

THE CALICO BUFFALO
a musical in two acts

book
by
EJ Stapleton

music and lyrics
by
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CAST OF CHARACTERS
(8 Actors)

THORN: Royal-born bull. Cousin to Queen Willa-Mah.(male)

THE CHIEF: Common-born Chief of the Buffalo Nation (male)

WILLA-MAH: (willa-ma) Queen of the Buffalo Nation (female)

BOH: (bo) Buffalo calf, multi-colored firstborn prince (male)

AUNTIE: Eldest of elders, "Auntie" to the Buffalo Nation.(female)

BITTLE: A young toad outcast, best friend to Boh (male/female/non-binary)

THE ANGK-SHA*: Deity. First of all buffalo (female/non-binary)

JIEN-HEE:* (jenny) Adult buffalo (female/male/non-binary)

MANDEROOTH:* (mander-rooth) Adult buffalo (male/female/non-binary)

THE ANGK-SHA'S GUARDS

TULINGLUK:* (too-ling-galook) Guard #1 (male/female/non-binary)

AMUKLIQLATCH*: (ahmoo-klee-klatch) Guard #2 (female/male/non-binary)

THE WOLVES

AMARUQ*: (ah-mah-rook), Leader of the wolf-pack (female)

WAYA:* (why-yah) Wolf#2, (male/female/non-binary)

LOKWA:* (low-kwah) Wolf #3, (female/male/non-binary)

NOTE: * indicates double-role:

* ANGK-SHA/AMARUQ

* MANDEROOTH/LOKWA/TULINGLUK

* JIEN-HEE/WAYA/AMUKLIQLATCH

SONG LIST

ACT ONE

- 01) DAY OF ALL DAYS (ENSEMBLE)
- 02) LIFE DELUXE (THORN)
- 03) ALL WRAPPED UP (WILLA-MAH & THE CHIEF)
- 04) TOADS UP! (BITTLE & ENSEMBLE)
- 05) LIFE DELUXE, REPRIS (THORN)
- 06) THE SONG OF THE ANGK-SHA (AUNTIE)
- 07) TWO STARS (BOH & BITTLE)
- 08) ANTHEM OF THE NATION (ENSEMBLE)
- 09) I'M THE ONE (THORN)
- 10) MOTHER NATURE'S MISTAKES (AMARUQ, WAYA, LOKWA & THORN)

ACT TWO

- 11) MORNING (WILLA-MAH, AUNTIE, THE CHIEF)
- 12) WODELIOO (AUNTIE AND BOH)
- 13) ANTHEM OF THE NATION, REPRIS (ENSEMBLE)
- 14) UNTIL YOU (BOH & THORN)
- 15) I'M THE ONE, REPRIS (THORN)
- 16) THE ANCIENT SOUND (TULINGLUK, AMUKLIQLATCH)
- 17) GOT GOOD SOUL (THE ANGK-SHA)
- 18) DAY OF ALL DAYS/ANTHEM, CLOSING REPRIS (ENSEMBLE)

SETS

- 1)The Gathering Place
- 2)The Woods
- 3)The Pond
- 4)The Northern Trail
- 5)The Wolflands

ACT 1

SCENE 1

OVERTURE

As the Overture ends, the curtain opens on--

THE GATHERING PLACE

Under a twinkling night sky, MANDEROOTH, a lone buffalo, sleeps. Upstage, from deep in the darkness, three pairs of eyes, glowing red, blink on. A low, rumbling horn sounds-out. Manderooth wakes and scrambles to his feet. Out of breath, a second buffalo, JIEN-HEE, rushes in.

JIEN-HEE

Was that it?

MANDEROOTH

Sh! *Listen.*

A second horn-blast sounds out.

MANDEROOTH

That's it! That's it!

One after another, horns bellow. Jien-Hee squeals.

JIEN-HEE

This is so exciting!

Manderooth and Jien-Hee scurry about, calling in the herd. One after another, the red eyes blink off. Sunrise begins.

MANDEROOTH

Up, up, up! Everybody up!

JIEN-HEE

C'mon, c'mon! Get up!

From all directions, buffalo enter bearing bundles of goodies. As they come, they sing.

SONG: DAY OF ALL DAYS

MANDEROOTH

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

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

The herd sets the stage for a
grand celebration.

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 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

THORN, a royal bull, thunders in.

THORN

QUIET!!

The herd freezes. Jien-Hee
stammers...

 JIEN-HEE
Th-Th-Th-

 THORN
THORN!

Jien-Hee bows.

 THORN
What's all this racket?

 MANDEROOTH
Sorry, Sir. But, it's time.

 THORN
Time? For what?

 JIEN-HEE
The Festival!

 THORN
Festival? *The* festival?

 MANDEROOTH
Yes. You see? We're just setting up.

 THORN
OOOooo. Oh, dear friends, forgive me. I'd
forgotten all about it. Oh, my, yes. How
wonderful.

Thorn strolls through, helping
himself to the bounty.

 THORN
I'll take these, and those, and a big, fat
helping of them. You there! Bundle this up.

 JIEN-HEE
But, Sir. That's for the--

Thorn snarls.

 THORN
Are YOU questioning ME?

Jien-Hee snaps to attention.

 JIEN-HEE
No, Sir!

Jien-Hee scrambles to bundle up
the loot.

From behind, out of Thorn's sight, a handsome bull, THE CHIEF, enters. With hoof-to-lips, the Chief signals, 'Sh". The herd takes a knee.

THORN

Well, now. That's better. I am Thorn! Royal!
Cousin to the Queen!

A royal fanfare blasts. Thorn jumps out of his skin.

THORN

YAAA!!

He spins to face the Chief.

THE CHIEF

And *I*, am the Chief. *Husband* to the Queen.

THORN

Oh! S-s-s--

JIEN-HEE

Sire?

With an uncomfortably nervous giggle, Thorn melts into an exaggerated bow. The Chief brushes past him.

THE CHIEF

Good morning, everyone! Have you ever seen such a sunrise? We'll have the greatest festival of all!

ENSEMBLE

Hip-hip! Hooray! Hip-hip! Hooray! Hip-hip!
Hooray!

THE CHIEF

Quickly now. The day will be on us in a blink.
Hooves in, my friends. Time to hustle!

The Chief grabs Thorn's loot, carries it all back for the festival. Joyful, the herd resumes setting up. Defeated, Thorn picks up one apple, slouches it over to the pile. The Chief calls Manderooth aside.

THE CHIEF

Manderooth.

MANDEROOTH

Yes, Sire?

THE CHIEF

Have you seen the Queen? I was sure I'd find her here.

MANDEROOTH

No, Sire. I haven't. Auntie's missing too.

THE CHIEF

Oh, now there's trouble. Wonder what they're up to.

AUNTIE (OFFSTAGE)

Where? Where's—? Where *IS* he!

JIEN-HEE

Sounds like Auntie.

Out of breath, AUNTIE, beloved eldest elder, stumbles in.

AUNTIE

There you are!

Jien-Hee hurries to help her, guides her to the chief.

THE CHIEF

Auntie, what is it? Are you all right?

AUNTIE

Fine, Sire. I'm fine. It's not me. It's the Queen.

The crowd gasps.

THE CHIEF

Is she all right? Auntie, what's wrong?

AUNTIE

Nothing's wrong, Sire. She's gone to the woods.

THE CHIEF

The woods? Is it time?

AUNTIE

It *IS*.

JIEN-HEE

You're going to be a Daddy!

MANDEROOTH

Three cheers for Queen Willa-Mah!

ENSEMBLE

Hip-hip! Hooray! Hip-hip! Hooray! Hip-hip!
Hooray!

AUNTIE

Her time's very close. You'll have to hurry.

THE CHIEF

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

The Chief rushes offstage.

AUNTIE

Run, Sire! Run like the wind!

MANDEROOTH

This calf changes *everything*.

JIEN-HEE

Half royal. And half one of us!

AUNTIE

Quickly, everyone. Gather up. We don't want to miss a thing.

Horns blast. The herd lines up.

AUNTIE

Isn't this exciting, Thorn? A baby. A brand-new, shiny baby!

MANDEROOTH

Everyone, move out!

Auntie kicks off their song.

AUNTIE

POUND YOUR HOOVES ON THE GROUND LIKE THUNDER

The herd joins in.

ENSEMBLE

PUT A LITTLE RHYTHM IN IT PUT A LITTLE RHYTHM IN IT

Auntie leads the herd off.

ENSEMBLE

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...

All, but Thorn, exit. The singing fades out.

THORN

Baby indeed. Some foul little half-n-half calf.
You've ruined everything, Willa-Mah. You and
your common-born Chief. You're a traitor to
your kind. You're a traitor to your class! That
crown was meant for a royal head. You should
have passed it to me!

THORN

SONG- THE LIFE DELUXE

I WAS BORN TO A FAMILY ROYALED
I WAS RAISED FULLY PAMPERED AND SPOILED

As Thorn sings, a toad-chorus
assembles.

TAUGHT TO LIVE THE LIFE LUSH
IN A STYLE SOFT AND PLUSHY
WHILE EACH OF MY HOOVES WAS WELL-OILED
I WAS BORN TO A FAMILY ROYALED

TOAD CHORUS

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

THORN

I WAS MADE FOR THE LIFE DELUXE
I'M ONE OF THOSE HAPPY-GO LUCKY-DUCKS
A PRINCE BATHED IN GLORY, A FABULOUS STORY
UNLIKE ALL THE OTHER HARD-LUCKS

TOAD CHORUS

AW SHUCKS

THORN

I WAS MADE FOR THE LIFE DELUXE

TOAD CHORUS

OON DIKKA-DIKKA, OON DIKKA-DIKKA, OON DIKKA-DIKKA
OON DIK-HE'S A PRINCE MADE FOR GLORY UNLIKE THE HARD-LUCKS
HE WAS RAISED FOR THE LIFE DELUXE

CHORUS TOAD #1 (UNDER HER BREATH)

HE'D SELL HIS OWN MUM FOR A COUPLE-A BUCKS

CHORUS TOAD #2 (UNDER HIS BREATH)

MUCKY-MUCKS AND THEIR LIFE DELUXE

THORN

Wha--?

TOAD CHORUS

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

THORN

NOW THERE'S A SPARK IN THEIR HEARTS I MUST SMOTHER
THEN LIGHT 'EM BACK UP WITH ANOTHER
I'LL GET RID OF THIS CHIEF, HE'S A FRAUD, HE'S A THIEF
TAKE THE 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

And that new little '*Muth-ah*'. Hey! Wait for
me!

Thorn rushes off after the herd.

SET CHANGE TO THE WOODS

ACT 1

SCENE 2

THE WOODS

Ancient trees encircle a clearing. Beams of sunlight pierce the darkness. Center stage, WILLA-MAH, about to deliver her firstborn, stands alone. A distance away, the Chief calls out.

THE CHIEF (OFFSTAGE)
Wiii-lla-Mah?

WILLA-MAH
I'm he— Ooh...

Willa-Mah doubles over.

WILLA-MAH
It's time, little one. Let's get to work.

Willa-Mah slips in, behind a tree. The Chief enters.

THE CHIEF
Willa-Mah? Are you here?

A newborn cries out.

THE CHIEF
I'm here! I'm coming!

WILLA-MAH (OFFSTAGE)
No, wait! Stay there! Wait.

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

THE CHIEF
Oh. Oh, Willa-Mah. She's beautiful.

The Chief slips the calf into his arms.

WILLA-MAH
He. It's a boy.

THE CHIEF
A boy? Well, hello beautiful boy. Look at you.

The newborn giggles.

WILLA-MAH

I never believed it. I thought it was a myth.
What are we going to do?

THE CHIEF

Do? Willa-Mah, what? What's happened? What's
wrong?

WILLA-MAH

You know what's wrong. You know very well.

THE CHIEF

I don't. Please. Tell me.

WILLA-MAH

"The calico ones stuck out from the herd. These
calves could not blend, couldn't hide. Their
speckles of color called out to the wolves. And
the wolves, by the hundreds, replied."

THE CHIEF

Oh, come on now. Willa-Mah. You can't believe--

WILLA-MAH

"The pack swept in and over the herd,
surrounding each bull, cow and calf. By
nightfall the losses were piled to the hip. Our
nation diminished by half."

THE CHIEF

Stop! It's just an old bull's tale. Told by
fools to scare little calves.

WILLA-MAH

No it isn't! Look! He's here. Can't you see?

THE CHIEF

This is nonsense. I won't—

WILLA-MAH

It's true! All of it. It has to be. The Council
convened, a decision was reached. Calico calves
were a threat, a menace. Forbidden by law. The
herd will never accept this calf. They will
never take him in.

Offstage, a twig snaps. The Chief
turns toward the woods.

WILLA-MAH

Sh. What's that?

A wolf howls, "Ya-rooo".

THE CHIEF

What are they doing in here?

WILLA-MAH

Wolves! They've come for him!

Willa-Mah takes the baby. Growls
rumble out from the woods, red
eyes light up the darkness.

THE CHIEF

Quick! Get behind me.

Willa-Mah, babe in arms, steps
back.

WILLA-MAH

Oh, no. No!

THE CHIEF

Willa-Mah, hide him! Cover him up!

Frantic, Willa-Mah searches. She
stoops to the river-bank, grabs a
hoof-ful of wet clay, smears it
all over her calf. The Chief
charges, straight into the woods.

THE CHIEF

Get out of here! All of you! Get away from my
son! Yaaaagh!

Startled, the calf cries.

WILLA-MAH

No-no, little one. Shhh. Please. Shhh.

Willa-Mah hugs her son to her
chest. Two by four by six, the red
eyes blink off. Howls and yips
fade. The wolves vanish into the
night.

WILLA-MAH

Don't cry. There, now. I've got you.

As Willa-Mah gently rocks her
baby, she hums an old lullaby. And
as she does, the calf quiets.
Willa-Mah sings...

WILLA-MAH

SONG: WRAPPED UP

(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

The Chief steps out of the woods.
He listens.

