

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
George and Gayanne King
Music and Lyrics by
C. Michael Perry

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EAST OF THE SUN, WEST OF THE MOON

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

North Wind — The doer and teller of tales

Lost Children — all child roles in the musical are also lost children (Anna, Elsa, Erland, Leif/Mikkail + others)

Anders — a Prince of the realm

Kristin Larsson — an uncommon, common young woman

Troll Queen — a very evil being

Ola — every inch the Troll Queen's daughter

Marta Larsson — Mother of Kristin (could later play a Wise Woman)

Lars Larsson — Father of Kristin

White Bear — a magical creature (played by the actor who plays Anders)

Leif — brother to Kristin, later one of the Lost Children

Anna — sister to Kristin, later one of the Lost Children

Elsa — sister to Kristin, later one of the Lost Children

Erland — brother to Kristin, later one of the Lost Children

Wise Women (one of the following could be played by the actress who plays Marta)

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

Gudrun — to the point

Margrit — bossy

Mikkail (Garth) — Prince Anders younger brother (could be played by the actor who plays Leif)

SONG LIST

MUSICAL #1a — EOTS PRELUDE

ACT ONE

PROLOG

MUSICAL #1b — SONG OF THE LOST CHILDREN — Lost Children (1:00)

SCENE 1

MUSICAL #1c — AROUND ME — Kristin (1:22)

MUSICAL #2 — ONE OF THOSE — Kristin, Anders (1:35)

MUSICAL #3 — SONG OF THE LOST CHILDREN (reprise 1) — Lost Children (0:33)

SCENE 2

MUSICAL #4 — GOOD — Ola, Anders, Troll Queen (3:25)

MUSICAL #4a — EOTS Motif

MUSICAL #4b — EOTS Motif

SCENE 3

MUSICAL #5 — INTO THE DARKENING NIGHT — Kristin (2:16)

MUSICAL #6 — SOMEHOW — Kristin & Bear? (1:35)

MUSICAL #6a — EOTS Motif

SCENE 4

MUSICAL #7 — SONG OF THE LOST CHILDREN (reprise 2) — Lost Children (1:19)

MUSICAL #7a — EOTS Motif

MUSICAL #8 — COME BE MY FRIEND — Kristin, Anders (2:34)

MUSICAL #8a — EOTS Motif

SCENE 5

MUSICAL #9 — YOU ARE — Kristin, Anders (2:05)

ACT TWO

SCENE 1

MUSICAL #10 — WHAT DO YOU KNOW? — Mother, Kristin (1:56)

MUSICAL #10a — EOTS Motif

SCENE 2

MUSICAL #11 — I WILL FIND YOU — Kristin (3:01)

MUSICAL #11a — EOTS Motif

SCENE 3

MUSICAL #12 — PURE GOLD — Edith (1:54)

SCENE 4

MUSICAL #13 — WHAT PRICE FOR LOVE? — Gudrun, Kristin (1:36)

SCENE 5

MUSICAL #14 — LOVE MUST BE BLIND — Margrit (1:14)

MUSICAL #14a — EOTS Motif

SCENE 6

MUSICAL #15a — SONG OF THE LOST CHILDREN (reprise 3) — Lost Children (0:45)

ACT THREE

MUSICAL #15b — I Will Find You (sad underscore)

SCENE 1

SCENE 2

MUSICAL #15c — NEITHER THE SUN OR MOON — Kristin (2:32)

SCENE 3

SCENE 4

MUSICAL #16 — I KNOW WHO YOU ARE — Ola (1:22)

SCENE 5

SCENE 6

MUSICAL #17 — EAST OF THE SUN: FINALE — Company (0:54)

MUSICAL #18 — Bows

ACT ONE looks to be about 50 minutes long

ACT TWO looks to be about 30 minutes long

ACT THREE looks to be about 20 minutes long

EAST OF THE SUN, WEST OF THE MOON by George G. King, Gayanne Ramsden King, and C. Michael Perry. 7f, 3m, 1eithr, 3b, 2g + additional children and villagers, if desired. About 100 minutes. Several interior and exterior locations, Fantasy costumes and Medieval costumes. Prince Anders, on his way to find his younger brother, who has been stolen by the Trolls, meets a commoner, Kristin at the village well -- said to be a magical place for making wishes come true. But others know of the magic of the well -- the Troll Queen and her daughter -- and the wishes begin to collide and counteract each other. Anders wants to find his brother. Kristin wants to be a Wise Woman. The trolls want Anders to marry the Troll Princess, Prince Anders wants to be free to marry whom he thinks will be best for him and the kingdom. (Anybody voting for Kristin? Anybody?) After the Troll Queen turns Anders into a White Bear, the adventure really begins. Kristin, at the urging of her parents, consents to travel and stay with the White Bear at his magical castle. She is treated well -- very well -- but is lonely. The White Bear gives her leave to go home -- with a warning -- which Kristin inadvertently ignores, causing Anders to be whisked away to the Troll palace East of the Sun, West of the Moon. Kristin vows to find and rescue the Prince. With the help of the North Wind, and the voices of the Lost children -- and the magic of the Wise Women -- Kristin arrives at East of the Sun, West of the Moon where she must out-wit the Troll Princess and the Queen. Well, through magical means, and help from her friends, Kristin saves the Prince and the Trolls are banished. And Kristin and Anders? Well, it is a Folk Tale. What do you think happens? **The themes of self-confidence, self-determination, finding the magic inside of each of us, and the nature of wisdom are explored in this searching play for young people and their families.** **ORDER # 3298**

