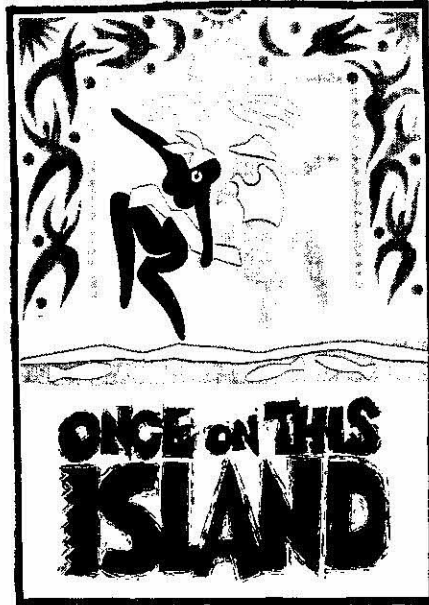


LIBRETTO

BOOK



Book and Lyrics by **Lynn Ahrens**  
Music by **Stephen Flaherty**

Based Upon the Novel  
*"My Love, My Love"*  
by Rosa Guy

Originally Directed and Choreographed on Broadway by Graciela Daniele  
Playwrights Horizons, Inc. Produced ONCE ON THIS ISLAND off-Broadway in 1990  
Originally Produced on Broadway by The Shubert Organization, Capital Cities/ABC, Inc.  
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## C H A R A C T E R S

*Little Girl/ Little Ti Moune*

### *STORYTELLERS:*

*Mama Euralie*

*Tonton Julian*

*Ti Moune/Peasant Girl*

*Daniel Beauxhomme/Beauxhomme/Daniel's Son*

*Armand/Gatekeeper/Daniel's Father*

*Andrea/Madame Armand*

*Papa Ge*

*Asaka*

*Agwe*

*Erzulie/Peasant Girl*

*The STORYTELLERS also play PEASANTS,*

*GOSSIPERS and GUESTS at the Ball..*

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Tonton	#2	One Small Girl .....	6
	#5	Pray .....	20
	#8	Ti Moune .....	35
	#14a	Ti Moune's Dance.....	56
	#17	A Part Of Us.....	61

## AUTHORS' NOTE

### RE: CASTING AMATEUR PRODUCTIONS

*Once On This Island* is based on the cultural, religious and racial divisions found in Haiti between the mulatto ruling class and the dark-skinned, rural peasants. Our original production in New York was strictly cast along these racial lines and the text makes reference in several places to skin color. However, since the story also transcends the issue of race (and there have been many wonderful multi-racial amateur productions) we've supplied several specific text alterations\* which, if need be, will allow a greater flexibility in making casting choices while still maintaining the core ideas of prejudice and the separation of people because of their differences.

Our best wishes for a successful, joyous production.

**Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty**



## #1 Prologue/We Dance

*(In darkness, we hear the sounds of a violent storm. THUNDER roars and LIGHTNING flashes to reveal a group of peasant STORYTELLERS huddled together in fright around a fire. A LITTLE GIRL cries out in terror and the adults begin to tell her a story in order to soothe her)*

**STORYTELLER (MAMA)**

There is an island where rivers run deep...

**STORYTELLER (TONTON)**

Where the sea sparkling in the sun earns it the name "Jewel of the Antilles".

**STORYTELLER (TI MOUNE)**

An island where the poorest of peasants labor —

**STORYTELLER (DANIEL)**

And the wealthiest of *grands hommes* play.

**STORYTELLER (ARMAND)**

Two different worlds on one island!

**STORYTELLER (ANDREA)**

The *grands hommes*, with their pale brown skins and their French ways, owners of the land and masters of their own fates.

**STORYTELLER (PAPA GE)**

And the peasants, black as night, eternally at the mercy of the wind and the sea, who pray constantly... to the gods.

*(One by one, the STORYTELLERS stand, and appeal to the GODS. The dance begins)*

**STORYTELLER (MAMA)**

ASAKA, GROW ME A GARDEN.

**STORYTELLER (TONTON)**

PLEASE AGWE, DON'T FLOOD MY GARDEN.

**STORYTELLERS (TI MOUNE, ANDREA)**

ERZULIE, WHO WILL MY LOVE BE?

**STORYTELLERS**

PAPA GE, DON'T COME AROUND ME.

**STORYTELLER (MAMA)**

Ah, such powerful, such temperamental gods rule our island:

*(Four STORYTELLERS step forward to play the parts of the GODS)*

ASAKA

Asaka, Mother of the Earth

AGWE

Agwe, God of Water

ERZULIE

Erzulie, Beautiful Goddess of Love

PAPA GE

And Papa Ge, sly Demon of Death.

WOMEN

ASAKA, GROW ME A GARDEN.

MEN

PLEASE AGWE, DON'T FLOOD MY GARDEN.

WOMEN

ERZULIE, WHO WILL MY LOVE BE?

STORYTELLERS

PAPA GE, DON'T COME AROUND ME.

PLEASE AGWE, DON'T FLOOD MY GARDEN.

ASAKA, GROW ME A GARDEN...

WOMEN

WE DANCE —

MEN

WE DANCE —

STORYTELLERS

TO THE MUSIC OF THE GODS,

THE MUSIC OF THE BREEZES

THROUGH THE GREEN PLANTAIN,

THE MURMUR OF THE RIVER

AND THE ROAR OF RAIN.

AND IF THE GODS DECIDE TO SEND A HURRICANE,

WOMEN

WE DANCE —

MEN

WE DANCE —

*(Two STORYTELLERS lift the LITTLE GIRL high, encouraging her to join the dance)*

**STORYTELLERS**

TO THEIR EVERCHANGING MOODS.

**STORYTELLER (ASAKA)**

WE KNOW THE GODS ARE HAPPY  
WHEN THE GREEN THINGS GROW.

**STORYTELLER (AGWE)**

THEY'RE ANGRY WHEN THE RIVER  
STARTS TO OVERFLOW.

**STORYTELLERS**

AND SINCE WE NEVER KNOW  
WHICH WAY THEIR WINDS WILL BLOW,  
WE DANCE TO THE EARTH,  
WE DANCE TO THE WATER.  
THE GODS AWAKE AND WE TAKE NO CHANCE.  
OUR HEARTS HEAR THE SONG,  
OUR FEET MOVE ALONG  
AND TO THE MUSIC OF THE GODS  
WE DANCE!

*(Two STORYTELLERS separate themselves from the group and assume the elegant postures of "grands hommes". THEY will play the parts of DANIEL BEAUXHOMME and ANDREA DEVEREAUX)*

**STORYTELLER (ANDREA)**

On the other side of this island, safe behind high walls and iron gates, the *grands hommes* dance to a different tune.

**STORYTELLERS EXCEPT ANDREA, DANIEL**

LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA!

**STORYTELLER (DANIEL)**

They drink champagne – entertain tourists at their fine hotels – and tell their servants, "Polish up the Mercedes!"

**STORYTELLERS EXCEPT ANDREA, DANIEL**

LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA!

**STORYTELLER (PAPA GE)**

*(Spoken)*

Two different worlds,  
Never meant to meet.

**STORYTELLER (ARMAND)**

*(Spoken)*

The peasants labor.

**STORYTELLER (ASAKA)**

*(Spoken)*

The *grands hommes* eat!

**ANDREA, DANIEL**

HOW FINE OUR CLOTHES ARE!

HOW FAST WE DRIVE!

WE DANCE AT PARTIES

**STORYTELLERS EXCEPT ANDREA, DANIEL**

WE DANCE —

WE DANCE —

**ALL EXCEPT ANDREA, DANIEL**

WHILE WE ARE DANCING JUST TO STAY ALIVE!

*(ANDREA and DANIEL rejoin the group, becoming peasant STORYTELLERS again)*

**WOMEN**

WE DANCE —

**MEN**

WE DANCE —

**STORYTELLERS**

WHAT ELSE IS THERE TO DO

**STORYTELLER (TONTON)**

BUT PLANT THE SEED

AND PULL THE WEED

AND CHOP THE CANE

**STORYTELLERS (ANDREA, ERZULIE)**

AND BEAR THE CHILD

AND BEAR THE LOAD

AND BEAR THE PAIN.

**STORYTELLERS**

AND AS THE RICH GO RACING

TO THEIR OWN REFRAIN,

WE DANCE TO THE EARTH,

WE DANCE TO THE WATER.

THE GODS AWAKE AND WE TAKE NO CHANCE.

OUR HEARTS HEAR THE SONG,



**STORYTELLERS (CONT'D)**

OUR FEET MOVE ALONG  
AND TO THE MUSIC OF THE GODS,  
WE DANCE TO THE EARTH,  
WE DANCE TO THE WATER.  
THE GODS AWAKE AND WE TAKE NO CHANCE...

*(The STORYTELLERS who will play DANIEL and TI MOUNE separate themselves from the group and begin to move slowly toward one another. The STORYTELLER who plays PAPA GE steps between them)*

**DANIEL**

**PAPA GE**

*(Spoken)*

Two different worlds —

**STORYTELLERS EXCEPT DANIEL, TI MOUNE**

*(Sung)*

OOH LA!