(WILLA-MAH)
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

The Chief joins Willa-Mah.

(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

Offstage, distant, festive voices
chatter.

WILLA-MAH
It's the herd. They're here.

The herd is coming to see the new
calf. As they come, they sing.

ENSEMBLE (OFFSTAGE, A CAPPELLA)
POUND YOUR HOOVES ON THE GROUND LIKE THUNDER
PUT A LITTLE MAGIC IN IT
PUT A LITTLE MAGIC IN IT

Offstage, laughter rises and
falls.

WILLA-MAH

What do we do?

THE CHIEF

He's covered. No one will see.

WILLA-MAH

But, it's only clay. It'll rub right off.

THE CHIEF

Then we'll have to keep him close. It has to work. It's all we have.

THORN (OFFSTAGE)

Willa-Mah?

WILLA-MAH

They'll want a name. Quickly. He needs a name.

A star pulses.

THE CHIEF

There! Did you see?

WILLA-MAH

Bora-Boh. The morning star.

THE CHIEF

That's it. It's perfect.

WILLA-MAH

This could work. I think it could work.

THE CHIEF

Hooves crossed. We're about to find out.

AUNTIE (OFFSTAGE)

Woo-hoo, Wiii-la-mahhhh.

THORN (OFFSTAGE)

Willa-Mah! Where are you?!

Auntie enters.

AUNTIE

There you are. They're here! Over here!

WILLA-MAH

Oh, Auntie. What a surprise.

Thorn enters.

THE CHIEF

And here's Thorn.

THORN

Wouldn't miss it for the world.

Buffalo peek in.

AUNTIE

We've all come. Everyone's here.

MANDEROOTH

Three cheers for Queen Willa-Mah. Hip-hip!

ENSEMBLE

Hooray! Hip-hip, hooray! Hip-hip, hooray!

AUNTIE

This is so exciting!

THORN

Well? Where is the little darling?

AUNTIE

Thorn, please. Be patient.

WILLA-MAH

It's all right. Here he is.

AUNTIE

He? Oh, how--

Auntie peeks at the baby. His coat
is caked and crunchy.

AUNTIE

Oops.

The herd lets out a clipped gasp.

AUNTIE

Well look at him. Isn't he something?

THORN

What's up with his fur?

AUNTIE

Thorn! How rude. He's wonderful, Willa-Mah.

WILLA-MAH

Thank you, Auntie.

AUNTIE

Absolutely unique. What name have you given
him, Dear?

THE CHIEF

Bora-Boh.

WILLA-MAH

Morning Star.

THE CHIEF

I mean...

THE CHIEF

Morning Star.

WILLA-MAH

Bora-Boh.

WILLA-MAH

Prince Bora-Boh Morning Star.

THORN

Wow. How *royalish-esque*.

THE CHIEF

For everyday, we'll call him "Boh".

WILLA-MAH

Boh? I love that.

AUNTIE

T'awww. He is a sweet little thing. Hello, little Boh. I'm your Auntie.

Auntie closes in.

AUNTIE

A boodgie-boodgie--

The Chief scoops Boh away.

AUNTIE

Ooops...

Willa-Mah fakes a yawn.

WILLA-MAH

Hoooh, my. I am absolutely pooped.

AUNTIE

Well, yes. Of course you are, Dear. You must be exhausted.

THE CHIEF

It's been quite a night.

A haunting wolf-howl sounds out Yaroooooo.

AUNTIE

That's odd.

THORN

What are they doing in here?

THE CHIEF

I think it's time to take my little family home. Manderooth? Are you ready?

Manderooth salutes.

MANDEROOTH

Yes, Sire! We'll see you home, safe and sound.
Everyone, fall in!

The herd flanks The Chief and
Willa-Mah.

WILLA-MAH

Thank you, Manderooth. Thank you, all.

MANDEROOTH

Not at all, Ma'am. All ready? Move out!

The herd, escorting the royal
family, exit. Thorn and Auntie
wave them off.

AUNTIE

Well done, Willa-Mah! Nighty-night, Boh!

THORN

That is one ugly calf.

AUNTIE

Oh, shoosh, you. Be nice.

THORN

Bora-Boh Morning Star? Reminds me of Uncle
Tuhgg.

AUNTIE

I wish. Even old Tuhgg was prettier.

Thorn and Auntie exit. Upstage,
three wolves enter, sneak across
stage, then exit.

SET CHANGE TO THE POND

ACT 1

SCENE 3

THE POND

Late afternoon. Peepers "peep", crickets "crick". Thorn enters.

THORN

Would you listen to that? Hey! How 'bout a little QUIET?!

All goes quiet.

THORN

Thank you.

Thorn yawns and stretches.

THORN

Ahhhhhh. Now, then. Time for my nap.

Thorn disappears into the bushes. Manderooth, carrying a bundle, enters. He turns back, calls out—

MANDEROOTH

Jien-Hee? Jien-Hee!

JIEN-HEE (OFFSTAGE)

Coming!

MANDEROOTH

Well, could you hurry?

Jien-Hee, also carrying a bundle, scurries in.

JIEN-HEE

Keep your horns on. What's the rush?

MANDEROOTH

I don't like to dilly-dally, that's all.

Manderooth starts off, Jien-Hee lets out a long, haunting wolf-howl.

JIEN-HEE

Yaaa-roooooo!

Manderooth launches his bundle.

MANDEROOTH

EEYYOW!

Jien-Hee chuckles.

MANDEROOTH

That's not funny!

JIEN-HEE

You oughtta see your face!

Boh rushes in, and thunders past.

JIEN-HEE

Hey! Watch it, kid!

MANDEROOTH

We're walkin' here!

BOH

Oh! I'm sorry. I didn't see you.

JIEN-HEE (MUTTERS)

Darn right you are!

Boh tip-toes over to the pond.

JIEN-HEE

These kids, runnin' all over. No more running!

BOH

Sorry!

MANDEROOTH

Hey, wait a minute. Isn't that the new prince?

JIEN-HEE

Nah. Couldn't be. Wasn't he born like two minutes ago?

MANDEROOTH

No. It's been a couple of months. You know calves. They grow like weeds.

JIEN-HEE

C'mon. We better get out of here.

MANDEROOTH

Right behind you.

Manderooth and Jien-Hee slip away.
From beyond the brush, a tiny
voice whimpers.

BITTLE (OFFSTAGE)

Oh-h-h-h. Oh-h-h-h. Oh, no.

BOH

Uh-oh. Someone's coming.

Boh ducks into the shadows.
BITTLE, a tiny toad, enters.

BITTLE

What'll I do? What'll I DO?

Bittle sits, buries his face in
his hands and sobs. Boh peeks out.

BOH

Hey. Are you OK?

Bittle jumps.

BITTLE

WHA-?!

BOH

I'm sorry. I didn't mean to scare you.

BITTLE

I'm not scared of you. I'm Bittle.

BOH

That's great! Good. Hi. I'm Boh. Nice to meet
you.

Boh sticks out his hoof. Bittle
puts up his "dukes".

BITTLE

What're you doing?!

BOH

I'm shaking. Whenever we first meet someone,
we're supposed to shake.

BITTLE

Uh-oh.

Bittle starts shaking all over.

BOH

Oh. Bittle, I didn't mean shake, shake.

BITTLE

Stand back, Boh. Look out!

Bittle's head snaps back. Out
blasts a thunderous noise. Bittle
slaps his hands over his mouth.

BOH

WHOA! What was *that*?

BITTLE

My boom.

BOH

Your boom?

BITTLE

Yup. Ever since I was a tiny tadpole. Whenever it wants, for no reason at all, bah-blooeey! Nobody likes it. It's why they threw me out.

BOH

Who did?

BITTLE

My people. Aw, Boh. What am I gonna do?

Bittle covers his face, melts into sobs.

BOH

Ohh. Hey, Bittle. Are you crying?

BITTLE

No.

BOH

Come on, now. Don't cry. Tell me. Why would they do that? Did they say?

BITTLE

Oh, yes. They said. I remember every word.

Bittle clears his throat.

BITTLE

SONG: TOADS UP!

WE'VE BEEN CHATTING A LITTLE (SPOKEN)

'BOUT YOU LITTLE BITTLE (SPOKEN)

AND YOUR FREAKISH UNBEARABLE QUIRK

WE'VE AGREED IN THE END

YOU'RE MORE NUISANCE THAN FRIEND

YOU'RE A HEAD-SPLITTING, FLAWED PIECE OF WORK

YOU'RE A HEAD-SPLITTING, FLAWED PIECE OF WORK

WE'VE NO CHOICE BUT SUGGEST

FOR THE GOOD OF THE REST

THAT YOU SEEK AN ALTERNATIVE ROAD

Upstage, a phantom toad-chorus appears.

WE'D INVITE YOU TO STAY

BUT THERE'S REALLY NO WAY
YOU AIN'T GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A TOAD

The toad chorus joins in.

TOADS UP!

YOU AIN'T GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A TOAD, TOAD
NO YOU AIN'T GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A TOAD, TOAD

BITTLE CAN'T YOU SEE WE'RE ALL THIS
YOU'RE JUST THAT
IT'S A PITY LITTLE BITTLE
BUT YOUR TALENTS FALL FLAT
YOU AIN'T GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A TOAD, TOAD

TOADS HAVE COME A LONG WAY SINCE BACK IN THE DAY
WHEN WE LIVED IN THE MUD AND THE MUCK
NOW WE LIVE BY THE BROOK
WE'VE A MUCH BETTER LOOK
AND IT WASN'T JUST A CASE OF GOOD LUCK

IT TOOK TIME TO DECIDE HOW TO STRIDE, SIDE BY SIDE
SET A STYLE FOR THE IDEAL TOAD
LIVE A LIFE PROFOUND UNTIL YOUR SHATTERING SOUND
WITH A RUMBLE-BUMBLE-TUMBLE EXPLODES

EVERYTHING HAS BEEN DISTURBED
ALL WAS PLEASANT NOW PERTURBED
OUR PERFECT PLACE IS BECOMING UNGLUED
WE'VE NO DOUBT LEFT ABOUT WHAT THE PROBLEM IS
PROBLEM LITTLE BITTLE IS YOU!

BRRRRRRRRRR!
THAT'S THE SOUND THAT A REAL TOAD MAKES!
DIGGY-DIGGY-DIGGY, DIGGY-DIGGY-DIGGY
DIGGY-DIGGY-DIGGY, DIGGY-DIGGY-DIGGY

BRRRRRRRRRR!
THAT'S THE SOUND THAT A REAL TOAD MAKES!
DIGGY-DIGGY-DIGGY, DIGGY-DIGGY-DIGGY
DIGGY-DIGGY-DIGGY, DIGGY-DIGGY-DIGGY

NOW, THERE'S NO RIGHT OF BIRTH
YOU MUST SHOW US WHAT YOU'RE WORTH
IT'S A GRAND GIVEN GIFT TO BE US
WE'VE HEARD WHAT YOU'VE GOT
YOU DON'T GET ANOTHER SHOT.
THERE'S NO ROOM FOR YOUR BOTHER, YOUR FUSS

SO LET'S NOT PRETEND OR DEFEND LITTLE FRIEND
YOUR POTENTIAL IT APPEARS HAS PLATEAUED
AT THE END OF THE DAY YOU COULD SEE WE COULD SAY
YOU AIN'T GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A TOAD

YOU AIN'T GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A TOAD, TOAD

NO, YOU AIN'T GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A TOAD, TOAD
YOU AIN'T GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A TOAD, TOAD
NO, YOU AIN'T GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A TOAD, TOAD...

The toad chorus vanishes. Haunting
toad-laugh echo.

BITTLE
I'm such a failure.

BOH
Are you kidding?

BITTLE
Huh?

BOH
You're no failure. I think you're *amazing*.

BITTLE
Me?

BOH
A-may-ZING! Your boom is special, Bittle.
You're like a super toad!

BITTLE
I'm not. You only think so 'cause you're
regular.

BOH
Regular? Me? OK, Bittle, c'mon. C'mere.

Boh walks toward the water, Bittle
follows.

BITTLE
Where?

BOH
You'll see. Now, I'm going to show you
something, Bittle. But, you can't tell anyone.
Promise me. No one. Not ever.

BITTLE
I promise.

BOH
Okay, then. Watch.

Boh wades into the water. The clay
washes off.

BITTLE
What're you doing? What's a—? LOOK AT THE
COLORS!

In the shadows, a pair of red eyes
blinks on.

BOH
SH!!!!

BITTLE (WHISPERS)
What *is* that? Does it hurt?

BOH
No.

BITTLE
Can I touch it?

BOH
Sure.

Bittle touches Boh's colors.

BITTLE
Hunh. I don't feel anything.

BOH
Me either. It's just me.

BITTLE
Boh, I've never met a buffalo like you.

BOH
Well, I've never met a toad like you.

BITTLE
Hey, wait a minute. You know what that means?

BOH
We're the same?

BITTLE
We're the same! We're exactly
the same!

BOH
We're the same! We're exactly
the same!

BITTLE
All this time I thought I was an only!

A twig snaps. Red eyes blink off.

BOH
Uh-oh.

Boh grabs some clay, starts
rubbing it on.

BITTLE
What're you doing?

BOH

Covering up.

BITTLE (WHISPERS)

But, no one'll see.

BOH

Exactly.

BITTLE

Why would you want that?

BOH

No one can ever see.

BITTLE

Why not?

BOH

Because.

BITTLE

Because why? C'mon, Boh. Can't you tell me?

BOH

'Cause they don't like it! Gee, Bittle, can't you leave it alone?

BITTLE

What do you mean? Who doesn't like it?

Boh scoops up more clay.

BOH

My Mom and Dad.

BITTLE

Nah. Did they say that?

BOH

They didn't have to. I've been covered up my whole life.

BITTLE

Boh, I--. Wait a minute, wait a minute. That can't be right. Your colors are beautiful, Boh.

BOH

They're not.