C. Michael Perry -- was born in Colorado and raised in Chicago. He found the theatre at age 14 and has made all or part of his living in theatre, film, and television since the age of 16, with his first professional job as a stagehand in a Chicago theatre. He has directed and choreographed more than 100 shows. He was Director of Theatre at two different High Schools in Utah for 15 years. He is the Composer/Lyricist of more than 50 fifty musicals including "Cinderabbit" for PBS, which won an Emmy Award and a "Best Of The West" Public Television award. Best Musical." A "Best Original Score" was awarded by The Utah Valley Theatre Guild to his original musicals, "Fauntleroy!" & "Jedediah!" His musical, "An Enchanted April" played Off-Broadway at Theatre Row in 2019 and garnered raves from the critics, such as Peter Filichia's "One of the best musicals I've seen all season. The craft of the score is really quite fine." "Every one of Perry's attractive, supple melodies suits the moment. Group numbers interweave with high craft. Lyrics are both wonderfully literate and singable."—Alix Cohen, Women About Town. His many other musicals have played every continent except Antarctica. He has also been commissioned by Dramafy, an online Audio Drama streaming company, to create a new score for "Pollyanna" an Audio Musical-Drama to be streamed beginning in the Fall of 2024.

Gayanne Ramsden King is a graduate of Brigham Young University with a Ph.D. from the Department of Theatre and Film with an emphasis in Children's Theatre. She took, however, as many writing classes as she could. An adaptation of hers of the BREMENTOWN MUSICIANS was performed by the Rocky Mountain Youth Theatre. Dr. Ramsden's play BEOWULF was performed as a staged reading at Brigham Young

University and a full production was staged at Spanish Fork High School in Utah. It is published by Eldridge. Dr. Ramsden has worked as a children's librarian in both school and city settings. Telling stories is one of her favorite pastimes. She has finished a musical version of HEIDI and is currently working on a musical of EAST OF THE SUN -- WEST OF THE MOON, and STAR OF ISRAEL, about Queen Esther.

George G. King is from Utah. He has served a French mission for the LDS Church and earned Degrees from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah and completed course work at Rice University in Houston, Texas. He has worked for United States Steel, WordPerfect Corporation and Zions Bank as a publications editor and technical writer and taught English and French at BYU, Rice University, & Utah Valley University. He loves to write and share his philosophies and ideas in poems, stories, and theater. He also really enjoys and admires the way C. Michael Perry puts wings to his words through music.

SPECIAL THANKS

To the Page To Stage Reading Group centered in Portland, Maine, we the authors extend our heartfelt appreciation for the comments, suggestions, and the time spent in bringing our characters and songs to life over 3 separate Zoom readings.

56 pages of script with 1:50 minutes to 2:00 minutes per page

EAST OF THE SUN, WEST OF THE MOON

by George and Gayanne King and C. Michael Perry

ACT ONE

MUSICAL # 1a — EOTS PRELUDE

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 when peasants and princes believe in Trolls and Wise Women with supernatural powers. In this story, you are about to meet a wonderful young girl named Kristin. I have known Kristin since she was but a child and I know that Kristin is kind and true. The more you know her, the more you love her. Kristin will meet a prince and join him on his quest to save the lost children and the brother he loves dearly from the grasp of an evil Troll Queen. Together, our dear Kristin and her brave Prince are about to learn important life lessons about love and persistence. 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 #1b — 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! Mikkaïl, 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. KRISTIN, 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 KRISTIN. He turns and speaks to her.)

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

KRISTIN: 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?

KRISTIN: I didn't hear children singing.

ANDERS: How will I ever find my brother?

KRISTIN: Did he run away?

ANDERS: The Queen of the Trolls has stolen him.

KRISTIN: 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.

KRISTIN: 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.

KRISTIN: *(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.)

KRISTIN: Yes, it is.

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

KRISTIN: Yes.

ANDERS: Have you ever wished for something?

KRISTIN: 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?

KRISTIN: 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.

MUSICAL #1c — AROUND ME

IN MY HEART
IT SAYS TO HEAL,
NOT TEAR APART.
IN MY SOUL
THE NEED I FEEL'S
A HELPING ROLE.
LIFE SEEMS POOR, INDEED,
IF YOUR OWN NEED COMES FIRST.
I THINK I WOULD BE CURSED
IF THAT WERE ME.
BESIDES, IT WOULD BE WONDERFUL TO SEE
ALL THE THINGS THE WISE WOMEN SEE!
AND DO ALL THINGS

THAT MAGIC BRINGS

TO MAKE A BETTER LIFE FOR THOSE AROUND ME.

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

KRISTIN: (*eagerly*) Have you met them?

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.

KRISTIN: I would like to be fearless.

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

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

ANDERS: Or the too well-known?

KRISTIN: I think we should all 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.

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

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

KRISTIN: (*smiles*) Kristin Larsson.

ANDERS: You would make a good friend, Kristin. 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.

KRISTIN: Thank you, Your Highness.

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

KRISTIN: 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.)

KRISTIN: You're very persistent.

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

KRISTIN: 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.

KRISTIN: 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 glance towards where they were. LIGHTS change to isolate the two. They cannot hear or see each other.)

