

Hell

The Musical

Based on the play, *No Exit*,
by Jean Paul Sartre

Adapted by K.S. Haddock
Music by K.S. Haddock & Tom Beyer

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Characters:

Valet: the bellboy/doorman to their particular tier of Hell.

Joseph Garson: a semi-famous journalist for the Christian Science Monitor killed in Kurdistan. 30s. Rugged-looking.

Yvonne Regall: a San Francisco socialite/party girl in her mid-twenties. Marina district meets St. Francis Wood meets downtown hipster.

Ilene Serrano: a particularly cruel lesbian UPS worker from San Francisco. 30s. Slightly bull dykish, attractive.

The Valet, followed by Joseph, steps inside the room. There's a fireplace, a bean bag chair, a leather couch and a folding chair. Joseph winces at the decor.

VALET

Here we are.

JOSEPH

Whew! This is the place, alright.
Absolutely horrible.

VALET

Yessir.

JOSEPH

Are all of them like this?

['welcome to your room']

VALET (SUNG)

We cater to all sorts: Chinese and
Pakistanis . . .
What good would a bean bag chair be
to an Egyptian or an Afghani?
A fireplace in hell, what a perfect
little twist
Anyone could see the irony, a Brazilian
or a Trappist

JOSEPH (SPOKEN)

Never mind. Still . . . This is very
different than what I imagined. You know
how they describe it back there?
gize.
But you have to understand,
Every guest asks the same questions:
Where is the lake of fire? Where is Satan?
They ask me about the toilet, or
'Where's my dental floss.'
I say, "Have a seat, man, why are you in
such a rush?" So...
Welcome to your room
Welcome to your room
Welcome to your room
Welcome to your room

JOSEPH (SUNG) (cont'd)

I'm not gonna get all hysterical.
I can take it like a man.
I've handled worse than this,
I once was in a rock band
But don't you go a-braggin' |
'bout the guy in Room 666.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOSEPH (SUNG) (cont'd)

I can take your stupid demons and
water ski the River Styx

Valet giggles.

VALET (SUNG)

Of course there are few things
That I prob'ly should explain
Like, you'll never catch a wink here and
orgasm causes intense pain
There's no daytime and no nighttime,
iphones or email.
If you try to leave or kill yourself
You most certainly will fail
Welcome to your room
Welcome to your room
Welcome to your room
Welcome to your room

JOSEPH (spoken)

So what's out on the other side of the
wall?

VALET

On the other side of the wall there is a
hall.

JOSEPH

And at the end of the hall?

VALET

More rooms, more hallways...and stairs.
Lots of stairs. There's also a water
slide.

JOSEPH

A water slide?

VALET

Well...it's boiling water. And no one
who's ever taken it has ever returned.
I'd hazard a guess that it's not much
fun.

JOSEPH

And beyond that?

VALET

There is no 'beyond that'.

JOSEPH

But you must get the day off sometimes.
Where do you go?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

VALET

My uncle's place on the third floor. He used to be head valet here.

JOSEPH

(testy)

Ah...nepotism in Hell?

(pause)

So what's keeping me from, say, smashing you in the face?

The Valet smiles.

VALET

My size...and ugly disposition.

The Valet inches forward, towering over Joseph. Joseph backs off. The Valet heads for the door.

VALET (cont'd)

If that'll be all...

JOSEPH

No--wait. What if I need something...when...you're...gone?

The Valet turns, smiling.

VALET

You could try knocking.

JOSEPH

But--oh, it doesn't matter. You can go.

VALET

Oh, *thank you*, Mr. Joseph.

Joseph is alone in the room. He sits on the couch for a moment, then gets up and strolls around. He's suddenly nervous. He goes for the door, knocking. No one comes. He starts pounding on the door, shouting for the valet. He even tries opening the door: it's locked. Finally he calms and returns to the couch. Just as he's about to sit, the Valet enters with ILENE. Joseph straightens.

VALET (cont'd)

Did you knock, sir?

Joseph is about to say 'yes' when his eyes rest on Ilene, who wears canvas work pants and a vest over a t-shirt. She carries a small purse. She is pretty, but hard-looking. The Valet turns to Ilene.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

VALET (cont'd)
This is your room, ma'am.

Ilene is about to say something when he goes into the previous song.

['Beats the Hell out of Me']

VALET [SUNG]
Don't need to ask me any questions
I give this speech for free
I know what you're thinkin',
What happens next?
Beats the hell out of me
Will you see brain-eating harpies?
Will the devil come eat you up
If you think that they made a mistake
I think you're shit out of luck
Try sleepin, huh, give sleepin a try
I'll sing you a sweet lullaby
Hush little cinder, now don't you cry
You know where you are and you know why..
You keep lookin' for answers
Like the truth's gonna set you free
What about this and what about that
Beats the hell out of
Beats the hell out of
Beats the hell out of me
No mirrors, no bathroom, no whiskey, no ice
Got a fireplace though, isn't that nice?
No radio, no cable, not even a phone
Make yourself cozy in your final home
You keep lookin' for answers
Like the truth's gonna set you free
But I got no answer for your silly questions
Beats the hell out of
Beats the hell out of
Beats the hell out of me

The Valet bows and backs out of the room butt-first. The door closes. Ilene's scared disposition fades and she takes a tentative tour around the room. Finally, she stops and addresses Joseph.

ILENE
Where's Lou?

Joseph is confused.

JOSEPH
Lou? Who the hell is Lou?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

ILENE

Ah, so that's the ticket. Torture by separation. Well, it ain't gonna work, buddy, because I am *so* over her.

A smile passes across Joseph's face.

JOSEPH

Priceless. Who exactly do you think I am?

Ilene reconsiders Joseph.

ILENE

You're not the torturer are you?

JOSEPH

Hardly.

(considering)

Hysterical--you thought I was on staff. Senior Torture Supervisor or something? That idiot valet should've introduced us. I'm Joseph Garson. I am--was--a journalist. I was covering Iraq--Kurdistan. You are?

He extends a hand, which she ignores on her way to sit down in the folding chair. She fumbles through her purse looking for something. She gives up.

ILENE

A man? Figures.

(pause, then, under her breath)

In need of stiff drink.

Neither says anything.

JOSEPH

Right-o. Well, now that we've become acquainted, I wonder what about my appearance made you think I was your torturer.

ILENE

You look scared.

JOSEPH

Scared? But that's silly--why would the torturer be scared?

['Stuck with a Man']

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

ILENE [SUNG]

I know torturers.
 Every morning, in the mirror.
 Lashing out at everyone
 Exposing my hidden fears.
 So I'd needle my own girlfriend
 Undermine my closest friend, yes
 (looks at Joseph)
 I ask myself why are you still here?
 There's the door, make your exit

JOSEPH [SPOKEN]

So I'm already boring my new guest--
 My new *cell mate*. Why don't we cook
 marshmallows in the fire. Why don't we be
 pleasant?

ILENE [SUNG]

Pleasant isn't my forte.
 I give it not any thought.
 Happy isn't my frame of mind.
 So you can fucking rot.