BITTLE

Yes they are. Beautiful. You'd have to be crazy to hide something this good. Unless— Of course!

BOH

What?

BITTLE

It's so obvious!

Bittle chuckles

BOH

What's so funny?

BITTLE

Boh, Boh, Boh. You've got this all wrong. If you're this beautiful, and they're covering you up, they're not hiding you. You're gift-wrapped! You, my friend, are a surprise!

BOH

A surprise? You mean like for a birthday?

BITTLE

It's gotta be! Now, think. Is there anything coming up? A party, maybe? You know, something big?

BOH

Well, there's this festival. The whole nation's coming. I have to stand up in front of everyone and tell them my name.

BITTLE

There it is! That's it!

BOH

Really, Bittle? You think so?

BITTLE

Your Mom and Dad love you, Boh. They're just waiting to show you off.

BOH

I'm *not* a mistake. I'm a surprise. Bittle, I'm a surprise!

BITTLE

Get ready for the time of your life, buddy. This festival's going to be great!

The sky darkens.

BITTLE

Uh-oh, Boh. Look. It's getting dark.

BOH

My Mom will be worried. Time to go.

Boh starts off. Bittle doesn't move.

BOH

Hey, Bittle, c'mon. We gotta hurry.

BITTLE

Me? With you?

BOH

Sure. We're friends now, right?

BITTLE

Really?

BOH

Best friends. And best friends stick together. C'mon!

BITTLE

OK, ole buddy ole pal, ole buddy ole pal. I can't believe this. I have a BFF!

Boh and Bittle exit. Thorn hops out of the shadows.

THORN

YES! Oh, yes indeedy-doo. Ooh, you little mixed-blood beauty.

THORN

SONG: THE LIFE DELUXE (REPRISE)
WELL MY PROSPECTS JUST JUMPED UP A NOTCH
A CHIEFTAIN? HA! NOT ON MY WATCH!
OH THE RAPTURE, THE JOY
WHILE EXPOSING YOUR PLOY
YOU'LL GO DOWN! NEVER DOUBT IT
THE NATION WILL SHOUT
DRIVE THEM OUT! WITH THEIR LITTLE BOY
SPLITCH!

THORN

Splitch. How perfect. I do tickle myself.

Thorn exits laughing.

SET CHANGE TO THE GATHERING PLACE

ACT 1

SCENE 4

THE GATHERING PLACE

Willa-Mah calls out.

WILLA-MAH

Boh? Boh! Oh, Auntie. Where could he be?

AUNTIE

Don't worry, Dear. Calves wander. He couldn't have gone far.

The Chief enters.

WILLA-MAH

Did you find him?

THE CHIEF

No. No luck.

Boh and Bittle enter.

AUNTIE

There he is!

WILLA-MAH

Boh!

Willa-Mah rushes him.

THE CHIEF

Where've you been, son?

WILLA-MAH

Are you hurt? Let me see you.

Willa-Mah spin-checks Boh.

BITTLE

This your Mom?

WILLA-MAH

I've been worried sick.

Willa-Mah hugs Boh tightly.

BOH

Mbomb.

Bittle tugs on Willa-Mah.

BITTLE

Hey, lady. He can't breathe.

WILLA-MAH

Oh! I'm sorry. Are you all right?

THE CHIEF

He's fine, Willa-Mah. A little adventure is all. Right, Boh?

WILLA-MAH

Don't you ever wander off like that again. Do you hear me? Do you?

BOH

Sorry, Mom. I won't. I promise.

AUNTIE

Boh, are you going to introduce your guest?

BOH

Oh, yeah! Hey everyone, this is Bittle!

BITTLE

Hi!

AUNTIE

Aren't you cute?

BOH

He's my friend. My best friend forever. Can he stay with us? Please? Can he?

THE CHIEF

I think we better ask his Mom first. Don't you?

BITTLE

Oh. I don't have one of those, Sir. There's nobody else. Just me.

BOH

So, can he stay? Can he? Please, oh please?

WILLA-MAH

Well, I don't know.

THE CHIEF

Please, oh please?

AUNTIE

Please, oh please?

WILLA-MAH

Oh, you're a big help. All right. He can stay.

BOH

YAY!

BITTLE

YAY!

WILLA-MAH

But, on your best behavior. Both of you.

BOH

We will, Mom. Hey, Bittle. You're it!

BITTLE

No, you're!

Bittle and Boh play tag.

THE CHIEF

This'll be good for him. Boh needs a friend.

Bittle and Boh rush past Auntie.

AUNTIE

Oops!

Auntie loses balance. Willa-Mah steadies her.

WILLA-MAH

No-no-no, this won't do.

The Chief calls out.

THE CHIEF

It's getting late, you two. Time to settle down.

BOH

Aww, Dad.

THE CHIEF

Never mind that. Come on.

Boh and Bittle run to The Chief.

BOH

But, we're not even tired.

BITTLE

At all.

WILLA-MAH

Well, that *IS* a problem. Wait, I know. Auntie? How about a story?

AUNTIE

From me?

BOH

Yes!

BITTLE

Yes!

WILLA-MAH

Please, oh please?

AUNTIE

Oh, go on, you. All right. You want a story? I have a story for you.

BOH

Yay! C'Mon, Bittle!

BITTLE

Is it scary?

BOH

Are there monsters?

BITTLE

Like a dragon?

BOH

Raaagh!

BITTLE

Raaagh!

AUNTIE

Nope. Not scary. No dragons. Just magic.

Lights dim. The night sky fills with stars. Soft spot on the group. Boh and Bittle settle. Auntie sings the story.

AUNTIE

SONG: THE SONG OF THE ANGK-SHA
COME ON. GATHER 'ROUND (SPOKEN)
AND I'LL TELL YOU
THE GREAT TALE I BELIEVE TO BE TRUE
MY MOTHER AND FATHER ONCE TAUGHT THIS TO ME
AND NOW I WILL TEACH IT TO YOU
IT'S TIME THAT I TEACH IT TO YOU

SHE ARRIVED IN A FLURRY OF STARDUST
IT LIT UP THE SKIES AS IT SWIRLED
THE ANGK-SHA SET DOWN IN A LAND TO THE NORTH
AND DELIVERED OUR KIND TO THIS WORLD
SHE DELIVERED OUR KIND TO THIS WORLD

BITTLE

From a planet?

BOH

Did she fly here?

BITTLE

She can fly?!

THE CHIEF

Shhh. Listen.

AUNTIE

THE ANK-SHA SET OUT, THROUGH THE HEAVENS
IN SEARCH OF THAT ONE PERFECT PLACE
A WORLD FULL OF WONDER, COMFORT AND JOY
A HOME FOR HER BUFFALO RACE
A HOME FOR HER BUFFALO RACE

NOW THE ANGK-SHA KEEPS WATCH OVER OUR NATION
THE PULSE, THE HEART OF OUR BREED
SHE WAITS IN THE NORTH PAST THE WOLFLANDS
AND SHE WILL BE THERE WHENEVER WE NEED
SHE WILL BE THERE WHENEVER WE NEED

AUNTIE

And that, my dears, is that.

BITTLE

Wow.

BOH

Wow.

They look to each other.

BOH

Wow!

BITTLE

Wow!

WILLA-MAH

Thank you, Auntie.

AUNTIE

You're welcome, Dear. Well, I'll leave you to
it. Good night all.

BOH

G'night, Auntie.

BITTLE

Thank you!

Auntie exits.

THE CHIEF

OK, you two. Big day tomorrow. Time to get some
sleep.

BOH

Night, Mom. G'night Dad.

WILLA-MAH

Sleep tight, you two.

BITTLE

'Night, Mr. and Mrs. Buffalo.

Lights down as Willa-Mah and The Chief settle in for the night. Soft spot on Boh and Bittle. Stars twinkle above.

BOH
Hey Bittle, look. Up there.

BITTLE
Oo. I love stars.

BOH
I bet that's where she came from.

BITTLE
That Angk-Sha lady?

BOH
Yup. See that one? That's Borah-Boh.

BITTLE
Like you?

BOH
That's the star I'm named after. Hey, Bittle. What are you named after?

BITTLE
Well, everyone said I was a bit strange and a little pest. Bit plus little equals Bittle. It stuck.

BOH
No, that's no good. Bittle's a great name. It should mean something big! There. You see that star? That really twinkly one.

BITTLE
Oh, yeah.

BOH
From this day on, that star's name is Bittle.

BITTLE
Can we just do that?

BOH
Why not? Everything had to be named something sometime. Somebody had to make up Borah-Boh, right?

Boh stands up.

BOH
Hear ye, hear ye!

BITTLE

Shhh! What are you doing?

BOH

On this night of nights, before all who have gathered, before Chief and country, I hereby name that star Bittle!

BITTLE

I think my heart is swelling.

BOH

Yay!

Boh and Bittle hook their pinkies.
Underscore of "Two Stars".

BITTLE

Boh and Bittle.

BOH

Bittle and Boh.

BITTLE

Friends who stick together
wherever we go.

BOH

Friends who stick together
wherever we go.

BOH & BITTLE

SONG: TWO STARS

I'M SO GLAD TO HAVE A FRIEND TO HANG AROUND WITH
SO THAT EVERY DAY'S SURROUNDED
WITH A HAPPINESS
THAT COMES FROM TOGETHERNESS
BITTLE, BUDDY YOU'RE THE BEST

I LOVE IT WHEN WE PLAY TOGETHER
IT'S LIKE A HOLIDAY AND WHETHER
I WIN THE RACE OR IT'S SECOND PLACE
YOU ALWAYS BRING A BIG SMILE TO MY FACE

In the shadows, The Chief stands
listening.

TWO STARS IN THE NIGHT
THE SKY IS DARK BUT THEY SHINE BRIGHT
LOOK STRAIGHT UP
IT ISN'T VERY FAR TO ANOTHER STAR

TWO STARS IN THE MILKY WAY
STICK TOGETHER COME WHAT MAY
WHEN YOU'RE MADE OF LIGHT
IT ISN'T VERY FAR TO ANOTHER STAR

Willa-Mah joins The Chief. They
look on.

SOMEDAY THERE MAY COME A TIME
YOU'VE GOT A WAY-HIGH HILL TO CLIMB
AND THINGS MAY SEEM TOO TOUGH TO BEAR
JUST LOOK AT THE STARS AND I WILL BE THERE

YOU'RE LIKE A LITTLE BROTHER
YOU'RE AN ANGEL ON MY SHOULDER
AND I LIGHT RIGHT UP WHEN YOU MAKE YOUR SOUND
YOU'RE THE BEST FRIEND I COULD EVER HAVE FOUND

STAR STAR IN THE NIGHT
SPARKLING AND MADE OF LIGHT
JUST LOOK UP
IT ISN'T VERY FAR TO ANOTHER STAR

TWO STARS FLYING FREE
THAT ONE'S YOU AND THIS ONE'S ME
WHEN I'M WONDERING WHERE YOU ARE
I'LL JUST LOOK TO THE STARS

NO ONE ELSE APPRECIATES THE SPECIAL
THINGS ABOUT ME LIKE YOU DO
YOU KNOW MY DREAMS YOU KNOW MY FEARS
AND YOU SHOULD KNOW I LOVE YOU

(BOH)

(BITTLE)

FRIENDS, FRIENDS YOU AND ME
THERE'S NOWHERE I'D RATHER BE
THAN LAYIN' RIGHT HERE WITH YOU NEARBY
LOOKIN' AT THE STARS UP IN THE SKY

MY FRIEND BOH
WHERE YOU GO I GO
SO I'M STAYIN'...
LOOKIN' AT THE STARS...

BEST FRIENDS YOU AND ME
THERE'S NOWHERE I'D RATHER BE
THAN LAYIN' RIGHT HERE WITH YOU NEARBY
LOOKIN AT THE STARS UP IN THE SKY

MY BEST FRIEND
UNTIL THE END
SO I'M STAYIN' RIGHT...
LOOKIN' AT THE STARS...

THE CHIEF

Settle down, you two.

BOH

K, Dad. Hey, Bittle. Remember something for me,
will Ya?

BITTLE

Sure. What?

BOH

I may be the kind of calf they name after a
star, but you're the kind of toad they name
stars after. And that, my friend, is special.

BITTLE

Hey Boh?

BOH

Yah?

BITTLE

Thank you for friending me.

Boh and Bittle settle in for the night.

THE CHIEF

We have a beautiful son, Willa-Mah.

WILLA-MAH

We do. But, if anyone finds out he's calico, his world, our world, is over.

THE CHIEF

Then, let's go.

WILLA-MAH

What?

THE CHIEF

Right now. We'll take our son and go. Far away, where they'll never find us.

WILLA-MAH

What about the herd? The throne?

THE CHIEF

Thorn wants it, let him have it. Let him have all of it. We've been lucky so far. The coloring has worked. But, we can't keep him covered forever. One rainstorm, one puddle leaves him open. Exposed. He's not safe here.

WILLA-MAH

If we go, we can never come back. We'd be giving up everything.

THE CHIEF

The three of us, this family, *is* everything.

WILLA-MAH

Sh! Wait.

Upstage, sentries enter, cross, then exit.

WILLA-MAH

Everyone's watching. How will we get out?

THE CHIEF

I have an idea. But, we'll have to wait until morning.

WILLA-MAH

The morning? It's the festival. Even more will be watching. Thousands.

THE CHIEF

Yes. But, not for long. Listen. We'll wait until it's time to present the new calves. As prince, Boh will be first. When the drums roll, he'll step out and walk over the footbridge to us. Then, horns will blast, drums will rumble, and the next little calf takes his place.

WILLA-MAH

Everyone's waiting to see their own calf. They'll all turn to see who's next.

THE CHIEF

Right. And when they do, we grab Boh and go.

WILLA-MAH

The timing has to be perfect. If we're caught—

THE CHIEF

That's a chance we'll have to take. We can do this, Willa-Mah.

WILLA-MAH

My hooves are shaking.

The Chief pulls Willa-Mah close.

THE CHIEF

I know, my love. So are mine.

