE TO SEE HIM CRAWL!

**Josephine (To John)**

AND LET'S NOT KID OURSELVES  
 THINGS AREN'T LOOKING BETTER FOR YOU  
 WE DON'T OFTEN PUT ENGLISH SPIES TO DEATH  
 BUT THERE'S ALWAYS AN EXCEPTION TO THE RULE  
 AND WE'D BE HAPPY TO MAKE THE EXCEPTION...FOR YOU.

**EveryMan (Guard)**

THESE PAPERS THAT HE'S GOT  
 ARE THE ONLY THINGS THAT YOU NEED  
 TO ABORT THEIR SORDID PLOT

**Reed**

WE FINALLY HAVE THE CHANCE TO WATCH YOU BLEED

**Josephine**

WHAT A LUCKY BREAK FOR US THAT YOU'VE BEEN CAUGHT

**Reed**

AND NOW IT'S CLEAR  
 ARNOLD'S NOT A RISK TO MY ONCE FLOURISHING CAREER  
 THEY MAY NAME THE CAPITAL FOR ME

**EveryMan**

WHAT A THRILL TO VISIT REED, D.C.

*(The Muses as tourists come in excitedly to get Reed's Autograph.  
 They throw coins in the cans that Josephine is holding).*

**Josephine**

PEOPLE WILL BE STOPPING YOU ON THE STREET  
 JUST TO GET YOUR AUTOGRAPH  
 YOU CAN SAY YOU'RE UNDESERVING OF ALL OF THIS FAME

**Reed**

BUT I'LL CHARGE THEM FIFTEEN SHILLINGS, ALL THE SAME

*(Reed excitedly skips with the hangman's rope)*

**Reed (Cont)**

OH LAH DEE DAY....OH LAH DEE DAH DEE DAH DEE  
DAH DEE DOH DEE DAH DEE DAY

**Reed, Josephine & EveryMan**

GENERAL ARNOLD'S DEMISE IS OVERDUE! OLE!

*(John is "hanged." Blackout)*

**[Song: Without Him]****Peggy**

NO TEARS TONIGHT  
NO STRENGTH TO FIGHT  
ANOTHER NIGHT....WITHOUT HIM  
I LOVED HIM SO  
HE SCARED ME, THOUGH  
WHAT DID I KNOW.....ABOUT HIM?

**Peggy & Emily**

HE TOOK ALL THE LOVE I (YOU) COULD GIVE  
BUT WHAT DID THAT LEAVE ME (YOU) WITH?

**Peggy**

I MUST BE STRONG,  
WAS I SO WRONG?  
THE NIGHTS ARE LONG....WITHOUT HIM

I'LL LIVE THIS LIE  
UNTIL I DIE  
YET HERE AM I....WITHOUT HIM

**Peggy & Emily**

SHARED LOVE IS HALF A LOVE  
AND HALF A LOVE'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH

**Peggy**

HE SAID HE LOVED ME

**Peggy & Emily**

BUT COULD NOT SEE  
I'D (YOU'D) ALWAYS BE.....WITHOUT HIM

**Peggy**

AND NOW IT'S LATE  
YET STILL I WAIT  
THIS IS MY FATE...WITHOUT HIM  
WHERE CAN I GO

**Peggy (Cont)**  
 NOW THAT I KNOW

**Peggy & Emily**  
 I'LL (YOU'LL) ALWAYS BE...SO LOST WITHOUT.....  
 HIS LOVE?

**[Song: Downward Spiral]**

**Company**  
 COME GATHER ROUND, LISTEN TO A SAD TALE  
 THE DAY BEN FOUND OUT HIS PLANS HAD ALL FAILED  
 IT'S NOT ALWAYS EASY TO ADMIT DEFEAT  
 THE DAY YOU BECOME OBSOLETE!  
 IF THINGS ARE AS BLEAK AS THEY APPEAR  
 HE REALLY SHOULD CHOOSE ANOTHER CAREER  
 WHO WANTS TO BE HANGIN' AROUND  
 A MAN WHO'S BEEN CROWNED  
 "TRAITOR OF THE YEAR"

**Ben (Entering with Peggy)**  
 I MUST CONFESS, DEAR  
 THAT THINGS AREN'T LOOKING GOOD  
 AND I FEAR  
 NOTHING'S TURNED OUT AS IT SHOULD

