

PERUSAL SCRIPT

***GOLDEN
DREAMS***

***A ROMANTIC NEW
OPERETTA***



***BOOK, MUSIC AND LYRICS BY
JAMES G. LAMBERT AND C. MICHAEL PERRY***



Newport, Maine

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GOLDEN DREAMS

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GOLDEN DREAMS

CAST OF CHARACTERS

15M 12W + ensemble

<i>CHARACTER</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>
Joaquin Murietta/Esteban Chavez	A man of mystery
Jennifer Wells	A lady of rare beauty
Harmon Wells	The leader of Placerville society
Rinehardt (Rhino) Kruger	The county sherriff - a hard man
Juan Ortega	A faithful devoted friend
Kerry McCabe	A woman, but a leader of men
Conchita Morales	A shady lady with a golden heart
Sim Haslett	A man to fear
Frank Stockwell	A chameleon
Sam Oates	A man without a heart
Paquita Murietta	A devoted sister
Pancho Fernandez	An Hermano de Murietta
Ricardo Cordero	An Hermano de Murietta
Pepito Renaldo	An Hermano de Murietta
Ramon Cervantes	An Hermano de Murietta
Esperanza Reyes	A responsible lady
Agusta (Gussie) Reynolds	The Miner's Camp cook
Ivan "Russian" Romanoff	A Miner
Mickey "Irish" O'Hare	A Miner
Ike Lewis	A Miner
Delores Quintara	An untrustworthy sort
Serafina Perez	An astute observer
Alfreda Gomez	A woman living in fear
Maria Lopez	A Cantina percentage girl
Teresa Lara	A Cantina percentage girl
Doctor Sanchez	A medical man of the old school

Other townespeople, Miners, Hermanos & Cantina Girls if desired

AUTHORS NOTE

Golden Dreams is a Modern Style Operetta set in the gold rush days of California, in and around Hangtown, now Placerville, about 1850. No attempt is made toward historical accuracy though actual places and some actual people are mentioned. This work is pure fiction and is meant only as an exercise in an almost forgotten medium with entertainment and good fun as a result. It is a classic melodramatic tale of good overcoming evil in spite of high moral character, dedication to duty, honor and personal integrity. The authors lovingly dedicate this work to their good and faithful wives, who, along with exceptional personal beauty, epitomize those virtues herein expressed.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

JOAQUIN MURIETTA/ ESTEBAN CHAVES -- Romanticized historically as "The Robin Hood of the West," he serves as the hero of our story. As such, he is the leader of "Los Hermanos de Murietta," a band of mountain corsairs dedicated to the relieving of the yolk of poverty and prejudice from the backs of their Hispanic brothers and to righting the wrongs wrought by men of evil designs and greedy purpose. In so doing, it is necessary for Joaquin to pose as a humble gardener, ESTEBAN Chaves. As both he loves Jennifer Wells.

JENNIFER WELLS -- Our heroine is a person of rare beauty in both appearance and spirit. Though drawn, against her will into a romantic alliance with Joaquin, she remains faithful to her honor and to her wayward father, Harmon Wells.

HARMON WELLS -- Hangtown's only banker and the pillar of the local society, he seeks even greater success in the acquisition of wealth and political power without regard to the way that power is achieved. His love for Jennifer is his only saving grace.

RINEHARDT (RHINO) KRUGER -- The Placer County Sheriff, elected through Harmon Wells' political power, is his right-hand-man. In reality, Rhino is loyal only unto himself. Thief, murderer, forger and bully, he secretly lusts after Jennifer and the wealth Harmon seeks.

JUAN ORTEGA -- Segundo to Joaquin with the "Hermanos," he, too, works "under cover," as a shepherd. He is a Young man of quiet strength, unswerving loyalty and commitment. He doggedly pursues his lady love, Conchita Morales.

CONCHITA MORALES -- A woman of strong and passionate nature, she searches for a man she can respect and love. A Cantina Singer with discriminating tastes, she is drawn toward ESTEBAN with her head and Juan with her heart even to the endangering of her own life.

KERRY McCABE -- A woman of great size and strength, she has become the spokesperson for her miner friends. A great friend and a fearful enemy, she is the driving force in Placer Canyon.

SIM HASLETT -- A man without conscience or loyalty with a passion for inflicting pain even unto death upon friend or foe alike. He fears no man except Rhino and serves as his chief deputy and henchman.

FRANK STOCKWELL -- Rhino's other deputy is an enigma. A cut above his mates, yet he follows them docily into their conspiracy.

PAQUITA MURIETTA -- Joaquin's younger sister and confidant, who loves and adores her brother without question and lives for his safety and happiness. She considers herself one of the "Hermanos" and is accepted by them as such.

PANCHO FERNANDES, RICARDO CORDERO, PEPITO RENALDO & RAMON CERVANTES -- Joaquin's most trusted lieutenants, who serve on his councils and obey his directions without question.

ESPERANZA REYES -- Duenna to Jennifer and housekeeper to Harmon, she goes about her work quietly, responsibly and with great dignity.

AGUSTA (GUSSIE) REYNOLDS -- The Miner's Camp cook and early widow in our story's continuing battle with evil. She is more womanly and attractive than Kerry, but just as fiery.

RUSSIAN ROMANOFF -- A huge bear of a man with a fighting heart and a tender spirit. A hard-working miner, he is devoted to their cause, and silently, to Kerry.

IRISH O'HARE -- Small of stature, yet fiercely competitive and outspoken, he is the complete antithesis, yet best friend to the Russian.

IKE LEWIS -- The patriarch of the Miners, he is fiery, argumentative and full of vinegar. Though quick to anger, he is also quick to admit it if his anger is mis-placed.

SAM OATES -- Hangtown's greedy storekeeper and an active co-conspirator of Rhino's, he, like Frank, is a cut above his mates, but even more sinister in his way.

DELORES QUINTARA -- Sam's devious shop assistant and lover. She has divorced herself from her Latin roots and treats them with disdain. She lies and cheats with aplomb.

ALFREDA GOMEZ -- A frightened widow who lives in a tequila bottle and knows no loyalty.

SERAFINA PEREZ, TERESA LARA & MARIA LOPEZ -- Cantina dancers and percentage girls who are no better than they have to be, yet loyal to the "Hermanos."

DOCTOR SANCHEZ -- A proud and dedicated Hispanic physician

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES AND MUSICAL NUMBERS (STILL TO WRITE)

#1 OVERTURE—Orchestra (To Write)

#1a GOLDEN DREAMS—Ensemble

Scene One - Hideout of Los Hermanos De Murietta - a summer evening

#2 HERMANOS DE MURIETTA—Hermanos

#3 HERMANOS DE MURIETTA Reprise #1—Hermanos

Scene Two - The Wells' Garden - later that week

#4 CALIFORNIA—Jennifer & Reyes

#5 JENNIFER—Joaquin

#6 HOW GENTLE THE KISS OF LOVE—Jennifer

Scene Three - The Placerville Cantina - two nights later

#7 DANCE—Conchita & Girls (To Write) use “This Night” as Flamenco

#8 THIS MAN—Conchita

Scene Four - The Wells' Garden - several days later

#9 CALIFORNIA Reprise #1—Jennifer

#10 TO THE END OF THE EARTH—Joaquin

Scene Five - Alfreda's Cabin

Scene Six - Hermanos Hideout - later that night

#11 HERMANOS DE MURIETTA Reprise #2—Hermanos

#12 FROM MY HEART—Jennifer

Scene Seven - The Wells' Garden - the next morning

#13 I WOULD ASK...?—Joaquin

#14 WHAT HAVE I DONE?—Harmon

Scene Eight - The Miner's Camp - three days later, afternoon

#15 THIS HOUSE—Jennifer

#16 HERMANOS DE MURIETTA Reprise #3—Miners & Hermanos

INTERMISSION

#17 ENTREACTE—Orchestra (To Write)

Scene Nine - Hermanos Hideout - that night

#18 GOLDEN DREAMS (reprise #1)—Joaquin, Juan, Paquita & Jennifer

#19 THE WAY OF LOVE—Joaquin & Jennifer

#20 THE WAY OF LOVE Reprise #1 & S.C.—Joaquin & Jennifer

Scene Ten - The Placerville Cantina - the next afternoon

#21 JENNIFER Scene Change—Orchestra

Scene Eleven - Slanted Rock - early evening

#22 ALONE AND LONELY—Joaquin

#23 THIS MAN Scene Change—Orchestra

Scene Twelve - The Wells' Garden - later that evening

#24 THE WAY OF LOVE (reprise #2)—Jennifer & Joaquin

#25 FINALE & BOWS—The cast

#26 EXIT MUSIC—Orchestra (To Write)

GOLDEN DREAMS

ACT ONE

MUSICAL #1 — OVERTURE

SEGUE TO

MUSICAL # 1a — GOLDEN DREAMS

(Sung by Off-stage CHORUS)

CHORUS:

GOLDEN DREAMS,
EVERYBODY HAS A GOLDEN DREAM
KEEP FIGHTING TIL YOU'VE WON IT!
GOLDEN DREAMS,
EVERYBODY HAS A GOLDEN DREAM
SHINING LIKE THE SUN!

IF YOU WOULD BE HAPPY,
LOVE SEEKING YOUR DREAM
DON'T GIVE UP THE STRUGGLE!
WHEN YOU MUST FIGHT, YOU MUST FIGHT UPSTREAM

TO YOUR GOLDEN DREAMS,
LIFE HAS PURPOSE WITH A GOLDEN DREAM,
THAT QUEST THAT MAKES US BOLDER!
GOLDEN DREAMS,
NEW HORIZONS SHINE WITH GOLDEN DREAMS
WHERE THE THINGS THAT WE FIND SHINE LIKE GOLD!

SCENE I -- *The hideout of Los Hermanos de Murietta*

MUSICAL #2 -- HERMANOS DE MURIETTA

HERMANOS

WHO ARE THESE MEN OF MURIETTA?
DO THEY THINK THEY CAN'T BE WRONG?
AND THOUGH THEY KNOW THEY LOVE VENDETTA
THEY FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT, THEN BURST INTO SONG!

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AS WE RIDE ALONG WE SING OUR SONG, OUR STORY,
WE ARE STRONG! WE FIGHT THE FIGHT FOR GLORY;
NEVER WRONG! WE AID THE POOR AND FRIENDLESS,
THE FIGHT SEEMS ENDLESS, WE WON'T GIVE IN!

RIDING, WE WILL GO TO SEEK OUR FOE.
OUR BAND WILL ALWAYS KNOW THAT WE MUST FIGHT NOT STAND STILL.
WE WILL SHOW WE AID THE POOR AND FRIENDLESS.
THE FIGHT SEEMS ENDLESS, BUT WE WILL WIN,
HERMANOS DE MURIETTA!

HERMANOS, WE BELONG, HERMANOS, WE ARE STRONG!
TOGETHER, WE RIDE THE TRAIL, TOGETHER, WE WILL NEVER FAIL!

AS WE RIDE ALONG WE SING OUR SONG, OUR WARCRY,
WE ARE STRONG! WE FIGHT THE FIGHT AND MORE CRY:
“NEVER WRONG!” AND THOUGH THE FIGHT SEEMS ENDLESS,
THE WORLD SEEMS FRIENDLESS,
YET, WE WILL WIN
HERMANOS DE MURIETTA!

