The Chromatic Fall

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This thesis titled

The Chromatic Fall

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ABSTRACT

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The Chromatic Fall

Director of Thesis: Mark W. Phillips

The Chromatic Fall is a one-act play with music. It is scored for clarinet, percussion, cello, and piano as well as the 12 actors needed to tell the story. It is an absurdist fantasy drama-comedy expounding on the rise and fall of heroes and villains. The music begins in the key of C and descends through every chromatic key area throughout the story, landing back in C for the final group number. Passages also use a blend of chromaticism and tonality, traditional harmony and more avant-garde experiments, to create the mood and aesthetic behind the action.
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CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

• Osbaldo: A mage, male, mid-30s. The ne’er do well leader of the hero collective known as the League of Light who struggles to balance his desire for honor and greatness with keeping his rag-tag group of heroes together

• Edgar: Former Dread Pirate King and thief, male, 30s. Sarcastic, sneaky, and very smooth, Edgar is one part rock star and one part James Bond

• Charlie: Fighter, gender non-binary (uses male pronouns), late 20s. The well-meaning, overly optimistic brawn of the heroes; not terribly bright but very sweet

• Gaia: Mage apprentice, female, late teens. Spunky, smart, sassy hero in the making despite lamenting her more intern-like status

• King Harold of House Trachsel, First of His Name, Lord Protector of Gliddenia and Ruler of the Realm: male, mid 50s. Slightly on the more passive, type-B personality side

• Queen Maude of House Suk, First of Her Name: female, mid 50s. The sassy, cunning, type-A ruler of Gliddenia

• The Crown Prince Sayrs of House Trachsel, Third of His Name: Male, mid 20s. Orderly and meticulous rule-follower, true lawful good

• Princess Fifi of Bakervania: Female, very early 20s. Very neurotic, high maintenance, paranoid, fragile

• Penelope: Former princess of Gliddenia, mid 20s. Thought to be deceased, sociopathic, intelligent, power-hungry, vengeful

• Benedict: Former narrator and notorious villain, male, late 20s. Thought be deceased as well, vengeful, destructive, dangerous
• Attendant: Attendant to the royalty, male, mid-40s.

• The Narrator: Any gender, any age. Omniscient observer who tells the story from the sidelines
SYNOPSIS

Because *The Chromatic Fall* is a complex narrative and comes from the second in a series of tales, a synopsis has been provided, along with indications as to where the various musical numbers fit into the script.

At the start of the show, Edgar, Osbaldo, and Charlie are looking out over the dangerous cliffs known as the Chromatic Falls (“1. Prologue”). They have chased Penelope and Benedict for weeks, and it would seem the two villains are nowhere to be found. When they report this to King Harold and Queen Maude, the royalty decide instead of admitting what horrible things Benedict has done with their daughter’s help, it would be better to declare them dead. They told the nation that Benedict captured and killed Penelope, and that The League of Light was responsible for defeating Benedict. But somewhere on a train out of the country, Penelope and Benedict hear this fabrication and devise a plan to get back at not only The League of Light, but also all of Gliddenia. The Narrator enters here (“2. Narration- Royal Summons”) and informs the audience that 2 years have past since the prologue, and that Gliddenia is gearing up for the wedding of the Crown Prince Sayrs and Princess Fifi of Bakervania. Gaia, Osbaldo’s apprentice, brings in a royal summons from Prince Sayrs. When the heroes arrive at Wetzel Keep, they meet Sayrs and his bride-to-be, Princess Fifi (“3. Enter Fifi”). Charlie quickly takes to Princess Fifi while the others find her to be rather frustrating. A discussion of dinner with King Harold shows just how particular Princess Fifi happens to be. Prince Sayrs tells the heroes that they will need proper background checks, to which King Harold objects (“4. Background Checks- Villains Abound”). The Narrator then informs the audience that evil is afoot. Penelope and Benedict try their best to remain vague as they
receive a report from their spy, the Attendant. Back at the castle, a very frustrated Gaia and Edgar compare frustrations asked of them in wedding preparation, and Osbaldo scolds them for their terrible attitudes (“5. Tensions”). Princess Fifi enters with Charlie and the rest of the royal family while everyone starts discussing music for the reception. During the course of the planning, Penelope, in disguise, sneaks off with Fifi’s crown. When Fifi notices her crown is gone, she immediately blames Edgar, whose background reveals his past as the feared Pirate King (“6. Crown Gone- Tensions Rise”). In the scramble to find the crown, Osbaldo and Charlie question if Edgar took it, but Penelope returns the crown to Fifi’s head without anyone noticing. The Narrator exits the stage briefly, and Benedict and Penelope use this opportunity to harass and hold up the audience (“7. Robbery!”). After their robbery, Penelope and Benedict talk about what to do when they finish dismantling Gliddenia, and awkwardly and obtusely admit their feelings for each other (“8. Love, Marriage, and Evil Plots”). Being unable to directly say they love each other, Penelope returns to Wetzel Keep in disguise, where she briefly convinces Sayrs to talk with her privately about the disturbing truths of The League of Light (“9. Arguments- Uncouth Truths”). Edgar, Osbaldo, and Gaia notice the Prince is missing, and despite this mysterious disappearance, they start to bicker. When Charlie comes back from helping Fifi, the tensions that have been boiling under the surface come to a rise. Prince Sayrs returns, telling the heroes he just stepped out briefly and wants to talk to Fifi alone. She raises her concerns, and he informs her of some disturbing news: The League of Light and the king and queen are involved in a number of nefarious dealings, and that was what got Princess Penelope killed. The wedding day finally arrives, though Edgar, Osbaldo, Charlie, and Gaia are barely speaking (“10. Wedding Day”).
Benedict, in disguise as a priest, introduces himself to the nervous royalty and heroes, setting up his and Penelope’s crashing of the wedding. Penelope takes Fifi hostage and they extol the many crimes and corruptions of King Harold and Queen Maude (“11. Villains Revealed”). As the dark truths of the king and queen’s involvements with corrupt and evil countries comes out, it becomes clear that while Penelope and Benedict are still definitely bad guys, they are also not the only ones with blood on their hands. A giant battle erupts, during which the Attendant and King Harold are killed (“12. Battle Music”). Penelope knocks Sayrs out before killing Fifi with bread. Gaia manages to mortally wound Benedict, and he and Penelope flee the castle. Osbaldo discovers Fifi is nearly dead, and uses his powers to save her. Prince Sayrs sends Osbaldo, Edgar, Charlie, and Gaia to go capture the villains for what they did at the wedding. The Narrator opts to exit the scene at this point, saying that the following part is quite dark (“13. Death and Sadness”). Penelope and Benedict return to the cliff where the play began, preparing to make their escape. But, Benedict’s wound is too intense, and to spare him the slow and painful death awaiting him, Penelope smothers him. She quickly steels herself when The League of Light catches up with her. She then proceeds to explain to them how her and Benedict managed to create their epic plan to destroy them as well as Gliddenia. When she finishes, she decides to throw herself off the Chromatic Falls, choosing to die her own way rather than go back with the League of Light. The Narrator returns to close up the end of the tale, telling the audience that Sayrs and Fifi were married in secret, and ending with the country entering its darkest hours (“14. The End?”). Charlie listens to this speech, and decides the show cannot end on a down note. He gets Edgar, Osbaldo, and Gaia to reconcile their differences and acknowledge that perhaps it did not work out the
way they planned, but it was still, in fact, a victory for them. At this point, the entire cast sings the moral-of-the-story song, “Life is Kind of Shitty (But It All Works Out)” (“15. Life is Kind of Shitty). The Narrator leaves everyone with a positive message that life is not always simple or will not always follow any plans, but that does not mean it is not worth living. As the actors take bows, The Narrator tells the audience about each character’s own happy endings (“16. Curtain Music”).
THE CHROMATIC FALL- SCRIPT

1. Prologue

(Prologue music: scene is dark and a storm is raging, the heroes are standing on a cliff looking out)

Edgar: Jeebus, where the hell did they go?

Osbaldo: They went towards the cliff, but…

Charlie: Did they leap? Where’d they go? Should we follow them?

Osbaldo: I don’t know… it’s a long drop. I could maybe create a spell to help us climb down-

Edgar: Maybe we should just give up. There’s no way they survived the fall and they couldn’t’ve have gone anywhere else… There’s nowhere else to go.

Osbaldo: But what do we tell the king and queen?

Edgar: I don’t know. We can’t go hopping off the cliff after them. Penelope’s gone, Osbaldo! So is that narrator! It’s over.

Charlie: Sorry, what do we tell who?

Edgar: (groans)

(After a couple beats to transition to the castle)

Maude: So there’s no sign of them?

Edgar: None at all, your majesty.

Harold: (sobbing profusely) My baby… is… is… gone!

Osbaldo: Well, we saw nothing of them. They could be out there.

Edgar: No, they really couldn’t! There’s no way they would’ve survived the fall-

Osbaldo: But, they’re sneaky. They’ve eluded us for so long as it is. What if they
somehow faked all this? Got away?

Harold: How would they have done that? (sniffs) The Chromatic Falls are a
dangerous place. It’s shocking you are all (sniffs) safe. How would they have
gotten away?

Osbaldo: I… I’m not sure. Some kind of magic, most likely dark magic. I just think
they’re still out there.

Maude: Do you have any evidence to support this?

Osbaldo: No… just a feeling, is all.

