

Revolutionary Gentleman

THE ROCK OPERA

A comic tragedy based on the life of Benedict Arnold

Book, Music and Lyrics

by

Steven W Rodgers

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Musical Numbers

ACT ONE

1. PRELUDE (0:57)..... Orchestra
2. REVOLUTIONARY GENTLEMAN (3:51)..... Ben & Company
3. DESPICABLE (2:00) Emily
4. I CAN LIVE WITH THAT (2:59)..... Reed, Josephine & Mary
5. JEJUNE VALSE¹ (1:53) [INSTRUMENTAL]..... Orchestra
6. JUST ANOTHER PRETTY FACE (3:09) Washington & Company
7. BACK UP LOVER (3:13) Ben, Emily, Mary
8. FLAME IN THE DARK (4:01)..... Ben & Peggy
9. WE HAVE A CRISIS (2:08)..... Reed, Josephine & Washington
10. THE HONEYMOON (1:34) Ben, Peggy & Emily
11. DAY OF RECKONING (3:26)..... Josephine
12. WHEN THE MOMENT IS RIGHT (1:49)..... John & Peggy
13. ALTERNATIVE FACTS (4:09) Ben, Reed, Josephine, Emily & Mary
14. THE VERDICT (1:32)..... Ben, Emily, Mary & Washington
15. REMORSE (1:55) Ben, Emily & Mary
16. THE AMERICAN WAY (4:17) Ben, John & Peggy

ACT TWO

17. UP A CREEK (2:47) Emily, Ben, Peggy & John
18. MIDNIGHT RIDE / Peggy & John
 GIMME THAT ADDRESS (5:44) John, Emily & Mary
19. GENERAL ARNOLD'S DEMISE (2:53) Reed & Josephine
20. PEGGY'S VISION (2:21)..... Orchestra
21. WITHOUT HIM (2:52) Peggy
22. DOWNWARD SPIRAL (3:02) Ben, Peggy & Emily
23. WHO'S TO SAY? (2:09) Emily
23. RATHER BE IN JAMAICA (2:37) Emily & Peggy
24. INESCAPABLE (2:08) Washington, Peggy, Reed & Josephine
25. I'VE COME UNDONE (4:07) Ben, Reed, Emily & Josephine
26. THE GREATEST HERO (2:43) Ben & Company

Cast of Characters

4m,4w

EMILY, *alto*, **20-35**, General Arnold's English Nurse in 19th century London

BENEDICT ARNOLD, *baritone*, **40-60**, Popular hero of the American Revolution

MR. REED, *tenor/baritone*, **35-65**, The sniveling, peevish President of the Supreme Council

JOSEPHINE, *soprano*, **20-30**, Reed's sassy, incorrigible Chief Advisor

PEGGY SHIPPEN ARNOLD, *soprano*, **20-30**, spy for England, and Major Andre's lover

MAJ. JOHN ANDRÉ, *tenor*, **20-30**, Head of British Intelligence

MARY, *soprano*, **18-25**, Ben's Cockney maid

GEN. GEORGE WASHINGTON, *baritone*, **40-50**, Head of the Continental Army

Setting

JULY, 1801. LONDON, ENGLAND. THE HOME OF BENEDICT ARNOLD.

ACT ONE

[Overture]

The overture fades and lights slowly come up on a gleaming brass bed which sits among a grove of trees, shrouded in fog in the early dawn, as Ben begins to lose his grip on reality. In Ben's mind, he is now back in Colonial America, in the early years of the Revolution. We see him now as he is now, but as he sees himself the way he was those many years ago, when he was so full of promise, as one of the greatest generals of the American Revolution. The division between reality and imagination becomes increasingly blurred as he struggles against the delirium that besets him during his inglorious final moments on earth

[Prelude]

As the prelude ends, Mary, Ben's Cockney maid, enters, with the laundry. She is a bit naïve and somewhat skittish, but is good at heart. Ben gets up with difficulty, as Mary continues with the laundry.

Mary

Oh, good mornin'to ya, sir! You're awake early, you are!

Ben (*Delirious, now putting on his boots*)

Ah, Mary! You've come at last! Are you ready?