Lights dim. Willa-Mah and The Chief settle in. Upstage left, in the darkness, three pair of red eyes blink on, slink to upstage right, then exit. Downstage left, Auntie enters and crosses. Muttering as she goes.

AUNTIE (WHISPERS)

She arrived in a flurry of stardust. It lit up the skies as it swirled. The Angk-Sha set down in a land to the north. Wait a minute. No... Oh, yes. And delivered our kind to this world. That's it. Wait. Is it? She arrived in a flurry...

Auntie exits, stage right.

ACT 1

SCENE 5

THE GATHERING PLACE

The Chief, Willa-Mah, Bittle and Boh soundly sleep. Thorn enters.

THORN

Well there they are, all comfy-cozy.

Thorn spies the Chief's crown.

THORN

What's this? I mean, really. How careless can you get?

Thorn snatches the crown, sneaks it down to the brook. He tries it on.

THORN

Would you look at that? Squeee. Sh!

He admires his reflection in the water.

THORN

Ooo, that's good. That's really good. Oppp, oppp, yowch!

Thorn loses his footing, tumbles straight into the brook. There he sits, soaked to the skin.

THORN

Isn't this just perfect. Whai-. Wha-? E-wha-? Of course! Sh! The bridge. The water. It could work. I could do it!

Willa-Mah wakes.

WILLA-MAH

Hello? Is someone there?

THORN

Sorry, Willa-Mah. Did I wake you?

WILLA-MAH

Thorn? Is that you?

THORN

Yes. Yes it is.

WILLA-MAH

What are you *doing*?

THORN

Scrubbing up for the big day.

WILLA-MAH

Now?

THORN

Not a good time?

WILLA-MAH

Of course not. Everyone's still sleeping.

THORN

All right, fine!

WILLA-MAH

Sh. Keep your voice down.

A distant horn sounds. Sunrise begins.

WILLA-MAH

Oh, no. It can't be.

One after another, horns sound out. The Chief rises, stretches.

THE CHIEF

What's that? Is that the festival?

WILLA-MAH

We're late! Up-up-up! Everyone up!

Boh and Bittle wake.

WILLA-MAH

Thorn, go! You need to get ready!

THORN

All right! Stop shouting.

Thorn gets up out of the brook.

LIGHTS UP

THORN (UNDER HIS BREATH)

You're not the boss of me.

THE CHIEF

Actually, she is.

Thorn exits, mocking.

THORN

"*Actually, she is.*" Well, not for much longer.

In the distance, a "County Fair/Calliope" styled underscoring of "The Anthem of the Nation" plays. Bittle rushes off to investigate.

THE CHIEF

Morning, my love.

WILLA-MAH

He's so frustrating.

The Chief pulls Willa-Mah close.

THE CHIEF

Never mind him. We've bigger things to do.

BOH

Hey, Mom? Where's Bittle?

Bittle rushes in.

BITTLE

Boh, c'mon! You gotta see this!

THE CHIEF

Better ask your Mom first.

BOH

K, Dad. Mom, can me and Bittle go take a look?

WILLA-MAH

Bittle and I.

BOH

Bittle and I?

WILLA-MAH

All right. But not too long. We don't have much time.

BOH

Yes!

BITTLE

Yay!

WILLA-MAH

Don't get dirty!

Bittle and Boh run downstage, look out over the house. The Chief and Willa-Mah put on their finishing touches. Crowd sounds and festival music bubble up. Offstage, a vendor calls out--

JIEN-HEE (OFFSTAGE)

Acorns! Get your acorns hee-ya!

BITTLE

This crowd is huge.

BOH

Yeah. I'm a little nervous.

BITTLE

Nothing to be nervous about. Did you practice?

BOH

Maybe. What is it?

BITTLE

Well, anytime I have to do something big, I try it out a couple of times before. You know, to make sure I get it right. That's practice. You have to stand up and tell everybody your name, right?

BOH

Right.

BITTLE

OK, so show me. How you gonna say your name?

BOH

Boh?

BITTLE

No, not to me. I mean for the whole world.

BOH

Boh.

BITTLE

No, no. Here, watch me.

Bittle runs to the top of the footbridge.

BITTLE

I am Boh! The mighty son of the Chief! And the earth shakes. And the crowd roars. Raaaaaaaah!

Boh giggles.

BOH

Bittle, that's great!

BITTLE

Come on! Come up!

Boh runs up to Bittle.

BITTLE

Now look out there. The whole world is waiting.
You are Boh, the mighty son of thunder. All
gathered will tremble before you. Go!

BOH

I am--

BITTLE

I AM BOH!

BOH

BOH!

BITTLE

That's it! You gotta be big! Big as the crowd.
Even bigger! Here, like this. Stick one hoof
forward, throw two hooves up. That's it. Now,
yell "surprise".

BOH

SURPRISE!

BITTLE

SURPRISE!

WILLA-MAH

Bora-Boh Morning Star!

BITTLE

Uh-oh. Full name.

BOH

Here, Mom!

WILLA-MAH

Come on up now. It's time to go.

BOH

Yes, Ma'am! Thanks, Bittle. You're the best.

THE CHIEF

Boh!

BOH

Coming! See you out there, Bittle. Get a seat
up front!

Boh runs back up to his family.

BITTLE

I will! You're gonna do great!

Bittle exits. Lights dim on the
bridge.

THE CHIEF

Here he comes.

WILLA-MAH

Over here, Boh. Let me get a look at you.
That's my boy. Handsome as ever.

Manderooth enters and signals The
Chief.

MANDEROOTH

They're ready for you, Sire.

THE CHIEF

Everyone set?

BOH

Yes! Let's go!

Boh rushes off. The crowd is
gathering. Boh takes his place at
the head of the bridge. The Chief
and Manderooth follow. Auntie
enters.

AUNTIE

Oh, Willa-Mah. Don't you look splendid.

WILLA-MAH

Auntie?

AUNTIE

Yes, dear?

WILLA-MAH

When my mother--. When I became queen, I was
very young.

AUNTIE

You were such a tiny thing.

WILLA-MAH

You stepped right up. You've been a mother to
me in every way.

AUNTIE

My dear girl, I love you. I'd do anything for
you. You are, in every way, my daughter.

WILLA-MAH

Thank you, for everything. I don't know what
I'd have done without you.

Willa-Mah hugs Auntie. It's a hug
bigger than expected.

AUNTIE

Willa-Mah?

Willa-Mah tears up.

AUNTIE

There-there, what is it? Is everything all right?

Willa-Mah smiles.

WILLA-MAH

Yes. It's all right. I'm ready.

Auntie dabs Willa-Mah's cheek.

AUNTIE

Good. No more tears, now. Shoulders straight, chin up. Let's give 'em a royal show.

Lights up on the bridge. The Chief and Boh stand waiting. Willa-Mah and Auntie take their places. Thorn, host of the day, joins them.

THORN

Your Majesties.

Thorn bows.

THORN

And little Splot— Ahem, I mean Boh. Don't you look grand?

BOH

Why, thank you, Thorn. You do too.

THORN

I can't wait to show the whole, wide world.

Thorn closes in on Willa-Mah.

THORN

Little Prince Boh, just as he *really* is. Eh, Willa-Mah?

With a belly-laugh, Thorn turns toward the crowd.

AUNTIE

That's strange. He never finds anything funny.

Thorn crosses to the foot of the bridge. Willa-Mah whispers to the Chief.

WILLA-MAH

Thorn knows.

THE CHIEF

No. He doesn't. How could he?

WILLA-MAH

I don't know. But, he knows. I'm sure. I can feel it. What are we going to do?

THE CHIEF

Nothing.

WILLA-MAH

But—

THE CHIEF

Even if he does know, there's not a thing he can do about it. Not now. Not here. The whole herd is watching. Hold on a little longer, Willa-Mah. In a blink, we'll be off to a new life.

Thorn signals. Drums rumble. Horns sound.

THORN

Bulls and cows, buffalo from every corner of the Nation, welcome! Welcome to the heart of the homeland!

ENSEMBLE

Hurray! Hurrah!

Thorn signals silence.

THORN

For more than three hundred seasons, we have gathered here. Gathered in this place, for this "Day of All Days"!

THE CHIEF

Ready, son?

BOH

I'm ready, Dad.

Drums roll. The Chief and Willa-Mah step into position. Auntie steps out beside Thorn.

THORN

This year stands head and horns above the others. It's a year doubly blessed, set apart from the rest, by the birth of a new chieftain son!

ENSEMBLE

Hurray!

THORN

And now, before all eyes assembled, before
Chief and Queen, I declare this festival OPEN!
All rise for the "Anthem of the Nation"!

All rise. The nation sings.

ENSEMBLE

SONG: THE ANTHEM OF THE NATION
BENEATH THE OPEN SKIES
WE LIFT OUR HEARTS
OUR SPIRITS SOAR, OUR VOICES RISE

As the Nation sings, the Chief and
Willa-Mah cross the bridge. Auntie
stoops in to coach Boh.

ENSEMBLE (CONTINUES)

WE SING WITH LOVE AND PRIDE
ON RUMBLING HOOVES, WITH HORN AND HIDE
AS A NATION WE WILL STAND AS ONE
BULL AND COW, EACH DAUGHTER EVERY SON
ALL HAIL WE SHOUT WE SING
OUR NEWBORN PRINCE
OUR FUTURE KING

AUNTIE

All right, Boh. Shoulders straight, chin up.

Boh straightens up, and stands
ready. Thorn steps out onto the
footbridge.

AUNTIE

Remember now, nice and slow.

BOH

Nice and slow. I will.

The Chief and Willa-Mah reach the
end of the bridge, then turn to
wait for Boh.

ENSEMBLE (CONTINUES)

BENEATH THE OPEN SKIES
WE LIFT OUR HEARTS
OUR SPIRITS SOAR, OUR VOICES RISE
WE SING WITH LOVE AND PRIDE
ON RUMBLING HOOVES, WITH HORN AND HIDE

AUNTIE

And, go.

Boh steps out, starts across the
bridge.

ENSEMBLE (CONTINUES)

AS A NATION WE WILL STAND AS ONE
BULL AND COW, EACH DAUGHTER EVERY SON
ALL HAIL WE SHOUT WE SING
OUR NEWBORN PRINCE
OUR FUTURE KING

As Boh approaches, Thorn bows and sticks out his hoof.

BITTLE

Hey, Boh! Look out!

Boh trips, tumbles down into the brook.

WILLA-MAH

NO!

THE CHIEF

BOH!

ENSEMBLE

WHOA!

The crowd rushes in, obscuring Boh. The crowd gasps, then slowly backs away. Boh, washed clean, stands up, shakes himself off.

BITTLE

Now, Boh! Now!

Boh throws one hoof forward, two hooves up and shouts...

BOH

Surprise!

The herd stares, frozen.

AUNTIE

Willa-Mah, what have you done?

Manderooth mutters.

MANDEROOTH

He— He's *calico*.

Distant wolves howl. Yaroooo!

JIEN-HEE

EVERYONE, RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!!!

Buffalo scatter, screaming.

AUNTIE

No! Stay calm! Don't run!

Willa-Mah rushes to Boh.

WILLA-MAH

Boh, are you hurt? Are you all right?

BOH

I'm fine, Mom. It's only water.

THORN

It's a COVER UP!

Thorn points to the Chief.

THORN

Fraud! Liar! Seize him!

Jien-Hee arrests the Chief.

THE CHIEF

Let go of me.

WILLA-MAH

No. Stop!

Thorn stomps toward Boh. Bittle
rushes in to defend.

BITTLE

Stop right there! Stay back!

Thorn pushes past Bittle. The herd
collects. Thorn grabs Boh.

BOH

Ow!

THE CHIEF

Get away from my son!

Thorn drags Boh out in front of
the crowd.

THORN

Look! Look here! Witness the abomination!

BOH

Mom?

WILLA-MAH

Thorn, stop! You're frightening him.

THORN

The *LAW*! The law has been broken! Beat the
drums. Sound the call. These criminals must
stand trial!

Drums thunder, horns blast.

THORN

Assemble all in the nation. Let the Buffalo
Court convene!

ENSEMBLE

Trial! Trial! Trial! Trial!

WILLA-MAH

Thorn, what are you *doing*?

THORN

Isn't it obvious, Willa-Mah? I'm taking your
place. Jien-Hee, lock her up!

ENSEMBLE

Lock her up! Lock her up! Lock her up!

AUNTIE

Oh, my poor girl.

Jien-Hee arrests Willa-Mah.
Manderooth exits. Lights dim.
Thorn steps downstage. Spot on
Thorn.

THORN

SONG: I'M THE ONE

(ENSEMBLE)

THORN THORN THORN THORN THORN
THORN THORN THORN THORN THORN
THORN THORN THORN THORN YARRGH

(THORN)

IT'S PLAIN TO SEE AND IT'S FAIR TO SAY
THAT I WAS BORN TO SEIZE THIS DAY
LEAVE EACH RIVAL AS THEY LAY
GREAT THINGS WERE MEANT TO COME MY WAY TODAY

A CHANGE IN CAST HAS AT LAST BEGUN
THIS MONGREL CHIEF AND HIS SPECKLED SON
WILL SOON GO TUMBLING ONE BY ONE
THERE'LL BE NO TRACES WHEN I AM DONE
ABANDON HOPE! YOU'VE BEEN OUTFRUNK
ONE MILLION STARS BUT I'M THE ONE!

(ENSEMBLE)

THORN THORN THORN THORN THORN THORN ARRGRH

(THORN)

I'LL BEAT THEM DOWN, LEAVE THEM WEARY WORN
YOUR MONGREL PACK OF THE LESSER BORN
WILL BEAR THE BLOW OF MY HOOF AND HORN
ALL HAIL THE RISE OF THE MIGHTY THORN

A BLINDING FLASH, I'M LIKE THE SUN
YOU'VE HAD YOUR TURN NOW I'M THE ONE!