MUSICAL #2 — ONE OF THOSE!

KRISTIN:

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.

WILL I BE BLESSED WITH ONE OF THOSE!

KRISTIN:

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!

KRISTIN:

I'M FEELING KINDA QUEASY!

TOGETHER:

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

KRISTIN:

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!

(KRISTIN 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 don't ever want to see him again. 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 tear children away from their parents. 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 noble and generous heart.

TROLL QUEEN: Prince Anders, unless you agree immediately to marry my daughter, I will turn you into a bear. As a bear, you will have just one year to find a virtuous young woman who will marry you. If you fail, you will be a bear forever. And, just as you wish, the woman you love must have a noble and generous heart.

ANDERS: I will never be your slave!

OLA: *(tantrum-time)* Mama!

ANDERS: No human would ever marry a troll!

(ANDERS moves to leave. The TROLL QUEEN steps into his way, pushing him nearer to the Wishing Well.)

MUSICAL #4 — GOOD

OLA:

MOTHER, YOU'RE STANDING IN MY WAY!

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 THE TRUTH YOU CAN'T CONCEAL!
THIS GIRL YOU SEARCH FOR ISN'T REAL!
WOMEN WANT ONLY JEWELS 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 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: *(After ANDERS leaves, the TROLL QUEEN goes to the Wishing Well.)*

PROUDEST PRINCE, OH, HEAR ME AND BEWARE

SOON YOU'LL GROW THE WHITE HAIR OF A BEAR! --

NOT A WORD OF PRINCE OR PLAN --

AS ALL TRUTH I FIRMLY BAN! –

ALL WILL HAPPEN AS I SAY:

PRINCE BY NIGHT AND BEAR BY DAY.

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

AND THAT IS SOMETHING YOU WILL NEVER DO!

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

MUSICAL #4a — EOTS MUSICAL MOTIF

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 KRISTIN. 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. Kristin brought 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.

KRISTIN: 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.

KRISTIN: 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?

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

MARTA: Oh, Kristin, 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!

KRISTIN: 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 KRISTIN. 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.

KRISTIN: 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 KRISTIN)

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

KRISTIN: Please don't ask this of me.

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

KRISTIN: 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.

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

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

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

(The BEAR nods.)

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

(KRISTIN 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 Kristin chooses to go with you she can.

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

MARTA: *(She embraces KRISTIN)* 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?

KRISTIN: *(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 removes the furniture from the stage.)

SCENE 4 — *The WHITE BEAR AND KRISTIN remain together in one bright spotlight on a darkened stage. The NORTH WIND enters in slightly subdued light.)*

MUSICAL #4b — EOTS MUSICAL MOTIF

TROLL QUEEN: *(spoken off-stage)* Proudest Prince, oh hear me, and beware!

NORTH WIND: Kristin and the White Bear now travel into the woods. The day passes, and with each step Kristin becomes more and more unsure of where they are going. She wonders if this night will ever end.

MUSICAL #5 — INTO THE DARKENING NIGHT

KRISTIN: Do we have very far to go, White Bear?

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

KRISTIN: See what? I do hope we arrive before the forest grows too dark.

(KRISTIN begins to sing, as WHITE BEAR walks in place, carrying her on his back. The spotlight follows BOTH of them.)

A FEELING PRICKS MY VERY SOUL.
I FEAR, SOMEHOW, I'LL LOSE CONTROL.
FOREST CREATURES LEAP IN FRIGHT
PASSING INTO THE DARKENING NIGHT.

(A crack of thunder.)

I HEAR A TROLL WHO'S RUNNING BY.
THE MOON HANGS GLARING FROM THE SKY.
CLOUDS SO WET, SO DARK, JUST MIGHT
THUNDER INTO THE DARKENING NIGHT.

(Thunder crashes)

BEAR, HE GENTLY CARRIES ME.
WHERE CAN ALL THE FAERIES BE?
IS THE BEAR MY FRIEND?
HOW WILL ALL THIS END?
CAN HE PROTECT ME
NOW 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.
THIS BEAR'S A FRIEND TO ME – I KNOW!

(Lightning flashes light up the stage.)

STOP THE LIGHT'NING! HOLD ON TIGHT

TO THE BEAR IN THIS DARKENING NIGHT!

(There is suddenly the piercing screech of an owl. KRISTIN twirls around to see where the sound is coming from. She is very frightened.)

KRISTIN: What was that?

WHITE BEAR: It was only an owl. Don't be afraid.

(There is again the sound of thunder.)

KRISTIN: I want to go home!

(From off-stage we hear cackling, maniacal laughter.)

KRISTIN: I'm going home now!

(She slides off the BEAR's back and runs off-stage left.)

WHITE BEAR: Wait! No! Kristin beware! You're not safe!

(He follows rapidly after her as they both exit stage left.)

(KRISTIN comes running on stage right followed by four ghoulish TROLL children. They surround her.)

TROLL 1: Look at her hair. Isn't she fair?

TROLL 2: Let's take her to Mamma!

TROLL 3: Come along my pretty one!

TROLL 1: Sister, Ola commanded us to bring you back.

(As he grabs for KRISTIN'S hand, she swings the branch and knocks his arm away.)

KRISTIN: Don't you come near me!

TROLL 4: Let's push her to the ground.