Mary

Ready for what, sir?

Ben

To storm the fort at Ticonderoga!

Mary

I? Storm the fort at Ticonderoga? Beggin' your pardon, sir, but I got laundry to do!

(Emily, Ben's English nurse, enters. Charming, confident, exuberant, sarcastic at times, always expressive, she helps narrate the action and portrays various reincarnations of figures from Ben's past)

Emily (*alarmed*)

General! General Arnold! Just what do you think you're doing out of bed in your condition?

Mary (*whispering*)

Oh, Miss Emily. I'm afraid he's off his noodle again. He wanted me to storm the fort at Ticonderoga!

Emily

That's not bloody likely! We're far too busy today. Speaking of which, ain't you got a shepard's pie in the oven?

Mary (*alarmed, running off*)

Oh, bugger, I 'ope I ain't burnt it this time! The Missus is liable to cook my goose!

Emily (*approaching Ben gently*)

Now General, You know what the doctor said! Please, get back in bed. Do I have to call Mrs. Arnold again?

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

Ha! 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 (*resigned, sighing*)

Thank you, sir. I know you're meanin' well. I'll leave you to your dreams now. I s'ppose dreams are about all you got left.

(lights dim except for a single spot on Ben, as a cold wind blows.

It begins to snow)

[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, struggles to walk, with a cane)

WOULD THESE SUNSHINE PATRIOTS
 KNOW HOW TO FIGHT A WAR?

Ben (Cont)

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
 (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

Company (Cont)

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, except Emily, who approaches Ben)

Emily

All right now, General, let's get you back into bed...and give me that silly coat.

Ben

No! Let me keep my coat. At least let me have that!

(Beat)

God forgive me for ever putting on another.

(Emily sighs and lets Ben keep the coat. He climbs back into bed and 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 LIKELY 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

Emily (*Cont*)

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)

[**effect: street ambience** *underscores first part of dialogue*]

Reed

Ahhhh!!!!!! Ohhhhhhh! You know, Josephine, in 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! Flatterer!

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!

Mmm....Not bad!

I CAN LIVE WITH THAT!

Josephine
YOUR GENEROSITY IS WHERE IT'S AT!

Reed
I CAN LIVE WITH THAT

(Mary & Emily enter)

Josephine, Emily & Mary
MAYBE NOW PEOPLE WON'T TREAT YOU LIKE A DOORMAT

Reed *(backed by oohs and ahhs)*
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, Emily & Mary
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, Emily & Mary
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

Josephine, Emily & Mary
LIKE A STATUE OF YOU TO BE ERECTED

Reed
JOSEPHINE, DO YOU FEEL
HAVE AN IRRESISTIBLE APPEAL?

(sound of crickets)

Josephine *(laughing hysterically)*
Oh, you were serious?

Reed *(Shrugging)*
I CAN LIVE WITH THAT
EVEN THOUGH I'M FEELING QUITE DEJECTED
I CAN LIVE WITH THAT

Josephine, Emily & Mary
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

Emily
...AND A LITTLE LESS SADISTIC, THEN

Josephine, Emily & Mary
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.

Emily
Haven't you heard?

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

Emily

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. Mary and Emily excitedly gather round Ben, offering him champagne)

[Instrumental: Jeune Valse] *underscores the following dialogue:*

Emily

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

Mary

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...

Emily & Mary *(Dreamily)*

Oh, General!

Josephine

I think I'm going to be ill.

Mary

General, how did you hurt your leg?

Ben *(with feigned modesty)*

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

Emily & Mary

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 *(Embarrassed)*

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

Emily

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!”

Mary

It must have been awfully dangerous!

Ben

I had my hat shot clean through nine times! Then 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.

Emily

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!”

Mary (*covering her ears*)

I don't want to hear any more!

Emily

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 addressing the crowd. Ben excuses himself and goes to join Washington).

[Song: **Just Another Pretty Face**]

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!

Crowd

WE THINK THAT YOU
SHOULD HAVE A STATUE
YET HOW COULD THEY CAPTURE
SOMEONE OF YOUR STATURE
IT'S A MYSTERY!

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

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

Josephine

With great pleasure, sir.