(ENSEMBLE)

THORN THORN THORN THORN THORN
THORN THORN THORN THORN THORN
THORN THORN THORN THORN YARRGH

ENSEMBLE

Trial! Trial! Trial! Trial!

Lights up. Buffalo have gathered
to witness. The crowd mumbles and
mutters. Jien-Hee takes the
bailiff's position.

JIEN-HEE

All rise!

ENSEMBLE

Here comes the judge! Here comes the judge!
Here comes the judge!

Manderooth, sporting a powdered
wig and judge's gown, enters.

THORN

Manderooth?

JIEN-HEE

Yup. Night school.

Manderooth takes the judge's seat.
Jien-Hee steps forward.

JIEN-HEE

Hear Ye, hear Ye. The State of Bisionia versus
The Chief and Queen Willa-Mah. The Honorable
Manderooth Zigwa-Zah presiding. All concerned,
step forward and you will be heard.

MANDEROOTH

Thank you, Bailiff. Bring 'em in.

The Chief, Willa-Mah and Boh take
their places. The crowd gasps.

ENSEMBLE BUFFALO #1

There it is!

ENSEMBLE BUFFALO #2

The *Calico!*

Mutters and mumblings grow louder.
Manderooth bangs his gavel.

MANDEROOTH

Order! Order in this court!

The crowd settles.

MANDEROOTH

Prrroceed.

THORN

Your Honor. This case is very simple. No Chief of this tribe should have fathered such a calf. No Chief or *Queen* should have hidden him!

ENSEMBLE BUFFALO #1

He couldn't hide!

ENSEMBLE BUFFALO #2

Can't blend!

Willa-Mah pulls Boh close. Gavel-bangs call for order.

THORN

They knew exactly what they were doing. They've put us all at risk! Wolves will come. Teeth will rip! Destruction will shower upon us! This calf is the toll of the bell, my friends. The *dinner* bell. OF DOOM!

A wolf howls, "Yarooooo"

ENSEMBLE BUFFALO #1

We're all gonna die!

ENSEMBLE BUFFALO #2

They'll eat us all!

WILLA-MAH

No!

The gavel bangs and bangs.

THORN

Sad as it is, we are left with no choice. We must do the hardest thing. For the good of the Buffalo Nation, we must drive this Queen and her Chief out! This calico buffalo must go down.

BOH

Down where, Mom?

AUNTIE

Assassin!

THORN

Huh?

AUNTIE

You're a disgrace to the Buffalo Nation, Thorn.
You should hang your head in—!

THORN

Your Honor?!

Manderooth bangs the gavel.

MANDEROOTH

Enough!

AUNTIE

Shame. Shame. Shame on you, Thorn fin-Bekkah!

MANDEROOTH

Bailiff, take her away!

Jien-Hee takes Auntie's arm, leads
her away.

ENSEMBLE (SCATTERED VOICES)

Not Auntie. What's happening? This is wrong.

AUNTIE

Boh's done nothing wrong. He's an Innocent!

THORN

Quiet in the courtroom!

MANDEROOTH

Order! Order!

Gavel bangs call for order. Crowd
mutters erupt. Bittle tugs on
Willa-Mah

BITTLE

Mrs. B.! Mrs. B.!

WILLA-MAH

Not now, Bittle. Please.

BITTLE

But Mrs. B., why don't we ask that Angk-Sha
lady? She oughtta know what to do.

WILLA-MAH

Angk-Sha?

THE CHIEF

Yes! The Angk-Sha! The Angk-Sha will know what
to do!

THORN

Are you *joking*? Is this a joke?

The crowd gasps.

JIEN-HEE

Wha'd he say?

All eyes turn to Thorn.

MANDEROOTH

Did you just call the Angk-Sha a *joke*?

THORN

Wha-? Me? No... NO. What I *meant* was, how would we even find her? Have you ever *seen* the Angk-Sha? Have *you*? Or *you*? There isn't a buffalo alive who'd know where to look.

BOH

Auntie knows.

AUNTIE

I do?

BOH

Sure. You told us all about it.

THE CHIEF

Auntie, the legend.

AUNTIE

Oh. Well yes, but I--

BITTLE

It's all true, right? Otherwise why would you teach it to kids?

The crowd chitters.

THE CHIEF

Please, Auntie. If ever there was a time for a leap of faith, I think it's now. Don't you?

AUNTIE

Of course, my Dear. You're right!

Auntie addresses the herd.

AUNTIE

Listen to me! Everyone, please listen! This question is clearly beyond us. An error would cost a great price. The Angk-Sha will give us the answer. We must seek the Angk-Sha's advice!

ENSEMBLE

Angk-Sha! Angk-Sha! Angk-Sha!

AUNTIE

I know the way to the Angk-Sha. And I will lead us there!

ENSEMBLE

Hurray! Hurrah!

WILLA-MAH

Thank you, Auntie.

AUNTIE

Oh, Willa-Mah.

Manderooth bangs his gavel.

MANDEROOTH

It is so ordered.

THORN

Wait a minute.

MANDEROOTH

At daybreak, assemble the Nation. We will march to the Angk-Sha at dawn!

The crowd sends up a cheer. Drums rumble, horns blast. Willa-Mah, The Chief and Boh are lead away. Auntie follows. Manderooth exits.

THORN

What? Wait! Where are you going?

The herd exits chanting.

ENSEMBLE

North! Hee-ha, North! Hee-ha, North! Hee-ha, North!

THORN

Stop! Come back! It's my turn!

The herd chanting fades out.

THORN

No-no-no, FOOLS! Now what am I going to do?!

Thorn paces. In the darkness, a pair of red eyes blinks on.

THORN

All right. OK. Bit of a curve, that's all. Think, boy, think.

Two more pairs of eyes blink on.

THORN

We're going on a journey. A long, *treacherous* journey. Got it! One queen, one chief and one little calf could easily get "*lost*" along the way.

Slowly, steadily, one pair of eyes moves forward.

THORN

No. That's no good. The lost could be found. We'd be right back where we started. There has to be a way. Come on. Come on!

Thunder rumbles. Thorn sends his plea to the heavens.

THORN

Don't just rumble up there. If you know something, say it! I'll do anything. Anything!

AMARUQ, leader of the Wolf-pack, steps out into the light.

AMARUQ

Anything?

Thorn spins 'round to face the wolf.

AMARUQ

Mmm. My favorite word.

THORN

No, wait! Stop! Stay! *Sit*.

AMARUQ

Oh, please.

Two wolves, WAYA and LOKWA, slip in, behind Thorn.

THORN

Don't come any closer. I'm warning you.

AMARUQ

You're warning me?

Amaruq steps forward. Thorn steps back.

WAYA

Ya-rooo!

LOKWA

Ya-rooo!

Thorn jumps "out of his skin".

THORN

Eeee-yow!

AMARUQ

Shhh. Not to worry, Thorn. I'm here as a friend.

THORN

Friend to a buffalo? That's rich.

AMARUQ

A friend who can make all your dreams come true.

THORN

What would you know about *my* dreams?

WAYA

I'll do anything. Anything!
Ya-rooo!

LOKWA

I'll do anything. Anything!
Ya-rooo!

AMARUQ

We're creatures of the shadows, Thorn. There are no secrets here. You want a few buffalo cut from your herd? Easy. That's what we do.

THORN

Oh? And what's in it for you?

AMARUQ

Not much. Just a taste. Of one juicy, young Calico.

WAYA

Ya-rooo!

LOKWA

Ya-rooo!

THORN

You're mad.

AMARUQ

Beg your pardon?

THORN

Rabid. No buffalo, not even I, would give a calf to a pilfering, under-pawed wolf.

AMARUQ

Under-pawed? Well. That's unkind.

Waya and Lokwa circle Thorn.

THORN

What are you doing? What are they doing?

AMARUQ

Calm yourself, Dear. Settle in. Hear me out.
Your answer's been here all along. If you'll
listen a minute, you might see the light.
You've misjudged us. You've got us all wrong.

AMARUQ, WAYA & LOKWA, AND THORN
SONG: MOTHER NATURE'S MISTAKES

AMARUQ

WE GET A BAD RAP
AND WHEN SHADY THINGS HAPPEN
WE WOLVES ARE THE FIRST YOU ALL BLAME
BUT, LOOKING MORE CLOSELY
YOU'LL FIND THAT WE'RE MOSTLY
JUST PLAYING OUR PART IN THE GAME

IT'S NOT OUR INTENT
THAT OUR INTERVENTIONS
CAUSE SHUDDERS OR SHIVERS OR SHAKES
WE MIGHT MAKE SOME NERVOUS
PROVIDING OUR SERVICE

BE IT CARIBOU, MUSKRAT OR DRAKES
WE ERASE MOTHER NATURE'S MISTAKES

NOW, THE MATTER AT PAW
CONCERNS BUFFALO LAW AND THIS
CLIMBER WHO SITS ON YOUR THRONE

HE MUST BE REMOVED
IN SOME FASHION UN-HOOVED
IF YOU'RE EVER TO MAKE IT YOUR OWN

SEEMS SIMPLE TO ME
IF WE ALL CAN AGREE THAT
WE WOLVES HAVE THE SAME RIGHT TO EAT

WHAT WE HAVE HERE'S A TWO-FER
OUR LUNCH AND FOR YOU SIR
DELIVER A CRUSHING DEFEAT YIP YA-ROOO!
DELIVER A CRUSHING DEFEAT
OH
LA DEE-DA DEE
LA DEE-DA DEE DIP-DIP
LA DEE-DA DEE DEEDA DOO
RUMPA-BUMPA-BUMPA BA

LA DEE-DA DEE
LA DEE-DA DEE DIP-DIP
LA DEE-DA DEE DEEDA DOO

NOW, IF IT SOUNDS HORRID
OR WRINKLES YOUR FORRID
TO THINK WE MIGHT CHANCE SUCH A THING
RUMPA-BUMPA-BUMPA BA

WE'RE WILLING TO RISK IT
FOR CALICO BRISKET
BUT MORE, TO RESTORE A TRUE KING

WAYA
You're that King!

LOKWA
You're that King!

THORN
THEN PULL OUT THE STOPS!
THIS IS THE OPPORTUNE TIME
TO DO ALL THAT IT TAKES

AMARUQ
WELL SIT YOURSELF BACK
PUT YOUR HOOVES UP, RELAX
YOU'LL DELIGHT IN THE DIFFERENCE IT MAKES
ONCE WE'VE FIXED MOTHER NATURE'S MISTAKES

OH
LA DEE-DA DEE
LA DEE-DA DEE DIP-DIP
LA DEE-DA-DEE, DEE-DEE-DEE, DEE-DEE-DEE

(ALL TOGETHER)
WHAT A DIFFERENCE IT MAKES
WHEN WE FIX MOTHER NATURE'S MISTAKES

Wolf howls ring out. Wolf eyes
light up the darkness.

CURTAIN DOWN

END OF ACT I

INTERMISSION

ACT 2
SCENE 1

CURTAIN UP

THE GATHERING PLACE - PRE DAWN

Willa-Mah sits alone.

WILLA-MAH

What am I doing? Angk-Sha? Can you hear me? Is anybody out there?

Willa-Mah's words echo off into the silence.

WILLA-MAH

SONG: MORNING

WHEN I PRAY

CAN YOU HEAR A SINGLE WORD I SAY

SO FAR AWAY

ARE YOU REALLY WAITING THERE

IS THE ANGK-SHA STORY TRUE

WILL IT LEAD US HOME TO YOU

IS IT WRONG TO ASK YOU FOR A SIGN

Auntie enters.

AUNTIE

Willa-Mah? Are you all right?

WILLA-MAH

I've made such a mess. What are we doing? Where are we going?

AUNTIE

We're going to fix it. That's where.

WILLA-MAH

But, Auntie, how?

AUNTIE

Step-by-step. One hoof at a time.

AUNTIE

WHEN THE SUN

PULLS AWAY THE BLANKET OF THE NIGHT

THE MORNING LIGHT

WAKES ME UP AND MAKES ME WARM

CHASES SHADOWS FROM MY EYES

A HAPPINESS BEGINS TO RISE

IT FILLS MY HEART WITH JOY

UNTIL IT SINGS

HERE COMES THE MORNING
LET IT FILL YOUR HEART
NOTHING'S QUITE AS HOPELESS AS IT SEEMS

HERE COMES THE DAYBREAK
IT'S A BRAND NEW START
EVERY MORNING BRINGS THE DAWNING OF NEW DREAMS

The Chief enters.

THE CHIEF

A BRAND NEW DAY
WE'LL RISE AND SHINE AND GREET IT WITH A GRIN
WE BEGIN
HOOF BY HOOF AND HORN TO HORN

AUNTIE & THE CHIEF

WE ARE GOING TO FIND THE WAY
TO MAKE OUR DREAMS COME TRUE TODAY
IT'S TIME TO GIVE IT ALL WE HAVE TO GIVE

FULL CAST

HERE COMES THE SUNRISE
HOLD ON TO YOUR HEART
REMEMBER NOTHING'S QUITE AS DARK AS IT MAY SEEM
HERE COMES THE DAYBREAK
IT'S A BRAND NEW START
EVERY MORNING BRINGS THE DAWNING OF NEW DREAMS

Horns blast. Sunrise begins.

JIEN-HEE

It's time! It's time!

MANDEROOTH

Form the lines!

THE CHIEF

Come on, Willa-Mah. Step-by-step.

The Nation assembles. Bittle
rushes in, runs smack into
Manderooth.

MANDEROOTH

Hey! Watch where you're going.

BITTLE

Sorry.

JIEN-HEE

What're you doing?

BITTLE

I'm trying to get in line.

MANDEROOTH

Don't be ridiculous. You can't go.

BITTLE

Whaddya mean?

JIEN-HEE

We'll be hoofin' it. For miles. You'd never keep up.

MANDEROOTH

Besides, we're heading north.

JIEN-HEE

Into the great unknown.

BITTLE

So?

MANDEROOTH

It's dangerous.

JIEN-HEE

Perilous.

MANDEROOTH

There are thunderstorms.