Maude: We cannot bank on your feelings. And we cannot tell the people that the
Princess has run away with some peasant narrator… or the types of mayhem
they’ve caused along the way…

Edgar: So what do we do?

Maude: (after a few beats) We tell the people that fiendish narrator murdered
Penelope after he tortured for several weeks. You chased him, but it was just too
late for our dear daughter.

Harold: (sniff) We tell them that this narrator chap was twisted and that without you
Light boys he would’ve ruined Gliddenia. (sobs, but straightens himself up)

Maude: No one can ever know the truth. Ever.

(Move to dark train car. Penelope is working on opening a safe)

Benedict: (enters and hands Penelope a newspaper) Have you seen this yet?

Penelope: (glances over newspaper and chuckles) “Princess Penelope dead! Vile
Narrator Defeated by League of Light!”
Benedict: I’m defeated? I’m defeated?

Penelope: And I’m the now deceased Princess Penelope. Nice to meet you.

Benedict: I should’ve killed those imbeciles when I had the chance!
      I should never have let them lead this dance
      I should’ve struck them down
      Instead of letting them chase us all over town
      I should’ve cut off their-

Penelope: Listen. As sexy as it is when you get poetic and all Narrator-y, bemoaning
      our mistakes isn’t really doing us any good. We have to start thinking ahead.
      To the future.

Benedict: What do you mean?

Penelope: Y’know, aim a little higher than just a few bank jobs and general villainy.
      Something… bigger.

Benedict: Bigger… (ponders this as she goes back to breaking into safe) What’d you
      have in mind?

Penelope: (opens safe and pulls out jewels) How does revenge, regicide, and
      wrecking Gliddenia sound? (wolfish grin as she hands him the goods)

Benedict: That sounds… devilish. I like it.

Penelope: Thought you might.

Benedict: But we’re still going to blow up the train first, yes?

Penelope: Of course we will. (cue explosion and rest of the introduction music)

2. Narrator- Royal Summons

Narrator: (Sits in chair, much like the first narrator in the first play) Welcome back to
Gliddenia, friends, glad to see you came
We have another story to tell of glory, guts, and fame
Two years have past since The League of Light saved the day
Two years since Penelope died or so they say
Our heroes are quite famous now, getting richer all the time
Everyone loves them, even those they defeat sometimes
But the big news in Gliddenia these last few weeks
Is the return of Prince Sayrs to Gliddenia’s streets
And with him comes his bride to be
A princess from Bakervania by the name of Fifi
Few people have met Princess Fifi yet
But her and our last princess are as different as they get
Where Penelope was tough, resilient, and cold
Fifi is sweet and soft as a fluffy pillow, I’m told
The country is bathed in talk of love and marriage
From all over, lords and ladies and Fifi coming by carriage
Harold: Good news, people of Gliddenia! Soon, my son, Sayrs, the Crown Prince, will be married to the beautiful Princess Fifi of Bakervania! I am proud to welcome her into our family and into our kingdom as the future queen!
Narrator: I basically just said that… But, back to our heroes!
From stopping fires to fighting bad guys to slaying a dragon
They even once stopped to fix an old man’s fruit wagon
In their many successes, the League had gained much recognition
The Council of Mages saw them in heroic exhibition
And decided it was time Osbaldo had an apprentice
So we meet Gaia, the clever and bold little miss
Who dreams of being the very best like no one ever was
And studying from a great hero like Osbaldo will help her cause
But for now she’s just the League’s squire
A personal assistant with a passionate fire
But to the start of our tale on a morning bright and sunny
Osbaldo hard at work, Charlie relaxing, and Edgar counting money

Gaia: Morning, everyone.
Charlie: Morning, Gaia!
Osbaldo: Mail’s here already? Bills come fast…
Gaia: More important than bills. Gents, we have a royal summons!
Edgar: Isn’t this how the first play began?
Charlie: Ooh, what’s this one say? Are we gonna slay another dragon?!
Gaia: Nope, sorry Charlie, no dragons this time. It says “Prince Sayrs and his bride
to-be, the Princess Fifi, command your presence immediately. We require your
services and will pay you a handsome sum for your work. Also, give Gaia a raise.”
Osbaldo: (taking the summons from her hands) That last part isn’t on here.
Gaia: A girl can dream.
Osbaldo: Well, keep dreaming. Money’s a little tight right now. Did you pick up those
items from the apothecary yet?

Gaia: I did. And I cleaned out the kitchen. And picked up Charlie’s new armor. Oh, and Edgar, here’s your winnings.

Osbaldo: Winnings?

Gaia: He placed a bet on who would get hired as the new theory prof-

Edgar: On nothing! Well, we should head to the castle! Royal summons and all.

C’mon Charlie. We’ll get some Dick Wetzel’s Pretzels on the way.

Charlie: Oooh I want the new Wetzel Weiner Dog!

Narrator: *(announcer voice)* Dick Wetzel’s Pretzels, featuring our new Wetzel Weiner Dog! So big you’ll wonder how you’ll get it all in!

Osbaldo: I’ll catch up with you. Just want to get this potion brewing.

Gaia: Me too. *(after a few beats)* Hey, Osbaldo, when are you going to show me how to do some more magic stuff?

Osbaldo: Um, well, soon, Gaia.

Gaia: I mean, you’re supposed to be my mentor and stuff and I’ve mostly been a personal assistant for you and your hero mates.

Osbaldo: I know, I know. It’s just been a bit hectic around here, and I’ve never had an apprentice before, and now with this royal summons and all... but don’t worry. As soon as we get done with whatever Prince Sayrs wants, we can start on some more magic.

Gaia: Promise?

Osbaldo: Promise.
Gaia: Can I help with the potion?

Osbaldo: Eh, sure, why not?

Narrator: Osbaldo showed Gaia how to make the potion
Which may sound interesting but it was just a skin lotion

Osbaldo: I have bad eczema, okay?

Narrator: And off to the castle to see

Of what the prince and princess have need

Gaia, Charlie, Edgar: (sung tunelessly) Goin’ to the castle, got our travelin’ tunes, goin,
to the castle, hope we get there soon!

Osbaldo: Can it, we’re here!

Gaia: Wow, I’ve never been to Wetzel Keep before!

Charlie: It’s really nice, you’re gonna love it.

Attendant: Presenting the League of Light: Sir Charlie of the Buck Islands, Sir Edgar,
Sir Osbaldo of Stringtown, and their squire, Gaia.

Gaia: Hey, I’m so much more than a squire!

Sayrs: Ah, finally.

Osbaldo: Prince Sayrs, a pleasure to meet you at last (bows slightly, while Charlie
gives a ridiculous bow. Gaia gives a stiff courtesy while Edgar does nothing
but fiddle with his sword)

Sayrs: I see you got the memo then?

Osbaldo: Yes, your Grace. How may we be of assistance?

Sayrs: Well, it’s not really something I need, but, you see, Princess Fifi, she-

3. Enter Fifi
Fifi: Oh, have they arrived? (*Enter Fifi, who immediately offers her hand for the heroes to kiss*) They don’t look like great heroes, my love.

Sayrs: I can assure you, Fifi, they are the greatest heroes in all of Gliddenia.

Fifi: Oh. (*pauses*) My daddy says that heroes usually look more…

Edgar: Hero-ish? (*A large bang is heard in the distance as Charlie trips over himself trying to bow*)

Fifi: What was that?!

Sayrs: It was just this chap-

Attendant: Sir Charlie-

Sayrs: Falling over. Nothing to fret over.

Fifi: I feel faint now.

Charlie: Do you need help to your seat, Princess?

Fifi: Oh, thank you. (*Takes Charlie’s arm and sits*) Sorry, I get so weak sometimes. I just don’t know why… happens out of nowhere.

Charlie: Wow, that must be awful, Princess!

Fifi: It really is! What’s your name again?

Charlie: Sir Charlie Sheen!

Edgar: So, what did you need us for?

Sayrs: (*sighs*) Princess Fifi seems to believe-

Fifi: You know it’s true-

Sayrs: Knows, that there are assassins coming to get her.

Fifi: And I was hoping the League of Light would be so kind as to be my bodyguards until the wedding.
Osbaldo: What makes you think there are, er, assassins out to get you?

Fifi: There are always assassins out there… bad people in Bakervania who weren’t happy Daddy became king. I’m so worried they’ll be coming for me any day now.

Edgar: Why would they be coming for you?

Fifi: You don’t believe that a princess has enemies? That I wouldn’t look like a valuable target to some villains somewhere? Oh God, what if one is coming here now? Should we postpone the wedding?

Charlie: Don’t worry Princess! We can help.

Edgar: (muttering) I’m not so sure we can help this loony…

Fifi: You'll have to sign a contract.

Edgar: Really?

Fifi: Yes. Saying you'll be in my service as bodyguards forever.

Sayrs: Now, Fifi, my love, we agreed you would let these boys go after the wedding.

Fifi: But what if the people come for me after the wedding? What then?

Sayrs: As I keep telling you, you’ll be under the protection from the Kingsmen, the highest order of guards sworn to the crown. You will be just fine. Plus, I’m sure these men will have their own things to do.

Fifi: But will they be enough to protect me? Will they kill spiders for me?

Sayrs: I… I am sure they would.

Fifi: What about checking my food? Or making sure I don’t trip on the stairs? Or guard my bath from killers? Or-

Osbaldo: We will stay in your service until after the wedding.
Fifi: You have to sign the contract.

