

# **YE TRYST IN TIME**

by Honoria Mary Robertson Dick

## **A MELODRAMA**

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## **CAST**

<b>PEG</b>	- Rosy Cloud - Deirdre
<b>MEG</b>	- Sweet Dreams – Christabel
<b>MISTRESS MATILDA</b>	- Golden Dawn
<b>LADY ELOISE</b>	- Radiant Rainbow
<b>PRINCESS MIRA</b>	- Rahad Lakoum
<b>WICKED BARON GARRETT</b>	
<b>BALDWIN THE BLACKSMITH</b>	- Mustapha The Snake Charmer
<b>ALAN</b>	- Selim
<b>ROBIN THE TROUBADOUR</b>	- Lord Robin – Ali Akbar
<b>ZUBBEDIYA THE BELLY DANCER</b>	
<b>ABDUL</b>	
<b>ONE EYED OMAR</b>	- Lord Miles
<b>PRINCE KASSIM</b>	- Duke Edward

## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Honorina Mary Robertson Dick was born in Yorkshire, England but lived much of her adult life in Perth, Western Australia. Honorina read English Literature and Classics at the University of Western Australia and wrote a series of 13 original melodramas in the 1970s-early 2000s. They were performed exclusively by an amateur cast at St Michael's Anglican Church Mt Pleasant and St Christopher's Anglican Church Bicton-Attadale for church fundraising purposes.

It was Honorina's wish that her melodramas be made available for other theatre groups to adapt and perform as required.



**-PART ONE-**

**MEG**

Oh! Prithee do make haste. All the lads will be a-gathering at the Mayple.

**PEG**

Only one more meadow to cross e'er we be there.

**MEG**

Kirtle up thy skirts, we can then skip like lambs across the field.

**BARON**

Not so fast ye little lambkins. The dew is scarce off the grass this merry May-day so thou hast time enough to dally for a nuzzle with me. Let me gather thy charms into mine arms.

**ALL GIRLS**

Ooh! It be the wicked Barron Garrett. Let us stay close together for safety.

*SONG: It's May*

**MATILDA**

Thanks be! The bawdy old Baron seeth not me. Only the protection of my sweet Lady Eloise saveth me from his odious opprobrious osculation – nasty kisses – ooh! Thou clodpole stand not in the path of thy betters.

**BALDWIN**

No man be'th my better and I can better any mistress who cometh within arm's length.

**MATILDA**

Hold off ye saucy knave – thou be'st not from these parts thou art too free with thy tongue.

**BALDWIN**

Nay! I come from far North seeking adventure sweet mistress, and I be for the May-day cock fights for I hear there is gold to be won.

**MATILDA**

Then get thee back to thy dung heap, Sir Cockerel, for the Baron hath merciless fighting cocks never yet bested and, if thou should win, he will send his soldiers after thee to lighten thee of thy winnings.

**BALDWIN**

I tell ye I will not be bested. Nor will my noble cock. I mean to win today and when I do I shall merry make this May night. Merry make with me thou lusty lass. Wilt meet me at sundown sweet saucy one?

**MATILDA**

(Ooh! He be a virile varlet to be sure) I be safe to say aye for none has ever bested the Baron's birds. But if thou dost win I'll be at the edge of the forest

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yonder to tryst with thee at sundown.

**BALDWIN**

My name be Baldwin, by trade a blacksmith, by inclination a seeker of adventure.  
And thou?

**MATILDA**

Tire-woman to the Lady Eloise. By name Mistress Matilda, by inclination... an  
honest dame. *[Baldwin grabs Matilda]* Ooh! Ye saucy smith!

**BALDWIN**

Be thee at the trysting place at sundown for I tell thee my noble bird will better  
the baron's best for:

*SONG: I Have A Noble Cock*

**ALAN**

Good-morrow friend, art thou for the cock-fights?

**BALDWIN**

Aye! I be Baldwin the smith come to win the golden prize.

**ALAN**

Then with thy leave I'll bear thee company for thou art a merry man with whom to  
celebrate this May-day. I be Alan, a stranger here from the South. I journey in  
search of fortune for I would aspire to the rank of esquire with some bold knight.

**BALDWIN**

I shall be more merry with money so let us away to the fair, young Alan.

*Exit left*

**BARON**

What dainty morsel do I espy coming hither. How now sweeting what beauty  
hides beneath this shape... Eloise! I'll draw and quarter the knave who passed  
thee through the castle portals.

**ELOISE**

Thou art so feared, so hated that even they who pity me dare not succour me.  
There be none to blame for I concealed myself within a bundle of hay on a serf's  
cart. Oh! Sir Guardian, I be young and crave youth and merriment, let me but  
stay to join the maypole dance.

**BARON**

Dance! I'll curb thy skittish skirls thy whey faced wretched wench.

**ELOISE**

Wretched only because thou art my guardian ye iniquitous nefarious knight, for if  
my Lord Father were to be appraised of thy perfidy thy life would be forfeit. Thou  
hast held me not in wardship but in prison, thou hast purloined my patrimony in  
this land but thou cans't not touch my wealthy lands in France and when my

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Father, the Duke, doth return he will seek thee out for a deadly reckoning.

**BARON**

Ha! Ha! Ha! The Lord high and mighty Duke deems thee dead, for when he was en route to The Crusades and I sent to him the tidings of thy Mother's death by the fever, I embellished the tidings with thy demise. Many years hath he been gone, dost think thou that he survived? Shrewish simpleton!

**ELOISE**

Oh! Woe! Oh! Woe! And more woe! Nay! Nay!

**BARON**

Yea! Yea! And now is the trysting time for thee and me – one last pearl to purloin.

**ELOISE**

Me mislikes your visage, it bodes ill for me. What mean'st thou?

**BARON**

This day I leave for Joppa with the King's envoy and upon my return my wardship will be ended.

**ELOISE**

Ended! Oh joy! Oh rapture! I shall be free of thee.

**BARON**

Rapture and joy for me not thee for I shall wed thee and as thy husband claim all thy glorious wealth.

**ELOISE**

Never! Never! Never! Wilt though take me to wife, I will find some way to thwart thy dastardly machinations. Oh! Is there none who will save me!

**BARON**

I have thee in my net and thou cans't not escape me, for thou shalt be confined to the topmost tower of the castle. Ho! There! Send to me this instant the armourer and the locksmith.

**ELOISE**

Nay! Nay! Not that, not that, a fate far worse than death!

**MATILDA**

Oh! Where are my wits! What dreadful fate befalls my lovely Lady. To the topmost tower, in chains. Oh! What shall I do, I'm all of a tizz-wazz. Now Tilly temper thyself and think. I be free, so I set my wits to weaving webs to ensnare the enemies of my Lady or, to devise a way to set her free.

*Exit right*

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**BALDWIN**

*Enter left*

Sundown already! And me-thinks I have seen strangers following us. I have a trust to keep but yonder forest is dense and a goodly hiding place. I came through it this morrow and espied in its midst a mighty chestnut tree. Wilt thou take my gold there and hide it, make camp, and I will join thee 'ere midnight.

**ALAN**

I am unmanned by thy trust friend Baldwin. Thou art a noble friend. May thy mistress be kind to thee. I'll see thee anon.

*Exit right*

**ELOISE**

*On the battlement*

*Spotlight on Eloise*

Oh woe! To my hapless state, trussed up like a spring chicken – in chains – confined to the tower and none to aid me. Be Tilly also captive? Oh! Woe! Woe! Oh! Nay! Woe begone. Whilst I breathe I'll not despair. Not woe, nay! Go! Go! Shall be my cry. But how to go is to be accomplished I knoweth not. Per chance I can bribe a guard? If only Tilly be free she could try bribery for there must be someone who will aid me. Mayhap she has heard news of my capture at the May-day revels and returns not until the baron has left? If this time I but gain my freedom, I'll wait here no longer. I vow I'll ne'er rest until I find my worthy Sire or prove his death. I shall fight for my purloined patrimony if I have to take my plea to the King himself. How bright the yonder star of Venus that lights this May night. Not a night for a young maid to be alone and imprisoned.