JIEN-HEE

Earthquakes.

MANDEROOTH

And *wolves*. Scary, hairy wolves.

JIEN-HEE

With teeth!

MANDEROOTH

Down to here.

JIEN-HEE

Ya-rooo!

MANDEROOTH

Ya-rooo!

MANDEROOTH

Besides, it's freezing up there. A toad wouldn't last a minute.

JIEN-HEE

Flash-freeze! Shazzah!

MANDEROOTH

Hyah. Toad-cicle.

BITTLE

Oh, yah? So, how come you can go?

MANDEROOTH

'Cause we've got coats.

BITTLE

Coats?

JIEN-HEE

That's right. Big, furry coats.

MANDEROOTH

What's the matter? Can't ya see 'em?

Manderooth and Jien-Hee laugh.

BITTLE

Wait a minute. I can make a coat. I can make a coat! I'll be right back.

As Bittle runs off--

BITTLE

Don't leave without me!

MANDEROOTH

Yah, right.

JIEN-HEE

C'mon. Let's go.

Manderooth and Jien-Hee take their places. Downstage, Thorn enters. From the shadows, Amaruq calls.

AMARUQ

Psst, Thorn.

THORN

What?!

AMARUQ

Sh! Everything's ready.

THORN

What are you doing here? Someone could see.

Thorn scans the area.

AMARUQ (CONT'D)

Hey! Pay attention. Here's the plan.

Amaruq takes a stick, draws a map.

AMARUQ (CONT'D)

Midway in the journey is a canyon. The buffalo path lies here, to the right.

(MORE)

AMARUQ (CONT'D)

All you need do is get them to take this path,
on the left. It leads to a valley. There.

THORN

That's the *Wolflands*.

AMARUQ

Really?

THORN

OK, all right. But, they know the *Wolflands*.
How'm I supposed get them there?

AMARUQ

Auntie.

THORN

Auntie? Why would she—?

AMARUQ

"She waits in the north, past the
Wolflands...". Ring a bell?

THORN

The legend?

AMARUQ

Everything hinges on how well she remembers it.
All you need do is make sure she doesn't.

THORN

How?

AMARUQ

Confuse her. Run rings around her. Get her all
mixed up. Get *Auntie* to lead them straight to
us.

THORN

What if she—? What if I—

AMARUQ

Stop! Get a grip! You can do this, Thorn.
Everything you've ever wanted is waiting for
you. Here.

Amaruq marks an 'X'.

AMARUQ (CONT'D)

Now, go. Go!

Thorn rejoins the herd.

AMARUQ (CONT'D)

Ah, the greedy. Never very bright. But, always
very tasty.

Amaruq exits. A distant loon calls out. The buffalo herd gathers. Downstage, Auntie, lost in thought, paces. As she does, she whispers...

AUNTIE

March two-by-two, one-by-one if you must. The stars will lead to a path you can trust. Follow the way through the rubble and dust...

Boh approaches.

BOH

Auntie?

AUNTIE

What?! Oh, Boh. It's you.

BOH

Sorry, Auntie. I didn't mean to scare you.

AUNTIE

Not at all. I just didn't hear you coming. Well, look at that crowd gathering. Are you excited? All ready to go?

BOH

I guess.

AUNTIE

You guess? Why, Boh. We're in for the trip of a lifetime. There's so much world out there. So much to discover. Wait 'til you see.

BOH

I know. But... Auntie, can I ask you something?

AUNTIE

Of course you can. Anything.

BOH

There's an awful lot I don't know about yet. I mean, I'm only little.

AUNTIE

That's true.

BOH

It's just that I... Well. I've never seen any. Not even one. I mean, I think I should know what to do. You know, just in case.

AUNTIE

In case of what, Boh? What are we talking about?

BOH

Wolves.

AUNTIE

Oh. *Wolves*.

BOH

Thorn says my colors will call them in. If they come, I need to be ready. And it's not that I'm afraid or anything.

AUNTIE

Of course not. Not you.

BOH

But I do hear them. At night. Ya-rooo!

AUNTIE

Awww. There-there. Come on, Boh. Wolves are nothing to worry about.

BOH

They're not?

AUNTIE

Nope. All you need is some know-how.

BOH

Like what?

AUNTIE

There's an old buffalo trick. It's a bit of a dodge. And it works just like a charm.

BOH

That's what I need!

AUNTIE

Well then, ears up my fine little friend. You've come to the right cow.

SONG: WOODLIE-OO

(SPOKEN)

THAT SLY CANIS LUPUS
WILL SCRAMBLE TO SCOOP US
WHENEVER THERE'S TIME OPPORTUNE

THEY POUNCE WITHOUT WARNING
WHETHER TWILIGHT OR MORNING
UNDER SUNLIGHT OR SILVERY MOON

AUNTIE

I know. Scary, right? However.

SHOULD YOU COME FACE TO FACE
WITH A WOLF, HOLD YOUR PLACE

DON'T YOU FUMBLE, DON'T FIDDLE, DON'T FUTZ

YOU CAN WALK AWAY CLEAN
IF YOU'LL JUST MAKE A SCENE
CONVINCE THE OLD WOLF YOU'VE GONE NUTZ

AUNTIE
WOODLIE-OO!

BOH
What's that?

AUNTIE
You'll see.

AUNTIE
(SUNG)
NOW THERE'LL ALWAYS BE BRUTES
CHASING SHADY PURSUITS
SOME ROUGHER, SOME TOUGHER AND SUCH

BUT YOU'LL FIND AS YOU GO
IT'S ABOUT WHAT YOU KNOW
AND CLEVER IS WORTH TWICE AS MUCH
WOODLIE-OO!

BOH
Woodlie-Oo?

AUNTIE
That's it.

NOW BUG YOUR EYES OUT LIKE THIS
THROW YOUR HOOVES IN THE AIR
WITH A BIT OF FLAIR AND
WOODLIE-ODLIE-ODLIE-OO LIKE A LOON

THAT UGLY OLE WOLF WILL THINK SHE'S GOT IT MADE
BUT OH SHE'LL GET A SHOCK WHEN YOU GO INSANE
INSANE

NEVER DOUBT YOU CAN DO IT
THERE'S NOT THAT MUCH TO IT
ADD A GIGGLE, OR A WIGGLE, OR A PUFF

WHICHEVER YOUR PREFERENCE
BUT FOR FUTURE REFERENCE
MY METHOD I'VE FOUND'S QUITE ENOUGH

WHEN IT COMES TO THINGS LUPINE
I TOSS ME-SELF SUPINE
THEN YODEL THIS BIT OF A TUNE
WOODLIE-OO! WOODLIE-OO! WOODLIE-OO!

IT'S SO UNEXPECTED

LIKE THAT (SNAP), YOU'RE REJECTED
IF YOU "WOODLE-EE-OO" LIKE A LOON
JUST "WOODLE-EE-OO" LIKE A LOON

WOODLIE-OO!
BOH

AUNTIE
What?

BOH & AUNTIE
WOODLIE-OO
YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY SOON
IF YOU WOODLE-EE-ODDLE-EE-ODDLE-EE-OO
LIKE A LOON

A raft of loons sounds out. Boh
hugs Auntie.

BOH
Thank you, Auntie.

AUNTIE
You're welcome, little love.

BOH
Hey, Bittle! Wait 'til you hear this!

Boh runs off. Horns blare.
Manderooth rushes in.

MANDEROOTH
Auntie, it's time. We have to hurry.

AUNTIE
I'm ready, Dear. Let's go.

Manderooth escorts Auntie to her
place at the head of the line.
Willa-Mah joins her. Buffalo
shuffle into formation. Boh
searches the area.

BOH
Bittle? Biii-tle!

WILLA-MAH
Boh! Over here!

THE CHIEF
Hurry up, son!

Boh runs to his parents.

BOH
Mom, Dad wait!

WILLA-MAH

What is it? What's wrong?

BOH

I can't find him, Mom. I can't find Bittle.

AUNTIE

Oh, dear.

THE CHIEF

We can't wait for him, Boh. We have to go.

BOH

But, Dad!

WILLA-MAH

Bittle's too small for this trip, Boh. He's safe here. We'll see him when we get back.

MANDEROOTH

All stand at the ready!

THE CHIEF

Quickly, now. We have to hurry.

BOH

No! Dad! Not without Bittle!

THE CHIEF

Take my hoof, son. Hold on to me.

The Chief hustles Boh into the line.

MANDEROOTH

Move out!

With the kick of a locomotive, the herd lunges forward.

ENSEMBLE

HOOM!

BOH

Bittle!

The herd pushes forward.

ENSEMBLE (CHANT-CONTINUOUS)

HOOM, hahm-heehm. HOOM, hahm-heehm. HOOM, hahm-heehm.

The great journey begins. The herd exits. All goes quiet.

BITTLE (OFFSTAGE)
I did it! I did it!

Bittle, wrapped in leaves and
mosses, rushes in.

BITTLE
I made a coat! Hello? Hey. Where'd everybody
go? Wait a minute! Bring back my friend!

Bittle rushes off after them.

SET CHANGE TO THE NORTHERN TRAIL

ACT 2
SCENE 2

THE NORTHERN TRAIL

The herd enters and marches across the stage. As they do, lights change from yellow afternoon to sunset to moon and starlight to sunrise to daylight to yellow afternoon. As the buffalo march, they sing.

ENSEMBLE

SONG: ANTHEM OF THE NATION (REPRISE- THE JOURNEY)

BENEATH THE OPEN SKIES
WE LIFT OUR HEARTS
BENEATH THE OPEN SKIES
WE LIFT OUR HOOVES

AS A NATION WE WILL STAND AS ONE
BULL AND CALF
EACH DAUGHTER EVERY SON
ALL HAIL WE SHOUT WE SING
A NEWBORN PRINCE
A FUTURE KING
ALL HAIL WE SHOUT WE SING
A NEWBORN PRINCE
A FUTURE KING

At the apron, the herd stops.
Winds howl. Manderooth echoes--

MANDEROOTH

Whoa.

JIEN-HEE

Would you look at that.

WILLA-MAH

Step back from the edge, Boh.

BOH

What is it?

THE CHIEF

It's a canyon, son.

THE CHIEF

Manderooth, Jien-Hee, this is as far as you go.

JIEN-HEE

Sire?

THE CHIEF

In my place, I'll need you home, protecting.

MANDEROOTH

But, Sire.

THE CHIEF

No buts. I'm counting on you. You take good care of the herd. Yes?

MANDEROOTH

Yes, Sire!

JIEN-HEE

Yes, Sire!

THE CHIEF

Then off you go. Safe home, my friends. Now, march!

Manderooth and Jien-Hee salute, then march off. As they exit, Willa-Mah calls out after them--

WILLA-MAH

Be careful! Thank you!

A wolf howls.

THE CHIEF

We should keep moving.

WILLA-MAH

Auntie, do you remember anything about a canyon?

AUNTIE

Canyon. Hmm, a canyon. Oh, yes! I remember.

Thorn slips over behind Auntie.

AUNTIE

There is a verse about a canyon. It says...

AUNTIE

As you stand at the lip of the canyon, turn your face to the sparkling light. It will rise in the East during sunset. Seek the path 'cross the ridge to your right.

THORN (WHISPERS)

As you stand at the bippina banyon, turn in place to the sparks taking flight. A surprise bit of peach during sunset. To the left through the canyon at night.

Auntie points right. Thorn points left.

AUNTIE

Wait. What?

WILLA-MAH

It's all right. Take your time.

THE CHIEF

Could you give it another try?

AUNTIE

Yes. Thank you. I will.

Auntie clears her throat.

AUNTIE

As you stand at the lip of
the canyon, turn your face to
the sparkling light. It will
rise in the East during
sunset. Krossha gridge toody
emmena blight.

THORN (WHISPERS)

Anna mammana nana na nanya,
turn your mammana nanna na
night. Ibbil krize in the
eatery dundette. Krossha
gridge toody emmena blight.

Auntie points out across the
apron. Thorn points straight up.

AUNTIE

Krossha-gridge? Is that a word?

THORN

Auntie dear, are you reciting the Angk-Sha
rhyme?

THE CHIEF

Of course she is! Try to keep up.

THORN

How rude. If it's the rhyme you need, I can
help.

THE CHIEF

You?

THORN

Yes, me. Auntie, for as far back as I can
remember, you would walk every morning, back
and forth, reciting the rhyme.

AUNTIE

That's right. That's how I remember it.

THORN

Well, surprising as it may be, I actually
listened.

WILLA-MAH

You?

THORN

Yes, me! Why does everyone keep asking that?!

THE CHIEF

All right. Let's hear it.

Thorn clears his throat.

THORN

When you come to the edge of the canyon, choose the path through the glistening cleft. Step by step, cross the ridge to the valley. Turn your hearts and your hooves to the left.

AUNTIE

That's it!

THE CHIEF

No way.

AUNTIE

It is! I remember now, so clearly. The legend tells of one buffalo clan who settled way up in the North. We must find them. They'll help us.

THE CHIEF

But Auntie, that leads to the Wolflands.

AUNTIE

That's right, Dear. "She waits in the North, past the Wolflands". Thorn's right. To the left. I can feel it.

WILLA-MAH

Thorn, I never thought that you--, that I--. I don't know what to say.

THORN

I'm not the bad guy here, Willa-Mah.

Wolves howl.

AUNTIE

Thank you, Thorn. How wonderful! Quickly, now. This way.

All, except Thorn, exit.

THORN

YES! Everything's falling into place. Ooo, it's so close I can taste it. All hail, Chief Thorn. Thorn the Magnificent. The Thorn of Plenty. A Thornucopia! Ha!

BOH (OFFSTAGE)

Thorn? Thorn, where are you?

THORN

Oop. Sh!

Boh scampers in.

BOH

There you are.

THORN

Where else would I be? Let's go.

BOH

Wait, Thorn. Could I talk to you for a minute?

THORN

To me? About what?

BOH

About what you did.

THORN

I'm sure I don't know what you mean.

