

ATLANTIS

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ACT I - SCENE I

SETTING: The University.

AT RISE: CHARLIE is working in his office.

ONCE IN A LIFETIME

CHARLIE

*The daily grind
Sometimes it feels like a struggle
Just to get by
Each day's the same
Wake up, shave, go to work, take a break
But there's nothing I'd rather do
It's what God made me to do*

*You put in the hours
Years and years and years
Building up to when it all pays off
You stare at the pages
Wait for a breakthrough
Wait-!*

CHARLIE

I can't...! This is incredible! (to ANNA off-stage) Anna! Anna!

(ANNA enters)

ANNA

Professor?

CHARLIE

Call the dean. I think he's...he's definitely going to want to hear this.

ANNA

Hear what?

CHARLIE

It was right here. I've been looking at it for days!

ANNA

Did you finally find your missing piece?

(CHARLIE is absorbed in the find &
doesn't hear her)

ANNA, contd.

I guess I'll give him a call.

CHARLIE

How long has it been now?

ANNA

How long has it been now?

(exits)

CHARLIE

How long has it been now?

How long has it been now?

Years and years and years

Hoping I would find my answer here

Maybe it's out there

One day I'll find it

Wait

Once in a lifetime

Comes a moment of clarity

I have found my eureka

It's all I've been hoping for

When everything comes together

When you get to the big reveal

And once in a lifetime

You get your once in a lifetime

(DEAN enters)

DEAN

I just got the call from Anna. I get the impression your research has finally been profitable?

CHARLIE

Oh, yes, sir! The university's patrons won't be disappointed. Their investment has paid off!

DEAN

Well, let's see what that ten-thousand-dollar grant has discovered then.

CHARLIE

Thousands of years ago

It sunk beneath the waves

Just a myth, they said

A philosophical idea

*I poured over ancient texts
Analyzed Plato's work
To discover
To discover*

CHARLIE, contd.

The lost city of Atlantis!

DEAN

Care to explain further?

CHARLIE

We always thought that Atlantis was located near the Atlantic Ocean, possibly the Mediterranean Sea, but they all had it wrong. The location has to be in the Arabian Sea. We've been looking in the wrong place!

DEAN

The Arabian Sea?

CHARLIE

Plato's story traces back to an Egyptian, but there are accounts of its existence from all over the Middle East, and looking at continental drifts and the description of Atlantis being more than just a city, and if you look at Pangea-

DEAN

Do you have any actual proof?

CHARLIE

As much proof as you can expect without finding the ruins themselves.

DEAN

Fascinating! In that case, I will get word to the board of directors. Your findings are sure to interest them. Can you prepare a presentation by tomorrow?

CHARLIE

Yes sir! Absolutely!

(DEAN exits)

CHARLIE, contd.

*And once in a lifetime
You get your once in a lifetime*

(PATRONS, ARTHUR, & MATTIE enter.
CHARLIE presents his research silently)

PATRON

Ah, Arthur! So good to see you here again.

ARTHUR

I never miss the opportunity for a new discovery.

PATRON

Then you will find this presentation particularly interesting.
(turns attention to CHARLIE)

MATTIE

What is this again? Is it another King Tut zombie experiment?

ARTHUR

That wasn't a zombie experiment, Matilda.

MATTIE

Is this a zombie experiment?

ARTHUR

Of course not! It's our next big adventure!

MATTIE

Grandfather...

ARTHUR

Shush and listen to the presentation.

MATTIE

*Here we go again
Another wide-eyed idea
With nothing but luck on our side
He always gets swept up
In these bigger than life adventures
As if this is a once in a lifetime
It's always a once in a lifetime
And I'm watching my life pass me by*

CHARLIE

(addressing PATRONS)

Thank you so much for your support and time this afternoon. I hope to pursue this find soon, granted God provides me a way.

ARTHUR

A way? You mean, the money?

CHARLIE

Oh, hello sir! Yes. Financing an expedition like this would be...well, the university would never give me a grant that big.

ARTHUR

This is quite the discovery, young man. Don't you agree, Matilda?

MATTIE

Yes, *if* it's even true.

CHARLIE

I hope to prove that it is.

ARTHUR

This is sure to make a name for yourself, young man. I can see it now! Front page of National Geographic!

CHARLIE

I can't take all the credit, sir. I have no doubt that God helped me finally put all the puzzle pieces together.

ARTHUR

(beat) You know, Professor Wright, I have been looking for a project to invest in, something that's

*Once in a lifetime
Comes a moment of clarity
I have found my eureka
It's all I've been hoping for*

CHARLIE & ARTHUR

*When everything comes together
When you get to the big reveal
And once in a lifetime
You get your once in a lifetime*

ARTHUR

Would you join us for dinner, Professor Wright?

CHARLIE

Absolutely!

(PATRONS, ARTHUR, CHARLIE, & MATTIE
exit. ALEXANDRA enters, reading an
academic journal)

ALEXANDRA

*What a find!
Hidden underwater for all of this time
This journey can't wait
Pack my bags, pray, find a ship, take a chance
But there's nothing I'd rather do
It's what God made me to do
You put in the hours
Years and years and years
Learning, growing, 'til the right time comes*
(CHARLIE, MATTIE, & ARTHUR enter)

ALEXANDRA, CHARLIE, MATTIE, & ARTHUR

*You count every moment
Jump at the chance
Don't wait!*

(PATRONS, DEAN, & ANNA enter)

ALL

*Once in a lifetime
Comes a moment of clarity
I have found my eureka
It's all I've been hoping for
When everything comes together
When you get to the big reveal
And once in a lifetime
You get your once in a lifetime*

(CHARLIE shakes ARTHUR's hand)

CHARLIE

You won't be disappointed, sir!

ARTHUR

I'm sure of it! Matilda and I wouldn't miss out on an adventure
like this.

MATTIE

It's not an adventure yet, grandfather. It's just an idea.

ARTHUR

Idea or not,
This is our once in a lifetime

Once in a lifetime

ALL