Stuck with a man
 Just my luck
 Get to meet my maker
 With a breeder I am stuck
 Stuck with a male
 of the human race
 Gazing forever
 At that frightened face

[dance]

JOSEPH [SUNG]

Then I'll be pleasant for the both of us.
 I'll be nice for two.
 Just let me sit and be quiet for a while.
 And I won't disturb you.

ILENE [SUNG]

Quiet is not where I'm from.
 It's not even a thought.
 Silent isn't my frame of mind.
 So you can fucking rot.
 Stuck with a man
 Stuck with a man
 Stuck with a man
 I'm stuck with a man.

Silence again. Joseph wearily buries his face in his hands sitting on the couch. Ilene, disgusted, stands up and starts to pace.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

The door opens suddenly and through it enter the Valet with YVONNE, a beautiful young woman in hipster attire. She wears a dazed expression which quickly turns to horror when she sees Joseph with his face in his hands.

YVONNE
(terrified)
No! Don't look up! There's just a bloody hole--

Joseph looks up; no hole in his face.

YVONNE (cont'd)
(puzzled, relieved)
What! ...I don't even know you!

JOSEPH
I'm not the torturer, if that's what you thought.

YVONNE
I didn't think you were. I thought . . .
(to the Valet)
Is anybody else coming?

VALET
This is it. Party of three. Non-smoking.

Ilene re-seats herself on the folding chair, taking a great interest in the beautiful newcomer.

YVONNE
Just the three of us? Well, where I come from, three makes a party. Where's the liquor?

JOSEPH
Where's the liquor? Do you even know where you are?

Yvonne steps forward and stops, frowning at the empty beanbag chair.

YVONNE
(to the Valet)
But you don't expect me to sit on this beanbag chair! I have a bad back.

Ilene pats her lap.

ILENE
You can sit here if you like.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

YVONNE

A folding chair? That's almost as bad as the bean bag.

(relaxing, then to Joseph)

Unless you wouldn't mind giving a young lady the couch.

Joseph is lost in thought.

ILENE

Hey, Peter Jennings--the lady's talkin' to you.

JOSEPH

Oh--you want the sofa. Sure, whatever.

He gets up and crosses to the fireplace. The Valet stands impatiently near the door and clears his throat.

VALET (SUNG)

Welcome to your room.

Welcome to your--

YVONNE

(dismissively)

You can go.

The Valet is both put off and amused.

VALET

Oh, *thank* you.

'Welcome to Your Room' outro. Valet exits.

Yvonne is artificially cheerful. A beat.

YVONNE

Well, since it looks like I'm stuck with a man...and a

(pointedly at Ilene)

...*woman*, I suppose we better learn each other's names. I'm Yvonne Regall.

She extends her hand and Joseph is about to shake it when Ilene leaps between them and steals Yvonne's hand instead. She gives Yvonne a lingering stare.

ILENE

I'm Ilene Serrano. I'm *very* pleased to meet you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

JOSEPH
(behind Ilene, waving)
Joseph Garson.

ILENE
(predatory)
You are *gorgeous*, Yvonne.

Uncomfortable beat. Joseph sighs. Yvonne fans herself.

YVONNE
Aren't you guys hot? Anyway, let's start.
So, of course you both are--

JOSEPH
A month ago.

ILENE
Couple weeks.

YVONNE
I'm, like, yesterday.
[music cue - slow]
In fact, I just got a...vision. If I
concentrate, I can see earth...

Her eyes flutter. She's watching something internally.

YVONNE [SUNG]
Now I'm back on earth
And a eulogy is
Being read for me.
Now I'm back on earth
And my sister cries for Everyone but me.
Give it your best.
Give it your best.
Now I'm back at home
And my ex-husband's off and drunk again.
Now I'm back at home And my boyfriend is
Picking up on my best friend.
Give her your best.
Give her your best.
I feel like I'm still there
An absentee with a ghostly stare
And they have not a care
It's just not fair that I'm not there

Yvonne snaps out of it, talks to them. Music continues,
under, but they converse.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (9)

YVONNE

(seething)

So my boyfriend is trying to make time
with my best friend, Olivia.

ILENE

I'm sorry.

Yvonne shrugs. Ilene tries to comfort her. Yvonne digs in her
backpack and begins using a metal nail file.

ILENE (cont'd)

When you...Did you suffer much?

YVONNE

No. I was only half-conscious. I think it
was the GHB. What about you--how did
you...?

ILENE

Gas oven.

YVONNE

And you, Joe?

JOSEPH

Shot in the back.

Yvonne makes a face.

JOSEPH (cont'd)

Don't worry, I was dead before I hit the
ground. I was covering Kurdistan.

Yvonne looks at him blankly.

JOSEPH (cont'd)

Northern Iraq. I'm a...*was* a journalist.

YVONNE

I'm from San Francisco. The Marina. Did
you leave anybody behind?

JOSEPH

Yeah. I was married.

(in a trance, he sits down on
Yvonne's sofa)

In fact...I can see it...

Joseph receives images from back on earth.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (10)

JOSEPH [sung]

Now I'm back on earth
 My wife's on the steps waiting for me.
 She comes there every day
 Waiting for word from the embassy
 Give it your best, baby
 Give it your best
 Now I'm back at work
 And Tommy n the boys are having a drink.
 Now I'm back at work
 They call me a coward n laugh at me...
 Give it your best
 Give it a rest

I know that I should not care
 They would not dare if I was there
 I miss my wife, it's just not fair
 An absentee with a ghostly stare

Ilene has been enjoying a laugh at Joseph's expense. Then she falls in a trance, too.

ILENE [SUNG]

It's late at night on earth
 And my place is sealed with police tape
 It's late at night on earth
 And everyone is dead from my old place.

I gave it my best

YVONNE

I gave it my best

JOSEPH

I gave it my best

ALL

I feel like I'm still there
 Absentees with a ghostly stare
 Where in hell are we now
 Not up there, we know not where

YVONNE [SPOKEN]

You now, it doesn't make sense, them
 putting us three together.

ILENE

(sarcastic)

No sense at all.

YVONNE

I mean, I look at you two . . . I thought
 I'd be surrounded by friends and family.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (11)

ILENE

That's the other place.

YVONNE

Why do you think they stuck us three together?

JOSEPH

I'm sure it was just chance. They probably shell out rooms to the first...

(to Ilene)

Why are you laughing?

ILENE

Because you guys are a riot. Chance? Like they leave *anything* to chance.

YVONNE

Maybe we all crossed paths at some point.

ILENE

No. I wouldn't forget a girl like you.

YVONNE

Maybe we have friends in common?

ILENE

The Marina? Not likely. But I lived in San Francisco, too.

(pause)

On Valencia. I worked for UPS.

(pause)

I often went to the End-Up--to watch the *girls* dance.

YVONNE

Ah, I see. I get it now.

She stares at Ilene; Ilene withdraws and sits.

YVONNE (cont'd)

And you, Joseph? Did we ever meet?

JOSEPH

Not likely.