Sayrs: They will.

Fifi: So, you’ll stay in my service until after the wedding. Break it, and you’ll have committed treason against the crown and you’ll be beheaded! And if you try to run, I’ll send my daddy and his men after you. He’s not a man you should mess with. Before he was king, he was Head of Security for Bakervania. So he knows how to dispose of people who commit treason.

Gaia: Yikes…

Osbaldo: You have nothing to worry about, Princess. We’ll sign.

Charlie: I’ll protect you! You have my sword (*bows again, but doesn’t trip on himself this time*)

Gaia: (*under her breath to Edgar*) And my axe.

Fifi: Oh, good! I like you, Sir Charlie. Are you good with spiders?

Charlie: Yep! I’m good at scaring them off!

Fifi: And do you know your way around this castle?

Charlie: Yeah!

Fifi: You’re so kind and smart, thank you.

Edgar: (*whispers to Gaia*) Charlie? Smart? Ask him to tell you which shoe is his left one. Bet he still can’t. (*Gaia snorts fairly loudly*)

Fifi: What was that? Are you two making fun of me?


Harold: (*Entering*) Ah, the League of Light! I hear you’re going to be working for my
son and future daughter!

Osbaldo, Edgar, Charlie, Gaia: Your Grace (*slight bows*)

Harold: Now, now, no need for that. I suppose we will have to get you all settled so we can get right down to things!

Fifi: My King, I was wondering, what’s for dinner tonight?

Harold: According to my attendants, we are having a local dish, burritos from the chef at Casa Nueva!

Fifi: (*suspiciously*) What’s in them?

Harold: I believe tonight’s are local beef, roasted leeks, white cheese curds, and black beans. And rice. And the most delicious tortillas ever made!

Fifi: Oh I see (*makes a tutting noise*)

Sayrs: Something wrong, my love?

Fifi: Well, you see, I don’t eat meat. I told you that!

Sayrs: Ah.

Fifi: And I can’t have cheese; I’m allergic to dairy.

Harold: Oh.

Fifi: Also, I don’t eat gluten, because a scientist in Bakervania said that gluten contributes to cancer later in life. And bread makes you fat.

Charlie: Bread makes you fat?!

Edgar: I see.

Fifi: Is it possible to have mine with something other than the beef and the cheese?

And a gluten-free tortilla?

Harold: I’ll talk to my staff and make sure you get it. Attendant! Tell the kitchens.
Fifi: And I require a taste tester.

Edgar: Oh do you?

Fifi: Yes. One of you Light boys.

Edgar: And why would that be?

Fifi: What if someone tries to poison my food? Or spits in it? Or puts gluten in it?

Edgar: You can’t actually taste glu-

Fifi: Still. It needs done. You wouldn’t want me getting sick or having an allergic reaction or something? Why would you want to hurt me? I just don’t understand.

Charlie: I can do it, Princess!

Fifi: Excellent! I had a feeling you were the man for the job Charlie (he blushes)

Would you like to accompany me to the garden to look at flowers for the wedding?

Charlie: Sure!

Fifi: You can tell me all about yourself and your companions.

Charlie: Okay. Well, I was born a poor child on the Buck Islands and- (trails off as he and Fifi leave)

Osbaldo: Well, she seems…

4. Background Checks- Villains Abound

Sayrs: I should’ve mentioned this earlier, but Fifi interrupted. You all will have to submit background checks to be on her personal guard.

Osbaldo: Background checks?

Harold: Oh Sayrs, certainly we can skip this for them? They’re our nation’s greatest heroes! I can vouch for them personally!

Sayrs: Nevertheless, it is correct protocol and I know it would ease Fifi’s mind.
Gaia: *(whispers to Edgar)* Lord knows she could use something to ease her mind…

Harold: We can bypass this. Really, they’ve been in our service for over two years-

Sayrs: Father, rules are created to be followed. If we cut corners now, it could bite us
in the rear another time. No, background checks are required, I’m afraid.

Osbaldo: Oh, alright.

Sayrs: Very well. Shall we get this done and over with? *(exits with Edgar and Gaia)*

Harold: Osbaldo, a word really fast.

Osbaldo: Yes, Your Grace?

Harold: Should we be worried? About the… you know what.

Osbaldo: Nothing to worry about, I can assure you.

Harold: Okay. Phew. Just… don’t want that to get in the way of a festive time, you
know?

Osbaldo: Of course not.

Harold: So, best get you on your way. There is much to do yet for this wedding!

Narrator: Indeed there was much to do

Something old, something new,

something borrowed, something blue

And background checks too

But somewhere not far from the castle

There was new villainous hassle

The return of certain evil to our land

Though we aren’t totally sure what they have planned
Penelope: And you won’t know until we’re ready to show the world.

Benedict: Something wrong Penny?

Penelope: Nothing, nothing. Just talking to the narrator.

Benedict: Ah.

Penelope: Anyway, how are we doing with… everything?

Benedict: Quite well. Waiting from a report from- (a knock is heard) Ah, well, here we go. Come in!

Attendant: They’re in. They’re going to be working for Fifi just like you said.

Penelope: So she got our notes?

Attendant: She didn’t say specifically, but yes, she’s fearful.

Penelope: Of course she is. She’s the most paranoid person I’ve ever met. If someone told her rubber ducks were going to have a murderous uprising, she’d believe it and have them all destroyed.

Attendant: Sayrs also demanded the League of Light have background checks.

Penelope: (laughs) Rule-following brat. Oh, this is going better than I thought!

Benedict: So now we just have to get into the castle and get started with the next phase.

Attendant: I’ve already talked to the staff. You’re accepted straight away, Princess.

They need all the help they can get with this wedding. Such extravagance…

Penelope: Not a Princess anymore, Spratt. Just Penelope is fine.

Benedict: You’ll still come home at night, right?

Penelope: Of course. Too much planning still to do, too much fun to be had.
Attendant: It’s going to be hard work, Princess, er, Penelope.

Penelope: I’ll manage. It’s not stealing jewels and roughing up politicians, but it’ll be all right. Small acts of mischief defined my childhood, and what better way to cause some than by working inside the castle? A wise man once told me, “of all the things I hold in high regard, rules are not one of them.”

Benedict: Just… be careful? Timing is crucial here. With so much at stake there can be no mistakes.

Attendant: I should be getting back. They’ll notice if I’m gone too long.

Penelope: I’ll see you at the castle, Spratt. (Attendant nods and leaves) Well, then. This is going well.

Benedict: Nothing can stop us now, nothing we can foresee anyhow.

Penelope: That’s good enough for me. Ah, it’s so good being evil. (Benedict and Penelope laugh)

5. Tensions

Narrator: Meanwhile at Wetzel Keep

Our heroes were losing sleep

Working for Fifi turned out to be very tiring

Since she always believed assassins were conspiring

Against her and her life

And her panic caused our heroes strife

But they kept quiet and did as they were told

Otherwise it was them dear Fifi would scold
Fifi put the League of Light to work with her vision

Overseeing they met every single demand and provision

She had very specific requests about every little thing

Right down to what she expected every guest to bring

And they worked, a friendship formed between Charlie and Fifi

Which put a wrench between the rest of them you see

For the rest of the heroes thought Fifi was…

Gaia: God, she’s the worst! She’s had me folding napkins for hours! If they weren’t perfect, I had to start again. “Perfect triangles.” And I had to go get her dress even though she has handmaids for that. “But what if someone hides a dagger in it? Or leaves pins in? I need you to check.”

Edgar: Yeah, well, I was making sure the kitchens were completely gluten free. Even the faintest whisper of gluten makes her sick. I was helping the kitchen staff scrub the counters until they were practically brand new.

Gaia: She had me making sure every table had exactly 14 roses. 14. Freaking. Roses.

Edgar: I swear, the only reason anyone would want to steal her is for her crown.

Have you seen that thing? It’s gaudier than a Miley Cyrus concert!

Osbaldo: You two can’t talk about our employer like that!

Gaia: What, she’s not around.

Edgar: Since when did you become such a loyal lap dog?

Osbaldo: We’re heroes, hired to protect the Crown Prince and his bride. It’s supposed to be an honor.

Edgar: It’s horseshit is what it is.
Osbaldo: Look, just because she’s a bit frustrating-

Gaia: She’s bloody awful, you mean.

Osbaldo: Gaia, you cannot talk like that! Honestly. As your master, I’m telling you to shut it.

Gaia: Excuse me?

Osbaldo: Just… stop contradicting me. I expect a poor attitude from Edgar. But not you.

Charlie: *(as he and Fifi enter)* Oh that’s so funny, Princess!

Fifi: I know! *(laughs)* I told you to just call me Fifi though. You’re my most loyal helper. It’s okay!

Charlie: I have too much respect for you though. It just feels weird.

Fifi: Aww *(she pats his arm)* Where is everyone? We have some wedding planning to do! *(Harold, Maude, and Sayrs enter)* There is my love! *(she cuddles up on him, unafraid of the PDA. He does not react, but pats her gently as though to say her actions are inappropriate)*

Maude: So, shall we get started then? I assume the League of Light will also be joining us?

Osbaldo: If it pleases you, Your Majesty.

Edgar: *(muttering)* And gets me off my knees…

Harold: So, what’s been done so far?

Sayrs: Flowers, table settings, the kitchen staff have the menus-

Fifi: Which has some very nice gluten-free dairy-free organic vegetarian foods. 14
courses, as we do in Bakervania.