**Company**  
 AMERICANS HAVE WON

**Ben**  
 THEY'VE GOT US ON THE RUN

**All**  
 WE HAVE NO TIME TO LOSE

**Ben**  
 I FEAR JOHN ANDRE  
 HAS SOMEHOW BEEN FOUND OUT  
 HIS PART IN THIS  
 SEEMS NO LONGER IN DOUBT  
 NOW WASHINGTON'S MEN ARE ON THEIR WAY  
 TO SEE...IF THEY CAN PIN THIS ON ME

**Peggy**  
 WE WON'T STAND A CHANCE  
 SURELY THEY WILL KNOW

**Ben**

SO FOR NOW, PACK YOUR BAGS, IT'S TIME TO GO

**Peggy**

BUT JOHN COULD WELL BE DEAD

**Ben**

LET'S THINK OF US, INSTEAD

**Peggy**

MY GOD, WHAT LIES AHEAD!?

*(Peggy has worked herself into a frenzy and faints in Ben's arms. He lays her on the bed and tenderly holds her hand)*

**Ben**

IT'S NOT THE KIND OF LIFE  
I WAS ALWAYS DREAMING OF FOR YOU  
I ONLY DID WHAT I HAD TO DO  
SLEEP NOW, MY LOVE,  
UNTIL ANOTHER DAY  
SURELY NO ONE WILL SUSPECT THE ROLE YOU PLAYED  
BUT I WOULDN'T BE  
TREATED MERCIFULLY  
IF I STAYED!

*(Ben has packed his bags by this time and starts to leave).*

**Company**

WHAT KIND OF GENERAL WOULD LEAVE HIS TROOPS BEHIND?

**Ben**

IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT, I'M THE ONE THEY WISH TO FIND

**Company**

AND JOHN'S ALREADY DEAD

**Ben**

SO I'LL SAVE ME, INSTEAD

**Ben & Company**

TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY

**Ben**

I ONCE KNEW A MAN WHO'D ALWAYS CHOOSE  
TO DIE MANY DEATHS BUT NEVER TO LOSE  
GOD ONLY KNOWS HOW I COULD HAVE DONE ANYMORE  
BUT NOW, WHAT WAS EVERYTHING FOR?

**Company**  
 WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW?  
 I THINK YOU'RE THROUGH NOW.

*(The Company abandon Ben. He starts to leave but is confronted by Emily)*

**Emily**  
 That was heartless of you to have left her like that.

**Ben**  
 What else could I possibly have done?

**Emily**  
 Do you really think after all you've done to General Washington, that her safety could be entrusted to him?

**Ben**  
 All right, all right, I'll tell you what I'll do. I will write Washington a letter, pleading on Peggy's behalf.

**Emily**  
 Well, that's big of you!

**Ben** *(Handing Emily a quill)*  
 Would you mind?

**Emily**  
 You're pushin' it.

**Ben**  
 Dear General Washington: By now you will have learned of my hasty departure. I have no favor to ask for myself. I do have one small favor to ask, however, on behalf of Mrs. Arnold. She had no part in any of this, and I ask that you see to her safety and security.

*(Lights come up on Washington, reading the letter)*

**Washington**  
 ...in any event, would you please send me the clothes and other belongings I did not have time to pack. Your humble and obedient servant...

*(Through clenched teeth)*  
 Benedict Arnold!

*(In a rage, Washington crumples up the letter and throws it on the ground. He starts to storm off when Ben points to the letter with his cane)*

**Ben**

P.S.!

*(Washington scurries back to the stop, and uncrumples the letter to read the rest)*

Would you also please send me the three and half weeks' back pay I have coming.

*(Washington angrily throws the paper away and storms off)*

**[Song: Who's to Say?]**

**Emily**

WHAT MAKES SOMEONE DECIDE TO SWITCH  
FROM ONE TEAM TO THE NEXT?  
THE REASONS FOR IT SOMETIMES CAN BE QUITE COMPLEX  
BUT IF YOU COACH THE WINNING TEAM  
YET NOBODY HOLDS YOU IN HIGH ESTEEM  
IT MAY FINALLY SEEM  
THE TIME'S COME TO SAY GOODBYE  
TRY NOT TO LET IT GET YOU DOWN  
PUT OUT YOUR CHIN AND STAND YOUR GROUND  
AFTER ALL, YOU MUST HAVE HAD A REASON  
EVEN THE BEST OF US MAY FIND

OFTEN IT'S BEST TO CHANGE OUR MINDS  
WHO'S TO SAY WHAT IS OR ISN'T TREASON?

YOU'VE BEEN SET UP AND BEEN PUT DOWN  
NOBODY'S BEEN MORE PUSHED AROUND  
WHO REVERES YOU FOR YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS?

