

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

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Musical Numbers

ACT ONE

Revolutionary Gentleman	Company
Despicable	Emily
I Can Live With That	Reed & Josephine
Just Another Pretty Face.....	Washington, Josephine & The Muses
Back Up Lover.....	Ben, Emily & The Muses
Flame in the Dark	Ben & Peggy
We Have a Crisis.....	Reed, Josephine & Washington
The Honeymoon.....	Ben, Peggy & Emily
Day Of Reckoning	Reed & Josephine
When the Moment is Right	John & Peggy
Alternative Facts	Ben, Reed & Josephine
The Verdict	Ben, Emily, Muse #1 & Washington
Jurors' Remorse	Ben, The Muses & Townspeople
Respect is Only a Redcoat Away.....	Ben, John & Peggy
Don't Egg Benedict On	Ben, The Muses & Townspeople

ACT TWO

Up A Creek	Emily, Ben, Peggy & John
Midnight Ride	Peggy & John
Gimme That Address	John & The Muses
General Arnold's Demise	Reed & Josephine
Without Him	Peggy & Emily
Downward Spiral	Ben, Peggy, The Muses & Townspeople
Who's To Say?	Emily
Rather Be in Jamaica	Emily & Peggy
Inescapable	Washington, Peggy, Reed & Josephine
I've Come Undone	Ben, Reed, Emily & Josephine
The Greatest Hero	Company

Cast of Characters

4m,6w + extras

BENEDICT ARNOLD, popular hero of the American Revolution

MR. REED, The sniveling, peevish President of the Supreme Council

JOSEPHINE, The sassy, incorrigible Chief Advisor to the President

PEGGY ARNOLD, a spy for the British, Ben's 2nd wife, and John Andre's lover

EMILY, Ben's English Nurse

JOHN ANDRÉ, a British Intelligence officer and Peggy's lover

GEORGE WASHINGTON, Head of the Continental Armed Forces

THE MUSES, an ethereal trio of forest nymphs

Setting

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

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

FLAME IN THE DARK & 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

JURORS' REMORSE & WHO'S TO SAY

Music and Lyrics by Steven W Rodgers, additional lyrics by Wendy Christopher

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.

[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?

*(backlighting reveals figures in various poses. Ben
Gets out of bed in his nightgown, struggling to walk, with a cane)*

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.

*(Lights come up full as the figures of his past are revealed. They
Gather around Ben encouragingly)*

Company

WE WOULD NOT HAVE SURVIVED WITHOUT YOU
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

Company (Cont)

(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

*(The ghostly visages drape Ben's old Blue Continental coat
 over his shoulders)*

...'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.

*(The ghosts of the past disappear, and Emily, Ben's English nurse, enters,
 surprised to see General Arnold standing in the middle of the room,
 wearing his Continental uniform)*

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! There's no 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 comes downstage to address the audience)

[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

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

Emily (Cont)

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 Chief Advisor, Josephine, giving him a massage)

Reed

Ahhhh!!!!!! Ohhhhhhh! You know, Josephine, all these years as my Chief Advisor, 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 my life! I'm only 26! I still have most of my 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!
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
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

Josephine

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 *(laughing hysterically)*

Oh, you were serious?

Reed *(Shrugging)*

I CAN LIVE WITH THAT

Josephine *(to audience)*

EVEN THOUGH HE'S FEELING QUITE DEJECTED

Reed

I CAN LIVE WITH THAT

Josephine

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
...AND A LITTLE LESS SADISTIC

Reed & Josephine

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.

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. The Muses each take a glass of champagne from the servant's tray and excitedly gather round Benedict Arnold, who is seated)

Muse #1

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

Muse #2

I did, too!

Ben

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 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. 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! 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 #2

How awful for the General!

Josephine

How awful for the *horse!*

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 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).

[Song: Just Another Pretty Face]

Washington

GENERAL ARNOLD’S THE MAN OF THE HOUR
THANKS TO HIM, WE ARE 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 THINK THAT YOU
SHOULD HAVE A STATUE
YET HOW COULD THEY CAPTURE
SOMEONE OF YOUR STATURE
IT'S A MYSTERY!