Sayrs: I took care of where to place the guards, making sure the priest is ready, and all the guests have rooms either in the castle or at the local inns.

Harold: So that just leaves music for the reception yes?

Sayrs: Yes.

Maude: It is traditional in Gliddenia for the newly weds to dance to something slow and then something fast to open the floor.

Fifi: What is traditional Gliddenia music like? (Some plays, with Fifi nodding or disproving as samples go by) What about this canon we use in Bakervania? (Canon in D plays, everyone gags or looks horrified)

Edgar: I think I’m going to puke (walks away. At this point, Penelope sneaks on stage and takes Fifi’s crown, unnoticed by everyone else. Edgar reenters)

Maude: I think Brahms would perhaps be better for the opening dance.

Harold: Only if we want guests to fall asleep.

Maude: Well we can’t roll out the dubstep so early in the night! We need a proper dance first!

Osbaldo: If I may, I know a fabulous small band out of Stringtown. They would be happy to perform for the reception.

Maude: We can’t pay them.

Osbaldo: They’d do it just for the exposure, I can assure you.

Sayrs: I would like something a little more up-tempo I think. A waltz?

(Shostakovich’s Waltz No. 2 or something similar is heard)
Fifi: That’s so depressing! What about something happy?

Gaia: How about some 90s pop music? No one can deny that’s fun music.

Osbaldo: Gaia, you’re my squire… quiet.

Fifi: Well, I’m sure we can settle on something. I’m going go lie down. All this arguing has given me a migraine. (goes to leave but comes back right away) Hey, where’s my crown?

6. Crown Gone- Tensions Increase

Sayrs: Wasn’t it on your head?

Fifi: It’s gone! Oh my god it’s gone!

Harold: But, where could it have gone? You were wearing it a few minutes ago?

Fifi: It was him! He took it! (points viciously at Edgar)

Edgar: What?

Fifi: You left for a few seconds when you heard the Bakervania National Canon! And my crown was there before then.

Edgar: I didn’t take your crown!

Osbaldo: Are you sure?

Edgar: What?

Osbaldo: Well, you did leave, and it was there before you left…

Edgar: I cannot believe you!

Maude: Osbaldo, can’t you do a spell or something to see if he has it?

Osbaldo: Oh, yes I could. One second. JABBERWOCKY. (Nothing happens because Edgar doesn’t have the crown. Penelope replaces the crown on Fifi’s head)

Edgar: See, I don’t have it.
Fifi: That doesn’t mean you didn’t take it! I know who you are! You’re the Dread Pirate Roberts! You stole lots of money and jewels from Bakervania! I bet this crown looked fantastic to a grubby pirate like you!

Edgar: I’m not the Dread Pirate anymore!

Fifi: Once a thief, always a thief!

Gaia: Your Majesty! Look! It’s on your head!

Sayrs: Oh, look. There it is.

Fifi: I… oh. Well, you may have gotten away with it this time, but I know you took it.

Maude: There, look, now stop shouting! Harold, we have things to do. I assume you all can figure out the music on your own?

Harold: Better go, much to do with foreign visitors and what not! (Harold and Maude exit)

Sayrs: Why don’t we just get a DJ?

Fifi: Fine, then we can have a variety of music. I don’t care. Ow, my head! (she pretends to faint)

Charlie: Princess!

Fifi: Oh, oh Charlie… can you help me to my room? I feel so weak…

Charlie: Don’t worry Princess. What can I do for you? CPR?

Fifi: No… get that pirate out of my sight! I don’t want to see him anymore! What a horrid man! How can he be one of your heroes? He’s awful (Charlie and Fifi exit as she sobs)

Edgar: What the hell!
Gaia: Did she really lose the crown on her own head?

Sayrs: I… did not know you were the Dread Pirate.

Edgar: Reformed. I’m not doing that stuff anymore.

Sayrs: Still. That’s not very heroic. Roberts did all kinds of terrible things at the height of his power.

Gaia: Yeah, but he’s not that guy anymore. So what’s the big deal?

Sayrs: The big deal is that it’s just… inappropriate for heroes to have also been pirates. If these contracts weren’t in place… well, must uphold the contract. Do my parents know who you are?

Osbaldo: I’m not sure what they know, actually.

Sayrs: I see. Well, I, um, I’m going to go now. This has been sufficiently awkward.

Edgar: Hasn’t it just though?

Osbaldo: Your Grace, I don’t think you need to worry about anything.

Sayrs: If you say so, I guess. This is just all disappointing. (He turns and leaves in a huff)

Edgar: Seriously, what the hell?

Narrator: Tensions were rising all over Wetzel Keep

For inside and out rumors were running deep

Thanks to the attendant Spratt and our bad guys

The heroic League of Light seemed to be a bunch of lies

Prince Sayrs did not like Edgar’s past one bit

But there was nothing to do but get on with it
Harold and Maude were worried with the rumors about
Because they were doomed if the truth got out
And so would be Osbaldo, Edgar, and Charlie
Gossip and scandal ruin heroes in Gliddenia you see
Now, pardon me, for a moment, ladies and gentlemen… when nature calls,
don’t hit ignore. (steps offstage)

(Penelope and Benedict come out into the audience, weapons drawn and bandanas
covering their faces)

Penelope: Alright, ladies and gentlemen, this is a good ole fashioned stick up. Put
your hands up!

Benedict: Don’t even think of leaving your seats! Let’s see some wallets.

7. Robbery!

(They harass the audience, picking on random people and taking things away from
them but giving them back their stuff calling most of it “useless” or just being
disgusted and disgruntled. They rough people up and even offer ransom on a
random audience member if they choose. Once they are done harassing the
audience, they look at each other and laugh while taking off their bandanas.
They could comment on people’s faces or anything else they consider
appropriate for their attack)

Benedict: (laughing hard) Get anything good?

Penelope: Nah (laughing) you? (He shakes his head and tries to catch his breath) Well,
we scared ‘em, so that’s what matters.

Benedict: The Fearsome Duo once again gets them! (he looks at her longingly for a
second) Hey, y’know, we’re a good team, you and me.

Penelope: And you’re just noticing this after two years?

Benedict: No, I’m just saying… you’re… pretty amazing. (She blushes but immediately straightens up) Do you ever think about… well, y’know…

Penelope: About what?

Benedict: Like… marriage.

Penelope: Marriage?

Benedict: Yeah, like… a future, and kids, and that stuff…

Penelope: (Laughs) What? Like, normal people?

Benedict: (laughs) Yeah, true, pretty, uh, pretty silly… (they both laugh a little more awkwardly before locking eyes for a split second) I’d have to stop kidnapping princesses, ha!

Penelope: Really? You want another princess?

Benedict: What? Stealing princesses was kind of my thing for a while.

Penelope: Really?

8. Love, Marriage, and Evil Plots

Benedict: Oh, yeah. Before I was a great narrator I was a common thief

Scraping by on whatever, stealing money, bread and meat

And one day I got it in my head to aim a little higher

Set my sights on a princess’s love and desire

But kidnapping princesses proved to be a tricky job

When most wouldn’t come willingly with such a poor slob

I was able to make away with a princess or two
More like four, if we’re speaking totally true

Time would pass and I would tire of the girls, though

I’d release them for a ransom and off they’d go

But eventually I stole a lovely princess named Claire

Beautiful and rich, bright green eyes and blonde hair

She seemed very interested in me for a little while

I couldn’t help but be a villain with a smile

But she proved to be a fake and left me for money

And that’s when I found myself feeling bitter and funny

So I developed some skills as a narrator and tried

To find some tales to tell, dragons and noble heroes who died

Until I found a story so dumb, so awful, I couldn’t resist it

For there was a greater prize than I could ever imagine in it

A new princess for me to take away

And here we are, what can I say?

You came with me so willingly I thought it a trap

And yet it’s around your finger I’m wrapped

Two years have gone by and we’ve committed many crimes

Penelope, in all that, there’s something I’ve wanted to say many times

I-

Narrator: Hey, wait one freaking second! The rhyming bit is my thing!

Benedict: It was mine first! Besides, why are you just noticing it? I’ve been rhyming

for a good 20 lines!
Narrator: I was in the bathroom! I couldn’t hold it a minute longer!

Benedict: Well, that’s your own bloody fault, you miserable narrating cow.

Narrator: You’re not that good anyhow!

Benedict: I blame the writer of this show.

Narrator: Just a cop out, you know.

Benedict: You’d be surprised-

Penelope: Anyway, narrators, you’re both… fine. Fine narrators. Now, can we get back to the story? Jeebus, what is it with these shows and all the derailments?

Damn! We’ve got to get our stuff ready for Operation Bells Will Ring!

Benedict: I don’t remember settling on that name.

Penelope: Well we did. So there.

Benedict: I’m pretty sure we-

Penelope: WE ARE NOT RESURRECTING THIS GAG FROM THE LAST SHOW.

(pauses) Sorry, I… what was it you were going to say? Before the Narrator came back?

Benedict: Oh, that. Well… um… I was thinking… maybe after this whole dismantling a government thing we could, uh, retire. Y’know, like, get a little cottage somewhere by the sea and stuff.

Penelope: Retire? But what we do in retirement?

Benedict: I don’t know, um… like, get m-m-married and-

Penelope: You’d… marry me?

Benedict: (nods) Yeah.

Penelope: All like, Ozzie and Harriet and such?
Benedict: I was thinking more Frank and Claire Underwood.