*SONG: Prisoner Of Love*

*Laughter is heard*

**ROBIN**

"Go learn ye of life" sayeth my goodly Sire. "Win thy spurs with honour. Treat all men as thine equal. Cherish all women and earn thy way by thy hands and wits". So here be I travelling as a troubadour. Becoming a knight be'th no sinecure, for I must prove my prowess not only in the gentle arts of courtly love but also in deeds of derring-do. Lack-a-day but I be weary. I'll rest 'til dawn within the confines of this forest.

*Laughter is heard*

**ROBIN**

Who go'th there! I see no-one, me thinks the moonlight casteth strange shadows.

*Lights flash: Laughter is heard*

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**ROBIN**

May-day lovers no doubt.

**MIRA**

Sir! Sir! Put up thy poniard for I be a woman and quite alone.

**ROBIN**

Lady I heard thy approach! Me thought I heard the laughter of young lovers and then the forest seemed afire with dancing lights all ascatter like the rays of a falling star.

**MIRA**

The shimmering wings of fireflies caught in the glow of the moon, no doubt!

**ROBIN**

Lady, if I be so bold as to ask, where is thine escort?

**MIRA**

Oh! Prithee lend me thine aid young Sir. Travelling hither, to a nearby port to embark on a vessel for France, I and mine attendants were scattered and I wandered into this forest to find the path I must travel to my appointed tryst. Now I be all alone and sorely in need of a gallant knight to guard me on my journey.

**ROBIN**

Robbers! I trow. A fie upon varlets who prey upon honest travellers! Lady, I be but a humble troubadour yet not unskilled in sword and dagger play, both of which I wilt happily wield in thy defence if thou wilt trust me.

**MIRA**

Sweetly spoken Sir troubadour. Thy tongue curls around compliments as softly as dough around currants!

**ROBIN**

Thou dost laugh as thou dos't mock me. Fair Lady I be not a knight or well used to the courtly art of speaking sugared compliments. Though I own, it is to knighthood I do aspire.

**MIRA**

Sweet-sugared compliments will ere tril trippingly off thy tongue with my tuition if thou wilt accompany me, for I am well-versed in all the arts of love and valour, in all the Royal Courts, and thou, young troubadour hast the true gift necessary for knighthood, that of a loving heart. By what name are ye known?

**ROBIN**

My name be'th Robin, no more, no less, if it please thee – until I win my spurs.

**MIRA**

I am Mira, Princess of Cetus, on my way to the Kingdom of Egypt from a port in France – to which port I crave thine escort. Thou shalt be my knight errant until

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we part. Or, until thou hast some young Lady to whom thou pledgest thine Honour and thy sword.

**ROBIN**

This forest should afford goodly protection from surprise attack, let us venture further until we find a place to rest until the dawnlight showeth the way to the nearby seaport.

**BALDWIN**

*Enter right*

Fickle jade! The moon be full and she hath not kept our tryst. I know not why I have lingered, a maid is a maid, is a maid. Yet hath she strucketh some spark in me that no other lass has strucketh. Tire-woman to a Lady! Maybe I be too lowly for her liking. Oh fie! I waiteth no longer – I'll join young Alan underneath the spreading chestnut tree and I'll sing me an old song to keepeth me company.

*SONG: Underneath The Spreading Chestnut Tree*

*Exit right*

**MATILDA**

Hist! Hist! Speak softly my dear Lady Eloise. Dids't deem I would desert thee my lambkin – oh! Thou art trussed up like a drooping hernia in those chains.

**ELOISE**

Tilly! How entereth thou the tower? Ye chance to lose your head with this caper.

**MATILDA**

Not if we make haste to depart before the guard checketh thy quarters this night. Hast thou forgotten that my grandsire was scribe to thine and in those troubled times was needed a secret bolt-hole to which few were privy. Handed from generation to generation in my family was the secret access to a stairway within the tower walls which tunnels out into the forest. Thy sire would know of it Lady.

**ELOISE**

Oh! Admirable Tilly, but if thou dost free me from the tower there are still my chains.

**MATILDA**

Free thee from this tower I can and will, and by Heaven's grace I hope to have thee free of thy chains ere long.

**ELOISE**

Ye dratted chains must make no sound – softly now, lead on Tilly! I vow ne'er to return to this accursed castle until my tryst be fulfilled for know ye if I can be freed, I journey to find news of my Sire in the lands far beyond this realm. All these, my jewels I carry with me to provide the wherewithal to pay our way. Hurry Tilly.

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**BALDWIN**

*Sing softly*

**ROBIN**

Hark! That is no lark, someone cometh hither – pray Lady step aside to give me space to wield my trusty weapon in thy protection.

**BALDWIN**

*(Singing) On the left*

**ROBIN**

Have at thee. Cease thy gargling or thou wilt feel the prick of my poniard in thy vitals. Softly varlet, one cry will be thy farewell to this world.

**MIRA**

Oh! Well assayed good troubadour. There be none following him. Mayhap he be an honest traveller. Loose him. Speak Sir, what is thy business here?

**BALDWIN**

This wondrous Lady called me Sir! – Sir!

**ROBIN**

Stand still, thou move'st at thy peril.

**BALDWIN**

I'll mill thee down thou skinny shanked beanpole – no man will better me.

**MIRA**

Speak Sir!

**BALDWIN**

She called me Sir again! Oh! Sweet and noble Lady, I be no Sir but an honest blacksmith making my way to join my companion at our camp 'neath the spreading chestnut tree in the very midst of this forest.

**ROBIN**

Saw thou any robbers or men at arms hereabouts?

**BALDWIN**

Men at arms were following me but I be too spry for they and nary a one cometh here.

**MIRA**

Sir blacksmith, we be in sore need of succour and a safe place to rest this night. Wilt share thy camp with us?

**BALDWIN**

Right gladly if thou wilt callest off this jumping jackanapes.

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**ROBIN**

Thy tongue be too free thou overstuffed pudding.

**MIRA**

Such language becometh thee not. Come! Cry friends, for I hath need of strong arms to guard me. Give each of thee an arm to my support and while we proceed tell us more of thyself Sir blacksmith.

**ROBIN**

I blush for my lack of manners Lady and crave thy pardon. Blacksmith, thou hast my hand in friendship. I be Robin, a troubadour, met by chance with this fair Lady, the Princess Mira, who was beset by robbers ere she escaped to this forest.

**BALDWIN**

A Princess!

*To knees*

Pardon mine unruly tongue thou exaltedness. I be Baldwin the smith travelling in search of adventure and... here be the spreading chestnut tree and my goodly friend young Alan.

**ALAN**

How now Baldwin – what – who?

**BALDWIN**

This be the Princess Mira and Robin troubadour.

**MIRA**

And this, comely young master be thy friend Alan me thinks.

**ALAN**

Aye! I mean if it please thy mighty Highness, I mean, fair Princess!

**ROBIN**

Well met young Alan. The Princess Mira seeks a nearby port to take passage for France. Art either of thee conversant with such a port?

**ALAN**

Aye! There be a port a short march from hither, that I know for I am intent on a journey into France in the hope of service with some knight and to make my fortune.

**MIRA**

Be thinketh thou that the stars have set our paths to cross? For here be ye, three goodly knaves, one in search of honour, one in search of adventure and one in search of fortune. And here be'th one who hath need of an escort to Egypt. If thou wilt throw in thy lot with mine I have wealth and powerful friends who mayhap can help thee. The passage can be dangerous but it be a way of

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attaining what each of ye desire if thou wilt be my escorts to the far lands.

**ROBIN**

A quest at last. Mine sword and honour I pledge in thy defence.

**BALDWIN**

And I my mighty muscles.

**ALAN**

I have little to offer but my willing obedience, and that I gladly pledge.

**MIRA**

I wist we worthily will win our wishes with such sweet accord. Now let us be companionable around the fire and tell me of thyself and thy dreams.

