

# **The Ring Cycle!**

*The Musical*

by Goode & Fingerhut

**music by Larrance Fingerhut**  
**book & lyrics by Jeff Goode**

copyright © 1994  
Jeff Goode / Larrance Fingerhut

**The Ring Cycle!** *The Musical* opened September 8th, 1994  
at the Unusual Cabaret in Bar Harbor, Maine.

Directed by Margaret Dube

Scenic and Costume Design by Allison Gerlach

CAST

Manny	John Kaufmann
Frannie	Inger Hatlen
Draco	Kerry Schryba
Gwen	Dinah Steward

and Larrance Fingerhut as himself

Special Appearance by  
Chris Mitchell

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

(Manny) Alberich  
Fafner/Fasolt  
Sigmund  
Siegfried  
Brunnhilde  
a Norn  
Gunther

(Frannie) Woglinde  
Fricka  
Mime  
Sieglinde  
a Norn

(Draco) Wotan  
Hunding  
a Norn

(Gwen) Wellgunde  
Freia  
Brunnhilde  
Siegfried

Larrance the Piano-Nymph

Chris the Building Manager

## PROLOGUE BEFORE THE CURTAIN

*(A couple of chairs onstage, facing the audience.)*

*(Manny enters with a program in one hand. He sits and watches the "show"<sup>1</sup>.)*

*(There seems to be little action at first, but Manny is fascinated by the sheer genius of the production which suggests characters and relationships with the subtlest of movements and the deft placement of actors upon the stage. He spots the prima donna sitting with the chorus and watches her expectantly.)*

*(Leaning forward in his chair, Manny studies the tableau with interest, noticing recurring themes and motifs, and some very clever details. Occasionally he frowns, perplexed at something he doesn't understand, or chuckles to himself when it strikes him funny, but mostly he gazes attentively at the spectacle, trying to take it all in.)*

*(Eventually, - though he tries to keep an open mind - there is one thing that bothers him. He glances at his program. He frowns. This doesn't seem like an opera. ...But he shrugs and returns his attention to the show.)*

*(Just then, the houselights fade to black. Manny shifts in his seat.)*

*(Lights come up onstage. Manny applauds politely, then he folds his arms across his chest and watches intensely for a few seconds.)*

*(Then he bursts out laughing. It's the same damn thing!)*

*(Enter Frannie.)*

Sorry I'm late.

**Frannie**

Ssh!

**Manny**

Did I miss anything?

**Frannie**

No, it's just started. Where's Mickey?

**Manny**

He called, he said he couldn't make it.

**Frannie**

---

<sup>1</sup> The "opening (inner) monologue" is meant to be an improv with the audience. The stage directions provided here are guidelines to help the reader visualize it, and should not be used in performance. Ideally, Manny should sit and watch the "play" as if it really is a performance of an extremely uneventful performance art piece depicting a "crowd" of actors watching something. He must be as real as possible.

Oh, that's too bad. **Manny**

*(He helps her find a chair.)*

*(They both watch.)*

You missed a great preshow. **Manny**

Really? What happened? **Frannie**

Well, the whole cast comes out onstage and they're all just staring at you! **Manny**

Really? **Frannie**

*(nods)*  
Uh huh. **Manny**

Kind of like now. **Frannie**

*(laughing hysterically:)*  
Yes! **Manny**

*(Frannie looks at the audience uncertainly, but then she thinks it's funny, too.)*

I wish I'd seen that. **Frannie**

Well, I told you eight o'clock. **Manny**

Well, it's eight o'clock. **Frannie**

But you gotta get here before eight o'clock. **Manny**

All right. Ssh! **Frannie**

*(They watch.)*

Who's this guy? He's pretty good. **Frannie**

I think that's the lead. **Manny**

**Frannie**  
Really? I thought that was the lead.

**Manny**  
Oh, no, that's just some guy.

**Frannie**  
He's really not the leading man type.

**Manny**  
Oh, really? And that is?

**Frannie**  
He's much more attractive than him.

**Manny**  
You've gotta be kidding! Look at this guy. And look at that guy. No contest.

**Frannie**  
Oh, c'mon!

**Manny**  
I can't believe you think some guy in the chorus is better looking than the leading man.

**Frannie**  
Well, neither one of 'em is anything to write home about.

**Manny**  
Well, yeah. But it's all in the acting.

**Frannie**  
True. And the singing.

**Manny**  
Right.

**Frannie**  
'Cause this is supposed to be an opera, right?

**Manny**  
I think so.

*(They both look at Manny's program.)*

**Manny**  
Wagner's Ring Cycle.

**Frannie**  
You don't say Wagner. It's pronounced Wogner.

**Manny**  
Really? It's spelled like Wagner.

**Frannie**

I know. It's German.  
Or Czech. Something like that.

**Manny**

Wogner. Wogner. Richard Wogner. That just doesn't sound right.

**Frannie**

It is.

**Manny**

He's got an American first name.

**Frannie**

I know.

**Manny**

Richard Wagner. See, that sounds much better. Richard Wagner.

**Frannie**

But he's not American. And you know how to tell?

**Manny**

How?

**Frannie**

Because if he was American his name would be Rick or Dickie. Dick Wagner. See? But it's not, it's Richard. Richard Wogner. Because he's German.

**Manny**

Or Czech.

*(Pause.)*

**Frannie**

So, why don't they sing?

**Manny**

I don't know.

**Frannie**

*(suddenly irritated:)*  
And who's this guy!

**Manny**

I don't know, he's just some guy, you're not supposed to be watching him.

**Frannie**

But that's the prima donna, right?

**Manny**

Yeah, I think so.

**Frannie**

Well, what's she doing with that guy. Shouldn't she be over here with the leading man. Aren't they supposed to be in love or something?

**Manny**

I don't know. Do I look like a Wagner expert? Maybe she's cheating on him. Or maybe he's cheating on her. I don't know. Or maybe they haven't met yet. If you'd just calm down and watch the show...

**Frannie**

Okay, you're right.

**Manny**

You always do this.

**Frannie**

I'm sorry.

*(They watch.)*

**Frannie**

So why don't they sing?

**Manny**

I don't know.

**Frannie**

This is some kind of high concept thing, isn't it?

**Manny**

I think so.

**Frannie**

I hate that.

**Manny**

Maybe it's not, then. Could you give it a chance?

**Frannie**

No. I've only been watching for five minutes and I can already see that the story, the characters and the composer's music have all been sublimated to this overwhelming sense of... AMBIENCE ...which is completely inappropriate to the script!

**Manny**

You read the script?

**Frannie**

I read the review. And I'm sure it's just like all the other Wagnerian operas.

**Manny**

Well, I don't care what you say, I think it's great.

*(Manny watches obstinately.)*

You have to admit, they're very intense.



**Frannie**

*(unimpressed:)*  
Yeah, whatever.

**Manny**

I suppose you think you could do better.

**Frannie**

Why aren't they singing?

**Manny**

I don't know.

**Frannie**

It just goes on and on like this.

**Manny**

It's opera, it's supposed to be long.

**Frannie**

*(generally, to the "actors":)*  
Could we please have some plot development here?

**Manny**

Would you please lower your voice?

**Frannie**

Boo! Boo! Get off the stage.

**Manny**

*(utterly appalled:)*  
I can't believe you just did that. I've never been so embarrassed in all my life!

**Frannie**

Well they deserved it.

**Manny**

You do not go to an opera and "boo" the performers.

**Frannie**

You do if they suck.

*(Draco enters upstage, livid.)*

**Manny**

You always applaud politely at an opera. Especially if they suck.

**Frannie**

I'm sorry, but I've had it. Let me see the program. Who's the director? I'm going to write him a letter. This is the worst thing I've seen all year.

*(looks in the program:)*  
Hey, look, there's my name!

Where? **Manny**

Right there, in the program. **Frannie**

You're kidding me! Hey, I'm in here too! **Manny**

Really? **Frannie**

That's amazing, how did they do that? **Manny**

*(Draco discreetly taps Frannie on the shoulder.)*

Hey, are you the stage manager? **Frannie**

That's great! **Manny**  
*(still impressed with the program:)*

We have a question. How come our names---  
*(Draco whispers urgently to Frannie.)*

Oh, no. You're kidding. **Frannie**  
*(Draco shakes his head "No".)*

What? How'd they do it? **Manny**  
*(Frannie whispers to Manny.)*

No way.  
*(Draco nods "Yes")*

I have never been so embarrassed in all my life. **Frannie**  
*(Manny bursts out laughing.)*

What is so funny?? **Frannie**

*(as they exit:)* **Manny**  
I wish I could see this!

*(When Draco is done fuming, he turns to the audience...)*

**Draco**

We are very sorry for the delay. We are... experiencing technical difficulties. But our production of Richard Wagner's<sup>2</sup> Ring Cycle will commence in just a moment.

*(Draco removes the chairs and brings on the Rheingold prop, which he sets at center stage.)*

---

<sup>2</sup> Draco pronounces both names (Richard and Wagner) correctly.

## DAS RHEINGOLD

*(Enter Frannie as Woglinde the Rhinenymph. She looks ridiculous.)*

*(Just then another actor, Gwen, bounds in as Wellgunde the Rhinenymph and begins singing from Wagner's Das Rheingold.)*

**Gwen / WELLGUNDE**

**Weia! Waga!  
Woge, du Welle,  
walle zur Wiege!  
Wagalaweia!  
Wallala weiala weia!**<sup>3</sup>

*(She dances around the Gold.)*

*(turning to Woglinde, she asks:)*

**Woglinde, wach'st du allein?**<sup>4</sup>

**Frannie / WOGLINDE**

I'm sorry, what did you just say? I don't know German.<sup>5</sup>

**Gwen / WELLGUNDE**

*(scolding her:)*

**Des Goldes Schlaf  
hütet ihr schlecht;  
besser bewacht  
des schlummernden Bett,  
sonst büss't ihr beide das Spiel!**<sup>6</sup>

*(Suddenly Wellgunde lets out a merry cry, and begins darting about, laughing and sporting, dancing around the Gold. Frannie thinks that's a good idea, lets out a merry cry and joins in the fun.)*

*(From a dark chasm, Alberich - played by Manny - clammers up to one of the rocks. He halts in the shadow and watches the gambols of the nymphs with growing delight.)*

---

<sup>3</sup> Weia! Waga!  
Rock, thou Wave,  
walle to the Cradle!  
Wagalaweia!  
Wallala weiala weia!

<sup>4</sup> Woglinde, guard'st thou alone?

<sup>5</sup> replaces "Mit Wellgunde wär' ich zu zwei."

<sup>6</sup> The Gold's Sleep  
you watch over badly;  
better guard  
the slumberer's Bed,  
otherwise you'll both pay for that Playing!

**Manny / ALBERICH<sup>7</sup>**

*(lustfully:)*  
**He, he! Ihr Nicker!  
Wie seid ihr niedlich,  
neidliches Volk!**

*(At Alberich's entrance, Wellgunde and Woglinde have fled to corners of the stage, leaving him alone at center with the gold.)*

*(Alberich's voice trails off as he notices the gold just sitting there:)*

**Aus Nibelheim's Nacht...**

*(He looks at the nymphs. He looks at the gold. He looks at the nymphs. He looks at the gold. He snatches the gold and runs offstage without finishing the scene.)*

**Draco**

*(runs on from the other side and rushes out after him:)*  
Hey! Come back here!

*(Frannie laughs hysterically, as we hear sounds of struggle backstage.)*

It's mine! **Manny** *(offstage:)*

Give it back to me! **Draco** *(offstage:)*

You told me to steal it! **Manny** *(offstage:)*

Not till the end of the scene! **Draco** *(offstage:)*

That was the end of the scene! **Manny** *(offstage:)*

*(Various thrashing sounds from offstage, gradually moving further away. It seems there is no way of continuing with the scene. Frannie laughs her butt off and exits.)*

----- END OF SCENE -----

*(Gwen sets up for the second scene. On the wall she hangs a picture of a beautiful palace - Valhalla.)*

*(Enter Draco as Wotan, wearing an eyepatch, and Frannie as Fricka, a goddess/housewife. Draco begins the second scene of Das Rheingold.)*

---

<sup>7</sup> Ha, ha! You Nicker!  
How pretty you are,  
pretty Folk!  
Out of Nibelheim's Night...

**Draco / WOTAN<sup>8</sup>**

*(with grand gestures toward the picture on the wall:)*

**Der Wonne seligen Saal  
bewachen mir Thur' und Thor:  
Mannes Ehre  
ewige Macht,  
ragen zu endlosem Ruhm!**

**Frannie / FRICKA**

I'm sorry, what?

*(Wotan doesn't respond, because it's still her turn to sing.)*

Could you say that again? I didn't get what you said.

**Draco / WOTAN<sup>9</sup>**

*(ignores her and continues, pointing at the painting:)*

**Vollendet das ewige Werk:  
auf Berges Gipfel  
die Gotter-Burg,  
prunkvoll prahlt  
der prangende Bau!  
Wie im Traum ich ihn trug,  
wie mein Wille ihn wies,  
stark und schon  
steht er zur Schau;  
hehrer, herrlicher Bau!**

---

<sup>8</sup> Bliss to bless the Hall  
to guard with Door and Gate:  
Men's Honor  
eternal Might,  
rise to endless Glory!

<sup>9</sup> They complete the eternal Work:  
on Mountain's Peak  
the God Castle,  
magnificently boasts (it/they)  
the *prangende* Building!  
How in a Dream I deceived them,  
how my Will they did so,  
strong and beautiful  
stands on Display;  
*hehrer*, marvelous Building!

**Frannie / FRICKA**

I'm sorry, I didn't understand a word you just said. Something about this picture?  
(sings:)

**Oh, yes, it's lovely, it's lovely.**

**Matisse, perhaps, or Monet!**

**But, look! It's crooked!**

(as she adjusts the painting:)

**This must be fixed!**

**I fixed it, now that looks okay.**

(Draco grits his teeth and tries to go on as if she didn't just do that.)

**Draco / WOTAN<sup>10</sup>**

**Wohl dunkt mich's, was sie bedangen,**

**Frannie / FRICKA**

There you go again.

**Draco / WOTAN<sup>11</sup>**

**die dort die Burg mir gebaut;**

**Frannie / FRICKA**

(as if to a deaf man:)

I don't understand you when you talk like that.

**Draco / WOTAN<sup>12</sup>**

**durch Vertrag zahmt'ich**

**ihr trotzig Gezucht,**

**dass sie die hehre**

**Halle mir schlufen;**

**Frannie / FRICKA**

**...Yes, I've seen**

**the picture can-we-talk-about-  
something-else for a change**

**Draco / WOTAN**

(continues:)

**die steht nun -- Dank den Starken:--  
um den Sold Sorge dich nicht.**

<sup>10</sup> Well I think on, what they *bedangen*,

<sup>11</sup> those who built me the Building;

<sup>12</sup> through Contract I restrain them  
they Grow defiant,  
that they the *hehre*  
Hall to me *schlufen*;  
*die steht* now -- Thank the Strong Ones:--  
for the Pay, fret thou not.

**Frannie / FRICKA**

*(with melodramatic gusto, launching into her own opera, to the tune of the original:)*

**Oh no, I can't forget Paris!  
You, a Luftwaffe pilot  
stationed in occupied France,  
and I, a poor peasant girl  
but also a spy for  
the French Underground.  
"Amor" was all you could say  
"Amor" was my reason for living.  
That summer I  
betrayed my own country!  
murdered my bedridden mother!  
sold my soul to the Reich!  
You left for Berlin  
without a goodbye...  
Now you tell me "Forget!"??**

**Draco**

All right, that's enough, stop it! Stop!

