

PERUSAL SCRIPT

 ***EAST OF THE SUN***
WEST OF THE MOON 
BOOK AND LYRICS BY **George and Gayanne King** MUSIC AND LYRICS BY **C. Michael Perry** ***a MUSICAL***

Book and Lyrics by
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SONG LIST

ACT ONE

PROLOG

MUSICAL #1: SONG OF THE LOST CHILDREN — *Lost Children*

SCENE 1

MUSICAL #2: ONE OF THOSE — *Kristen, Anders*

MUSICAL #3: SONG OF THE LOST CHILDREN (reprise 1) — *Lost Children*

SCENE 2

MUSICAL #4: GOOD — *Ola, Anders, Troll Queen*

SCENE 3

MUSICAL #5: INTO THE DARKENING NIGHT — *Kristen*

MUSICAL #6: SOMEHOW THE WORLD IS RIGHT — *Kristen*

SCENE 4

MUSICAL #7: SONG OF THE LOST CHILDREN (reprise 2) — *Lost Children*

MUSICAL #8: COME BE MY FRIEND — *Kristen, Anders*

SCENE 5

MUSICAL #9: YOU ARE — *Kristen, Anders*

ACT TWO

SCENE 1

MUSICAL #10: WHAT DO YOU KNOW? — *Mother, Kristen*

SCENE 2

MUSICAL #11: I WILL FIND YOU — *Kristen*

SCENE 3

MUSICAL #12: PURE GOLD — *Edith*

SCENE 4

MUSICAL #13: WHAT PRICE FOR LOVE? — *Gudrun, Kristen*

SCENE 5

MUSICAL #14: LOVE MUST BE BLIND — *Margrit*

SCENE 6

MUSICAL #15: SONG OF THE LOST CHILDREN (reprise 3) — *Lost Children*

ACT THREE

SCENE 1

SCENE 2

SCENE 3

SCENE 4

MUSICAL #16: I KNOW WHO YOU ARE — *Ola*

SCENE 5

SCENE 6

MUSICAL #17: EAST OF THE SUN: FINALE — *Company*

CAST OF CHARACTERS — 7f, 3m, 1either, 3b, 2g + additional children and villagers, if desired

North Wind

Lost Children

Anders — a Prince of the realm

Kristen Larsson — an uncommon, common young woman

Troll Queen — a very evil being

Ola — every inch the Troll Queen's daughter

Marta — Mother of Kristen

Lars — Father of Kristen

White Bear — a magical creature

Leif — brother to Kristen

Anna — sister to Kristen

Elsa — sister to Kristen

Erland — brother to Kristen

Wise Women

Edith — is very shy. She has wild, off-putting mousy brown hair that comes to her chin.

Gudrun — to the point

Margrit — bossy

Mikhail -- Prince Anders younger brother [1]

EAST OF THE SUN, WEST OF THE MOON
by George and Gayanne King and C. Michael Perry

ACT ONE

PROLOG — *The curtain opens upon an empty stage, where an old man, NORTH WIND, sits on a rock next to a wishing well. We are in a forest in Norway in the early part of the nineteenth century, around 1840.*

NORTH WIND: I, The North Wind, welcome you to an enchanted time. It is a time when peasants and princes believe in Trolls and Wise Women with supernatural powers. As I blow people about, I also talk to them. Sometimes, I even lift them up and carry them to the far corners of the earth. I also carry the voices of children from one kingdom to another. Listen! Listen! You will hear them now on the wind.

(He exits. The lights go out.)

(Suddenly, we hear the loud sound of the wind. It is followed by a sudden stillness. In the darkness, we hear CHILDREN'S VOICES.)

MUSICAL #1: SONG OF THE LOST CHILDREN

CHILDREN:

LIFT OUR VOICES ON THE BREEZE,
WIND THAT WHISPERS THROUGH THE TREES.
IN THE STILL, COOL, QUIET DAWN
CAN YOU HEAR OUR MOURNFUL SONG ROLL ON?

(PRINCE ANDERS runs on stage as lights come up slowly. He stops, then turns back and forth.)

ANDERS: Children, tell me where you are! Mikkail, is that you?

(The CHILDREN continue as ANDERS stands and listens.)

CHILDREN:

HEAR THE CHILDREN WHO ARE LOST!
COME! FIND US! NO MATTER THE COST!
CHAINED IN A KINGDOM FAR AWAY,

WE PRAY FOR FREEDOM EVERY DAY.

SCENE 1 — *As the voices stop, we hear the sound of a breeze. KRISTEN, a peasant girl, enters. She is carrying a basket of berries. ANDERS turns in circles, trying very hard to hear the now silent CHILDREN. He then sees KRISTEN. He turns and speaks to her.)*

ANDERS: Did you hear them? Did you hear the children?