**ALAN**

Did'st keep thy tryst Baldwin, and was thy maiden an amorous armful?

**BALDWIN**

*Arm on Alan's shoulder, walk to right*

Nay! Like all women – saving thy grace – she spake with a forked tongue and came not.

**ALAN**

That be the way of love I trow. A promise made yet ne'er fulfilled.

**ROBIN**

Say not so, true love is love's inspiration. I would aspire to the love of a damsel in whom all the virtues shine forth like the beauteous moon, and for her hand undertaketh any dangerous quest.

**MIRA**

The beauteous moon be ever waxing and waning Sir Robin. Thy simile is not apt.

**BALDWIN**

*Move to stage centre*

I met a merry maid who sorely stirred my heart, she be tire-woman to some great Lady but me thinks she doth consider me a country bumpkin.

**MIRA**

Thou art too humble, Sir Baldwin, for love seeth no such obstacles.

**ALAN**

I ne'er have met a maid who stirs my heart or caused me to quiver, yet in my dreams I know such a one.

**MIRA**

Dreams are shadowy spectres that oft cloud reality.

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**ROBIN**

Thou speakest as one who knows the tenderer passions. Yet, who doth knoweth what love is? What thinkest thou Sweet Princess?

*SONG: Love Is Like A Firefly*

**ROBIN**

Why Princess, thou resemblest those dancing lights I told thee of, in truth thou shimmerest like the firefly.

**MIRA**

Thinkest thou so?

**BALDWIN**

Aye! Thou art like no other Lady I ere have seen. Were I not able to touch thee, I would deem thee an enchantress.

**ALAN**

Thou art as fair as any falling star I trow.

**MIRA**

Dear fellow travellers, thou fill'st my heart with gladness. I foresee most happy hours ahead. In truth, we have a saying in my country to express the joy of anticipation, it is "I know that I am going to have a whale of a time with thee". Now are my eyelids heavy upon mine eyes. I will withdraw a little way and rest.

**ALAN, BALDWIN & ROBIN**

*Move to a huddle on the left*

Slumber sweetly while we guard thy repose.

**ELOISE**

Oh Tilly, I cannot go much further, I stumble in the darkness with the weight of my chains. Go thou on alone and find safety for thyself.

**MATILDA**

Leave thee, never – looketh! A fire and the spreading chestnut where he told me he would camp this night.

**ELOISE**

Softly Tilly, mayhap it be not the camp of thy friend.

**ROBIN**

Stay! Who goeth there?

**MATILDA**

Alack! Alack! It be not the voice of burly Baldwin.

**BALDWIN**

Who maketh free with my name?

*Moving to right*

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**MATILDA**

Baldwin! It be Tilly, ooh! Ooh! Ooh! Help us.

**BALDWIN**

Tilly! Our tryst was for sundown and now it be almost midnight, why? What be amiss.

**MATILDA**

Oh woe! My Lady Eloise imprisoned and in chains and only I to lend her aid. This be my sweet young Lady strung up like a side of beef. Help us bold Baldwin, I beg of thee.

**ROBIN**

Oh! The pain! My heart is shattered by this enchained beauty. Would I had the key to set her free. Let me bear the weight of thy chains dainty damsel.

**ELOISE**

Who be this sweet-tongued knave? By the look of his flute he be a troubadour. Cheeky curl. I'll not trust him nor any man, they be all villains but I'll use him to further mine own ends. Damsel I am, but daft I am not. Thanks be to thee good knave, their weight is heavy indeed.

*SONG: Reprise – Prisoner Of Love*

**BALDWIN**

Step hither Lady Eloise, I'll have thee free in a trice for I be a blacksmith. Young Alan, make thy bow to the Lady Eloise and Mistress Matilda.

**ALAN**

This be a night of tangled trysts indeed.

**ROBIN**

Come thee by the fire Mistress, thou hast this night freed from her cage the fairest one I trow. Thy courage I would emulate with one so beautiful to inspire me.

**BALDWIN**

There! Free as a bird, Lady.

**MATILDA**

I told thee Lady, his muscles are like iron bands.

**BALDWIN**

*Holding Matilda*

Aye! The better to better any man and any maid...

**MATILDA**

Who cometh within arms length? Fie! You lusty lout, what are you about?

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**BALDWIN**

One kiss Tilly.

**MATILDA**

A kiss! Well! Thou doth at least deserve that for freeing my Lady.

*Baldwin and Matilda kiss and dip*

**ROBIN**

And a kiss as sweet as honey I trow!

**ELOISE**

Hark at this tricky troubadour, aping the manners of a lordly knight. Just like my wicked Uncle spreading honeyed words to catch his prey. I'll teach him a trick or two if he thinks to drive a wedge into my defences. Oh! Thank thee, both, I am forever indebted to thee.

**MIRA**

I doth see our little circle now expanded. Present to me thy fair companions.

**ROBIN**

The Lady Eloise and Mistress Matilda, her tire-woman who have but escaped the Lady's guardian, the tyrant Baron from yonder castle. They too are fugitives fair Princess.

**ELOISE**

A Princess truly! Her manner commands obedience and ne'er have I seen such richness in dress. What mystery is this? A Princess who be a fugitive in the forest with these three ill-assorted knaves. Lady, my most humble obeisance to thee. I am Eloise, a damsel in search of my Sire.

**MIRA**

And where dwelleth thy Sire fair Eloise?

**ELOISE**

In truth I know not. He left my late lady mother with me in the care of his nephew Lord Miles at his chateau in France when he took part in the Last Crusade. Miles speedily followed him. Then my dear Mama was taken by the fever and my Sire's cousin, the wicked Baron Garrett, bringeth me hither having sent word to my Sire that both my Mama and I had died of the fever. Neither my father nor cousin returned from the Crusade so I know not their fate. Therefore I journey to the far lands of the Levant to seek a clue. Perchance the Knights of Cyprus can help me if I can but find a way to safely quit this realm.

**MIRA**

Chance hath surely brought us together, for I have awaiting me in a nearby harbour a vessel which will bear me to France from whence I board a galley to carry me to Egypt. Thou can't be set ashore in Alexandria and continue to Cyprus from there if thou wilt join me and my three modest heroes.

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**ALAN, BALDWIN & ROBIN**

Did'st hear what she calleth us? Her modest heroes.

**ELOISE**

Oh! What lucky star shineth over me that such a happy solution forecometh.  
Most happily will I and my dear Tilly bear thee company, Princess.

**ALAN**

May thy dastardly uncle rust in his armour to have used thee so.

**MIRA**

Or perchance his heart be sometime softened by a damsel.

**ALAN**

I knoweth of such a one, I'll tell thee of him.

*SONG: A Knight In Rusty Armour*

**ROBIN**

If thy courage match thy wit thou wilt make a goodly squire to any knight.

**MIRA**

The night passeth at speed so hear me, all of thee. As soon as dawn's first pale rays approach, let us begone. The last cover of darkness will cloak us from our enemies and we can cast anchor before true light cometh. Ladies! We three will retire a little way and sweetly slumber while our three modest heroes keep guard.

**ROBIN**

May thy nostrils be filled with the sweet scent of wild roses and thy dreams be all of love.

**ELOISE**

Thou hast too glib a tongue troubadour, thou speaketh as one versed in courtly love, would so address his Lady. Keep thy distance and remembereth thy station.

**ROBIN**

Thou replieth not as a Lady but as a vinegar-tongued shrew. Mindeth thy manners fair forwardness... She liketh me not but she be the one whose knight I'll strive to be for virtue dwelleth on her brow and sweetness struggles to step forth. To venture on such a quest as her's taketh courage of no mean order. She hath won my heart and I'll assay to her's.

**ALAN**

I've always wanted to be a hero.

**BALDWIN**

*Walking to centre*

So long as I be a live hero I've no objection to being called one.

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**ROBIN**

I would prove myself a heroic knight.

**BALDWIN**

Sing us a song Robin troubadour, t'will while away the hours.

**ROBIN**

A song! Nay! I be rather a bard than a singer of songs.