**Frannie**

You know I don't understand a word of German. How am I supposed to know what's going on in this opera, if you don't talk in a language I halfway understand?

**Draco / WOTAN**

Fine!

*(continuing:)*

**There's the house you asked me to build.  
At last it is completed.  
We can move in this weekend.**

**Frannie / FRICKA**

**Oh, it's a beautiful house!  
*(trying to cover for her previous mistake:)*  
So beautiful that  
when I first saw it  
It looked like a painting, a real work of art.**

**Draco / WOTAN**

*(hinting at the storyline:)*

**Don't you want to know how much  
this gorgeous mansion cost?**

**Frannie / FRICKA**

**You must be rich.  
You can afford it,  
*(she can't remember his name:)*  
uh... Mister...?**



**Draco / WOTAN**

*(reminding her:)*

**Wotan, the  
King of  
the Germanic  
gods.**

**Frannie / FRICKA**

*(remembering:)*

**Wotan!  
The King of the  
Germanic gods.  
Wait a minute...**

*(Fricka looks at the painting again, more suspicious now.)*

**Draco / WOTAN**

**I think you ought  
to sit down while I say this.  
Do you recall when you told me:  
"Spare no expense,  
build me the kind  
of home that is fit for a god!"**

**Frannie / FRICKA**

How did you pay for it?  
Is that a drawbridge?

Within reason. Spare no expense within reason.

How did you do it?

**Frannie / FRICKA**

**Draco / WOTAN**

**Fasolt and Fafner  
the architects  
it's their work, they did it all...**

**Frannie / FRICKA**

**Did you get an  
estimate first  
before they started  
building the house?**

*(Wotan shakes his head "No")*

**And what are the terms of the deal?  
What is the price they ask?**

**Draco / WOTAN**

*(looking at the invoice:)*

**Do you remember your sister,  
the one called Freia?**

**Frannie / FRICKA**

**Yes, I do. What's your point?**

**Draco / WOTAN**

*(showing her the invoice:)*

**Well, now they own her outright.**

**Frannie / FRICKA**

**You sold my sister  
to pay for a house?  
You sold her to pay for  
this stupid house??**

**Draco / WOTAN**

**Seemed like a bargain to me.**

*(Fricka grabs the painting off the wall, and holds a knife to its throat.)*

**Draco / WOTAN**

What are you doing?!

*(The phone rings.)*

**Frannie / FRICKA**

**If you want to see  
your castle again  
Don't let them take her away!**

*(The phone is still ringing.)*

*(Gwen runs in as Freia.)*

**Gwen / FREIA**

**Help me, Sister!  
Save me, I pray!  
The Giant brothers  
Fasolt and Fafner  
have come to take me away.**

*(The phone is still ringing.)*

*(Larrance the pianist stops playing and answers the phone.)*

*(Larrance drops the phone and runs out of the building.)*

**Draco**

Hey! Hey! Larrance!

*(picks up the phone:)*

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE??

*(Beat.)*

...oh. ...uh huh ...oh.

*(Draco returns to the stage.)*

**Draco**

Um. Our pianist, Larrance... his wife<sup>13</sup> is... having a baby and... *(shrugs)*

**Gwen**

So, do we wait for him to come back?

**Draco**

*(snaps at her:)*

No, we don't wait for him to come back!

---

<sup>13</sup> or girlfriend, or sister, take your pick.

**Gwen / FREIA**

*(resuming:)*  
Help me, Sister!  
Save me, I pray!  
The Giant brothers  
Fasolt and Fafner  
have come to take me away.

**Draco**

What are you doing?

**Gwen**

You said not to wait.

**Frannie / FRICKA**

Yeah, the show must go on!  
*(in character:)*  
Fear not, Freia.  
We will defend you.

**Draco**

We are not going to do this opera *a capella*!

**Gwen**

Oh. But I thought that's what you said.

**Frannie**

Why not?

**Draco**

BECAUSE IT'S ABSURD!!

**Frannie**

The water nymph costume was absurd, but I wore it out here!

**Gwen**

I'm sorry, I didn't mean to cause a fight. I just thought you meant we should sort of talk through it until maybe Larrance comes back, you know and recite it like poetry.

**Manny** *(behind the curtain:)*

HA HA HA HA!

**Draco**

WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING AT?

**Manny** *(behind the curtain:)*

*(laughing hysterically:)*  
Recite it like poetry??

*(Draco exits. Draco and Manny stand behind the curtain and argue.)*

**Draco** *(offstage:)*

You think this is funny?

**Manny** (offstage:)  
Hey, chill, dude. I'm on your side. Let's cancel and go home.

**Draco** (offstage:)  
You're not going home until I say you can go home!

**Manny** (offstage:)  
Aw, c'mon! You said it yourself: This is absurd.

**Draco** (offstage:)  
SHUT UP!  
(Beat.)  
Where are your clothes?

**Manny** (offstage:)  
I thought it would be easier to tell Alberich and Fafner apart if I played Fafner naked...

**Draco** (offstage:)  
WHAT!!

**Manny** (offstage:)  
...so I'm naked.

**Draco** (offstage:)  
No!

**Manny** (offstage:)  
Yes I am.

**Draco** (offstage:)  
No! Absolutely not!!

**Manny** (offstage:)  
Please?

**Draco** (offstage:)  
NO!!

**Manny** (offstage:)  
Okay, fine. So, we're cancelled?

**Draco** (offstage:)  
No, we are not cancelled! We are going to finish this opera! And you will do it fully dressed!

(Draco reenters.)

**Draco**  
Ladies and Gentlemen, I apologize for the unfortunate delay, but our production of Richard  
Wagner's *Das Rheingold*...  
In English.  
Without music.  
Will now continue from the entrance of Fasolt and Fafner.

**Frannie / FRICKA**

Fear not, Freia.  
We will defend you.

*(Throughout this scene, Fasolt and Fafner can be heard offstage, growling and stomping.)*

**Gwen / FREIA**

Fafner follows me.  
Fasolt fondles me.  
Tells me that soon my love will be his  
Whether I like it or not.

**Draco / WOTAN**

Fasolt is a liar.  
Your love is not part of the bargain.  
Only your body belongs to the giants.

**Gwen / FREIA**

Oh no!

**Frannie / FRICKA**

Oh yes!  
But fret not, my sister  
If I have any say in the matter  
Wotan will find a way to break this unholy contract.

**Gwen / FREIA**

I hope he does,  
because  
here they come:  
Those lustful leering giants.  
Fasolt and Fafner!

*(Manny throws open the curtain and enters as Fafner, wearing a bath towel, with a sock puppet<sup>14</sup> on one hand.)*

**Manny / FAFNER**

Fe Fi Fo Fum  
From mountain fastness we are come.

**Draco**

STOP!  
*(They stop.)*  
Where is Mickey?

**Frannie and Manny**

He called and said he couldn't make it.

**Draco**

---

<sup>14</sup> The Fasolt puppet should be very simple, a tube sock with dorsal fins like a lizard, and maybe a tongue (forked), but no eyes or other features.

I can't believe this is happening.

**Manny**

No, but look, it's okay, because I can play both parts.

**Manny / FAFNER**

Fe Fi Fo Fum

**Manny's puppet / FASOLT**

From mountain fastness we are come.

**Manny / FAFNER**

A goddess fair we seek to win  
For Faf and Fas the giants twin.

**Manny's puppet / FASOLT**

*(spotting Freia:)*  
There she is Fafner!

**Manny / FAFNER**

She won't escape us, this time, Fasolt. You go that way, and I'll go this way.

**Gwen / FREIA**

Wotan, save me!

**Manny / FAFNER**

You're barking up the wrong tree, now, toots. Wotan is the one who gave you to us.

**Gwen / FREIA**

Oh no!

**Frannie / FRICKA**

Oh yes, but don't worry, sister, Wotan is going to make things right, aren't you Wotan.  
*(nudging him:)*  
Wotan?

**Draco / WOTAN**

You can't have her.

**Manny's puppet / FASOLT**

Whoa! Am I hearing things? I must have lint in my ears, 'cause I thought I just heard you say we can't have her.

**Draco / WOTAN**

That's right Fafner, she's not for sale.

**Manny / FAFNER**

I'm Fafner. This is Fasolt.

**Frannie / FRICKA**

*(Shakespeareanly:)*  
Stay, stand apart, I cannot tell which is which!

**Manny's puppet / FASOLT**

*(looking at Fafner:)*  
It's like looking in a mirror.

**Frannie / FRICKA**

We need to get name tags for you guys.

**Draco / WOTAN**

I know I'm going to regret this, but... I think you can tell them apart if you just remember that Fasolt is the one that looks more like a lizard, instead of a giant.

**Manny / FAFNER**

Great Scott! He's right, Fasolt! You're a dragon.

**Manny's puppet / FASOLT**

You're right! Also, I just noticed that I don't have any eyes.

*(Fasolt walks into a wall.)*

Help! I'm blind!

**Draco / WOTAN**

I knew I'd regret it.

**Manny / FAFNER**

*(melodramatically:)*

It's okay, brother, I'm right here. Just stay close to me.

**Manny's puppet / FASOLT**

Does this mean we're fraternal twins?

**Manny / FAFNER**

Why didn't our mother tell us?

**Frannie / FRICKA**

Quick, while they're confused, Freia, make your escape.

**Manny / FAFNER**

*(cutting her off:)*

Oh, no you don't. A deal's a deal, Wotan. We built your castle for you. Now hand over the girl!

**Draco / WOTAN**

I've changed my mind.

**Manny's puppet / FASOLT**

Hey, Fafner.

**Manny / FAFNER**

What?

**Manny's puppet / FASOLT**

Now that I'm blind, I notice my other senses are compensating for the handicap.

**Draco / WOTAN**

What if I gave you something else, something more valuable than Freia?

**Manny's puppet / FASOLT**

Deal!

**Manny / FAFNER**

Wait a minute.

*(to Wotan:)*

What could be more valuable than the Goddess of Youth and Beauty?

**Draco / WOTAN**

Gold.

**Manny's puppet / FASOLT**

Deal!

**Manny / FAFNER**

Now, wait a minute.

*(to Wotan:)*

How much gold?

**Frannie / FRICKA**

Wotan, may I have a word with you?

*(Fricka takes Wotan aside.)*

You don't have any gold.

**Draco / WOTAN**

I know.

**Frannie / FRICKA**

How can you offer them gold when you don't have any?

**Draco / WOTAN**

I'll get it.

**Frannie / FRICKA**

Do you mind telling me how? King of the Germanic gods doesn't pay like it used to. The Teutonic tribes refused your last cost of living increase.

**Draco / WOTAN**

Trust me, I have a plan.

**Frannie / FRICKA**

What's your plan?

**Draco / WOTAN**

*(dramatically:)*

I will give them the Rheingold!

**Frannie / FRICKA**

The first opera of the Ring Cycle?

**Draco**

I'm going to kill you.

*(Draco starts to kill her.)*



**Manny / FAFNER**

Hey, Wotan! Answer me one question.

**Draco / WOTAN**

Yes?

**Manny / FAFNER**

How come you're wearing an eyepatch?

**Frannie / FRICKA**

Excuse me, fellas.

**Manny's puppet / FASOLT**

She called us "fellas".

**Frannie / FRICKA**

*(aside to Wotan:)*

If you mean the Rheingold at the bottom of the Rhine river, which is guarded by the Rhine nymphs: it doesn't belong to you. That would be stealing.

**Draco / WOTAN**

Ah! But the Rheingold has already been stolen by Alberich the Nibelung. And to steal from a thief is not theft!

**Manny / FAFNER**

Hey, Wotan, we've been thinking about your offer, and we don't think you have any gold. I mean, look at you. Look at the way you're dressed.

**Manny's puppet / FASOLT**

What is that thing on your head supposed to be?

**Manny / FAFNER**

And what's this? I know you got this at a yard sale.

**Manny's puppet / FASOLT**

And your wife...

**Frannie / FRICKA**

Oh, yeah? Well, you're a tube sock!

**Manny's puppet / FASOLT**

Them's fightin' words, honey!

**Manny / FAFNER**

All right, that's it. We're taking the girl.

*(He grabs Freia with his puppet hand.)*

**Gwen / FREIA**

Ow!

**Manny's puppet / FASOLT**

I'm sorry, did I bite you?

**Draco / WOTAN**

Gentlemen, please, there's no need to be upset. I'm not trying to cheat you. I don't have the gold now, but I know where to get it. Alberich the Nibelung has a horde of gold which I will get for you.

**Manny / FAFNER**

How much gold?

**Draco / WOTAN**

The Nibelung's horde will more than satisfy you. You see, Alberich's gold is magical gold.

**Manny / FAFNER**

Magical gold? What does it do?

**Draco / WOTAN**

It is said that whomsoever shall forge a ring from the gold will have unimaginable powers.

**Manny's puppet / FASOLT**

Imagine that!

**Frannie / FRICKA**

And I've heard that if you make a helmet out of the gold, you can turn into any shape you want.

**Draco**

You have not heard that.

**Frannie / FRICKA**

Yes, I have!

*(Beat.)*

Oh, no that's later.

**Draco**

I can't work with you amateurs.

**Manny / FAFNER**

No, wait, Wotan, you've got a deal. If the Nibelung's gold does everything you say. We will accept it as payment for the house.

**Frannie / FRICKA**

So, how did I know that? I must've read it in magazine. Yeah, there was this whole article on magic helmets.

**Draco**

If you think I'm going to spend one more minute with you idiots...

**Gwen / FREIA**

Please, brother, do not desert me. Have I done you some wrong that you would abandon me to these giants? Do not forsake me, Wotan, I beg you.

**Draco**

Do you know what you're asking me to do?

**Gwen / FREIA**

I think it cannot be much wrong if some good may come of it.

**Draco / WOTAN**

All right, you giants!

**Manny's puppet / FASOLT**

I'm a dragon.

**Draco / WOTAN**

I will to Nibelheim to fetch the Nibelung's gold, if you will promise to relinquish your claim on Freia.

**Manny's puppet / FASOLT**

Deal!

**Manny / FAFNER**

Not so fast. Freia stays with us until you get the gold. I don't want you double crossing us, again.

*(He handcuffs himself to Freia, and exits.)*

*(The puppet reenters.)*

**Manny's puppet / FASOLT**

And we're keeping the house.

*(Fasolt snatches the picture off the wall, and exits.)*

*(The lights flicker.)*

**Frannie / FRICKA**

Did you see that?

**Draco / WOTAN**

*(dramatically:)*

Now that Freia is gone from us, our future is grim.  
Dark days are ahead of us, and black dark nights.

**Frannie / FRICKA**

Oh, woeful day! But what can we do?  
The electric bill was in her name! Without Freia---

*(Wotan tosses Fricka offstage to keep her from saying anything else.)*

**Draco / WOTAN**

Freia is departed from us, a hostage in the land of giants.  
Without the Goddess of Youth and Beauty  
we will soon grow old,---

**offstage voice**

---and ugly.

**Draco / WOTAN**

---and die.  
My way is now to Nibelheim to steal the Nibelung's gold, and ransom our sister back to us.

*(Exit Wotan.)*

----- END OF SCENE -----



**Manny / ALBERICH**

The one that allows its wearer to turn invisible at will.

**Frannie / MIME**

(Nope, still can't recall.)

**Manny / ALBERICH**

The one that lets you turn yourself into a dragon, or an eagle, or a lion.

**Frannie / MIME**

(You asked me to make this?)

**Manny / ALBERICH**

Yes! I told you to make it!

*(Just then, Larrance the pianist comes back. They both rush over to him.)*

**Manny**

Larrance! You're back! You're just in time.

**Frannie**

Is your wife okay?

**Manny**

We're up to the scene with Alberich and Mime.

*(pointing in the score:)*

There.