ALL TROLLS TOGETHER: Let's keep her down.

KRISTIN: Stay away from me! You hear me! Someone help me! Bear – where are you?!

(KRISTIN picks up a branch off the ground to defend herself. The TROLLS advance.)

Stay away from me!

(The TROLLS continue to advance. KRISTIN swings the branch defiantly at them as the TROLLS leap away, yelling. They then stop and turn to glare at her again, laughing. WHITE BEAR runs in forcefully from stage right as if he had heard her cries. He now roars mightily at the startled TROLLS. The TROLLS cry out in fear and run off stage.)

(KRISTIN silently watches them leave. She then turns toward WHITE BEAR and looks at him tenderly, then speaks with a certain wonder and admiration in her voice.)

KRISTIN: You saved me. You are my friend.

WHITE BEAR: I will never let anyone or anything harm you Kristin. You can trust me. Come, climb on my back! We have almost arrived at my palace.

(KRISTIN climbs on WHITE BEAR'S back.)

KRISTIN: *(speaking)* Thank you White Bear!

(She then points straight ahead, her voice filled with wonder and asks:)

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 Kristin?

MUSICAL #6 — SOMEHOW

KRISTIN: No, I am not. I believe my father was right. You are good and brave and kind.

(It begins to snow.)

WHERE WILL BEAR AND I GO?

ARE WE LOST IN THIS SNOW?

I DON'T THINK SO;

WHITE BEAR'S NOT MY FOE.

IN THIS FOREST OF WHITE,

ASTRIDE THIS GREAT BEAST OF MIGHT,

I FLOAT AND MY HEART IS LIGHT.

I AM SAFE TONIGHT.

WHITE BEAR:

PERHAPS,

THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT.

PERHAPS,

THE WORLD IS ALRIGHT.
WE NOW CAN REST AND SLEEP,
WITH HOPES AND DREAMS TO KEEP.

KRISTIN:

THESE SKIES HAVE A GENTLE GLOW
MY WORLD DOES NOT EVEN KNOW.
WITH THE DARK GROWING DIM
I AM SAFE WHEN WITH HIM.

TOGETHER:

ALL IT TOOK WAS A NIGHT
AND THE WORLD IS SOMEHOW BRIGHT,
(They look at each other tenderly, and sing, once again,)
FILLED WITH PEACE AND LIGHT.
YES, SOMEHOW THE WORLD IS RIGHT.

(KRISTIN 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.)*

KRISTIN: Where are we?

WHITE BEAR: This is my palace.

KRISTIN: 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 KRISTIN 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.*

MUSICAL #6a — EOTS MUSICAL MOTIF

NORTH WIND: Kristin 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. However, one night Until, one night, there is such a beautiful moon that she goes out in the garden to see it. While she is there, a masked stranger enters the garden.

(As KRISTIN enters the scene, stagehands bring in a bench and two rose bushes. There is also a full moon above the benches.)

KRISTIN: *(Startled)* Stop! Who are you! Why are you here?

(ANDERS, wearing a mask and hat, he speaks to her quietly, but tenderly and in earnest. Suddenly, there is sound of CHILDREN singing in the distance.)

MUSICAL #7 — SONG OF THE LOST CHILDREN

CHILDREN: *(from offstage)*

IN A CASTLE DARK AND DREAR.

ANDERS: *(over the children)* Do you hear the children?

CHILDREN:

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 NO TIME LIKE TODAY!

EAST OF THE SUN,

WEST OF THE MOON

SOMEONE WILL HEAR.

PLEASE COME SOON!

ANDERS: Children! Where are you?

KRISTIN: (*Who doesn't hear anything,*) What children? Who are you talking about? And why are you wearing a mask?

ANDERS: I can't tell you who I am.

KRISTIN: Then can you even tell me why are you here?

ANDERS: I came because I heard children singing.

KRISTIN: Are you searching for the stolen children?

(ANDERS is silent.)

Have you seen Prince Anders? He was looking for them.

ANDERS: I can't give you any answers.

KRISTIN: Why? Who are you and why have you come to me?

ANDERS: I can only tell you that I've come here because I care very much about you. You'll just have to trust me and not ask too many questions..

KRISTIN: Well we won't have much of a conversation if you can't tell me anything

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

KRISTIN: 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. Unfortunately, because of who I am, people always seem to want something from me.

KRISTIN: I want nothing from you.

ANDERS: Perhaps this time *I* may want something from someone. I might even want something very important from you. I like you more and more every time I meet you.

(KRISTIN looks at him quizzically)

KRISTIN: *(Puzzled,)* How can that be? You've only seen me once!

ANDERS: I must go now. It seems as though I've known you forever. I must go. But I promise that I'll come to see you every night. Promise me you will never tell anyone about seeing me.

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

MUSICAL #7a — EOTS MOTIF

NORTH WIND: The days pass into weeks and Kristin 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. He always wears his mask and hat.

(The LIGHTS comes up and KRISTIN is sitting on a bench in the garden. ANDERS comes in and sits next to her.)

KRISTIN: I'm very glad to see you and I find myself really looking forward to your visits. Yet I wonder, why is it that after a month I still don't know your name!

ANDERS: That's just the way it must be. I'm sorry. I wish I could tell you more.

KRISTIN: What do you do all day?

ANDERS: I search.

KRISTIN: What do you search for?

ANDERS: I am looking for the North Wind.