**BALDWIN**

Then recite us some of thy rhymes.

**ROBIN**

To compose a poem ex tempore be'th not easy, the ends must rhyme.

**BALDWIN**

I knoweth not this ex thing but thou hast a glib enough tongue for long words.  
Say a love sonnet for my Tilly.

**ROBIN**

Let me think...

**ROBIN**

Oh! Sweet red lips I long to kiss,  
Thou hast a shapely ankle, Miss!  
To hold thee in my arms – such bliss!  
Would take me close to heaven, I wiss!

**ALAN**

A bard! A bard! A bawdy bard, barred from every inn in the realm if that be a  
sample of thy wit.

**ROBIN**

Cans't do any better young bag of wind?

**ALAN**

Have at thee!

**BALDWIN**

Break! Break! Friend Robin I do belike thy verse, it sayeth in exactness what I  
wouldst say had I but the learning. Thou do'st mistake the matter Alan, for honest  
affection needeth no fancy dressing.

**ROBIN**

Well said! Come Alan, it is thy youth that makes thee vulnerable. We cannot  
protect the ladies if we war among ourselves. The Princess named us three  
modest heroes, let us be so.

**BALDWIN**

Me likes that title, it becometh me. Make a rhyme on that Robin.

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**ROBIN**

Aye! Right willingly a rhyme and a tune.

*SONG: We're Three Modest Heroes*

**MIRA**

Gentles! It be time to leave this forest, the rays of dawn probe in the sky.

*All exit centre*

**OMAR**

My Lord Prince! It be'eth the night's full watch, what disturbeth thy rest?

**KASSIM**

Six nights I have dreamed of a Lady and this dream disturbeth me, for I be not a man for the dreaming. Yet my mind inclines to heed her discourse. Omar! Get thee hence, go toward Tripoli and look for slaves.

**OMAR**

Slaves?

**KASSIM**

Fair skinned female slaves – if thou findeth such women bring them to the market here in Cairo. May Harem hath need of new delights!

**OMAR**

This be a mission much to my liking Lord.

**KASSIM**

Now perchance I have driven my dream away. Sweet sleep arrest me and let once more her sprinkle my slumbers with the stardust of delight.

**MIRA**

Kassim! Kassim!

**KASSIM**

Oh! Heavenly houri, sweet spectre thou hast come once more. What strange spell thy presence weaveth about me.

*SONG: You Do Something To Me*

**ELOISE**

Such happy fortune that thou wert re-united with thy Princess ladies.

**CHRISTABEL**

Many times have we been parted from her yet always re-united. Me thinks it is our fortune in the stars – if thou believest such things!

**ELOISE**

Nay! I set no dependence on stars, my fortune is in my fortitude although I trow I findeth thy mistress unlike other ladies of my acquaintance, she seemeth to exude a strange power, an attraction to unlikely events.

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**CHRISTABEL**

Alan telleth me that the Captain advises a speedy arrival in Alexandria.

**MIRA**

Sayeth he so Deirdre. Yet me thinks the fair weather leaveth us. Ahead, yonder, be dark and heavy clouds.

**MATILDA**

My vitals thinketh not this motion be comfortable.

**ELOISE**

Poor Tilly, setteth thy mind on other things. Wilt tell us something of these lands and their customs sweet Princess.

**MIRA**

In the Pagan lands of the East women cover their faces except in the presence of their Lord. Men have a wife but also many concubines who are confined to rooms known as the harem. They are guarded by male slaves who have been captured and mutilated and are known as eunuchs.

**ELOISE**

Harem! Eunuch! Then women here are all slaves, have they no power?

**CHRISTABEL**

Ah! Yes, indeed! But it be the power that appeals to the senses not to the wit.

**MIRA**

In your realms, the male strives to win a fair maid, in these lands it is the maidens who must charm their Lord.

*SONG: Accentuate The Positive*

**ROBIN**

I mislike those clouds, the wind bloweth strong and betokens a storm of some moment.

**BALDWIN**

*Enter centre*

I be happier with my feet on the firm earth.

**ROBIN**

Where be young Alan?

**BALDWIN**

Gazing like a mooncalf at the young damsel, Christabel. He is besotted with her!

**ROBIN**

Jest not at his longings Baldwin, for be'eth not thou and I in the same state?

*Bangs – flashing – lights – stage darkens*

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**ELOISE**

Robin! Tilly! Oh! Help me, I drown!

**ROBIN**

Eloise! Eloise! Oh! My love where is she?

**ALL**

HELP! HELP! I DROWN!

*Lights – dimmer to full*

**ROBIN**

*Left*

Baldwin! Alan! The ladies, Eloise! The ladies! They are lost! Lost!

**BALDWIN**

Nay! Robin, despair not, if we be here, thrown up on land then perchance they are but a little way off. Oh! Tilly!

**ALAN**

Let us search along the shore.

**BALDWIN**

Why looketh thou so grim?

**ROBIN**

By virtue of our position at sea we are wrecked on hostile shores. There be'eth no sight of any other survivors so I must tell thee, that if the ladies survive and were apprehended they will be sold as slaves to the Casbah or the Harem.

**ALAN**

Be that?

**ROBIN**

Aye!

**BALDWIN**

Now be the time to prove our mettle, but how?

**ALAN**

See! Yonder be there a walled town pierced by tall needle gates.

**ROBIN**

Easier for a camel to get through the eye of a needle than for an infidel to pass through those portals. We need eastern garb. We must hide 'til nightfall then somehow obtaineth other clothing. In disguise we can travel freely and gaineth news of our shipwreck in that town.

**ALAN**

How can we understand their language?

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**ROBIN**

I speak some Eastern tongues – learned on my travels as a troubadour – thou and Baldwin must pretend to be mutes.

**BALDWIN**

I be out of my depth in this caper until action be needed but to find Tilly I'll venture any madness.

**ALAN**

And so will I if I can but find Christabel.

**BALDWIN**

Be thou our leader and guide Robin.

**ALAN**

Aye, thinketh thou that thou art a knight leading thy followers on a knightly quest.

**ROBIN**

Come then, never let it be said that we three modest heroes are all washed up!

*Exit left*

**-INTERVAL-**

**-PART TWO-**

**OMAR**

Maketh speed to cometh hither, ye unruly recalcitrant ravishers!

**RADIANT RAINBOW**

How dareth thou address us so, ye one-eyed... one-eyed eunuch!

**OMAR**

Me, a eunuch! Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha!

**ROSY CLOUD**

Laugheth not Omar! Hast thou no pity for the plight of we damsels, we defenceless slaves?

**OMAR**

Ah! Sweet Sunset Glow, thou hast a tender heart and a sweet tongue. For thy sake I'll be gentle with these slaves.

**RADIANT RAINBOW**

Deirdre! It be not fitting that thou treateth this object of our humility like a noble knight.

**SWEET DREAMS**

His manners, if not his words are those of a gallant. Omar! What did'st thou name Deirdre?

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**OMAR**

From hence onward ye will be known by a new name and by such ye will be sold in the slave bazaar. Thou! The youngest, shall be known as Sweet Dreams. Thou, little wasp as Radiant Rainbow, thou as Golden Dawn, and thou... thou art Sunset Glow.

**RADIANT RAINBOW**

Ye hath not named the Princess Mira.

**OMAR**

She is, Rahad Lakoum.

**RADIANT RAINBOW**

What manner of name be'th that?

**RAHAD LAKOUM**

Thou payeth me a pretty compliment Omar. Rahad Lakoum is a sweetmeat, much prized in these lands. It be'th a confection of most exotic ingredients.

**OMAR**

The bidding will be brisk and high for such rare slaves as thee!

**RADIANT RAINBOW**

I be'th not any man's slave! I'll garotte any man that cometh within my ken.

**OMAR**

A stinging wasp be no match for a scorpion little one.

**RAHAD LAKOUM**

Softly! There are other paths to freedom.

**SWEET DREAMS**

Perchance there be one who we can bribe once we reach the slave quarters in the bazaar?