*(Larrance plays. Alberich and Mime return to the stage.)*

**Manny / ALBERICH**

**I'm gonna pinch  
you black and blue  
I'm gonna pinch you  
if you don't make  
the helmet I told you to make.**

**Frannie / MIME**

(Ow! ow! Leave me alone. I made it, don't pinch me.)

**Manny / ALBERICH**

**Why hesitate then? Just give it to me.**

**Frannie / MIME**

(I wanted to finish it.)

**Manny / ALBERICH**

**What? Isn't it finished?**

**Frannie / MIME**

(Sort of.)

**Manny / ALBERICH**

**What's that mean? Give it to me!**

*(Mime begins a long interpretive dance / pantomime about Alberich's conquest of the Nibelung's, the forging of the Ring, and the making of the Tarnhat, probably to the tune of Mime's "Mit arger List/schuf sich Alberich/aus Rheines Gold" song from the original. The dance becomes more and more ridiculous the longer her silent aria goes on.)*

*(Eventually, Mime reaches a part of the story that is very hard to explain, and the dance devolves into a game of charades:)*

(Two words.)	<b>Frannie / MIME</b>
Two words.	<b>Manny / ALBERICH</b>
(First word.)	<b>Frannie / MIME</b>
First word.	<b>Manny / ALBERICH</b>
(Two syllables.)	<b>Frannie / MIME</b>
Two syllables.	<b>Manny / ALBERICH</b>
(Sounds like.)	<b>Frannie / MIME</b>
Sounds like.	<b>Manny / ALBERICH</b>
(Angst.)	<b>Frannie / MIME</b>
um... um... uh... I don't know. Go on to the next word!	<b>Manny / ALBERICH</b>
(Angst.)	<b>Frannie / MIME</b>

*(Wotan peeps in through the curtain, and then comes out onstage, livid.)*

Things you see in an opera! Things you say to a fish!	<b>Manny / ALBERICH</b>
--	-------------------------

*(Alberich notices Wotan standing right behind them.)*

Oh, Wotan.

*(Beat.)*  
*(Looks at his watch.)*  
You're early.

**Draco**

*(ignoring him, to Mime:)*  
You are not a mime.

**Frannie / MIME**

*(Beat.)*  
Oh.  
*(Beat.)*  
But it says---

**Draco**

Yes, it's spelled "Mime", but it's pronounced, "Meema". It's a German name.

**Frannie / MIME**

Oh.  
I get it.

*(Draco exits.)*

**Manny / ALBERICH**

*(following Draco out:)*  
So, wait, did this happen?  
Were you here, just now, or was that a dream sequence?

*(Alberich is tossed onstage.)*

*(to Larrance:)*  
He said to start from her song.

*(Larrance starts to play.)*

**Frannie / MIME**

*(sings:)<sup>17</sup>*  
**Oh...**  
*(to Larrance:)*  
Y'know, this song's a little bit low for me. Could we take it up?

*(Larrance takes it up.)*

And could we do it a little up-tempo?

*(Larrance plays it up-tempo.)*

Yeah, that's right.

*(She looks to see that Draco is not around.)*

---

<sup>17</sup> The music is "Mit arger list" again

And you know what else would really work for this song, is if it were more like a 50's thing.

*(Larrance makes this adjustment also.)*

**Frannie / MIME (with Manny / ALBERICH)**

**Oh, I was just a humble haberdasher, till my brother, Al (that's me!)  
He asked me for a favor, and I said, "You name it, pal.  
If my haberdashing talents can help out, just let me know,  
And I'll be on it like the cow horns on a valkyrie's chapeau.**

**Well, he showed me, then, a feature in a fashion magazine  
*(Mime produces a magazine with an article about the Tarnhat in it.)*  
About a hat made out of gold and he said, "Make me one of these."  
Well, I looked at brother Al, and I said, "Listen to me, Bro'  
This hat is made of gold, and that's expensive, don't ya know."**

**But then he said, "Sweat it not, my Meem, because I got the cash.  
Y'see, I swiped it from an underwater Rheingold stash!"  
I told him, "Crime, it doesn't pay, and it's a sin, as well."  
But he said, "Brother, make the hat, so I can look good in hell."**

*(Mime takes out the Tarnhat as she sings the refrain:)*

**This hat (that hat) ain't nothin' but trouble.  
This hat (that hat) is gonna do you wrong.  
This hat (that hat) 's gonna ruin your reputation.  
I think we can surmise it's gonna lead to the demise  
of every man or god or Nibelung to whom it shall belong.**

**I said "Find a new accomplice, I don't want to get involved!"  
He said "I have something here, I think will weaken your resolve."  
Then he reached into his pocket and took out a golden Ring.  
I said, "If you think you can bribe me... Hey, well, that's another thing."**

**But it was not generosity, he slipped it on his hand,  
And by magic I was forced to do his dastardly demands!  
Oh, yes, he made me wash the dishes and to scrub the kitchen floor,  
And he made me fold his underwear and, oh, and one thing more:**

**He made me build the Tarnhat - that is what the thing was called.  
And his wish was my command, but deep inside I was appalled.  
For the power of the Tarnhat and the Ring are very great.  
But don't imagine that will save him from a terrible fate.**

**This hat (that hat) ain't nothin' but trouble.  
This hat (that hat) is gonna do you wrong.  
This hat (that hat) 's gonna ruin your reputation.  
I think we can surmise it's gonna lead to the demise  
of every man or god or Nibelung to whom it shall belong.**

*(Instrumental section.)*

Do the Tarnhelm!



*(They do a Tarnhelm dance during the instrumental section.)*

**This hat (that hat) No, it ain't nothin' but trouble.  
This hat (that hat) It's gonna do ya, do ya wrong.  
This hat (that hat) It's gonna ruin your reputation.  
I think we can surmise it's gonna lead to the demise  
of every man or god or Nibelung**

**Manny / ALBERICH**

**(or cat or dog or Romulan)**

**Frannie & Manny / MIME & ALBERICH**

**Of every god or Nibelung  
to whom it shall belong!!!**

**Manny / ALBERICH**

**Give me the hat.**

*(Alberich grabs the Tarnhat, but Mime doesn't let go of it. He pulls it toward him, she pulls it back. They tug it back and forth. Soon they are wrestling across the stage with it. At one point, they tumble off the stage, and are wrestling near the piano.)*

*(Larrance gently grabs Mime's arm to pull her away from the hat. She shrugs him off, so Larrance tries to grab the Tarnhat, too, and soon they are all three back at center stage wrestling for the hat.)*

*(Finally, with a mighty wrench, both Alberich and Mime lose their grip on the Tarnhat and fall to the ground, leaving Larrance with the hat. He is really embarrassed. He hands the hat to Alberich and slinks back to the piano.)*

**Manny / ALBERICH**

Okay, Let's see what this baby can do.

*(Drum roll. Alberich places the Tarnhat on his head.)*

*(Larrance plays the Tarnhat music. Alberich shakes his head like a pitcher shaking off the catcher's signal.)*

*(Larrance plays a different version of the Tarnhat music. Alberich doesn't like that one either.)*

*(Larrance plays something else. Alberich is still kind of iffy about it.)*

*(Larrance plays something radically different and inappropriate. Alberich nods emphatically, and begins the song:)*

**Manny / ALBERICH**

**Tarnhelm invisibo diddly boop!**

**Don't look now,  
but I'm invisible!**

**Frannie / MIME**

*(pretends he's invisible:)*

**Where have you hid?  
Where are you now?**

**Manny / ALBERICH**

**You can't see me,  
I'm invisible!**

*(Alberich pinches Mime.)*

**Frannie / MIME**

**Ow!  
What will you do?  
Where will you go now?**

**Manny / ALBERICH**

**I'm free!  
To do as I please,  
Go where I want to.**

**I'm free!  
'Cause I can't be found,  
No one can stop me.**

**Free to have all the things my parents never had.  
Free to be places no one else is permitted.  
Free to take off  
    all my clothes in  
    public!!**

*(Alberich starts taking off all his clothes. Mime interrupts with:)*

**Frannie / MIME**

**But what else can you do?**

**Manny / ALBERICH**

**Tarnhelm invisibear grizzly boop**

**Don't look now,  
but I'm a grizzly bear!**

**Frannie / MIME**

*(pretends he's a grizzly bear:)*

**Oh, what a sight!  
Gives me a fright!**

**Manny / ALBERICH**

**You better run,  
'cause I'm a grizzly bear!**

*(Alberich pinches Mime.)*

**Frannie / MIME**

*(running:)*

**Ow!**

**Run for your life!  
Here comes a bruin!**

**Manny / ALBERICH**

**I'm free!  
To do as I please,  
Go where I want to.**

**I'm free!  
Five hundred pounds,  
No one can stop me.**

**Free to live in the woods and be left alone.  
Free to maul an occasional camper.  
Free to wear my  
    new fur coat in  
    public!!**

**Why am I talking to you?  
I've got so much I can do.**

*(pretending to be a game show host:)*

Alberich, with your magic powers, you can be the King of Nibelheim and all the Nibelungs... or you can have what's behind this curtain.

*(pretending to be himself:)*

I'll take the curtain, Jack.

*(looking behind the curtain:)*

It's the world!! IT'S THE WHOLE WORLD!!!

*(He exits, laughing maniacally:)*

HA HA HA HA HA!

**Frannie / MIME**

**Oh oh oh oh oh...**

*(Wotan enters, wearing a nylon stocking mask like a robber, but with his eyepatch over it.)*

*(Just as he is about to sing, the music abruptly stops.)*

**Draco / WOTAN**

**Nibelheim hie---  
Where's my music?**

**Larrance**

How do you want it?

**Draco / WOTAN**

How do you think I want it??

**Larrance**

*(shrugs)*

**Draco / WOTAN**

I want it like it's supposed to be! Like it says in the score! This is an opera, there's only one way to do it!

*(phone begins ringing.)*

I don't know what's got into you people today! This isn't a joke. This isn't some stage play. This is art! This is the Ring Cycle. Do you know what that is? Do you know how many people would kill to be up here right now doing this? And they would do it the right way! On the first try!

*(He cues Larrance to start the music. The phone is still ringing.)*

**Nibelheim h---**

*(Larrance only plays the first chord before he stops to go answer the phone.)*

*(Larrance listens briefly, then returns to the piano.)*

*(Wotan starts to sing...)*

**Draco / WOTAN**

**Nibelhei---**

*(...but Larrance was only returning to grab a few things before leaving.)*

**Draco**

I can't believe this is happening.

**Frannie / MIME**

I don't know who you are, O eyepatchèd one, or why you've come here, but please save me if you can from my evil brother Alberich.

**Manny / ALBERICH**

*(entering:)*

Ha ha, I'm back, I bet you were talking about me.  
zzzzZZAP!

**Frannie / MIME**

Yow!

**Manny / ALBERICH**

And who is that masked man?

**Draco / WOTAN**

I am a stranger.

**Manny / ALBERICH**

*(concentrating, as if to read his mind:)*  
zzzzzzZZOOP! It's Wotan, isn't it?

**Frannie / MIME**

I knew I recognized that eyepatch!

**Manny / ALBERICH**

Thought you could fool me, huh? Think of a card, any card. zzzz...

**Frannie / MIME**

Quick, Wotan, like we planned! Kill him!

**Manny / ALBERICH**

*(suddenly wary:)*  
Is that true? Did you come here to kill me?  
*(concentrating again:)*  
zzzzz...

**Draco / WOTAN**

No, no, not at all. I'm here because we've heard about your wonderful exploits all the way up in Valhalla, and I came to see you in person.

**Manny / ALBERICH** *(to Mime:)*

He wants an autograph. Go get one of my eight by tens.

**Draco / WOTAN**

Actually, what I was really hoping for was a demonstration of your amazing powers? My friends would be so impressed if I could say I saw Alberich in action.

**Manny / ALBERICH**

Sure, what would you like to see first? The Ring, or the Hat?

**Draco / WOTAN**

Oh, the Hat!

**Manny / ALBERICH**

Let's do the Ring, it'll be quicker. zzZAP!

**Draco / WOTAN**

Yeowch!

**Manny / ALBERICH**

See, you just put it on and concentrate. zzZAP!

**Draco / WOTAN**

Yow!  
That's great, now how about the Hat?

**Manny / ALBERICH**

And it works on anyone. zzzzzZZING!

**Draco / WOTAN**

Yow!

**Frannie / MIME**

Yow!

**someone in the audience**

Yow!

**Draco / WOTAN**

That's amazing. What does the hat do?

**Manny / ALBERICH**

*(concentrating:)*



*(Suddenly he jumps out onto the stage. He looks the same as before, but Mime lets out a bloodcurdling scream.)*

**Frannie / MIME**

Agh! A dragon!

**Manny / ALBERICH**

Heh heh heh.

**Frannie / MIME**

That's the scariest thing I've ever seen!

**Draco / WOTAN**

*(bored:)*

Uh huh. What else?

**Manny / ALBERICH**

How about a pterodactyl?

**Draco / WOTAN**

I was wondering: Can you only turn into big things? Can't you turn into, like, a toad or a mouse? You know, something small.

**Manny / ALBERICH**

Why would I want to be a toad?

**Draco / WOTAN**

To be small.

**Manny / ALBERICH**

I don't want to be small, I want to be big.

**Draco / WOTAN**

Well, what if you... what if you had to...

**Frannie / MIME**

What if you had a problem with your DVD burner?!

**Manny / ALBERICH**

Oh! Like if the head was dirty!

**Frannie / MIME**

And you could crawl inside with a little sponge and clean it!

**Manny / ALBERICH**

Yeah!

**Draco / WOTAN**

Uh, yeah, so let's see you turn into a toad.

*(Alberich goes out. Wotan immediately prepares a mason jar with air holes punched in the lid.)*

**Manny / ALBERICH**

*(offstage:)*  
Tarnhelm skippity hoppity toad!  
**OOO**oomp... ribbit. ribbit.

*(A small tree toad appears through the curtain. Wotan pounces on it, and seals it in the jar.)*

**Draco / WOTAN**  
Ha Ha! I've got you now! You foolish Nibelung! Your pride has caused---

*(Alberich enters, watches him gloating over the toad.)*

**Manny / ALBERICH**  
So, that's why you want me to turn into a toad. Well, I'm onto you now, buddy!

**Draco / WOTAN**  
You're supposed to be a toad.

**Manny / ALBERICH**  
Well, I'm not!

**Draco / WOTAN**  
You're supposed to be a toad.

**Manny / ALBERICH**  
So you can put me in a jar? I don't think so.

**Draco / WOTAN**  
Turn into a toad!

**Manny / ALBERICH**  
No!

**Draco / WOTAN**  
You turn into a toad this instant!

**Manny / ALBERICH**  
Make me!

*(Wotan advances toward Alberich, but Mime jumps between them.)*

**Frannie / MIME**  
Don't do it, Wotan, he'll kill you!

**Draco**  
Not if I kill him first.

**Manny / ALBERICH**  
Let's see you kill me when I'm invisible. zzoOP!

**Frannie / MIME**  
Where did he go?



*(Alberich prances about the stage, thumbing his nose at Wotan. Mime pretends not to see Alberich, but Wotan glares directly at him.)*

**Draco**

Okay, so you wanna play this game?

**Manny / ALBERICH**

*(still prancing:)*

Yes, this is the game I want to play.

**Frannie / MIME**

I can hear him, but I can't see him.

*(Wotan rolls up his sleeves. Alberich rolls up his sleeves.)*

**Manny / ALBERICH**

Hit me with your best shot, patch-boy.

**Draco / WOTAN**

*(calling:)*

Oh, Fasolt! Fafner! Could you come in here, please?

**Manny / ALBERICH**

Fasolt and Fafner? What are they doing here? They're not in this scene.