AS WE RIDE ALONG WE SING OUR SONG, OUR WARCRY,
WE ARE STRONG! WE FIGHT THE FIGHT AND MORE CRY:
“NEVER WRONG!” AND AS WE FIGHT FOR JUSTICE,
AND THOUGH IT’S JUST US,
YET, WE WILL WIN
HERMANOS DE MURIETTA!

JOAQUIN: *(Taking JUAN aside)* Juan, I must speak with you.

JUAN: As you wish, Joaquin.

JOAQUIN: As my second in command, I have given you much authority. Have you misused that authority by leading the Hermanos on unauthorized raids?

JUAN: No, Joaquin, I would never do that. Why do you ask?

(They are joined by PAQUITA)

JOAQUIN: Do you not know of the raids around Placer Canyon?

JUAN: While you were home to the rancheria, we only rested and harvested our gardens as you instructed. We have been nowhere near Placer Canyon or Placerville or any other town so we have not heard of any raids.

(HERMANOS gather near, listening)

PAQUITA: What has happened, Joaquin, that you would suspect Juan or the Hermanos?

JOAQUIN: The raids have been made by men dressed as Hermanos. They have struck at the Wells Fargo ore shipments as well as the mines, themselves, Little Sister.

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PAQUITA: Your men remain true to our cause, Joaquin, it is not the Hermanos!

JUAN: What your sister says is true, Joaquin, I swear it!

JOAQUIN: (To HERMANOS) Do you all so swear?

(HERMANOS *ad lib* affirmatively)

JUAN: If what you say is true, then we must put a stop to these raids.

JOAQUIN: Yes, and soon, before our friends desert us.

PANCHO: Do we ride tonight, Jefe?

JOAQUIN: No, Pancho. Tonight we plan. We ride tomorrow.

PANCHO: Why do we not just attack and kill the dogs?

JUAN: How can we attack a phantom we do not know?

RICARDO: What do you suggest, then?

JUAN: First we must find out who. Then the how, where, when and if we should attack.

RICARDO: But how do we find these banditos?

PAQUITA: Do you have a plan, Hermano?

JOAQUIN: So far, the raiders have struck only in the Placerville area. Juan and I will concentrate our efforts there since we are already known as ESTEBAN Chavez and Juan, the poor but honest shepherd.

JUAN: Should we not all concentrate our efforts there? Many hands should make it easy to discover who uses us.

JOAQUIN: We would be too easily discovered. Remember, we are suspect and if we are all seen in the area, it will strengthen that suspicion.

PAQUITA: Should we look just in Placerville?

JOAQUIN: No! They could just as well strike Jamestown or Sonora. Ricardo and Pancho will continue to supervise those areas. Pepito?!!

PEPITO: Si, Jefe?

JOAQUIN: Your Vaqueros must be ready to carry messages between each group, including Paco's men, here at the hideaway.

PEPITO: Si, Jefe, I will assign sufficient men and horses to the task.

JOAQUIN: Without fail, one of your men at each location, must always be alert for our signal. We can gather here or at Slanted Rock when we find our quarry. Ramon, you must remain ever vigilant. Unexpected visitors must never know this is our stronghold. Let no one think we are other than kindly shepherds.

RAMONO: Si, Jefe.

JOAQUIN: You all must remember, while in the towns do not be obvious. Continue to play the dumb Mexicano.

PEPITO: Si, Jefe, the gringo is stupid.

JOAQUIN: Pepito! All of you! Don't make the same mistake they do. Don't underestimate them. We are too few to lose lives for stupidity.

JUAN: Remember, mis Hermanos, do not do anything until we can all work together, for when we are united we are strong.

JOAQUIN: You are right, Segundo, but that brings to mind another problem.

JUAN: What is that, Joaquin?

JOAQUIN: Up to now, you and I have kept our distance. If we change now it might be noticed, but we must be able to contact each other quickly.

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JUAN: We will need a go-between. Someone from Placerville.

JOAQUIN: Who do you suggest?

JUAN: I could enlist Conchita Morales from the cantina.

JOAQUIN: Can you be sure of her?

JUAN: As sure as any man of the woman of his heart.

JOAQUIN: Then don't tell her who we are. Only that we sometimes run messages for Los Hermanos.

JUAN: Very well. You know best, Jefe.

PAQUITA: But since the plan is set, should we not move tonight. That way we can be in place and ready tomorrow.

JOAQUIN: Can you be ready by tomorrow Pepito?

PEPITO: By tomorrow night, Jefe.

JOAQUIN: Good! You are our most important link.

PEPITO: I shall not fail you, Jefe.

JOAQUIN: Good! Mis Hermanos, prepare to ride!

(Gives signal and HERMANOS respond)

MUSICAL #3 -- HERMANOS DE MURIETTA - Reprise #1

HERMANOS

HERMANOS! WE BELONG! HERMANOS! WE ARE STRONG!
TOGETHER, WE RIDE THE TRAIL! TOGETHER, WE WILL NEVER FAIL!
AS WE RIDE ALONG, WE SING OUR SONG, OUR STORY,
WE ARE STRONG! WE FIGHT THE FIGHT FOR GLORY!
NEVER WRONG! WE AID THE POOR AND FRIENDLESS!
THE FIGHT SEEMS ENDLESS, BUT WE WILL WIN! HERMANOS DE MURIETTA!
(BLACKOUT)

SCENE TWO -- *The next day in the WELLS' garden. JENNIFER comes out on the veranda smiling and happy as she sings. During number JOAQUIN enters disguised as ESTEBAN & watches her.*

MUSICAL #4 -- CALIFORNIA

JENNIFER

CALIFORNIA.
LA LA LA LA LA LA.
IT'S A GARDEN AND IT'S FINE!
CALIFORNIA.
LA LA LA LA LA LA.
RINGED WITH IT'S BOWERS OF PINE.

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CALIFORNIA.
LA LA LA LA LA LA.
OTHER EARTHLY SCENERY PALLS.
CALIFORNIA.
LA LA LA LA LA LA.
BLESSED WITH ITS TALL WATERFALLS.

BROOKLETS AND RIVERS THAT TRIP BY AS THEY SEEK THE OCEAN SHORES
HIGH MOUNTAIN PASSES WITH VISTAS DIVINE POINT TO GREEN VALLEY FLOORS.
LA LA

(Dance interlude by JENNIFER. ESPERANZA entering)

JENNIFER

LA

LA LA

LA

LA

LA

LA

LA!

ESPERANZA (WRITE THIS)

MY SWEET MUCHACHA MUST HEED MY ALARM
FOR SHE'S A MOTHERLESS CHILD.

SWEET & UNTOUCHED I MUST
KEEP HER FROM HARM FROM MEN WHO

LIVE FOR

LIFE IN A

WORLD THAT IS

WICKED AND WILD!

JENNIFER (ADD ESPERANZA IN HARMONY?)

CALIFORNIA.

LA LA LA LA LA LA.

WHERE THE MOUNTAINS TOUCH THE SKY
THERE IS BEAUTY HERE!

EACH SIGHT I SEE IS SUCH A DELIGHT,

LA LA LA LA LA LA!

SUCH A DELIGHT,

LA LA LA LA LA LA!

IT'S SUCH A DELIGHT TO MY EYE.

LA LA LA LA LA!

(JENNIFER sees ESTEBAN)

JENNIFER: Ah, so you did come, Esteban?

ESTEBAN: (With a heavy accent) Did I not promise you I would, Senorita Wells?

JENNIFER: How was I to know you would keep your promise?

ESTEBAN: I would never willingly fail the senorita.

JENNIFER: *(Flirtingly)* Such devotion from ones gardener in unexpected, Esteban.

ESTEBAN: I am devoted to my job, Senorita.

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JENNIFER: (*Piqued*) Is that all it is?

REYES: Senorita Jennifer, your Papa wishes to speak with you.

JENNIFER: Thank you, Esperanza. Is he in the library?

REYES: Si, Senorita.

JENNIFER: (*With a look a ESTEBAN*) Then I must not keep him waiting.

(*Exits*)

(*ESTEBAN looks after JENNIFER longingly*)

REYES: Señor Chaves, take care you do not try to rise above your station!

JOAQUIN: Por favor, Señora Reyes, but who is to say what my station might be in this land. Today I am but a humble gardener; tomorrow I could be the owner of a large enough estancia that it might even impress you.

REYES: You are a dreamer, ESTEBAN. You would do better to stick to your flowers.

(*Exits*)

MUSICAL #5 -- JENNIFER

ESTEBAN: It is no crime to dream, Señora . And how could one fail to dream of so rare a flower.

MY HEART IS AFLAME WITH JENNIFER.

AFLAME WITH THE PUREST FIRE.

MY DREAM CAME ALIVE, MY HOPE WILL SURVIVE.

SHE'S ALL THAT I REQUIRE!

NO BEAUTY CAN MATCH MY JENNIFER.

NO VENUS COULD TAKE HER PLACE!

SHE'S BRIGHT AS THE SUN,

I HOPE SHE'S THE ONE WAITING FOR MY EMBRACE.

THO' I DARE NOT TELL HER SO UNTIL I'VE EARNED THAT RIGHT.

STILL IT'S ALL THAT I CAN DO NOT TO SHOUT WITH ALL MY MIGHT.

OH, HOW I'D LOVE YOU , MY JENNIFER,

I'D GIVE YOU THE BEST I CAN:

TO FILL ALL MY DAYS WITH YOUR LOVING WAYS

WOULD MAKE ME A HAPPY MAN!

THO' I DARE NOT TELL YOU SO UNTIL I EARN THAT RIGHT!

STILL IT'S ALL THAT I CAN DO NOT TO SHOUT WITH ALL MY MIGHT!

OH, I LOVE YOU SO , MY JENNIFER;

IT BRINGS ME THE SWEETEST PAIN,

TO WORSHIP A STAR, LIKE LOVE FROM AFAR

IS SINGING A SAD REFRAIN.

TO KNOW THAT I'M NEAR TO ONE I HOLD DEAR

BRINGS A JOY I CANNOT EXPLAIN!

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JENNIFER! JENNIFER!

(As ESTEBAN finishes song, JENNIFER returns to veranda, then comes down into the garden, approaching ESTEBAN.)

JENNIFER: I thought I heard someone singing. Was it you, Esteban?

ESTEBAN: Oh, no, Senorita, Esteban Chavez does not sing.

JENNIFER: What a pity. I could not make out the words, but the voice was beautiful.

ESTEBAN: Then I am sick at heart that the voice was not mine.

JENNIFER: Esteban, why is it I feel that sometimes you are laughing at me?

ESTEBAN: No, Senorita, never would I laugh. I am but a humble gardener.

JENNIFER: Oh, I see. And what is our humble gardener doing today?

ESTEBAN: I dig the weeds, Senorita, always I dig the weeds, and I must be started.

JENNIFER: Am I bothering you, Esteban?

ESTEBAN: In what way would the Senorita bother me?

JENNIFER: In no way, apparently.

(She starts to move away. KRUGER and SIM enter gate.)

KRUGER: Miss Wells, what a pleasure. Good afternoon, my dear.

JENNIFER: Sheriff Kruger, this is a surprise. What brings you here today?

KRUGER: Business, unfortunately, Miss Wells. Is your father in?

JENNIFER: Yes, if you will excuse me, I'll go get him.