**ROSY CLOUD**

For bribery we needeth gold, has any of we any gold?

**RADIANT RAINBOW**

My jewels! I kneweth that mine jewels would serve me well. We can use them as bribes. It seemeth strange to me that our captors tooketh nought from us!

**RAHAD LAKOUM**

I deem that Omar hath a buyer in mind, for he treateth us most courteously.

**OMAR**

Cease thy chatter ye little doves. Move! Move!

**GOLDEN DAWN**

Where be'th thou taking us? It be not seemly to venture forth in this apparel.

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**OMAR**

It seemeth most seemly to mine eyes! We travel with the caravans from Baghdad, Tripoli and Tunis to the Old Bazaar in Cairo. Wilt move a herd of goats be'th less trouble than thee.

**RADIANT RAINBOW**

Goats! Yea! And thou art fitteth to be the nanny of them all, thou unbearded umbra.

*Enter camel train with Omar leading the roped girls (camel follows) right hand corner*

*Music of "Snake Charmer"*

**OMAR**

What manner of animal be this? A white camel with six legs! It be an animal full of freaks!

**SWEET DREAMS**

Oh! Get away from me thou foul-smelling horror!

**RADIANT RAINBOW**

Eek! This caricature of a giraffe is trying to nuzzle me! Be off with thee!

**OMAR**

Come along my doves.

**GOLDEN DAWN**

Oh! Woe. Oh! Woe, what will becometh of thee my lambkin?

**RADIANT RAINBOW**

Poor Tilly, I had not thoughteth to bring thee to such disaster. Fear not for me. I'll drip honeyed words and sugared sighs if that be a way to gain our freedom. Be thou of stout heart Tilly for I'll not desert thee.

**SWEET DREAMS**

What is going to happen to us?

**ROSY CLOUD**

I'm not at all brave!

**GOLDEN DAWN**

Alack! Alack!

**RAHAD LAKOUM**

Be of good cheer my sweetings. Mayhap your new lord will be much to your liking.

**RADIANT RAINBOW**

My heart be'th already captive and through my ignorance and perversity, lost! I was too hasty in judging Robina and though he be but a troubadour he bears

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himself like a knight... if he still liveth.

**OMAR**

COME! COME! HURRY ALONG! The Slave Market awaits you.

*Enter Robin – Baldwin – Alan and Abdul from right*

**ABDUL**

Effendi! They ladies are all safe and unharmed. One-eyed Omar, their guard, told me they are being taken to the Old Bazaar in Cairo there to be sold.

**ROBIN**

Abdul, thou hast proved a true friend to us since our first chance encounter, but for thee we had no disguise or guide. Cans't take us to this bazaar?

**ABDUL**

Aye! Effendi. For thee there is little danger, thou speaketh our tongue but these must needs be done or...!

**BALDWIN**

What meaneth this?

**ALAN**

If it be discovered that we be infidels the punishment is the knife!

**BALDWIN**

Oooh! The thought cuts me to the quick! Henceforth I be a mute.

**ROBIN**

How cometh thou to speak our tongue so fluently?

**ABDUL**

For many years I be employed by a great Lord who also speaketh thy language. Hast any gold?

**ALAN**

Gold?

**ABDUL**

I have not seen thy ladies but mayhap their price will not be too high and with gold we can bid for them.

**ROBIN**

There be not enough gold in all the world to purchase my lovely... to buy these priceless jewels.

**ABDUL**

Effendi! We need money for bribes, for lodgings, for...

**BALDWIN**

I will give my all for my saucy Tilly. Here be'th my two golden orbs, won for me by my noble old cock.

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**ALAN**

I have 10 golden crowns and here be'th my signet ring.

**ROBIN**

Nay! Alan, keep thy signet with which to pledge thy troth to sweet Christabel.  
Take my purse, there be around a 100 crowns I deem.

**ALAN**

(A hundred crowns! No troubadour hath such a fortune. Me thinks Robin is not all he seems't).

**BALDWIN**

That be 112 golden crowns, a fortune! T'will easily pay for the purchase of all our ladies.

**ABDUL**

Think on thy ladies. Have they youth, beauty, breeding? Wilt thy gold be sufficient to buy them?

**ROBIN**

We know not the prices that are paid but alas! I think not.

**BALDWIN**

Now be the time for action not despair. I'll fight for my Tilly.

**ALAN**

Unflex thy muscles knothed! This be the time for guile.

**ROBIN**

Alan is right, let us first attend the sale and see what forthcometh.

**ABDUL**

You will find much to interest you in Cairo.

**BALDWIN**

Abdul, in this bazaar ye speak of can I buy the horn of a unicorn?

**ALAN**

Nay Baldwin, what need hast thou of such an aphrodisiac?

**BALDWIN**

Thou growth too pert young Alan. I need it for my old cock for me thinks he will be much enfeebled by the time this venture is over and I want to breed from him. I dare hope that my friend, the Farmer Giles taketh good care of him.

**ABDUL**

Be assured mighty muscles that you can buy almost anything in the Old Bazaar in Cairo.

*SONG: The Old Bazaar In Cairo*

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**ABDUL**

Salaam Lord, cans't tell me if this be the slave bazaar?

**KASSIM**

Aye. The house slaves be all sold, now cometh the dreams of delight.

**ROBIN**

Dreams of delight?

**KASSIM**

The chosen ones for the Harem. Art thou here to bid for such?

**ABDUL**

I have heard Lord, that there be some rare fair-skinned slaves for the harem. Dost think they will be worth much gold?

**KASSIM**

The bids should start low, at about 100 dinars.

**ROBIN**

100 dinars is how much?

**ABDUL**

One gold dinar is equal to thy gold crown.

**ALAN**

He cannot mean 100 gold pieces for each slave!

**ABDUL**

This man is Prince Kassim, if he means to bid the price could reach thousands. Close thy mouth mighty muscles else it will be full of flies.

**KASSIM**

Thou art strangers here. What be thy names?

**ABDUL**

I be Abdul, a teller of fortunes.

**ALI AKBAR**

And I Ali Akbar. These be Selim and Mustapha, they be mutes er... much skilled in juggling and snake-charming Effendi. I be but a maker of rhymes.

**KASSIM**

Ah! Entertainers! Now that be well. Tell me, do'st mean to stay here until the great Autumn festival of Isis? For if thou dost, then be my guests within my palace until then so that thou cans't perform for my festivities.

**ABDUL**

Thy generosity overwhelms us Lord.

**KASSIM**

Ooooh! Now there be gems to adorn any setting. These I will have for my Harem.

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**ABDUL**

What be their names, their names auctioneer?

**OMAR**

Golden Dawn... Sunset Glow... Sweet Dreams... Radiant Rainbow. Now Lords commenceth thy bidding for the sweetmeats of delicious desire. Slaves for your Harem. Some young and tender, some mature and slender, all to you surrender, all a sheer delight.

**ABDUL**

Art they schooled for the Harem? Art thy docile and obedient?

**OMAR**

In the month or more since their capture, they have been taught the lessons of a dutiful slave.

**ABDUL**

We see not their faces – unveil them.

**KASSIM**

Shame on thee, thou should'st knoweth that only their new Lord shall gaze on their unveiled splendour.

**ABDUL**

Then let us hear them recite their lessons. (Can ye be sure that these be thy ladies? You said there were five but here be only four).

**SELIM**

I cannot be sure until I hear my sweet Christabel speak for I cannot see her face nor her speaking eyes if she be one of these.

**MUSTAPHA**

*Whispers to Selim*

If one of these be Tilly, then she hath even more abundant charms than ever I had dreamed of.

**ALI AKBAR**

My heart telleth me that she they call Radiant Rainbow be my heart's torment, my lovely, wilful, Eloise. Yet I cannot be sure.

**ADBUL**

If thou dost hear them speak wilt thou be sure?

**SELIM, MUSTAPHA & ALI AKBAR**

Aye!

**ABDUL**

Let them speak, perchance they have voices like braying camels.

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**KASSIM**

This man speaketh good sense, let them recite the virtues.