Ben

Don't write me off just yet, ladies! There's plenty more work still to be done!

Josephine (*To Reed*)

SUCH GREAT REVIEWS!

Reed (*Sulking*)

For *him!*

Josephine

IT'S REALLY KINDA FUNNY
LOOK AT YOU!

Reed

It's rather grim.

Josephine

THEY ONLY PRAISE YOU FOR YOUR MONEY
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 annual bubble bath, won't you?

Josephine

With great pleasure, sir.

Muses

AND WE TRUST YOU
BUT IF YOU MUST, YOU
WILL REJOIN THE FIGHT
YOU'RE OUR GUIDING LIGHT

WE ADMIRE YOUR LOYALTY!

Washington

The front lines is where this man belongs, people!

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 dance. 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

Muses

WOULDN'T COME OUT TILL DINNER TIME
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

Ben (*Cont*)

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 ANOTHER 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 & 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

Ben (*Cont*)
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
THE SPARKS ARE ABOUT TO 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

Reed (Cont)

WHEN YOUR RIGHT HAND'S DISEASED
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: The Honeymoon]

*(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

(Peggy crosses to desk and writes a letter)

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

(Townsperson #1, as delivery girl, brings in boxes of shoes)

Peggy & Emily

AND EVERY DAY SHE'D/I'D BUY ANOTHER PAIR OF SHOES

Ben

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 is heard. John exits, Josephine and Reed enter)

Reed

Colonial Moving Company.

Josephine

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 easily 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 & 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 & 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

Reed

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

Reed & Josephine

IT'S THE HOTTEST SHOW IN TOWN!

(During the brief instrumental interlude, Muses and townspeople enter, as tourists, with pennants that say "Reed, D.C." as they watch the proceedings. Townsperson #1 is a hawker)

Townsperson #1

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!
EVEN IF WE END UP LOOKING RATHER SLEAZY

Reed & 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

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

REBELS 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 SAYS IS WRONG
MAY WELL BE
JUST WHAT HE
WAS THINKING ALL ALONG?
WHEN THE MOMENT IS RIGHT
HE WILL SHOW US ALL

John & Peggy
 THE MAN HE LONGS TO BE!
(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 BORRROWED 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 & 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 KNOWN

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 & 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 MAY HAPPEN!

Muse #1 as Judge (*Banging her 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 always just been so darned passionate to see that justice is done.

Muse #1

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

Muse #1 [Judge]

GENERAL ARNOLD, PLEASE RISE

Ben

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

Muse #1

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

Washington

GENERAL WE'RE ALL IN YOUR DEBT
SO I SAY THIS WITH REGRET:
THIS IS NOT A GAME
THIS TRIAL HAS DISGRACED YOUR NAME

Muse #1

WE 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

Muse #1, Emily & Washington

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

Ben

Your Excellency, please! You can't deny me second-in-command....over this?!

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

So what do you have in mind for me?

Washington

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

Ben

West Point?! An administrative position?

Washington

I know it doesn't sound very prestigious to an able commander as yourself...

Ben

It's little more than a glorified secretarial post, and you know it!

Washington

West Point is crucial to our nation's defenses!

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
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 responsibilities.

Peggy

Yes, Ben. You see...this couldn't have come at a better time. With you in command of West Point, if you should...happen to be attacked...you can now conveniently surrender the fort to the British!

John

And the real feather in your cap will be if 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 WE'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
YOU CAN'T WAIT FOR VALIDATION ANYMORE

John & Peggy

TIME TO SHOW THEM ALL
WHO 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 & Townspeople

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 & Townspeople

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 & Townspeople

UNLESS HE FINDS OUT HE WON'T LIKELY BE PROMOTED

Muses & Townspeople

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

[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

Emily & Peggy

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!

Emily

NOW HE WAS UP A CREEK WITHOUT A PADDLE!
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

Ben *(To John)*

NOW THERE IS JUST ONE THING LEFT TO DECIDE:
WHAT COLOR COAT YOU SHOULD WEAR ON YOUR RIDE
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!
I DON'T WANT YOU TO

Peggy & Emily

LOSE YOUR HEAD!