Crowd

AND WE TRUST YOU
BUT IF YOU MUST, YOU
WILL REJOIN THE FIGHT
YOU'RE OUR GUIDING LIGHT
WE ADMIRE YOUR LOYALTY!
HE'LL SOON BE BACK
IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE. WHOA!!! YEAH!

Washington

OH---

The front lines is where this man belongs, people!

Ben

You're too kind.

Josephine

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

(A celebration ensues. John Andre, a dashing British officer, appears with Peggy, an English loyalist his one-time lover. They dance to the instrumental music preceding the next song, and kiss, as Emily looks on with interest on the opposite side of the stage)

[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

Emily & Mary

DIDN'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
YOUR CHARMS, MADAM,
HAVE LIGHTED A FLAME IN MY HEART

Emily & Mary

SHOO BE DOO WAH, WAH, SHOO BE DOO WAH

Ben

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

Mary *(As Betsy Dubois, reading letter)*

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

Emily

HE'S ALL THE RAGE

Mary

BUT HE'S TWICE MY AGE
YOU'VE HEARD THE TALK
HE CAN HARDLY WALK
AND MAY STAY THAT WAY

(She crumples the letter throws it down. Ben rushes to pick it up trying to smooth it out)

Ben
 THANK GOODNESS, SOMEHOW
 THIS LETTER STILL IS INTACT

Emily & Mary
 SHOO BE DO WAH, WAH, SHOO BE DO WAH

Emily
 JUST DON'T GIVE IT TO ANOTHER

Emily & Mary
 ONLY AN ASS
 WOULD BE SO CRASS
 TO USE THE SAME LINES ON A BACK UP LOVER

Ben
 Ah yes, those heartfelt 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'LL LET YOU GO
 YET HERE YOU'RE SAFE FROM ALL THE LIES

Peggy (Cont)

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

Peggy

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—some say—may I be so bold?—a spy! I'd be very interested to see what General Washington has to say about this!

Josephine

So would I! General Arnold is nearly twice her age!

Reed (Shaking his head in disbelief)

I was referring to her association with the British.

Josephine

But it's no 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 can't be trusted.

Josephine

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

Reed

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 crossed 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 SNEAKIN' 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
 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
 HIS SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR MEANS

Reed & Josephine

NOTHING AT ALL
 WHILE HE IS STANDING
 WE'RE 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, as John casually pours
himself 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

(Mary, as Delivery girl, brings in boxes of shoes)

Ben & Emily
AND EVERY DAY SHE'D BUY ANOTHER PAIR OF SHOES

Oy, vey!

Ben
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 is wearing overalls with the words 'Colonial Moving Co., LTD')

Reed
Colonial Moving Company.

Josephine
We're here to repossess.

Ben
Couldn't you give us more time?

Reed
Oh, goodness, gracious, no.

Josephine
What if everyone were to do 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!

(Josephine sings the following song as Reed begins in earnest to cart off whatever possessions he can)

[Song: Day of Reckoning]

Josephine
WE'RE NOT INTERESTED IN EXTENDING
LOANS TO FOOLS LIKE YOU
DON'T MEAN TO BE SO UNBENDING

Josephine (Cont)

BUT YOUR BILLS ARE ALL PAST DUE
 YOU'VE BEEN SPENDING TWICE WHAT YOU EARN
 YOU GOTTA PAY UP NOW

OR YOU'RE GONNA GET BURNED, OH YEAH
 SOME NEVER LEARN, OH NO!
 WHEN YOU CAN'T PAY UP
 WE'RE GONNA MAKE A FUSS

(Peggy frantically tries to hide some money)

'SCUSE ME HONEY
 ANY MONEY
 NOW BELONGS TO US

(Mrs. Reed grabs the cash as Peggy cries)

IT WON'T WORK TO PLAY THE MARTYR
 NEXT TIME YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO PLAY IT SMARTER, OH YEAH

WE DON'T REALLY MEAN TO SEEM TOO OVEREAGER
 RUDELY BARGING IN LIKE THIS, TO REPOSSESS
 THOUGH YOUR FURNISHINGS MAY NOT BE NEW
 WE'LL MAKE DO
 WE'LL SELL WHAT WE CAN
 AND THEN WE'LL BURN THE REST