Penelope: (*Pauses for a beat or two*) Of course, y’know, marriage and kids would mean we’d have to find more sensible lines of work.

Benedict: I do think robbing trains and plotting the destruction of nations tends to be difficult when one is raising children.

Penelope: Yeah, so much we’d have to give up…

Benedict: No more blowing up buildings…

Penelope: Torturing rich politicians…

Benedict: Stealing candy from babies…

Penelope: Shouting Game of Thrones spoilers in bars…

Benedict: Dismantling nations…

Penelope: Yeah… that would be rough.

Benedict: But, it’s not to say we still can’t have fun somewhere quiet. Not full on villainy, but… scaled back stuff, maybe. It’ll be hard to top the destruction of Gliddenia, if you think about it.

Penelope: This is very true… and, um, Benedict, I…

Benedict: Yes?

Penelope: I’m… well… (*speaks really fast*) I think I may be in lesbians with you!

Benedict: Sorry?

Penelope: I think I have… feelings about you. Like, l- lo- lur- lesbians? That L word thing.

Benedict: Oh? I think I am, too. That L word thing.
Penelope: Yes, thank you. We should, uh, we should get on our way. We have a lot of work to do before the wedding.

Benedict: Right, right.

Narrator: So Penelope went back to her day job in the kitchen

   Fear and panic were buzzing in the ears of all who would listen

   Penelope knew the next target in their plan

   And relied on him being a much too honest man

Attendant: Prince Sayrs, there is a visitor for you from downstairs.

Sayrs: Can’t you deal with it?

Attendant: She says it’s urgent and she will only speak with you.

Penelope: (In disguise as a kitchen maid) Your Grace, I know it’s not my place-

Sayrs: What do you want, wench?

Penelope: His Grace is right, calling me that, sir, yes sir… I have heard something most… unsettling… might I speak to Your Grace alone sir? If you please sir?

Sayrs: Unsettling? How?

Penelope: (in a strained whisper) It’s about your bodyguards, the League of Light.

Sayrs: (Brow furrows) Go on.

Penelope: Not here sir! They can’t know I told you sir! Tis a bad, bad thing they done.

Sayrs: I can’t get away from them easy.

Penelope: I can distracts them, sir. Trust me! Hop-scotch! (With the code word
spoken, Benedict creates a mildly vulgar distraction, running away with Gaia, Osbaldo, and Edgar chasing him). This way, sir, I’ll bring you back safe, sir.

(They exit together, Sayrs looking skeptical of the kitchen wench)

Edgar: What the hell was that? A poltergeist?

Osbaldo: Probably some stupid castle servant game trying to goad us.

Gaia: Guys, where’s the prince? He’s missing!

9. Arguments- Uncouth Truths

Osbaldo: What? How?!

Gaia: I don’t know! Edgar was supposed to be watching him.

Edgar: Why would I? You were all going to send me away because the princess “had her crown stolen.” Even though she just lost it… on top of her head…

Osbaldo: Where’s Charlie?

Edgar: Probably off with Fifi like he always is.

Fifi: (entering with Charlie) And so, because they made fun of me, Daddy had them beheaded.

Charlie: But did they actually give you the wheat pasta? Those servants?

Fifi: Who cares? They’re gone now! (looks at the horrified other three heroes) What’s going on? Why is everyone so quiet?

Osbaldo: N-no reason, Princess…

Fifi: What’s going on? Is someone sick?! Oh god, I feel faint… Where’s my fiancé?

Osbaldo: He’s, uh-

Edgar: Just stepped out for a bit. He’ll be back here shortly.
Fifi: Oh. Why are you still here? (points to Edgar)

Osbaldo: He was just leaving, in fact.

Edgar: Was I, though?

Gaia: Oh look, a giant bird coming this way!

Fifi: (screams) Oh god, where? I gotta get out of here! Birds are the devil! (runs away)

Osbaldo: (stern look) Gaia.

Gaia: What? She’s gone. Now we can try to find her boy-toy without her hanging on like a leech.

Osbaldo: You-you can’t talk about royalty that way!

Gaia: Can and just did!

Edgar: Bicker all you want, but where is the Crown Prince?

Charlie: Did he Apparate? (everyone stares at him confused) Like, y’know, Harry Potter?

Osbaldo: What the hell are you on about?

Charlie: It’s this thing that Fifi-

Edgar: Ugh, again with the Fifi shit…

Charlie: I don’t see why you all hate her so much! She’s nice!

Edgar: You think everyone is nice, you lunatic! You think everyone and everything is just brilliant and fascinating all the bloody time! I mean, Jeebus, you think watching paint dry is brilliant! You’re just… you’re just so stupid Charlie!

Charlie: Well, you’re… not a nice man! (Chokes back tears)

Osbaldo: Stop it, Edgar.
Edgar: Oh piss off, you drafty twat.

Charlie: Yeah, p-p-piss off. You think I’m dumb too, don’t you Osbaldo?

Osbaldo: No, I… well…

Charlie: Fifi said you did! You’re not so smart either Baldy!

Osbaldo: Don’t call me that!

Gaia: Yeah, Charlie, don’t call Mr. Lap Dog here that. He can’t stand being made fun of.

Osbaldo: We’re a bloody team! We shouldn’t be fighting!

Edgar: Team? What team? That psycho princess accuses me of stealing her crown, and instead of defending me, you all side with her!

Osbaldo: You were commenting on how much it was worth the other day.

Edgar: In jest! I don’t steal things anymore. I’m not a bloody pirate king… I was with you assholes in the League of Light! I gave up my life for you jerks!

Osbaldo: So you wouldn’t go to jail!

Edgar: And after all we’ve been through, after all the bullshit… I’m done with this.

Gaia: Wait, what…?

Edgar: I quit! Screw you! Keep your heroic League of Little Bitches! I’m out.

Gaia: Edgar, please don’t go!

Osbaldo: You can’t leave anyway. Not ‘til after the wedding, after we’ve fulfilled our contract.

Edgar: See you at the wedding, then. But after that… I’m quitting this hero bullshit.

Osbaldo: Fine. Whatever. I don’t care!
Charlie: You’re all so… not brilliant! *(Charlie wails as Sayrs enters looking very pale and confused)* Your Grace!

Sayrs: What? Oh. It’s… it’s you gents. Yes, well, good day.

Gaia: Wait, where’d you go? We’re supposed to be guarding you!

Sayrs: I… um… well… it’s nothing. I’m fine. Have… have you seen my mother?

*(Everyone shakes their heads)* Oh, well, never you mind, then. As you were.

Osbaldo: Sir, you can’t go off like that without telling us.

Sayrs: I know, I know, I-

Fifi: *There you are!* *(enters again)* I was worried. You weren’t in your room or in the library or-

Sayrs: Well I’m here now, my love *(kisses her cheek)* League of Light, do you mind giving me some time alone with my wife to be?

Osbaldo: As you wish, sir.

Sayrs: Maybe you can cheer up that one *(gestures to a silently bawling Charlie who is being comforted by Gaia)*. Back to your posts. *(League of Light members leave, Edgar and Osbaldo glaring daggers at each other)*. Fifi, my darling, now that we’re alone…

Fifi: Where did you go? I was so worried! You can’t leave me like that! What if you died? Or were injured? Or kidnapped?

Sayrs: Well, I… I sort of was taken.

Fifi: What?!

Sayrs: No, nothing serious. But this kitchen servant, she… she told me something
disturbing.

Fifi: Tell me everything.

Sayrs: Basically… this kitchen maid told me that she had solid evidence the League of Light… it’s too disturbing.

Fifi: Go on, my love.

Sayrs: She told me they killed my sister on my parent’s request!

Fifi: *(gasps really loudly)* But, why? Why would they do that?

Sayrs: She said that Penelope was going to reveal the truth about my parents’ war in Bentley, all these atrocities and that…

Fifi: Your parents had their own daughter killed to cover up more crimes?

Sayrs: So this maid says.

Fifi: But how can you be sure she’s telling the truth? What if it’s all some kind of conspiracy by enemies of the League?

Sayrs: She… she had the confession speech Penelope wrote… and it had bloodstains on it. *(Fifi gasps again and appears to weaken a bit)* I… think it’s the truth.

Fifi: So what do we do?

Sayrs: We’ll just have to be very careful around those League chaps…

10. Wedding Day

Narrator: The next few days leading to the wedding were very tense

The League of Light’s reputation as heroes was on the fence

Sayrs met the kitchen wench a few more times

And learned more about his parents and the League’s crimes

All around Gliddenia rumors spread like wildfire
Rallies and marches formed, justice and truth their desire
Who killed Penelope and was all the hero mania
Used to cover up the true corruption of Gliddenia
Unhappy people gathered for the big ceremony
Most people believing their heroes and royalty were phonies
But wedding bells rang out from the Wetzel Keep tower
And our heroes reunited though with each other they were sour
Their arguments had only continued to rage
And a rift formed between pirate, fighter, and mage
They did not speak or see each other until the wedding day
Though they did not appear to have much to say

Gaia: Hi Osbaldo, hi Edgar.
Osbaldo: Hm.
Gaia: How’s uh… everyone? (grunts, awkward silence)

Charlie: Wow, look at all the people. Everyone’s turned up! Look, there’s even great
Ser Reilly! He left Retirement Land for this!