KRISTEN: I heard the wind and then I thought I heard something, that was almost like music. Nothing more. I didn't hear children's voices. Did you?

ANDERS: Yes, I've heard the voices of children since I was traveling through the forest. My little brother, Mikkail, disappeared two days ago and I have been searching for him. When I heard the children singing, I thought I heard his voice. You heard nothing?

KRISTEN: I didn't hear children singing.

ANDERS: How will I ever find my brother?

KRISTEN: Did he run away?

ANDERS: The Queen of the Trolls has stolen him.

KRISTEN: How horrible!

ANDERS: She has captured many of the children in our kingdom. She left a note challenging me to take my brother's place.

KRISTEN: One of the King's son's is named Mikkail. A herald in our village announced that he had been kidnapped. Are you *his brother*?

ANDERS: Yes, I am Prince Anders.

KRISTEN: *(she curtseys awkwardly.)* Your Highness. I'm sorry your brother is missing. I would think the Troll Queen wants to capture both you and your brother. Can you trust her? The Trolls have been trying to rule over us for years. With you out of the way—

ANDERS: That's a chance I must take. I can't leave Mikkail with the Troll Queen. He is so young. He must be terrified. The note from the Queen said that if I wanted to see him again, I was to come alone to the wishing well in the forest near the village of Kelsey. Is that the wishing well?

(He points upstage to the well.)

KRISTEN: Yes, it is.

ANDERS: Can people use this well to wish for whatever they want?

KRISTEN: Yes.

ANDERS: Have you ever wished for something?

KRISTEN: Usually foolish girls wish for the love of some boy they want to marry. They also wish for beautiful silk dresses and diamond necklaces.

ANDERS: And what about you? Have you ever wished for some boy to marry you?

KRISTEN: No, Your Highness, I have not. And I do not need fancy clothes or jewels. I have no wish to marry. I'm going to be a Wise Woman and heal people. I want to help others. It is a poor life, indeed, if you think only of yourself.

ANDERS: Like the three Wise Women who live in the vast reaches of the forest?

KRISTEN: (*eagerly*) Have you met them? They are said to possess magical powers.

ANDERS: They have come to the palace at times and used medicine and herbs to heal people. Although I don't know if they have any magical powers, they certainly don't seem to be afraid of anything.

KRISTEN: I would like to be fearless.

ANDERS: You don't seem to be afraid of me.

KRISTEN: What is fear? It is only of the unknown.

ANDERS: Or the too well-known?

KRISTEN: (*demurely*) I think each person should have the chance to be what we want to be. What do you want to be? While you're here at the well, maybe you should wish to be something other than a prince?

ANDERS: Whatever for? I want to be a wise prince; help people, same as you. A good ruler can help many people to make their lives better.

KRISTEN: Maybe that's what you should wish for, then.

ANDERS: (*expectantly*) You know who I am, but what is your name?

KRISTEN: (*smiles*) Kristen Larsson.

ANDERS: You would make a good friend, Kristen. You are open and honest. We are much alike, I think. Hold onto your dreams. It's the only way to make them come true.

KRISTEN: Thank you, Your Highness.

ANDERS: A prince can always use someone to count on, someone to tell him the truth.

KRISTEN: I don't think a prince and a peasant girl can be friends.

ANDERS: You said we should have the chance to be what we want to be.

(Meaningful beat.)

KRISTEN: You're very persistent.

ANDERS: So, my mother and father tell me. It is good to meet you, Kristen. Friends?

KRISTEN: You don't give up, do you? I live in the gray stone hut on the other edge of the village, just as the path takes you into the forest.

ANDERS: After I find my brother, I'll come visit you.

KRISTEN: I do hope you find Mikkail soon.

(She puts out her hand and PRINCE ANDERS shakes it.)

I look forward to your visit.

(She moves to exit, and he goes upstage to the wishing well. THEY both stop and look back towards one another. LIGHTS change to isolate the two.)

MUSICAL #2: ONE OF THOSE!

KRISTEN:

HE'S A MAN WHO'S VERY NICE.

AND HE GIVES ME GOOD ADVICE.

ANDERS:

SHE'S A GIRL WHO'S HONEST, AND KIND

SUCH A GIRL IS HARD TO FIND.

SHE IS INDEED A MAIDEN FAIR.

WHO SPEAKS HER MIND, AND THAT IS RARE.

SHE CARES FOR MORE THAN JEWELS AND CLOTHES,

SHE IS A TRUE AND HONEST ROSE.

I'LL HAVE TO GET ME ONE OF THOSE!

KRISTEN:

HE'S LIKE A PRINCE IN WORD AND DEED.

BUT IS A PRINCE THE MAN I NEED?

FOR, WHO CAN TELL WHERE THIS ONE GOES?