**PAPA GE**

*(Spoken)*

Never meant to meet.

**STORYTELLERS EXCEPT DANIEL, TI MOUNE**

*(Sung)*

OOH LA!

**PAPA GE**

*(Spoken)*

But if the gods move our feet...

*(TI MOUNE and DANIEL embrace)*

**STORYTELLERS EXCEPT DANIEL, TI MOUNE**

WE DANCE!

WE DANCE!

WE DANCE!

*(STORYTELLERS take their original positions around the fire as the LIGHTS dim and the storm rises again)*

**STORYTELLER (PAPA GE)**

Once on this island, the gods sent a storm even worse than this one.

**STORYTELLER (ANDREA)**

But out of that terrible storm, there came a story:

**STORYTELLER (MAMA)**

The tale of a peasant girl who fell in love with a young *grand homme*.

**STORYTELLER (ASAKA)**

A girl chosen by the gods for a magical fate.

**STORYTELLERS**

The Story of Ti Moune!

*(DANIEL EXITS and TI MOUNE follows him)*

**#2 One Small Girl**

**STORYTELLER (ARMAND)**

The story begins on the night of a flood!

*(The LITTLE GIRL is lifted up into a flood created by STORYTELLERS. Now playing the part of LITTLE TI MOUNE, SHE paddles for dear life)*

**STORYTELLER (ARMAND)**

Many huts washed away! Many peasants drowned by Agwe's angry waters!

**STORYTELLER (ANDREA)**

But one small girl caught his attention.

**LITTLE GIRL**

Mama!!!

**AGWE**

And she was spared. An orphan, plucked from the flood by Agwe...

*(Takes LITTLE TI MOUNE out of the arms of the flood)*

**ASAKA**

*(Spoken)*

SHELTERED IN A TREE BY ASAKA...

*(Takes LITTLE TI MOUNE from AGWE)*

**ERZULIE**

*(Spoken)*

AND SENT ON A JOURNEY BY THE GODS:

A JOURNEY THAT WOULD TEST THE STRENGTH OF LOVE

**PAPA GE***(Spoken)*

AGAINST THE POWER OF DEATH...

**PAPA GE, ERZULIE**

ON THIS ISLAND OF TWO DIFFERENT WORLDS!

*(The STORYTELLERS form a tree with their bodies, and LITTLE TI MOUNE climbs up into it. SHE sobs with terror)***STORYTELLERS***(Sung)*

ONE SMALL GIRL  
 IN A TREE,  
 TORN FROM HER MOTHER,  
 CRYING IN FRIGHT.  
 ONE SMALL GIRL,  
 TOSSED BY SEA  
 AND LEFT TO FACE  
 THE STORMY NIGHT.  
 ONE SMALL GIRL  
 HOLDING TIGHT.

*(The storm ceases and morning arrives. The STORYTELLERS who will play MAMA EURALIE and TONTON JULIAN come down the road. THEY are not yet in character.)***STORYTELLERS***(Spoken in rhythm)*

At last, the storm subsided  
 And the morning sun glowed,  
 And two old peasants...

*(Reminded by the other STORYTELLERS that they are now supposed to be playing older people, MAMA and TONTON assume more elderly postures)***STORYTELLERS**

Came cautiously down the road.

**TONTON***(To MAMA, spoken in rhythm)*

Mama Euralie.

MAMA

Tonton Julian

MAMA

Asaka is smiling again Julian

TONTON

This morning, she smiles. Last night she tried to blow our heads off.

MAMA

Ah, Julian, just listen to those birds.

*(MAMA and TONTON pass by the tree)*

STORYTELLERS (WOMEN)

*(As birds)*

COO COO COO COO

COO COO COO COO —

*(THEY stop as LITTLE TI MOUNE cries out)*

LITTLE TI MOUNE

Waah!

*(MAMA and TONTON stop and look around)*

TONTON

What kind of bird is that?

MAMA

Look! There!

ONE SMALL FACE,

TWO SMALL KNEES...

TONTON

WHY ARE YOU UP THERE?

MAMA

WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

*(A silence, in which LITTLE TI MOUNE doesn't respond)*

THE GIRL CAN'T SPEAK...

TONTON

*(Gestures upward toward the GODS)*

AND THEY'RE TO BLAME.

AGWE PROBABLY MEANT TO KILL HER!

MAMA

Then she'd be dead.

TONTON

IT'S POSSIBLE HE FORGOT.

MAMA

The gods don't forget.

TONTON

THEN THEY HAD SOME REASON TO SPARE HER LIFE.

MAMA, TONTON

IT'S BEST THAT WE DON'T KNOW WHAT.

ONE SMALL GIRL...

*(THEY are tempted for a second)*

BETTER NOT.

*(THEY begin to move away, but ERZULIE makes a gesture and THEY are drawn back)*

TONTON

But we're too old for children.

*(ERZULIE gestures again)*

MAMA

We have no room, and no food...

*(ERZULIE gestures again, and THEY turn back)*

ERZULIE

And not knowing quite why, they followed their hearts back to the tree, gently lifted the terrified child down...

*(LITTLE TI MOUNE screams very loudly)*

LITTLE TI MOUNE

No!

ERZULIE

And discovered she could speak after all.

*(LITTLE TI MOUNE begins to play)*

STORYTELLERS (MEN)

ONE SMALL GIRL

STORYTELLERS (WOMEN)

IN THE WAY,

MAMA

CONSTANTLY HUNGRY,

TONTON

LEARNING TOO QUICK!

STORYTELLERS

ONE SMALL GIRL

HARD AT PLAY...

TONTON

SHE MAKES ME SMILE.

MAMA

SHE SCARES ME SICK!

*(MAMA and TONTON begin to run after the mischievous LITTLE TI MOUNE)*

ERZULIE

AND THEY SCOLDED AND TEASED AND HELD HER

AND MENDED THE CLOTHES SHE TORE,

STORYTELLERS

AND THE HUT WAS CROWDED

AND FOOD WAS SCARCE

AND SOMEHOW, THEIR LIVES HELD MORE —

ONE SMALL GIRL

TO LIVE FOR.

ERZULIE

They named her “Desirée Dieu-Donné”, or “God-Given Desire”. But in their affection, they called her simply “Ti Moune”.

LITTLE TI MOUNE

What does “Ti Moune” mean, Mama?

MAMA

It means “little orphan”. You’re our sweet little orphan. We found you, and now your life is forever in our care.

LITTLE TI MOUNE

Why?

TONTON

Because the gods willed it.

LITTLE TI MOUNE

Why?

MAMA

Perhaps they saved you for something special.

LITTLE TI MOUNE

What is it?

MAMA

Ti Moune, if we knew why the gods did the things they do, we would be gods ourselves!

LITTLE TI MOUNE

Someday I'm going to ask them, Mama!

MAMA

Foolish girl! Run and hide!

*(ALL begin to play hide and seek with LITTLE TI MOUNE)*

STORYTELLERS

SWEET AS A EUCALYPTUS

AND TERRIBLE AS A TEMPEST

BANGING A DRUM

AND HUMMING A TUNE...

TI MOUNE

FALLING

AND RUNNING

AND CALLING

AND GROWING

AND GROWING

AND GROWING

AND GROWING... UP TOO SOON...

*(LITTLE TI MOUNE vanishes and in her place stands a beautiful, full-grown version  
- TI MOUNE as a young woman)*

TONTON

ONE SMALL GIRL -

MAMA

NOT SO SMALL.

TONTON

- LOST IN THOSE DAYDREAMS

MAMA

DAY AFTER DAY.

STORYTELLERS

OOH WAY OOH -

**TONTON**

CALL HER NAME.

**MAMA**

NO, DON'T CALL.

**STORYTELLERS**

OOH WAY OOH -

**MAMA, TONTON**

HER EARS DON'T HEAR.

SHE'S FAR AWAY.

**TONTON**

AND I KNOW THAT SHE'S GETTING OLDER...

**MAMA**

I KNOW WHAT IT'S MEANT TO BE,

**MAMA, TONTON**

**STORYTELLERS**

AND MY ARMS CAN'T HOLD HER

AND KEEP HER SMALL

BUT ALL THAT MY HEART CAN SEE

AAAHH...

IS...

**MAMA, TONTON**

**MEN**

**WOMEN**

ONE SMALL GIRL

ONE SMALL GIRL

ONE SMALL GIRL

ONE SMALL GIRL

ONE SMALL GIRL

ONE SMALL GIRL

ONE SMALL GIRL

ONE SMALL GIRL

**MAMA, TONTON**

IN A TREE.

*(Behind TI MOUNE, for just a moment, we see an image of ASAKA, holding LITTLE TI MOUNE in her arms. MAMA, TONTON, TI MOUNE and the STORYTELLERS now begin to work in the field)*

**MAMA, TONTON, TI MOUNE, STORYTELLERS**

OOH, OOH WAY OOH

OOH, OOH WAY OOH...

*(Suddenly, DANIEL BEAUXHOMME drives by and TI MOUNE stops to stare)*



## TI MOUNE

A STRANGER IN WHITE  
IN A CAR,  
GOING SOMEWHERE,  
GOING FAR...