KRISTIN: 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. I am sure of one thing: Whenever I come here at night, you make me feel better.

KRISTIN: I also feel better when you are here. I am very glad to be with you. I miss my family. Oh, the White Bear is kind when I see him, but my days are lonely.

(ANDERS takes her hand and helps her off the bench. As they now sin, their mutual affection becomes very obvious.)

MUSICAL #8 — COME, BE MY FRIEND

ANDERS:

JUST HOLD MY HAND.
I'LL HELP YOU STAND.
ONE STEP, 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.

KRISTIN:

GLIMPING 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.

IT'S UNBE-
LIEVABLE!
IT'S INCON-
CEIVABLE!
I OWE IT
ALL TO YOU,
LIFE'S NOT THE SAME!

ANDERS:
NOW, THIS SWEET SEN-
SATION
FILLS MY IMAGIN-
ATION.
IT CALLS FOR CELE-
BRATION!

ANDERS:

IF I COULD MOVE

THE SUN AND MOON

THEN I COULD PROVE...

OH, IT'S TOO SOON!

NOW, THIS SWEET SENSATION

FILLS MY IMAGINATION.

KRISTIN, IT CALLS FOR CELEBRATION!

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!

KRISTIN:

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!

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.

KRISTIN: I promise.

ANDERS: Now, I must wish you goodnight.

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

ANDERS: *(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.

KRISTIN: 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.)

KRISTIN: Goodnight.

(LIGHTS dim.)

SCENE 7 — *SERVANTS* bring on a long table, which is set for two at either end. There are two candlesticks. *NORTH WIND* enters. *LIGHTS* up on him.

MUSICAL #8a — EOTS Motif

(As he speaks, KRISTIN and the WHITE BEAR enter and sit at either end of the table.)

NORTH WIND: The months pass slowly for Kristin and the days hang heavy because she has nothing to do. It is now summer and Kristin grows restless. Although she has supper each evening with the White Bear and she also becomes more and more in love with the mysterious stranger who meets her each evening, yet she is still somewhat lonely because she misses her family.

WHITE BEAR: You are not eating.

KRISTIN: I'm not hungry.

WHITE BEAR: Are you ill?

KRISTIN: No.

WHITE BEAR: Do you lack anything here? You have the food and clothing that you need.

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

WHITE BEAR: Yes?

KRISTIN: There is more to life than that.

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.

KRISTIN: 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.

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

KRISTIN: 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?

KRISTIN: 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?

KRISTIN: 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 back?

KRISTIN: 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.

KRISTIN: 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, terrible things may happen ...

KRISTIN: Why? What could ever happen to us?

(Beat)

WHITE BEAR: Things will be different.

KRISTIN: *(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 not listen to your mother, then all will not be well with me.

KRISTIN: What do you mean?

WHITE BEAR: I can't say.

KRISTIN: *(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?

KRISTIN: Yes, yes.

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

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

WHITE BEAR: At six.

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

WHITE BEAR: Don't forget your promises.

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

(KRISTIN runs off stage.)

WHITE BEAR: I hope you remember your promises...or my life will come tumbling down around me in pieces... How do you love someone who doesn't know that she loves me, 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. KRISTIN appears in isolation on one side of the stage.)

MUSICAL #9: YOU ARE

KRISTIN:

I WAS HAPPY EVERY SECOND THERE WITH YOU
I'VE GROWN TO KNOW THERE IS 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)

ACT TWO

MUSICAL #9a — ACT TWO PRELUDE

SCENE 1 — *KRISTIN'S FAMILY is sitting in the garden. KRISTIN runs on stage, pauses for a moment and looks at her family. MARTA looks up and cries out.*

MARTA: Kristin!

(KRISTIN runs into MARTA's arms. ALL, except LARS, hug her. LARS stands awkwardly aside. MARTA takes KRISTIN'S hands and looks at her.)

Look at you. You look good and that's such a pretty dress. How did you get here and are you home for good?

KRISTIN: I'm here just for a visit. I must go back soon.

MARTA: How soon? Well, never mind, come sit down. How did you get here?

(MARTA leads KRISTIN to a loveseat and the girl sits. MARTA sits down beside her.)

KRISTIN: White Bear brought me.

ELSA: Aren't you afraid of the White Bear?

KRISTIN: *(after a thought)* No, he is very good to me.

ERLAND: Where do you live?

KRISTIN: I live in a palace.

ANNA: Is it more beautiful than this mansion? Is it bigger?

KRISTIN: It is bigger and it is beautiful.

ELSA: We have beautiful clothes and this mansion is always dry and we have enough food, but I miss you, Kristin. I would give it all up to have you back.

ERLAND: Me too, although I would want to keep my pony.

LEIF: We do miss you, Kristin.

ANNA: I don't care about pretty dresses, I want you to come back to us.

LEIF: Leave the White Bear and come back to us.

(LARS is conflicted about what the money he has from the White Bear can do for the children,

and yet he misses and is worried about Kristin.)

LARS: *(somewhat harshly)* Have you forgotten? You are now studying to be an architect, Lief? Do you want to give that up? All of the children now have tutors, Kristin. They are learning to read and write. There is so much I can now give them, Kristin. And yet, I ... I don't know what to do.

KRISTIN: *(stands and goes to LARS and takes his hand.)* It's all right, Father. If I can make it possible for their lives to be better, I am happy.