*(John and Mary, playing a vacationing couple, enter with pennants saying
 "Reed, DC," hot dogs, and bags of popcorn, as they watch the
 proceedings)*

WHEN YOU CAN'T PAY UP
 WE'RE GONNA BRING YOU DOWN
 WE DON'T SELL MANY TICKETS
 BUT IT'S THE HOTTEST SHOW IN TOWN
 WORK ALL YOUR LIVES
 COLLECT YOUR PAY
 JUST TO SEE IT VANISH IN A DAY, OH YEAH. OHHH....

NORMALLY WE'D ALL BE TERRIBLY ECSTATIC
 SEEING FOOLS LIKE YOU
 SPENDING MORE THAN THEY EARN
 BUT THERE COMES A DAY OF RECKONING
 AND YOU MUST PAY

WHEN WILL YOU LEARN
 YOU CAN'T SPEND TWICE AS MUCH AS YOU EARN

Josephine (*Cont*)

WHEN YOU CAN'T PAY UP
WE'RE GONNA MAKE A FUSS
SORRY SIR,
BUT ALL THE FURNITURE
BELONGS TO US

(Ben tries to sit down, and Josephine snatches the chair out from under him)

YA WORK ALL YOUR LIVES FOR A BIT OF CASH
JUST TO SEE IT VANISH IN A FLASH, OH YEAH, etc.

(Lights go down on this scene and come up on John, reading a letter from Peggy, as she sings offstage)

[Song: When the Moment is Right]

Peggy (*offstage*)

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

(John picks up a quill and starts to write a reply)

John

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

Peggy

BUT YOU DIDN'T TAKE ME

(Peggy suddenly enters and comes up behind John. Pleased to see her, he stands, they embrace)

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

John & Peggy

BACK WHERE I BELONG

John

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'D
BEEN THINKING ALL ALONG?
WHEN THE MOMENT IS RIGHT
HE WILL SHOW US ALL THE

John & Peggy

MAN HE LONGS TO BE!

(Blackout. Lights come up on 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? He was late getting in his paperwork?? He once 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!! The entire city is raving about him, while they all seem to think I'm some sort of a...a....

A bastard, sir?
Josephine (*Matter-of-factly*)

[**Song: Alternative Facts**]

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

Josephine
 STILL, WE MAY HAVE TO FACE FACTS
 ARNOLD MAY BE 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?

Mary & Emily (*entering*)
 Ah--- Ah----

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, Emily & Mary
 ANYTHING CAN SEEM UNDERHANDED IF YOU...

Reed
 ONLY TRY!!!

Mary & Emily
 Ah---- Ah----

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

Reed (Cont)

WHEN THEY SEE HOW LOW HE'S SUNK

Josephine, Mary & Emily

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

Reed

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

Mary & Emily

ROLL--- OH--- ROLL-- OH, NO!

Reed

HE BURNED THE LOYALISTS OUT OF THEIR HOMES
KEPT THEM LOCKED UP IN A CAGE
WE HAVEN'T SEEN SUCH BARBARITY,
NOT SINCE THE MACHIAVELLIAN AGE

(Ben enters angrily)

Ben, Mary & Emily

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, Josephine, Mary & Emily

YOU ARE THE ONE WHO DEMANDED
A HEARING FOR YOUR CRIMES
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

Reed

SO NOW YOU'RE OUR CAPTIVE GUEST

Ben

I would not be stung to death by insects!

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

(Mary now at the desk in a judge's robe)

Reed *(To Mary)*

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

Josephine

WE MUST WORK DILIGENTLY TO PREVENT
GENERAL ARNOLD FROM BECOMING OUR FIRST PRESIDENT

Reed, Josephine & Emily

THOUGH IT SEEMS UNLIKELY
CAN YOU JUST IMAGINE?
SOME DAY IN THE FUTURE
EVEN STRANGER THINGS MAY HAPPEN!

Mary *(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 damned passionate to see that justice is done.

Mary

Very well, Counsel. For you, I will overlook it. Now let's get on it.