HOW IT MUST FEEL  
TO GO RACING WHEREVER YOU PLEASE,  
FLYING AS FREE AS A BIRD  
WITH HIS TAIL IN THE BREEZE.  
EVEN THE FISH IN THE SEA  
MUST BE LONGING TO FLY,  
CATCHING A GLIMPSE  
OF A STRANGER IN WHITE RACING BY...

OH, GODS,  
OH, GODS,  
ARE YOU THERE?  
WHAT CAN I DO  
TO GET YOU TO LOOK DOWN AND GIVE IN?  
OH, GODS,  
OH, GODS,  
HEAR MY PRAYER.  
I'M HERE IN THE FIELD  
WITH MY FEET ON THE GROUND  
AND MY FATE IN THE AIR,

## TI MOUNE

WAITING FOR LIFE TO BEGIN!

MAMA'S CONTENTED  
AND TONTON ACCEPTS WHAT HE GETS,

HAPPY FOR TEA IN THEIR CUPS  
AND NO HOLES IN THEIR NETS,

HAPPY TO HAVE WHAT THEY HAVE

## STORYTELLERS

OO LA, OO LA  
OO LA, OO LA  
OO LA, OO LA  
OO LA, OO LA

OO LA, OO LA  
OO LA, OO LA

OO LA, OO LA  
OO LA, OOO -

**TI MOUNE (CONT'D)**

AND TO STAY WHERE THEY ARE.

THEY NEVER EVEN LOOK UP

AT THE SOUND OF A CAR!

**STORYTELLERS (CONT'D)**

OO LA, OO LA

OO LA, OO LA

OO LA, OO LA,

OHH LAAAA...

*(DANIEL ENTERS, "driving", and TI MOUNE sees him)*

**TI MOUNE**

A STRANGER,

RACING DOWN THE BEACH,

RACING TO PLACES

I WAS MEANT TO REACH!

MY STRANGER!

ONE DAY YOU'LL ARRIVE...

YOUR CAR WILL STOP

AND IN I'LL HOP

AND OFF WE'LL DRIVE...

WE'LL DRIVE!

OH, GODS,

OH, GODS,

PLEASE, BE THERE.

DON'T YOU REMEMBER

YOUR LITTLE TI MOUNE FROM THE TREE?

WAKE UP!

LOOK DOWN!

HEAR MY PRAYER!

DON'T SINGLE ME OUT

AND THEN FORGET ME!

**TI MOUNE**

OH, GODS,

OH, GODS,

LET ME FLY!

SEND ME TO PLACES

WHERE NO ONE BEFORE ME HAS BEEN.

**STORYTELLERS**

OH OH OH —

OO LA, OO LA,

OO LA!

**TI MOUNE (CONT'D)**

YOU SPARED MY LIFE –  
SHOW ME WHY

YOU GET ME TO RISE  
LIKE A FISH TO THE BAIT,  
THEN TELL ME TO WAIT.  
WELL, I'M WAITING...

**STORYTELLERS (CONT'D)**

OH OH OH –

WAITING...

**TI MOUNE**

WAITING FOR LIFE TO BEGIN!

WAITING FOR LIFE TO BEGIN!

**WOMEN**

ONE SMALL GIRL...

ONE SMALL GIRL...

**MEN**

ONE SMALL GIRL...

ONE SMALL GIRL...

**#4 And The Gods Heard Her Prayer**

*(TI MOUNE lies down to rest. Four of the STORYTELLERS transform themselves into GODS. The other STORYTELLERS begin to EXIT)*

**STORYTELLERS**

*(As they EXIT)*

OO LA, OO LA, OO LA, OO LA  
OO LA, OO LA, OO LA, OO LA –

**STORYTELLER (ANDREA)**

And the gods heard her prayer.

*(The GODS burst into raucous laughter, looking down at the sleeping TI MOUNE)*

**ASAKA**

The peasant girl wants a *grand homme* to carry her away!

*(GODS laugh again)*

I SHOULD...  
FIND A TREE ALL COVERED WITH MANGOS,  
JUICY MANGOS, FAT AND WELL-FED –  
PICK A MANGO –

**AGWE**

A JUICY MANGO,

ERZULIE

A LOVELY MANGO,

PAPA GE

A POISON MANGO —

ASAKA

DROP THE MANGO...

*(GODS all whistle, as the imagined mango "falls", striking TI MOUNE, who stirs in her sleep)*

ASAKA, AGWE, ERZULIE, PAPA GE

BOOM!

ASAKA

AND KNOCK SOME SENSE IN HER HEAD!

ASAKA, AGWE, ERZULIE, PAPA GE

KNOCK SOME SENSE IN HER HEAD!

AGWE

SPLASH HER WITH A WAVE!

PAPA GE

SCARE HER HALF TO DEATH!

ERZULIE

GIVE HER WHAT SHE WANTS!

ASAKA, AGWE, PAPA GE

GIVE HER WHAT SHE...?

ERZULIE

GIVE HER WHAT SHE WANTS.

LOVE HAS MANY POW'RS.

IF THE LOVE IS TRUE,

*(ERZULIE turns to ASAKA)*

IT CAN CROSS THE EARTH

*(To AGWE)*

AND WITHSTAND THE STORM.

*(To PAPA GE)*

IT CAN CONQUER EVEN YOU!

## PAPA GE

Love conquer death? Why, I could stop her heart like that!

*(Snaps his fingers scornfully)*

## ERZULIE

Stop her heart from beating, yes. But not from loving. Not if love is what she chooses.

## PAPA GE

*(Spoken in rhythm)*

Ridiculous!

## AGWE

*(Spoken in rhythm)*

Interesting!

## ASAKA

*(Spoken in rhythm)*

More amusing than mangos!

*(The GODS begin to circle, deep in collective thought.)*

## AGWE, ASAKA, ERZULIE, PAPA GE

Hmm...

*(THEY reject this idea)*

No.

*(A funny idea now strikes them)*

Hmm!

*(And then, THEY all come up with an idea at the same time – the best thought of all)*

A journey!

## ERZULIE

*(Sung)*

I WILL GIVE HER STRENGTH,  
WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT.

## ASAKA

I WILL GUIDE HER WAY.

## PAPA GE

I WILL MAKE HER CHOOSE!

## AGWE

AND I'LL PROVIDE THE PLACE

## AGWE (CONT'D)

WHERE TWO DIFFERENT WORLDS WILL MEET  
TONIGHT!

### #4a Rain

## AGWE, ASAKA, ERZULIE, PAPA GE

*(A pact; spoken)*

Tonight!

*(ERZULIE, PAPA GE and ASAKA EXIT, as AGWE creates a mysterious night of rain)*

## AGWE

*(Sung)*

LET THERE BE NO MOON.  
LET THE CLOUDS RACE BY.  
WHERE THE ROAD MEETS THE SEA,  
LET THE TIDE BE HIGH.

*(TI MOUNE begins to wake up)*

LET THERE BE A GIRL  
WALKING BY THE SEA  
AND LET THERE BE...  
RAIN!

*(STORYTELLERS ENTER and create rain; TI MOUNE dances with them)*

## AGWE, STORYTELLERS

RAIN!

## AGWE

LISTEN TO HER PRAYERS,  
FULL OF HOPE AND PAIN,  
AS SHE STARES DOWN THE ROAD  
IN THE POURING RAIN.

RAIN ON THE ROAD,  
RAIN ON HER FACE —  
RAIN MAKES A ROAD  
SUCH A DANGEROUS PLACE...

## STORYTELLERS

AAAH...

*(DANIEL ENTERS, driving through the dark, rainy night)*

**AGWE**

LET THERE BE A CAR,  
RACING THROUGH THE NIGHT.  
WHERE THE ROAD MEETS THE SEA,  
LET HER WAIT!  
WHERE THE ROAD MEETS THE SEA,  
LET HIM SPIN!  
WHERE THE ROAD MEETS THE SEA,  
LET THEIR FATE BEGIN  
IN  
THE RAIN

**STORYTELLERS**

LET THERE BE A CAR,  
RACING THROUGH THE NIGHT.  
WHERE THE ROAD MEETS THE SEA...  
  
WHERE THE ROAD MEETS THE SEA...  
  
WHERE THE ROAD MEETS THE SEA...

**STORYTELLERS**

RAIN!

**AGWE, STORYTELLERS**

RAIN!

*(DANIEL crashes, and lies unconscious. AGWE EXITS. The STORYTELLERS remain ONSTAGE, frozen. TI MOUNE sees DANIEL)*

**#4b Discovering Daniel**

**TI MOUNE**

Help! Someone! Come quickly! A car has crashed! A boy is hurt! Help me, someone!  
... Where is everyone?!

*(A silence. SHE realizes no one is coming. She approaches DANIEL tentatively)*

Hello? Can you hear me?

**STORYTELLER (ASAKA)**

"HIS SKIN IS SO PALE," SHE THINKS.

**TI MOUNE**

Can you see me?

**STORYTELLER (ARMAND)**

HIS EYES OPEN FOR A MOMENT,

**WOMEN**

EYES FROM ANOTHER WORLD,

**STORYTELLERS**

GRAY AS THE SKY.