KRUGER: Please do.

(JENNIFER exits into house and SIM approaches ESTEBAN and kicks him)

SIM: You! Greaser!

(Tosses a coin at him)

Time for a shot of tequilla. Get down to the cantina! Sabe?

ESTEBAN: Si, Patron.

SIM: Then vamoose unless ya want me to salt yer tail.

ESTEBAN: Si, Patron, si.

(Exits as WELLS enters to veranda)

SIM: Dumb greasers. Why don't they go back where they belong?

WELLS: And where would you suggest they go, Sim?

SIM: Ta Mexico, or the devil, I don't care which.

WELLS: You do realize that until a short time ago this was all Mexican country and they have, perhaps, more right to it than we do. As for your other suggestion, it is more likely you shall abide in hell than they.

(ESTEBAN appears on roof)

KRUGER: If not all of us, right, Mr. Wells?

WELLS: There is that possibility, of course. What business brings you here, Sheriff?

KRUGER: I thought you would be interested that Murietta's band hit the miner's camp again this morning.

WELLS: Were they successful?

KRUGER: Yes, but there was a bit of trouble.

WELLS: What happened, Kruger?

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KRUGER: Couple of the miners tried to put up a fight. They were killed, but one of ou-- ah--Murietta's men was seriously wounded.

WELLS: Did the miners capture the wounded man?

SIM: Nah! I slit his gullet an' stuffed him down an abandoned mine shaft.

WELLS: Hush, you fool, someone might be listening!

SIM: Tain't nobody 'round here but that greaser gard'ner I ran off -- an' yer girl.

WELLS: Either one could hang you, if they heard.

(To KRUGER)

Where is the gold?

KRUGER: Go get it, Sim!

SIM: Sure thing, boss.

(Exits)

KRUGER: I thought it best to leave it here with you.

(ESTEBAN disappears)

WELLS: Why do you keep that simpleton, Rhino?

KRUGER: For details like today. It's a necessary job you and I like to avoid.

WELLS: From now on, keep a muzzle on his mouth and keep him away from me!

KRUGER: Just leave it to ole Rhinehardt Kruger.

(Faintly THE HERMANOS' signal is heard)

WELLS: What was that?

KRUGER: Just some happy miner whistlin' a tune. Nothin' to worry about.

WELLS: I hope you are right.

(SIM enters lugging a heavy sack)

SIM: Here it is, Boss, twenty pounds of pure dust.

(Sets it down and opens it.)

Ain't it beautiful? When do we split it?

WELLS: We will sit on this just as we have our other successes in the past.

SIM: Ah, Boss, can't we have just a little.

WELLS: Not until we can do so safely. We can't have you flashing gold so soon after a robbery. You are being well paid, aren't you?

SIM: Sure, but it ain't the same.

KRUGER: Shut yer mouth, Sim! The boss is right. He knows what he's doing!

SIM: Sure, Rhino. I don't mean no trouble.

KRUGER: Any new orders, Mr. Wells?

WELLS: No! Just continue to harrass those miners. It's the mines we want, not just a few measly grains of dust. Once we control the mines, we control California.

KRUGER: And then no one can touch us. See, Sim, you gotta think big if ya wanta get anywhere. That's why Harmon Wells is the boss.

SIM: Sure, Rhino, sure. Where do ya want this sack, Mr. Wells?

WELLS: Under the veranda for now! We can move it to the bank after dark.

KRUGER: Good idea. Meanwhile, Sim and I will go back to playing posse to satisfy Kerry McCabe's miners. Come on, Sim!

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SIM: Sure, Rhino.

(Exuent. WELLS properly replaces door under veranda)

WELLS: The people one has to work with to become governor. Soon I am going to see those two are no longer around.

(Turns to stairs. JOAQUIN and four HERMANOS enter)

JOAQUIN: Señor Wells?

(WELLS spins around and is shocked)

WELLS: You --Murietta!

JOAQUIN: You will kindly raise your arms, Señor.

(WELLS quickly complies)

Search him!

JUAN: *(Quickly searches WELLS)* He is not armed, Joaquin.

JOAQUIN: You may lower your arms, Señor.

(He does)

WELLS: What do you want, Murietta?

JOAQUIN: Just the gold your men so recently took from the miners.

WELLS: I don't know what you mean!

JOAQUIN: *(To JUAN)* Shoot him, Hermano!

(JUAN points pistol at WELLS's head)

JUAN: Si, Joaquin.

(Pulls trigger on empty cylinder and WELLS collapses)

JOAQUIN: What happened?

JUAN: I don't know, Joaquin, it just didn't fire.

JOAQUIN: Well, try again! They can't all misfire.

JUAN: Si, Joaquin.

(Cocks pistol again)

WELLS: *(Cringing)* Stop! Stop! I'll tell you.

JUAN: The pig squeals. Do I shoot or do we hear him out?

JOAQUIN: If he lies again, shoot him, only this time put your shells in your pistol first.

(JUAN loads pistol as others laugh)

The gold, Señor Wells, where is it?

WELLS: *(Pointing)* It's behind that panel under the veranda.

JOAQUIN: *(To PANCHO)* Please look, Hermano.

PANCHO: Si, Jefe.

(Looks)

It is here, Jefe.

(Brings out gold)

JOAQUIN: It is well you talked. I would have hated to distress your beautiful daughter with your untimely death. Hermanos, take the gold. I shall join you later.

JUAN: Si, Joaquin.

(They exit)

WELLS: What will you do with me now?

Golden Dreams by James G. Lambert & C. Michael Perry

JOAQUIN: (*Holstering pistol*) You are an insect I should squash, but it will have to be at another time.

(*JENNIFER comes out on veranda*)

JENNIFER: Father, what is wrong?

(*Rushes to his side and helps him up*)

JOAQUIN: Your father is unharmed, my lady. He has you to thank for it.

JENNIFER: Father, who is this?

JOAQUIN: (*Bowing*) Your servant, Miss Wells, I am Joaquin Murietta.

JENNIFER: You are -- Murietta?

JOAQUIN: None other, Seniorita.

WELLS: Go back to the house, dear.

JOAQUIN: No, Seniorita, stay!! I have granted your miserable father his life, but for that gesture I must claim a forfeit.

JENNIFER: Who would you have pay your forfeit, Señor Thief.

JOAQUIN: You, Seniorita, here and now!

JENNIFER: I love my Father, so, if it is within reason, I will probably pay it.

WELLS: No, Jennifer!

JOAQUIN: The forfeit I require is but a kiss.

WELLS: No!

JENNIFER: Then take your kiss and leave us in peace!

(*JENNIFER closes her eyes and lifts her lips to be kissed, but JOAQUIN takes her face in his hands, kisses first her eyelids, then her nose, her neck, and finally her lips. The kiss is not overly long or overly passionate, but tender; and JENNIFER responds*)

JOAQUIN: Gracias, sweet Jennifer, it is a forfeit I shall never forget.

(*Exits. WELLS rushes into house as JENNIFER shakes herself*)

JENNIFER: What kind of girl am I to have enjoyed it so?

(*WELLS comes out with a pistol and fires it three times*)

WELLS: That should bring help. I swear I'll kill him for touching you!

JENNIFER: Father, why was Murietta here?

WELLS: He took the gold!

JENNIFER: What gold, Father?

WELLS: Why the -- the gold the Sheriff brought this afternoon for safekeeping. It belongs to the miners. The Sheriff had recovered it from some of Murietta's men earlier today.

JENNIFER: Then he really is a thief?

WELLS: Yes, and a murderer, too. Two miners were shot down today.

JENNIFER: It is hard to believe. He seemed like such a gentle man.

WELLS: Don't be fooled by his manner. He is really very brutal.

JENNIFER: Yes, Father, but --

(*FRANK runs in with TOWNSPEOPLE behind*)

FRANK: Was that your signal, Mr. Wells?

WELLS: Yes, Frank, it was!

FRANK: What's happened?

(*KRUGER and SIM race in*)

Golden Dreams by James G. Lambert & C. Michael Perry

WELLS: Joaquin Murietta.

(All react. To Kruger)

He must have followed you, Sheriff, after you recovered the holdup gold. He knew you left it with me for safekeeping and has taken it again.

KRUGER: Are you sure it was Murietta?

JENNIFER: Of course he is, Sheriff! I saw him too!

KRUGER: You did?

JENNIFER: Yes, he forced me to kiss him. I assure you, he was here!

WELLS: While you are standing around jawing, he is getting away. Form a posse and get after him!

(JOAQUIN slips in as ESTEBAN)

KRUGER: Right! Frank, get Kerry McCabe. She and her men will want in on this.

FRANK: Yes, sir.

(Exits)

KRUGER: Rest of you get yer horses and guns. (Exuent) Sim, find Esteban Chaves, he's the best tracker around.

ESTEBAN: You want Esteban, Señor?

KRUGER: That's right. I'm deputizing you and ordering you to track Murietta!

ESTEBAN: You go after Murietta?

KRUGER: You got any objections, Chaves?!!

ESTEBAN: Oh, no, Señor, I am only too glad to track him.

KRUGER: Good. Sim, let's you and I go get enough grub to last us.

SIM: Sure, Rhino.

KRUGER: While yer waiting, Chaves, find their tracks. I'll bring the posse here.

ESTEBAN: Si, Señor Sheriff.

(KRUGER and SIM exit and WELLS follows after)

JENNIFER: ESTEBAN?

ESTEBAN: Si, Senorita.

JENNIFER: Will you know Murietta when you see him.

ESTEBAN: I think so, Senorita.

JENNIFER: Why do you help the sheriff, Esteban?

ESTEBAN: It is my duty. Is not Murietta a thief?

JENNIFER: I think so.

ESTEBAN: You are not sure?

JENNIFER: Oh, I suppose so. Go on about your duty, Esteban!

ESTEBAN: Si, Senorita.

(JOAQUIN starts to exit, then turns to watch JENNIFER who sings)

MUSICAL #6 -- HOW GENTLE THE KISS OF LOVE

JENNIFER

HOW GENTLE THE KISS OF LOVE,
HOW SWEET MY LOVER'S FACE.

Golden Dreams by James G. Lambert & C. Michael Perry

HOW NICE TO KNOW THE PEACE OF LOVE
FOUND IN A TENDER EMBRACE!

HOW GENTLE THE KISS OF LOVE,
WHENEVER HE IS NEAR.
THE MYSTERIES OF AN UNKNOWN WORLD
NOW ARE BECOMING CLEAR.

KNOWING A KISS, A TOUCH, A FACE,
SHARING THE BEAT OF A HEART.
FINDING AT LAST MY RIGHTFUL PLACE; SENSING, SOMEHOW, IT'S JUST A START.

HOW GENTLE THE KISS OF LOVE,
LIKE WHISPERS ON THE EAR.
HOW GENTLE IS THE KISS OF LOVE;
THE TENDEREST SOUVENIR!

CARING FOR YOU GIVES THE WORLD A GLOW, BRINGING MY SENSES IN TUNE;
TAKING THE OLD WORLD THAT I KNOW, LIGHTING IT WITH A LOVER'S MOON.

HOW GENTLE THE KISS OF LOVE,
HOW CHOICE MY LOVER'S WORD.
ON EARTH OR UP IN HEAV'N ABOVE,
NO SWEETER SOUND IS HEARD.
HOW GENTLE THE KISS OF LOVE!