(pompous)

I'm from L.A., but I haven't been stateside since we invaded Iraq.

YVONNE

Then you're right. It must be chance that brought us together.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (12)

Ilene snorts, stands and throws up her hands.

ILENE

Chance? We're the three least likely people to be caught anywhere together. Look, they've thought everything down to the last detail. They *designed* this room for us.

YVONNE

So it was all fixed up before hand?

ILENE

Yes. They expect us to explode.

JOSEPH

We don't have to play along. We'll figure it out.

ILENE

Like you have the guts.

JOSEPH

The guts for what?

ILENE

The truth. Yvonne?

YVONNE

What?

ILENE

What did you do to get in here?

Yvonne is taken aback.

YVONNE

That's just it. I haven't done a thing. It must be a mistake. Don't smile at me like that, Ilene. Thousands--millions--come here every day. Some overworked and vindictive assistant made a mistake. Stop smiling!

(to Joseph)

Joseph, say something! If they screwed up *my* case number, maybe they screwed up *yours*.

ILENE

(dumbfounded)

This is your rationalization. You're really a saint, and this is all a big mistake.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (13)

ILENE (cont'd)

With all the knowledge and power of
billions of diabolical minds from
throughout the ages at their disposal,
you think they made some mistake.

YVONNE [SUNG]

I'm innocent.
Tell you 'bout when I was young
Parents skipped out, I had no one
Brother was sick, we needed cash
And a rich ol' man weren't so bad
But a princess needs to find her prince
Part time lover who could really kiss
But a pretty DJ can't pay the bills
So I lived two lives and took my fill

One night at the disco
I died on drugs in San Francisco
I'm innocent!

JOSEPH [SPOKEN]

It's *not* enough to end up here. And
neither is standing up for your
principles.

Ilene cackles.

YVONNE [SPOKEN]

Of course not! Nobody could blame you for
that.

[SUNG]

He's innocent!

JOSEPH [SUNG]

A journalist for a liberal rag
Got to Iraq, unpacked my bag
Imbedded but I found a cause.
Joined the rebels and took up arms.
Jean Paul Sartre and Hemingway.
Got no heroes like that today.
Hid in the hills and buried the dead.
Fought for the Kurds and blood I shed.

Only tried to be a martyr
Now they're calling me a traitor

YVONNE / JOSEPH [SUNG]

He's /I'm innocent!

YVONNE [SPOKEN]

You were a hero!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (14)

ILENE

Right. A *hero*. Sure. And I bet *that's* the whole story--from *both* of you.

JOSEPH

I died for a cause!

YVONNE

See! And I saved my brother!

ILENE [SUNG]

Why the bullshit make-believe?
We're damned in hell, no time to grieve.
We all fucked up along the way.
And now we're here, it's time to pay.
Killers and criminals, one two three
The devil never errs or miss a beat
Marina bitch and Traitor Joe
We've had our fun it's time to go

No more time to be clever
Stuck in a room forever

YVONNE [SPOKEN]

Stop!

ILENE

You've gone to Hell--live with it!

YVONNE

Shut up! Shut up!

JOSEPH

Jesus Christ, shut up.

Ilene stands up and meets his simmering gaze. He backs down.

ILENE

Well, well . . .

(pause)

Don't you get it? There are no physical torturers here. *This is it*. No one is going to join us. *We're* the torturers. Very economical. They've downsized Hell. It's self-serve now.

YVONNE

What are you talking about?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (15)

ILENE

(to Dr. Pepper theme)

I'm a torturer, he's a torturer, she's a torturer...wouldn't you like to be a torturer, too!

JOSEPH

Bullshit. I'm not going to play their game. I'm not going to be anyone's torturer. Look, it's easy: each of us keeps to themself. You stay there and you stay there. No one talks. It shouldn't be hard, we've got plenty to think about.

YVONNE

I don't want to be quiet!

JOSEPH

You must. It's the only way we're gonna get through this. Stay in your seat and don't talk. None of us. Can we agree on that?

ILENE

(sarcastic)

Sure.

They look at the Yvonne.

YVONNE

(reluctant)

Well, alright.

JOSEPH

Fine, then. Goodbye.

Joseph sits on the bean bag chair, then Ilene regains her seat. Yvonne uses the metal file on her nails. After awhile, she begins to sing softly to herself.

ILENE [SUNG, UNACCOMPANIED]

('Sympathy for the Devil'

--The Rolling Stones)

Please allow me to introduce myself, I'm
a man of wealth and taste.
Been around for a long long year, sold
many a man's...um, la la la... um
Pleased to meet you, hope you guessed my
name . . .

Meanwhile, Yvonne digs through her tiny backpack-purse and finds some lipstick. She puts some lipstick on, then stops. Finally, she turns to Ilene.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (16)

YVONNE

Excuse me, do you have a mirror?

Ilene tries to ignore her.

YVONNE (cont'd)

C'mon! Please don't ignore me.

Joseph, disgusted, buries his face in his hands and turns away. Ilene sighs, casting a sidelong glance at Joseph.

ILENE

Oh, alright. I think I have one.

(looks through her purse)

It's gone! They must have taken it from me at the gate--that and my *cigarettes*, the bastards.

(bitter, under her breath)

Non-smoking.

YVONNE

Totally annoying. I *need* a mirror.

Two beats.

YVONNE (cont'd)

I had mirrors all over my apartment.

Everywhere. They made me happy.

(suddenly looking sick)

I get physically ill if I go too long without a mirror around.

(alarmed, to Ilene)

Did I put my lipstick on right? I can't live without a mirror--I'll go crazy.

Ilene sees an angle. She gently pulls Yvonne's face up to hers, eye to eye.

ILENE

Look at your reflection in my eyes. *I'll* be your mirror.

(music up for "I'll be your Mirror")

I'll sit next to you.

YVONNE

But--

She gestures to that humbug, Joseph.

ILENE

(whispering)

Ignore him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (17)

YVONNE
(whispering)
But *you* said we were going to hurt each other.

ILENE
Do I look like I'm going to hurt you?

YVONNE
It's hard to tell.

ILENE [SUNG]
Sit closer. Closer.
Look into my eyes.
See your reflection, beautiful there.
Can you visualize?

YVONNE [SUNG]
I see myself.
I can't see nothin' clear.

ILENE [SUNG]
But *I* see you. Every inch.
I'll be your vanity mirror.
[chorus]
I'll be your mirror
You'll be my star
I'll be as honest, honest as sin
Just like girlfriends are

Yvonne is uncomfortable. She looks at Joseph.

YVONNE [SPOKEN]
Joseph, we're not bothering you, are we?

He says nothing, turning slightly away. Yvonne is frustrated.

ILENE [SPOKEN]
Pay no attention to him. He isn't even there. We're all by ourselves. Ask away.

YVONNE [SUNG]
Are my lips alright?
Or are they a sham?

ILENE [SUNG]
I can fix them, good as new.
Let me guide your hand.