## TI MOUNE

OH, GODS,  
OH, GODS,  
YOU SAVED MY LIFE FOR A REASON —  
AND NOW, I THINK I KNOW WHY!

### #5 Pray

*(STORYTELLERS EXIT. All at once, a PEASANT [AGWE] ENTERS, carrying a lantern. HE is immediately followed by others)*

#### PEASANT (AGWE)

HE ROARED DOWN THE ROAD LIKE THE DEVIL HIMSELF...

#### PEASANT (ASAKA)

GOING TOO FAST AROUND THE CURVES...

#### PEASANT (PAPA GE)

SENT US SCRAMBLING OFF THE ROAD LIKE CHICKENS...

#### PEASANTS

HE HAS WHAT HE DESERVES!

#### PEASANT (ANDREA)

PAPA GE WANTS HIM...

#### PEASANT (ARMAND)

AND PAPA GE WILL HAVE HIM!

#### PEASANT (PAPA GE)

THE BOY IS DYING BEFORE OUR EYES!

#### PEASANT (ERZULIE)

HELP HIM!

#### PEASANT (ASAKA)

HIDE HIM!

*(TONTON JULIAN Enters)*

#### TONTON

NO, DON'T TOUCH HIM!  
BETTER LEAVE HIM WHERE HE LIES.  
EVEN A WEALTHY MAN  
SOMETIMES DIES.

*(PEASANTS turn to leave)*



**TI MOUNE**

*(Spoken)*

PLEASE!

*(Sung)*

HE NEEDS HELP!

**TONTON**

*(Spoken)*

IF THIS BOY DIES IN OUR HANDS,  
THE RICH WILL SEND POLICE.

**TI MOUNE**

*(Sung)*

HE NEEDS CARE!

**MAMA**

*(Spoken)*

AND IF HE LIVES,  
OH, HOW ANGRY THE GODS WILL BE!

**PEASANTS (AGWE, PAPA GE)**

*(Sung)*

THE ONLY THING THAT WILL SAVE THE BOY'S LIFE  
IS TO SEND HIM BACK TO HIS WORLD!

**TI MOUNE**

*(Spoken)*

THE ONLY THING THAT WILL SAVE THE BOY'S LIFE  
IS ME!

I have prayed to the gods and at last they've answered.  
They saved my life so that I could save his.  
My heart knows this. Please, Tonton.

**TONTON**

I WILL FIND WHERE HE COMES FROM.

**MAMA**

Julian! No!

**TONTON**

I WILL FIND WHO HE IS, AND SOON!  
BUT 'TIL I RETURN,

**TONTON (CONT'D)**

YOU CARE FOR HIM, TI MOUNE.

*(TONTON turns to leave. MAMA clings to him and cries)*

**STORYTELLER (ANDREA)**

And, bidding his wife and daughter goodbye, Monsieur Julian set off down the road, toward the Black Mountains. Off to a world he knew nothing of — the world of the *grands hommes*.

**STORYTELLER (ARMAND)**

And the peasants carried the boy to the village, and laid him on Ti Moune's mat. And her long vigil began.

*(PEASANTS lay DANIEL on a mat. TI MOUNE begins to tend his wounds)*

**PEASANTS**

*(Spoken)*

ONE DAY GONE BY.

AND TWO DAYS GONE BY.

**PEASANT (AGWE)**

*(Sung)*

THE BOY HAS THE WILL OF THE DEVIL HIMSELF,

**PEASANT (ASAKA)**

CLINGING TO LIFE BY ONE SMALL THREAD.

**PEASANT (PAPA GE)**

IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR JULIAN'S DAUGHTER,

**PEASANTS**

HE'D CERTAINLY BE DEAD!

**PEASANT (ANDREA)**

LOOK HOW SHE BATHES HIM

**PEASANT (ERZULIE)**

AND TOUCHES AND PROTECTS HIM.

**PEASANTS (PAPA GE, ARMAND)**

SHE BINDS HIS WOUNDS

AND SHE RUBS HIS CHEST —

**PEASANTS**

IT'S AS IF THE GIRL'S POSSESSED!

**MAMA**

YOU NEED FOOD,  
YOU NEED SLEEP.  
YOU JUST CAN'T GO ON  
WITHOUT ANY SLEEP.

HAVE SOME TEA,

HAVE A REST.

**TI MOUNE**

*(Spoken)*

MAMA, SSSHH.

*(Sung)*

HIS SKIN IS HOT.

HE NEEDS ME HERE!

**MAMA, TI MOUNE**

CAN'T YOU SEE  
HOW MUCH THIS MATTERS TO ME?  
I KNOW WHAT'S BEST!

**MAMA, PEASANTS**

NOW THE SKY IS GROWING DIM  
AND THE CLOUDS ARE RACING BY  
AND THE GODS ARE LOOKING DOWN  
AT A BOY THEY MEANT TO DIE  
AND A GIRL WHO PLACED HERSELF IN THEIR WAY...  
PRAY!  
PRAY!

**PEASANTS**

*(Spoken)*

THREE DAYS GONE BY.  
AND FOUR DAYS GONE BY.

**PEASANT (AGWE)**

*(Sung)*

I FEAR FOR THE GIRL AND HER MOTHER, AS WELL.

**PEASANT (ASAKA)**

NOTHING BUT TROUBLE LOOMS AHEAD.

**PEASANT (PAPA GE)**

MONSIEUR JULIAN COULD BE DEEP IN DANGER,

**PEASANTS**

ARRESTED, LOST OR DEAD!

*(TONTON, travelling down a dark road, stops to pray)*

**TONTON**

OH, ASAKA, MOTHER OF THE EARTH,  
GUIDE THE FEET OF THIS POOR PEASANT MAN.  
HEAR MY PRAYER.  
WHICH WAY THERE  
AND WHICH WAY HOME?

**TI MOUNE**

I NEED HERBS,

MAMA, HERBS.

*(Spoken)*

MAMA, SSSH!

*(Sung)*

HE NEEDS REST,

HE NEEDS CARE~

**MAMA**

YOUR FATHER GONE

AND YOU DON'T CARE.  
OH, MY GOD,  
WHAT HAS THIS BOY DONE TO YOU?

YOUR TONTON LOST

BECAUSE OF YOU

**MAMA, TI MOUNE**

CAN'T YOU SEE  
THAT HE'S IN TERRIBLE DANGER?  
WHAT MUST I DO?

**MAMA, PEASANTS**

NOW THE SKY IS TURNING DARK  
AND THE WIND IS TURNING CHILL  
AND THE GODS ARE OUT FOR BLOOD  
THEY'VE BEEN CHEATED OF THEIR KILL  
BY A GIRL WITHOUT THE SENSE TO OBEY...  
PRAY!  
PRAY!

*(The PEASANTS dance a ritual dance, trying to ward off the evil they're sure is coming. The sky darkens as the storm approaches)*

**MAMA**

*(Spoken)*

JULIAN! WHERE IS MY JULIAN!

*(Sung)*

BRING MY JULIAN HOME!

*(We see TONTON talking to a stern GATEKEEPER [ARMAND]. The GATEKEEPER tries to push by, but TONTON blocks his way)*

**GATEKEEPER (ARMAND)**

YOU WANT WHAT?

**TONTON**

I'VE COME SO FAR AND I NEED...

**GATEKEEPER (ARMAND)**

*(Shoving TONTON)*

GET BACK!

**TONTON**

I HAVE SOME NEWS FOR MONSIEUR...

**GATEKEEPER (ARMAND)**

GET BACK!

**TONTON**

MONSIEUR BEAUXHOMME HAS A...

**GATEKEEPER (ARMAND)**

PEASANT PIG!

*(GATEKEEPER strikes TONTON, who reels backward)*

**TONTON**

PLEASE, I BEG...

**GATEKEEPER (ARMAND)**

YOU MUST BE MAD!

**TONTON**

I MUST SEE MONSIEUR...

**GATEKEEPER (ARMAND)**

MONSIEUR BEAUXHOMME?!

**TONTON**

I HAVE COME SO FAR.

**GATEKEEPER (ARMAND)**

SO FAR TO DIE!

**TONTON**

*(Spoken)*

I HAVE FOUND HIS SON!

*(GATEKEEPER drags TONTON off)*

**MAMA, PEASANTS**

NOW THE SKY HAS TURNED TO BLACK

AND THE WIND IS LIKE A KNIFE.

PAPA GE IS COMING BACK

FOR THE BOY WHO CLINGS TO LIFE,

AND THE GIRL WILL HAVE THE GODS TO REPAY...

**GROUP 1**

PRAY!

PRAY!

PRAY!

PRAY!

PRAY!

**GROUP 2**

PAPA GE, DON'T

COME AROUND

ME!

PAPA GE, DON'T

COME AROUND

ME!

PAPA GE, DON'T

COME AROUND

ME!

PAPA GE, DON'T

COME AROUND

ME!

PAPA GE, DON'T

COME AROUND

ME,

DON'T COME

AROUND ME,

DON'T COME

AROUND ME!

**MAMA**

PRAY!

PRAY!

PRAY!

PRAY!

PRAY!

**ALL EXCEPT TI MOUNE**

PRAY!