YOU WON THE BATTLES THAT YOU FOUGHT  
YOU DARED TO GO WHERE MOST WOULD NOT  
HOW COULD IT BE  
THEY REFUSE TO BELIEVE IN YOU?

TRY NOT TO LET IT GET YOU DOWN  
PUT OUT YOUR CHIN AND STAND YOUR GROUND  
AFTER ALL, YOU MUST HAVE HAD A REASON  
EVEN THE BEST OF US MAY FIND  
OFTEN IT'S BEST TO CHANGE OUR MIND  
WHO'S TO SAY WHAT IS OR ISN'T TREASON?

WELL SUPPOSE A BRIDE HAS MADE  
A PROMISE TO BE WED  
BUT HE'S BROKE AND SO SHE LEAVES HIM  
FOR A WEALTHY MAN, INSTEAD  
OR SHE NEEDS A BETTER JOB  
AND QUILTS THE ONE SHE'S GOT  
DON'T THINK THAT YOU'D DO ANY DIFFERENTLY  
'CAUSE....YOU WOULD NOT!



**Emily (Cont)**

WELL WHO IS WRONG AND WHO IS RIGHT?  
 THINGS DON'T ALWAYS COME IN BLACK AND WHITE  
 OFTEN IT'S A MATTER...OF PERSPECTIVE  
 SO IF YOU THINK YOU'RE OFF THE HOOK  
 GO TO THE MIRROR AND TAKE A LOOK  
 DON'T SLANDER SOMEONE'S NAME  
 UNLESS YOU KNOW YOU KNOW  
 YOU'D NEVER DO THE SAME!

[Song: **Rather Be in Jamaica**]

**Emily**

SAY HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEWS?  
 WASHINGTON'S NOT AMUSED  
 BEN CAUGHT THE LAST BOAT OUT OF TOWN  
 YOU MUST FEND FOR YOURSELF  
 HE LEFT YOU ON THE SHELF  
 BEN'S THE CAPTAIN OF THE SHIP BUT

**Both**

HE'S NOT GOIN' DOWN!

**Peggy**

IF THEY SHOULD ASK ME DEEP, PROBING QUESTIONS  
 THEY WON'T GET MY CONFESSIONS!  
 I'LL SAY THAT I WAS SHOCKED AND DISILLUSIONED  
 THAT MY HUSBAND COULD HAVE DONE THIS TO ME!  
 IF THEY COME FOR ME  
 IT WON'T BE A TRAGEDY  
 I'LL TRY TO KEEP MY COMPOSURE

**Emily**

SOMEHOW MAKE IT PLAIN  
 YOU'VE SIMPLY GONE INSANE

**Both**

ONE OF MANY LOYAL PATRIOTS  
 WHO JUST WENT NUTS!

**Emily**

IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY  
 WOMEN WEREN'T SUPPOSED  
 TO KNOW MUCH  
 THEY HAD TO ACT NAÏVE  
 UNEDUCATED  
 EVEN IF IT'S TRUE THAT  
 SUCH BEHAVIOR

**Peggy**

LONG TIME, NO SEE  
 OUT OF TOUCH  
 OUT TO LUNCH

**Emily (Cont)**

MAKES US NAUSEATED  
IF THEY ACCUSE YOU  
TELL THEM HOW HE USED YOU  
OOOH...  
HERE'S YOUR CONFESSION:

YOU LOVE YOUR COUNTRY  
MORE THAN LIFE ITSELF

**Peggy (Cont)**

MAKES US NAUSEATED

I NEVER WANTED TO BETRAY ANYONE  
THAT IS WHAT I'LL GLADLY  
CONFESS TO ANYONE  
I LOVE MY COUNTRY  
MORE THAN LIFE ITSELF.

**Peggy**

IF I HAD GONE AWAY  
I'D BE THE FIRST ONE TO SAY  
"GOOD-BYE, BEST REGARDS, FROM JAMAICA"  
I'D RATHER GET A TAN  
FIND ME THE KIND OF MAN  
WHO WOULD BE

**Both**

CONTENT TO COME ALONG AND SAY "I'LL TAKE YA!"

**Peggy**

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED  
IF IT WERE UP TO ME

**Both**

I'D/YOU'D RATHER BE IN JAMAICA!

*(Peggy starts to exit and runs into Washington as he enters)*

**[Song: Inescapable]**

**Peggy (Startled)**

Your Excellency!

**Washington**

Mrs. Arnold...