BOH

Oh. I mean how you tripped me into the water.
You know, back on the—

THORN

Hey-hey! Shoosh!

BOH

Huh?

THORN

What're you up to? What're you trying to pull?

BOH

I'm not pulling. I just want to thank you.

THORN

Oh, yah? Well you better not— Wait. Did you
say *thank* me?

BOH

Uh-huh.

THORN

For what?

BOH

For dunking me in the brook.

THORN (WHISPERS)

Sh! Why would you thank me? I don't understand.

BOH (WHISPERS)

That was my best day ever.

THORN

It was?

BOH
Best day of my life.

THORN
Why?

BOH
Are you kidding?

SONG: UNTIL YOU

(BOH)

TIL MY TUMBLE IN THE WATER
I'D BEEN TOLD THAT I GOTTA
KEEP A CHECK ON EVERY SPECKLE ON MY SKIN

IT'S IMPORTANT NO ONE KNOW IT
SO BE CAREFUL, NEVER SHOW IT
HERE'S THE WAY EVERY MORNING WOULD BEGIN

FIRST THING EVERY DAY
I'D BE COVERED IN CLAY
FROM MY HOOF TO MY HEAD
WITH THE MUDDY BROWN-RED

FROM MY NOSE TO MY TAIL
FROM MY HOOF TO MY CHIN
HONEY RUB IT ALL IN
HIDING COLORS ON MY SKIN

BUT NO MATTER HOW I'D TRY
WHEN THE MUD BEGAN TO DRY
IT WOULD CRUMBLE UP AND CRACKLE AS I GO-O
SO IT'S BACK TO A BROOK
JUST TO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK
AND TO SPACKLE ANY FRACKLE THAT MIGHT SHOW

FIRST THING EVERY DAY
WE WOULD START THE SAME WAY
HEADING TO THE RIVER BED
FETCH THE MUDDY BROWN-RED

BUDDY RUB IT ON YOUR HIDE
TRY TO KEEP IT ALL INSIDE
RUB-A-DUB-IT SCRUB IT IN
HIDE THE COLORS ON YOUR SKIN

(BOH & THORN)

FIRST THING EVERY DAY
FIRST THING EVERY DAY
I'D BE COVERED IN CLAY
OH THAT CLAY
FROM MY HOOF TO MY HEAD
MORE JUST A LITTLE BIT
WITH THE MUDDY BROWN-RED
MORE JUST A LITTLE BIT
FROM MY NOSE TO MY TAIL

NOSE TO TAIL
FROM MY HOOF TO MY CHIN
HOOF TO CHIN
HONEY RUB IT ALL IN
MORE JUST A LITTLE BIT
HIDING COLORS ON MY SKIN
MORE JUST A LITTLE BIT

THAT WONDERFUL DAY
THAT WONDERFUL DAY
WHEN YOU HAPPENED MY WAY
OH THAT DAY
MOVED YOUR HOOF IN JUST A SMIDGEN
TUMBLE INITIATOR
THEN I TUMBLED OFF THE BRIDGE AND
MADE ME A LIBERATOR
AND THE CLAY WENT AWAY
OH THAT CLAY
THAT'S THE VERY FIRST DAY
A FIRST DAY
I COULD REALLY FEEL THE BREEZES
MORE JUST A LITTLE BIT
AS THEY WHISTLE THROUGH THE TREESES
MORE JUST A LITTLE BIT

BOH

C'mon, Thorn. Let's dance!

Boh dances.

THORN

No, I don't-- OK!

Thorn joins in the dance. Upstage, behind Boh and Thorn, three woodland creatures shuffle in and form a backup tap-line. As the number heats up, Amaruq enters. Horrified, the woodland creatures shuffle offstage. From the shadows, Amaruq watches.

(BOH)

YOU'RE MY HERO YOU SAVED ME CAN'T YOU SEE
UNTIL YOU I NEVER KNEW HOW IT FELT TO BE FREE
UNTIL YOU I NEVER KNEW HOW IT FELT TO BE ME

(BOH & THORN)

TUMBLE IN THE WATER
EVERY SON AND EVERY DAUGHTER
OUGHTTA KNOW HOW IT FEELS TO BE FREE

Boh hugs Thorn.

BOH

I love you, Thorn.

THE CHIEF (OFFSTAGE)

Boh?! Come on, son! Hurry up!

BOH

Coming, Dad!

Boh exits.

THORN

He *loves* me? What am I supposed to do with that?

Thorn dances about.

THORN

FIRST THING EVERY DAY
HE'D BE COVERED IN CLAY
PUSH MY HOOF IN JUST A SMIDGEN
THEN HE TUMBLED OFF THE BRIDGE AND--

Amaruq steps forward.

AMARUQ

"He loves me. He loves me." What *is* this?

THORN

What?! What are you doing?

AMARUQ

No, Thorn. What are YOU doing?

Amaruq steps forward, Thorn steps back.

THORN

I was just-- He was--

AMARUQ

Such a shame. We had such plans.

THORN

What do you mean? What are you saying? I don't think I care for your tone.

Waya and Lokwa slip in behind Thorn.

AMARUQ

Looks like I've backed the wrong bull.

WAYA

Ya-rooo!

LOKWA

Ya-rooo!

THORN

YOW! No, wait! Listen. I *am* the right bull. Gimme a chance. I'll prove it!

AMARUQ

Prove it? How?

THORN

Tell me. Whatever you want.

AMARUQ

Well, let me see. Oh, I know. A token. A gesture. A small, simple gift.

THORN

Anything.

AMARUQ

How 'bout you throw us a bone?

WAYA

A bone! Ya-rooo!

LOKWA

A bone! Ya-rooo!

THORN

Bone?

AMARUQ

Yeah. An old one.

THORN

You mean—? No. No way. Auntie's not part of our deal.

AMARUQ

Don't be naive, Thorn. You're *stealing* the throne. You can't leave any witnesses.

THORN

But, I—

AUNTIE (OFFSTAGE)

Thorn? Thorn, where are you?

Amaruq pulls up close to Thorn's ear.

AMARUQ

You want the crown and all the glory? Or do you want your little, old Auntie? Can't have both, Thorn. Time to choose.

Amaruq slips away. Wolves howl. Auntie, out of breath, enters.

AUNTIE

Thorn! Thank goodness. I'm all turned around. I can't find Willa-Mah. Can't find anyone. Thorn? What is it? Are you all right?

THORN

Yes. Yes I am. Not to worry, Dear. It's all fine. Everyone's waiting for you.

AUNTIE

They are?

THORN

Yes, Auntie. Right down there.

Auntie peers into the darkness.

AUNTIE

It's so dark. I can't— Oh, yes! There they are. I can see their eyes. Woo-Hoo! Here I am!

Auntie hugs Thorn.

AUNTIE

Thank you, Thorn. You really can be a little love.

Auntie starts off.

AUNTIE

Thorn? Aren't you coming?

THORN

You go ahead. I'll be right along.

AUNTIE

All right then. But, don't you dawdle. Woo-hoo, Willa-Mah! Wait... Willa-Mah? Is that you?

Auntie exits. Offstage, Auntie screams. Thorn covers his face.

ENSEMBLE

SONG: I'M THE ONE (REPRISE)

YOU'LL BEAT THEM DOWN, LEAVE THEM WEARY WORN
THE MONGREL PACK OF THE LESSER BORN
WILL BEAR THE BLOW OF YOUR HOOF AND HORN
ALL HAIL THE RISE OF THE MIGHTY THORN

ABANDON HOPE YOUR TIME HAS COME
ONE MILLION STARS BUT YOU'RE THE ONE

Willa-Mah, The Chief and Boh rush in.

WILLA-MAH

Auntie?!

THE CHIEF

Thorn! Where *is* she?

A riot of wolf howls erupts.

THORN

There was nothing I could do. There were too many.

WILLA-MAH

Auntie!

Willa-Mah lunges forward. The Chief grabs her.

THE CHIEF

Willa-Mah, no!

BOH

Don't worry, Mom.

As Boh runs off...

BOH (CONT'D)

I know what to do!

THE CHIEF

No! Boh, wait!

WILLA-MAH

Boh!

Willa-Mah breaks free, charges after Boh. The Chief follows.

THORN

No, stop! Don't go down there!

Amaruq enters.

AMARUQ

SH! Shut it! Don't be a *fool*. This is it! This is how we deliver your dream.

THORN

But, I—

AMARUQ

Come. Quickly, now. This way.

Amaruq exits. Wolves yip.

THORN

Wait for me!

Thorn exits. All goes quiet. Bushes rustle.

BITTLE (OFFSTAGE)

Ouch!

Bittle steps out from the brush.
His homemade coat is in tatters.

BITTLE

It's s-so c-cold. Achoo! Hey, look. Hoofprints.

Bittle inspects the trail.

BITTLE

They were here all right. This one's Boh. Uh-
oh. Those aren't hooves.

A long, haunting wolf howl calls
out.

BITTLE

Steady, Bittle. Steady. Don't be afraid.

An owl hoots. Wings flutter.

BITTLE

I'm afraid! I'm afraid!

Bittle jumps back into the bushes,
then slowly peeks out.

BITTLE

Come on, Bittle. Shake it off. Boh *needs* you.
He needs YOU! You're strong. Be strong!

Bittle steps out of the bushes.

BITTLE

I can do it. I can do anything! Don't worry,
Boh! I'm coming!

Bittle exits.

SET CHANGE TO THE WOLFLANDS

ACT 2
SCENE 3

THE WOLFLANDS

In the darkness, Wolf eyes blink on. Yips and howls sound out. Waya enters dragging Auntie along.

AUNTIE

Ow! You're hurting me. You'll never get away with this! Willa-Mah!

Waya covers Auntie's mouth, drags her away. Amaruq enters, Thorn follows. Wolves growl.

AMARUQ

No-no, it's all right, everyone. Thorn is our little friend.

Auntie bites Waya's paw.

WAYA

OW!

AUNTIE

Traitor!

THORN

Auntie?

AUNTIE

How could you, Thorn? How could you?!

Waya rubs his paw, Lokwa muffles Auntie.

THORN

What is she doing here? I thought she was—

AMARUQ

Insurance, my dear. If your friends should hesitate, your little Auntie will bring 'em in.

LOKWA

We'll have her squealing like a little piggy.

Auntie bites Lokwa's paw.

LOKWA

OW!

AUNTIE

Help! Help!

AMARUQ

Shut her up!

Lokwa rubs his paw, Waya silences Auntie.

BOH (OFFSTAGE)

This way, Dad! Hurry! Down here!

AMARUQ

This is it! Places, everyone. Quickly, Thorn, take cover.

Red eyes flick off. Thorn hides. Amaruq and the wolves slip into the shadows. All goes quiet. Boh rushes in. Boh surveys the area.

WILLA-MAH (OFFSTAGE)

Boh! Wait!

The Chief and Willa-Mah rush in. Willa-Mah grabs Boh.

WILLA-MAH

Boh, stop! You wait for me.

THE CHIEF

Stay close, Boh.

Night things screech.

BOH

I don't like it here. What is this place?

THE CHIEF

It's the Wolflands, son.

BOH

Is Auntie in here?

THE CHIEF

She is. And we're not leaving without her.

The Chief leads the way. Amaruq crouches. Auntie bites Waya.

WAYA

OW! COME ON!

Auntie breaks free.

AUNTIE

WOLVES! WOLVES! IT'S WOLVES!

WILLA-MAH
Auntie!

AUNTIE
RUN, WILLA-MAH! RUN!

AMARUQ
You two, grab her!

WAYA
No way.

LOKWA
She bites!

Auntie runs to join the herd.

THE CHIEF
Hurry, everyone! This way!

The buffalo thunder toward the
exit.

AMARUQ
Stop them! Hurry! Block them in!

Waya and Lokwa block the escape.
The buffalo are trapped.

AMARUQ
Gotcha!

Wolves growl, red eyes light up
the darkness.

THE CHIEF
Quick! Form the circle!

The buffalo back up to each other,
tip their horns and form a defense
circle. Waya and Lokwa give Thorn
a shove.

THORN
Ouch!

Thorn tumbles out onto his butt.

THE CHIEF
Thorn, quick! Get in!

AUNTIE
No! He's a traitor! He set us up!

WILLA-MAH
Is this true? Thorn?

Thorn scrambles to his feet.

THORN

This is *your* fault, Willa-Mah! You've ruined everything! It's up to me now to make things right!

Amaruq signals, Waya and Lokwa grab Thorn.

THORN

Let go. What are you doing? No! Wait! We have a deal!

AMARUQ

Oh, Thorn, you big silly. What's the first rule of the Wolflands?

LOKWA

We never make deals with upcoming meals! Ya-rooo!

WAYA

We never make deals with upcoming meals! Ya-rooo!

The wolves toss Thorn to the herd.

AMARUQ

Exactly. Dinner is served!

Howls ring out, the wolf-pack closes in. Boh rushes Amaruq.

WILLA-MAH

No, Boh! Come back!

BOH

Woodlie-oo! Woodlie-oo! Woodlie-oo!

All stops.

AMARUQ

Beg your pardon?

Boh doubles it up.

BOH

WOODLIE-OO! WOODLIE-OO! WOODLIE-OO!

Amaruq belly-laughs.

THE CHIEF

Uhm, Boh? What're you doing there, son?

BOH

Don't worry, Dad. Auntie taught me. It scares away wolves!

AUNTIE

Oh, dear.

Amaruq closes in, face-to-face
with Boh. She snarls--

AMARUQ

Nice try, Kid. But, it takes more than *that* to
scare a wolf.

Bittle's blast sounds out! All
freeze.

LOKWA

Well, *THAT* oughtta do it.

WAYA

Well, *THAT* oughtta do it.

BOH

Bittle?

AMARUQ

EVERYONE, RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!

Amaruq bolts, wolves scatter, red
eyes flick off. Yips and yowls
fade into the distance. Bittle
rushes in.

BOH

Mom, Dad, it's Bittle!