**Draco / WOTAN**

They are now. You see, before I left for Nibelheim, I sent an email to Fasolt and Fafner, asking them to meet me here at exactly 8:25.

**Frannie / MIME**

It's 8:25 now!

**Manny / ALBERICH**

You think I'm afraid of a couple of giants?

**Draco / WOTAN**

Of course not. I just thought we could all sit down together and talk this out. You see, they sent me here to steal the Rheingold for them.

**Manny / ALBERICH**

Well, they can't have it! It's mine!

**Draco / WOTAN**

Yes, but I'd be careful not to say it to their face, if I were you.

**Manny / ALBERICH**

*(fightin' mad:)*

Ha! Their faces better watch out. I ain't afraid of no giants. Bring 'em on!

**Draco / WOTAN**

*(looking offstage:)*

Fasolt! Fafner!

Ah, here they come.

**Manny / ALBERICH**

*(suddenly remembering that he also has to play Fasolt & Fafner:)*  
Oh! You know, maybe this isn't such a good idea.

**Draco / WOTAN**

What's the matter? I thought you weren't afraid of giants.

**Manny / ALBERICH**

I'm not.

**Frannie / MIME**

*(looking offstage:)*  
Hey, guys! Over here!

**Manny / ALBERICH**

It's just that...

**Frannie / MIME**

Come on! It's a party! Bring something to grill!

**Manny / FAFNER**

*(throwing his voice:)*  
Just a second! Hold your horses!

**Manny / ALBERICH**

It's just that... I have a cake in the oven.

*(Alberich dashes offstage.)*

**Frannie / MIME**

Boy, he was sure in a hurry to get out of here!

**Draco / WOTAN**

Yes, that's strange isn't it. Fafner!

*(Fasolt enters through the slit in the curtain.)*

**Manny's puppet / FASOLT**

Fafner is on his way. He... uh, ...he had to stop by the 7-11.

**Draco / WOTAN**

I'm glad you guys could make it.

**Manny's puppet / FASOLT**

Well, we can't stay, we've got to get back. Big roofing job. Oh look, I think Alberich is coming back. He's stopping to talk with Fafner.

**Manny / ALBERICH** *(offstage:)*

All right, Giant, what are you doing here?

**Manny / FAFNER** *(offstage:)*

Oh, nothing, Alberich, we were just leaving, we're scared of you, we would never steal your gold.

**Manny / ALBERICH** *(offstage:)*

Good! Then, go on! Beat it!

**Manny / FAFNER** *(offstage:)*  
Come on, Fasolt, let's get out of here.

**Manny's puppet / FASOLT** *(to Wotan:)*  
I'm sorry, we gotta go.

**Draco / WOTAN**  
Nonsense! Stay awhile, we're gonna have cake!

*(Wotan seizes Fasolt and pulls him onstage, hence pulling Fafner on with him.)*

**Draco / WOTAN**  
Hello, Fafner!

**Manny / FAFNER**  
Hi.  
*(sheepishly handing Mime a package of hot dogs:)*  
Something to grill.

**Frannie / MIME**  
Wow! Are you guys twins? That's great! You should do doublemint commercials!

**Draco / WOTAN**  
Well, fellas, here's the gold I promised you.

**Manny's puppet / FASOLT**  
Wow!

**Manny / FAFNER**  
Waitaminute. Doesn't this belong to Alberich?

**Draco / WOTAN**  
Yeah, but I wouldn't worry about him. He'll be busy in the kitchen for quite awhile I think.

**Manny / FAFNER**  
But what if he comes back later and finds we took the gold, and decides to punish us. He's very dangerous, you know. He's got the Ring and the Tarnhat.

**Draco / WOTAN**  
Mime, could you do me a favor? Look behind that curtain.

*(Mime goes offstage.)*

Do you see anything back there that might be of interest to the giants.

**Frannie / MIME**  
*(entering with the Tarnhat:)*  
Look, it's the Tarnhat! It was just laying on the floor back there!

**Draco / WOTAN**  
*(feigning astonishment:)*  
Hmm, Alberich must have dropped it.

**Manny / FAFNER**

Yeah, but what about the Ring?

**Draco / WOTAN**

*(putting on the Tarnhat:)*

You may not have known this, but one of the magical powers of the Tarnhat is telekinetic teleportation.

**Frannie / MIME**

I didn't know that.

**Draco / WOTAN**

*(concentrating:)*

zzzZOOP!

*(holding up a clenched fist:)*

And now I have the Ring in my hand!

**Manny's puppet / FASOLT**

That's incredible!

**Manny / FAFNER**

That's impossible!

**Draco / WOTAN**

*(claps his hands)*

BzzzzzZOOM! And now it's in Mime's hand.

**Frannie / MIME**

It is?

**Manny / FAFNER**

Show me.

**Draco / WOTAN**

BzzZOOM!

**Frannie / MIME**

*(opening her hands:)*

It's gone!

**Manny's puppet / FASOLT**

Where is it now?

**Manny / FAFNER**

It's all fake. It's done with mirrors.

**Draco / WOTAN**

You will see that there is nothing in my hand, nothing up my sleeve. But if my lovely assistant Mime will check in Fafner's right front pocket...

**Frannie / MIME**

*(doing so:)*

It's here! The Ring is in his pocket.

*(Mime takes the Ring out of Manny's pocket and shows it to everyone.)*

**Manny's puppet / FASOLT**

That's great! How does he do it?!

Wait, I'm blind.

Aaagh!

*(He crashes into a wall.)*

**Frannie / MIME**

So, now Alberich is powerless?

**Draco / WOTAN**

That's right, and we can help ourselves to his gold.

**Manny / FAFNER**

Okay.

**Draco / WOTAN**

Not so fast, gentlemen. First, my sister.

**Manny / FAFNER**

*(to Fasolt:)*

You go get her, I'll guard the gold.

**Manny's puppet / FASOLT**

*(to Fafner:)*

You go get her, I'll guard the gold.

**Draco / WOTAN**

Both of you go get her.

*(Fasolt and Fafner exit.)*

**Draco / WOTAN**

*(to Mime, who is lingering near him:)*

What do you want?

**Frannie / MIME**

I think we're gonna be big. Wotan the Wonificent! And his lovely assistant Mime!

**Draco / WOTAN**

I'm not a magician.

**Frannie / MIME**

What? I saw you! You made that ring disapp... You're trying to cut me out of the act! That's it, isn't it? You think I'm not good enough to make it in the big time. Well, I know I got what it takes. You need me, Wotan, we're a team, you can't split up the team. I promise I won't forget you when I'm a big star like Vanna White, and you're still doing card tricks in greasy truck stop bars like Pat Sajak.

**Draco / WOTAN**

Just help me carry all this gold, before Alberich gets back.

**Manny / ALBERICH** (*offstage:*)

RRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR!

(*charging onstage:*)

AAAAA000AAAWWGH!

(*chases Mime:*)

RRRRRRRRRRRAAAAAAGHHHH!

(*Mime flees offstage.*)

**Manny / ALBERICH**

(*to Wotan:*)

Well, it looks like you've beaten me this time, Wotan. You've beaten me, and abused me, just like you did when I was a child!

**Draco / WOTAN**

I beg your pardon?

**Manny / ALBERICH**

You abused and tortured me!

And then you neglected me!

You refused to pay my college tuition and I was forced to turn to a life of crime! OH, WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE FOR A COLLEGE EDUCATION RIGHT NOW!!!

And now you've stolen my gold!

Well, much good may it do you, because I curse it! I curse all of it.

And this hat! I curse this hat. May horrible nasty things happen to everyone who possesses it.

Terrible evil things - but I won't say exactly what because I don't want to give away the ending.

And this Ring! I curse this Ring! May everyone who even puts it on, even for a minute, may they die violently, and horribly betrayed. And with a big blue polka dot on their forehead.

And this vase! I curse this vase!

**Draco / WOTAN**

Out!

(*Wotan tosses Alberich offstage.*)

**Manny / ALBERICH**

(*reenters, bellowing:*)

You think you can beat me this way, but I'll be back! I'll be back in the sequel! And the next one! And the next one! You'll never get rid of me!

(*Wotan throws a glass of water on Alberich.*)

**Manny / ALBERICH**

(*whimpering:*)

Oh, and now I'm wet. Now I've got to go change my shirt. Ooh.

(*Alberich exits.*)

(*Wotan picks up the gold.*)

**offstage voices**

nibble nibble nibble nibble nibble nibble nibble nibble nibble nibble nibble nibble nibble nibble nibble nibble

**Draco / WOTAN**

Well, back to Valhalla.

*(Wotan exits. Nibbling stops.)*

----- END OF SCENE -----

*(Wotan enters.)*

I'm back!

**Frannie / FRICKA**

*(entering in an apron:)*

Where have you been?!?!?

**Draco / WOTAN**

I went to Nibelheim to get the Rheingold.

**Frannie / FRICKA**

Oh.

*(handing him a jar.)*

Well, can you open this?

**Draco / WOTAN**

*(after trying:)*

Nope, it's stuck.

**Frannie / FRICKA**

Oh well. So did you get the gold?

**Draco / WOTAN**

Yes.

**Manny / FAFNER** *(offstage:)*

Fe Fi Fo Fum

We want the gold, so here we come.

*(Fasolt and Fafner enter.)*

**Draco / WOTAN**

Where's my sister? Where's Freia?

**Manny / FAFNER**

Fret not, patch-face, she's right here.

*(Freia enters, dressed in a slinkier costume than before, or perhaps like a Las Vegas showgirl.)*

**Frannie / FRICKA**

Freia! What happened?

**Gwen / FREIA**

*(in tears:)*

They made me dress like this.

**Frannie / FRICKA**

You animals!

**Gwen / FREIA**

They said I'd get better ratings.

**Frannie / FRICKA**

This is not a TV show! This is a young woman.  
You cannot degrade her, and dress her like a call girl.

**Gwen / FREIA**

And make me sing show tunes.

**Manny's puppet / FASOLT**

And call her Bambi?

**Manny / FAFNER**

And leave her really small tips just because we're in a bad mood?

**Draco / WOTAN**

No!

**Frannie / FRICKA**

Freia, go back in and put on something decent.

**Manny / FAFNER**

Not until we get the gold.

**Draco / WOTAN**

*(showing them the gold:)*  
There it is.

**Manny's puppet / FASOLT**

Excellent!

**Manny / FAFNER**

Waitaminute. What about the hat? And the Ring?

**Draco / WOTAN**

I'm going to keep them.

**Manny / FAFNER**

No way! We want it all.

**Draco / WOTAN**

Our deal was for the gold, there's the gold. Take it and get out.

**Manny's puppet / FASOLT**

You're right, I'm sorry.

**Manny / FAFNER**

Not so fast. The Tarnhat is made out of the gold. And so is the Ring. You're trying to stiff us.

**Draco / WOTAN**

These artifacts are too powerful. I don't want them to fall into the wrong hands.

**Manny / FAFNER**

What are you trying to say about us?



**Manny's puppet / FASOLT**

I don't even have hands.

**Manny / FAFNER**

*(really offended now:)*

Oh, so it's me! Is that what you're saying, you don't want them to fall into my hands? ...hand.

**Draco / WOTAN**

Now, fellas...

**Manny's puppet / FASOLT**

There he goes callin' us "fellas" again.

**Gwen / FREIA**

Please, Wotan, give those things to the giants. Remember Alberich's curse: a horrible fate will befall the possessor of the Tarnhat.

**Frannie / FRICKA**

And the bearer of the Ring.

**Gwen / FREIA**

Don't let greed for power lead you to destruction.

**Draco / WOTAN**

How do you know about Alberich's curse?

**Gwen / FREIA**

Because we--- Oh. We weren't there.

*(Freia and Fricka exchange sheepish glances.)*

**Frannie / FRICKA**

Never mind. You do what you want.

**Draco / WOTAN**

*(after a moment's reflection:)*

All right. I'm gonna give you the hat and the Ring, but if I hear about you ruling the world...

**Manny / FAFNER**

Oh no, we wouldn't do that.

**Draco / WOTAN**

Here's the hat.

*(gives it to Fafner)*

And here's the Ring.

*(puts it on Fasolt's nose or lower lip.)*

**Manny / FAFNER**

And here's your house.

*(gives Wotan the picture of Valhalla)*

*(Larrance enters.)*

**Gwen / FREIA**

And here's Larrance!

**Larrance**

It's a girl!

*(Larrance hands out cigars, and they all congratulate him, and hug each other, and try to light their cigars.)*

*(Larrance goes back to the piano and plays the happy ending music.)*

**Manny / FAFNER**

**And I've got the gold!**

**Draco / WOTAN**

**And I've got the house!**

**Frannie & Gwen / FRICKA & FREIA**

**It  
looks  
like  
we  
have  
ev'ry-  
thing we ever dreamed of!  
O joy!**

**ALL**

**Like we've got ev'rything we dreamed of!  
O joy!  
Like we've got ev'rything we dreamed of! O joyous! O joy!  
Dream oh joy oh house oh gold oh ring oh hat oh joy oh dreammmm!**

**Manny / FAFNER**

Give me the ring. I want to wear it for awhile.

**Manny's puppet / FASOLT**

The ring is mine, you've got the Tarnhat.

**Manny / FAFNER**

I don't want the Tarnhat, I want the Ring!

**Manny's puppet / FASOLT**

Piss off!

**Manny / FAFNER**

Don't make me hurt you.

*(Fasolt bites Fafner. Fafner grabs him by the throat and tries to choke him. They wrestle about the stage, crashing into things.)*

*(They fall briefly offstage, there is crashing about, and then they reenter, now with Fafner using both hands to strangling the almost lifeless sock puppet. He finally chokes him to death in the audience's lap, or sprawled across a table.)*

**Manny / FAFNER**

*(as he starts packing up the gold:)*

There you stupid sock puppet! Now who's got the Ring? Me, that's who!  
*(Freia walks over and picks up Fasolt like a dead mouse. He has a big blue polka dot on his forehead.)*

**Gwen / FREIA**

Oh, how awful!

**Frannie / FRICKA**

I think I'm going to be sick.

*(Everybody leaves except Wotan.)*

**Draco / WOTAN**

Alberich's curse is already taking effect. I wish I'd never heard of Rheingold.

**RHINENYMPHS** *(offstage:)*

**Rheingold  
Reines Gold**

**Draco**

I had such hopes.

**RHINENYMPHS** *(offstage:)*

**oOh! Walalala!**

**Draco / WOTAN**

Accursed nymphs, must you remind me!

**RHINENYMPHS** *(offstage:)*

**Rheingold  
Reines Gold  
oOh! Walalala!**

----- End of *Das Rheingold* -----

**Draco**

And I'm sorry to say that because of the unfortunate delays we've been experiencing tonight, we are running a little behind schedule, and in the interest of finishing *The Ring Cycle* before morning we are going to skip *Die Walküre* at this time and go right into the Second Act of *Siegfried*.

**Manny**

Oh no! You're not going to do *The Valkyrie*?  
*(aside to Gwen:)*

That's what *De Walkure* means, right?

**Gwen**

*The Valkyrie*, yes.

**Frannie**

Oh, you can't cut *The Valkyrie*! I love *The Valkyrie*!

**Manny**  
Dunh nuh nuh NAH nuh! Dunh nuh nuh NAH nuh!

*(Frannie joins in:)*

**Manny**  
DUNH nuh nuh NAH nuh!

**Frannie**  
d'DUH duh duh DUH duh!

*(Larrance joins in.)*

**Manny**  
DUNH nuh nuh NAH!

**Frannie**  
d'DUH duh duh DUH!

*(Gwen joins in:)*

**Manny**  
DUNH nuh nuh NAH nuh!  
DUNH nuh nuh NAH nuh!

**Frannie**  
d'DUH duh duh DUH duh!  
d'DUH duh duh DUH duh!

**Gwen**  
La LAA!  
La LALALA!  
La LAA!

All right, enough.