*(PEASANTS EXIT, fighting against the high winds, as a STORYTELLER continues the story for the LITTLE GIRL)*

**STORYTELLER (ANDREA)**

Some say it was the worst storm the gods had ever sent. The peasants prayed that they would live to see the morning. But what of Ti Moune? Some say she had gone without sleep so long, her mind wandered further into her dreams. That she heard no wind. No rain. Only the beating of her heart for this pale, dying boy.

**#6 Forever Yours**

*(STORYTELLER and LITTLE GIRL EXIT. TI MOUNE cradles DANIEL in her arms)*

**TI MOUNE**

SURE AS A WAVE  
NEEDS TO BE NEAR THE SHORE,  
YOU ARE THE ONE  
I WAS INTENDED FOR.  
DEEP IN YOUR EYES  
I SAW THE GODS' DESIGN.  
NOW MY LIFE IS FOREVER YOURS,  
AND YOU ARE MINE.

I AM A TREE  
HOLDING AWAY THE STORM.  
HERE IN MY ARMS  
I'LL KEEP YOU SAFE AND WARM  
EVEN THE GODS  
WON'T DARE TO CROSS THIS LINE,  
WHERE MY LIFE IS FOREVER YOURS,

**TI MOUNE**

AND YOU ARE MINE

**DANIEL**

AND YOU ARE MINE

*(Behind a scrim, a healthy DANIEL appears, as if in TI MOUNE'S mind)*

**TI MOUNE, DANIEL**

MINE...  
WE'LL RACE AWAY IN A CAR  
AS SILVER AS THE MOON  
AND THE STORM WILL TURN TO SUN  
ON AN ISLAND WHERE THE EARTH AND SEA  
ARE ONE...

**TI MOUNE, DANIEL (CONT'D)**

SURE AS THIS NIGHT  
LEADS TO A SKY OF BLUE,  
SURE AS MY HEART  
LED ME TO BE WITH YOU,  
SURELY THE GODS  
MEANT THIS TO BE A SIGN  
THAT MY LIFE IS FOREVER YOURS,  
AND YOU ARE MINE...

**PAPA GE**

*(Overlapping, OFFSTAGE)*

MINE...

*(Suddenly, in place of the imaginary DANIEL, PAPA GE appears)*

MINE!  
ARROGANT FOOL,  
THINK YOU CAN HOLD BACK DEATH?

**TI MOUNE**

Stay away!

**PAPA GE**

THIS BOY IS MINE.  
I AM HIS DYING BREATH!

**TI MOUNE**

I won't let you have him!

**PAPA GE**

SURE AS THE GRAVE,  
YOU MUST ACCEPT WHAT IS.  
NOW HIS LIFE IS FOREVER MINE...

**TI MOUNE**

*(Spoken in rhythm)*

Take mine for his!

**PAPA GE**

*(Spoken)*

What?



**TI MOUNE**

*(Spoken)*

Take my life...

**TI MOUNE**

*(Sung)*

MY SOUL... FOR HIS.

**PAPA GE**

I AM THE ROAD

LEADING TO NO RETURN.

**STORYTELLERS**

*(Offstage)*

OOOH -

**TI MOUNE**

I would die for him!

**PAPA GE**

SECRET OF LIFE

NOBODY WANTS TO LEARN -

I AM THE CAR

RACING TOWARD DISTANT SHORES.

**TI MOUNE**

NOW HIS LIFE IS FOREVER MINE...

**PAPA GE**

YOUR LIFE IS FOREVER MINE...

**STORYTELLERS**

OOOH -

AAAH -

AAAH -

OOOH -

OOOH ~

OOOH -

*(TI MOUNE'S focus returns to the prone boy in her arms)*

**TI MOUNE**

AND I AM YOURS.

**STORYTELLERS**

HMM HMM HMM HMM - !

*(PAPA GE Exits.)*

BLACKOUT.

*(TI MOUNE Exits.)*

*(LIGHTS come up on a STORYTELLER, holding the frightened LITTLE GIRL)*

**STORYTELLER (MAMA)**

Ti Moune had promised her soul, pledged her life for this pale mulatto boy named Daniel. Daniel Beauxhomme... a boy from another world - another people - a people descended from the French!

## #7 The Sad Tale of The Beauxhommes

(A STORYTELLER [ARMAND] ENTERS to a DRUMROLL)

### STORYTELLER (ARMAND)

The Sad Tale of the Beauxhommes. A history lesson!

*(Other STORYTELLERS ENTER. This number becomes a stylized pantomime, as the STORYTELLERS mock elegant French manners and act out the history of their island)*

### MEN

SOME SAY... SOME SAY...

### MEN

SOME

SAY...

SOME

SAY...

### WOMEN

SOME SAY...

SOME SAY...

SOME SAY...

SOME SAY...

### STORYTELLER (PAPA GE)

*(Spoken)*

FOUR GENERATIONS PAST,  
IN THE TIME OF NAPOLEON,  
THERE CAME TO THIS ISLAND  
A FRENCHMAN, ARMAND.

### STORYTELLERS

*(Sung)*

ARMAND!

### ARMAND

*(Emerging in mask)*

ARMAND!

### STORYTELLER (TONTON)

*(Spoken)*

AND HE BUILT A GREAT FORTUNE  
AND HE BUILT A GRAND MANSION  
AND HE WED A FINE LADY  
SO PALE AND SO BLONDE.

*(MADAME ARMAND, played by ANDREA, appears in a mask)*

**MADAME ARMAND (ANDREA)**

ARMAND!

*(Spoken)*

BUT ARMAND TOOK HIS PLEASURE  
WITH THE WOMEN WHO SERVED HIM:  
BLACK PEASANT GIRLS FROM  
THE VILLAGE BEYOND

**PEASANT GIRLS (ERZULIE, ASAKA)**

*(Sung)*

ARMAND!

**STORYTELLER (MAMA)**

*(Spoken)*

AND THE LOVELIEST ONE  
BORE THE FRENCHMAN A SON,  
SUCH A FINE PEASANT SON —

**ARMAND**

*(Sung)*

FOR ARMAND!

**PEASANT GIRL (ERZULIE)**

*(Playing BEAUXHOMME'S mother; spoken)*

A beautiful child,  
the pale color  
of coffee mixed with cream.

*(BEAUXHOMME, played by DANIEL, toddles out on his knees. HE wears a mask.  
ARMAND gives the PEASANT GIRL a coin)*

**STORYTELLERS**

*(Sung)*

THE BEAUTIFUL ONE,  
THE BEAUTIFUL SON,  
BEAUXHOMME.

**PEASANT GIRL (ERZULIE)**

*(Spoken)*

THEY NAMED HIM:

## STORYTELLERS

*(Sung)*

BEAUXHOMME.

### PEASANT GIRL (ERZULIE)

*(Spoken)*

BEAUXHOMME!

## STORYTELLERS

*(Sung)*

THE BEAUTIFUL ONE,  
THE BEAUTIFUL SON,  
BEAUXHOMME.

*(BEAUXHOMME pantomimes growing up)*

### STORYTELLER (PAPA GE)

*(Spoken)*

AND THE BOY GREW TO BE A MAN.  
AND THE GREAT WAR BEGAN.

*(The STORYTELLERS wage a mock battle)*

## STORYTELLERS

*(Spoken)*

BLACKS FOUGHT AGAINST FRENCH  
AND THE HATED NAPOLEON  
THEY FOUGHT FOR THEIR ISLAND  
AND FINALLY WON

## MEN

*(Sung)*

WE WON!

### BEAUXHOMME (DANIEL)

*(Overlapping with above; spoken)*

WE WON!  
AND ARMAND SAILED FOR FRANCE  
BY THE SEAT OF HIS PANTS,  
DRIVEN OUT

*(Sung)*

BY HIS BEAUTIFUL SON!

(ARMAND Exits)

**STORYTELLERS**

THE BEAUTIFUL ONE!

THE BEAUTIFUL SON!

BEAUXHOMME.

BEAUXHOMME.

**BEAUXHOMME (DANIEL)**

(Spoken)

What was his is now mine!

THE BEAUTIFUL ONE!

THE BEAUTIFUL SON!

BEAUXHOMME

(Shouted)

BEAUXHOMME!

**STORYTELLER (PAPA GE)**

(Spoken)

But Armand left behind a terrible,  
terrible curse.

(ARMAND RE-ENTERS and speaks directly to BEAUXHOMME. The comic mood of  
the pantomime ends and the story turns serious)

**ALL EXCEPT ARMAND, BEAUXHOMME**

(Sung)

I CURSE MY SON.

**ARMAND**

(Spoken)

I curse my only son!

**STORYTELLERS**

(Sung)

I CURSE HIS SONS.

**ARMAND**

(Spoken)

All of his sons!

**STORYTELLERS**

(Sung)

GENERATIONS —

**ARMAND**

(Spoken)

All Beauxhommes yet unborn!

## STORYTELLERS

*(Sung)*

— IN ADVANCE.

### ARMAND

*(Spoken)*

Your black blood will keep you  
Forever on this island...

While your hearts yearn forever for France!

*(As ARMAND EXITS, DANIEL removes the BEAUXHOMME mask and hurls it  
after ARMAND)*

## STORYTELLERS

*(Looking at DANIEL)*

THE UNLUCKY ONE.