[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

Ben (*Cont*)

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

Mary

GENERAL ARNOLD, PLEASE RISE

Ben

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

Mary

I'M AFRAID THAT'S ALL YOU GET
IF IT'S ALL THE SAME,
YOU'VE HAD YOUR FIFTEEN MINUTES OF FAME
THAT THE JURY'S FOUND THAT YOU'RE TO BLAME

Emily & Mary

YOUR CAREER WILL NEVER BE THE SAME

Washington (*Entering*)

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

Mary

WE CAN'T FIND SOMEONE ELSE ON WHOM TO BLAME IT

Emily & Mary

EVEN THOUGH YOU ALMOST OVERCAME IT

Washington

PUBLICLY, I HAVE TO STATE
YOUR PROMOTION NOW WILL HAVE TO WAIT

Washington (*Cont*)

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THIS
I WOULDN'T HAVE PUT YOU THROUGH THIS

Emily, Mary & Washington

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

Ben

Your Excellency! Surely you're not denying 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

...now I know better...and you know better, but uh...

Ben

Your Excellency, my health has been restored. I am awaiting your orders. Where am I to be assigned?

Washington

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

Ben (*Incredulous*)

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!

(Ben salutes. Washington Exits. Ben turns to Emily and Mary)

[Song: Remorse]

Ben

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

Emily & Mary

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

Emily & Mary

OH WELL, WE TRIED...

Mary

YET EVERYONE HERE

Emily

EVERYONE HERE

Mary & Emily

IS IS WONDERING WHY

Ben (*overlapping*)

I'M LEFT WONDERING WHY

Emily & Mary (*Overlapping*)

YOU ALLOWED YOURSELF TO BE CRUCIFIED

Ben

I'M BEING CRUCIFIED!

Mary & Emily

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.

Emily & Mary

BUT IF THIS IS A REASON

Emily & Mary
TO COMMIT SOME KIND OF TREASON

Ben, Emily & Mary
A REDCOAT IS THE ONLY THING THEY'LL SEE.

(Mary and Emily exit. John and Peggy join Ben)

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

Ben
At least I will do the honorable thing. I will see Washington in the morning to offer my resignation.

John
No, Ben...we actually want you in command of West Point.

Peggy
Yes, Ben....that way, if you should ...happen....to come under attack, you can simply surrender the fort to the British!

John
...and it will be quite the feather in our cap if you can arrange for General Washington to be there as well....where he'll be arrested...and hanged for treason.

(Ben turns his back in disgust)

[song: The American Way]

Peggy *(Approaching Ben)*
I THINK I SENSE SOME HESITATION
TELL ME, WHAT'S THE COMPLICATION?

Ben
IT'S NOT THAT EASY TO AGREE
TO BETRAY A MAN WHO'S PUT HIS TRUST IN ME

Peggy
THIS IS NO TIME FOR SENTIMENT, YOU KNOW THAT HE....
MUST BE PUT DOWN,
SO THAT WE ALL CAN STAY STANDING
SO THAT WE ALL CAN STAY STANDING

John
NOW THAT WEST POINT IS UNDER YOUR COMMAND
IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO LEND A HELPING HAND

Peggy

AND WITH YOU FIRMLY IN PLACE THERE
THE BRITISH WOULDN'T HAVE ANY DANGER TO FACE THERE

John

BEFORE THE FIRST SHOT'S FIRED,
YOU CAN JUST ANNOUNCE THAT
YOU'RE SO HOPELESSLY OUTNUMBERED,
YOUR MEN WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE!

Peggy

JUST REMEMBER THAT WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER
WE CAN WEATHER THE STORM IF WE HANG TOGETHER

John

...OR SURELY WE WILL ALL HANG SEPARATELY

Peggy

...FROM A TREE

John + Peggy + Ben

YES, SURELY WE WILL ALL HANG SEPARATELY...
FROM A TREE...EEE.....EEE...HEE!

Peggy

AND IN A HUNDRED YEARS OR SO
JUST THINK OF ALL THE STORIES THAT WILL BE TOLD
ABOUT THE MAN WHO AGREED TO HELP HIS COUNTRY OUT...