A FRIEND WHO WEARS THOSE FANCY CLOTHES?

I SURELY DON'T NEED ONE OF THOSE!

TOGETHER:

ONE TRUE FRIEND!

ANDERS:

WILL IT EVER BE THAT EASY?

TOGETHER:

ONE TRUE FRIEND!

KRISTEN:

I'M FEELING KINDA QUEASY!

TOGETHER:

BUT ONE TRUE FRIEND'S A BETTER END THAN NOT A FRIEND AT ALL!

KRISTEN:

BESIDES HE'S RATHER TALL!

ANDERS:

BESIDES SHE'S KINDA SMALL!

TOGETHER:

I'M UNDERTAKING
JUST AWAKING,
KNEES A-QUAKING,
MIGHT BE MAKING
ONE TRUE FRIEND!
ONE OF THOSE!

(KRISTEN runs off stage. ANDERS puts his hand on the wishing well. ANDERS listens as the CHILDREN sing.)

MUSICAL #3: SONG OF THE LOST CHILDREN

LOST CHILDREN:

FIND US WHEN THE WIND IS NEAR!

DO NOT FALTER! LISTEN! HEAR!

WE ARE CRYING OUT TO YOU.

HOW CAN WE MAKE SURE OUR SONG BREAKS THROUGH?

ANDERS: Forgive me Mikkail. I was distracted by a winsome girl. Wishing well, please, help me find my brother!

(SFX: thunder and a great wind. Lightning flashes and the stage goes dark.)

SCENE 2 — When the lights come up ANDERS lies on the ground in front of the well, but the surroundings have changed. The TROLL QUEEN and OLA, stand over him. These are not ugly trolls but are magnificently, terrifyingly, beautiful. They have long black hair, pointed ears and each troll has a long tail.

TROLL QUEEN: You got my note.

ANDERS: What note? What are you talking about?

TROLL QUEEN: You may rise.

(ANDERS scrambles to his feet and stands very tall. He is, after all, a prince.)

I left you a note in your father's palace telling you that I have taken your brother to my Palace which is East of the Sun and West of the Moon.

ANDERS: Why have you taken my brother away? I order you to return him to my father's palace immediately.

TROLL QUEEN: I captured your brother because I wanted to, and I may return him, if and when you do what I say.

ANDERS: What?

TROLL QUEEN: While my daughter, Princess Ola, and I were gathering up children to be our slaves yesterday, my daughter saw you during your fencing practice. My daughter thinks you are very handsome and she wants you for her husband.

ANDERS: What?

TROLL QUEEN: I was surprised at that myself. After all, do looks really matter all that much?

OLA: I want to marry him. You promised I could marry him. I'm a beautiful troll, he is a handsome man.
We will be a perfect match.

ANDERS: I won't marry a troll.

OLA: I'm a princess, you're a prince. What more could you ask for?

ANDERS: (*ignoring her, to Queen*) What have you done with my brother?

TROLL QUEEN: He's learning to be a good little slave.

ANDERS: My brother is no slave! Release him at once.

TROLL QUEEN: Right now, he's just doing a little light dusting in my palace. However, that could all change if you marry my daughter. Unless you wish him not to return. Think of your parents! Think how unhappy they will be.

OLA: Why won't you marry me? I'm beautiful.

ANDERS: I could never marry you! You and your mother think to tear children away from their parents is good. You have hearts of stone.

OLA: (*she stamps her foot.*) Mother, make him say he will marry me!

ANDERS: I will never marry you! The girl I marry must be kind, and have a good and giving heart.

TROLL QUEEN: Prince Anders, unless you agree immediately to marry my daughter, it will not end well for you. I will turn you into a bear. As a bear, you will have a year to find a virtuous young woman who will marry you or you will be a bear forever. And since goodness is so important to you, this woman you choose must have a good and kind heart.

MUSICAL #4: GOOD

OLA:

MOTHER, DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!

I WANT TO MARRY HIM TODAY.

ANDERS: (*speaking*) I will never marry a troll.

TROLL QUEEN: (*to Anders*)

HUMANS WANT ONLY POWER AND GOLD

ONCE YOU LOVE THEM THEIR HEARTS TURN COLD.

IT'S TIME TO STOP LIVING IN DREAMS.

NO GIRL IS AS GOOD AS SHE SEEMS.

ANDERS:

I HAVE FOUND SOMEONE GOOD AND TRUE
WHO BEAUTIFIES THE WORLD AROUND HER.

I LONG FOR THE LIFE SHE'LL LEAD ME TO,

I KNEW THE MOMENT I FOUND HER.

THIS FAIR MAID LIVES FOR OTHERS,

CARES NOT FOR MONEY OR GOLD,

AND IF I HAD MY DRUTHERS

OUR LOVE WOULD NEVER GROW OLD.