THE UNLUCKY SON.

BEAUXHOMME.

BEAUXHOMME.

FROM BAD BLOOD TO WORSE,

THE NAME OF THE CURSE:

BEAUXHOMME.

THEY DESPISE US FOR OUR BLACKNESS

IT REMINDS THEM WHERE THEY'RE FROM

THE SAD, SAD TALE

OF THE BEAUXHOMME!

*(Shouted)*

BEAUXHOMME!

*(STORYTELLERS spit at BEAUXHOMME angrily. THEY begin their EXIT on the  
following lines)*

### STORYTELLER (ERZULIE)

This was the story Monsieur Julian brought with him, when he returned to his  
village, ragged, exhausted, storm-tossed and covered with mud. —

### MAMA

Julian! Thank god!

### STORYTELLER (ASAKA)

— leading the way for Daniel's people, the Beauxhommes, who reclaimed their  
injured son, and took him back to their fine hotel, with its high iron gates, on the  
other side of the island.

(Two people carry DANIEL OFFSTAGE. STORYTELLERS EXIT after them. TI MOUNE ENTERS, and sees DANIEL being carried away. SHE runs after him, screaming. TONTON catches and restrains her)

**TI MOUNE**

No! Let him go! You can't take him! Come back! (etc.)

**TONTON**

Now the gods are happy. He is in his world. And you are here, in ours. Everything is as it should be, Ti Moune. There can never be anything between a peasant and a *grand homme*.

**TI MOUNE**

Tonton, he needs me! Without me, he'll die!

**MAMA**

Let the gods decide his fate. What can a peasant do for a *grand homme* but shine his shoes?

**TL MOUNE**

Mama, his ancestor once loved a peasant girl. This time, a *grand homme* will marry one! I know it! I am in his blood, and he is in mine!

**MAMA**

Marry you! You are mad! He will not marry you, Ti Mounel!

**TI MOUNE**

I must go to him! His heart beats for me like a drum. The gods are dancing for me, Mama! Please, Mama. Please, Tonton. Give me your blessing and let me go. I will go!

**#8 Ti Moune**

**MAMA**

WHAT CAN I SAY TO STOP YOU NOW,  
NOW THAT YOU'VE HEARD YOUR DRUMS  
AND SEEN YOUR DANCERS,  
NOW THAT YOU THINK YOUR HEART HAS ALL THE ANSWERS...?

WHO KNOWS HOW HIGH THOSE MOUNTAINS CLIMB?  
WHO KNOWS HOW DEEP THOSE RIVERS FLOW?  
WHO KNOWS HOW WRONG A DREAM CAN GO,  
TI MOUNE?

**TONTON**

I WON'T BE THERE TO GUIDE YOUR WAY —

**MAMA**

TO BRAID YOUR HAIR OR DRY YOUR TEARS —

**TONTON, MAMA**

— AS WE HAVE DONE THESE MANY YEARS,

TI MOUNE.

TI MOUNE...

**TONTON**

WHAT YOU ARE, WE MADE YOU.

WHAT WE GAVE, YOU TOOK.

NOW YOU RUN WITHOUT ONE BACKWARD LOOK.

**MAMA**

YOU'LL FIND SOME OTHER BOY TO SAVE,

SOME OTHER LIFE THAT YOU CAN SHARE.

YOUR HEART IS YOUNG.

NEW DREAMS ARE EVERYWHERE.

CHOOSE YOUR DREAMS WITH CARE,

TI MOUNE.

*(All three embrace. But then, TI MOUNE pulls away)*

**TI MOUNE**

But I have chosen. And my dreams are there.

Down that road.

**TONTON**

You're a child, Ti Moune! The road is hard and dangerous. The city is miles away.

And even if you get there, even if you get to the Hotel Beauxhomme, you will never get through the gate!

**TI MOUNE**

I will get there, Tonton. I will get through the gate. I'm not a child any longer.

WHAT I AM, YOU MADE ME.

WHAT YOU GAVE, I OWE.

BUT IF I LOOK BACK, I'LL NEVER GO.

WHO KNOWS HOW HIGH THOSE MOUNTAINS CLIMB?

**MAMA, TONTON**

WHO KNOWS HOW HIGH THOSE MOUNTAINS CLIMB?

**TI MOUNE**

WHO KNOWS HOW DEEP THOSE RIVERS FLOW?



**MAMA, TONTON**

WHO KNOWS HOW DEEP THOSE RIVERS FLOW?

**TI MOUNE**

I KNOW HE'S THERE.

THAT'S ALL I NEED TO KNOW...

*(MAMA and TONTON hesitate, and then make their decision)*

**TONTON**

GO AND FIND YOUR LOVE.

**MAMA**

GO AND SWIM THE SEA.

**TONTON, MAMA**

YOU KNOW WHERE WE'LL BE...

**TI MOUNE**

ALWAYS THERE WITH ME...

**TI MOUNE, TONTON, MAMA**

TI MOUNE.

*(TI MOUNE can't bring herself to kiss them goodbye, knowing it will be too hard. SHE runs off. TONTON and MAMA hold one another and EXIT. A STORYTELLER ENTERS, leading the LITTLE GIRL)*

**#8a Underscore After "Ti Moune"****STORYTELLER (AGWE)**

And Ti Moune set off into the world, leaving behind the ones who loved her. On every side was the terrible devastation of the storm.

**#9 Mama Will Provide**

*(STORYTELLERS ENTER, dancing)*

**STORYTELLER (ERZULIE)**

*(Spoken in rhythm)*

But on this island, the earth sings  
As soon as a storm ends.

**STORYTELLER (ARMAND)**

*(Spoken in rhythm)*

And as Ti Moune set out,  
She realized  
She was walking with old friends.

**STORYTELLER (ANDREA)**

*(Spoken)*

The birds...

**STORYTELLERS (MAMA, ANDREA, ERZULIE)**

*(Sung)*

COO COO, COO COO, COO COO COO –  
COO COO, COO COO, COO COO COO –

**STORYTELLERS (PAPA GE, AGWE)**

*(Sung)*

SHA SHA SHA – AAH!

**STORYTELLER (PAPA GE)**

*(Spoken)*

The trees...

**STORYTELLERS (PAPA GE, AGWE)**

*(Sung)*

SHA SHA SHA – AAH!

**STORYTELLERS (ARMAND, TONTON)**

*(Sung)*

BOOM BOOM BOOM!

**STORYTELLER (ARMAND)**

*(Spoken)*

The frogs...

**STORYTELLERS (ARMAND, TONTON)**

*(Sung)*

BAROOM BOOM BOOM!

## STORYTELLER (ERZULIE)

*(Spoken)*

And the breezes...

## STORYTELLERS (ERZULIE, MAMA, ANDREA)

*(Sung)*

OOH OOH OOH OOH OOH OOH OOH OOH -

OOH OOH OOH OOH OOH OOH OOH OOH -

*(The STORYTELLERS playing BIRDS, TREES, FROGS and BREEZES begin to SING together, and TI MOUNE begins to dance)*

STORYTELLER (ERZULIE) (AS BIRDS)	STORYTELLER (MAMA, ANDREA) (AS BREEZES)	STORYTELLER (AGWE, PAPA GE) (AS TREES)	STORYTELLERS (ARMAND, TON TON) (AS FROGS)
COO COO,	OOH OOH	SHA SHA SHA	BOOM BOOM
COO COO,	OOH OOH	- AAH!	BOOM!
COO COO	OOH OOH		
COO!	OOH OOH -		
COO COO,	OOH OOH	SHA SHA SHA	BAROOM BOOM
COO COO,	OOH OOH	- AAH!	BOOM!
COO COO	OOH OOH		
COO!	OOH OOH -		
COO COO,	OOH OOH	SHA SHA SHA	BOOM BOOM
COO COO,	OOH OOH	- AAH!	BOOM!
COO COO	OOH OOH		
COO!	OOH OOH -		
COO COO,	OOH OOH	SHA SHA SHA	
COO COO,	OOH OOH	- AAH!	BAROOM
COO COO	OOH OOH		BOOM
COO!	OOH OOH -		BOOM!

## STORYTELLER (AGWE)

*(Spoken in rhythm)*

Ti Moune lost all her fear.

She knew Asaka was near!

*(ASAKA appears and begins to dance with TI MOUNE)*

**ASAKA**

*(Spoken in rhythm)*

You've never been away from the sea, child.  
You're gonna need a helping hand.  
A fish has got to learn to swim on land!

**STORYTELLERS**

HUH!

**ASAKA**

*(Sung)*

WALK WITH ME, LITTLE GIRL,  
DON'T YOU BE AFRAID.  
FOLLOW ME, LITTLE GIRL,  
LET ME BE YOUR GUIDE.  
A PRETTY THING LIKE YOU  
WILL NEED A THING OR TWO,  
AND WHATEVER YOU NEED,  
MAMA WILL PROVIDE.

OH...  
DOWN THE ROAD, LITTLE GIRL,  
YOU MAY LOSE YOUR WAY,  
ALL ALONE IN A WORLD  
THAT MAY SEEM TOO WIDE.  
BUT SIT ON MAMA'S LAP  
AND I WILL DRAW A MAP  
AND WHATEVER YOU NEED,  
MAMA WILL PROVIDE!