MARTA: *(rushing over to Kristin.)* How can you be happy with that beast! I worry about you every day.

KRISTIN: He is kind to me, mother and there is someone...

(She stops, afraid of telling about the mysterious stranger she meets in the garden each night.)

MARTA: What do you mean?

KRISTIN: Nothing mother, mother. I am happy where I am.

(She looks at her brothers and sisters.)

You must be happy too. Now, Erland, you must show me your pony.

(The CHILDREN gather around her and ad lib about the toys they have and ELSA takes her by the hand and leads her off stage.)

ELSA: I have a room to myself and so many beautiful dolls. You must come see them.

(MARTA watches them go and LARS sits.)

MARTA: There is something she is not telling us. Something is not right.

LARS: Well, how could it be? She is living with a wild beast.

(He puts his head in his hands and then looks at his wife.)

Did I do the right thing, Marta? I sacrificed Kristin for the rest of the family. Was the price way too high?

MARTA: *(coming over to him and sitting by him.)* We do what we think is right. The children are blessed in ways they never could have been. I'll try to find out what is troubling Kristin. Maybe it's nothing. She looks healthy and well. Let us enjoy this time we have with her.

(THEY exit as the lights dim. The NORTH WIND enters in a spotlight.)

NORTH WIND: Time passes quickly for Kristin and her family. Marta keeps trying to get her alone to find out what her daughter is keeping from her but Kristin avoids being alone with her mother. She is trying to keep her word to the White Bear. It is now the last day of her visit and Marta suddenly discovers Kristin alone again, in the garden.

(KRISTIN is sitting by herself and the mother enters.)

MARTA: There you are. Must you leave?

KRISTIN: I must. I promised the White Bear I would return.

MARTA: Stay with us. I don't care about clothes, or jewels, or a fancy house. He can have them all back!

KRISTIN: Mother, it's not just those 'things' that father thinks about. He hopes his children will have opportunities for good work and not have to live from day to day in poverty. Besides...

MARTA: You want to stay with that White Bear? Why? What is its hold over you?

KRISTIN: It's not the White Bear, there is someone else... not him.

MARTA: Who then?

KRISTIN: I don't know who. I meet someone in the garden almost every night. We walk together and he talks kindly with me so kindly that I'm beginning to care for him. I want to be with him more and more each night..

MARTA: A man talks with you every night?

KRISTIN: *(nodding)* Yes. He does. Every night.

(A stern, yet puzzled look from MARTA.)

Although I haven't ever really seen exactly who he is; He always wears a mask and a hat.

MARTA: Does this man sleep in the White Bear's palace?

KRISTIN: He says he sleeps in the room two doors next to mine. One night he said he wanted us to be together forever someday.

MARTA: He's a troll!!

KRISTIN: No, Mother. I'm sure he is not. I can tell he is good.

MARTA: If he were a good man, he would not be wearing a mask. He would be completely open and honest with you! He would let you know exactly who he is and why he visits you so often, and at night. He must definitely be a troll! Beware of him! When you get back to the White Bear's palace you must go directly into his room, light a candle and look at him. If he is a troll, he will be afraid of the light, and he will have no power over you.

KRISTIN: Even though I don't know what a troll looks like, I know he's not a troll. I know he's not a troll.

MARTA: He has pointed ears, a tail, and his skin is green.

KRISTIN: He's a young man and a good man and his skin is not green!

MUSICAL #10: WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

(She laughs.)

KRISTIN: I know he is good.

MARTA:

WHAT DO YOU KNOW!
THIS IS A TROLL!
HE WILL MAKE YOU
HIS SLAVE TO DO
HIS EVIL WORKS —
THE THINGS HE SHIRKS.

AWFUL TROLL CRIMES.
SO BAD AT TIMES
YOU'LL RUN AWAY
TO SEEK THE DAY,
FOR LIGHT YOU'LL CRAVE —
YOU'LL BE HIS SLAVE.

KRISTIN: *(it is the same tune but softer, gentler.)*

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?
HOW CAN I GO?
HE COMES AT NIGHT
DON'T NEED MY SIGHT
TO KNOW HE'S GOOD —
MISUNDERSTOOD!

HURT ME?
HE NEVER WILL.

LONELY?

HE'S THERE TO FILL

WHAT HE AND I,

DON'T ASK ME WHY,

CAN'T SEEM TO FILL ON OUR OWN.

I'M NOT ALONE!

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

MOTHER:

I SEE YOUR GLOW!

KIRSTEN:

SO KIND AND TRUE.

HE'D NEVER DO

THOSE THINGS YOU SAY.

MOTHER:

SO, YOU CAN'T STAY?

KRISTIN:

HE IS MY DAY.

HE IS MY LIGHT.

KRISTIN:

I KNOW I'M RIGHT.

MOTHER:

BUT ARE YOU RIGHT?

MARTA: Oh, Kristin, I still fear for you. What if you are being deceived? Promise you will do what I say. The White Bear comes for you in the morning. Promise me tomorrow night you will take the candle I give you. I made it myself. It is made with mother's love and will protect you from this being. Promise me you will look at him closely to make sure he is not a troll. If he really isn't a troll it will not matter what you do. Promise me!

(KRISTIN is conflicted and torn between her mother's love and the White Bear's words of warning. She hesitates, taking the candle, as LIGHTS dim. KRISTIN and MARTA exit.)

