

ACT 1

SCENE 1

A low, distant horn sounds out.

CURTAIN OPENS ON THE GATHERING PLACE

MANDEROOTH, a buffalo herald,  
rushes in. One after another,  
horns sound out.

MANDEROOTH

That's it. It's time! Up, up, up! Everybody up!

SONG: DAY OF ALL DAYS

MANDEROOTH

TO THE MEADOWS BY THE WATERS  
TAKE YOUR SONS AND BRING YOUR DAUGHTERS

JIEN-HEE, a buffalo, rushes in.

MANDEROOTH (CONT'D)

COME ALONG DON'T SHY AWAY  
NOT TODAY NOT TODAY

JIEN-HEE

WE'LL FILL THE AIR WITH CLANK AND CLATTER  
PARENTS RUSH WHILE CHILDREN SCATTER  
PUSH YOUR TROUBLES FAR AWAY  
NONE TODAY NOT TODAY

From all directions, buffalo enter  
carrying bundles of bounty. They  
set the stage for a festival. As  
they do, they sing.

ENSEMBLE (ROUNDS)

TO THE MEADOWS BY THE WATERS  
TAKE YOUR SONS AND BRING YOUR DAUGHTERS  
COME ALONG DON'T SHY AWAY  
NOT TODAY NOT TODAY

WE'LL FILL THE AIR WITH CLANK AND CLATTER  
PARENTS RUSH WHILE CHILDREN SCATTER  
PUSH YOUR TROUBLES FAR AWAY  
NONE TODAY NOT TODAY

TODAY WE WILL SEE A NEW DAY OF ALL DAYS  
WE HAVE WAITED ALL YEAR FOR THIS MOMENT  
AND NOW IT IS ONLY A BEAT AWAY  
WE'VE HAVE WAITED ALL YEAR  
WAITED ALL YEAR FOR THIS DAY

POUND YOUR HOOVES ON THE GROUND LIKE THUNDER  
PUT A LITTLE RHYTHM IN IT PUT A LITTLE RHYTHM IN IT  
DUST FLIES UP AS SUN BEATS DOWN  
LOOK ABOVE AT THE SKY WE'RE UNDER  
GOT A LITTLE MAGIC IN IT GOT A LITTLE MAGIC IN IT  
WE'VE BEEN WAITING ALL YEAR FOR THIS DAY TO COME AROUND

POUND THE GROUND POUND THE GROUND  
WE'VE CELEBRATED THIS DAY SINCE LONG AGO  
POUND THE GROUND POUND THE GROUND  
IT'S A BRAND NEW START IN THE HEART OF THE BUFFALO

POUND THE GROUND POUND THE GROUND  
WE'VE CELEBRATED THIS DAY SINCE LONG AGO  
POUND THE GROUND POUND THE GROUND  
FIRST DAY ON THE WAY TO A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

TODAY WE WILL SEE A NEW DAY OF ALL DAYS  
WE HAVE WAITED ALL YEAR FOR THIS MOMENT  
AND NOW IT IS ONLY A BEAT AWAY  
WE'VE BEEN WAITING ALL YEAR  
WAITING ALL YEAR FOR THIS DAY

A small fanfare sounds out. THORN,  
younger brother to QUEEN WILLA  
MAH, enters.

THORN  
Isn't this wonderful?

MANDEROOTH  
Good morning, Thorn. Yes. It's--

THORN  
You there, Jonkie.

JIEN-HEE  
It's Jien-Hee, Sir.

THORN  
Take all of these to my quarters.

JIEN-HEE  
B-but--

Thorn continues "shopping".

THORN  
And I'll take these. And these. Ooh! And big,  
fat bundle of those.

MANDEROOTH  
I'm sorry, my prince. But, this is all for the  
festival.

THORN

I'm sorry, *Manderooth*. But, my sistah's the queen.

Manderooth bows.

MANDEROOTH

Yessir. Sorry. All right everyone. You heard. Move it out.

The herd grumbles as they gather things up. Thorn steps downstage. He giggles.

THORN

I really do love being me.

THE LIFE DELUXE

I WAS BORN TO THE FAMILY ROYALD  
I WAS RAISED BEING PAMPERED AND SPOILED  
TAUGHT TO LIVE THE LIFE LUSH  
IN A STYLE SOFT AND PLUSHY  
WHILE EACH OF MY HOOVES IS WELL-OILED  
I WAS BORN TO THE FAMILY ROYALD

ENSEMBLE

OON DIKKA-DIKKA, OON DIKKA-DIKKA, OON DIKKA-DIKKA  
OON

THORN

I WAS MADE FOR THE LIFE DELUXE  
ONE OF LIFE'S HAPPY-GO LUCKY-DUCKS  
I'M A PRINCE BOUND FOR GLORY, A FABULOUS STORY  
UNLIKE ALL THESE OTHER HARD-LUCKS, AW SHUCKS  
I WAS MADE FOR THE LIFE DELUXE

ENSEMBLE

OON DIKKA-DIKKA, OON DIKKA-DIKKA, OON DIKKA-DIKKA  
OON DIK- HE'S A PRINCE BOUND FOR GLORY  
UNLIKE THE HARD-LUCKS  
HE WAS MADE FOR THE LIFE DELUXE  
HE'D SELL HIS OWN MUM FOR A COUPLE-A BUCKS

THORN

Wha-?