(BLACKOUT)

SEGUE TO

MUSICAL #6A -- HOW GENTLE THE KISS OF LOVE S.C. Orchestra

SCENE THREE -- *The Placerville Cantina -- Evening -- Two days later. TOWNSPEOPLE are present as CONCHITA and the GIRLS dance a Flamenco Type Dance*

#7 — DANCE (Short Flamenco)

(PATRONS cheer & there is applause. PEREZ looks out window)

PEREZ: I see the posse is back again.

DELORES: Did they catch Murietta this time?

PEREZ: It does not appear so.

Golden Dreams by James G. Lambert & C. Michael Perry

(The posse including KRUGER, his DEPUTIES & the MINERS enter. ESTEBAN enters and crosses to sit alone)

KRUGER: Belly up, men! I'll buy the first round.

KERRY: That is the first good idea you've had in two days, Kruger.

KRUGER: McCabe, I'm just as tired and just as frustrated as you are.

KERRY: You couldn't be! These two days were totally wasted. We've got nothin' to show for all that effort.

We didn't get back the gold it took us a month to save and then lost two more days sightseein' the Sierras with you.

KRUGER: Look, I've got almost as big a score to settle with Murietta as you do!

KERRY: You still don't understand, Kruger. To you it was just two days work, to us it was survival.

IKE: Yeah, Sheriff, you gonna pay us so we can eat 'til we scrape up some more gold?

KRUGER: You know I'm not authorized to do that. You joined the posse voluntarily.

IRISH: Is that the best ya can be doin' now, Sheriff?

SIM: Tain't our fault them greasers got away. The trail just disappeared.

GUSSIE: I'm not so sure. I'm still not convinced ya did right puttin' Chaves ta trackin' them. I still think he's been leading us up a sandy the whole time.

KRUGER: If I thought so, I'd string him up, but you saw those tracks the same as the rest of us.

KERRY: If I get my hands on those murderin' Mexes, I'll save you the trouble of the hanging. We owe it to ole Hard Rock and Jake to make short work of them.

RUSSIAN: Jake was my partner. I find out who killed him, I break him in half.

(MINERS ad lib their agreement, then ALL turn to silent drinking. CONCHITA joins ESTEBAN in quiet conversation)

CONCHITA: Estaban, does all go well with you, Carisima?

ESTEBAN: No, Conchita, I fear for your friend, Juan.

CONCHITA: Why worry yourself over a worthless shepherd.

ESTEBAN: Because I know he comes soon with a message for Señora McCabe from the Jefe himself. If Juan delivers that message while the miners are in their present temper, he could be walking to his death.

(JUAN enters and approaches KERRY)

CONCHITA: What would you have me do, Querida?

ESTEBAN: Find him and warn him before --

(Sees JUAN)

He's here already!

JUAN: Señora McCabe, por favor, may I speak with you?

KERRY: What do you want?

JUAN: I have a message for you, Señora McCabe?

KERRY: Then give me the message and be quick about it.

JUAN: Perhaps it would be better -- outside.

KERRY: Don't try my patience. If you have message, deliver it!

JUAN: Si, Señora, I have a --

CONCHITA: *(Rushing across room)* Juanito! Querida mia!

(Throws herself at JUAN, who embraces her. His pleased smile is wiped away as she whispers silently in his ear. He pushes her away and glances at ESTEBAN, who shakes his head negatively.)

Golden Dreams by James G. Lambert & C. Michael Perry

JUAN: Control yourself woman! Can't you see I am busy. I will see you later.

(CONCHITA flounces away and rejoins ESTEBAN)

Please forgive the interruption, Señora McCabe?

KERRY: Yes, yes. Now what is your message?

JUAN: Ah -- my people, we know you have lost much, presumably at the hands of Los Hermanos.

KERRY: So what?

JUAN: We would like to help, Señor.

KERRY: How, by turning Murietta over to us?

JUAN: We have no way of doing that, Señor.

KERRY: Then how can a few poor Mexes possibly help us?

JUAN: We are few in number, Señor, And perhaps poor by comparison, but we raise sheep and some fruit and vegetables. We would be willing to share with you for a nominal fee.

KERRY: How do you propose we pay this nominal fee?

JUAN: Your word to pay as you are able is sufficient. You are honest workers, are you not?

KERRY: We are! But --

KRUGER: Hold on, Juan Ortega! If your people have goods ta sell, sell them to Sam Oates!

JUAN: We have tried, Señor, but he will neither buy from nor sell to us at his store.

KRUGER: Yes he will, and he'll pay top dollar, too! Won't ya, Sam?

SAM: *(Among the Patrons)* Sure, Rhinehardt, if you say so.

KRUGER: See, it's settled, Juan. You bring yer goods to Sam!

KERRY: Not so fast, Sheriff! Juan was talkin' to me. You keep out of it until we finish our business. How about it, Juan Ortega, is your offer still good?

JUAN: But of course, Señora McCabe.

(They shake hands and miners gather around Juan)

KRUGER: Juan! Yere fixin' ta get yerself in more trouble than you can handle!

KERRY: Kruger, yer exceedin' yer authority. You make one move against Juan or his people, you will answer to every miner in Placer Canyon.

KRUGER: Let's not get excited, Kerry, there is an obvious answer to all this. Sam can extend you credit on all his goods, not just what Juan sells him. It is a good deal all around and no one gets hurt. How about it, Sam, all right with you?

SAM: Sure, Rhinehardt, as long as they have collateral.

KERRY: What collateral you got in mind, Sam?

SAM: Well, I'd certainly consider a lien on yer property.

KERRY: You well know the only property we have is title to our diggings and we ain't lettin' no one get that.

SAM: I'm just tryin' ta be fair an' reasonable an' pay my own bills.

KERRY: Forget it, Sam, and you too, Kruger. Juan, you just come along with us! We'll see you safely out of town.

JUAN: Gracias, Señora . Buenas noches, Señor Sheriff.

(Exuent)

SIM: Want me ta get him, Boss?

KRUGER: Shut up, Sim! You and Frank get back to the office and stay there. I'm going to see Mr. Wells.

(Exuent)

Golden Dreams by James G. Lambert & C. Michael Perry

CONCHITA: Did I not do well for you, Carisima?

ESTEBAN: You did well, Conchita, as did your Juan. He is a smart one.

CONCHITA: He is not my Juan!

ESTEBAN: He is a good man and he loves you, Conchita.

CONCHITA: He is a sparrow. I need a hawk.

ESTEBAN: Sometimes it is necessary to borrow another bird's feathers, Conchita. The day may come when you find you have misjudged your Juan.

CONCHITA: I have told you, he is not my Juan.

ESTEBAN: Are you so sure of that?

(PEREZ joins them)

CONCHITA: Si, very sure, Carisima!

PEREZ: Tell us, ESTEBAN, how did you trick the gringos?

ESTEBAN: Juan put a special leather shoe stocking on his horse. It made an easily followed trail. While he led us safely over Sonora Pass, the Hermanos returned to their hideout. When the time was convenient, Juan simply removed the stocking and the trail vanished.

PEREZ: It was a good trick, Esteban.

(Returns to the bar)

ESTEBAN: As you can see, Conchita, the trail has been long and hard and I am too tired to plead my friend's cause tonight. Buenas noches, Conchita. We could not have done it without you, either.

(Exits)

MUSICAL #8 -- THIS MAN

CONCHITA

SOME MEN ARE BORN TO BREAK WOMEN'S HEARTS,
SOME MEN ARE BORN TO BE USED.
THIS MAN, I CAN'T FIND A PLACE FOR HIM.
THIS MAN NOW HAS ME CONFUSED.

IS HE THE MAN HE SEEMS TO BE
OR IS HE PLAYING A GAME?
JUST A MAN WHO HAS TOO MUCH FIRE!
HE'D BE A HARD MAN TO TAME.

I'VE KNOWN MANY TYPES OF MEN BEFORE,
BUT NOT A ONE DID I DESIRE.
IF A MAN WOULD TAKE ME AS HIS,
HE'D HAVE THE STRENGTH I REQUIRE.

I WANT A MAN WHO WOULD BE A KING,
NOT JUST A PAWN IN THE GAME.
WITH SUCH A MAN I WOULD GLADLY BE

Golden Dreams by James G. Lambert & C. Michael Perry

A WOMAN WHO'S PROUD OF HIS NAME;
A WOMAN WHO'S WARMED BY HIS FLAME!

(Continue music for SC)

BLACKOUT

SCENE FOUR -- *The Wells' Garden -- Several days later. JENNIFER is in the garden singing as WELLS comes to veranda.*

MUSICAL #9 -- CALIFORNIA (Reprise #1)

JENNIFER

CALIFORNIA.
LA LA LA LA LA LA.
WHERE THE MOUNTAINS TOUCH THE SKY.
THERE IS BEAUTY HERE!
EACH SIGHT I SEE IS SUCH A DELIGHT
TO MY EYE.
LA LA LA LA LA!

WELLS: You are in a fine spirit this morning, my dear.

JENNIFER: It is such a fine morning, Father. Come and walk with me, please.

WELLS: *(Comes off veranda)* I only have a moment, but I'd gladly share it with you.

JENNIFER: Do you have to go right back to the bank?

WELLS: Not immediately, but the sheriff is coming about that Murietta matter and thought the bank too public for our discussion.

JENNIFER: We have told him all we know.

WELLS: He probably wants my help to get the town council to hire more deputies.

JENNIFER: I wish he would stay away from here. He gives me such a cold feeling.

WELLS: Then when he comes you just go in *where it's cool* and we'll stay out here.

JENNIFER: If you don't mind, I think I will.

WELLS: Of course, my dear.

JENNIFER: You know, Father, I hope the Sheriff never catches Murietta.

WELLS: Young lady, I can't understand why that would delight you after the liberties he took with you.

JENNIFER: Oh, his kiss was just playful and harmless and far less objectionable than the Sheriff's stare. To be honest, in a way, it was fun.

WELLS: Jennifer! You must remember you are an engaged woman. Fun indeed!

JENNIFER: You mean you still plan to hold me to that old marriage contract?

WELLS: That contract is the best security you have, dear. Allesando Pico is the heir to the largest Spanish land grant in all California. As his wife, you would never know want.

Golden Dreams by James G. Lambert & C. Michael Perry

JENNIFER: Except, possibly, for love. Where is he? Why have I never met him?

WELLS: The last I heard he was being educated in Spain, but should return soon.

JENNIFER: And I am to marry an overaged schoolboy. I almost think I'd rather marry Murietta.

WELLS: Jennifer! Must I remind you he is a thief and murderer? That he should even touch you, let alone -- kiss you, makes him lower than a snake and I will see him hang for it.

JENNIFER: Father, don't upset yourself so, it wasn't that important!

WELLS: Jennifer! Go to your room!

JENNIFER: Yes, Father.

(Starts to exit)

WELLS: And consider yourself fortunate if I don't keep you there permanently!

JENNIFER: Yes, Father.

(Exits. WELLS paces up and down until KRUGER enters)

WELLS: Rhino, have you anything good to report?

KRUGER: No, sir, neither the miners nor the Mexes will cooperate with us.

WELLS: Yes, your stupidity at the cantina has cost you respect and valuable public opinion. We must do something fast before Murietta brands you a thief as well.

KRUGER: What do you suggest, Mr. Wells?