Ilene takes Yvonne's lipstick hand into hers to help her apply. Ilene sees Yvonne craving Joseph's attention.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (18)

ILENE [SUNG] (cont'd)
 Press it to your lips.
 Follow the line.
 Sweet as a Georgia peach.
 You look divine.
 [chorus]
 I'll be your mirror
 Alone in your room
 Nobody but you and me
 I got eyes only for you...

Music continues under. They speak.

YVONNE
 So I look okay now?

ILENE
 You look great. Your mouth is
 quite...*diabolical*.

YVONNE
 Nice . . . and you like it? How do I know
 that you're taste is my taste?

ILENE
 My taste is what ever you want it to be,
 Yvonne. You look *delicious*. C'mon, aren't
 I better than a mirror?

Yvonne drops her gaze. Ilene nudges her face back up.

YVONNE
 I don't know ... you sort of...scare me.
 (Ilene stiffens)
 I didn't mean it like that. It's just
 that the only thing I see is my tiny
 reflection in your pupils and it seems to
 sink down somewhere...dark.

As Yvonne tries to see herself in Ilene's eyes, Ilene seizes the opportunity and goes in to kiss Yvonne, who quickly backs away. They separate uncomfortably.

ILENE
 Look, we're gonna be here a long time. We
 better get to know each other.

YVONNE
 (squeamish)
 I don't have a lot of ...um...*female*
 friends.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (19)

ILENE
(tersely)
You mean you don't know a lot of dykes.

Ilene suddenly scrutinizes Yvonne's chin.

ILENE (cont'd)
Hold it ... what's that on your chin? A zit?

YVONNE
(panicked, helpless without a mirror)
On my chin? A zit! Goddamn it!

ILENE [SUNG]
(taunting)
[chorus]
I'll be your mirror
And you're trapped inside
I'll be as honest as girlfriends are
Cross my heart, hope to die [end song]
[spoken]
No, there's nothing on your chin. You know, mirrors don't always tell the truth.

Yvonne is nonplussed.

ILENE
But we're stuck in this room. Why do you even care about make-up?

Yvonne looks at Ilene, then sheepishly casts her gaze at Joseph. Ilene is outraged.

ILENE (cont'd)
Oh, Christ!

Ilene jumps from the couch and bitterly retakes her seat.

ILENE (cont'd)
(to Joseph)
You've won, CNN.

Joseph pretends not to hear.

ILENE (cont'd)
(shouting)
Look at her, you prick! Don't pretend you didn't hear every last fucking word we said.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (20)

Joseph looks up from his hands. He sighs.

JOSEPH

(slow burn)

I haven't heard a word you said. But I could hear your voices--the annoying, shrill quality of your voices. Why can't you two leave me alone? I'm not interested.

ILENE

Maybe not in me, but what about Sugar Tits here? I know your game--act all coy and then reel her in.

JOSEPH

Look, leave...me...alone. I'm trying to listen to the boys at the café in Kirkuk. They're talking about me, and I want to hear. I've no interest in your so-called 'Sugar Tits' here.

YVONNE

Thanks.

JOSEPH

I didn't mean--

YVONNE

Dick.

Burning pause.

JOSEPH

(forced calm)

Let's just review a moment, shall we? I just asked you to not talk to me--*indefinitely*. So don't get all pissy because *I'm* pissy.

YVONNE

Blame *her--she* started it. I just wanted a mirror so I could fix my make-up and Ilene gets all weird on me.

ILENE

Whatever. You've been trying to get his attention the whole time.

YVONNE

So what if I was?

Joseph sits down again.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (21)

JOSEPH

You're both impossible. Why can't we just each sit here quietly, stare at the floor, and forget that the others are here.

Ilene vacates her seat on Yvonne's couch and heads for the folding chair. She stops and wheels around on Joseph.

ILENE

(mockingly)

'Forget that the others are here.'
Laugh fucking riot, Joseph. I can feel your presence in my every pore. I know you're just want to steal Yvonne from me.

Joseph sighs and slowly gets up from the bean bag chair.

JOSEPH

Have it your way, Ilene. They know what they're doing. We're easy targets and were perfect together. I'd be at peace if they'd put me in a room full of *men*--men know when to shut up.

Pause. He gazes humorously at Yvonne. He circles her, then crouches behind her. His hand drifts to her neck, letting a finger glide lightly up to her ear.

JOSEPH (cont'd)

So you find me attractive, Ms. Yvonne?
Were you flirting with me, Ms. Yvonne?

YVONNE

(recoiling only slightly)

Don't touch me.

JOSEPH [SUNG]

I know girls like you
Pretty princess powder puff
Not enough, left him for another man.

And me, Once upon a time
I was girl crazy, never lazy 'bout
Shacking up with another tramp

So let's stop pretending, darlin
There's a crowd when your ego's starvin'
Not so long before we're naked
On the floor doing something wicked

Full stop.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (22)

YVONNE [SPOKEN]
(resisting, not resisting)
Don't be a pig.

JOSEPH [SUNG]
I know girls like you
Can't shut up, flip your hair, not a care
So long as your on a throne

And me, Just wanted peace and quiet,
Left alone to atone
For the mess I left behind back at home

I can see things back at home,
The boys are laughing at what I'd become
Killed as a traitor in a losing game
I only wanted to make a name...for me

A guy like me
Live fast, die young, sharp tongue
Travelled round the world,
thinking I was Hemingway.

My wife, suffered my affairs,
hard stares, never said a word like a
martyr, got in my way.

And now I see her back on earth
Waiting at the embassy for some word
My bloody coat in her hands
Walks away, can't understand

Saved her from a white trash destiny
She was grateful, it embittered me
I was cruel, a real son of a bitch
And funny I don't regret any of it
(music ends sharply)
And that's why I'm here.

He returns to his seat and looks up at Ilene.

JOSEPH [SPOKEN]
Your turn.

She pauses.

ILENE
You were a son of a bitch? Me, well I...
I was what you might call a real *cunt*. A
grade-A cunt, and here I am. No surprise.

JOSEPH
That's all you have to say?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (23)

Music up. Blues for Ilene. To the tune of "Girls like You"

ILENE [SUNG]

Oh, no. There was this fling,
Pretty little thing, name of Lou, love
was true, it was paradise.

My bad, I brainwashed her
Her boyfriend was a cur
She was duped, what a stupe
Putty in my hands

Three dead. Her boyfriend died, didn't
cry. In the night, gasses us right.
I had to pay the price.

I can see our apartment now
Drifting through like a ghost somehow
Yellow tape and a sign for rent
There's no way I can repent.

Music under.

JOSEPH [SPOKEN]

Three deaths, huh?

ILENE

Tres, señor. One man, two women.

End music. Joseph folds his arms.

[deleted text]

[deleted text]

[deleted text]

JOSEPH

Well, well. What a pretty story that is.

ILENE

Pretty, pretty. It doesn't matter.

Several beats. Joseph finally rests his attention on Yvonne.

JOSEPH

And *you*? What did you do to get a season
ticket to hell?

YVONNE

(shrugging)
I told you--I don't know.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (24)

ILENE

Sure.