Attendant: (as Harold, Maude, and Sayrs enter) Presenting King Harold of House
Trachsel, First of His Name, Lord Protector of Gliddenia, and Ruler of the
Realm. Presenting Queen Maude of House Suk, First of Her Name.

Presenting the Crown Prince Sayrs of House Trachsel, Third of His Name.

Maude: It’s almost time. I expect that you all will be prepared to stop any

interruptions that may occur?
Osbaldo: Yes, Your Majesty.

Harold: It’s a restless people we greet today. The rumors… dear me.

Edgar: We can handle it, Your Majesty. I know just what you mean about rumors.

Maude: Well, let’s get this over with. Dear Lord, I’ll be a mother-in-law. Pray they don’t have children… or, at least, that they end up more like me and less like her.

Harold: Ah, look, the priest.

Benedict: (disguised as a priest) Good day to you, Your Majesties. I’m Father Mike Hunt.

Edgar: Sorry, what was your name?

Benedict: Mike Hunt. Anyway, shall we get the ceremony going?

Narrator: And now, the wedding march sounds

But as the guests turn around

An interruption came in a loud style

With Fifi walking down the aisle

(A loud bang is heard as Fifi is grabbed by the kitchen wench. Guests panic while the League of Light is hit with powerful attacks that paralyze them)

Narrator: The music changed to a darker tone

For the villain had come but not alone

(Benedict and Penelope take off their disguises and laugh maniacally, Penelope still holding Fifi hostage)

11. Villains Revealed

Penelope: Prepare for trouble.
Benedict: Make it double!

Penelope: To protect the world from-

Narrator: Hey, hey, hey, I’ma let you finish, but we’re getting to grey areas here.

Penelope: Grey areas?

Narrator: Yeah. That whole dialogue is copyright. We can’t mess with that!

Benedict: But we’ve already-

Narrator: Sorry, villains, try a different entrance.

Penelope: (groans) Fine.

Benedict: I swear… this is because you hate me.

Narrator: It’s copyright stuff. And yeah, you suck.

Penelope: Can we please get back to our business please? Thank you. Maestro, the wedding music again? No? Oh well. Uh-oh! Here come the bad guys!

Attendant: A good save, Penelope!

Sayrs: Penelope! You’re… you’re… you’re alive!

Penelope: I am.

Sayrs: You’re that awful kitchen wench?

Penelope: Amazing how poorly you treat your inferiors, brother mine. Even Spratt thinks so.

Harold: The attendant? He’s in on it?

Penelope: Hello, Daddy.

Harold: My baby-

Penelope: Oh, save it. Your cover is blown! It’s time the nation knows the truth!
Benedict: Penelope didn’t die. I didn’t kill her. And the king and queen covered up her disappearance with the help of the League of Light. Rumors of our demise were greatly exaggerated.

Gaia: Is this true, Osbaldo?

Harold: You were gone for several weeks! There was no sign of you! You stole our baby girl!

Benedict: Did I, though?

Maude: Whatever it was, you were gone, not coming back.

Benedict: Ah, but we did come back to you.

Penelope: When we found out about your dirty deals with the Land of Chubb and Aldenistan.

Gaia: Aldenistan? The evil communist nation who murders their people by the thousands?

Benedict: Indeed. It would seem your king and queen has been colluding with them all these years.

Sayrs: It… can’t be true.

Penelope: They made it look like I was dead after I told them what I knew, Sayrs. They sent Benedict and I on the run.

Benedict: Because we knew about the genocides and wars and illegal dealings of performance-enhancing drugs and Adderall.

Penelope: Why else do you think there were no heroes in Gliddenia?

Benedict: Because they never get tenure! And also drugs.
Penelope: And the Land of Chubb? Well, they were helping you uproot all kinds of nations for years, helping you buy out land for your clinics and ivory towers. It was death by bureaucracy!

Benedict: Ser Riley was in on it, too. That’s why he went to Retirement Land.

Fifi: Please, let me go! Wait until my father hears about this!

Penelope: Silence, you bumbling moron! Your daddy’s part of it too!

Benedict: We know your daddy is only king because he, with the help of agents from Gliddenia, bumped off all the other successors to the Bakervania throne.

Fifi: That’s not true!

Penelope: It is, in fact.

Sayrs: You’re colluding with Aldenistan and the Land of Chubb? But, Father, they’re… they’re the most evil nations in the world! How could you?

Harold: I… We… We had no choice! (large gasps) Aldenistan made us an offer too good to pass up.

Benedict: Would you call it an offer you can’t refuse?

Maude: But it doesn’t take away what monsters you and Penelope have become!

Penelope: Monsters? You’re the monsters! Sending your own people to die for your false nation! The poor starve and get poorer while you rich get richer all the time!

Benedict: And now the world knows.

Gaia: But, what does the League of Light have to do with it?

Attendant: The League of Light never found Benedict and Princess Penelope. They just took the credit for their defeat.
Sayrs: You lot were… were involved?

Penelope: They were just pawns in Gliddenia’s greatest cover up. As far as the rest of the nation knows, they killed me. But… just for good faith, I think we’ll kill Fifi instead.

Fifi: No!

Sayrs: Sister, no! Please!

Penelope: What do you even see in her, brother mine? She’s annoying as hell! I’ve never met a more high maintenance princess besides Mom!

Charlie: You’re not going to harm her!

Penelope: And how will you stop me, Forrest Gump? Notice you’re still frozen.

Gaia: Oh, hell no! Not for much longer. KAMEHAMEHA! (she breaks out)

12. Battle Music

(Benedict and Gaia square off in a magic duel. Charlie rushes to Fifi as Penelope uses her secret weapon on her: slices of bread. Fifi panics as Penelope rubs the bread on her and she falls down nearly dead. Edgar and Osbaldo fight the Attendant, who is struck down and dies. Edgar and Osbaldo then move to Penelope. Panic ensues. Benedict manages to kill the king in the battle before Gaia gravely injures him; Penelope and Benedict flee. On the way out, Benedict pauses the fight to taunt/attack the Narrator in a mild way. Maude screams.)

13. Death and Sadness

Penelope and Benedict: (as they are leaving) No king, no king, la la la la la la!

Charlie: Oh my God, they killed the King! THOSE BASTARDS!
Sayrs: Please, help me, save my bride! And my father!

Osbaldo: King Harold is totally dead I’m afraid… but for Fifi, I’ll try… she’s nearly
dead. SHAGLEBARBEN (the spell magically revives Fifi)

Fifi: Oh, thank you! (coughs) I told you gluten was bad for me!

Charlie: Princess you’re okay!

Fifi: I am! Go get those bad guys Charlie!

Osbaldo: You want us to go?

Edgar: C’mon, we gotta get them! Who else is going to catch them?

Sayrs: Go! Bring them back here! They killed my father! They must pay! Swift and
painful justice!

Narrator: Now this is the part of our tale that gets quite a bit dark…

In life there are moments where comedy turns to tragedy
And in our tale of heroes and villains it had to happen as you’ll see
I’m going to step back and let the darkness in
Interrupting the natural flow of things can be a sin

Benedict: (coughs, puts hands over wound in stomach, but tries to limp along) Not
much farther, now. We’re almost to the hiding spot!

Penelope: Benedict… you’re-you’re bleeding… bad…

Benedict: It’s okay, ‘cause we’re almost there-

Penelope: Benedict-

Benedict: Don’t worry, I think we still have some of that healing sap from the
woodland witch. It won’t be long now. (coughs again, falls over from pain and
exhaustion)

Penelope: We’re not going to make it with you like this.

Benedict: But, we’re so close!

Penelope: Well, just look at the wound! Look at yourself! (Benedict looks at his stomach)

Benedict: Oh… yeah… that’s definitely not a flesh wound.

Penelope: No, it’s not! That… that wound is bad.

Benedict: But we can keep going, we can try! We-

Penelope: Nothing to be done. This thing is gonna kill you slowly. This kind of magic… she’s got some skills that one… it’s not good.

Benedict: Oh. (pauses, looks out towards the cliffs) Y’know, Athens is nice this time of year.

Penelope: (Smiles, pulls something from her pocket then turns back to Benedict) Oh yeah? I can see the little cottage there.

Benedict: Yeah (coughs) With a covered porch to look out over the sea.

Penelope: And you and me, sitting by the fire at night…

Benedict: Couple kids, maybe?

Penelope: Our little bit of a fairy tale ending.

Benedict: (coughs some more) I can see it now, too… y’know, Penelope I-

Penelope: I know-

Benedict: The L word thing. Love you.

Penelope: Oh, Benedict… me too. (covers his face and smothers him. Benedict dies)
with little struggle. She wipes the lone tear from her eyes as she hears the heroes approach. She stiffens and moves to the edge of the cliff. She points her weapon at them) Not another goddamn steps, pigs.

Osbaldo: Penelope! You’re hereby under arrest-

Penelope: No, I’m not.

Edgar: There’s nowhere left to go. (notices Benedict’s body) What happened to…?

Penelope: Benedict’s story came to an end.

Gaia: Did you-

Penelope: Your spell was too much. He was going to die regardless of what help he could get.

Charlie: You killed your own boyfriend?

Penelope: He’s not my boyfriend! He’s… (she turns away) What do you freaks want anyway? There’s nothing left for you. The battle is over, you’re all disgraced, and soon enough Gliddenia will be nothing but ashes and anarchy.