John

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

Peggy and Emily

...THE AMERICANS!

John

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

All

...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!
WHO COULD RESIST A GIRL WITH SUCH PRETTY EYES?

Ben

EVEN IF IT MEANT HIS EARLY DEMISE

All

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

All

OR HOW I'LL (HE'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. Oooooooh!

(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. John 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

John (*Cont*)

THIS NIGHT WILL ONLY BE
A MINOR FOOTNOTE

Peggy & John

IN HISTORY

Peggy

BUT NOT FOR ME

John

HONEY
IT'S FUNNY
IT SEEMS ALMOST LIKE I'M SAYIN' GOODBYE
FOR THE LAST TIME

Peggy

BUT IT'S PAST TIME

Peggy & John

TO GO...SO...GOODBYE

John

I HOPE I SEE YOU SOME DAY SOON

Peggy (*Handing him a sack lunch*)

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
NO, DON'T YOU TALK TO NO STRANGERS
OH, YEAH.

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

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

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

OOH, etc.....

HE'S NEVER MINDED

John (*Cont*)

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*)

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 snoring loudly. Josephine enters, 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!

(The guard [Townsperson #1] brings in John)

Reed

CAN IT BE TRUE?—
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

Josephine (*To John*)

WHEN HE FINDS OUT I WAS RIGHT AFTER ALL
WHAT A THRILL IT'LL BE TO SEE HIM CRAWL!

Josephine (Cont)

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.

Reed

THESE PAPERS THAT YOU'VE GOT
 ARE THE ONLY THINGS THAT WE NEED
 TO ABORT THEIR SORDID PLOT
 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
 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)
 OH LAH DEE DAY...OH LAH DEE DAH DEE DAH DEE
 DAH DEE DOH DEE DAH DEE DAY

Reed & Josephine

GENERAL ARNOLD'S DEMISE IS OVERDUE! OLE!

(Blackout)

[Song: Without Him]

Peggy

NO TEARS TONIGHT
 NO STRENGTH TO FIGHT
 ANOTHER NIGHT...WITHOUT HIM
 I LOVED HIM SO

Peggy (Cont)

HE SCARED ME, THOUGH
WHAT DID I KNOWABOUT 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
NOW THAT I KNOW

Peggy & Emily

I'LL (YOU'LL) ALWAYS BE...SO LOST WITHOUT.....
HIS LOVE?

[Song: Downward Spiral]**Muses & Townspeople**

COME GATHER ROUND, LISTEN TO A SAD TALE
THE DAY BEN FOUND OUT HIS PLAN HAD FAILED
IT'S NOT ALWAYS EASY TO ADMIT DEFEAT
WHEN YOU BECOME OBSOLETE!
IF THINGS ARE AS BLEAK AS THEY APPEAR
HE REALLY SHOULD CHOOSE ANOTHER CAREER
WHO WANTS TO BE HANGIN' AROUND

Muse & Townspeople
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

Muses
NOTHING'S TURNED OUT

AS HE PLANNED IT

Townspeople
AMERICANS HAVE WON
THEY'VE GOT YOU ON THE RUN
YOU HAVE NO TIME TO LOSE

THEY ARE ON THE RUN

NO TIME TO LOSE!

Ben
I FEAR JOHN ANDRE'S
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

YOU WON'T STAND A CHANCE

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

SO PACK YOUR BAGS

Peggy
BUT JOHN COULD WELL BE DEAD

IT'S TIME TO GO

Ben
LET'S THINK OF US, INSTEAD

Peggy
MY GOD, WHAT LIES AHEAD!?

Muses & Townspeople
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

Ben (Cont)

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!

Muses & Townspeople (Cont)

HE WOULDN'T BE
TREATED MERCIFULLY
IF HE STAYED!

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

Muse #1

WHAT KIND OF GENERAL
WOULD LEAVE HIS TROOPS BEHIND?