OLA & TROLL QUEEN:

IT'S USELESS FOR YOU TO INSIST.

THE GIRL YOU WANT DOESN'T EXIST!

I KNOW YOU'RE TRYING TO CONCEAL

THE GIRL YOU SEARCH FOR ISN'T REAL.

HUMANS WANT ONLY POWER AND GOLD

ONCE YOU LOVE THEM, THEIR HEARTS TURN COLD.

TROLL QUEEN: *(to Anders)*

IT'S TIME TO STOP LIVING IN DREAMS.

NO GIRL IS AS GOOD AS SHE SEEMS.

ANDERS:

WHEN I MAKE THIS GIRL MY WIFE

LOVE WILL FILL US TO THE SOUL

LOVE WILL OVERFLOW OUR LIFE

AS WE WILL MAKE EACH OTHER WHOLE.

OLA & TROLL QUEEN:

YOU WANT AN IMAGINARY GIRL

SOMEONE TO MATCH TO AN IDEAL.

DO NOT LET HER SET YOU IN A WHIRL TO GET YOU!

SELFISHNESS IS ALL HUMANS FEEL.

(Pulling a knife.)

DO NOT TEST ME OR YOU'LL KNOW MY STEEL!

ANDERS: *(Defiantly)* I already know such a girl! And I will find her again!

(He runs off stage.)

OLA: Mother, turn him into a bear!

TROLL QUEEN: *(She goes to the wishing well and recites a chant)*

AS A PRINCE YOU'LL ALWAYS WALK ALONE

THOSE WHO SEE THE “PRINCE” WILL TURN TO STONE.

ALL WILL HAPPEN AS I SAY:

PRINCE BY NIGHT AND BEAR BY DAY.

TO BREAK THE SPELL YOU MUST FIND A LOVE THAT'S TRUE!

BUT THAT IS SOMETHING YOU WILL NEVER DO!

(SFX: the great roar of a bear. The TROLL QUEEN and OLA exit.)

SCENE 3 — *The LIGHTS dim as the Anderson FAMILY comes onstage. They bring in a stool, a table and a bench. MARTA sits at a wash bucket scrubbing clothes. LARS is sitting, one arm immobilized in a sling. There are five children of varying ages, including KRISTEN. We hear the wind howling, then it stops.)*

MARTA: Thank heavens that wind has stopped!

LARS: Winter is coming.

MARTA: You haven't been able to cut wood to sell. How will we possibly get through the winter?

LARS: Something will come up. It always does. You must have hope. Kristen bought us all those berries from the forest and they were a good meal, weren't they?

MARTA: You call that a good meal? It was barely enough to whet our appetite. The children need bread, milk, and meat.

KRISTEN: I'll help, Mother. I'll help you take in washing.

MARTA: I've asked all the women in the village. Most are poor like us and don't hire anyone to do their wash.

KRISTEN: I know! I'll go to the palace. I know someone there. He might help.

MARTA: The palace is too far away — and who, may I ask, do you know at the palace?

KRISTEN: (*hesitates.*) I know the prince.

MARTA: Oh, Kristen, you and your daydreams. First you want to be a healer, and you know we don't have the money for you to be an apprentice; and now you say you know the prince. Keep your feet on the ground!

KRISTEN: Somehow, I will be a healer.

LARS: Let her dream, Mother. Something will come up.

MARTA: You are always saying something will come up and it never does. Don't fill the girl's head with dreams.

LARS: But my best dream came true.

(LARS looks at MARTA with love in his eyes.)

MARTA: And what was that?

LARS: You. Our children.

MARTA: (*giving in*) Ah, Lars, I do love you. And our children.

(Suddenly, there is a tap on the door. It is the WHITE BEAR. LARS goes to the door and opens it. He sees White Bear and slams the door shut. There is a knock again. LARS opens it a crack. WHITE BEAR pushes the door open and speaks as he enters the hut.)

WHITE BEAR: May I come in?

LARS: Why bother to ask? You are already in.

MARTA: Don't let him in! He will eat us!

(WHITE BEAR sits down in the middle of the room comfortably as if he intends to stay there forever. All the children run up to him and pet him except KRISTEN. She doesn't trust him.)

LARS: Can't you see he is harmless, Mother? And he speaks! He must be one of the gods of the forest. Perhaps he will bring us good fortune.

WHITE BEAR: That is true; I can bring you gold, silver, jewels, any kind of food you might want and I will give you a palace to live in.

(LARS grabs MARTA's arms and swings her around.)

LARS: You see mother, this bear will bring us good fortune!

MARTA: *(breaking away)* I do not trust him.

(To BEAR)

What is it you want from us, White Bear?

WHITE BEAR: I want your eldest daughter to come and live with me.