**Draco**

Please don't skip *The Valkyrie!*

**Gwen**

I appreciate your enthusiasm. But the simple fact of the matter is: There isn't time.

**Draco**

We'll do it fast!

**Manny**

*(skeptical:)*  
Fast?

**Draco**

Yeah, fast. **DUNHnuhnuhNAHnuhDUNHnuhnuhNAHnuh---**

**Manny**

Yes, I know what fast means.  
But to get us back on schedule,  
you would have to do the entire thing in...  
*(looks at watch)*  
...ten minutes.  
Which can't be done.

**Draco**

Never say can't!

**Manny**

No, "Never say never."

**Frannie** *(to Manny:)*

**Gwen** *(to Frannie:)*

No, "Never say die."

**Draco**

Never mind, it can't be done.

**Manny**

We'll see about that! Hit it, Larrance.

*(Larrance plays an overture. They encourage him to speed it up.)*

**Draco**

I forbid it.

**Manny**

*(brushing Draco aside:)*  
You're in my light.

**Frannie**

*(brushing Draco aside:)*  
Go back and get in costume.

**Gwen**

*(brushing Draco aside:)*  
You wanted to do the Ring Cycle.

*(They toss Draco offstage. They huddle briefly:)*

**Manny**

*(pointing at Gwen:)*  
Brunnhilde.  
*(pointing at Frannie:)*  
Sieglinde.  
*(pointing at himself:)*  
Siegmond.

*(They all go off to get in costume.)*

## DIE WALKÜRE

*(Manny enters as Siegmund.)*

**Manny / SIEGMUND**

*(to Larrance:)*

Okay, that's enough overture, let's go.

*(singing:)*

**Boy, am I tired!**

**I'm all out of breath!**

**By Hundings I'm hunted**

**and hounded to death!**

**Where am I now?**

**Looks like some kind of restaurant.**

**Maybe I'll have some pancakes.**

**Waiter! Waiter!**

*(suddenly swooning:)*

**Oh, I weaken, I die.**

*(collapses at a table)*

*(Frannie enters as Sieglinda, a waitress.)*

**Frannie / SIEGLINDA**

**Did somebody call me?**

**Oh, who is this man?**

*(calling offstage:)*

**Hunding! Hunding! There is a stranger here!**

**At table three!**

**Draco / HUNDING** *(offstage:)*

grumble grumble grumble

**Frannie / SIEGLINDA**

**He looks so familiar. Who could he be?**

**Manny / SIEGMUND**

*(groaning, delirious:)*

**Hunding... Hunding...**

**Frannie / SIEGLINDA**

**I'll tell him about our specials.**

*(crossing to Siegmund:)*

**Hello!**

**Welcome to *Chez Hunding*.**

**My name is Sieglinda.**

**May I take your order?**

**Manny / SIEGMUND**

*(waking suddenly:)*

**Help! Medic!**

**Frannie / SIEGLINDA**

**What? Are you injured?**

**Wounded in some fight?**

**Manny / SIEGMUND**

**Yes, wounded and beaten and stabbed was I tonight.**

**Frannie / SIEGLINDA**

**Oh! Let me see. Take off your shirt.**

**Manny / SIEGMUND**

**Waitress, I hardly know you!**

**Frannie / SIEGLINDA**

**Then tell me about yourself first.**

**Manny / SIEGMUND**

*(fairly quickly:)*

**My sister and I were identical twins.**

**I never knew my mother.**

**She died before I was born.**

**My father was a warrior,  
or a pirate.**

**I don't remember.**

*(putting on an eyepatch:)*

**But I have done my best to follow in his footsteps.**

*(even quicker:)*

**At the age of three,**

**My sister and me**

**he left in an orphanage.**

**It burned to the ground**

**while I was away**

**and I ain't seen my sister**

**from then to this day.**

**Though I've heard she works in food service.**

**Draco / HUNDING** *(offstage:)*

grumble grumble grumble

**Manny / SIEGMUND**

**Who is that?**

**Frannie / SIEGLINDA**

**My husband. He owns the restaurant.**

**Draco / HUNDING** *(entering:)*

**Who is that?**

**Frannie / SIEGLINDA**

**A soldier.**

**Draco / HUNDING**

The kitchen's closed!

**Frannie / SIEGLINDA**

**He is a veteran**

**You can't turn him away.**

**Draco / HUNDING**

**All right, get him some pancakes.**

*(aside:)*

**This man looks just like my wife.<sup>18</sup>**

**Almost identical.**

**If I didn't know better,**

**I'd think they were related.**

**Frannie / SIEGLINDA**

*(overhears him:)*

**That's impossible.**

**You know I have no family.**

*(to Siegmund:)*

**I'm an orphan, too.**

*(Sieglingda exits)*

**Manny / SIEGMUND**

*(small talk:)*

**You wouldn't believe the day I had.**

**I'm walking down the road.**

**A maiden cries for help.**

**Seems she's forced to marry against her will.**

**So I burst into the church and slew the groom.**

**Her family objected,**

**tried to lynch me.**

**Draco / HUNDING**

**So you killed them too?**

**Manny / SIEGMUND**

**Then she, ungrateful maiden,**

**Screams I have ruined her.**

**Tries to claw out my eyes.**

**Draco / HUNDING**

**So you killed her too?**

**Manny / SIEGMUND**

**You catch on quick.**

**Draco / HUNDING**

**Tell me their name.**

**Manny / SIEGMUND**

**The family? I don't know.**

**Hun-something... Humphrey.**

**Honeybee.**

---

<sup>18</sup> Did I mention that Sieglinda also wears an eyepatch? Well, she does.



**Hunding?** Draco / HUNDING

**That's the one.** Manny / SIEGMUND

**You infernal beast!!!  
I am a Hunding.** Draco / HUNDING

**Whoops. I mean Humperdink. Hummel. Hunnicut.** Manny / SIEGMUND

**I oughta kill you right now!!!  
But my pancakes!  
They are the best in the county.  
You must try them.  
*(He exits, comes back.)*  
But after your dinner, you die!  
*(He exits again.)*** Draco / HUNDING

**We'll see about that.  
*(reaching for his spear:)*  
My spear!  
I've lost my spear!  
Where did I put it?  
I had it at the wedding.** Manny / SIEGMUND

***(enters with a sword:)*  
Quickly, quietly, take this sword.** Frannie / SIEGLINDA

**But why?** Manny / SIEGMUND

**Because I love you.** Frannie / SIEGLINDA

**But Hunding?** Manny / SIEGMUND

**Forget about him.  
I never liked him.  
I never loved him.  
But you and I  
We have so much in common.** Frannie / SIEGLINDA

**Where did you get this?** Manny / SIEGMUND

**Frannie / SIEGLINDA**



**You've got a husband.** Manny / SIEGMUND

**I'll get an annulment.  
I never liked him  
I never loved him.** Frannie / SIEGLINDA

**Oh bliss!  
Give me a kiss.** Manny / SIEGMUND

*(They kiss.)*

**It's like kissing my sister.**

**You seem to enjoy it.** Frannie / SIEGLINDA

**Oh yes, my sister was quite a babe.** Manny / SIEGMUND

*(They kiss again.)*

**Tell me your name.**

**Sieglinda.** Frannie / SIEGLINDA

**And mine is---** Manny / SIEGMUND

**Siegmund.** Frannie / SIEGLINDA

**How did you know?** Manny / SIEGMUND

**Do you think I'm a fool?  
Twins, orphaned, separated.  
One sword, one father,  
striking resemblance.  
Sister works in food service.** Frannie / SIEGLINDA

**My sister, it's you!** Manny / SIEGMUND

**It's me.** Frannie / SIEGLINDA

**We must flee!** Manny / SIEGMUND

*(Siegmund and Sieglinda exit.)*

**Manny**

*(poking his head through the curtain:)*

Meanwhile, in Valhalla...

*(Draco enters as Wotan.)*

**Draco / WOTAN**

**Brunnhilde! Brunnhilde!  
Hoyotoho!**

*(Gwen enters as Brunnhilde.)*

**Gwen / BRUNNHILDE**

**Hoyotoho!  
Do you have a job for me?**

**Draco / WOTAN**

**Yes, but first recite the Valkyrie's oath.**

**Gwen / BRUNNHILDE**

**The Valkyrie's oath:  
I - insert name of Valkyrie here -  
Promise to obey Wotan our father in all things.  
To fetch slain warriors from the battlefield  
and take them to Valhalla at his command,  
To wear this silly hat even when it embarrasses us.  
And to obey the law of the pack.**

**Draco / WOTAN**

**Good. Mount your trusty wingèd steed.**

**Gwen / BRUNNHILDE**

**Is there a hero 'bout to die?**

**Draco / WOTAN**

**No, one that needs your aid: Siegmund.  
Hie to him at once.**

**Gwen / BRUNNHILDE**

**I will.**

*(Brunnhilde exits.)*

*(Frannie enters as Fricka.)*

**Frannie / FRICKA**

**Wotan! Wotan!**

**Draco / WOTAN**

**Good morning, dearest Fricka.**

**Frannie / FRICKA**

**I demand that you punish the sinful Siegmund  
for his crimes against me.**

**Draco / WOTAN**

**Against you?**

**Frannie / FRICKA**

**Am I not the Goddess of Matrimony and Family Values?  
He has slaughtered the Hunding Family wedding party.  
And he committed incest with his sister Sieglinda  
And he caused her to forget her vows  
to Chef Hunding of *Chez Hunding***

**Draco / WOTAN**

**But Fricka, Siegmund might be the one man who can save us from the twilight of the gods.**

**Frannie / FRICKA**

**How do you figure?**

**Draco / WOTAN**

**..It's hard to explain. It's very metaphysical.**

**Frannie / FRICKA**

**Sounds like bullshit, I want his head,  
I want him dead,  
For crimes against the marriage bed.  
Punish him!  
Or your marriage bed will not be a place of rest and comfort.**

*(Fricka exits. Brunnhilde enters.)*

**Gwen / BRUNNHILDE**

**Hoyotoho! My steed is ready.**

**Draco / WOTAN**

**Go then and help Hunding!**

**Gwen / BRUNNHILDE**

**Hunding? Don't you mean Siegmund?**

**Draco / WOTAN**

**No, I don't.  
Yes, I do.  
..No, I don't. You must help Hunding!**

**Gwen / BRUNNHILDE**

**Are you sure?**

**Draco / WOTAN**

**Yes.  
No.  
Yes, I'm sure. Siegmund must die.  
No, never mind.**

**Yes! No!**  
(spoken:)  
What do you think?

**Gwen / BRUNNHILDE**

**I think I should help Siegmund**

**Draco / WOTAN**

**Absolutely not!**

**Gwen / BRUNNHILDE**

**But you love Siegmund.  
He's like a son to you.**

**Draco / WOTAN** (aside to Brunnhilde:)

**Don't tell anyone, but  
He is my son. But he must die!  
Now go!**

**Gwen / BRUNNHILDE**

**But---**

**Draco / WOTAN**

**Go!**

*(Brunnhilde exits. Wotan has a moment, then he exits too.)*

*(Siegmund & Sieglinda enter, running.)*

**Manny / SIEGMUND**

**Wait!  
We've been running for miles.**

**Manny & Frannie / SIEGMUND & SIEGLINDA**

**And we're still in this same  
Restaurant!**

**Draco / HUNDING** (entering:)

**You can't escape me.  
It is your destiny  
To die at my hands.**

**Manny / SIEGMUND**

**One last kiss.**

*(They kiss.)*<sup>19</sup>

**Draco / HUNDING**

**That's my wife!**

**Manny / SIEGMUND**

---

<sup>19</sup> Siegmund and Sieglinda (not Siegmund and Hunding)

She's my wife now.

Draco / HUNDING

Over my dead body.

Manny / SIEGMUND

Okay.

*(Suddenly the music changes and they go in slow motion as the fight begins.)*

Gwen / BRUNNHILDE *(offstage:)*

Hoyotoho!

*(Siegmond swings, Hunding ducks.)*

*(Brunnhilde enters behind Hunding, smashes a bottle over his head. He collapses offstage.)*

Gwen / BRUNNHILDE

Siegmond!

Manny / SIEGMUND

*(She is invisible to him:)*

What is that heavenly voice?

Gwen / BRUNNHILDE

You must escape before he finds you.

Manny / SIEGMUND

Escape from who?

Frannie / SIEGLINDA

From whom.

Gwen / BRUNNHILDE  
from Wotan.

Draco / WOTAN *(entering:)*  
from WOTAN!

Gwen / BRUNNHILDE

*(surprised to see him:)*

Wotan!!

Manny / SIEGMUND

Wotan?

Draco / WOTAN

Wotan!

*(as he strangles Siegmund, merrily:)*

La la la la lalalalalala!

Gwen / BRUNNHILDE

Sieglinda, hear me. You must escape.  
For the sake of your unborn child!

*(Siegmond dies.)*

**Frannie / SIEGLINDA**

**Siegmund, my husband!  
Hunding, my husband!  
Dead dead, both dead!  
O happy dagger, here is thy sheath.**

*(She stabs herself. Everyone is shocked. Larrance stops playing.)*

**Draco**

uh!

**Gwen**

But... the baby's in the next opera.

**Draco**

*(shaking Sieglinda's lifeless body:)*  
You have to live! You have to live!

*(Larrance recovers his wits and starts to play.)*

**Gwen**

Snap out of it man, we've got two minutes left.

**Draco / WOTAN**

**Brunnhilde for your disobedience  
You must be punished.**

**Gwen / BRUNNHILDE**

**But you told me to help Siegmund.**

**Draco / WOTAN**

**And then I told you not to help him.**

**Gwen / BRUNNHILDE**

**But then you changed your mind.**

**Draco / WOTAN**

**But then I changed it back.**

**Gwen / BRUNNHILDE**

**You know I did right to help Siegmund and Sieglinda.  
Their love was destiny.  
You know it because  
It was you who left the sword for Siegmund.  
You who promised Sieglinda a warrior who would come to save her.  
You, who are their father.**

**Draco / WOTAN**

**Yes, and I think the less said about that the better.**

**Gwen / BRUNNHILDE**

**You have always championed true love  
over the vows of marriage**



**What makes you change your tune?**

**Draco / WOTAN**

**My wife. And I have to live with her,  
so you have to be punished.**

**Gwen / BRUNNHILDE**

**For protecting those whom you care for?  
For obeying the secret wishes of your heart?**

**Draco / WOTAN**

**Yes.  
Henceforth, you are banished from Valhalla.**

**Gwen / BRUNNHILDE**

**Okay.**

**Draco / WOTAN**

*(casting a spell:)*

**And also this:  
Let sleep overcome you, Brunnhilde.  
In magical slumber here shall you abide.  
Until some man wakes you  
And takes you for his bride.**

**Gwen / BRUNNHILDE**

**Any man who comes along? No no no...**

**Draco / WOTAN**

**Such is your punishment for disobedience.**

*(She is asleep.)*

**Now you shall be rewarded for loyalty:  
Let flames leap about you, Brunnhilde.  
With magical fire, you'll be ringed about  
Till some man who's fearless  
And peerless lets you out.**

*(A ring of fire appears about her.)*

**Sleep Brunnhilde.  
Sleep and suffer, and perhaps,  
Triumph.**

----- End of *Die Walküre* -----

**Draco**

There will be a one minute intermission.