**OMAR**

I tell thee they have voices as soft and sweet as summer zephyrs.

**ABDUL**

Proof! Proof! Recite the virtues.

*SONG: Rahat Lakoum*

*Princess Mira enters on the first Rahat Lakoum*

*Kassim, Robin to back-stage one side and Baldwin, Abdul and Alan to stage-back opposite side.*

**SELIM**

It is Christabel, I would know that musical voice anywhere, and I heard Deirdre too.

**MUSTAPHA**

No mistaking my Tilly or the Princess.

**ALI AKBAR**

It be my Eloise, my heart's delight.

**KASSIM**

5,000 dinars for each of the four and 20,000 gold dinars for Rahat Lakoum.

**OMAR**

SOLD!

**KASSIM**

Now my friends I shall have more than enough cause to celebrate the Autumn Festival. Come thou to my palace at thy leisure. Thou shalt be free to wander and to talk to my veiled ladies – but only to talk. One touch and...!

**ABDUL**

We follow in thy footsteps O Prince.

**ALI AKBAR**

That festival be not until the next full moon in September.

**ABDUL**

And that be our reprieve, for until that moon be full, all delights of the flesh must be denied.

**SELIM**

Once we are in the palace we can plot our rescue. If they knoweth that we be at hand it will give them hope.

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**ABDUL**

Thou heardeth the Prince and take heed of his warning – thy ladies must suspect nothing until the time of escape.

**MUSTAPHA**

I'll massacre any man who mauls my Tilly.

**ALI AKBAR**

Hold thy tongue blockhead, the one-eyed Omar watcheth us.

*Extra verse of the Old Bazaar in Cairo*

*Exit left*

**SWEET DREAMS**

This be a very beautiful palace.

**GOLDEN DAWN**

How can ye find any beauty in our situation?

**RADIANT RAINBOW**

If that old donkey cometh near me I'll... I'll bite him.

**RAHAD LAKOUM**

Old! Nay, rather in the prime of life and certainly no donkey. Come Eloise, own that he hath a most pleasing manner and countenance and I wean he will treat us most magnanimously. Hush! The Prince approacheth.

**KASSIM**

My palace is honoured by thy presence sweet ladies. Now letteth mine eyes feast upon thy unveiled beauty. Discard thy yashmak.

**RADIANT RAINBOW**

This be one feast that will give him heartburn.

**KASSIM**

Omar's praise did thee less than justice. Sweet Dreams indeed – Sunset Glow, ah yes, the tender-hearted one. Golden Dawn... but surely I have seen thy face 'ere this?

**MATILDA**

That thou hast not, for I be an honest dame.

**KASSIM**

Radiant Rainbow – Oh! How my heart stirreth at the sight of thy proud beauty. Be not afraid no harm will come to thee.

**RADIANT RAINBOW**

Afraid! Not of thee nor any man. Unhappy events have put me in your power but I warn thee that I be'th no lamb to be led to slaughter.

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**KASSIM**

Radiant Wasp would be a name more apt for thee little one. Rahad Lakoum, unveil.

**RAHAD LAKOUM**

What is a veil but a cobweb between dreams and reality Prince Kassim.

**KASSIM**

Thy voice! Who art thou? From whence comest thou? Why doth thou haunt me so?

**RAHAD LAKOUM**

I be no spectre of the night but Mira, Princess of Cetus and thy humble slave. Omar has told me that we be free to move within the confines of thine estate and to converse with whomsoever we please provided that we be veiled. Is this so my Lord?

**KASSIM**

Yea! Until the Autumn Festival of Isis on the next full moon in September. Omar! Taketh the ladies up to the bazaar, they are free to wander.

**OMAR**

What a sweeter task could any man want. Come my doves.

**KASSIM**

Not thee Princess. Prithee bear me company sweet Lady.

**RAHAD LAKOUM**

Thou hast done all I asked of thee in thy dreams Kassim. The ladies knoweth nothing of thee nor thy promise that they shall be taken back to whence they came. Omar and Abdullah have done well and they who are known as Ali Ak-Bar, Selim and Mustapha will afford us much amusement in the coming weeks. Late at night during the Autumn festivities we can all slip away unnoticed. Hast thou arranged for a barge to take us down the Nile?

**KASSIM**

All is as you asked. Are these ladies and the entertainers all of English birth?

**RAHAD LAKOUM**

Yea! And if thou hast time to listen I will tell thee more of them.

**KASSIM**

A world of time be not enough to spend with thee my bright and shining star.

**RAHAD LAKOUM**

Then let us recline within thy divan Kassim.

**KASSIM**

Nay! The divan be for councils, not pleasure. Come my jewel, to the garden of nightingales where first I dreamed of thee.

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**OMAR**

*Come in on right*

Salaam! Protected ones of Prince Kassim. The Prince will greet thee and then thou art free to wander anywhere except within the East wing where the harem is placed.

**ALI AKBAR**

'Tis well, we are within the palace walls, what now Abdul?

**ABDUL**

We look for thy ladies, they will surely come to the bazaar. Pay homage to the Prince.

**KASSIM**

My entertaining friends from the slave bazaar ye are most welcome. Dids't say thy name be Ali Akbar?

**ALI AKBAR**

Yea Lord.

**KASSIM**

There was one by that name, renowned throughout Turkey for his harem of 1,000 wives.

**MUSTAPHA**

*Whispers to Alan*

And I thought old King Solomon was greedy.

**SELIM**

Hist Baldwin, would'st have us all on the chopping block?

**ABDUL**

Thou wast telling us of Ali Akbar Lord.

**KASSIM**

Ah! Yes.

*SONG: In My Harem*

**KASSIM**

Here cometh my ladies, they will take much pleasure in viewing thy tricks.

**RADIANT RAINBOW**

And what sort of trick wilt thou perform for my amusement?

**ALI AKBAR**

Salaam gracious Lady, take pity on we humble entertainers, for if we do not make thee smile it will go hard with us.

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**RADIANT RAINBOW**

I be so full of mine own woes that I grow selfish. What be'th thy name, and how knoweth thou our tongue?

**ALI AKBAR**

Ali Akbar at your service. I learned your language from an English Lord during the Last Crusade. His name was Lord Robin of Earldom.

**RADIANT RAINBOW**

(How that name, Robin, pierces my heart!). I too knew a Robin, a troubadour, the gentlest most courtly gallant fit to be any ladies' knight though but of low degree.

**ALI AKBAR**

(She thinketh of me in most loving terms!). I too be a kind of troubadour, a maker of rhymes.

**RADIANT RAINBOW**

Thou shalt think on one for me but now I need laughter. What can thy troupe do to make me merry?

**ABDUL**

I be a reader of palms and horoscopes. This Selim, is a fine juggler, and Mustapha be a charmer of snakes. Alas! Both are mutes, but can communicate with hand signs.

**GOLDEN DAWN**

Oh! Poor men but I verily would'st enjoy seeing his serpent dance.

**SWEET DREAMS**

Can we see they juggling? What doth he reply?

**ABDUL**

That he would juggle with the very stars for one smile from thee. Dost know that there is to be a great festival on the night of the full moon? At that festival we are to perform for the Prince Kassim and thee. All are invited and there is to be one whose beauty and talent in dancing surpasseth all others in this land. She is called Salome.

**ALI AKBAR**

None other has such fascination as she. Wilt thou attend?

**RADIANT RAINBOW**

We are ordered to attend and to dance for the Prince. But perchance our poor efforts will not be to thy liking as thou seems't so enamoured of this Salome!

**ALI AKBAR**

Enamoured of Salome! Nay! And I wean Lady, that thou moveth as softly and sensuously as dawn's first zephyr, for thy form swayeth as gracefully as a flower upon its stem and thine eyes be as soft and luminous as the pools of Paradise.

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**RADIANT RAINBOW**

Thou speaketh to me as a lover would'st. No doubt thy profession giveth thee much practice.

**ALI AKBAR**

Rhymes are but compositions Lady, what taketh the heart bringeth forth true words of esteem. Thou art high-born and I am humble entertainer, yet if to help thee be in my power, I am thine to command forever.