WELLS: I suggest you try thinking for a change and come up with something your men can handle.

KRUGER: It would help if we could replace Slate. Losing him at the mine holdup has left us short handed. I've been thinkin' of puttin' Frank Stockwell on our payroll.

WELLS: Too many people know about us as it is, Rhino.

KRUGER: He needn't know about you, Mr. Wells. I'll keep the others quiet.

WELLS: Very well, but see you keep your promise!

KRUGER: Sure thing, Mr. Wells.

WELLS: Now that is settled. What do you propose to do?

KRUGER: How about another holdup giving Sim a freehand?

WELLS: Perhaps later. What we need now is something dramatic and unexpected to frighten everyone that's helping Murietta.

KRUGER: I've got one idea, but you might not like it.

WELLS: What is it?

KRUGER: Something involving a white woman, like a kidnapping for ransom.

WELLS: Just who do you have in mind, Kruger?

KRUGER: It would have to be someone like yer daughter.

WELLS: *Don't be absurd, Rhino.* Have you lost your mind?

KRUGER: No, sir! It would bring poeple to our side and draw suspicion away from you.

WELLS: But my daughter, Rhino. Jennifer is all I have.

KRUGER: No harm would come to her, I'd see ta that.

WELLS: I don't know -- if Sim got out of line or anything went wrong --

KRUGER: Nothing could go wrong and we would treat her like pure gold.

WELLS: It just might work and right now Jennifer needs a lesson -- but heaven help you if any harm comes to her, Rhino.

KRUGER: It won't, Mr. Wells, I promise you.

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WELLS: You had better keep that promise, Rhino. I won't put up with a failure.

KRUGER: It'll work just fine, you'll see.

WELLS: Very well. Go get your men and come back. She'll be here in the garden.

KRUGER: Right, Boss.

(Exits. WELLS paces about until ESTEBAN enters)

WELLS: Chaves!

ESTEBAN: Si, Patron.

WELLS: I'm glad you're here, I need your help.

ESTEBAN: What is wanted, Senor?

WELLS: I must take you in my confidence, Esteban. I fear for Jennifer's safety.

ESTEBAN: Who would harm the Senorita?

WELLS: I don't know -- the note was unsigned. Will you stay with her until I return.

ESTEBAN: Certamente, Señor Wells.

WELLS: Good -- And Esteban --

ESTEBAN: Si, Patron?

WELLS: Jennifer knows nothing of this. I don't want her frightened unnecessarily.

ESTEBAN: Si, Patron!

WELLS: Good! I'll go get her now. I would prefer you kept her in sight.

ESTEBAN: As you wish, Señor.

(WELLS exits and ESTEBAN now paces)

Who would harm Jennifer? My men would never threaten her. Someone else must be trying to extort money from the banker. Or else Kruger --

WELLS: *(Entering with JENNIFER)* You must forgive me, dear, for losing my temper.

JENNIFER: You know I love you, Father, and I always will.

WELLS: I feel so inadequate at times. But never forget I love you.

JENNIFER: I depend on that love, Father.

WELLS: Good! Now you stay out here and enjoy your beautiful day and later, perhaps, we can enjoy a nice ride before dark.

JENNIFER: I would love that, Father.

WELLS: I'll be back as soon as possible.

(Kisses her on the cheek and exits)

JENNIFER: *(Calling after)* I'll be waiting.

(Turns to ESTEBAN)

What seems to be worrying you, Esteban?

ESTEBAN: The words of your father, they were as a last goodbye.

JENNIFER: No, Esteban, we were just making up after a silly spat.

ESTEBAN: I hope that was what it was.

JENNIFER: It is, I assure you. Now what do you plan to do today? And don't tell me,

(uses accent)

“weed, weed, always I weed.”

ESTEBAN: What if I say I just pretend to weed while I enjoy your beauty?

JENNIFER: Why, Esteban, I do believe that's a compliment.

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ESTEBAN: It does not offend?

JENNIFER: After all this time are we not friends?

ESTEBAN: I am yours, Senorita, but for you to be mine would be -- a heavenly gift.

JENNIFER: I am proud to call you my friend.

ESTEBAN: A Mexicano?

JENNIFER: You are a good, caring, gentle man. That you are of Spanish ancestry is part of you. I like it all.

ESTEBAN: Your words are music to a poor man's ears.

JENNIFER: Don't ever make light of yourself, Esteban. Anyone should be proud to know or be with you.

ESTEBAN: You would not be ashamed to be seen with a Mexicano or perhaps care for one?

JENNIFER: I would not be ashamed and I could care for a Mexican, for you see, I do.

ESTEBAN: You do care?

JENNIFER: Yes, and how I wish he were as good a man as you or that it was you I loved, but it seems he stole my love with one kiss and I am helpless to fight it.

ESTEBAN: Senorita, in the days to come, I hope the thief of your heart proves worthy of his good fortune.

JENNIFER: Thank you, Esteban.

(KRUGER, SIM, SAM and FRANK enter dressed as Hermanos. In a rush, SIM and FRANK grab ESTEBAN, who struggles until beaten to ground by SIM. SAM captures JENNIFER, holding his hand over her mouth.)

KRUGER: *(With phoney accent)* Do not struggle, Senorita, or scream. We mean you no harm. We have orders to take you to Joaquin Murietta. He so enjoyed his last kiss he pines for another.

(To FRANK)

Tie that one up, Hermano!

FRANK: Si.

KRUGER: Now, Senorita, do you promise not to scream?

(She nods and SAM releases her)

JENNIFER: Please don't hurt Esteban.

KRUGER: Do you promise to come quietly without any trouble?

JENNIFER: Yes, yes, just don't hurt him any more.

KRUGER: Cooperate and we won't. Fail us, and we slit his throat.

JENNIFER: Oh, please, no!

KRUGER: *(Quickly blindfolding JENNIFER)* Then come, vamanos. *(Exuent)*

(ESTEBAN struggles to a sitting position & quickly removes his bonds. Puzzled, he looks at the rope for a moment, then rushes to veranda & pounds on door)

ESTEBAN: *(Calling)* Por Favor, Señora Reyes. Did you see riders leaving?

REYES: *(Coming to door)* No, Esteban.

ESTEBAN: Would you get Señor Wells to come home. It is an emergency. The senorita has been taken!

REYES: Taken? Where to?

ESTEBAN: I don't know. You must understand, she has been kidnapped!

REYES: My muchachita? Who would do such a thing?

ESTEBAN: They dressed like "Los Hermanos de Murietta."

REYES: *(Genuflecting)* Then may she go with God.

ESTEBAN: And you as well, Señora, to Señor Wells. Tell him I follow after her captors.

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REYES: As you wish, Esteban. May the Good Lord let you find her in safety! (Exits)

MUSICAL #10 -- TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

JOAQUIN: May it be so, for I have been stupid -- stupid -- Now I must even bear witness against myself.

Jennifer, oh, Jennifer, I have failed you. Kruger, I swear a blood oath you shall pay dearly for this.

(JOAQUIN moves DS as scene changes behind him. Pickup JOAQUIN in follow spot)

KRUGER, I AM COMING!

YOU'LL DIE ANOTHER DAY!

I'LL FOLLOW YOU TO HELL ITSELF IF IT'S THE ONLY WAY.

KRUGER I AM COMING!

AND YOU WILL RUE THE DAY

YOU DARED TO PUT YOUR HANDS UPON THIS ANGEL YOU WOULD BETRAY!

I'LL FOLLOW YOU TO THE END OF THE EARTH,

TO THE END OF THE EARTH I WILL RIDE.

I'LL FOLLOW YOU 'TIL I'VE FOUND HER AGAIN.

THERE IS NOWHERE YOU CAN HIDE!

I'LL FOLLOW YOU TO THE END OF THE EARTH

'TIL I HAVE HER HERE BY MY SIDE!

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE YOU GO I'LL BE ALWAYS ON YOUR TRAIL!

SOON, NOT LATER YOU WILL KNOW.

YOU MAY FIGHT,

BUT THE RIGHT WILL PREVAIL FOREVER!

OH, I'LL FOLLOW YOU TO THE END OF THE EARTH!

OVER HILL, OVER MOUNTAIN AND VALE!

I'LL FOLLOW YOU 'TIL I'VE FOUND HER AGAIN!

YOU CANNOT COVER YOUR TRAIL!

I'LL FOLLOW YOU TO THE END OF THE EARTH

'TIL I SEE YOU LOCKED IN A JAIL!

THE SUN HAS SET ON ALL MY DREAMS

SINCE YOU'VE TAKEN HER AWAY

I'LL DESTROY YOUR EVIL SCHEMES

FOR I VOW, ON MY LIFE, YOU WILL PAY!

OH, JENNIFER, I'M SEARCHING FOR YOU.

SOON I WILL BE THERE.

SO BE STRONG, 'TIL YOU ARE SAFE IN MY ARMS,

THE PLACE WHERE YOU BELONG.

Golden Dreams by James G. Lambert & C. Michael Perry

I'LL GO ANYWHERE!

KRUGER, I'LL TRACK YOU DOWN LIKE THE DOG THAT YOU ARE;
IF IT'S NEAR, IF IT'S FAR, I WON'T FAIL!!
I'LL FOLLOW THROUGH TIL I'M STARING AT YOU!
WATCHING YOUR FACE TURNING PALE!
I WON'T GIVE UP, WON'T GIVE OUT, WON'T GIVE IN
'TIL SHE'S BY MY SIDE ONCE AGAIN!

IT WILL NOT MATTER WHERE YOU ARE
OR HOW WELL YOU THINK YOU HIDE HER.
NO PLACE ON EARTH WILL BE TOO FAR
WHEN I'M THROUGH I'LL HAVE YOU
AS I MUST, IN THE DUST!
I'LL HAVE HER AS WE WERE:
SAFELY BY MY SIDE!

(BLACKOUT)

SCENE FIVE -- ALFREDA'S CABIN - *Early that evening. LIGHTS up on ALFREDA at the stove. She picks up a coffee pot & pours some in a cup on the table & returns the pot to the stove. Sitting down at the table, she laces her coffee from a bottle of tequilla & drinks it down. A knock is heard at the door & she jumps to her feet. Throughout this scene ALFREDA is nervous & frightened.*

ALFREDA: Quien es?
(Hides tequilla)

KRUGER: *(Outside)* Open up, Alfreda, if ya know what's good fer ya!

ALFREDA: *(Hurrying to the door)* Coming, Señor!

(Opens the door. KRUGER, SIM, FRANK & SAM dressed as Hermanos & JENNIFER, blindfolded with hands tied behind her back, push their way in)

SIM: Out of the way, Pig!

ALFREDA: Que paso, Senores?

KRUGER: When the Hermanos call, Alfreda, you obey! Comprende?

ALFREDA: Si, Señor. What is wanted?

KRUGER: *(Takes JENNIFER to the cot & ties her to it)* We're usin' yer estancia fer a while. Joaquin Murietta wants this girl kept here 'til he calls fer her.

(OTHERS help themselves to coffee & sit at table)

ALFREDA: Joaquin Murietta is coming here?

KRUGER: That's right! Open the window an' let some air in here! This place stinks!

ALFREDA: *(Hurries to window)* Si, Señor .

(Opens it)

Will there be anything else, Señor?

KRUGER: Nada!

JENNIFER: Excuse me, please. Could I have a drink of water?