JOSEPH

Let me help. The guy with the big hole in his face. He was . . .

YVONNE

What are you talking about?

JOSEPH

Oh, please. The guy you mistook me for when you came in.

YVONNE

(unconvincingly)
Oh, him. Just a friend.

JOSEPH

He blew his head off over you?

YVONNE

Shut up, you asshole! Stop picking on me.

Yvonne all but leaps from her couch and makes for the door.

YVONNE (cont'd)

I'm outta here.

She pulls on the door handle. Locked.

JOSEPH

Please, leave, if you can. But unfortunately, they keep the door locked.

Yvonne pounds on the door. Joseph and Ilene start giggling; Yvonne swings around on them, door at her back.

YVONNE

(hateful)
You're both completely evil.

ILENE

Evil? Evil. How *apt.* Now, come on already. The guy who killed himself--you were his lover, weren't you?

JOSEPH

Of course she was. And he wanted her all to himself--but she was already married.

(beat)
Am I warm?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (25)

Yvonne slumps a little and stares at the floor.

YVONNE [SUNG]
 He was a great D J
 What a lay! Didn't have a job,
 What a slob. I needed cash
 To keep me flush.

JOSEPH [SPOKEN]
 So he couldn't afford you.

YVONNE
 (softly)
 No.

JOSEPH
 And you had a loveless marriage to a
 money-bags. And one day the poor DJ
 begged you to run off with him, and you
 laughed in his face.

ILENE
 Yeah, you laughed at him and he blew his
 head off.

Yvonne takes this in solemnly...then laughs.

YVONNE
 You two are so off base, it's ridiculous.
 (sung)
 Somehow, I got knocked up.
 Fucked up. Sent away from my hubby,
 and I had a bouncing baby girl

 Somehow, the boy found out
 Showed up unannounced, had to bounce
 Left him high and dry
 What could I do?

 And one day I couldn't take no mo'
 Dropped my baby to the street below
 DJ blew his brains out from the news
 He didn't have to cuz nobody knew
 But me...

Joseph, chuckling, mimes blowing his head off.

YVONNE (cont'd)
 You're a bastard.
 (looking at Ilene)
 I know ... I'm a monster.
 (to Joseph)
 God, you're hateful.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (26)

Ilene gets up from her seat and puts her arm around Yvonne, escorting her to the couch.

ILENE
(motherly)
Poor girl.
(to Joseph)
Third degree's over, jackass.

Joseph looks apologetically at Yvonne.

JOSEPH
I really didn't mean to be that awful to you, Yvonne.

YVONNE
I'm not mad at you.

Ilene pets Yvonne's head.

ILENE
What about me?

Yvonne abruptly moves and sits in the chair.

YVONNE
(snarky)
What about you?

A moment thunks by.

ILENE
Well, Joe, you really stripped us bare.
Understand things any better?

JOSEPH
Perhaps.

Joseph stands and fluffs the bean bag chair a couple times, then retakes his seat.

JOSEPH (cont'd)
You know, maybe we should start supporting each other instead of tearing each other down.

Ilene snorts.

ILENE
You can keep your support.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (27)

JOSEPH

Look, Ilene, they've laid a pretty clever trap--we're each bait for each other. We don't have to take it...Ilene?

Ilene's seeing something back on earth.

JOSEPH (cont'd)

What is it? Something happening?

Ilene rises.['Back on Earth' reprise]

ILENE [SUNG]

Now I'm back on earth
They rented out our place to a breeder
pair.
Now I'm back on earth
They opened our windows to let in fresh
air.
In the bedroom I see our old bed
And the breeders are gonna do the nasty
thing
They're doing it in our old bed
And the sick bitch is going down on him

Give him your best
Give him your best

Ilene snaps out of it, looking disgusted.

ILENE (CONT'D)

Sick. And now it's all growing dark, it's
fading to black. There's nothing. No
earth. I guess that's it for my little
psychic connection. My old life is gone.

Ilene stands.

ILENE (cont'd)

(bitterly)

Now I'm really dead. Dead here stuck with
you two.

Ilene sighs and sits down next to Yvonne. Yvonne meets her gaze, expressionless. Ilene strokes Yvonne's hair.

ILENE (cont'd)

Such pretty hair. My girlfriend, Lou, had
hair like that.

Yvonne makes a clucking sound and gazes at the floor.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (28)

JOSEPH

You know, Yvonne is one of those traps
you were talkin' about.

ILENE

Ya think?

JOSEPH

She's your torturer. They'll get you
through her. Me? Like I said, I know
girls like her. I'm immune.

['Trap']

ILENE

You're immune?

(sung)

I tell ya tell ya it's a trap
Don't you know where you are at
They know exactly what you are doing
Who do you think you're fooling
I tell you tell you its a fact
They set a million tiny traps
They know what we're gonna say
Way before we say it
I tell you baby its their game
And you don't know that you're playing it
I tell you tell you its a fact
Before you know it you'll be trapped

I - I - I - I just know it x 2

I'm a trap for you and her
You're a trap for her and me
She's a trap for both of us
So don't expect my sympathy
You better wake up, face the facts
They set a million tiny traps
I will have my victory
I'm taking both of you with me
I'm not the kind to let things go
She'll see you through my eyes and know
I'll have her eating from my lap
I'll tell you Joesph it's a trap

JOSEPH [SUNG]

Well I can feel sorry for you
We've all let our guard down and a bit of
you shines through Do you think
I really want to hurt you?
I have no regrets, though
I'm stuck here with you two

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (29)

JOSEPH [SUNG] (cont'd)

I can still feel - Pity for you
For all of us, it's true

ILENE [SUNG]

G-G-Get off me
G-G-Get off me
I don't need your
God damn pity
G-G-Get off me

But if you keep it in your pants
From this gorgeous little tramp
You'll find life in hell ain't so bad

Ilene, who looked like her heart was about to soften,
suddenly shakes him off.

ILENE

Get off me! Keep your goddamn pity. Don't
forget, this is as a trap for you, too.
All nicely set.

Joseph backs off, sighing.

JOSEPH

Whatever you say.

ILENE

(easing up)
But if you stay out of my way with this
sweet thing here, I'll make it easier on
you.

Joseph shakes his head and returns to his seat.

YVONNE

(to Ilene)
You gotta be kidding me.

JOSEPH

You're a piece of work, Ilene. Sure.
Whatever.

Yvonne shakes her head at Ilene, then rests her gaze on
Joseph.

YVONNE

Please, Joseph ...

JOSEPH

What?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (30)

YVONNE

She's hopeless...but I'm not. If you
wanna help somebody, help me.

JOSEPH

Talk to Ilene. I'm officially out of the
helping business.

Yvonne looks at Joe pleadingly. Ilene gets up and kneels
behind Yvonne, speaking into her ear without touching her.
While Yvonne's attention is on Joseph, it is Ilene who is
doing the talking.

YVONNE

Please, Joseph. I don't want to be alone.
(Sung, slowly)
Now I'm back on earth
Olivia has taken him to a warehouse rave.

ILENE

Taken whom?