*(They intermiss.)*

*(During the Intermission, the players scurry about, setting the stage for the next opera. Along with the other props and set pieces, Manny puts a clock at centerstage, and sets it ahead a few hours. They continue to scurry about.)*

*(Just before the show starts, Draco is crossing the stage, doing a last minute check that everything is in its place, and he notices the clock.)*

**Draco**

What's with the clock?

*(No response.)*

WHY IS THERE A CLOCK ONSTAGE??

**Manny** *(entering:)*

Oh, I didn't think you'd notice.

**Draco**

Of course I noticed! It's in the middle of the stage!

**Manny**

Well, I don't mean you. I mean...

*(doesn't let the audience know that he's talking about them:)*

...them.

**Draco**

You put a clock onstage so they wouldn't notice it?

**Manny**

Well, okay, here's the deal. See, I was thinking, since we had to kinda shorten *The Valkyrie*, y'know, and so we're not really doing the whole entire Ring Cycle. Well, I thought, as like a subliminal thing, we'd put this clock here, but secretly set it ahead a few hours so that subconsciously, the audience will think they sat through a full length opera.

**Draco**

*(Beat.)*

Get it off the stage.

*(Manny takes the clock from centerstage and sets it off to the side somewhere, still in view of the audience.)*

**Draco**

Are we ready to start?

*(to the audience:)*

Ladies and gentlemen: *Siegfried*, the third opera of the Ring Cycle.

*(Larrance starts to play the overture to Siegfried.)*

*(Frannie bursts in.)*

**Frannie** *(to Larrance:)*  
Stop! Stop the music! Are you mad, man? My God, what are you trying to do?

**Manny**  
What's wrong?

**Frannie**  
*(handing him a newspaper:)*  
Have you read this?

**Manny** *(reading:)*  
"Wagner Music Kills Rare Zoo Animal"

**Draco**  
What?

**Frannie** *(to Draco:)*  
An African okapi died from stress caused by opera singers rehearsing in a park 300 yards away.

**Manny**  
Oh my God! We're right in the same room with opera singers!  
*(Gwen enters. Manny screams:)*  
Stay back!

**Gwen**  
What?

**Frannie**  
*(showing Gwen the newspaper:)*  
Wagner killed an okapi.

**Gwen**  
What's an okapi?

**Frannie**  
It's a kind of giraffe with, like, a really short neck.

**Gwen** *(sad:)*  
Oh no.

**Manny**  
Waitaminute! I've got a really short neck!

**Draco**  
No one is buying this.

**Frannie**  
Oh, I know. So I made copies.

*(She quickly hands out copies of the article<sup>20</sup> to Draco, Larrance, and a few audience members. They start to read it.)*

---

<sup>20</sup> Associated Press article from 8/10/94.

**Frannie**

They were singing selections from *Tannhauser* and the okapi started hyperventilating, went into shock and collapsed!

**Larrance**

*(leaping away from piano:)*

Oh my God!

**Gwen** *(reading:)*

"We did all we could, but she died the next day."

**Manny**

Twenty-four hours later??

*(panicking:)*

That means it could already be in our bloodstream! I think I can feel it! Am I hyperventilating?

*(Manny starts to hyperventilate.)*

**Frannie**

*(to someone in the audience:)*

Are you all right? You don't look well.

**Gwen**

*(finding another victim<sup>21</sup>:)*

I think I've got one over here, too. Is there a doctor in the house?

*(Manny tries to start a chant: "Stop the Music! Save the Whales!")*

**Draco**

First of all, this article is over fifteen years old.

**Frannie**

*(pointing at the bottom the article:)*

"And there's still no sign of a cure!"

**Draco**

It doesn't say that!

**Frannie**

Well, it should!

**Draco**

How could they know fifteen years ago that we still don't have a cure today!?!

**Frannie**

And yet we continue to perform this God-forsaken opera from hell like musical plague rats, spewing pestilence with every note!

**Manny** *(to Gwen:)*

Does my neck look short to you?

---

<sup>21</sup> Preferably a doctor.

**Draco**

All right, ENOUGH!

Now we've had a little fun tonight. And I'm as guilty as anyone, but before you even suggest not doing what I think you're suggesting we not do: No.

**Frannie**

But this music has killed before!

**Draco**

There are no rare giraffes in this room. And somehow I don't think anyone else is seriously at risk.

**Gwen**

But 300 yards, that's like three blocks, there could be---

**Draco**

I DON'T CARE.

**Gwen**

But...

**Draco**

NO.

**Gwen** *(starts to speak:)*

...

**Draco**

NO.

*(Silence. They are all cowed.)*

**Draco**

Larrance.

**Larrance**

Hm?

**Draco**

Sit.

*(Larrance sits at the piano.)*

Larrance, play.

*(Larrance plays.)*

*(An audience member gurgles and starts to hyperventilate.)<sup>22</sup>*

---

<sup>22</sup> Okay, if an audience member doesn't do it, Manny gurgles and hyperventilates. You guys are no fun.

*(Larrance, horrified by his terrible power, leaps away from the piano and hides behind something. Frannie, Manny and Gwen rush to aid the stricken audience member.)*

**Gwen & Frannie & Manny**

Oh my God! Are you all right?

**Frannie**

Quick, Larrance, you must know some show tunes or something.

*(Larrance plays something soothing.)*

*(The danger passes. Everyone regains their composure, sways to the music.)*

**Manny**

You know, I feel better already.

**Gwen**

Me too.

**Frannie**

This is nice.

**Draco** *(giving up:)*

I'm going to be sick.  
*(exit)*

**Frannie**

And now, ladies and gentlemen: *Safe Siegfried*, third opera of the Ring Cycle.

*(They all go to places for the beginning of the play.)*

## SIEGFRIED

*(Music changes to a peppy intro. Frannie as Mime bursts onstage singing:)*

**Frannie / MIME**

**Mime! Mime! Mime!**  
**They call me Mime, they call me**  
**Mime! Mime! Mime!**  
**But I can talk, I'm not a**  
**Mime, I'm Mime!**  
**I'm not a mime, 'cuz I can talk...**  
**And I can walk...**  
**I'm not a mime, I got no time to do the box...**

*(Mime does the mime-in-a-box routine.)*

**Frannie / MIME** *(to the Audience:)*

Hi!

It's me, Mime. Remember me?

Gosh, how long has it been?

I don't think I've seen you since *Das Rheingold*. Has it been that long? I guess it has.

You look great! Oh, I have to tell you what's happened to me.

*(Mime pulls up a chair.)*

Okay, you know about my son, right? Siegfried?

Oh, no, you don't, I keep forgetting. It's been like twenty years, hasn't it?

Well, okay, so after that whole thing with my evil brother Alberich, I was evicted. The Nibelungs threw me out of Nibelheim because of my involvement in the Tarnhat incident.

So, I decided to go back to college, right? I got my degree in genetic engineering.

And then after I graduated, I moved here.

*(looks around:)*

It's really a wonderful neighborhood.

There used to be this great pancake house about two blocks down called *Chez Hunding*.

And just over that hill is Fafner, remember him? Fafner the giant? Killed his brother? Well, he's a dragon now - I'm not sure why - he lives over there.

And over this way lives Gunther. Gunther Gibich and his sister Gutrune? Oh, wait, that's from *Gotterdammerung*.

Never mind, you'll meet them later.

Anyway, about my son. I should explain this. This was maybe 18 years ago. I'm walking in the woods over by the pancake house, and I come across two humans.

Siegmund and Sieglinda.

They were dying.

Real tragic, yes, I know, but here's what blew my mind:

They were both amazing physical specimens.

Almost perfect.

In fact - dare I say it? - they were almost... the *Urbemensch*!

Are you familiar with the *Urbemensch* concept? From Nietzsche? The ideal human? The Superman? ...I'll give you a reading list. Anyway:

I couldn't pass up the opportunity. Their bodies were still warm. Under cover of darkness, I rushed them to my laboratory, and using a radical new method of gene splicing, cloning and *in vitro* fertilization I created Siegfried. My son.

Their son.

And Siegfried...

is the *Urbemensch*.

*(Urbmensch fanfare. Manny enters as Siegfried with a big red "S" on his chest.)*

**Manny / SIEGFRIED**

I heard somebody call my name!  
I would have come sooner,  
but I had to swim across the ocean to get here.

**Frannie / MIME**

Siegfried, my son, why aren't you in school?

**Manny / SIEGFRIED**

School is boring. I'm going out to the parking lot to lift some cars over my head.

**Frannie / MIME**

Wait, Siegfried, I have something to tell you.

**Manny / SIEGFRIED**

What is it?  
Wait, don't tell me. I'll just use my telepathic powers to extract the information from your mind.  
What's this? I'm adopted?  
You never loved me, and you wish I was dead?  
And you only put up with me because you hope you can think of a way to trick me into using my superhuman strength to kill Fafner the dragon so you can steal the Tarnhat and the Ring of Power from him and use them to take revenge on the Nibelungs for casting you out?

**Frannie / MIME**

In a nutshell.

**Manny / SIEGFRIED**

But wait, what do I see with my telescopic infrared vision up on that distant mountaintop?  
A Valkyrie maiden surrounded by a ring of magical fire!  
If I rescue her maybe she'll marry me and we could live happily ever after.  
*(weighing his choices:)*  
Let's see: Kill the dragon or rescue Brunnhilde - that's her name.  
Or I could explore space, colonize the solar system. Yes, that's it! A true challenge worthy of the Urbmensch.  
*(exiting:)*  
One giant leap for me. One giant leap for mankind.  
*(He leaves the building.)*

Up, up, and away!

**Frannie / MIME**

Well, that was an unexpected turn of events.

**Draco** *(entering:)*

Where did he go?

**Frannie / MIME**

um... nowhere, really.

**Draco**

He's exploring space, isn't he?



**Frannie / MIME**

Well, maybe, but I'm sure it won't take long, he'll be back in a few minutes. Siegfried!  
Siegfried!

*(Draco exits, grumbling.)*

He can't have gone far. Siegfried!

*(Gwen is tossed onstage, dressed as Siegfried.)*

*(Moment.)*

*(resuming:)*

Siegfried, my son, why aren't you in school?

*(Gwen is too terrified to speak.)*

**Draco** *(offstage:)*

*(whispers:)*

You hate school.

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

I hate school.

**Frannie / MIME**

You don't hate school, you're just stupid. Hey, how would you like to do me a favor and kill a dragon?

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

What's a dragon?

**Frannie / MIME**

Ho ho, that's my son. Strong as an ox, and smart like one too. A dragon is a kind of hamster.  
*(Wotan enters, disguised as the Wanderer. Music plays.)*

*(to Siegfried:)*

Hold on, a sec, this could be important exposition.

**Draco / WANDERER**

**Who's gonna walk through the ring of fire?**

**Frannie / MIME**

Oh, no, is this going to be a riddle?

**Draco / WANDERER**

**The man who has never learned fear!**

**Frannie / MIME**

I don't get it.

**Draco / WANDERER**

**To rescue the Valkyrie from her pyre?**

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

What's a Valkyrie?

**Draco / WANDERER**

**The man who has never learned fear!  
And he don't give a hoot  
'bout the damage to his suit  
'cuz he wasn't gonna wear it 'round here.  
Who's gonna walk through the ring of fire?**

**Frannie / MIME**

Really, I don't care. Go away, I hate cryptic prophecies.

**Draco / WANDERER**

**The man who has never learned fear!**

**Frannie / MIME**

*(seeing him out:)*

Listen, I think you've got the wrong house. We don't know any Valkyries. Maybe you should try next door.

**Draco / WANDERER**

**Who's gonna kill the Fafner dragon?**

**Frannie / MIME**

*(seeing him in:)*

Whoa, not so fast, stranger, I wanna hear this.

**Draco / WANDERER**

**The man who has never learned fear!**

**Frannie / MIME**

Same guy, huh?

**Draco / WANDERER**

**And carry off his gold in a little red wagon?**

**Frannie / MIME**

Who?

**Draco / WANDERER**

**The man who has never learned fear!**

**Frannie / MIME**

Can you be more specific?

**Draco / WANDERER**

**But he won't spend a dime  
'Cause he hasn't got the time,  
And he only drinks American beer.  
Oh, who's gonna kill the Fafner dragon?**

**Frannie / MIME**

Hmm. Never learned fear? Who could that be?

**Draco / WANDERER**

**The man who has never learned fear!**

**He never learned fear!**

**He never learned fear!**

**You can poke him in the eye,  
But he ain't gonna cry,  
'Cause he's not afraid to die,  
And he doesn't know why...**

**'Cause he never learned fear.**

**Frannie / MIME**

*(seeing him out:)*

Well, thank you, you've been very helpful, if I see this guy, I'll tell him where to go. Bye.

**Draco / WANDERER**

**Who's gonna murder the Nibelung Meema?**

**Frannie / MIME**

What?? Did you say "murder"?

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

What's a Nibelung?

*(Piano plays the melody: "The man who has never learned fear!")*

**Draco / WANDERER**

**Who's gonna murder the Nibelung Meema?**

**Frannie / MIME**

Who? Who wants to murder me? Tell me!

*(Piano plays the melody: "The man who has never learned fear!")*

Please! You gotta tell me!

**Draco / WANDERER**

**Now I'll tell you the rest,  
But I think you should have guessed,  
'Cause the answer to the riddle is clear.**

**Who's gonna murder the Nibelung Meema?**

**Frannie / MIME**

The man who has never learned fear?

**Draco / WANDERER**

**The man who has never learned fear!!!**

*(Big finish, and exit.)*

**Frannie / MIME**

Wait, come back!  
(*wailing:*)

Oh no! I've just received a prophecy of impending doom from a mysterious man in a bathrobe, just like in a Greek tragedy. I'm as good as dead already! Why don't I just marry my mother and stab out my eyes and get it over with!

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

I'll protect you.

**Frannie / MIME**

Yeah, right.  
No, wait, that's it, Siegfried! If anyone can protect me from the man who has never learned fear, it's you. Superhuman strength, X-ray-vision. Boy am I glad I majored in biogenetics.

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

Okay, here's what we'll do. You stand behind me, and anyone who comes near, I'll say, "Excuse me, I'm new in your country, do you speak fear?" And if he says "yes", then you're okay, but if he says "no", I'll hit 'em over the head with this stick.

**Frannie / MIME**

Okay, that would almost work, if Fear was a foreign language.

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

Oh, it's not? What is it?

**Frannie / MIME**

What is it??

(*Mime realizes that Siegfried doesn't know the meaning of the word "fear".*)

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

What? What is it?

**Frannie / MIME**

(*gingerly, as if talking to a crazed crack-fiend with a gun:*)  
Listen, Siegfried. Why don't you put that stick down.

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

Why?

**Frannie / MIME**

Just put it down. That's a good boy. Now, I'm going to... bake a cake, now, so why don't you go next door to Fafner the Dragon, and see if you can borrow a cup of sugar. Okay? Will you do that Siegfried? Good boy.

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

Will you be safe here by yourself?

**Frannie / MIME**

Oh, yes. Prophecies of doom don't usually take effect right away. Couple hours at least. Time released. I'll be fine. You just go on. Go.

(*Siegfried leaves, a little bit bewildered.*)

And when he comes back, I'll be in Miami.

*(Manny bounds in from outside, as Siegfried.)*

**Manny / SIEGFRIED**

I'm back, outer space was lovely, but it didn't really advance my career the way I wanted it to so now I'm ready to decide: Kill the dragon or rescue the Valkyrie? I think I'll kill the dragon. Will you help me practice?

*(Siegfried strangles Mime. Music plays "Who's gonna walk through the Ring of Fire?" theme.)*

*(Gwen enters as Siegfried with a measuring cup.)*

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

Here I am, on my way to---

*(Siegfried sees Siegfried.)*

**Manny / SIEGFRIED**

Who are you?

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

I'm Siegfried.