BITTLE

Boh, it's me! It's me!

Boh runs to Bittle. Bittle runs to
Boh.

WILLA-MAH

How in the world?

Bittle and Boh hug.

BOH

I thought I lost you forever.

BITTLE

I didn't think I'd ever find you.

THE CHIEF

Bittle, you saved us. You've saved us all.

AUNTIE

Three cheers for little Bittle! Hip-hip!

WILLA-MAH, BOH & THE CHIEF

Hurray!

AUNTIE

Hip-hip!

WILLA-MAH, BOH & THE CHIEF

Hurray!

AUNTIE

Hi-hip—

Bittle's blast roars out again.

BOH

Bittle? How'd you do that? Your lips didn't move.

BITTLE

Uhhh. That wasn't me.

AUNTIE

No, look. It was them.

Auntie points. In the distance, a soft beam of light washes down over a gargantuan beast. TULINGLUK, guardian of the Northlands, tilts his head back, opens his mouth and releases the thundering 'Bittle-blast'. Underscoring begins.

THE CHIEF (WHISPERS)

Quick! Everyone, into the shadows.

A second guardian, AMUKLIQLATCH, steps out into the light. Together, the giants sing.

SONG: THE ANCIENT SOUND

SOUND THE SOUND THE ANCIENT SOUND
SING THE SUN TO THIS SACRED GROUND
TO THE STARS
AND THE OCEANS
TO THE MOON
AND HIGHER
OH OH
OH OH OH OH OH OH
OH OH OH OH OH OH
OH OH OH OH OH OH
FEEL THE HEART OF THE HEAVENS FROM HOOF TO HORN
RAISE THE SONG OF THE ANGK-SHA, CALL THE NEW MORN
TO THIS LAND OF THE ICE AND SNOW
LIFT THE SUN TO THE SKY, AS THE WILD WINDS BLOW.

WE WILL STAY HERE FOREVER GUARDING THESE GROUNDS
CELEBRATING THE ANGK-SHA WITH SACRED SOUND
THE SOUND THE ANCIENT SOUND
WE SUMMON THE SUN TO THE SACRED GROUND
SOUND THE SOUND THE ANCIENT SOUND
WE SUMMON THE SUN TO THE SACRED GROUND

BOH

Look, Dad. Hooves and horns. Same as us.

THE CHIEF

How 'bout that?

BOH

Maybe we should talk to them.

AUNTIE

Excellent idea. Woo-Hoo! Woodlie-oo!

Auntie steps out, waving her
hooves.

AMUKLIQLATCH

What *is* that?

TULINGLUK

Intruders! Alarm! Alarm!

WILLA-MAH

Auntie, wait!

The Chief grabs Auntie. The giants
turn toward the herd.

TULINGLUK

Horns in position!

The giants lower their horns and
take aim.

AMUKLIQLATCH

Prepare to defend!

THORN

What's happening here? I think I'm losing my
mind.

TULINGLUK

Guardians of the Northlands! FORWARD!

Hoof-by-hoof, the giants pound
toward the herd.

TULINGLUK

Hoom! Hahm-heem. Hoom! Hahm-
heem. Hoom! Hahm-heem.

AMUKLIQLATCH

Hoom! Hahm-heem. Hoom! Hahm-
heem. Hoom! Hahm-heem.

THE CHIEF

Everyone get behind me!

The Chief and Willa-Mah shield the
little ones. Auntie steps out.

AUNTIE

No, wait! STOP!

TULINGLUK

Stop-Stop-Stop!

Tulingluk stops short.
Amukliqlatch slams into him.

TULINGLUK

OW! Mukli, get offa me!

AMUKLIQLATCH

What happened? What is it?

TULINGLUK (WHISPERS)

Sh! Listen. They speak Buffliq.

Bittle steps out.

BITTLE

'Course they do. They're Buffalo!

THE CHIEF

Quiet, Bittle.

TULINGLUK

Buffalo?

BITTLE

That's right.

WILLA-MAH

Bittle, please. Get back here.

The giants huddle.

TULINGLUK

Is it possible? Could they be?

AMUKLIQLATCH

They're so small.

TULINGLUK

And fuzzy.

AMUKLIQLATCH

And brown.

BITTLE

We're standing right here. We can hear you.

WILLA-MAH, AUNTIE & THE CHIEF

BITTLE!

BITTLE

Sorry.

Bittle steps back.

TULINGLUK (CLEARS HIS THROAT)

Well, then. Tell us. If you are buffalo, what are you dong *here*?

AMUKLIQLATCH

Little far from home, don't you think?

AUNTIE

We've come in search of the Angk-Sha, oh Giant Ones.

TULINGLUK

Angk-Sha?

AMUKLIQLATCH

THE Angk-Sha?

TULINGLUK

The First?

AMUKLIQLATCH

The Only?

TULINGLUK

The magnificent Mother of All?

The giants burst into laughter.

BITTLE

What's so funny?

AMUKLIQLATCH

What would she be doing here?

TULINGLUK

And if she was, why would she see you?

The giants laugh again.

AUNTIE

We have a question. A question about a calf.

TULINGLUK

A calf?

AMUKLIQLATCH

What calf?

Thorn steps forward.

THORN

Yes! A calf! Their calf!

WILLA-MAH

Thorn, stop it!

AMUKLIQLATCH

He's very yelly.

THORN

We don't need some "Angk-Sha" to tell us what to do. The blood of this Chief is foul. The calf is horribly flawed. Our law demands resolution! This half-n-half calf must go—!

TULINGLUK

Enough!

The earth trembles.

AUNTIE

Oh!

TULINGLUK

Show us this calf!

AMUKLIQLATCH

Bring him to us!

THORN

Get out of my way!

Thorn shoves The Chief, knocks him to the ground.

AUNTIE

Thorn! Stop!

Thorn grabs Boh and drags him out.

WILLA-MAH

Boh!

The Chief scrambles to his hooves.

THORN

Here! Here he is. Behold their little freak!

Thorn shoves Boh forward. Boh steadies himself, then looks all the way up the giants.

BOH

H-hello.

The Giants close in for a better look.

TULINGLUK

By my stars.

AMUKLIQLATCH

You little beauty.

BOH

Me? Why, thank you.

The ground shakes. Auntie stumbles.

WILLA-MAH

Auntie, hold on.

Willa-Mah steadies Auntie.

TULINGLUK

Welcome home, buffalo! Your journey ends now!

Again, the ground shakes. The giants tip their faces to the sky, open their mouths and sound out the Bittle-blast.

THORN

What is all this? What's going on?

Stars swirl. A rumbling rises up. The air fills with other-worldly sounds.

TULINGLUK

It has been many years since you left for the South. Your birthplace, your homeland is here.

Surface-ice crackles and creaks.

AMUKLIQLATCH

We here before you are kinsmen of yours. We did not join the great southward swarm.

Shards of sunrise pierce the sky.

TULINGLUK

The Angk-Sha is rising, from deep in the Earth.

The Guards retrieve a platform carrying a cloaked, hidden figure, and roll it out onto the stage.

THORN

Bring it! Let's settle this once and for all.

The figure casts a wolf-shadow out over the landscape. Yips and howls wail.

AMUKLIQLATCH

Behold! Your original form!

The mysterious figure rises, drops her cloak, and turns to reveal the ANGK-SHA, mother of all, is CALICO.

BITTLE

Boh! She looks like you!

THORN

Oh, no.

Thorn lowers himself to his knees. The Angk-Sha steps out from between the giants. She puts one hoof forward, two hooves up, and calls out...

ANGK-SHA

Surprise!

The Angk-Sha makes her way through the herd. As she passes, each buffalo kneels. The Angk-Sha stops, stoops and leans in, face-to-face with Boh. She nuzzles his muzzle...

THE ANGK-SHA

Hello, Boh.

BITTLE

Whoa, Boh. She knows your name.

THE ANGK-SHA

Yours too, Bittle.

Bittle, stunned,...

BITTLE

No way.

THE ANGK-SHA

Hit it!

'Got Good Soul' rings out.

THE ANGK-SHA

SONG: GOT GOOD SOUL
POOR POOR POOR POOR BUFFALO

YOU'RE ALL WOUND UP TIGHT DON'T KNOW WHICH WAY TO GO
YOU'VE GOT THIS GORGEOUS CHILD BUT WHAT DO YOU DO?
YOU REFUSE AND CONFUSE HIM WITH YOUR HULLABALOO

YOU DON'T GET WHAT I GAVE YOU THIS GIFT OF LIFE
YOU COULD BE DANCIN' AND SINGIN' AND DOIN' IT RIGHT
YOU LET FEAR CREEP IN LET IT TAKE CONTROL
BUT INSIDE YOUR SKIN AND BONES YOU ALL GOT GOOD SOUL

(PRE CHORUS)
GOT GOOD SOUL
GOT GOOD SOUL
GOT GOOD SOUL

(CHORUS)
YOU GOT A HEART THAT'S FULL OF LOVE
WAY BEYOND YOUR SKIN AND BONES
YOU GOT A LIGHT INSIDE THAT CAME TO STAY
FROM A PLACE BEYOND THE MILKY WAY
YOU GO INFINITELY IN
YOU GO INFINITELY OUT
AS BIG AS MOUNTAINS AND THE SEA
AND YOUR LIGHT FLIES THROUGH THE STARS RIGHT BACK TO ME

WO-OH YAH
WO-OH YAH

WE'RE MADE OF THE SUN AND THE MOON AND THE BURNING STARS
SEEMS YOU'VE SOMEHOW FORGOTTEN JUST WHO WE ALL ARE
THERE'S A SHINING POWER INSIDE US WITH WINGS
WITH EVERY SHUDDERING FLUTTER AN OPEN HEART SINGS

(PRE CHORUS)
GOT GOOD SOUL
GOT GOOD SOUL
GOT GOOD SOUL

(CHORUS)
YOU GOT A HEART THAT'S FULL OF LOVE
WAY BEYOND YOUR SKIN AND BONES
YOU GOT A LIGHT INSIDE THAT CAME TO STAY
FROM A PLACE BEYOND THE MILKY WAY

YOU GO INFINITELY IN
YOU GO INFINITELY OUT
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YOU'VE GOT A LIGHT INSIDE THAT CAME TO STAY
FROM A PLACE BEYOND THE MILKY WAY

YOU GO INFINITELY IN
YOU GO INFINITELY OUT
AS BIG AS MOUNTAINS AND THE SEA

AND YOUR LIGHT FLIES THROUGH THE STARS RIGHT BACK TO ME

WO-OH
WO-OH YAH

(GOSPEL)

INFINITELY IN, INFINITELY OUT, INFINITELY IN
INFINITELY OUT, INFINITELY IN, INFINITELY OUT
INFINITELY IN, INFINITELY OUT, INFINITELY IN
INFINITELY OUT, INFINITELY IN, INFINITELY OUT
INFINITELY IN, INFINITELY OUT, INFINITELY IN
INFINITELY OUT
OH YAH

THE ANGK-SHA

Each living thing is quite perfect at birth. It
needs no permission to live. Some nod of
approval or threat of removal is something
that's not yours to give.

The Angk-Sha stoops and opens her
arms.

THE ANGK-SHA

Come here, you two.

Boh and Bittle run to her embrace.

THE ANGK-SHA

You're my hope for the world, little ones.
Thank you for everything.

BITTLE

You're welcome, lady.

The Angk-Sha rises. Lights flash,
the landscape rumbles.

THE ANGK-SHA

This calico calf marks your chance to renew. A
chance for a brand new start. But, to find the
true brilliance of all that you are, be
fearless! Open your heart!

The the "Bittle Blast" sounds. The
Angk-Sha lifts up and off to the
starlight.

BITTLE

Good bye, Lady!

The herd waves the Angk-Sha off.
Tulingluk and Amukliqlatch slip
away, into the darkness. All goes
quiet. Thorn moves downstage.

THORN

How could I be so wrong? About everything.

Thorn lowers his face to the ground. The Chief, Willa-Mah, Auntie and Bittle watch as Boh goes to him. Boh takes Thorn by the shoulder.

BOH

Thorn? Come on, Thorn. It's time to go.

THORN

Me?

BOH

Sure.

THORN

After all I've done? I couldn't. I could never make things right. Wouldn't know how to start.

BOH

That's easy, Thorn. We start like this.

Boh wraps his arms around Thorn. Thorn melts into the hug.

AUNTIE

If he can, we can.

Auntie scurries down and joins the hug. Willa-Mah, with the Chief in tow, follows. Willa-Mah joins the hug. The Chief "throws in the towel" and joins the hug. Bittle calls out.

BITTLE

That's everyone, Boh!

BOH

Let's go home!

Music up. All, except Thorn, sing. The Chief helps Thorn to his feet, shakes his hoof, stands beside him. Thorn joins in the song.

ENSEMBLE

SONG: CLOSING NUMBER-DAY OF ALL DAYS/ANTHEM-REPRISE

POUND YOUR HOOVES ON THE GROUND LIKE THUNDER

SUN COMES UP AS HOOVES BEAT DOWN

LOOK ABOVE AT THE SKY WE'RE UNDER

NOTHING TO FEAR

A NEW DAY IS COMING AROUND

TODAY WE WILL SEE A NEW DAY OF ALL DAYS
TOGETHER WE'LL BUILD OUR TOMORROW
AND NOW IT IS ONLY A BEAT AWAY
WE'VE BEEN WAITING TO SEE
WAITING TO SEE

As they sing, the set changes back to the Gathering Place. Thorn walks to downstage left as Boh, in regal fashion, proceeds downstage center. Downstage left, Thorn retrieves the crown, then crosses to downstage center.

ALL HAIL WE SHOUT WE SING
WITH OPEN HEARTS
ON OPEN WINGS
ALL HAIL WE SHOUT WE SING

Once Boh is in position, Thorn places the crown onto his head.

A NEWBORN PRINCE
A FUTURE KING

Boh whips the crown off of his head, then places it onto Bittle's. Bittle squeals with delight.

END OF PLAY