Yvonne's eyes are half-lidded. ['Back on Earth Reprise']

YVONNE [SUNG]

Now I'm back on earth
And Olivia is dancing on my grave
Give it your best
Give it your best
Now I'm back on earth
And Olivia's winded like a big fat cow
Now I'm back on earth
And Peter's kissing her all over now

Give her your best
Give her your best

The boy would call me his muse
He loved me after all my abuse
My best friend is sinking her claws
Stealing boyfriends is one of her flaws

[deleted text]

[deleted text]

[deleted text]

ILENE [SUNG]

There is no back on earth
There is nothing there left for you

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (31)

YVONNE

I can see them back on earth
 And the traitors are making ready to
 screw
 Give her your best
 Give her your best

There was a time not long ago
 When she'd skulk behind, inside my shadow
 Why can't he see that she's a shrew
 But there's nothing at all that I can do

Music stops.

ILENE [SPOKEN]

I can't give you much...but I can give
 you...what I have.

YVONNE [SPOKEN]

(to Ilene)

You. All I have is *you*. You're not a
 young guy who would call me his muse. I
 mean...Peter and I used to laugh at
 Olivia together. And now, back on earth
 that bitch has her hands all over him.

ILENE

Why do you care?

YVONNE

She's telling him about me.

YVONNE (cont'd)

(mockingly)

'But did you know that Yvonne nyah nyah
 nyah?' Shut up shut up shut up!

Yvonne bolts up, crying. Behind her, Ilene smiles.

YVONNE (cont'd)

Can you believe that? She told him
 everything--William, the baby--
 everything. He didn't even look all that
 surprised! Bastard! You can have him, you
 bitch--him and his perfect body and his
 trust fund.

(suddenly loses the vision)

What? Something's happening. I'm drifting
 away, I can't hear the music anymore, I
 can barely see them, I ... I ...

(back in the now)

That's it. They're gone. No more earth.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (32)

Joseph stands up, thinking, his back to them.

YVONNE (cont'd)
Joseph, don't turn away. Can't you just
hold me for a second?

ILENE
(mockingly)
Yeah, *Joseph*.

He turns and looks at Ilene, then Yvonne.

JOSEPH
Let Ilene hold you.

Before he can turn away again, Yvonne embraces him
desperately. ['Trap Reprise']

YVONNE [SUNG]
C'mon, c'mon, you're a man ...
My *body* must interest you.
I mean just look at this can.
You gotta like it, you're a man.
(spoken; grinds his direction)
I mean, check out this out.
[SUNG]
C'mon, c'mon, you're a man...
If you gotta look at something
Then it's better than--
(gestures to Ilene)
--*that!*

Music gull stop. Joseph pushes her away.

JOSEPH
I think Ilene'd be more appreciative.

YVONNE
But she's a chick! She doesn't count.

Joseph moves past Yvonne. Yvonne follows only to be stopped
by Ilene.

ILENE
(seething)
I ... don't ... count?

She's backing Yvonne up. Her tone changes, sweetens.
['Trap Reprise' continues]

ILENE [SUNG]
C'mon, c'mon, *you're* a chick
I'll protect you from that prick.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (33)

Backed up to the wall, Yvonne stops and folds her arms.

YVONNE [SUNG]
Oh, please, you're kinda gay.
I'm never gonna swing that way.

Full music stop.

ILENE
But you can be *my* muse--*my* darling.

YVONNE
Your darling? *Please*. How can you be into
me when I just told you I *killed my own*
baby?

She slips by Ilene, who follows.

ILENE
That doesn't matter to me. I don't care
what happened. Just be with me!

YVONNE
Will you leave me alone?! What can I do
to--here!

Yvonne spits in Ilene's face. They all freeze. Ilene slowly opens her eyes and wipes her face with her shirt. Ilene takes aim at Joseph instead.

ILENE
You'll pay for this, Joseph.

Joseph is taken aback, but shrugs it off. He crosses to Yvonne.

['Trap Reprise', Slow]

JOSEPH [SPOKEN]
Weird....anyway...
[sung]
So you think you need a man?

YVONNE [SUNG]
Yeah...I need...a man.

JOSEPH [SUNG]
Any man would suffice
And I know that you're not nice.
We have nothing in common
I hate rich girls, Christ!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (34)

YVONNE [SPOKEN]
 (cutting him off)
 You'll do just fine. If I need something
 different, I'll just change you.

He lets her go.

JOSEPH
Typical. You couldn't change me
 if you tried. Ahh, and we were so
 close...

YVONNE
 Close to what?

JOSEPH
 To a genuine fabrication of near-
 attraction.

Yvonne shrugs this off. She sits and starts filing her nails.
 ['Trap reprise']

YVONNE [SUNG]
 Well, I know you'll come around.
 You guys always need to screw.
 You'll need sex sooner or later.
 I'll sit here til you do.

Ilene snorts.

ILENE
 That's it.
 [SUNG - Trap]
 Go and fawn all over him
 Like the silly bitch you are.
 He's not even good-looking
 Two o'clock at the bar.

YVONNE [SPOKEN]
 (to Joseph)
 Don't listen to her. She doesn't know
 what she's talking about. You're very
 handsome.

Joseph doesn't know what to think anymore. He takes a knee
 beside Yvonne.

JOSEPH
 Look--this is all very confusing. I mean,
 I want--

YVONNE
 You still want me?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (35)

He's unsure...sort of...

JOSEPH

Uh...I guess--

YVONNE

That's all I need.

They start making out. Ilene can't handle it.

ILENE

Hello! I'm still here? Are you fucking crazy?

JOSEPH

Who cares? It's not like we can get rid of you or go into the other room.

(to Yvonne)

Do *you* care?

YVONNE

Not in the least.

They go at it again.

ILENE

But you can't! You *can't!*

YVONNE

No one's making you watch.

Ilene grabs Joseph by the arm, trying to pull him off Yvonne.

ILENE

Leave her alone! Get your filthy man-hands off of her!

Joseph jumps up, wrenches his arm away, and raises his hand to Ilene.

JOSEPH

Get off me, you fucking dyke! Don't think I won't smack you, cuz I will.

ILENE

But you said I could have her! You promised!

JOSEPH

What did I ever promise? You promised to shut the fuck up when we first got here, and did you? No.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (36)

They glower at each other. Ilene turns abruptly and crosses to the far side of the room.

ILENE

Have it your way, *stud*. But I'll be standing by ... watching. Making you uncomfortable. Watching you kiss her, watching you fuck her. *Eww*.

Shaking his head in exasperation, Joseph returns his attention to Yvonne.

JOSEPH

Now where were we?

They start making out. After awhile, Joseph feels Ilene's eyes on him and he turns to meet her gaze. He sighs. Joseph breaks from Yvonne and sits there. Sitting up, Joseph looks away, as if in a daze. Yvonne looks up to see what's the matter.

YVONNE

Please, don't mind that jealous little bitty.

JOSEPH

No, it's not just her.
[sung - 'Back on Earth']
Now I'm back on earth
Tommy's back with the boys talking over drinks.
It's winter back on earth
It's been six months but it feels like a blink.