**Manny / SIEGFRIED**

No, I'm Siegfried, who are you?

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

*(uncertain now:)*

I don't know.

**Frannie / MIME**

You're Siegfried.

**Manny / SIEGFRIED**

You're dead.

**Frannie / MIME**

Oh, right.

**Manny / SIEGFRIED**

What are you doing here?

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

I'm going to borrow a cup of sugar from Fafner the dragon.

**Manny / SIEGFRIED**

Fafner the dragon! Can I go with you? I have to kill Fafner.

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

Why would you want to do that?

**Manny / SIEGFRIED**

No reason, he's on my list of things to do today: Kill Fafner, rescue the Valkyrie maiden.

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

What Valkyrie maiden?

**Manny / SIEGFRIED**

You don't know about the Valkyrie maiden? Are you sure you're Siegfried?

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

I know about the Valkyrie maiden, but my character doesn't.

**Manny / SIEGFRIED**

Well, my character does, so just let me handle it.

*(Music begins.)*

**Gwen & Manny / SIEGFRIED & SIEGFRIED**

My song!

*(They rush to song poses.)*

**Manny / SIEGFRIED** *(aside:)*

**Here I come, Siegfried to murder the dragon!**

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED** *(aside:)*

**Here I come, Siegfried to visit the dragon!**

**Manny / SIEGFRIED**

What do you mean, "visit"?

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

What has that dragon ever done to you?

**Manny / SIEGFRIED**

Nothing.

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED** *(to Siegfried:)*

**Siegfried, I won't let you murder the dragon!**

**Manny / SIEGFRIED** *(to Siegfried:)*

**Siegfried, I won't let you borrow the sugar!**

**Manny / SIEGFRIED** *(aside:)*  
**Here I come, Siegfried  
to murder the dragon!**

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED** *(aside:)*  
**Here I come, Siegfried  
to visit the dragon!**

**Manny / SIEGFRIED**

**The dragon must die,  
Here Siegfried come I!**

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

**The dragon must live,  
Me sugar to give!**

**Draco** (*entering:*)

What's going on here?

**Frannie**

You can't stop them, they're in the middle of a song.

**Manny / SIEGFRIED**

**Here I come:  
Siegfried!  
Dragonslayer!  
Ubermensch!**

**Siegfried the Brave  
and the Bold  
and Heroic**

*(describing Gwen:)*

**Siegfried the Dull  
and the Drab  
and the Stoic!**

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

**Here I come:  
Siegfried!  
Pure of heart!  
Innocent!  
Siegfried the True  
and the Just  
and Heroic**

*(describing Manny:)*

**Siegfried the Ape  
from the late  
Mesozoic!**

**Manny / SIEGFRIED**

Ha! You don't even know your geological epochs! The Mesozoic was the age of the dinosaurs!

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

Siegfried's not supposed to know his geological epochs! How do you know what the Mesozoic is, college boy?

**Manny / SIEGFRIED**

Wha-- I guessed.

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

Ha!

**Manny / SIEGFRIED**

I'm just as stupid as you are!

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

Prove it.

*(They resume:)*

**Manny / SIEGFRIED**

**Here I come, Siegfried  
to murder the dragon.  
I don't know why,  
but the dragon must die.  
What kind of Germanic  
Messiah Superhero slash Christ-figure  
would I be  
if I didn't kick some dragon butt**

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

**What kind of example  
is this for the kids?  
How are they going to  
learn right and wrong,  
if Siegfried, their hero,  
doesn't make ethical moral choices?  
I'm not saying  
I wouldn't kill a dragon if I had to.**

once in awhile, I mean,  
that's what you come to the  
theatre for, right?

To see mythic representations  
of all your greatest fears and doubts  
hacked to pieces in front of you  
so you can have a catharsis  
and go home happy and a little drunk?

But I digress!

*(starting again with gusto:)*

Here I come, Siegfried  
to murder the dragon.  
I don't know why,  
but the dragon must die.  
Next on my list  
is to rescue Brunnhilde.  
Why? Don't ask me,  
But my bride she will be.

Here I am, Siegfried.  
*(to each other:)*  
You're not Siegfried.

Go away, Siegfried.  
You're no Siegfried.  
I'm the only Siegfried.  
Get a life, Siegfried.

*(By now, they are pulling each other's hair and trying to kill each other, or hurl one other off the stage. The ending is chaotic:)*

You couldn't Siegfried your way out of a  
paper bag---!

If it was him or me,  
Life or death,  
Good versus Evil,  
And I was on the side of good.  
But let's have some  
character development first,  
And clearcut motivations.  
Otherwise it's just  
gratuitous violence and sensationalism.

But I digress!

*(starting again with gusto:)*

Siegfried I am, and  
I won't slay the dragon.

...Unless he offends me.  
Never, I say,  
will I marry Brunnhilde.

...Unless I feel like it.

Here I am, Siegfried.  
*(to each other:)*  
You're not Siegfried.

Siegfried, begone.  
Siegfried am I.  
Siegfried you ain't.  
Siegfried, goodbye.

If Siegfried was dynamite, you wouldn't have  
enough to blow your nose---!

**Draco**

*(separating them:)*

That's enough! Stop it! This isn't in the play.  
Are you proud of yourselves? Now everyone's confused.  
There's only one Siegfried in *Siegfried*.

**Manny**

I was Siegfried first.

**Draco**

I don't care. Go back and get in your Fafner costume.

**Manny**

*(really excited all of a sudden:)*  
I get to be the dragon!?! All right!  
*(exit)*



**Draco**

*(to Mime:)*  
Are you dead?

**Frannie / MIME**

Yup.

**Draco**

Get off the stage.

*(Frannie exits.)*

**Draco**

*(to Gwen:)*  
And you, try to stick to the story.  
*(to Larrance:)*  
Don't give them music, if there's not a song.  
*(handing Siegfried a sword:)*  
Here, you might need this.  
*(exits)*

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED** *(resuming:)*

Here I am, on my way to Fafner's house to borrow a cup of sugar.

*(Sound of Fafner growling offstage.)*

What's that?

*(Fafner growls. Dramatic music plays.)*

Maybe that's the dragon.

*(Fafner's growls grow louder, the music builds.)*

Hello? Mister Fafner, is that you?

*(Fafner growls some more.)*

I'm Siegfried from next door. I've come to borrow a cup of sugar.

*(Fafner growls some more, but doesn't come out.)*

If you don't mind.

*(Fafner growls some more.)*

Please.

*(Fafner keeps on growling.)*

...Can you hear me?

**Manny / FAFNER** (offstage:)

*(stops growling, irritated:)*  
I'm trying to make an entrance, if you don't mind.

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

Oh, sorry.

**Manny / FAFNER** (offstage:)

Big scary dragon needs an entrance.

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

Sorry.

**Manny / FAFNER** (offstage:)

I mean, there's not much point, if it's just gonna be: "Let's go visit the dragon." "Okay."  
"Tralala." "Oh, look, there he is." End of play.

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

I see your point.

**Manny / FAFNER** (offstage:)

I mean, we need to build suspense. Dramatic lighting. Mood music. Maybe a drum roll.

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

Okay. I'll just be over here.

*(Siegfried sits down somewhere to wait for Fafner's entrance.)*

*(Fafner starts over, his soft growls growing louder and louder as the music builds and the lights flash dramatically. When he has reached a peak, he stops and says:)*

**Manny / FAFNER** (offstage:)

Okay. That oughta do it. Everybody's on the edge of their seat, right?

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

I guess.

**Manny / FAFNER**

Okay.

*(Fafner comes out. Fafner is a gigantic sock puppet - like his brother Fasolt only bigger.)*

Rargh! Scary, huh?

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

I wouldn't know.

**Manny / FAFNER**

I used to be a giant. Betcha wanna know why I'm a dragon now.

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

Nope. Actually I want to borrow a cup of sugar.

**Manny / FAFNER**

Oh, okay.

*(Fafner goes out and comes back with a cup of sugar.)*

Here ya go. Anything else I can do for you today?

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

As a matter of fact, yes, there is: Can you tell me what Fear is?

**Manny / FAFNER**

Fear? What a strange question. Well, Fear is that queasy feeling you had in your belly just now, the first time you laid eyes on me.

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

Oh! So Fear is just the word for what it feels like when you're about to burst out laughing.

**Manny / FAFNER**

*(offended:)*

Laughing??

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

*(laughing:)*

Yeah, I thought I was gonna bust a gut when you came in here.

**Manny / FAFNER**

*(outraged:)*

You impudent whelp! You dare to laugh in the face of Fafner? I'll teach you to Fear! Fear is what you'll be feeling when you're swallowed by a dragon. CHOMP

*(Fafner swallows Siegfried.)*

*(Loud ripping sound. Fafner unswallows Siegfried.)*

Agh! My tongue!

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

*(holding up Fafner's tongue:)*

So this is Fear?

**Manny / FAFNER**

*(tongueless:)*

You rascal! I'll show you.

*(He goes out and comes back in with the Ring of Power. He also has a big blue polka dot on his forehead.)*

Do you know what this is?

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

Fear?

**Manny / FAFNER**

It's the ring of power. With this ring I can do anything. I can turn you into a biscuit if I like.  
ZZZZZZZZL...

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

Oh, no, I'm getting all buttery.

**Manny / FAFNER**

Hahaha Nothing can stop me now. zzzzzzz...

*(Siegfried chops Fafner's head off.)*

*(Music plays "Who's gonna walk through the ring of fire?")*

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

*(picking up the Ring:)*  
Ring of Power, huh?

*(The Tarnhat rolls out onstage for no reason.)*

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

*(taking the hint:)*  
And some kind of hat. I'll take it, too. Might come in handy.

*(Chris the Kitchen-Troll walks onstage, carrying a vacuum cleaner. He sees that the play is going on:)*

**Chris**

Shit!

*(Chris ducks offstage again.)*

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

...Might come in handy. Now I'll go back to Mime's house and bake that cake.

*(out of character:)*

...or wait.

I'm supposed to...

Taste the blood.

*(in character again:)*

Oh no. I got some dragon blood on my hand. I think I'll...

*(Tries to shake it off, or wipe it on something.)*

I think I'll just lick it off.

*(Siegfried licks his hand. Magical sounds.)*

How strange, I...

*(out of character:)*

I forgot what I'm supposed to...

**BIRD / (Draco) (offstage:)**

Chirp chirp!

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

Oh yes, the birds! Suddenly I understand the language of birds.

**Draco / BIRD (offstage:)**

Chirp chirp. Hey, Siegfried!

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

It must have been the dragon's blood that I just tasted. Somehow it gives me the ability to hear them. *(Etc., etc., until Chris has interrupted.)*

*(Chris enters stealthily with his vacuum cleaner, trying to be inconspicuous as he crosses the stage.)*

*(As he passes, he notices the clock. It's three o'clock.)*

*(Double take.)*

*(Chris looks at his watch. He listens to his watch.)*

*(Chris resets his watch to match the clock.)*

*(Chris turns and looks at Gwen.)*

*(Chris looks at his watch again. He looks at Gwen.)*

*(Chris interrupts:)*

**Chris**

*(interrupting:)*  
Hey, what are you doing?

**Gwen**

The third opera of *The Ring Cycle*. Oh, but I know what you're thinking, and it's okay, we took out the music so we don't hurt anybody.

**Chris**

It's 3:00 in the morning!

**Gwen**

It is?

*(Draco enters.)*

**Draco**

3:00 in the morning?

*(Manny enters.)*

**Chris**

That's what my watch says.

*(Manny looks at Chris's watch, and resets his own to match it.)*

**Manny**

I gotta get mine fixed.

**Draco**

That can't be right. You must be confused.

**Chris**

Damn right I'm confused. It's 3:00 in the morning and my cleanup isn't even half done, I come out here to vacuum the floor, and you people are still here. Dancing and singing like it's some kind of party. I told you we close at one. That means at one you're supposed to be out of here, gone, history. By one-oh-five I shouldn't even see a trail of smoke. But here it is...

*(looks at watch:)*

...three-oh-four, and you're all still here, the lights are all on, and I've got a matinee first thing in the morning, and nothing's been put away...

*(notices the audience:)*

And what are these people doing here?? Get out.

*(to someone:)*

Oh you think this is funny, huh? Come on, get moving.

*(He is about to drag an audience member from the theatre, but Draco stops him.)*

**Draco**

Listen, I'm really sorry about this mix-up. These people obviously had a little too much to drink and lost track of time. But we'll take care of it, okay? Just give us a few minutes, we'll get rid of 'em.

**Chris**

I want you, and them out of here, or I'm calling the police.  
(*exit*)

Oh yeah? You and whose army? **Frannie**

Sshh! **Gwen**

Who does that guy think he is? **Frannie**

That was the owner. **Gwen**

So we're just going to stop it right here? That sucks. **Manny**

No! Though the gods themselves seem to have conspired against me, I will finish these operas tonight. We did *Die Walküre* in ten minutes. We're doing *Gotterdammerung* in five. **Draco**

What about *Siegfried*? We haven't finished. **Gwen**

*Siegfried* we're doing in one. Places! **Draco**

(*They all go to places to continue.*)

So, a little bird told me that up on that mountaintop, there's a ring of fire that--- **Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

(*Enter a ring of fire.*)

(*Music plays "Who's gonna walk through the ring of fire?"*)

Oh, look. It's a ring of fire. **Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

(*faintly:*)  
Save me! **Manny / BRUNNHILDE**

And someone is trapped inside... **Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

Save me! **Manny / BRUNNHILDE**

(*to Brunnhilde:*)  
Under a spell of magical slumber. **Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

**Manny / BRUNNHILDE**

snore!

**Gwen**

Wait a minute, I'm supposed to be Brunnhilde!

**Draco** *(offstage:)*

Just do it.

**Manny / BRUNNHILDE**

Save me! Snore!

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

*(in character:)*

Everything is happening so fast.

Oh well, here goes.

*(Siegfried reaches toward the ring of fire and it suddenly goes out. Manny emerges in Brunnhilde drag, hurls herself upon Siegfried, and gives him a big sloppy kiss.)*

**Manny / BRUNNHILDE**

Oh thank you!

*(sees the Ring in Siegfried's hand:)*

A ring? For me?

*(takes the Ring:)*

Oh, Siegfried, you've made me the happiest woman in the world! Yes! Yes! Of course, I'll marry you!

*(Brunnhilde gives Siegfried another big wet one as overpoweringly climactic "The End" music plays.)*

*(After the music ends, Brunnhilde goes off to get ready for the next show.)*

----- End of Siegfried -----

**Gwen / SIEGFRIED**

That's it? That's how we're gonna end it? What about their song?

**Draco**

We don't have time for it.

**Gwen**

But their love song is the best part of *Siegfried*, it sets up everything that happens in the *Gotterdammerung*.

**Draco**

Right now it's more important that we finish.  
Set up for *Gotterdammerung*!

*(Draco goes about setting up for the next opera.)*

**Gwen**

I think we're doing this for the wrong reasons now. Don't you think if we explain everything he'll let us finish? I mean, I think we could do a really good job if we didn't fight so much. And if we had a little more time.

*(But they are all ignoring her as they get set for the next opera.)*

But now we're running around and nobody cares what it looks like. I mean, why are we here? I've wanted to be an opera singer all my life, I always wanted to be Brunnhilde and sing the love song, and now I'm not even Brunnhilde---

**Draco**

I don't want to hear your life story. It's going to be all your fault if we don't finish in time,

*(Draco puts a big blue polka dot on Gwen's forehead.)*

*(Draco, Manny and Frannie go off to get in costume.)*

**Gwen**

But...

*(enter Chris to get the vacuum cleaner. He sees Gwen:)*

**Chris**

What are you still doing? Get out of here!