**Peggy**

I KNOW HOW THIS MUST LOOK TO YOU

**Washington**

TO THINK OF ALL HE'S PUT YOU THROUGH

**Peggy**

I ADMIT THAT I WAS BESIDE MYSELF WITH GRIEF  
DIDN'T THINK MY HUSBAND WAS CAPABLE  
IS MY FATE INESCAPABLE?

**Washington**

AT LEAST, I AM PLEASED TO SAY  
WE'VE CAPTURED JOHN ANDRE  
THOUGH IT WON'T HELP MUCH  
I'M SURE YOU'RE RELIEVED

**Peggy (Aside)**

DID MY EARS DECEIVE ME NOW  
I'VE GOT TO MAKE IT THROUGH, SOMEHOW  
WHAT MUST I DO TO ENSURE I'M BELIEVED?

**Washington**

I CAN SEE CLEARLY YOU ARE STUNNED  
BUT HE WILL PAY FOR WHAT HE'S DONE

*(Peggy gasps for air and clings tightly to Washington just as Reed and Josephine enter with EveryMan, their Carriage Driver)*

**Reed**

WHAT A SIGHT THIS IS!

**Josephine**

I NEVER WOULD HAVE KNOWN  
THE THINGS YOU DO WHEN YOU'RE ALONE

**EveryMan**

DOES HER HUSBAND KNOW  
OF YOUR DEVOTION TO HER?

*(Washington scrambles to get up and to help Peggy off the bed)*

**Reed**

AT LEAST I'M PLEASED TO SAY  
JOHN ANDRE'S CONFESSED TODAY

**Washington and Peggy**

WE'RE BOTH AWARE OF HIS PARTICIPATION!

**Reed**

BUT DID YOU ALSO KNOW...

**Josephine**

...WHAT SHE'S TRIED NOT TO SHOW

**Reed, Josephine & EveryMan**

SHE HAS COLLUDED EACH STEP OF THE WAY?!

**Peggy**

That's a lie!

**Josephine**

IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE WHAT WE SAY  
YOU CAN ASK HIM ON VISITING DAY

**EveryMan**

BUT DON'T DELAY

**Josephine**

THERE'S NO TIME LIKE TODAY

**Reed**

YOU DON'T HAVE LONG

**Reed, Josephine & EveryMan**

FOR SOON HE WILL BE GONE.

**Washington**

I am not so base that I would ever accuse a woman of dishonorable motives.

**Reed** (*Incredulous*)

You're a fool!

**Washington**

Reed! Get back to West Point and wait for my instructions. You'll hear from me shortly!

**Reed**

Is that supposed to frighten me?

**Washington** (*Getting flustered*)

You have your orders.

**Reed**

Who are you kidding? You have no jurisdiction over me.

**Washington** (*Ready to explode*)

Reed....Get the hell out!!

**Reed**

Just wait until we tell all our friends in the Congress that we warned you about Arnold from the very beginning, and yet you stood by and did absolutely nothing.

**Josephine**

We'll see to it that you never hold a prominent position again!

**Washington**

Ha!!

*(Emily, is helping Ben into bed, as his elusive grip on past events is eroding, and reality sets in. He is now only a shadow of his former self)*

**[Song: I've Come Undone]****Ben**

IT'S NOW BEEN THREE WEEKS  
WHAT'S TAKING THEM SO LONG?  
I CAN'T HELP WONDERING IF  
SOMETHING HAS GONE WRONG!

**Emily**

I'M SURE HE'S JUST BUSY  
GENERAL BURGOYNE'S AN IMPORTANT MAN

**Ben**

AND I'M NOT?  
THE MAN WHO FOUGHT  
SO VALLIANTLY  
THEY ALL SHOULD FALL AT MY FEET

**EveryMan (Announcer)**

Ladies and Gentleman, direct from London...please welcome British General John Burgoyne, and his lovely mistress, Myra Tentlebomb. The general is perhaps best remembered for his ignomious defeat by superior American forces in the Battle of Saratoga, during the hard-fought campaign of 1777. But not to worry, the general will be going home today with some fabulous prizes!

**Reed**

WHY DID YOU WANT TO SEE ME?

**Ben**

I'M ANXIOUS FOR A COMMAND

**Josephine**

IT'S HARD TO SEE THAT HAPPENING  
YOU DON'T HAVE TOO MANY FANS

**EveryMan**

NO ONE SEEMS WILLING TO LOWER HIMSELF  
TO FIGHT UNDER SOMEONE LIKE YOU.

**Reed**

FIVE HUNDRED SOLDIERS SUDDENLY  
CAME DOWN WITH A BAD CASE OF THE FLU

**Josephine**

It's a veritable epidemic is what that is!