Yvonne stares at Joseph's hand, which is absent mindedly still under her top.

YVONNE

Is this going to last long? I mean--

She casts a glance down to where his hand is as if to say, "hello, we were in the middle of something here." She watches him and grows impatient.

YVONNE (cont'd)

At least tell me what they're saying.

JOSEPH [SUNG]

I'm looking down on earth
That bastard wasn't there but he's
stating his case.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (37)

JOSEPH [SUNG] (cont'd)

I'm looking down on earth
I can't be blamed, can't look death in
the face
But I gave it my best
I gave it my best.
I got my fame in the end
I'm known as a coward that left my
comrades

He returns his attention to Yvonne.

JOSEPH [SPOKEN]

What about *me*? Do you think you could
believe in me?

YVONNE

Not if you keep getting distracted.

JOSEPH

Will you trust me?

Finally, she removes his hand from under her shirt.

YVONNE

Trust you for what? It's not like you're
going to run off with Ilene over there.

JOSEPH

I was thinking of a different kind of
trust.

(snaps back to earth)

Shut up shut up! You asshole ... I can't
even defend myself!

(to Yvonne)

You *must* trust me!

Yvonne begins filing her nails.

YVONNE

(annoyed)

What's your problem? Can't we keep it
simple? I've given you my body, now I
have to give you my trust? What happened
down there anyway?

Joseph sits on his elbows next to her.

JOSEPH

They shot me.

YVONNE

I know ... the rebels turned on you.
You're an American--a prime target. Big
deal.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (38)

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[deleted text]

[deleted text]

[deleted text]

[deleted text]

JOSEPH

That's only part of the story. I just realized killing doesn't solve anything and I couldn't pull the trigger. So I quit the rebellion and they shot me.

Yvonne says nothing and continues grooming her nails.

JOSEPH (cont'd)

Well?

YVONNE

Well what? You quit and they were bad sports. It sucked to be you, but you're not to blame. One person's rebel is another's terrorist.

Ilene laughs.

ILENE

Don't you get it, Precious? He was shot for being a *coward*. When did you decide to quit the so-called rebellion, Joseph? In the middle of a fire-fight? Did you turn tail and run?

JOSEPH

(bowing his head, facing the wall)

It was worse than that. The Turks were killing women and children right in front of us. I couldn't fight. I was afraid.

(turning to them)

But we were greatly outnumbered. Does that really make me a coward, Yvonne?

YVONNE

(hesitating a little too long)

How should I know? It sounds scary. Only you know for sure if you're a coward. Even heroes are sometimes afraid--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (39)

ILENE

--they're also sometimes dead ... but so are you, Joseph, so I guess being a coward didn't work in your favor.

YVONNE

You're such a cunt, Ilene.

Ilene laughs. Joseph sits up.

JOSEPH

Is it cowardice, though, to think through a situation and realize that no good is going to come of supposed heroism? If I stood up from the bush where I was hiding and suddenly started firing away at the Turks, would any of those women and children survived? I wanted to live to fight another day. The Kurds shot me in the back as I escaped, then they all got killed as well. So much for heroism.

Nobody says anything. Joseph lies back next to Yvonne again.

JOSEPH (cont'd)

Come here, Yvonne. I want someone close by as that bastard on earth badmouths me.
(looking at her)
Your eyes are soothing.

ILENE

(mocking)
'You're eyes are soothing.' Listen to that! How do you like cowards, Precious?

YVONNE

Quit calling me Precious! I don't give a damn if he's a coward or General fucking MacArthur, as long as he can make me cum.

Joseph sits up again. Yvonne is growing exasperated.

JOSEPH

You two're lucky: the world doesn't give you a second thought; but they're just not letting me go down there.

ILENE

What ever happened to wifey-poo?

JOSEPH

Oh, she's dead ... just died now--about a month ago.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (40)

ILENE
Of grief, I'm sure.

JOSEPH
Actually...yes.

The smile falls from Ilene's face.

JOSEPH (cont'd)
But it's alright. The war's over, the
wifey-poo is dead, and I've carved out
for myself a pretty little chapter of
journalistic history.

Sighing, Joseph crumbles. Yvonne puts her hand on his arm.

YVONNE
C'mon Joseph ... it's all right.

Joseph takes her hand and covers his face with it.

YVONNE (cont'd)
There there, Joseph. Those jerks'll be
dead soon anyway.

Joseph suddenly has an idea.

JOSEPH
Maybe you could help me. Look, people lay
out history any way they want to. And
they usually screw it up. If just one
person knows the truth--that I was acting
out of logic, that I was trying to save
myself for the good of the war effort; if
you can believe that, then maybe that's
enough. Maybe we can even come to love?
Love each other?

She gets up and faces away from them. Heavy pause.

YVONNE
(laughing)
God, you're unreal. Do you really think I
could love a coward like you?

JOSEPH
But--

Yvonne changes again.

YVONNE
I'm kidding! Of course I'll try. You
really look nothing like a coward.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (41)

YVONNE (cont'd)

You have the face of a hero and the ass of a prince. How could I not fall for you?

JOSEPH

I can't--you--do you mean it?

YVONNE

Cross my heart.

Joseph let's out a breath of relief and wraps his arms around Yvonne.

JOSEPH

Then to hell with those assholes back in Kirkuk. We have each other.

A great peel of laughter issues from Ilene.

JOSEPH (cont'd)

God, you're tedious. What the hell's so funny?

ILENE

I can't believe how gullible you are! Little Precious here doesn't mean a word of what she's saying to you. God, you're a dork. She *knows* you're a coward, she just doesn't *care*.

YVONNE

Don't listen to her. I'll trust you, if you trust me.

ILENE

You are *so* transparent, Yvonne. All you want is a man around, maybe get a little action. You'd tell him he was God if it'd keep him with you.

Yvonne again hesitates too long.

JOSEPH

Don't tell me...you...is she right, Yvonne?

YVONNE

What do you want me to say, Joseph? Coward or not, I'm going to have faith in you. Isn't that enough?

He shrugs Yvonne off. Joseph stares at both of them in disgust and lets out an exasperated scream.
[Song: Time to Leave]

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (42)

JOSEPH [SUNG]

You two make me want to scream.
I'm coming apart at the seams
I must leave this hellish dream.
I'd rather face the fire
Not your harpy choir
Satan's host is dire

Joseph tries the door. It's locked. He frantically tries to open it. Yvonne panics.

YVONNE [SUNG]

You cannot just stroll out of here.
Leave me alone with that uppity queer.
Apologies for the things I said.
I am sorry for messing with your head.

ILENE [SUNG]

He is going no where
The door's locked. The valet doesn't care.
There's no escape from this nightmare.
I'll take care of you, Precious
This dumb prick won't touch us
No one here but just us

Joseph hasn't given up on the door.

JOSEPH [SUNG]

They better open this goddamned door.
I cannot take you two any more.
Never been so sick in all my life.
My two wrists are ready for the knife.