Charlie: We’re going to take you back to the castle and have you face justice for what you’ve done! (Penelope laughs and spits towards Charlie)

Gaia: Look, it’s over for you. With your boyf- er, partner dead, we saved Fifi, there’s nowhere to run. Your reign of terror is done.

Osbaldo: Come with us-

Penelope: And what? Go to trial? Hang as a traitor and a murderer?

Osbaldo: There’s nothing left.

Penelope: How’d you even leave the castle? It was a wreck.
Edgar: We have two mages on our side.

Charlie: Fifi’s fine, by the way.

Penelope: Huh. Maybe you all weren’t so useless after all. *(Pauses and takes a step closer to the edge, small chuckle)* You guys want to know how we managed to get away the first time?

Gaia: *(Looks at Osbaldo concerned)* How? Y’know there’s an edge there-

Penelope: There’s a hidden room in that giant oak tree. Pull the third branch from the bottom and there it is. I used to hide in there as a kid when Sayrs and his friends would harass me or when I just wanted to make plans. Planning is the fun part, really. Once you three got close to finding us, Benedict and I went and hid in there for the night. Grabbed the first train out of Gliddenia and waited. Spent a year gaining money and followers, spent it giving you all small villains and monsters to look more like heroes…*(laughs)* we watched you get famous. And once you were big hits, we just came back and started spreading doubt in everyone’s mind. “Are those boys really as good as they say? What if they killed the princess as a cover?” I knew we could play on my brother’s honest nature. He would doubt you and wouldn’t trust you if your reputation was tarnished. Just feed him a little bit about your pasts and wait. Once Sayrs believed you all were just a bunch of liars and killers and greedy bastards, bam! Destroy the wedding! The country would be in chaos! The king is dead! Mass hysteria! Bump Fifi off, because, well, you met her.

Edgar: But, why?

Penelope: Why? What do you mean why?
Edgar: Why go through all that effort if you just wanted to kill us?

Penelope: Ah, but why not? We could get you and the nation in one swoop! It worked! Mostly. Somehow, you all stopped the final notes of our symphony of destruction. Sayrs probably still hates you.

Osbaldo: Surprisingly enough, he doesn’t. He sent us.

Penelope: Regardless, what’s left? The nation is torn apart in rebellions and riots. No one trusts the monarchs anymore. You four hate each other. What are you even protecting? Where’s the heroic honor in what you do? You know what my parents did, sending all those people to die for more land and money. All that paperwork… what a tragic way to die. You’ve seen the bureaucracy at its finest! But you defend them!

Charlie: For Gliddenia! That’s our home! It’s not all bad!

Penelope: Well, keep it, then. Keep the wreck it is. *(looks at the edge and her fallen partner)* You’re right; there’s nothing left here for me anymore. Farewell, fuckers! *(jumps off edge of cliff and dies).*

Charlie: Princess!

Gaia: Jeebus, this got dark!

Osbaldo: We… we’d better get back to the castle. Tell Sayrs what happened.

*14. The End?*

Narrator: And so they returned to see the new king

About the death of his sister as the mourning bells ring

The country mourned Harold despite his crimes
And Sayrs did what he could to calm the nation in these dark times
The wedding ceremony was done privately and small
Only a few witnesses in all
Rebellions and troubles were quelled and quashed with the truth
And honest King Sayrs worked to eliminate the corrupt and uncouth
It was a slow process, repairing such a deep wound
It would take a long time to get the nation recovered and returned
And what of our heroes? Well they had to move on
Their contracts ended not after too long
But if they would fix their friendships remained unclear
Harsh words can never be taken back I fear
And with the nation in the middle of its darkest hour
We’ve reached the end of our tale, though it is quite sour

Charlie: Wait! This can’t end on a down note! This is a comedy show! Well, sort of.
Osbaldo: I’m afraid that’s life, Charlie. It’s not all fairy tale endings and happily ever after. Some things don’t end cheerily.
Charlie: Yeah, but this did. Sort of.
Gaia: How d’you mean?
Charlie: We defeated the bad guys! Not in like a fancy baddie goes down way but we did it! And Sayrs is king now! He’s stopped the nasty bureaucracy! And Fifi is pregnant!
Gaia: Well, she at least is nauseous all the time… I doubt she’s preggers.
Charlie: We worked together again and we will help make the nation pretty again!

Yeah sure, it wasn’t perfect. But villains die all the time in stories! And the nation is coming back together despite the chaos! And yeah it’s gonna be slow and it’s not easy but that’s okay! Maybe it didn’t go the way we planned but in time things will be great again!

Edgar: Y’know, Charlie, I… can’t believe I’m saying this, but I agree with you.

Osbaldo: Really?

Edgar: Yep. Somehow Charlie went from being a real dolt to saying something, well, really insightful.

Charlie: I told you I could!

Osbaldo: Well, bully for Charlie!

Charlie: Maybe fairy tale endings aren’t real but that doesn’t mean this isn’t gonna be a happy one for us. Maybe life is kind of weird and-

Osbaldo: and depressing and shitty and unfair-

Gaia: and dark sometimes-

Charlie: But it all works out in the end. Maybe not right away like we want or the way we planned, but it works out.

Gaia: Hell yeah Charlie!

Edgar: Wow. I feel like a learned something.

Gaia: Ditto.

Edgar: Must be the moral of the story or something.

Osbaldo: So what now?
Charlie: Um…

Gaia: We work to make the best of the shit around us. It won’t be easy and we won’t always be happy. But we just keep going and work to make Gliddenia and ourselves whole again.

Osbaldo: So, are we gonna bring back the League?

Charlie: Yeah! We gotta! We worked together to beat Penelope and Benedict! We were brilliant! Look at us! We can do anything!

Osbaldo: True.

Charlie: I’m sorry for the stuff I said, Osbaldo.

Osbaldo: Me too. You’re not that dumb, Charlie.

Charlie: I love you guys!

Gaia: I love you, too, Charlie! (they hug) And you, Baldy!

Osbaldo: Er, I… (Charlie and Gaia hug him) I… oh, alright, I love you guys, too.

Charlie: We’re a family. The only family I got.

Osbaldo: Edgar? How about you? We’re all sorry about… I’m really sorry about the stuff I said. I know you’re not a pirate anymore.

Edgar: So you admit you were being a giant kiss ass?

Osbaldo: I do. So, what do you say? Shall we reunite the League of Light?

Edgar: Yeah, yeah. Let’s do it.

Gaia and Charlie: Yay! (awkwardly create a group hug)

Edgar: It’s weird; I’ve got this feeling. Like… a song is coming on…

Osbaldo: I feel it too… hm.

Gaia: Do you hear that?
Charlie: Yay! A song!

15. Life is Kind of Shitty (But It All Works Out)

All: Well I guess some days are bad

Some days you wake up you’re so mad
You try and try your best
But you just seem to stay sad
I guess the best laid plans
Can be a bait and switch
And happy people even say
Life is a real bitch
Even in the sunshine
There can be a few dark clouds
And it’s scary out there
But you stay strong and stay proud
The heroes don’t always win
And there’s so much you’re unsure about
But trust me when I say
Life is kind of shitty but it all works out
Sometimes you’re the villain
And sometimes you’re the king
And sometimes you don’t know
What exactly it is you bring
Well even in the sunshine
You can see a few dark clouds
But sing once more, with feeling
Life is kind of shitty but it all works out
Life is kind of shitty
It isn’t always pretty
And maybe it’s a pity
But that’s the truth of it
You may wake up tomorrow
And put away your sorrows
Or have to beg and borrow
Just to make the best of it
So even in the darkness
You can find a little light
Just face it all with your bravest face
Life’s a bitch but it’ll be alright
I know it isn’t easy
To believe in happy endings
When you’re stuck in the battle
And the future is still pending
Maybe you can’t see it
Through the bleakness and the clouds
Maybe you’re sad
Or really fucking mad
Or just feeling bad
But you can sing it loud and proud
Life is kind of shitty but it all works out

Narrator: And there you go folks! From all of us here we bid you adieu

We have some repairs and feasting and fixing to do
Life may be difficult and may suck giant donkey balls
But there is not light without darkness at all
So even when you think there is no hope at all
When you’re rattled with demons and feel so small
Face your darkness and accept that it sucks
And that soon you will be able to turn around your luck
That’s the lesson we should all take home today
And from all us, we’ll see you another time, another day!

All: Life is kind of shitty but it all works out!

16. Curtain Music

(During the curtain music, instead of doing a group bow, characters can come forward

as the Narrator presents their “happy endings.”)

Narrator: (Sayrs and Fifi take center stage) King Sayrs of House Trachsel and Queen Fifi were just and kind rulers of Gliddenia, ending ties with vile nations of Aldenistan and the Land of Chubb. They fixed the nation and went on to have the highest approval ratings of any king or queen ever. The Reconstruction of
Gliddenia led to an age of enlightenment, good music, and general happiness throughout the land. They had one child, Andy, of House Trachsel. Fifi remained horrified of bread until her dying day.

(Pause to let Fifi and Sayrs move to the side of the stage. Maude takes center stage)

Queen Maude mourned her husband briefly, but decided that grief did not suit her. She traveled around Gliddenia during the Reconstruction, and during her travels she fell madly in love with Lord Francis of House Boyer. (Harold removes his wig to represent Lord Francis) They married, and Maude spent her twilight years having a grand old time, if you catch my drift.