KRISTEN: No!

MARTA: We will never give up our daughter!

(He takes MARTA by the hand and goes down stage and speaks urgently to her.)

LARS: *(pointing to the family)* No food. Starving to death.

(Pointing to WHITE BEAR)

It seems to me that we can trust this good bear. He offers us the answer to our problems.

(LARS goes to KRISTEN)

If you can trust this bear as I feel we can, this may be your chance to save our family.

KRISTEN: Please don't ask this of me.

LARS: Kristen, I will not ask you to do anything you don't want to do.

KRISTEN: We can ask the neighbors to give us food. Please don't ask this of me, father! Perhaps this bear will eat me.

LARS: We cannot ask for help from our neighbors. They have nothing to give.

KRISTEN: I know someone who might help us. I know the prince.

LARS: I don't think this bear will hurt you. He seems kind.

KRISTEN: *(Speaking to the bear)* Are you as kind as my father thinks you are? Can I trust you?

(The BEAR nods.)

There is something I like about you. Perhaps my father is right. I trust my father and I will do what he asks me to

(KRISTEN puts her hand into LARS's hand and then speaks.)

I am ready to do as you wish.

(LARS hugs her and then goes up to the BEAR.)

LARS: If Kristen chooses to go with you she can.

WHITE BEAR: *(gently nodding)* Come with me?

MARTA: *(She embraces KRISTEN)* Oh, my daughter, I will pray day and night that you will be safe.

WHITE BEAR: You can trust me and your love will save your family. You want to help others, don't you?

KRISTEN: *(bewildered)* Yes, yes, I do.

WHITE BEAR: I rejoice in your trust. I will merit it. Let's be off!

(She stands up straight and climbs on the WHITE BEAR'S back. The family takes off the furniture, and the set is taken away.)

SCENE 4 — *The WHITE BEAR AND KRISTEN are on a darkened stage except for a spot light that lights them. The NORTH WIND enters. The light on him is not as bright.)*

NORTH WIND: Kristen and the White Bear travel into the woods. The day passes, and with each step Kristen is more and more unsure and wonders if this night will never end.

MUSICAL #5: INTO THE DARKENING NIGHT

KRISTEN: Are we almost to where we are going, White Bear?

WHITE BEAR: You will see it when you see it.

KRISTEN: See it? I do hope we arrive before the world grows too dark.

(As KRISTEN sings WHITE BEAR walk in place. There is a spotlight on BOTH.)

A FEELING PRICKS MY VERY SOUL.

AND THREATENS ME TO LOSE CONTROL.

FOREST CREATURES LEAP IN FRIGHT

PASSING INTO THE DARKENING NIGHT.

I HEAR A TROLL WHO'S RUNNING BY.

THE MOON HANGS, WARNING FROM THE SKY.

CLOUDS ARE WET, SO, RAIN IT MIGHT,

AS THEY THUNDER THE DARKENING NIGHT

BEAR,
HE GENTLY CARRIES ME.
WHERE
CAN ALL THE FAERIES BE?
WHAT CAN I EXPECT?
IS THE BEAR A SUSPECT?
WILL I BE PROTECTED
FROM THE DANGERS I CAN'T SEE?

I FEAR WHAT'S TO BECOME OF ME.
WILL THEY FIND ALL, OR SOME OF ME?
OH, THIS IS REALLY DUMB OF ME
'CAUSE I'VE GOT BEAR!
BEWARE
THE BEAR!
I WON'T DESPAIR!

THE HILLS REVEAL A SUDDEN GLOW.
AND BEAR SEEMS LIKE A FRIEND AND SO:
STOP THE LIGHT'NING! HOLDING TIGHT,
I'LL BE SAVED FROM THE DARKENING NIGHT.

KRISTEN: *(speaking)* White Bear! What is that golden light in the distance?

WHITE BEAR: It is the palace where I dwell. You're not afraid of me now, are you Kristen?

KRISTEN: Strangely enough, I am not. I believe my father was right and you are a kind being.

(It begins to snow.)

MUSICAL #6: SOMEHOW THE WORLD IS RIGHT

KRISTEN:

WHERE WILL BEAR AND I GO?

TO GET LOST IN THIS SNOW?

I DON'T THINK SO.

WHITE BEAR IS NO FOE.

IN THIS FOREST OF WHITE,

ASTRIDE THIS GREAT BEAST OF MIGHT,

I FLOAT AND MY HEART IS LIGHT.

I AM SAFE TONIGHT.

PERHAPS,

MY FUTURE IS BRIGHT.

PERHAPS,

THE WORLD IS ALRIGHT.

WITH HOPES AND DREAMS TO KEEP

WE'LL NEED A PLACE TO SLEEP.