ENSEMBLE

MUCKY-MUCKS GET THE LIFE DELUXE  
TIPPY-TIPPY-TOO, TIPPY-TIPPY-TEE  
TIPPY-TIPPY-TOO, TIPPY-TIPPY-TEE, TIPPY-TIPPY-TOO  
BORN TO LIVE THE LIFE DELUXE!

THORN

NOW, I KNOW IT'S NOT ALL ABOUT ME--

A royal fanfare blasts.

MANDEROOTH

It's the Chief.

THORN

No kidding.

JIEN-HEE

The Chief!

Drums Roll, horns echo. The herd turns to greet THE CHIEF, common-born king of all buffalo.

THORN

I'm in the middle of a song, here.

The Chief enters.

THE CHIEF

Good morning, everyone!

ENSEMBLE

Good morning, Sire!

Thorn takes a shallow bow.

THORN

Sire.

THE CHIEF

Look at all of this. It's marvelous. Have you ever seen such bounty?

ENSEMBLE

Hooray!

THE CHIEF

This will be the best festival ever. Here. Let me help. Let's spread everything around. Thorn, lend a hoof, will Ya?

THORN

Yes, Sire. I was just saying the same--

AUNTIE (OFFSTAGE)

Help! Where is everyone? Someone help! Please!

MANDEROOTH

That's Auntie.

THORN

Do I get to finish anythi--?

THE CHIEF

Auntie? Auntie, over here!

Out of breath, AUNTIE, the royal elder, aunt to Thorn and Queen Willa-Mah, staggers in. The Chief rushes to her. The crowd gathers.

ENSEMBLE (RANDOM MUTTERING)

My goodness.

ENSEMBLE (CONT'D)

What is it?

ENSEMBLE (CONT'D)

What's wrong?

Manderooth listens in.

THE CHIEF

Auntie, are you all right?

Auntie flashes a smile.

AUNTIE

I'm fine, Dear. But, you. You have to hurry. It's Willa-Mah.

THE CHIEF

Willa-Mah?

AUNTIE

Yes. Our Willa-Mah's having her baby.

As quietly as he can, Manderooth relays to Jien-Hee.

MANDEROOTH (STAGE WHISPER)

It's the Queen. It's time.

Jien-Hee shouts out.

JIEN-HEE

Queen Willa-Mah's having her baby!

ENSEMBLE

Hooray!

Busted, Manderooth slips back to the crowd.

THE CHIEF

Auntie, where is she? Where's Willa-Mah?

AUNTIE

By the edge of the meadow. She's heading for the trees. Oh, Sire. You're going to be a daddy!

THE CHIEF

Daddy? Me? I'm gonna be a daddy!

ENSEMBLE

Hurray!

AUNTIE

Hurry now. Go, go, go!

Jien-Hee helps Auntie to a seat.

THE CHIEF

Don't worry, Willa-Mah! I'm coming!

The Chief rushes off.

MANDEROOTH

This calf changes everything.

JIEN-HEE

Half royal and half one of us!

MANDEROOTH

Gather in! Line up!

The herd lines up.

AUNTIE

Oh, Thorn, a baby. A shiny, new baby.

THORN

Yay.

Manderooth hustles over to Auntie.

MANDEROOTH

Excuse me, Ma'am. Your escort is ready.

AUNTIE

Well let's go then, Dear. There isn't a moment to lose!

Manderooth, Jien-Hee and Auntie join the line.

MANDEROOTH

All in!

JIEN-HEE

Horns up!

MANDEROOTH

Move out!

The herd marches offstage. As they go, an underscore of 'The Anthem' plays, then fades-out.

THORN

A baby. Ha! Some mixed-blood, half-n-half calf.  
And this *Chief*? Not royal. Common as dirt.  
You're a traitor to your kind, Willa-Mah.  
You're a traitor to your class! I need to get  
rid of these fools. But how? The common-folk  
love 'em.

Thorn's tone darkens.