I'LL PROVIDE YOU:

**STORYTELLER (ANDREA)**

*(Spoken)*

Moss!

**ASAKA**

*(Sung)*

TO SOFTEN THE ROAD!

**STORYTELLER (ERZULIE)**

*(Spoken)*

Rocks!

**ASAKA**

*(Sung)*

TO SIT ON!

**STORYTELLER (AGWE)**

*(Spoken)*

Trees!

**ASAKA**

*(Sung)*

TO SLEEP UNDERNEATH!

**STORYTELLER (MAMA)**

*(Spoken)*

Sand!

**ASAKA**

*(Sung)*

FUN FOR YOUR TOES!

**STORYTELLER (ARMAND)**

*(Spoken)*

Plantain!

**ASAKA**

*(Sung)*

TO FILL UP YOUR BELLY!

**STORYTELLER (PAPA GE)**

*(Spoken)*

Breeze!

**ASAKA**

*(Sung)*

TO FAN YOUR FACE!

## STORYTELLER (TONTON)

*(Spoken)*

Grass!

ASAKA

*(Sung)*

FOR MAKING YOUR BED!

STORYTELLERS

*(Spoken)*

Mosquitos?!

*(ASAKA gives them a dirty look)*

ASAKA

*(Spoken)*

HA!!

BUGS WILL BITE, LITTLE GIRL,  
AND THE NIGHT WILL FALL.  
ALL ALONE IN THE DARK,  
YOU'LL BE TERRIFIED.  
BUT YOU WILL MAKE IT THROUGH,  
'CAUSE I AM LIKING YOU!  
AND WHATEVER YOU NEED,  
MAMA WILL PROVIDE!

*(Dance break)*

STORYTELLERS

MAMA WILL PROVIDE...  
MAMA WILL PROVIDE...  
MAMA WILL PROVIDE...

## ASAKA

OH...  
 WALK WITH ME, LITTLE GIRL,  
 AND I'LL TAKE YOU FAR.  
 'ROUND EACH BEND, LITTLE FRIEND,  
 I'LL BE BY YOUR SIDE.  
 THAT'S WHAT A MAMA'S WORTH:  
 TO GIVE HER CHILD THE EARTH.  
 AND WHATEVER YOU NEED,  
 MAMA WILL...  
 PROVIDE!!

## STORYTELLERS

*(Variously, as before)*

COO COO –  
 SHA SHA –  
 OOH ~  
 BAROOM BOOM BOOM –  
 (etc.)

*(MAMA and STORYTELLERS EXIT, leaving TI MOUNE alone)*

### #9a Waiting For Life – Reprise

## TI MOUNE

OH, DANIEL!  
 MAMA WILL PROVIDE!  
 WHEN YOU AWAKEN,  
 I'LL BE BY YOUR SIDE!  
 MY DANIEL!  
 I'LL DANCE EVERY MILE!  
 AND WHEN THEY SEE YOU SAFE WITH ME,  
 THE GODS WILL SMILE!  
 THEY'LL SMILE!

*(STORYTELLERS ENTER and continue the story.)*

### #10 Some Say

*As STORYTELLERS SING the following, TI MOUNE and STORYTELLERS pantomime her journey. TI MOUNE does not sing)*

## STORYTELLERS

SOME SAY...

## STORYTELLER (PAPA GE)

How Ti Moune Began the Long Journey Toward the City!

**STORYTELLERS**

SOME SAY...

**STORYTELLER (ANDREA)**

SOME SAY HER FEET WERE BARE  
AND THE ROAD WAS LONG AND CRUEL.

**STORYTELLERS**

SOME SAY...

**STORYTELLERS (ANDREA, AGWE)**

SOME SAY SHE GOT A RIDE  
FROM A VENDOR AND HIS MULE.

**STORYTELLERS**

SOME SAY...

**STORYTELLER (PAPA GE)**

THE GODS PULLED UP IN A CAR  
AND DROVE HER ALL THE WAY.

**STORYTELLERS**

WELL, NO ONE KNOWS  
HOW THE REAL TRUTH GOES,  
BUT THAT'S WHAT SOME SAY!  
SOME SAY...

**LITTLE GIRL**

AND HOW FAR DID SHE TRAVEL?

**STORYTELLERS**

AS FAR AS YOU SUPPOSE.

**LITTLE GIRL**

AND HOW LONG DID IT TAKE HER?

**STORYTELLERS**

MUCH LONGER THAN YOUR NOSE!

**LITTLE GIRL**

AND WAS SHE EVER FRIGHTENED  
OR WAS HER LOVE TOO STRONG?  
AND DID SHE KNOW SHE'D END UP  
IN OUR STORY AND OUR SONG?



**STORYTELLERS**

OUR STORY AND OUR SONG...

*(STORYTELLERS create the bustle of the city)*

SOME SAY...

**STORYTELLER (PAPA GE)**

What Happened When Ti Moune Finally Reached the City!

**STORYTELLERS**

SOME SAY...

**STORYTELLERS (ANDREA, ARMAND)**

SOME SAY THEY LAUGHED AT HER,  
FOR HER PEASANT FEET WERE BARE.

**STORYTELLERS**

SOME SAY...

**STORYTELLERS (ERZULIE, AGWE)**

SOME SAY THE VENDOR MAN  
GAVE HER SHOES TOO SMALL TO WEAR.

**STORYTELLERS**

SOME SAY...

**STORYTELLER (ASAKA)**

THE GODS SAID,

*(Spoken)*

"Put on the shoes!  
It's the price you have to pay!"

**STORYTELLERS**

*(Sung)*

THE SHOES WERE TIGHT,  
BUT SHE SAID:

**LITTLE GIRL**

*(Spoken)*

ALL RIGHT!

**STORYTELLERS**

WELL, THAT'S WHAT SOME SAY!  
SOME SAY...  
SOME SAY...

### STORYTELLER (ANDREA)

At last, still wearing her painful new city shoes, Ti Moune arrived at the gates of the Hotel Beauxhomme. But the fierce guard at the gate saw that Ti Moune had nothing to sell to the tourists.

### GATEKEEPER (ARMAND)

Stop!

### STORYTELLER (ASAKA)

But Ti Moune must have smiled her most beautiful smile. And Erzulie must have touched the fierce guard on the shoulder, for he nodded. The gate swung open. And Ti Moune entered, and went in search of her Daniel.

### STORYTELLERS

SOME SAY...

SOME SAY...

SOME SAY...

### STORYTELLER (MAMA)

SOME SAY SHE SCRUBBED THE FLOORS  
'TIL SHE LEARNED WHERE HE WAS KEF

### STORYTELLER (TONTON)

SOME SAY SHE CLIMBED A VINE  
TO THE WINDOW WHERE HE SLEPT.

### STORYTELLERS (MAMA, TONTON)

THE GODS JUST LIFTED HER UP  
AND PLACED HER WHERE HE LAY

### STORYTELLERS

WELL, NO ONE KNOWS  
HOW THE REAL TRUTH GOES.  
IT ALL DEPENDS  
WHAT YOU HEAR FROM FRIENDS.  
IT'S NO SURPRISE  
IF IT'S ALL JUST LIES -

### STORYTELLERS

BUT THAT'S WHAT SOME SAY.  
THAT'S WHAT SOME SAY...  
THAT'S WHAT SOME SAY...  
THAT'S WHAT SOME SAY...

### LITTLE GIRL

SOME SAY...  
SOME SAY...  
SOME SAY...

*(TI MOUNE ENTERS DANIEL'S room and approaches him. HE sits up in bed, startled)*

DANIEL

Where did you come from? You're not supposed to be in here.

TI MOUNE

Don't you remember me? It's Ti Moune.

DANIEL

Get out before I call a guard!

TI MOUNE

You don't know me! I saved your life!

DANIEL

Saved my life? What are you talking about?

TI MOUNE

You don't remember?

DANIEL

No.

TI MOUNE

I was the one who found you crushed inside your car. I watched over you when you nearly died. I bathed you. I gave you my own mat to lie on. I... I have seen the scar on your chest. Like a half moon. Here.

DANIEL

So it was you.

TI MOUNE

Yes. You're very ill. You burn like a fire.

DANIEL

My leg won't heal.

TI MOUNE

The gods sent me to make you well.

DANIEL

You think your peasant superstitions can do what doctors can't, little girl?

TI MOUNE

I kept you alive in the face of death. Anyone from my village will tell you so. And I can heal you, now.

DANIEL

You're very young.

TI MOUNE

I came all this way to be with you. Let me stay.

DANIEL

And so pretty.

TI MOUNE

I am telling you the truth.

DANIEL

A pretty Ti Moune sent by the gods.

TI MOUNE

Yes.

DANIEL

Come here, then. What harm can it do? Stay the night, and show me your powers.  
Make me forget this pain. Who knows? Perhaps the gods did send me a gift, after all.