THE SKIES HAVE AN EERIE GLOW

THE WORLD DOES NOT SEEM TO KNOW.

WITH THE LIGHT GROWING DIM

I AM SAFE, WHEN WITH HIM,

ALL IT TOOK WAS A NIGHT,

AND SOMEHOW THE WORLD IS RIGHT.

(KRISTEN slides off WHITE BEAR's back. The snow stops.)

SCENE 5 — *Flats/curtains with gold designs on them are pushed on by SERVANTS who bring on a table with a white tablecloth filled with food and there are candelabras at each end. Center stage has an open window through which the full moon lights the stage. Two chairs are brought in and are placed at either end of the table, along with two standing candelabras.)*

KRISTEN: Where are we?

WHITE BEAR: This is my palace.

KRISTEN: Who are you?

WHITE BEAR: Obviously, I am a white bear. This is my palace and I welcome you. I know you've had a long journey. Yet you have been very brave. Trust me. All will be well with you while you're here. Are you as hungry as I am? Let's eat!

(After KRISTEN studies him carefully, she finally sits down. He joins her at the table and they begin to eat together as the lights go out.)

SCENE 6 — The lights rise, The NORTH WIND stands alone down stage right. After a moment, he speaks.

NORTH WIND: Kristen has now passed many days alone with the White Bear at his palace. Each evening at twilight she dines with the White Bear and then goes to bed and spends her nights alone.

(A bed is wheeled on with KRISTEN asleep in it.)

Until, one night, the children are singing again.

(KRISTEN is under the covers. Suddenly, the sound of CHILDREN singing. ANDERS runs into the room and runs to the window.)

MUSICAL #7: SONG OF THE LOST CHILDREN

CHILDREN: *(From offstage)*

IN A CASTLE DARK AND DREAR.

FAR AWAY, WE'RE PRISONERS HERE

IN A PLACE EAST OF THE SUN

TO THAT PALACE — HURRY, YOU MUST RUN!

COME SOMEONE AND FIND US SOON!

FORTRESS IS WEST OF THE MOON.

RESCUE US! TAKE US AWAY!

BETTER TIME? THERE'S NOTHING LIKE TODAY!

EAST OF THE SUN,

WEST OF THE MOON

SOMEONE WILL HEAR.

PLEASE COME SOON!

ANDERS: Children! Where are you?

(KRISTEN wakes up and cries out.)

KRISTEN: Who is there?

ANDERS: Close your eyes! Put on this blindfold, please! You must not look at me!

KRISTEN: *(putting on the blindfold)* I won't look at you, but who are you?

ANDERS: I can't tell you who I am, or even why you must not look at me.

KRISTEN: Can you tell me why are you here?

ANDERS: I heard children singing.

KRISTEN: Are you searching for the stolen children?

ANDERS: I can't say.

KRISTEN: Have you seen Prince Anders? He was looking for the stolen children.

ANDERS: I can't give you any answers.

KRISTEN: Why?

ANDERS: I can't tell you. You'll just have to trust me.

KRISTEN: We won't have much of a conversation. What then can we talk about?

ANDERS: I can tell you I like to go for walks.

KRISTEN: You like to go for walks?

ANDERS: In the forest along sparkling streams. I like to be in a place where people don't always want a favor from me; people always want something from me.

KRISTEN: I want nothing from you.

ANDERS: Perhaps this time *I* want something from someone.

(KRISTEN looks at him quizzically)

A friend.

KRISTEN: There was someone else who said he would be my friend, but he is far away. I would be happy to be your friend. Even if you can't show yourself to me.

ANDERS: Thank you. I must go now, but I'll come back again. I'll come to see you every night.

(ANDERS exits and the LIGHTS grow dim. KRISTEN lies down and goes to sleep. NORTH WIND enters stage right under a spotlight.)

NORTH WIND: The days pass into weeks and Kristen spends her days alone. Yet, every evening, just at twilight, she has dinner with the White Bear. After the bear leaves her, the mysterious stranger also joins her and they talk. Kristen keeps her word and always puts on her blindfold. Soon Kristen begins to look forward to his visits.

(The LIGHTS comes up and KRISTEN is sitting on her bed, putting on her blindfold. ANDERS comes in and sits next to her.)

KRISTEN: You know, you have come to visit me for nearly a month and yet I don't know your name.

ANDERS: I can't tell you my name.

KRISTEN: What do you do all day?

ANDERS: I search.

KRISTEN: What do you search for?

ANDERS: I am looking for the North Wind.

KRISTEN: Why?

ANDERS: So that he can take me to the lost children. Sometimes at night I hear them. Their voices are carried on the North Wind. Sometimes I hear their mothers crying for their children. But I can never find the North Wind, then I come here at night and you make me feel better.