SCENE 2 — There is the sound of wind and the NORTH WIND enters.

MUSICAL #10a — EOTS MUSICAL MOTIF

NORTH WIND: The next day the White Bear arrives and Kristin climbs on his back and rides away waving goodbye to her family.

(KRISTIN climbs on the WHITE BEAR'S back during NORTH WIND'S speech.)

WHITE BEAR: Kristin, have you spoken to your mother about any of your doings in my palace? About meeting anyone?

KRISTIN: No... yes! Maybe a little.

WHITE BEAR: You need to trust me and follow my advice. Don't heed your mother's warnings. If you do, all may not be well.

NORTH WIND: The Bear and Girl ride in silence with heavy hearts, and when they arrive that night at the White Bear's palace Kristin goes to her room and paces back and forth, undecided as to what she should do. Finally, she lights the candle her mother gave her.

(The WHITE BEAR exits and KRISTIN stands alone in the dark except with her lit candle. The NORTH WIND is still there.)

Kristin stands for a moment unsure, and then she walks to the room where the man she has spoken with night after night sleeps. Will she find the man she loves, or a troll?

(KRISTIN exits bed is wheeled on. ANDERS is asleep on the bed. KRISTIN enters, holding the candle in front of her. She goes to the bed and looks at ANDERS.)

KRISTIN: Prince Anders!

NORTH WIND: As Kristin looks at the prince her hand shakes, and the candle drips three drops of wax on Prince Anders' shirt. The hot wax wakes him up.

(NORTH WIND exits and startled PRINCE ANDERS sits up. The LIGHTS come up dim.)

ANDERS: What have you done????!!

KRISTIN: Oh, Prince Anders, it's you!

ANDERS: *(sees the candle, feels the wax on his shirt)* You have listened to your mother and we are lost. If only you had waited and been with me for a full year, trusting me, meeting with me without knowing who I was, the spell would have been broken. If only you had persevered, we could have been together.

KRISTIN: What do you mean? What spell are you talking about?

ANDERS: I am the both White Bear, and the man who talks to you at night. I am under a spell from the

Troll Queen. If I could have found a maiden who trusted in me and didn't try to find out who I was then the spell would have been broken. I would have married you. But you listened to your mother, rather than your heart. Now I must go and marry the Troll Princess.

KRISTIN: Is there nothing I can do so we can be together?

ANDERS: I know of nothing.

KRISTIN: (*Deeply distressed, discouraged, and downhearted,*) I have not been wise.

(*KRISTIN cries as SFX: of thunder and there is lightning.*)

ANDERS: The Troll Queen and the Troll Princess have come for me.

(*The room goes dark and then there is a flash of lightning. We hear demonic laughter. The TROLL QUEEN and OLA run on stage. They carry a chain which they wrap around PRINCE ANDERS. They chant.*)

TROLL QUEEN and PRINCESS: In the darkness of the night,

We whisk you out of sight.

To our castle you must go.

QUEEN TROLL: You will marry Ola, Princess Troll.

OLA: And never again this maiden see.

For you belong only to me.

(*OLA throws the chain over ANDER'S shoulders and the TROLL QUEEN gets a huge lock and locks him.*)

You are now mine!

TROLL QUEEN: I knew no mortal maiden would have the perseverance to wait a year without seeking to know who you were. You will come to my kingdom and marry my daughter.

KRISTIN: Where is this kingdom? Where are you taking him?

TROLL QUEEN: My kingdom is east of the sun and west of the moon.

OLA: And you will never find it! Prince Anders will forget you and he will marry me!

KRISTIN: Anders, I *will* find you! Please, never forget me!

ANDERS: Kristin, it is too late for us. Men have searched and searched in vain, myself included, for the palace east of the sun and west of the moon. You will never find it.

KRISTIN: I will!

(*Again SFX: thunder and lightning and the TROLL QUEEN and OLA drag ANDERS off. KRISTIN is alone on the stage. She falls to her knees crying.*)

MUSICAL #11: I WILL FIND YOU

KRISTIN: *(somewhat slowly at first, almost spoken, maybe)*

I WILL NOT FORGET YOU,
OR THAT I MET YOU.
THEY’VE PULLED ME INTO THE FRAY!
AND NO MATTER WHAT THEY MAY SAY
THEY’LL REGRET THEY STOLE YOU AWAY!

WE CANNOT BE CHEATED,
AND THOUGH MISTREATED,
WE’RE NOT DEFEATED! I KNOW!
I WILL FOLLOW EAST OF THE SUN!
THERE IS NOWHERE NOW, THEY CAN RUN!
THERE IS NO PLACE ON THE EARTH I WON’T GO!

I DIDN’T KNOW HOW TO AID YOU.
I SOMEHOW WAS JUST AFRAID YOU
WERE NOT AS SINCERE
AS YOU DID APPEAR.
BUT EVERYTHING IS CLEAR, NOW!

I WILL FIND YOU
IN THE DARKEST CORNER OF THE DEEPEST PIT.
I WILL FIND YOU!
THEY’VE STOLEN YOU AND THAT I CAN’T PERMIT.
I DIDN’T KNOW THAT I LOVED YOU

MUCH MORE THAN I ADMIT!

YES, I WILL FIND YOU!

I WILL NOT QUIT!