They gather for the chorus.

ALL [SUNG]

All we want is to click our heels
together Stuck here in room together
forever
All we want is to click our heels
together
Wake up back at home and wish that this
had never, never

They look at each other, revulsed. Joseph backs away from Yvonne.

JOSEPH

Get the hell away from me
You're more fucked than even she
You can't stop me, I'm leaving

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (43)

Face reddening, she becomes panicked, stealing glances at the self-satisfied Ilene.

YVONNE [SUNG]
 Can't leave me here with her!
 You are not a coward.
 Don't leave me with that...whore!

JOSEPH
 (losing his emotion)
 Look who's talking Precious.
 You are on your own.

YVONNE [SUNG]
 Don't you call me that.
 You're a coward to the bone.

ILENE [SUNG]
 Let him leave us here.
 We'll make a happy home.

YVONNE [SUNG]
 If he gets out of here.
 You are on your own.

JOSEPH [SUNG]
 (screaming at the door)
 Let me out, you bastards!
 I'll take what you give me.
 Torture, eviscerate me
 Even if you castrate me
 No more fucked up women.
 Get...me...out...of...here!

Music: full stop. And the door flies open, hitting Joseph square in the face. They all grow silent, and Joseph holds his nose.

JOSEPH
 That was unexpected.

He pokes his head out and looks down the hall. They're all dumbfounded.

ILENE
 Well, Mr. Man. Take off, you're free.

JOSEPH
 Now, why did that open?

ILENE
 Come on, Bravery Man, head on out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (44)

A beat.

JOSEPH

No.

ILENE

And you, Precious? There's the door.
Time's a-wastin'.

Yvonne does nothing. Ilene bursts into cackles.

ILENE (cont'd)

Well, anyone? The door's open. Who's
first? What a predicament! It's a scream!
Look how inseparable we are.

Yvonne suddenly springs on Ilene and starts pushing her
toward the door.

YVONNE

Inseparable, huh? Come on, Joseph, help
me push her out of here.

ILENE

Stop it, Yvonne--don't! Please, no!

The women struggle a moment before Joseph speaks up.

JOSEPH

(annoyed)
Let her go.

Yvonne stops; Ilene breaks free.

YVONNE

What? Are you nuts--she despises you!

JOSEPH

It's because of Ilene that I'm going to
stay.

Ilene wrests herself from Yvonne's grip; Yvonne stares at
Joseph in disbelief. Ilene glances suspiciously at Joseph.

ILENE

Because of me?
(to Yvonne)
Don't just stand there--shut the door.
The heat's getting in. Chop chop.

Yvonne shuts the door. They settle back toward their seats.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (45)

ILENE (cont'd)
What's this about, Joseph?

JOSEPH
I was just thinking ... I mean, you know
everything that there is to know about
being a coward, don't you?

Ilene averts her gaze.

ILENE
(softly)
Yes.

JOSEPH [SUNG "HELL IS PEOPLE"]
You know what is wretched
Fearful misanthrope
Despised, defective
You live without any hope.
Back home there's nothing left of me
I need you to please try to see
No coward's death, my destiny
Just joined a cause bigger than me

ILENE [SUNG]
Think you'll convince me?
Fat...fucking...chance.

JOSEPH [SUNG]
I fought like a hero.

ILENE [SUNG]
You ran like a screaming nance.

You lived a fantasy, my friend
There was no danger, you'd pretend
The moment your life was at risk
You only cared about your own ass

JOSEPH [SUNG]
That is just not true
I gave my life
I died too soon

ILENE [SUNG]
Too soon is when we all die.
When it's all added up.
You are only your life.

JOSEPH [SPOKEN]
What a philosophical bitch you are!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (46)

ILENE [SUNG]

God, you're going to pay.
A coward, just like they say.
Cowardly coward.
Dropped your gun and ran away

Just look at that seething stare.
Our man of action, in despair.
Doncha want to crush the life out of me?
Doncha want to finally silence me?

If you try to kill me,
you won't be able to convince me
You might think that you're a hero
You're just a Zero
What'll it be, Hero?

The song ends. Yvonne's had enough. She rushes to Joseph.

YVONNE

Don't let her talk to you that way! Clock
the bitch!

JOSEPH

I can't do that.

Yvonne casts a frustrated glance at both of them.

YVONNE

Then...*kiss me*...she *hates* that.

Joseph sneers at Ilene, then mashes his face on Yvonne's.
They grope each other passionately.

ILENE

Stop it! Stop it, Coward!

YVONNE

Squeal away, little piggy.

Ilene looks disgusted. Yvonne sneers back and pushes Joseph
onto the couch, straddling him.

YVONNE (cont'd)

That's right...Let's do it in front of
that nasty dyke.

Yvonne whips off her shirt; she wears only her bra.

ILENE

Go ahead. Fuck the little slut. But I'll
be watching...*again*. Hope you can get it
up, Cowardly Coward.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (47)

YVONNE
Don't listen to her.

Ilene taunts them as they continue to make out.

ILENE
What a lovely match--cowardly coward and the slutty baby killer. Will Joseph be able to maintain an erection and slam the infanticidal rich bitch? Come on, I'm waiting. Drop trou, big boy. Slide it on home.

Joseph suddenly stands up from the couch, dumping Yvonne onto the carpet. His face is a mask of anguish.

JOSEPH
(tormented)
Will this never end?

ILENE
Never.

JOSEPH
Stop looking at me!

ILENE
Never.

Joseph circles the room, going crazy, horrified. Then he changes--he's appraising hell's handiwork. ['Hell Is People Reprise']

JOSEPH [SUNG]
I'm starting to get it.
They've really covered it all.
I never imagined
It'd be so horrible.
No demons, no devils
The perfect way to pay our toll.
[SPOKEN]
Hell is...Hell is other people!

Yvonne jumps up and stands between Joseph and Ilene.

YVONNE
Come on, Joseph--

He pushes her back down on the couch.

JOSEPH
Please get away from me. I can't do anything with *her* watching all the time.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (48)

Yvonne pulls her nail file from her purse.

YVONNE

Then I'll stop her from watching.

Yvonne lunges forward and sinks her nail file in Ilene's neck. Ilene grunts in pain, thrashes, bent over. The nail file sticks out of her neck between her bloody hands.

Ilene stops thrashing and glances up at them; they're all perplexed. Ilene pulls the file out and examines it in her bloody hands. She smiles. Yvonne, aghast, backs away.

ILENE

You little moron. What do you think you're doing? I'm already dead!

YVONNE

(dazed)
Already dead?

ILENE

(through laughs)
See? Dead, honey. We can all try to murder one another. It's all the same. We're stuck here with each other ...forever.

Yvonne dazedly sits on her couch.

YVONNE

Forever.
(giggling)
That's funny! Forever!

Joseph looks at the two laughing women.

JOSEPH

Forever and ever and ever!

They giggle to themselves as they all find a seat; the laughter dies. A beat. Joseph claps his hands together.

JOSEPH (cont'd)

So there now! Where shall we start?

THE END