KRISTEN: You make me happy, too. I miss my family. Oh, the White Bear is kind when I see him, but my days are lonely. I'm glad you are my friend.

(ANDERS takes her hand and helps her off the bed. KRISTEN is blindfolded.)

MUSICAL #8: COME BE MY FRIEND

ANDERS:

JUST HOLD MY HAND.
I'LL HELP YOU STAND.
ONE STEP AND THEN ANOTHER.
ONE FOOT BEFORE THE OTHER.
YOUR SOLITARY TIMES ARE THROUGH.
LET ME BE THERE FOR YOU.

COME BE MY FRIEND,
AND WALK WITH ME.
ARE YOU THE ONE WHO'S SENT TO TALK WITH ME?
COME AND GAWK WITH ME.
IF I COULD MOVE THE SUN AND MOON
THEN I COULD PROVE... OH, IT'S TOO SOON!
BUT STILL THIS SWEET SENSATION
FILLS MY IMAGINATION.
KRISTEN, IT CALLS FOR CELEBRATION!

KRISTEN:

GLIMPSING OF SUCH A PARADISE
UNDER THE STARRY SKIES.
STRANGE, THAT I COULDN'T REALIZE.
WHAT WAS BEFORE MY EYES?
MAGIC IN A MINUTE.
LIFE! I CAN BEGIN IT, NOW.
SUDDENLY MORE THAN JUST ALIVE.

FLASHES OF LIGHT AND FIRE!
FEELING MY SENSES ALL REVIVE.
LETTING THE GLOOM EXPIRE!
EV'RY MOMENT FILLED WITH
RAPTURE IN THE VERY AIR?
IT'S UNBELIEVABLE!
IT'S INCONCEIVABLE!
I OWE IT ALL TO YOU,
LIFE'S NOT THE SAME!
WHAT IS IT THAT I'M FEELING?
MY THOUGHTS RISE PAST THE CEILING!
AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOUR NAME!

ANDERS:

COME BE MY FRIEND,

AND WALK WITH ME.

ARE YOU THE ONE

WHO'S SENT TO TALK WITH ME?
COME AND GAWK WITH ME.
IF I COULD MOVE

THE SUN AND MOON

THEN I COULD PROVE...
OH, IT'S TOO SOON!

KRISTEN:

GLIMPSES OF SUCH A PARADISE
UNDER THE STARRY SKIES.
STRANGE, THAT I COULDN'T REALIZE.
WHAT WAS BEFORE MY EYES?
MAGIC IN A MINUTE.
LIFE! I CAN BEGIN IT,
NOW.

SUDDENLY MORE THAN JUST ALIVE.
FLASHES OF LIGHT AND FIRE!
FEELING MY SENSES ALL REVIVE.
LETTING THE GLOOM EXPIRE!
EV'RY MOMENT FILLED WITH
RAPTURE IN THE VERY AIR? IT'S UNBE-

BUT STILL THIS SWEET SENSATION
FILLS MY IMAGINATION.

KRISTEN, IT CALLS FOR CELE-
BRATION!

WHAT IS IT THAT I'M FEELING?

MY THOUGHTS RISE PAST THE CEILING!

SEEMS LIKE I'VE ONLY LEARNED YOUR NAME!

NO MATTER! I'LL CALL YOU FRIEND!

MY FRIEND!

LIEVABLE! IT'S INCON-

CEIVABLE! I OWE IT

ALL TO YOU, LIFE'S NOT THE

SAME!

WHAT IS IT THAT I'M FEELING?

MY THOUGHTS RISE PAST THE CEILING!

AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOUR NAME!

NO MATTER! I'LL CALL YOU FRIEND!

ANDERS: I have never cared for someone like I care for you. Here.

(He takes a ring off and puts it on her finger.)

This ring belonged to my grandmother. I want you to have it. Promise me you will never take it off.

KRISTEN: I promise.

ANDERS: Now I must wish you goodnight.

KRISTEN: Wait. Please tell me, do you live here in the palace?

ANDERS: *(He hesitates.)* I sleep here. You don't need to be afraid here. My room is just two doors down from yours. I will keep you safe.

KRISTEN: Won't you tell me your name and how you came to be here?

ANDERS: I can't. Please trust me. If you do everything the White Bear says, all will turn out well. Good night.

(ANDERS kisses her on the forehead and then leads her to her bed. She sits.)

KRISTEN: Goodnight.

(LIGHTS dim.)

SCENE 7 — *SERVANTS bring on a long table and roll off bed and window frame. The table is set for two at either end. There are two candlesticks. NORTH WIND enters. LIGHTS up on him. As he speaks, KRISTEN and the WHITE BEAR enter and sit at either end of the table.*

NORTH WIND: The months pass slowly for Kristen and the days hang heavy because she has nothing to do. It is now summer and Kristen grows restless. Although she has supper each evening with the White Bear and she also speaks to the mysterious stranger before going to sleep, she is lonely and misses her

family.