LET THOSE FIERY DARTS

THAT PIERCED OUR HEARTS

REVEAL THE ROAD I MUST CHOOSE!

I AM NOT PREPARING TO LOSE!

THERE IS NO WAY THEY CAN REFUSE!

Somehow, someone, must know how to find the palace East of the Sun West of the Moon. The Three Wise Women must know where the Troll Queen lives.

I WILL PERSEVERE

WHETHER FAR OR NEAR

I WILL SWEAR WITH ALL OF MY MIGHT

THAT I WILL SET ALL OF THIS RIGHT!

LET THIS CASTLE FALL,

THOUGH I LOSE MY ALL,

I WILL FIND YOU.

(The LIGHTS darken. KRISTIN exits.)

SCENE 3 — *the NORTH WIND enters. There is a spotlight on him.*

MUSICAL #11a — EOTS MUSICAL MOTIF

NORTH WIND: And so, Kristin traveled all night until she came to the base of a mountain where the Wise Woman Edith is sitting in the rising sunlight.

(EDITH is very shy. She has wild hedgehog-like hair that sprouts in all directions. She is combing her hair with a golden comb. KRISTIN walks on, tired and hungry.)

KRISTIN: Please, do you have any bread or water to spare? I have walked all night and I am so thirsty.

(EDITH pulls her hair in front of her face and then pulls some strands away so she can peek at Kristin.)

EDITH: Use that pitcher of water and a cup if you wish.

(KRISTIN sneezes, picks up the cup and pours the water and drinks.)

KRISTIN: Please, can you tell me, are you one of the three Wise Women?

(EDITH covers her face again and turns away on her stool, without looking at Kristin.)

EDITH: I might be.

KRISTIN: I am trying to find the palace East of the Sun, West of the Moon where the Troll Queen and her daughter live. Do you know where this palace is?

EDITH: *(Evasively)* My sister Gudrun might know. You could ask her.

KRISTIN: How do I find her? Where does she live?

EDITH: *(turning around and slowly parting her hair to look at Kristin.)* I might tell you. You have very pretty hair. I will tell you for a price.

(She sneezes.)

KRISTIN: I have no money and nothing to sell.

EDITH: You will need something special if you ever hope to trick the Troll Princess.

(She holds up the golden comb and offers it to Kristin.)

The Troll Princess might want this. I hear she has very pretty hair. You have pretty hair. Cut off your hair and give it to me, then I will give you the comb and tell you how to find Gudrun.

KRISTIN: *(Hesitant,)* But Prince Anders likes my hair . . .

MUSICAL #12: PURE GOLD

EDITH: *(testing)*

PRICE TOO HIGH?

WHAT IF HE'S NOT WORTH IT!

KRISTIN: *(defensive)*

NOT TOO HIGH.

AND HE'S TRULY WORTH IT!

EDITH:

SUCH A WILLING AND A PRETTY MAID
DOES NOT COME SO OFTEN TO MY GLADE.
WITH LONG AND FLOWING HAIR,
SO FINE, SO FAIR,
SO YOUNG, SO BOLD,
SUCH A PLEASURE TO BEHOLD.
LIKE GOLD! PURE GOLD!

IF I HAD THAT GIFT,
THAT GIFT OF GOLDEN HAIR,
I WOULD NOT HAVE THIS DREAD DISEASE

(She sneezes.)

THAT ALWAYS CAUSES ME TO SNEEZE.
YOUR LOSS, YOUR SACRIFICE,
REPAYS THE GIVER, BLESSES TWICE.
SO, CUT YOUR HAIR. THAT'S MY ADVICE.

I BUT BORROW, NOW, YOUR SILKEN CURLS
TO FEEL LIKE ALL THE OTHER GIRLS
WITH LONG AND FLOWING HAIR.
I'M FINE, I'M FAIR,
I'M YOUNG, I'M BOLD,
SUCH A PLEASURE TO BEHOLD.
LIKE GOLD! PURE GOLD!
SO, MY DEAR LET'S GO INSIDE.

(She takes KRISTIN'S hand and announces to the audience, proudly.)

SOMEDAY WE WILL BE A BRIDE,

(She caresses KRISTIN'S hair.)

FINDING LOVE WE NEVER NEED TO HIDE!

GOLD LOVE! PURE GOLD!

EDITH: *(She takes her scissors from her pocket, then sneezes and explains.)* Excuse me, I'm allergic to this frowsy hair of mine.

KRISTIN: How did you know I was looking for my love?

EDITH: Don't forget, I'm a Wise Woman.

(KRISTIN is not satisfied with this answer. She folds her arms and frowns, unconvinced.)

OK, so I heard it on the wind! Come inside so I can cut your hair.

(BOTH enter the cave. SFX: TRANSFORMATION.)

KRISTIN: *(offstage)* Ouch! Oh! My hair is so short!

(BOTH come out. EDITH is wearing a wig that is Kristin's hair. KRISTIN, clutching her short hair, now looks almost bald. She wears short hair that is also a wig and appears devastated.)

I'm afraid I've made a mistake. Prince Anders may not love me now my hair is gone.

EDITH: *(obviously unconcerned)* My shyness is vanishing and don't worry, your hair will grow back. Now, travel straight on that path and you will come to my sister Gudrun. Oh! And here is the golden comb.

(The LIGHTS dim and EDITH exits.)

23 more pages to the end