**Gwen**

Excuse me, sir, we just want to do *Gotterdammerung*, and then we'll be finished.

**Chris**

You're finished now.

**Gwen**

But, see, if we stop right now, it has a happy ending, and it doesn't make any sense, and everyone will get all the wrong ideas about *The Ring Cycle*.

**Chris**

Oh, so your audience won't get the full operatic experience if I don't let you kill all the characters now? Is that it?



**Gwen**

And destroy the world.

**Chris** *(to the audience:)*

Well, too bad, you shouldn't have crossed me. Now it's too late.  
They all live forever and have successful careers in real estate! Now get out!

**Gwen**

Please...

**Chris** *(to the audience:)*

Go on, get out. I'm serious, we're closed, go home.

*(When the audience doesn't seem to react:)*

All right, I'm calling the police.

*(He goes to the phone. Gwen tries to stop him.)*

**Gwen**

Don't call the police. We'll go quietly.

**Chris**

Let go, dammit!

*(Gwen and Chris wrestle with the phone. Chris drops the phone and grabs a broom.)*

All right, that's it. Get out of here!

*(Chris chases her with the broom, out of the building and all the way up the street, shouting and cursing.)*

*(Draco, Frannie and Manny enter as Norns.)*

**Manny**

Where's Siegfried?

**Draco**

I don't know, let's get started.

**GOTTERDÄMMERUNG**

**We are the Norns. The Fates.**  
Draco / FIRST NORN

**Three sisters. Three goddesses.**  
Frannie / SECOND NORN

**One simple, but elegant costume.**  
Manny / THIRD NORN

*(They bring forward the Book of Time.)*

**We are the authors of Destiny.**  
Draco / FIRST NORN

**We turn the pages of the book of time.**  
Frannie / SECOND NORN

**We write history upon its leaves.**  
Manny / THIRD NORN  
Then later we read it back to each other and have a good laugh. Hahaha!

**What was that one we were reading the other day?**  
Frannie / SECOND NORN

**The Ring Cycle.**  
Manny / THIRD NORN

**The Ring Cycle!**  
Frannie / SECOND NORN

**Ha ha ha ha**  
Frannie & Manny / SECOND & THIRD NORNS

**The Ring Cycle is a tragedy.**  
Draco / FIRST NORN

**You must be thinking of some other story.**  
Manny / THIRD NORN

**The Ring Cycle is hilarious.**  
Frannie / SECOND NORN

**Ha ha ha ha**  
Frannie & Manny / SECOND & THIRD NORNS

**Remind me, then, so that I may share in your mirth.**  
Draco / FIRST NORN  
**How does it begin?**

**How does it begin?**  
Frannie / SECOND NORN

With the Ring, of course. **Manny / THIRD NORN**

**The Ring of Power.** **Frannie / SECOND NORN**

**The Ring of Gold.** **Manny / THIRD NORN**

**The Rheingold that slept beneath the waters of the Rhine?** **Draco / FIRST NORN**

**Guarded by the Rhine daughters.** **Frannie / SECOND NORN**

**The River Nymphs.** **Manny / THIRD NORN**

**From them the magical Gold was taken** **Draco / FIRST NORN**

**by theft** **Frannie / SECOND NORN**

**by Alberich** **Manny / THIRD NORN**

**the Nibelung stole the gold and made from it a Ring.** **Frannie & Manny / SECOND & THIRD NORNS**

**The cursèd Ring.** **Draco / FIRST NORN**

**The Rhine nymphs pled for justice** **Frannie / SECOND NORN**

**to Wotan** **Manny / THIRD NORN**

**the God King** **Frannie / SECOND NORN**

**the King of the Gods** **Manny / THIRD NORN**

**Did Wotan hear their cries?** **Draco / FIRST NORN**

**Yes.** **Frannie & Manny / SECOND & THIRD NORNS**

**Draco / FIRST NORN**

**Did he snatch the Ring from Alberich's grasp?**

**Frannie & Manny / SECOND & THIRD NORNS**

**Yes.**

**Draco / FIRST NORN**

**Did he return it to its rightful owners?**

**Frannie & Manny / SECOND & THIRD NORNS**

**No.**

**He used it as a down payment on a house.**

**Frannie / SECOND NORN**

**Valhalla.**

**Manny / THIRD NORN**

**The Hall of Heaven.**

**Frannie / SECOND NORN**

**Where dead heroes go to be dead.**

**Draco / FIRST NORN**

**O deep dishonor!**

**Manny / THIRD NORN**

**The heavens tremble!**

**Frannie / SECOND NORN**

**The great hall collapses!**

**Draco / FIRST NORN**

**It's foundation  
Built upon treachery and theft  
Cannot stand!**

**Frannie / SECOND NORN**

**It cannot stand!**

**Manny / THIRD NORN**

**It crumbles!**

**Frannie / SECOND NORN**

**It falls!**

**Draco & Frannie & Manny / THE THREE NORNS**

*(mournful wailing:)*

**OH IF ONLY WOTAN WOULD RETURN THE CURSÈD RING  
TO ITS RIGHTFUL OWNERS  
TRAGEDY MIGHT BE AVERTED!**

**Manny / THIRD NORN**

**But Wotan doesn't have the Ring.**

**Frannie / SECOND NORN**

**He gave it to the architect,**

**Manny / THIRD NORN**

**Fafner,**

**Frannie / SECOND NORN**

**The Giant,**

**Manny / THIRD NORN**

**The Dragon.**

**Draco / FIRST NORN**

**Steal it back.**

**Frannie & Manny / SECOND & THIRD NORNS**

**Three wrongs do not make a right.**

**Draco / FIRST NORN**

**Then there is no hope.**

**The Twilight of the Gods is at hand!**

**Manny / THIRD NORN**

**Armageddon!**

**Draco / FIRST NORN**

**Gotterdämmerung!**

**Frannie / SECOND NORN**

**Gesamtkunstwerk!**

**Manny / THIRD NORN**

**But wait, there is one hope.**

*(they gather round. He turns to the next page.)*

**Wotan initiates a secret genetic breeding program in order to produce a human being mighty enough to defeat the dragon and claim the Ring.**

**Frannie / SECOND NORN**

**But stupid enough to do it by accident and without malice of forethought, in order to avoid a charge of conspiracy to commit grand larceny.**

**Draco / FIRST NORN**

**A human to save the universe from destruction.**

**A human worthy of the name Ubermensch.**

**A human called... Siegmund!**

**Frannie / SECOND NORN**

**...But he died.**

**Draco / FIRST NORN**

**A human called... Sieglinda!**

**Manny / THIRD NORN**

**...She died, too.**

**Draco / FIRST NORN**  
**A human called... Siegfried!**

**Frannie / SECOND NORN**  
**Yes, Siegfried!**

**Manny / THIRD NORN**  
**Yes, Siegfried!**

**Draco**  
Where is Siegfried?

**Manny (to Frannie:)**  
I don't know, have you seen Siegfried?

**Draco**  
*(realizes Siegfried is missing:)*  
Oh no.

**Frannie**  
Oo! Can I play Siegfried this time?

**Draco**  
No.

**Frannie**  
Then can I play Brunnhilde?

**Manny**  
I'm Brunnhilde!

**Frannie**  
It's my turn. Hoyotoho!

**Draco**  
Where is Siegfried?

**Manny / THIRD NORN**  
I've got it!  
**Siegfried was captured by evil drug dealers who demand the Ring as ransom because they believe the Ring can transform ordinary rock salt to cocaine.**

**Draco**  
No.

**Frannie**  
Why don't we just say that, Siegfried gave the Ring back to Wotan, who gave it back to the Rhine nymphs, and the world is saved. And they lived happily ever after, the end.

**Draco**  
Because that's not what happens.

**Frannie**  
Why not?

**Draco**

Siegfried gave the Ring to Brunnhilde as a token of love.

**Manny / THIRD NORN**

**But Brunnhilde is a gambler and she has to pawn the Ring to pay her gambling debts or else a bunch of mafia hitmen have threatened to break both her legs...**

**Draco**

No.

**Frannie**

Okay, then Brunnhilde gives it back to Wotan to save Valhalla.

**Draco**

But Wotan banished her from Valhalla.

**Frannie**

So?

**Draco**

So she's not going to do him any favors.

**Frannie**

I think she's over that by now. If he asks nicely, I'm sure she'll let him have it.

**Draco**

Out of love for Siegfried, Brunnhilde refuses to give up the ring.

**Manny / THIRD NORN**

**...Without the Ring, Brunnhilde has no way to pay the ransom to save Siegfried, so she tries to join a country western band.**

**Frannie**

Oh come on! She's not going to let the world be destroyed because she loves Siegfried.

**Frannie**

**Love is not  
important if  
the world has been  
destroyed!  
Siegfried will  
be dead then and  
the joke will be  
on her!**

**Draco**

**Love means all  
the world to her  
and Siegfried is  
her love.  
Siegfried's love  
means more to her  
than everything  
on Earth.**

**Frannie**

That's ridiculous!

**Draco**

That's the way it is!

**Frannie / BRUNNHILDE**

*(Putting on a Brunnhilde wig:)*

Okay, I'm Brunnhilde, give me the Ring.

*(takes the Ring from Manny, holds it up:)*

**Wotan, wherever you are,  
I forgive you for everything!  
I want you to have the Ring!  
Take it! Hoyotoho!**

**Manny** *(to Frannie:)*

What about Siegfried? How will you pay the ransom?

**Draco** *(to Manny:)*

There is no ransom.

**Frannie** *(to Manny:)*

Siegfried's not in the show anymore.

**Draco** *(to Frannie:)*

The whole opera is about Siegfried and Gunther.

**Frannie**

Who's Gunther?

**Manny / NORN**

**Gunther Gibich is a gangster  
who's in love with Brunnhilde,  
but he knows that she has gambling debts,  
so Gunther somehow  
hits Siegfried on the head,  
and then Siegfried gets amnesia,  
and then Gunther tells him  
he is Brunnhilde,  
so the evil mafiosos  
will break Siegfried's legs  
instead of breaking hers.**

**Brunnhilde's so grateful  
to Gunther for saving her,  
that she gives him the Ring which he uses to  
turn radioactive waste  
into weapons-grade plutonium.**

**Frannie**

*(to Draco:)*

Isn't it a little late to start another subplot?

**Draco**

Let me spell it out for you. This is the book.  
The book says, "*Die Liebe liesse ich nie sturzt  
auch in Trunnern Walhall's strahlende Pracht!*"  
Do you know what that mean?

**Frannie**

"The leaves Lisa is near, stare out in terror.  
Weasels stroll in the park."

**Draco**

No! It means...

**Frannie**

*(to Manny:)*

Would you stop being stupid and help me here?

*(Frannie and Draco struggle to wrest the book from each other's grip.)*

**Manny** *(to Frannie:)*

I am not being stupid. I'm trying to have fun.

*(During the aforementioned struggle, the book is destroyed.)*

I'm sorry I invited you tonight.

**Frannie** *(to Manny:)*



I'm sorry you invited me, too, because I'm not having fun.

**Draco** *(to Frannie:)*  
You destroyed the book!!! We have to use this tomorrow!

**Frannie** *(to Draco:)*  
I'm not doing this show again tomorrow.

**Manny** *(to Draco:)*  
We're not having fun.

**Draco**  
It's not supposed to be fun!

**Manny**  
What's it supposed to be?

**Draco**  
Devastatingly tragic!

**Frannie** Good, then we're on the right track.  
**Manny** Oh, I don't want to have any part of that.

**Frannie**  
Can we please just finish this and go home.

**Draco**  
We can't finish it. You've shredded the libretto.

**Frannie / BRUNNHILDE**  
*(holding up the Ring:)*  
**Wotan, wherever you are--**

**Draco**  
*(snatching the Ring away from her:)*  
Give me that.

*(Gwen runs in.)*

**Gwen**  
Hurry, hurry, he's right behind me, and he's really mad, you guys, I think he called the police, *etc...*

**Draco**  
Where have you been?

**Frannie / BRUNNHILDE**  
Oh, here's Siegfried.  
Siegfried, I've been thinkin'...

**Draco** *(to Frannie:)*  
No.

**Frannie / BRUNNHILDE**  
...We oughta give the Ring back to Wotan so that he can prevent the destruction of the earth...

**Draco**  
No.

**Frannie / BRUNNHILDE**

...don't you think so?

*(to Draco:)*

Can I have the Ring for a minute?

**Manny / GUNTHER**

*(taking Siegfried hostage:)*

**Wait a minute, my name's Gunther,  
Gunther Gibich. I'm a gangster.  
And I'm taking Siegfried hostage  
I demand the Ring as ransom  
or I'll kill him with this... fork.**

*(Manny picks up a fork or something and threatens Siegfried with it.)*

**Draco**

Stop it!

*(Chris storms in.)*

**Chris**

*(furious:)*

The police are on their way.

I'm going to close up now and anyone who's still here when they come is going to jail.

*(Chris grabs a few things, to put away, among them, the Brunnhilde wig. Frannie wrestles it away from him, which makes him even more angry.)*

**Chris**

All right, that's it!

*(He storms out.)*

**Draco**

Quick, skip to the end.

**Frannie / BRUNNHILDE**

*(puts on wig:)*

**Wotan, wherever you are,  
I forgive you for everything!  
I want you to have the Ring!  
Take it! Hoyotoho!  
I've given up the golden Ring!  
The world is safe, and now I  
sing:  
La la! Lalalala!  
etc...**

**Draco / BRUNNHILDE**

No, it goes like this:

*(takes wig:)*

***Fleigt heim, ihr Raben!  
raun't es eurem Herrn.  
was hier am Rhein ihr gehört!  
An Brünnhild's Felsen  
fahret vorbei:  
der dort noch lodert,  
weist Loge nach Walhall!  
Denn der Götter Ende  
dämmert nun auf!***

*(While they are all singing, Chris enters with the vacuum cleaner and starts vacuuming petulantly. Draco yells at him to turn it off. Chris yells back and continues to vacuum.)*

**Manny / NORN**

*(joining in:)*

**Many years after Siegfried's death, Gunther is extradited to the United States to face criminal charges for his involvement in the murder, but later both he and Brunnhilde turn state's evidence to help convict the hitman who turns out to be a distant relative of Alberich the Nibelung.**

*(The others continue to sing, or yell. **UTTER CHAOS.**)*

*(Gwen, unable to quiet the others, crosses to the fuse box and throws the master switch. All the lights, and the vacuum cleaner go out, and all is silence and darkness.)*

**Chris**

What the...?

**Gwen**

*(in the darkness:)*

**Someday we'll look back at this and laugh...  
But I wish we could laugh at it now.**

**What was the mistake we made at the start  
That caused the world to fall apart?  
If I asked you now, who was to blame,  
could you point a finger and give me a name?  
Was it something he said? Or something she did?  
Or the way your parents treated you when you were a kid?**

**Or is it all of us, right now,  
Refusing to put it all behind us somehow?  
Who won't let yesterday become a thing of the past  
And give ourselves the chance to start all over at last.**

**...Before it's too late.**

*(Silence.)*

**Draco**

*(sighs:)*

It's too late.

Oh. **Chris**

**Gwen** *(exiting:)*  
**Someday we'll look back at this and laugh.  
But I wish we could laugh at it now.**

**Manny** *(exiting:)*  
**Someday we'll look back at this and laugh.  
But I wish we could laugh at it now.**

**Frannie** *(exiting:)*  
**Someday we'll look back at this and laugh.  
But I wish we could laugh at it now.**

**Draco** *(exiting:)*  
**Someday we'll look back at this and laugh.  
But I wish we could laugh at it now.**

*(Chris packs up his vacuum cleaner and leaves.)*

----- End of *The Ring Cycle: The Musical* -----