Ben

...FOR TEN THOUSAND POUNDS IN GOLD!

John

JUST SURRENDER WEST POINT—WE'LL PAY!
DON'T YOU KNOW?—

Peggy and John

THAT'S THE AMERICAN WAY
YEAH, THAT'S THE AMERICAN WAY!

(John stuffs some cash in Ben's hands).

John

WE CAUGHT ON FAST, WE LEARNED JUST HOW IT'S DONE
IN FACT, NEARLY ALL OUR UNDER-HANDED WAYS,
WE LEARNED FROM AMERICANS!

Peggy

YOU'LL BE SOME KIND OF HERO

Ben

...WITH PAY!!

Peggy (*Laughing*)

You catch on fast!

Peggy and John

THAT'S THE AMERICAN WAY!

YEAH, THAT'S THE AMERICAN WAY!

John

OUR DAY FOR RETRIBUTION'S COME AT LAST

Ben

THE DAY I DREAD, I FEAR WILL COME TOO FAST.

Peggy

THIS IS OUR GREATEST MOMENT YET

THE KING WILL BE FOREVER IN OUR DEBT!

Ben

BUT WHEN IT'S OVER HOW WILL I FORGET?

WILL I BE DOOMED, ALWAYS TO REMEMBER

I TURNED MY BACK ON MY NATION.... FOREVER?

blackout

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

[Entr'acte]

The entr'acte fades and lights come up on an empty stage. Music begins. John and Ben enter from opposite sides of the stage and pantomime action in melodramatic fashion.

[Song: Up a Creek]

Emily

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

(Peggy enters. Loud explosions can be heard and the three rush to look out the window).

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 BRITISH 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

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 is 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. Ooooooooh!

(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]

(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
SUDDENLY HERE
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 WORLDS FROM CLOSING IN SO FAST?
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 LIKELY BE
A MINOR FOOTNOTE

Peggy & John

IN HISTORY

Peggy

BUT NOT FOR ME
HONEY
IT'S FUNNY
IT SEEMS ALMOST LIKE I'M SAYIN' GOODBYE
FOR THE LAST TIME
BUT IT'S PAST TIME

Peggy & John

TO GO...SO...GOODBYE

Peggy

I HOPE I SEE YOU SOME DAY SOON

(Handing him a lunch pail emblazoned with Revolutionary War figures)

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.
DON'T LET ME CATCH YOU TALKIN' TO NO STRANGERS!

[dance interlude. Peggy leaves]

(Midnight ride segues to....)

[Song: Gimme That Address]

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 (Cont)

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
 HELPING DAMSELS IN DISTRESS
 BUT SAVING A NATION
 IS JUST A LITTLE BIT HARDER, I'D GUESS

Emily & Mary

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
 DAMSELS IN DISTRESS
 SAVING A NATION
 GIVES HIM TOO MUCH STRESS
 SHOO BOP, SHOO DING-A-LING!

John (*Cont*)
 I'M STILL WAITIN' FOR THAT ADDRESS!
 GIMME THAT ADDRESS, WHOA
 GIMME THAT ADDRESS!

Emily & Mary (*Cont*)
 GIVE HIM THAT ADDRESS

[Song: General Arnold's Demise]

*(Darkness except for a thin blue light from the moon through the windows.
 Mr. Reed is snoring. 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 [Mary] brings in John)

Reed
 CAN THIS 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
 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 USUALLY PUT ENGLISH SPIES TO DEATH
 BUT THERE'S ALWAYS AN EXCEPTION TO THE RULE

Josephine (Cont)

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.

Josephine

PEOPLE WILL BE STOPPING YOU ON THE STREET
JUST TO GET YOUR AUTOGRAPH
YOU CAN SAY THAT
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)

[Instrumental: Peggy's Vision]

In this dream ballet, John is led to the gallows as a motley crew of spectators looks on. Peggy dances with John, but he is pulled away from her. Music reaches a climax as they close in on John. Sudden blackout. Eerie sounds are heard, then fade away as a single spot comes up on Peggy in bed, waking up from her dream.