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KRUGER: Sure, chaquita. Get her some, Alfreda! Make sure it's fresh!

ALFREDA: Si, Señor, but I will have to take the bucket to the stream.

KRUGER: Then do it! But make sure ya come back! Don't make any mistakes!

ALFREDA: Si, Señor.

(Takes the bucket & exits)

SIM: I can't stand that dirty puta!

KRUGER: Nobody's askin' ya too. Keep it to yurself! Things is goin' good so let's keep it that way.

SAM: Si, El Segundo. What do we do now?

KRUGER: We leave Senorita Wells here with Alfreda 'til her lover comes.

FRANK: Murietta?

KRUGER: That's the idea, or, should his plans go awry, I might claim her fer myself.

SAM: Her father might object.

KRUGER: *(Indicating SIM)* Not after our friend here cuts to the heart of the problem.

(SIM pulls his knife & makes a slicing motion across his throat with appropriate sound effects)

FRANK: So that's how things lay.

SIM: Ya got any objections?

KRUGER: Simmer down, Hermanos! I mean it!

SIM: Whatever ya say, ba----ah---El Segundo.

KRUGER: That's better!

SIM: Tell ya what, I'll stay an' help keep an eye on the girl, if ya want.

SAM: If ya want someone ta stay, El Segundo, I'd be a better choice.

SIM: Now wait a minute-----

KRUGER: It isn't necessary, either of ya, we all hafta be long gone from here in case a posse should be able ta track us.

SIM: But how could a-----

KRUGER: Hermano! Why don't ya check on what's keepin' Alfredo!

SIM: But---

KRUGER: Do it!!!

SIM: Sure.

(Gets up)

But I don't---

KRUGER: Now!!!!!!

(Gives SIM a push)

SIM: I'm goin'! I'm goin'!

(Exits)

SAM: I'm beginin' ta see yer plans, El Segundo. It presents interestin' possibilites.

FRANK: Aught ta do it, all right.

KRUGER: Yeah! Let's go outside where we can talk freely.

(They rise & exuent)

JENNIFER: Is anyone here? -- Anyone?

(She begins to struggle frantically with her bonds to no avail, causing her to cry out)

Oh!

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(JOAQUIN appears at he window & silently steps thru. Crossing to the cot, he places his hand over JENNIFER'S mouth & pulls up her blindfold. Placing his finger to his lips, he removes his hand)

JOAQUIN: Ssshhh!

JENNIFER: *(Cries out)* You!!

JOAQUIN: *(Placing his hand over her mouth again, he speaks in a stage whisper)* Hush, you little fool! You will spoil everything if they hear you.

(She bites him)

Ouch!

JENNIFER: *(Now whispering)* What kind of game are you playing?

JOAQUIN: I am trying to get you out of this mess, but I can't if you let them know I am here.

JENNIFER: Why? They are your men and they are expecting you!

JOAQUIN: No! They are not my men. They are just pretending to be. They would shoot me on sight.

JENNIFER: But they said-----

JOAQUIN: Just what they wanted you to hear. Now listen to me! They want you to believe that I had you kidnapped. As soon as they can, they will lead a posse here to rescue you. Then you, ESTEBAN Chaves and poor Alfreda Gomez would then have to testify against me and the Hermanos. Since it is not true, I can't let that happen. Besides, I don't want you hurt. As soon as I can, I will get you out of here. Trust me, Querida, and don't give me away! *(Going to the window, he peers out)* Here comes someone now! Remember! Trust me!

(Hides behind the door but notices the blindfold is still off JENNIFER'S eye hurries to replace it & then drops down so that the table is between him and the door. ALFREDA enters)

JENNIFER: Who is it? Who came in?

ALFREDA: It is just me, Senorita, Alfreda Gomez. I have brought you your water.

(ALFREDA crosses to her as JOAQUIN slips around the table. ALFREDA takes off the blindfold & holds the cup to her lips & she drinks)

JENNIFER: Thank you , Alfreda. Are you one of Murietta's women?

ALFREDA: Oh no, Senorita, I am not that lucky!

JENNIFER: Do you know him?

ALFREDA: No, Senorita.

(She finishes the cup)

JENNIFER: Are the men that brought me here, Murietta's men?

ALFREDA: Quien sabe, Senorita. I do not know.

(Crosses to retrieve the tequilla bottle & takes a drink. JOAQUIN slips back around the table)

Forgive me, Senorita. It calms my nerves.

(Crosses back to sit at the table near JENNIFER. JOAQUIN counters again)

JENNIFER: Alfreda, what is going to happen to me?

ALFERDO: I don't know, Senorita, but I do know the one they call El Segundo does not want any harm to come to you.

(Drinks again)

JENNIFER: You seem much nicer than the others, Alfreda, won't you help me to escape?

ALFREDA: I would like to, Senorita, but it is not possible.

JENNIFER: My father would pay you well.

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ALFREDA: Senorita, dead I cannot spend money!

(JOAQUIN works his way behind ALFREDA & is about to grab her when SAM is heard approaching door. JOAQUIN quickly slips behind door & ALFREDA hides her bottle as SAM enters)

SAM: El Segundo sent me to tell ya we're leavin', Alfreda. You just do like you've been told! Any slipups an' yer a dead. Comprende?

ALFREDA: Si, Señor, yo comprendo!

JENNIFER: How long will I have to stay here?

SAM: Long enough! Just don't do anything rash or we'll see yer friend, Esteban Chaves, suffers for it!

JENNIFER: If you hurt Esteban, I'll put a bounty on your head even your own father would turn you in for, if you had one!

SAM: Nasty, nasty, Senorita! You two just do as yer told an' everything will turn out just as El Segundo wants it.

JENNIFER: I thought you were all doing Murietta's bidding?

SAM: Of course, Senorita, but I take my orders from El Segundo. It is our way. Buenos noches!

(Exits, shutting the door. JOAQUIN is still standing against the wall with his pistol raised but ALFREDA is too busy taking a drink to see him)

ALFREDA: Oh, Senorita, you should not have talked to him like that. They are very bad men and could hurt us.

(Drinks again)

I think it is time I went back to Mexico. I do not like it here any more!

JENNIFER: You would give up your property here and just leave?

ALFREDA: Life is more valuable than property, Senorita.

JENNIFER: That is true, isn't it?

ALFREDA: Most assuredly, Senorita.

(Finishes bottle)

JENNIFER: What do we do now?

ALFREDA: Forgive me, Senorita, but we stop asking questions and try to get some sleep. Suddenly, I am becoming very sleepy.

(Lays her head in her arms)

JENNIFER: Good idea!

(JOAQUIN moves silently to the window. ALFREDA begins to softly snore. JOAQUIN crosses to sit beside JENNIFER. He reaches behind her and cuts the rope, kisses her, helps her up & removes the rope from her wrists. JENNIFER rubs her wrists while JOAQUIN loosely ties ALFREDA'S leg to the chair leg, then, taking JENNIFER'S hand, he leads her to the door where she stops him)

JENNIFER: (Whispers) She is not a bad one, Joaquin. They will be very hard on her when they find me gone.

JOAQUIN: Then we must try to wake her. Come!

(Exuent, slamming the door)

(ALFREDA stirs but doesn't wake. JOAQUIN & JENNIFER appear at the window. JOAQUIN whistles twice to no avail)

JOAQUIN: I don't know what else to do, Querida. The tequilla has made her senseless. I would fire my pistol but the sound would bring back the others.

JENNIFER: Let me try. Alfreda!!! Alfreda Gomez!!! Get up this minute!!

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ALFREDA: *(Raising her head)* Si, Mamacita.

(Starts to put her head down again)

JENNIFER: Alfreda!!!!

ALFREDA: *(Forcing herself up)* Si, Mamacita.

(Takes a step & trips over the rope)

Carumba! Que paso? Que es eso?

(She sits up)

Donde estoy?

(Looks at the cot as)

La Senorita! Donde esta La Senorita?

(JOAQUIN & JENNIFER dissapear as ALFREDA unties the rope, gets up & starts looking, somewhat stupidly, under the cot, ect.)

(It finally dawns)

She is gone! I am dead, -- or worse! Si, Alfreda Gomez, it is time you left for Mexico.

(BLACKOUT)

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SCENE SIX -- THE HERMANOS hideout -- Later that night. HERMANOS are gathered C.S.

MUSICAL #11 -- HERMANOS DE MURIETTA -- REPRISE #2

(Off R. the WHISTLE is heard and JUAN answers. WHISTLE again, MUSIC continues as US)

JUAN: It is Joaquin!

(JUAN then moves to meet JOAQUIN & JENNIFER as they enter.)

JOAQUIN: Mis hermanos! I have brought you a guest, Miss Jennifer Wells, the light of my heart. Take care you treat her with respect and every courtesy!

(HERMANOS take turns dancing with JENNIFER in welcome & sing)

JOAQUIN

WELCOME TO OUR BAND!

WE TAKE YOUR HAND IN FRIENDSHIP.

IT WAS PLANNED

TO KEEP YOU SAFE FROM HARDSHIP.

UNDERSTAND,

THAT WE JUST WANT TO CHARM YOU, AND NEVER HARM YOU

WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN HERMANOS DE MURIETTA!

JOAQUIN & HERMANOS

HERMANA, YOU BELONG!

HERMANA, YOU ARE STRONG!

TOGETHER WE'LL RIDE THE TRAIL!

TOGETHER, WE WILL NEVER FAIL!

RIDING WE WILL GO! TO SEEK OUR FOE OUR BAND MUST ALWAYS KNOW

THAT WE WILL FIGHT NOT STAND STILL; WE WILL SHOW

WE AID THE POOR AND FRIENDLESS, THE FIGHT SEEMS ENDLESS,

BUT WE WILL WIN! HERMANOS DE MURIETTA!

PANCHO: Does the lady come willingly, Joaquin?

JENNIFER: I do not!

(THE HERMANOS are instantly quiet and serious)

RICARDO: Surely she jests, Jefe?

JOAQUIN: She does and she does not, but with good reason.

PAPITO: I think that answer needs explanation, Jefe.

JENNIFER: He kidnapped me, it is as simple as that.

(HERMANOS murmur)

JOAQUIN: That's not quite true, now is it, Jennifer? Did I force you to come with me?

JENNIFER: No, but you gave me the choice of coming with you or being stranded alone in the forest.

JOAQUIN: Did someone else really kidnap you?

JENNIFER: Yes, four other men claiming to be Hermanos and doing it by your order.

JOAQUIN: Are the men that kidnapped you here?

JENNIFER: No, I do not think so.

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JOAQUIN: How can you be so sure?

JENNIFER: All of your men are obviously of Spanish descent. I don't believe they were.

JOAQUIN: Is it now not obvious to you why I could not return Miss Wells to Placerville?

JUAN: To do so in front of the sheriff or his men would cost her, her life.

JENNIFER: The Sheriff?!!

JOAQUIN: Yes, my love, the Sheriff, his two deputies, and Sam Oates the storekeeper.

JENNIFER: But, Joaquin, you must be mistaken.

JOAQUIN: Think about it, mi corazon. Don't they fit your abductors?

JENNIFER: I suppose they could. Their leader certainly had eyes like the Sheriff. But if it was who you say, it implies something I cannot accept.

JUAN: What worries you, Miss Wells?

JENNIFER: That my father might in some way be involved.