**RADIANT RAINBOW**

(He hath the same sweet charm of words as Robin!). Mayhap thou cans't helpeth me in these coming weeks when I hope to knoweth thee better. Wilt be my constant companion 'ere the festival?

**ALI AKBAR**

(She sayeth wilt thou. Not thou wilt! - a change from earlier forwardness to me). I am thy slave, now, and as long as thou art near to command me. I come at thy call.

**RADIANT RAINBOW**

Christabel! That Ali be'th the most gentle and courteous knave. He hath given me an idea for our escape. I have a plan in which thou must all helpeth me. Court the attentions of Selim and I will set Tilly to flirt with the snake charmer. On the night of the festival all here will be merrymaking and the guard relaxed. If we are to escape that is our chance. My jewels shall be the bribe to attaineth our freedom with the help of the entertainers for they also be slaves.

**SWEET DREAMS**

What of Deirdre? Me thinketh she be always accompanied by the one-eyed Omar and having no guile may innocently divulge our plan.

**RADIANT RAINBOW**

Say naught to her at this time. First find Tilly for me and then goeth thou to Selim and Mustapha. I will ask Abdul to translate their sign language for thee.

*Leave*

**SWEET DREAMS**

Thou! Selim, what is thine art?

**SELIM**

Dexterity in juggling be'th my art Sweet Dreams.

**SWEET DREAMS**

Thou speaketh! Thou art not mute.

**SELIM**

I beg of thee, do not betray me, I am an English slave captured from a galley and if it be known that I have escaped, that I be an infidel... the punishment is too

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horrible to contemplate.

**SWEET DREAMS**

Thy secret is safe, put thine hand in mine and I will speak only when we may not be overheard. My lover was lost from a galley during a storm at sea. He had just declared his love 'ere he was drowned.

**SELIM**

Did he speak to touch thine heart Lady?

**SWEET DREAMS**

He sayeth that I be his dream come true, that his love for me burneth like the fire from which each darting flame illumined in me some aspect of his passion. That when the flames diminished yet would his love ever glow to warm my heart with his devotion.

**SELIM**

And how did'st thee answer him?

**SWEET DREAMS**

The storm arose before I could speaketh but my love for him would'st ever burn for his delight. There wilt ne'er be another love for me.

**SELIM**

(She remembereth every word I spake. Oh! Could I but reveal myself). Be not sad, liketh thou sweet flowers? There is hereby a garden I would show thee wherein flourish heart's ease and forget-me-nots. Come! My Lady fair.

**GOLDEN DAWN**

Abdul, why will this charmer showeth me not his serpent?

**ABDUL**

It be'th comatose Lady, but on the night of the festival it shall dance for thee.

**GOLDEN DAWN**

Lady! Now I am called Lady! Come hither slave, leave thy worm sleeping for I would'st have thee conduct me to the bazaar stalls.

**MUSTAPHA**

*Still sitting*

Hoity toity I cometh at no-one's bidding.

**GOLDEN DAWN**

He speaketh!

**ABDUL**

I beg thee, divulgeth not that this man speaketh English, for he be an escaped slave, and if caught his very life will be forfeit. (Thou block-headed nincompoop, I warned thee to keep still thy tongue).

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**MUSTAPHA**

*To Golden Dawn*

Oh! Mercy on me thou exalted one. I'll grovel at thy feet, I'll be thy slave, just commandeth me.

**GOLDEN DAWN**

My slave, well lack-a-day! Slave! I command thine escort to the markets for I would see what comestibles these heathens hath. Alas! My darling Baldwin will ne'er sample my suet pudding or my wild cherry tart.

**MUSTAPHA**

(She named me her darling! If only I dared reveal myself, but the risk be'th not worth the candle!). This way Lady Golden Dawn.

*Go off right*

**SWEET DREAMS**

These weeks hath passed like a dream in thy company Selim.

**SELIM**

Aye! As swiftly as a dream of love.

**SWEET DREAMS**

Doth think thee that love be all a dream?

**SELIM**

Nay, not so my Lady Sweet Dreams, for love be a dream's awakening.

**RADIANT RAINBOW**

The day already fades into twilight. Ali, our bid for freedom be but a few hours distant. What scheme hast thou and Abdul concocted for our flight to Alexandria?

**ALI AKBAR**

With thy jewels Lady Radiant Rainbow, Abdul hath procured a barge which we willing slaves will pole down the Nile to the port.

**RADIANT RAINBOW**

Oh! Shades of Cleopatra! I have always wanteth to barge down the Nile.

**ALI AKBAR**

And I cans't think of no happier task than to pole thy barge for thee.

**RADIANT RAINBOW**

Here be Tilly. Remember, the time of escape must be just after we dance for Prince Kassim when all eyes will be on the fabulous Salome.

**SWEET DREAMS**

Where be'th the Princess Mira and Deirdre?

**RADIANT RAINBOW**

The Princess keepeth Prince Kassim occupied, she joins us when the dancing

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begineth and will bring Deirdre with her. One-eyed Omar keepth always Deirdre by his side, but he cannot be with her at the dance. Make haste all of ye there be much to do.

**MIRA**

See! The September moon is rising. This night will see us all depart from Cairo my Kassim. Our young lovers believeth they hath cunningly planned their own escape and know not our part in it.

**KASSIM**

Mira, beloved, there is something I must tell thee.

*SONG: The September Song*

**MIRA**

I would that I could stay but this is the night on which I am compelled to start my return journey to Cetus.

**KASSIM**

Where be the land? I knoweth not of it, and why art thou compelled to return there?

**MIRA**

I must return because in Cetus I attain my utmost inclination which be'th toward a land most dear to my heart. From Cetus, far, far to the South is a golden land washed by seas that shimmer in the sunshine, a land as yet still slumbereth in dreamtime and to which each year I joyfully return. Thou hast for many years served well thy country in this land, now thou must taketh up thy rightful titles and return to England for thy people hath great need of thy stewardship.

**KASSIM**

Miles shall go in my stead, he be mine heir. Let me travel with thee my love?

**MIRA**

My land is forbidden to thee but I leave thee not alone sweet Kassim. I have a gift for thee. Remembereth the first time thou did'st see Golden Dawn? Her face awakened some sleeping memory in thee. Think! Think on thy father's scribe, of his little daughter who ever attended thine. Think on Radiant Rainbow for whom thou hast such tender affection. Her history I told thee but not that her capturer was Baron Garrett, nor that her name be Lady Eloise my Lord Duke.

**KASSIM**

My child alive! Held prisoner for her patrimony by my cunning cousin! And Tilly? Oh! What joyful tidings thou giveth me, joy I will spend on my little Eloise.

**MIRA**

For the sake of Eloise thou must returneth but be not sad my lover, for I shall be ever with thee in thy dreams and when the northern winter declines, when thou most desireth me I shall return to join thee in England coming shining and radiant

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to joyfully fill thine hours with Rahad Lakoum.

**KASSIM**

Mira Ceti, my rose-red star, I can deny thee nothing.

**MIRA**

Then hand in hand let us join the festivities.

**ABDUL**

*On right*

My Lord Kassim, Princess, beauteous flowers, come hither and see the dexterity of Selim the juggler. Observe Mustapha subdue his poisonous snake. Hear Ali Akbar sing rhymes of love, or myself wilt read thy future in thy hand.

**MIRA**

What seeth thou in my hand O Abdul?

**ABDUL**

Princess, thy hand showeth...

**SWEET DREAMS**

Selim, please show me thine amazing dexterity. Thou art the prince of jugglers.

**RADIANT RAINBOW**

Thy promised rhyme Ali. Tell it me now.

**ALI AKBAR**

When all are safe thou shalt hear it but prithee, not now.

**SWEET DREAMS, RADIANT RAINBOW & GOLDEN DAWN**

Ooh! The snake stirreth, looketh!

**GOLDEN DAWN**

Make it writhe, make it dance Mustapha.