(Maude and Harold move to the side of the stage opposite of Fifi and Sayrs. Penelope and Benedict take center stage)

Penelope and Benedict obviously went to Hell. Once they arrived, Satan decided they made better assets than he could ever have imagined. Because Penelope killed herself, she was sent to work at the BMV in Ohio. Benedict and Penelope ended up winning many a soul for Satan while also spawn two demons of their own.

(After love theme quote, Penelope and Benedict move back. Gaia takes center stage)

Gaia finished her apprenticeship and joined the League of Light as the second mage. She became a world famous dancer in between hero gigs, where she met and successfully seduced Taylor Swift. They married and got divorced 7 years later, which spawned Taylor’s brilliant multi-Grammy winning album,
Dancing with the Devil.

(Gaia moves to the side, Edgar takes center stage.)

Edgar stayed with the League of Light for another 15 years. After running into some other former pirates, they decided to band together, though opted for a more legal trade. He sailed home where he was reunited with his one true love, Buttercup. They reconciled their time apart and lived happily ever after, as you wish.

(Edgar moves to the side, Charlie comes forward)

Charlie thinks everyone involved in this show is brilliant and he couldn’t be happier. He worked both with the League of Light and as Fifi’s personal bodyguard. He died happy in his sleep at the ripe old age of 109.

(Charlie moves to the side, Osbaldo takes center stage)

Osbaldo and the League of Light accomplished many great things. They were paramount voices in the Reconstruction of Gliddenia and the following age of enlightenment. When he retired from the League of Light, Osbaldo started his own mage school in Gliddenia. Gaia helped him out as a professor. Osbaldo eventually married Liza the barmaid and had 22 children. His memoir, the Well-Tempered Mage, remains one of the most popular books ever written (take that 50 Shades of Grey)!

And as for me? Well, I’m still alive and still a better narrator than Benedict!

[FIN]
INSTRUMENTATION

- Clarinet in Bb/ Clarinet in A
- Cello
- Percussion (Vibraphone, Woodblocks, Train Whistle, Snare Drum, Wind Chimes)
- Piano
- For wedding planning scene/sound effects: iPad or computer

For “Life is Kind of Shitty,” performers have the option of using the instruments in the main part of the score or choosing other instruments (e.g., ukulele, guitar, accordion, toy piano, bass, banjo, etc.).

Duration: about 1 hour, 15 minutes
THE CHROMATIC FALL-SCORE

1. Prologue

A. Scebbi

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Vamp from "Jeebus where'd they go" to "What do we tell who"

Vamp from "so there's no sign" until "ruined Gliddenia"

"No one can know the truth. Ever"
Vamp from "have you seen this" until "of course we will"

Explosion here
Gravely, brooding ($= 80$)

Segue to Narration 1
2. Narration- Royal Summons

Allegro (M.M. \( \frac{\text{d}}{\text{d}} = \text{c.} 120 \))

Narrator begins
Narration - Royal Summons

Quick and Light (♩= 136)
Start at "Hey Osbaldo"; If needed, repeat entire section until "what prince and princess have need"
3. Enter Fifi

**Lightly** $\frac{3}{8} = 136$

Begin at Fifi's 1st line "oh have they arrived"  

Vamp until "you'll have to sign a contract"

Cello

Vibraphone

Grave ($\frac{3}{8} = 159$)  
Vamp until "we'll sign"

**Lightly** $\frac{3}{8} = 136$

Pause  
Back in at "you have nothing to worry about"

**Lightly** $\frac{3}{8} = 136$

Fade until "oh I see"
4. Background Checks- Villains Abound

Lightly (\(\frac{4}{4}=136\))

\[\text{Cello}\]
\[\text{Vibraphone}\]
\[\text{Piano}\]

Vamp from "I should've mentioned this" to Narrator's "indeed there was"

\[\text{rit.}\]

\[\text{9}\]

\[\text{17}\]
Vamp from "anyway how's everything" to "it's so good being evil"

Gently scrape nail or coin on the piano strings parallel to the keyboard, crescendo and decrescendoing

Segue to No. 5
5. Tensions

Allegro (M.M. \( \frac{4}{4} = c. 120 \))

Clarinet in A

Percussion

Piano

Woodblocks

If needed, vamp this until Gaia's line
"God she's the worst!"

Moderato ($\frac{4}{4} = 81$

Start this at Charlie and Fifi's entrance until "what is traditional Gliddenia music" immediate cut off

Wind chimes; play randomly through this section
6. Crown gone - Tensions Increase

Play after "hey where's my crown"

**Presto (♩=300)**

"Oh my god it's gone!"
6. Crown gone- Tensions Increase

Vamp until "oh look there it is" if needed

Grave(=60)

Start at Charlie and Fifi's exit and make last until narrator speaks

Start at "tensions rising"

Vamp until "pardon me"
7. Robbery!

Presto ($\text{c}=100-120$)

Vamp under robbing of the audience

When end of scene is reached, finish vamp and play tag
8. Love, Marriage, and Evil Plots

Tender in that Ironic Way (♩=77)

Start at Benedict's monologue "Before I was..."

Vamp until the Narrator interrupts

Pause for narrator arguments

Vamp from "sorry I" until "Right right"

Play until Penelope shouts Hopscotch
9. Arguments- Uncouth Truths

Moderato \( \frac{4}{4} \text{c. 108} \)
Start after Gaia says the prince is missing to when Fifi and Charlie enter

Clarinet in A

Vibraphone

Cello

Quotation \( \frac{4}{4} \text{c. 108} \)
"Like Harry Potter?"

Andante \( \frac{4}{4} \text{c. 108} \)
Back in at Sayrs's entrance

Vamp from "now we're alone" to "careful around those League chaps"

"A giant bird!"

"Like Harry Potter?"

Pause
10. Wedding Day

Allegro \( \text{\textit{J}} = 140 \)

Vamp from "the next few days" until "have much to say"

Cut off at
Gaia's line

Start at "here's the priest"
Hold until "villain had come but not alone"
11. Villains Revealed

\( \text{d} = 62 \)

"Prepare for Trouble"

Cut off at Narrator interruption

Vamp from "Penelope you're alive" until "sister no"

Cut off at "Kamehameha"
11. Battle Music

Play section as you like under the mass chaos of the battle; alternate between ideas for your instrument; all dynamics should be $mf$ or below with occasional accents

Vibraphone

Lightly ($\text{\textit{d}=136}$)

Run mallet up and down the vibraphone at will

Cello

($\text{\textit{d}=159}$)

pizz.

Presto ($\text{\textit{d}=175}$)

agitated

Piano

Start with an Eb; play notes as fast as possible and in random order.
Alternate between the two pitch sets. Go crazy.
13. Death and Sadness

Grave
Hold until Fifi is revived

Cello

Vibraphone
Scrape strings inside piano

Piano

Adagio (\(q = 65\))
Vamp until Penelope says "not another goddamn step pigs"

Vamp under narrator's lines
Vamp until "farewell losers"

"Tell Sayrs what happened"
14. The End?

Start at "We defeated the bad guys" until "but it works out"

Segue to n.15

accel.

Segue to n.15
15. Life is Kind of Shitty (But It All Works Out)*

Swing! \( \text{♩} = 136 \) Start at "it's weird I have this feeling"

\*This is just a lead sheet. The piano and vocal part provided are mere guidelines on the execution of the song. Other instruments that can be used to cover the parts include but are not limited to: ukulele, guitar, bass, melodica, accordion, toy piano. The instrument solo section is open improvisation for any instrument available, be they featured in this score or otherwise acquired for the show.
15. Life is Kind of Shitty (But It All Works Out)

F

mad You try and try your best But you just seem to stay sad I guess the best laid plans

G

Can be a bait and switch And happy people even say Life's a real

C

bitch Well even in the sunshine There can be a few dark clouds And it's scary out there

F

But you stay strong and stay proud The heroes don't always win And there's so much you're un-
15. Life is Kind of Shitty (But It All Works Out)

F        Fm       G7       C

Sure a-bout but trust me when I say Life is kind of shitty but it all works out

Bb       F

Some-times you're the villain Some-times you're the king And some-times you don't

G        A m      E7

Know What ex-actly it is you bring e-ven in the sun-shine There can be a few dark

F        Fm      G7        C

Clouds So sing once more with feeling Life is kind of shit-ty but it all works out
Life is kind of shitty (But It All Works Out)

Life is kind of shitty
It isn't always pretty
may-be that's a pity but
that's the truth of it
You

may wake up tomorrow
and
put away your sorrows or
have to beg and borrow just to
make the best of it

so even in the darkness
you can find a little light
just face it all with your

bravest face
Life's a bitch but it will be alright
it'll be alright
I know it isn't easy
to believe in happy endings when you're stuck in the battle and the
future is still pending
May-be you can't see it through the bleakness and the clouds
May-be you're sad or
Life is Kind of Shitty (But It All Works Out)

116 D F C F6
real-ly fuc-kng mad or just fee-ing bad but you can say it loud and say it proud

121 Fm G G7 C
Life is kind of shit-ty but it all works out!

91
16. Curtain Music

Majestic \( \frac{q}{4} = 136 \)

Clarinet in B♭

Cello

Percussion

Snare Drum

Piano
16. Curtain

Allegro (M.M. \( \frac{\text{M.N.}}{2} = c. 120 \))

Vamp under ending stories of Fifi, Sayrs, and Maude

Allegro (\( \frac{\text{M.N.}}{2} = 144 \))
Maestoso (q=120)

Snare

16. Curtain