JOAQUIN: Enough speculation. It is time we got you settled in.

JENNIFER: No, please, I must go home. I must know if he's guilty, or warn him if it isn't.

JOAQUIN: I can't let you do that.

JENNIFER: Why?

JOAQUIN: For your safety and because we can use you to serve our cause.

JENNIFER: How can I serve your cause?

JOAQUIN: It is my intention to require your father to pay a ransom.

JENNIFER: You would ransom me. Then he was right, you are a thief.

JOAQUIN: It is what your father would expect of me.

JENNIFER: And what I should have expected as well. You are a deceitful man.

(Walks away)

JOAQUIN: *(To JUAN)* Such is the way of love. I rescue her only to lose her.

JUAN: Give her time, Jefe.

JOAQUIN: We don't have a lot of time. We must plan and plan well. Tonight's events will bring results we must anticipate. Paquita, I want you to take responsibility for Senorita Wells.

PAQUITA: Si, hermano.

(PAQUITA crosses to JENNIFER)

JOAQUIN: The rest of you gather around.

(THE HERMANOS encircle JOAQUIN and pantomime talk as action shifts to the women.)

PAQUITA: Senorita Wells, I am Paquita.

JENNIFER: *(Testily)* What do you want, Paquita?

PAQUITA: The Jefe sent me to care for you. Are you hungry?

JENNIFER: What are you serving your prisoners, bread and water?

PAQUITA: Our food is simple, but I think we could manage a lamb stew.

JENNIFER: Rustled lamb, I suppose?

PAQUITA: No, Senorita, we raise our own meat and vegetables. It is all we can afford.

JENNIFER: All you can afford! What has happened to all you have stolen?

PAQUITA: What the hermanos take from the greedy they give to the poor through the church.

JENNIFER: I have heard that some is returned that way, but not nearly all.

PAQUITA: We are blamed for much for which we are not guilty, Senorita.

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JENNIFER: Oh, come now, surely you don't expect me to believe a lie like that?

PAQUITA: I do not lie, Seniorita! For such a beautiful woman, you have a cold heart. Forgive my unwanted presence. I shall tell Joaquin you refuse my aid.

(Crosses)

JENNIFER: Paquita! Please, come back Paquita, I'm sorry. I have no right to take my anger out on you.

PAQUITA: I am young, but I am a proud woman of honor, Seniorita.

JENNIFER: I see that, Paquita. Will you please forgive me.

(PAQUITA returns smiling)

PAQUITA: In truth, it is better you strike out at me than the one who loves you.

JENNIFER: I think it is you that loves him.

PAQUITA: I should. He is my true brother and the best man I know.

JENNIFER: Yes. He has the quality that makes one believe that.

(Pause)

Paquita?

PAQUITA: Si, Seniorita?

JENNIFER: You too have that quality. Do you think we could become friends?

PAQUITA: My brother has ordered me to be your friend, companion, and protector. It is a great honor.

(Grins)

Besides, I like you. You have spirit.

JENNIFER: As you do, my friend.

(Look around)

You have chosen well for your hideaway. This country is some of the most beautiful I've seen.

PAQUITA: If you let yourself, you will enjoy your stay.

JENNIFER: Did your brother tell you how long he wants me here?

PAQUITA: He will only keep you until it is safe for you to return. A few days at most.

JENNIFER: I do wish he would reconsider.

(The meeting ends & THE HERMANOS exit. JOAQUIN comes to join the women.)

PAQUITA: Here he comes. See if you can change his mind.

(Grins again)

JOAQUIN: Paquita! Catch me a fresh horse! I must return to Placerville, tonight.

PAQUITA: Si, mi Hermano.

(Exits)

JOAQUIN: I hope when I return we will have time to reach a better understanding.

JENNIFER: Won't you reconsider taking me with you?

JOAQUIN: I can't, Jennifer. Not until I know what is happening in Hangtown and Placer Canyon.

JENNIFER: Your sister says you love me. Do you?

JOAQUIN: You know I do, but now is not the time to talk of it.

JENNIFER: If you love me, why do you make me so unhappy?

JOAQUIN: I am not a schoolboy to be swayed or trapped into a foolish act by that argument.

JENNIFER: I have a friend, Esteban Chaves. You could leave me in his care, then do what you must.

JOAQUIN: It was Esteban Chaves that requested you be kept here. Besides, he had his chance to protect you and he failed.

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JENNIFER: You lie!

JOAQUIN: If that is what you think then we have no more to discuss! Buenas noches, Senorita Wells!

MUSICAL #12 -- FROM MY HEART

JENNIFER: (*Shouting after*) You are a small man, Joaquin Murietta, blaming a better man than you for something that cannot be helped!

YOU HAD FOOLED ME WITH YOUR KISSES.
FOOLED ME WITH THE DREAM THAT THEY IMPLIED!
NOW YOUR SPELL IS FINALLY BROKEN,
AND SADLY, I KNOW THAT YOU LIED
YES, YOU LIED!

DO I TRUST YOU, OR WANT YOU, OR NEED YOU... NO NEVER.
BUT I WILL REMEMBER YOU FOREVER!
WHEN YOU LIFTED MY HEART IN THAT OH SO GENTLE MANNER...
I COULD NOT SEE IT TORN AND SHATTERED!
ME IN LOVE WITH YOU... I'LL NEVER KNOW;
LOVE WITH YOU WAS SO UNWISE.
YOUR LOVE WAS MEANINGLESS WITHOUT A HEART INSIDE!
WHY IS IT YOURS I PRIZE?

I WAS FOOLISH, AND GIDDY, A SILLY CHILD OF PASSION.
THE FLAMES THAT WERE BURNING, NOW ARE ASHEN.
YOU DECEIVED ME... I LET YOU...
SO, WHY CAN'T I FORGET YOU?
OH, HOW I WISH I'D NEVER MET YOU!
I NEED TO LINGER ON YOUR FACE NO MORE...
LIVE TO SEE THE MOMENT WHEN
I FINALLY CLEANSE YOUR POISON FROM MY HEART
AND NEVER DARE TO TRUST MY HEART AGAIN!

(BLACKOUT)

SCENE SEVEN -- *The Wells Garden. The next morning. JOAQUIN enters as ESTEBAN and sings.*

MUSICAL #13 -- I WOULD ASK...?

Golden Dreams by James G. Lambert & C. Michael Perry

JOAQUIN

I SEE WHY YOU ACCUSE ME.
YOU'VE EVERY RIGHT IF YOU REFUSE ME.
BUT MY HEART IS BEATING "CHOOSE ME."
THOUGH THERE'S NOTHING TO EXCUSE ME.

DO YOU THINK I AM LYING?
HURTING YOU WAS HORRIFYING!
NOW, I FEEL LIKE I AM DYING.
IS THERE NO USE EVEN TRYING?

WON'T YOU FIND IT IN YOUR HEART
TO ACCEPT MY SOUL-SICK PLEA?
I CAN'T LIVE APART FROM YOU.
A START, FROM YOU, FOR ME?

I WOULD ASK YOUR FORGIVENESS.
I CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT FORGIVENESS.
LIFE IS BETTER IN FORGIVENESS.
ALL IS GAINED THROUGH YOUR FORGIVENESS.
CAN YOU PLEASE, FORGIVE ME?

(With a knife he sticks a note to the Veranda pillar & knocks on the door.)

WELLS: *(Answering door)* Esteban, you are back.
(Looks around)

Where is my daughter?

ESTEBAN: Yo no se, Patron. She vanish as before with the gold.

WELLS: What do you mean, she vanished?

ESTEBAN: I follow as I promise. Four hombres take her to cabin in hills. Another then takes her higher in the hills. I follow until -- poof -- the trail disappears.

WELLS: You miserable fool. You just gave up.

ESTEBAN: No, Señor. I search and search until it is too dark to see. I come back only for more men and to tell you. I go now for the Sheriff.

WELLS: Then get back out there and find her, and don't come back until you do!

ESTEBAN: Si, Patron. I know she is my responsibility.

WELLS: Be sure you don't forget it.

ESTEBAN: I do not plan to, Señor Wells.

(Turns and exits smiling. WELLS starts to go back to house and sees note and reads it silently)

WELLS: Murietta, what kind of devil are you? Jennifer, I have been a fool. If that dog has hurt you in any way, I'll see him skinned alive.

KRUGER: *(Entering)* Mr. Wells?

WELLS: *(Barely controlled)* Yes, Kruger?

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KRUGER: We've got trouble. Somehow your daughter has disappeared. I think somebody found her. Was she returned home?

WELLS: No, Rhinehardt, but someone did find her. Can you guess who?

KRUGER: It could be anyone. Even -- You don't mean -- it wasn't --

WELLS: Yes! I do mean, Murietta!!! He dropped by and left me a note. Want to hear it?

KRUGER: I guess I'd better.

(JOAQUIN appears on roof)

WELLS: I should think so.

(Reads)

"My Dear Señor Wells, I'm so sorry to inform you that I have foiled your stupid plot and have taken your daughter into protective custody. Seeing as you were so foolish as to allow your trained apes to place her in jeopardy, it is only fitting that you should have to pay a penalty. Knowing how much she appeals to me as a woman, I'm sure you will not want to delay. The fee, which I'm sure you will agree does not come close to her priceless value, is ten thousand dollars in gold to be delivered to Father Emiliano at the Cathedral de Los Todos Santos. As soon as you comply, your daughter will be returned to your somewhat questionable hands. Sincerely, Joaquin Murietta. P.S. Make it soon or no amount of money will take her from me." Now, Rhino, what do you have to say for yourself? What excuse can you possibly have for this blunder?

KRUGER: I have none, Mr. Wells, but it could still work to our advantage.

WELLS: Murietta has Jennifer, and you talk of advantage?

KRUGER: We can't change what has happened. But his note proves he has your daughter.

WELLS: We can't use that note. It says too much.

KRUGER: An hour with that note and I'll have a new one even he'll think he wrote.

WELLS: I am aware of your ability as a forger. It is how we first met. But how does it get my Jennifer safely back home?

KRUGER: We pay the ransom. Don't we have that much gold stashed? Once he picks it up, we capture him, hang him and recover our gold.

WELLS: And how long do you plan on waiting at that Mex church?

KRUGER: I don't. It is in Sacramento County, so I'll let Sheriff Harrison hold the sack. That will leave me free to hit the miners again before his capture.

WELLS: Very well, Rhino. To get Jennifer back we will do it. But if you fail me, if anything happens to Jennifer, there won't be a safe place for you to hide.

KRUGER: Don't threaten me. If I go down, you go down with me. I know too much!

WELLS: Perhaps you do, but if I lose Jennifer I won't care what happens to me.

KRUGER: Fighting each other isn't going to bring Jennifer back. We had better stick together.

WELLS: (Reluctantly) Agreed. Get a wagon and some barrels and I'll take you to the cache. I intend going all the way with you to make sure it arrives safely.

KRUGER: Can't say I blame you. I'll be back in fifteen minutes.

(Exits. ESTEBAN disappears)

WELLS: You are right, Mr. Kruger, you do know too much. Your days are numbered.

(Paces for a moment)

Jennifer, Jennifer. If anything has happened to you, -- I can see now that all my plans, all my dreams without your approval are meaningless. You are all I really care about.