Townspeople

WHAT KIND OF GENERAL

Ben

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

LEAVES HIS TROOPS BEHIND?

Muse #2

AND JOHN'S ALREADY DEAD

JOHN'S ALREADY DEAD

Ben

SO I'LL SAVE ME, INSTEAD

Ben & Muse #3

TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY

SO SAVE YOURSELF INSTEAD

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?

Muses & Townspeople

HE WOULD CHOOSE

NEVER TO LOSE

EVEN GOD DOESN'T KNOW
ANYMORE

WHAT IT WAS ALL FOR!?

Muses & Townspeople

WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW?
YOU MAY BE THROUGH NOW.

(The Muses abandon Ben. He starts to leave and passes behind Emily, roasting marshmallows on the campfire)

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.

*(She takes the quill and gives the marshmallow roasting stick to Ben.
Ben speaks and Emily takes dictation)*

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!

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

Emily (Cont)

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!

(The song ends and Peggy enters)

[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
 HE'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
 MAKES US NAUSEATED
 IF THEY ACCUSE YOU

Peggy

LONG TIME, NO SEE
 OUT OF TOUCH
 OUT TO LUNCH
 MAKES US NAUSEATED

Emily (Cont)

TELL THEM HOW HE USED YOU
OOOH...
HERE'S YOUR CONFESSION:

YOU LOVE YOUR COUNTRY
MORE THAN LIFE ITSELF

Peggy (Cont)

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 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 to Washington just as Reed and Josephine enter)

Reed

WHAT A SIGHT THIS IS!
 I NEVER WOULD HAVE KNOWN
 THE THINGS YOU DO WHEN YOU'RE ALONE

Josephine

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 & Peggy

WE'RE BOTH AWARE OF HIS PARTICIPATION!

Reed

BUT DID YOU ALSO KNOW...

Josephine

...WHAT SHE'S TRIED NOT TO SHOW

Reed & Josephine

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

Reed

BUT DON'T DELAY
THERE'S NO TIME LIKE TODAY

Josephine

YOU WON'T HAVE LONG

Reed & Josephine

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. Rain is pouring outside the open window)

[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

(knock on door)

Emily

There! You see? That must be him, now. What did I tell you? You were worried for nothing!
Everything will be all right now, sir.

(Reed, in a red coat, and Josephine enter, arm-in-arm)

Ben

Reed! What the hell?!

Reed

I'm sorry, I'm afraid you're mistaken. I am General Burgoyne of his majesty's armed forces.

Ben *(rubbing his eyes in disbelief)*

Forgive me, Your Excellency, I thought for a moment...that is, I...

Reed

Yes, I understand. You're...overwrought. These past few weeks must have been....difficult.

Ben

Oh, your excellency, if you only knew. I'll tell you, I...

Reed *(impatiently)*

Yes, yes, yes!!

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

Reed

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

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

Reed

YOU CAN'T ERASE YOUR PAST MISTAKES
THEY'RE ALL DETAILED IN OUR FULL COLOR BROCHURE

(Displays the brochure as Josephine looks on)

Josephine

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

Ben

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

Emily

AT LEAST IT'S FORTUNATE 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 & Emily
NO COUNTRY

Ben
TO CALL MY OWN!

Reed
It's a right awful predicament!

Josephine
AMERICANS WOULD HANG YOU
AS SOON AS YOU WALKED THROUGH THE DOOR
THE BRITISH JUST IGNORE YOU

Reed
YOUR WIFE DOESN'T NEED YOU ANYMORE

Ben
AS LEADER, I WAS NEXT TO NONE

Josephine
BUT NOW THEY'VE GOT YOU ON THE RUN

Ben
I'VE COME UNDONE!! YEAH!!
WHAT ABOUT MY MONEY?
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 & Josephine
QUITE A PRINCELY SUM FOR DOING NOTHING MUCH 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. Reed 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 & Townspeople

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

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!" 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!

(The entire company sings ethereal oohs and ahhs as if angels are descending from heaven. Music builds to a climax)

Blackout

END OF PLAY