**Ben**

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY NO ONE WILL SERVE!

**Reed**

I'M AFRAID THAT'S RATHER COMPLEX  
NO ONE KNOWS EXACTLY WHOM  
YOU MAY TURN YOUR BACK ON NEXT

**Reed, Josephine & EveryMan**

YOU'VE BEEN BLACKLISTED, GIVEN THE BRUSH OFF!  
YOU SEEM TO HAVE LOST YOUR ALLURE!

**Reed**

YOU CAN'T ERASE YOUR PAST MISTAKES

**Josephine**

THEY'RE ALL DETAILED IN OUR FULL COLOR BROCHURE

*(She displays the brochure as Reed looks on, approvingly)*

**Reed**

Oh! They've captured my good side, too! How lovely!

**Ben**

I CAN'T GO FORWARD  
AND I CAN'T GO BACK!

**Emily**

I GUESS YOU'RE LUCKY YOU HAVEN'T YET UNPACKED

**Ben**

I'M AS GOOD AS HOMELESS

**Reed**

CLEARLY YOU HAVE BEEN DETHRONED!

**Ben**

I'M IN A HAZE

**Emily**

SEEN BETTER DAYS

**Ben**

NO COUNTRY TO CALL MY OWN!

**Reed**

It's a right awful predicament!

**Josephine**

AMERICANS WOULD HANG YOU  
AS SOON AS YOU WALKED THROUGH THE DOOR

**Emily**

THE BRITISH JUST IGNORE YOU

**Reed**

YOUR WIFE DOESN'T NEED YOU ANYMORE

**Ben**

AS A LEADER, I WAS NEXT TO NONE

**Emily**

BUT NOW THEY'VE GOT YOU ON THE RUN

**Ben**

I'VE COME UNDONE!! YEAH!!  
WHAT ABOUT MY MONEY?

**Josephine**

Say what?!

**Ben**

10,000 POUNDS IN GOLD!

**Reed**

THOSE RECRUITING OFFICERS WILL SAY ANYTHING, I'M TOLD!

**Josephine**

YOU'RE LUCKY YOU'LL GET ANYTHING!

**Reed**

HOW CHEEKY!

**Josephine**

WHAT GALL!

**Reed, EveryMan, Emily & Josephine**

QUITE A PRINCELY SUM FOR DOING NOTHING AT ALL

**Reed**

You know, I asked one of our American prisoners this morning what would happen to you, if we were ever to turn you over to them. And do you know what he said? He said your left leg would be severed from your body and buried with full military honors. The rest of you would be hanged from the nearest tree.

**Josephine**

Now if you'll excuse the general. The sight of you sickens him.

*(Wind is heard. Josephine shivers. Burgoyne places his red coat around her as they exit)*

**[Song: The Greatest Hero]****Ben**

NOW I FIND NO ONE REALLY WANTS ME  
IT SEEMS AS IF MY FRIENDS  
HAVE ALL ABANDONED ME FOREVER

**Muses**

WELL WHO COULD BLAME THEM  
CONSIDERING YOUR CRIME  
NO ONE WANTS TO BE SEEN  
WITH THE GREATEST TRAITOR OF OUR TIME

**Company**

YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A BENEDICT ARNOLD  
A TRAITOR, THROUGH AND THROUGH  
THAT'S ALL YOU'LL EVER BE  
THAT'S ALL ANYONE WILL SEE

**Ben**

WHY IS IT NO ONE CAN RECALL  
I WAS THE GREATEST HERO OF THEM ALL?

*(Company sings ethereal oohs and ahhs, underscoring the following dialogue):*

**Emily**

Madam, madam, come quickly. Something's the matter with him! I came into his room a few moments ago, and he tried to throw a blanket over me. He said I wasn't dressed properly for this kind of weather. "This kind of weather?!" I thought. "What could he mean by that? It's the middle of July!"

*(Peggy examines Ben)*

**Emily**

Shall I get the doctor, mum?

**Peggy**

No, it's too late!

**Ben**

Too late? But ..... no one knows what really happened yet! Everyone thinks I was disloyal, but they've got it all wrong! It was all of you who forced me to do what I did! But... I want you to know, I've learned to forgive you for what you've done to me! I forgive you all!



**Ben** (*Cont*)

I WAS A REVOLUTIONARY GENTLEMAN  
JUST LIKE ALL THE PAPERS SAID  
BUT NOW IT LOOKS AS THOUGH NO ONE WILL RECALL  
THAT I WAS THE GREATEST HERO OF THEM ALL!

**END OF PLAY**