[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?
 HE TOOK ALL THE LOVE I COULD GIVE
 BUT WHAT DID THAT LEAVE ME WITH?
 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
 SHARED LOVE IS HALF A LOVE
 AND HALF A LOVE'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH

HE SAID HE LOVED ME
 BUT COULD NOT SEE
 I'D ALWAYS BE
 WITHOUT HIM

AND NOW IT'S LATE
 YET STILL I WAIT
 THIS IS MY FATE
 WITHOUT HIM
 WHERE CAN I GO
 NOW THAT I KNOW
 I'LL ALWAYS BE...SO
 LOST WITHOUT HIS LOVE?

(Lights fade to black)

[horn interlude plays]

(Lights come up on Emily, addressing the audience)

[Song: Downward Spiral]**Emily**

COME GATHER ROUND, LISTEN TO A SAD TALE
 THE DAY BEN FOUND OUT HIS PLANS HAD ALL FAILED

Emily (Cont)

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
 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

Mary

NOTHING'S TURNED OUT
 AS HE PLANNED IT

Emily

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

Emily

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!?

Emily & Mary

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!

Emily & Mary (Cont)

HE WOULDN'T BE
TREATED MERCIFULLY
IF HE STAYED!

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

Emily

WHAT KIND OF GENERAL
WOULD LEAVE HIS TROOPS BEHIND?

Mary

WHAT KIND OF GENERAL

Ben

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

LEAVES HIS TROOPS BEHIND?

Emily

AND JOHN'S ALREADY DEAD

JOHN'S ALREADY DEAD

Ben

SO I'LL SAVE ME, INSTEAD

Ben & Emily

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?

Emily & Mary

HE WOULD CHOOSE

NEVER TO LOSE

EVEN GOD DOESN'T KNOW
ANYMORE

WHAT IT WAS ALL FOR!?
WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW?
YOU MAY BE THROUGH NOW.

(Mary exits. Emily sits down at the campfire, roasting marshmallows. As Ben crosses upstage, she speaks to him without looking behind, all the while gazing into the fire. He stops)

Emily

That was heartless of you to have left her like that!

Ben *(Crossing to her by the fire)*

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 on the other side of the stage,
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)

Ben (Cont)

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!

(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!

(During the instrumental interlude, Emily helps Peggy pack what they are able to, rushing around in a panic)

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

Peggy

LONG TIME, NO SEE

Emily (Cont)

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

YOU LOVE YOUR COUNTRY
MORE THAN LIFE ITSELF

Peggy (Cont)

OUT OF TOUCH

OUT TO LUNCH

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 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'M 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?

(Peggy gasps for air and faints dramatically on the bed. Washington rushes to her aid, cradling her head in his arms just as Reed and Josephine enter)

Washington

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

Reed

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

Josephine (To Washington)

DOES HER HUSBAND KNOW
OF YOUR DEVOTION TO HER?

(Peggy regains consciousness. Washington scrambles to get 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 (*Abruptly sitting up in bed*)

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 FOR

Reed, Josephine & Peggy

SOON HE WILL BE GONE!

Washington

Reed, get back to West Point and await my instructions. I'll deal with you later.

Reed (*amused*)

Is that supposed to frighten me?!

Washington (*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!

Josephine

Just wait until we tell everyone how you knew about Arnold from the very beginning, and yet you stood by and did absolutely nothing!

Reed

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 can be heard 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)

(music underscores the following dialogue):

Emily

There! You see? That must be him, now. What did I tell you? Everything will be all right now.

(Reed, in a red British officer's coat, and Josephine enter, arm-in-arm)

Ben

Reed! What the hell?!

Reed *(In an affected British accent)*

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...you look just...

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!!

Reed (Cont)

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 & Josephine

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

Reed

FIVE HUNDRED SOLDIERS SUDDENLY

Reed & Josephine

CAME DOWN WITH A BAD CASE

Reed

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)

Oh! They've captured my 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, Josephine & 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

Emily

BUT NOW THEY'VE GOT YOU ON THE RUN

Ben

I'VE COME UNDONE!! YEAH!!

(instrumental)

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 & Emily
 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.

(Ben is stunned as Reed pauses to let it sink in)

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

Company
 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!

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)

Lights fade to black

END OF PLAY