**MUSTAPHA**

It shall dance to the tune of thy choosing, Lady.

**SELIM**

Mustapha comes from Baghdad where he is famous for his piping. Tell them thy tale Mustapha.

*SONG: The Snake Charmer From Old Baghdad*

*Mustapha picks up snake basket, flute and exits*

**RADIANT RAINBOW**

As soon as the dancing is ended we depart as planned. Thou Tilly goeth with Mustapha, Christabel with Selim, I with Ali, and the Princess and Abdul will slip away when Salome danceth. May we meet this night in safety and happiness.

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**MIRA**

Come Ladies. Lord Kassim we dance for thee at thy command.

**KASSIM**

Let us have a joyous dance, the dance of Zubbediya my jewels.

*SONG: Zubbediya*

**ABDUL**

Make way! Make way! My Lord Kassim, for thine entertainment there is here tonight the most beautiful, most talented, most famous dancer of all time, the ravishing Salome!

*Dance: Salome*

**RADIANT RAINBOW**

We be'th not followed and see, the river sparkling in the moonlight. Once we are afloat we be safe. Ali, what becomes of thee when we reach Alexandria?

**ALI AKBAR**

Lady, I hath been well-trained in both the passage of arms and diplomacy so will seek service with a powerful House.

**RADIANT RAINBOW**

Then would'st take service with me? For surely no knight could have guarded a Lady more carefully nor with such courtesy as thou hast guarded me. Be thou my knight errant.

**ALI AKBAR**

(Knight errant! 'Tis what the Princess named me that May night in the forest). Wilt ask me again in Alexandria Lady for here be'th our vessel. Prithee step aboard.

**RADIANT RAINBOW**

This be luxurious indeed, here cometh our friends! Make haste!

*Enter left*

**ALI AKBAR**

Cast off! Hoist the sails! See how thy spread, oh happy wind, it bloweth hardily from astern and taketh us speedily toward our freedom.

**KASSIM**

I bid thee all welcome aboard my vessel.

**RADIANT RAINBOW**

Betrayed! We are betrayed!

**MIRA**

Nay! Not betrayed, but saved. Look thou, aft to the stern –

**ALI AKBAR**

The ensign depicts the Lions of England. What sorcery is this?

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**MIRA**

Now looketh up to the mast head. What seeth thou?

**ELOISE**

That flag bears the escutcheon of my House, the blazon of my Sire, The Duke. Who dares usurp the honour of my Sire?

**KASSIM**

I dare.

**ELOISE**

Then dare they life for I shalt kill thee for this insult. Have at thee!

**OMAR**

Thou needest a strong husband to curb thee little cousin else wilt thy Sire and I be ever carrying thy banner into battle!

**MIRA**

Put up thy weapon Sir Robin, thy Lady is in no danger here. Eloise! Hold still thy tongue and make obeisance to thy cousin, Lord Miles. And to Kassim, the Duke Edward, thy Sire. Yea! Verily it be'th thy cousin and sire who, these many years believing thee dead, have served as most secret Ambassadors in Egypt for thy King.

**ELOISE**

My Sire, be it indeed so? And Miles! Surely mine eyes have been star-dusted not to have recognised thee. Oh! Father what sweet joy to feel thine arms about me.

**DUKE EDWARD**

Thy thanks be to the Princess else had I not known thee my treasure. To thy friends and escort of gallant gentlemen I owe a debt of gratitude. Ask thee of me any boon thou desirest and if it be within my power it be granted.

**MIRA**

Me thinketh that I too shall be called upon to help in this respect so come, my three modest heroes – 'tis unmasking time. Look not askance ladies for thy heart saw further than thine eyes. These knaves, Selim, Mustapha and Ali are in truth thy Alan, Baldwin and Robin. Now ask thy reward.

**BALDWIN**

*Kneeling*

My Lord Duke, I be but an humble blacksmith yet do I ask of thee the hand of Golden Dawn, for so will my Tilly ever be to me, and if she wilt stoop to wed me I'll adventure no more.

**DUKE EDWARD**

What sayeth thou good and faithful Matilda? Thou hast my permission if thou desireth this match.

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**MATILDA**

My Lord, I be ever bound to the service of my Lady Eloise yet do I love this bawdy braggard and deem him as worthy as any noble knight and will wed him.

**ELOISE**

Dear Sire, I cannot lose Tilly to some distance place and I know of a goodly plot of land near a mighty chestnut tree in the forest near thy castle that if access be made, would be just the place for a dwelling and a smithy. This shall be Tilly's reward.

**MATILDA**

Oh! My Lady, oh Baldwin! I'm all of a tizz wazz. Kiss me my virile varlet.

**MIRA**

Alan, didn't not want service with a knight to seek thy fortune?

**MILES**

Serve me Alan for I hath need of a trusty squire to care for my properties and keep peace in my lands.

**ALAN**

Thou giveth me what I thought I most wanted but now...

**MILES**

We are both in the same state for as thou loveth Christabel so loveth I Deirdre but it seemeth that they are orphans and the Princess their guardian who will taketh them with her to this country of Cetus.

**MIRA**

Thine eyes speak what thy lips will not ask. Thinketh thou that I kneweth not of thy love for my ladies nor of their love for thee. Their line is noble, but all past memories are now lost to them. Christabel! Deirdre! Come hither.

**ALAN**

Oh! Sweet Princess, I think thee for truly as thou didn't tell me the reality is far rosier than my dreams. Christabel wilt wed me?

**CHRISTABEL**

'Tis as though I had suddenly awakened from a long sleep. Alan, thou knowest my heart was ever thine and in the circle of thine arms be all my world.

**MIRA**

Lifteth up thine head and blinketh away thy tears tender-hearted Deirdre for thy future is as the wife of Lord Miles. To thee and to Christabel will I give a worthy dowry which has long been in my keeping.

**DUKE EDWARD**

And thou Robin Troubadour, what boon wouldst that I give to thee?

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**ROBIN**

What I craveth with all mine heart be'th only partly in thy power to grant for I seek the hand of a noble Lady but only if it be in her heart to accept mine, for she be beautiful, brave and rich whilst I have little to offer her.

**ELOISE**

Who be'th this paragon of virtue that he prates of?

**DUKE EDWARD**

Look in thy mirror my little wasp.

**ELOISE**

Me! Oh! Speak Robin Troubadour, say the name of her to whose hand thou dost aspire.

**ROBIN**

Eloise!

**ELOISE**

Father! I knoweth that he be but a troubadour, yet his heart and gracious ways maketh him a King in my heart. I have riches enough for both of us and Robin be very skilled in all the knightly arts. Sire, I love him and thou didst promise to grant his boon.

**DUKE EDWARD**

Eloise, I gladly giveth thine hand to this true and worthy knight, Lord Robin of Earldom, no troubadour but the son and heir of my oldest friend who liketh well the news I have sent him of his son. Thou hast won thy Lady and thy spurs Robin.

**ROBIN**

My love, thy temper waxeth and waneth like the moon, yet was thine heart ever constant for me. Now thou art once more a prisoner of love but never again to be a-lone my Radiant Rainbow.

**ELOISE**

In all our joy I had not until this moment missed Abdul, we owe so much to him.

**ABDUL**

I rejoice with all of thee but my task concerning thine affairs is ended and I wait but to escort the Princess on her way to Cetus for I am ever at her command.

**ELOISE**

I cannot understandeth nor explaineth my thoughts that the Princess kneweth of these events 'ere they transpired. She is like, yet unlike us as a visitor from another planet. Will she return to us for me thinketh my Sire be much charmed by her?



**MIRA**

See! The port ahead where I must leave thee until our future trysting time but be assured that I shall travel back to dance at thy wedding when the Maytree blossometh once more.

**BALDWIN**

Tilly my love, thinkest thou that we get a flock of well-bred hens to mate with my old cock-bird? And the first fighting cock we hatch will be named Cock-Robin in honour of Robin Troubadour and our adventures in the Old Bazaar in Cairo.

*FINALE: The Old Bazaar In Cairo*