WHITE BEAR: You are not eating.

KRISTEN: I'm not hungry.

WHITE BEAR: Are you ill?

KRISTEN: No.

WHITE BEAR: Do you lack anything here? You have enough food and clothing.

KRISTEN: Yes, yes, I eat very well here and you have given me beautiful clothes, but...

WHITE BEAR: Yes?

KRISTEN: There is more to life than what you eat and wear.

WHITE BEAR: You have complete access to my library. You told me you want to be a healer. My library is full of books about herbs and medicines.

KRISTEN: Yes, and I am grateful to you for letting me read them and it is very interesting. It's just...that I'm lonely. I miss my family.

WHITE BEAR: Your family is doing fine.

(KRISTEN jumps up from the table and goes over to the WHITE BEAR.)

KRISTEN: When did you see my family? Are they well?

WHITE BEAR: They are doing fine. I saw them last week. But they didn't see me. I saw them from afar. They were having a picnic in the garden. They seemed fine. They live in a huge house. What more could they want?

KRISTEN: You're heartless! Maybe it's because you're a bear, but with people it's different. Family is everything. I know my family misses me because I miss them. I'm glad to know they have food and live in a fine house. But what I would give to be with them!

WHITE BEAR: You want to see them again?

KRISTEN: Yes, I do. I really do. You've been kind to me. I would come back. Right back. If only I could see my family again -- even for a few days.

WHITE BEAR: You promise to come right back?

KRISTEN: Of course, I will. When can I go? How will I get there?

WHITE BEAR: I will take you there. But you must promise me one thing.

KRISTEN: Anything.

WHITE BEAR: You must promise me that you will not let your mother speak to you alone. She will ask

you about your life here. You must tell her nothing. If you do, I will...

KRISTEN: You will what?

(Beat)

WHITE BEAR: Things will be different.

KRISTEN: *(She is not listening, but is twirling around, beside herself with happiness.)* Tomorrow!
Tomorrow! We will go tomorrow!

(She kisses the bear on the cheek.)

Thank you! Thank you!

WHITE BEAR: You promise to come back? I won't make you. Your family can keep their riches and their home. I won't keep you captive. But if you don't come back and if you don't stay with me for a year and if you don't keep your word and listen to your mother then all will not be well with me.

KRISTEN: What do you mean?

WHITE BEAR: I can't say.

KRISTEN: *(Agitated)* Everyone one here is so mysterious and they make me promise things I don't understand.

WHITE BEAR: But you will promise to come back?

KRISTEN: Yes, yes.

WHITE BEAR: And you won't listen to your mother?

KRISTEN: No, of course not! What time will we leave tomorrow?

WHITE BEAR: At six.

KRISTEN: It will be so good to see everyone! I can hardly wait.

WHITE BEAR: Don't forget your promises.

KRISTEN: My promises? Oh, yes, of course! I will see you in the morning.

(KRISTEN runs off stage.)

WHITE BEAR: Will she remember and keep her promises? Or will my life come tumbling down around me in pieces? How do you love someone who doesn't know that she loves, too?

(The WHITE BEAR exits and the stage goes dark. DURING SONG [played 'in one'], CAST TAKES OFF CHAIRS and table. They bring on an arbor decorated with roses. There is a garden table brought on as well as chairs and planters with rose trees. KRISTEN appears in isolation on one side of the stage.)

MUSICAL #9: YOU ARE

KRISTEN:

I WAS HAPPY EVERY SECOND THERE WITH YOU
I'VE GROWN TO KNOW THERE'S NOT A LOVE SO TRUE.
THE LONGING AND THE ACHE TONIGHT
IS MORE THAN I CAN TAKE TONIGHT.
HOLD MY HAND
ACROSS THE MILES,
HOLD THE SMILES IN MY HEART,
AND SAY IT'S RIGHT.

ANDERS: *(appearing in isolation on the other side of the stage.)*

WHEN WE PARTED HOW I THOUGHT I BARELY KNEW
THE ONLY ONE THAT I WANTED, THEN, WAS YOU.
(THE) MOONLIGHT WAS A POTION, THEN.
I HARDLY HAD THE NOTION THEN.
UNDERSTAND
THAT IN MY SMILES
'CROSS THE MILES WE'RE APART.
BUT IT'S ALL RIGHT.

BOTH:

SOMETHING MORE
YOU ARE.
ALL I ADORE.
YOU ARE.
I PRAY THIS MADNESS ENDS

AND WE BECOME MUCH MORE THAN FRIENDS.

(LIGHTS fade.)

(END OF ACT 1)

29 MORE PAGES UNTIL THE END OF THE SHOW