THORN (CONT'D)

LIFE DELUXE REPRISÉ

THERE'S A SPARK IN THEIR HEARTS I MUST SMOTHER  
THEN I'LL LIGHT THE WORLD WITH ANOTHER  
I'LL GET RID OF THIS CHIEF, HE'S A FRAUD, HE'S A THIEF  
TAKE HIS CROWN IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER  
THEN WITH ORDER RESTORED LIVE A LIFETIME ADORED  
NO MORE COMPETING ONCE I'M DONE UNSEATING  
THIS CHIEF--

THORN (CONT'D)

And the new little *Mother*. Hey! Wait for me!

Thorn rushes off after the herd.

SET CHANGE TO THE WOODS

ACT 1

SCENE 2

THE WOODS

Puffing her breath, WILLA-MAH works her way toward a stand of ancient trees. Suddenly, she doubles over.

WILLA-MAH

Oop! Ohhh. All right, little one. It's time. Let's get to work.

Willa-Mah slips behind a tree. The Chief rushes in.

THE CHIEF

Willa-Mah? Willa-Mah, where are you?

A newborn cries out.

THE CHIEF (CONT'D)

Willa-Mah!

WILLA-MAH (OFFSTAGE)

No! Wait! Stay there. Wait.

THE CHIEF

Willa-Mah, what is it? What's wrong?

Willa-Mah, steps out. In her arms, she cradles a tiny calf, covered nose-tip to tail with white, orange and black spots.

THE CHIEF (CONT'D)

Oh. Oh, Willa-Mah.

WILLA-MAH

How? I don't understand.

THE CHIEF

Here. Let me take him.

The Chief slips the calf into his arms.

THE CHIEF (CONT'D)

My sweet girl, I am so sorry.

The chief covers the calf.

WILLA-MAH

What are you doing?



THE CHIEF

We're young, Willa-Mah. There will be others.

The Chief turns to walk away.

WILLA-MAH

Where are you going? Wait!

THE CHIEF

We can't wait, Willa-Mah. It's the law.

WILLA-MAH

The law. It's nothing! An old cow's tale from a dark and ignorant time.

THE CHIEF

It makes no difference. Look at him. Look! This calf couldn't blend. Can't hide. These colors will shine like a beacon. Every wolf in the land would stream in for the kill. This little one wouldn't stand a chance. And neither would anyone near him. We've no right to put others at risk. We can't keep him.

The Chief steps into the water.

WILLA-MAH

No. STOP!

Startled, the calf cries. The Chief stops. He buries his face in his son's colors. The Chief sobs.

THE CHIEF

I can't. Willa-Mah, I can't do it.

Willa-Mah runs to him.

WILLA-MAH

No. No, my love. You couldn't. How could you? Look at us. Me and my two boys. We're a mess. Here. Let me take him.

Willa-Mah slips the calf out of the Chief's arms.

WILLA-MAH (CONT'D)

Shhh. There, there. Don't cry. Shhh.

Willa-Mah comforts her boy. She hums an old buffalo lullaby (Wrapped In My Heart). The calf quiets.

THE CHIEF

Willa-Mah, I --

WILLA-MAH

Shhh.

Willa-Mah sings.

WILLA-MAH (CONT'D)

SONG: WRAPPED IN MY HEART

(WILLA-MAH)

IF MY CHILD YOU GO WANDERING  
SO FAR AWAY FROM HOME  
YOU MAY FIND THAT THE WINTER WINDS  
FEEL COLDER WHEN YOU'RE ALONE

SO IF THERE IS NO SHINING SUN  
OR HERD TO KEEP YOU WARM  
I'LL WRAP YOU UP HERE IN MY HEART  
AND PROTECT YOU FROM THE STORM

Willa-Mah carries the calf to  
shore. The Chief follows.

ON WINTER DAYS OUR MOTHER EARTH  
IS WARMED BY THE GENTLE SUN  
BUT WINTER NIGHTS WHEN THE DARKNESS COMES  
SHE FEELS SHE'S ON HER OWN

SHE LAYS HER HEAD UNDER STARLIT SKIES  
AND DREAMS BENEATH THE SNOW  
THAT COVERS HER AND HOLDS HER TIGHT  
WHILE THE WINTER WINDS DO BLOW

(THE CHIEF)

DON'T YOU WORRY MY CHILD  
I'LL PROTECT YOU FROM THE WINTER AND THE WILD

(WILLA-MAH & THE CHIEF)  
SO IF THAT SHIVER SHAKES YOUR SPINE  
AND FEAR CREEPS IN YOUR HEART  
JUST REMEMBER THIS MELODY  
AND WE'LL NEVER BE APART

AND WHEN THERE IS NO SHINING SUN  
OR HERD TO KEEP YOU WARM  
I'LL WRAP YOU UP HERE IN MY HEART  
AND PROTECT YOU FROM THE STORM

YOU'LL ALWAYS BE HERE IN MY HEART  
WRAPPED UP SAFE AND WARM

Off in the shadows, red eyes blink  
on. Wolves howl, "Yarooo"