Golden Dreams by James G. Lambert & C. Michael Perry

(Scene changes during song)

MUSICAL #14 -- WHAT HAVE I DONE?

WELLS

JENNIFER!

WHAT HAVE I DONE TO JENNIFER?

I DID NOT EVEN THINK OF HER;

INSTEAD I LET HER GO!

JENNIFER!

WHAT DID I DO FOR JENNIFER?

I COULD NOT EVEN KEEP HER HERE;

SHE'S NOW IN MEXICO WITH HIM!

NOW I MUST PAY TO SET HER FREE!

THERE IS NO PRICE TOO HIGH FOR ME!

AND WHEN I FREE HER...

YES, I WILL FREE HER!

THEN WILL I SEE HER SMILE AT ME?

I DON'T KNOW

IF SHE WILL EVERN COME AWAY

BECAUSE OF WHAT I DID TODAY;

HOW WILL I EVER DO WHAT'S RIGHT?

WILL WHAT I DO BE A DELIGHT,

OR WILL IT MAKE HER WANT TO FIGHT TO STAY!

(BLACKOUT)

SEGUE TO

MUSICAL #15 — THIS HOUSE

JENNIFER

YOUR HOUSE WAS ONCE MY HOME.

THERE IS NO SOLACE. WE'RE IN DANGER

FROM A MAN WHO'S NOT A STRANGER!

NO LONGER MINE OR YOURS...

HE PREYS ON THE WEAK.

THE FUTURE LOOKS BLEAK.

HE WON'T LET US EVEN SPEAK.

THIS HOUSE IS NOT MY HOME.

Golden Dreams by James G. Lambert & C. Michael Perry

WHERE LOVE ONCE WAS, THERE'S NONE FOREVER!
AND I SENSE THAT I AM NEVER
TO HEAR YOUR LOVING VOICE!
BECAUSE OF ONE MAN...
BECAUSE OF HIS PLAN!
THERE IS NOT ANOTHER CHOICE.

IT'S NOT SAFE HERE!
IT'S NOT ANYTHING THAT ANYONE WOULD PRIZE!
THAT I CANNOT STAY, IT MAKES MY ANGER RISE.
SIMPLE FOOLS, THAT WE DIDN'T SEE THIS GOAL.
ALL FROM A MAN WHO'S HEART IS COAL!
BLACKENED COAL!

THIS HOUSE WAS ONCE MY HOME!
BUT I CAN'T LIVE HERE ONE MORE MINUTE
WITH THAT DEVIL LIVING IN IT.
BUT I MUST NOT DESPAIR...
FOR NOW, I MUST GO
TO MEXICO!
FOR IN THE LAND OF MY BIRTH
THERE IS FREEDOM THERE.
FREEDOM THERE!

(Blackout)

SCENE EIGHT -- *The Miner's Camp -- About Noon -- Three days later. MINERS are lined up being served by GUSSIE at the camp kitchen. KRUGER, FRANK, SIM & SAM enter dressed as HERMANOS)*

KRUGER: Buenas tardes, Senores. You will all raise your hands please!

RUSSIAN: There is only four of them. Let's get them!

SIM: Good idea, Señor. Why don't you start it.

(Hits RUSSIAN in belly and pistols the back of his head. The RUSSIAN goes to his knees and SIM kicks him)

Any more brave ones?

(THE MINERS surrender)

KRUGER: Good! Señora McCabe!

KERRY: Yes?

KRUGER: Be so kind as to surrender to us your gold, Señora !

KERRY: I'm not givin' you anything!

KRUGER: *(To SIM)* Hermano, help Señora McCabe remember where she keeps her gold!

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SIM: Si, Joaquin.

(Walk to KERRY holstering his pistol)

Con mucho gusto!

(Swings at KERRY who ducks and then knocks SIM sprawling)

MINERS: Yeah! Give him some more! etc.

(FRANK tries to help SIM up, but he brutally pushes FRANK down and roars)

SIM: You're gonna die slow, you old freak!

(Pulls his knife. SOUND of a pistol shot off stage)

JOAQUIN: *(Offstage)* Stand as you are! Throw down your weapons! Now!

KRUGER: Never!

(Fires pistol toward voice and runs out with SIM & SAM. KERRY jumps and holds on to FRANK, who doesn't try to get away)

JOAQUIN: After them, Hermanos!

(Several HERMANOS rush across stage to exit after KRUGER. JOAQUIN and JUAN enter holstering their pistols)

A thousand pardons, Señora s Y Senores, for not being better prepared. Had we arrived a few moments sooner and surrounded them, they would not have escaped.

GUSSIE: What's goin' on, Hermanos chasing Hermanos??

JUAN: Señora Reynolds, Can you not tell a true hermano from a false one?

IKE: I can, amigo, and I like the difference.

GUSSIE: Not so fast. How do we know which is which?

JOAQUIN: You have caught the rabbit. Let him tell you! Señora McCabe, let him up!

KERRY: I got him an' he's gonna hang.

JOAQUIN: If he deserves it, he will. He is not the leader, but he can tell us who is.

IRISH: It's you are, I'm thinkin'

JOAQUIN: Wrong, my friend. Neither I nor any of my men are your enemies. We came today to prove that to you.

IRISH: Begorrah! How are ya plannin' ta do that, I'm askin'?

IKE: Let him talk, Irish, maybe we'll find out!

JOAQUIN: Let that one up, Señora , and let's see who hides under that mask.

KERRY: Irish, you an' Russian come an' help this carrion up!

(The RUSSIAN lifts FRANK up. IRISH rips off his mask)

KERRY: Stockwell!!

JOAQUIN: Kind of makes you think, doesn't it, Señora ?

KERRY: Yeah! Who were the others with you, Stockwell? Ya better answer!

FRANK: I'll tell ya everything I can, Kerry.

KERRY: Then who were they?

FRANK: Sheriff Kruger, Sim Harness and Sam Oates.

KERRY: Were you the ones that raided us last time when Jake and Hard Rock was killed?

FRANK: I can't honestly say, but I'm sure they were. I wasn't part of them then.

KERRY: If you wasn't, who was?

FRANK: Slate Reynolds was siding them then.

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GUSSIE: Hold on there! Slate is my husband. He's got ta be lyin', Kerry!

JOAQUIN: Where is he now?

GUSSIE: He left, the day of the other raid, for Fort Sutter. Ain't been back since.

JUAN: Does he usually stay away this long?

GUSSIE: Not from me, he don't.

(To FRANK)

You know where he is?

FRANK: I'm sorry, Mrs. Reynolds, but when they hired me they said he was wounded and died.

GUSSIE: I don't believe it. I still say he's lyin'!

FRANK: Didn't one of you put lead into one of your attackers?

KERRY: Yeah! Jake did. That's why him and Hard Rock bought it.

IKE: Somethin' else to consider. Last time they went right to our cache. This time they had ta ask.

GUSSIE: If Slate is dead, where is his body now?

FRANK: Sim shoved him down an empty mine shaft somewhere near here.

IRISH: Now would ya be tellin' me why he's never been found?

JUAN: Has anyone looked yet? He shouldn't be hard to find.

(GUSSIE exits crying)

JOAQUIN: Frank, how long have you been working the wrong side of the street?

FRANK: They hired me just before the kidnapping.

JOAQUIN: That is what I thought.

KERRY: What kidnapping?

JOAQUIN: Tell her, Frank!

FRANK: It was us that grabbed the Wells' girl, not Murietta, though he took her from us later.

IKE: That right, Murietta, you got the girl?

JUAN: She is our guest, but she is a willing one. They'd kill her if she came back.

KERRY: Do you guarantee her safety, Murietta?

JOAQUIN: I do. And if you wish, come and see for yourself.

KERRY: You would show me the way to your hideout?

JUAN: You are someone to be trusted, are you not?

(Laughs)

KERRY: Wait a minute. Don't I know you?

JUAN: (Unmasks) It is true. I am Juan, the shepherd, and, if you will permit, I will deliver to you the message I had intended to give that night in the cantina.

KERRY: What was it?

JUAN: That we bring you the gold stolen by Kruger. We have used not one grain.

IRISH: Why didn't ya return it before?

JUAN: I don't think you would have listened that night and I didn't want to do an air dance before you found I was a friend.

IKE: Can't say I blame you, amigo. So where's our dust?

JUAN: With our horses in saddle bags. Why don't we go get it?

IKE: I hear ya talkin' Juanito.

(Exeunt all but JOAQUIN, KERRY and FRANK)

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KERRY: So what do we do with this varmint, Joaquin?

JOAQUIN: We should hold him at my stronghold as a witness until we can get proof against Kruger's boss.

KERRY: Then someone's backin' Kruger?

JOAQUIN: Yes, and that's our problem. We need proof to get him.

KERRY: You know who he is?

JOAQUIN: Yes, but right now I can't prove it.

KERRY: *(To FRANK)* Do you know who he is?

FRANK: Yes, it's Harmon Wells, but I can't prove it either.

KERRY: He right?

JOAQUIN: Yes.

KERRY: That's good enough for me. We'll string him up along with Kruger and friends.

JOAQUIN: If you do that, then you will be joining them on the same tree.

KERRY: But they are murderers.

JOAQUIN: So would you be if you lynched them. Let the law handle it!

KERRY: The law -- they are the law -- it would be better to hang with them than let them go.

JOAQUIN: There's higher law than the sheriff's. I give you my word they won't go free.

KERRY: All right, but we ain't gonna wait forever.

JOAQUIN: I don't expect you to.

(PANCHO leads in HERMANOS)

PANCHO: I'm sorry, Jefe, but they reached their horses and escaped.

KERRY: That's all right, son, we got this one and he told us who the rest were. Together, I'd say we did a pretty fair day's work.

PANCHO: Gracias, Señora McCabe.

(JUAN and MINERS return)

IKE: It's all here, Kerry. How about breakin' out a barrel an' celebratin' a bit.

IRISH: 'Tis a fine idea yer proposin'.

(ALL cheer and mill together.)

MUSICAL #16 - HERMANOS DE MURIETTA - Reprise #3

HERMANOS:

WE ARE THE MEN OF MURIETTA.

MINERS;

AND WE ARE THE BEST OF THE MINES!

ALL:

AND NOW THAT WE HAVE JOINED OUR FORCES

WE'LL YELL TO THE MOUNTAINS AND SING TO THE PINES!

FIGHTING WE WILL GO, AND AS ONE BAND,

THIS WARNING TO OUR FOE:

YOU MAY NOT KNOW WE'RE ON YOUR TRAIL OF WOE,

AND WE WILL BEAT YOU DOWN,

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RECLAIM THIS TOWN, FOR YOU CANNOT WIN!
WE'RE BROTHERS OF MURIETTA!

HERMANOS:

HERMANOS, WE BELONG
WITH MINERS WE ARE STRONG!

ALL:

TO KRUGER: WE'RE ON YOUR TRAIL!
TOGETHER — WE WILL PREVAIL!

AS WE GO ALONG WE SING THIS SONG!
OUR STORY, WE BELONG!
THIS IS OUR TERRITORY!
WE'LL BE STRONG AND
AID THE POOR AND FRIENDLESS,
THE FIGHT SEEMS ENDLESS,
YET, WE WILL WIN!
WE'RE BROTHERS OF MURIETTA!
HERMANOS DE MURIETTA
(BLACKOUT)

INTERMISSION

14 more PAGES IN ACT TWO