*(SHE strokes his face. Gradually she cradles him in her arms. Gently and tentatively,  
she lies down next to him, as ERZULIE appears to preside over them)*

## #11 The Human Heart

STORYTELLERS

(OFFSTAGE)

AAAH ~

AAAH —

ERZULIE

THE COURAGE OF A DREAMER,  
THE INNOCENCE OF YOUTH,  
THE FAILURES AND THE FOOLISHNESS  
THAT LEAD US TO THE TRUTH,

ERZULIE, STORYTELLERS

THE HOPES THAT MAKE US HAPPY,

ERZULIE

THE HOPES THAT DON'T COME TRUE,

ERZULIE, STORYTELLERS

AND ALL THE LOVE THERE EVER WAS:

ERZULIE

I SEE THIS ALL IN YOU.

ERZULIE, STORYTELLERS

YOU ARE PART,  
PART OF THE HUMAN HEART.

**ERZULIE**

YOU ARE PART —

**MALE SOLO (AGWE)**

(OFFSTAGE)

YOU ARE PART —

**STORYTELLERS EXCEPT MALE SOLO**

YOU ARE PART —

**ERZULIE**

— OF ALL WHO TOOK THE JOURNEY  
AND MANAGED TO ENDURE,  
THE ONES WHO KNEW SUCH TENDERNESS,  
THE ONES WHO FELT SO SURE.

**STORYTELLERS**

AAAH —  
AAAH —  
AAAH —  
AAAH —

**ERZULIE, STORYTELLERS**

THE ONES WHO CAME BEFORE YOU,

**ERZULIE**

THE OTHERS YET TO COME,

**ERZULIE, STORYTELLERS**

AND THOSE WHO YOU WILL TEACH IT TO,

**ERZULIE**

AND THOSE YOU LEARNED IT FROM.

**ERZULIE, STORYTELLERS**

YOU ARE PART,  
PART OF THE HUMAN HEART.

**ERZULIE**

YOU ARE PART

**MALE SOLO (AGWE)**

YOU ARE PART.

**STORYTELLERS**

YOU ARE PART.

**ERZULIE**

THIS IS THE GIFT I GIVE:  
THROUGH YOUR LOVE YOU'LL LIVE  
FOREVER...

**STORYTELLERS**

YOU ARE PART,  
PART OF THE HUMAN HEART.

**ERZULIE**

FOREVER...  
FOREVER...

ERZULIE

YOU ARE PART —

MALE SOLO (AGWE)

YOU ARE PART —

STORYTELLERS

YOU ARE PART,

TONIGHT.

TONIGHT...

ERZULIE

PART OF THE HUMAN

ERZULIE, STORYTELLERS

HEART.

*(STORYTELLERS close around the bed, hiding DANIEL and TI MOUNE from view.  
Suddenly, THEY turn, one by one, to become the GOSSIPERS in the Hotel Beauxhomme)*

#12 Pray – Reprise

GOSSIPER (ANDREA)

And the night became day, and still Daniel kept the gentle Ti Moune beside him!

GOSSIPER (ARMAND)

And the day became a week, and still she slept in his room!

GOSSIPER (ASAKA)

And after two weeks, a buzzing began spreading through the halls of the Hotel.

GOSSIPER (ERZULIE)

And even into the city!

GOSSIPER (AGWE)

Until everyone had heard the news:

GOSSIPER (PAPA GE)

That the ailing Daniel Beauxhomme had chosen a peasant as a lover. And little by little, she was...

GOSSIPERS

*(In unison, very knowingly)*

Healing him!

GOSSIPER (AGWE)

NOW, WHAT CAN HE WANT WITH A WOMAN LIKE HER?

**GOSSIPER (ASAKA)**

BLACKER THAN COAL AND LOW AS DIRT!

**GOSSIPER (PAPA GE)**

HE COULD HAVE THE WORLD BUT TAKES A PEASANT!

**GOSSIPER (ANDREA)**

PERHAPS HIS BRAIN WAS HURT!

**GOSSIPER (ASAKA)**

LOOK HOW SHE HOLDS HIM –

**GOSSIPER (ERZULIE)**

– AND TOUCHES AND ATTENDS HIM.

**GOSSIPER (PAPA GE)**

THE BOY BELIEVES SHE CAN MAKE HIM WELL...

**GOSSIPERS**

AND SHE HAS HIM IN A SPELL.

*(THEY part to reveal DANIEL and TI MOUNE embracing)*

**TI MOUNE**

I have a gift for you.

**DANIEL**

What is it?

**TI MOUNE**

A charm. If you wear it next to your heart, it will make you whole again.

**DANIEL**

You are my charm. Without you, I could never be whole again.

*(SHE places the charm around his neck)*

**TI MOUNE**

I will never leave you, Daniel.

*(The GOSSIPERS return again, whispering and laughing)*

**GOSSIPER (ARMAND)**

NOW, WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF A PEASANT LIKE HER?

**GOSSIPER (ERZULIE)**

PUTTING ON AIRS WITHOUT A DOUBT!

**GOSSIPER (PAPA GE)**

WHEN THE BOY IS WELL AND DOES NOT NEED HER –

## GOSSIPERS

— HOW SOON HE'LL THROW HER OUT.

*(DANIEL walks, supported by TI MOUNE)*

DANIEL

Soon, I'll be dancing!

TI MOUNE

And I'll dance with you! But for now, walk slowly, Daniel.

DANIEL

Then you must walk even more slowly, Ti Moune.

TI MOUNE

Why?

DANIEL

So I can catch you!

*(DANIEL begins to follow TI MOUNE off, laughing, when DANIEL'S FATHER [ARMAND] catches DANIEL'S arm, and detains him for a moment)*

FATHER (ARMAND)

Daniel.

DANIEL

Father.

FATHER

HOW LONG DO YOU THINK  
YOU'LL BE PLAYING THIS GAME?

DANIEL

This is no game.

FATHER

SURELY YOU CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S REAL?

DANIEL

I'm in love with Ti Moune!

FATHER

YOU ARE NOT THE FIRST TO WANT A PEASANT.  
I, TOO, KNOW THEIR APPEAL...  
BUT YOU ARE MY SON.  
YOU'LL DO WHAT MUST BE DONE,

*(Half-sung)*

NO MATTER WHAT YOU FEEL!



*(DANIEL and FATHER EXIT in opposite directions, as GOSSIPERS return)*

**GOSSIPER (AGWE)**

I KNOW WHAT HE SEES IN A PEASANT LIKE HER...

**GOSSIPER (ASAKA)**

PROBABLY MAKES HIM RISE LIKE YEAST!

**GOSSIPERS (ARMAND, ANDREA)**

WELL, THE GIRL MAY THINK SHE'S VERY CLEVER,

**GOSSIPERS (ERZULIE, PAPA GE)**

THE BOY MAY KEEP HER HERE FOREVER,

**GOSSIPERS**

BUT I CAN TELL YOU THIS:

THEY'LL NEVER STAND BEFORE A PRIEST!

*(GOSSIPERS EXIT. DANIEL and TI MOUNE enter a romantic, starlit garden)*

**#13 Some Girls**

**TI MOUNE**

And our little house will have pink walls, and a blue roof, and a tree in the garden just like the one that sheltered me as a child. And you and I will lie in the shade of the tree. And our children will climb in it. And it will bloom for us forever.

**DANIEL (TO TI MOUNE)**

SOME GIRLS  
TAKE HOURS  
TO PAINT EVERY PERFECT NAIL,  
FRAGRANT AS FLOWERS,  
ALL POWDERED  
AND PRIM AND PALE;  
BUT YOU ARE AS WILD  
AS THAT WIND-BLOWN TREE,  
AS DARK AND AS DEEP  
AS THE MIDNIGHT SEA.  
WHILE THEY'RE BUSY DRESSING,  
YOU LIE HERE WARM AND BOLD.  
SOME GIRLS YOU PICTURE,

*(LIGHTS come up on the elegant ANDREA DEVEREAUX, putting on perfume, getting dressed)*

SOME YOU HOLD.

## DANIEL (CONT'D)

SOME GIRLS  
TAKE COURSES  
AT ALL THE BEST SCHOOLS IN FRANCE,  
RIDING THEIR HORSES AND LEARNING THEIR MODERN DANCE.  
THEY'RE CLEVER AND CULTURED  
AND WORLDLY-WISE,  
BUT YOU SEE THE WORLD THROUGH  
A CHILD'S WIDE EYES.  
WHILE THEIR DREAMS ARE GRAND ONES,  
YOU WANT WHAT'S JUST IN REACH.  
SOME GIRLS YOU LEARN FROM,  
SOME YOU TEACH.

YOU ARE NOT SMALL TALK  
OR SHINY CARS  
OR MIRRORS  
OR FRENCH COLOGNE.  
YOU ARE THE RIVER,  
THE MOON,  
THE STARS:  
YOU'RE NO ONE ELSE  
I'VE KNOWN...

SOME GIRLS  
TAKE PLEASURE  
IN BUYING A FINE TROUSSEAU,  
COUNTING EACH TREASURE  
AND TYING EACH TINY BOW.  
THEY FOLD UP THEIR FUTURES  
WITH PERFUMED HANDS  
WHILE YOU FACE THE FUTURE  
WITH NO DEMANDS.  
SOME GIRLS EXPECT THINGS  
OTHERS THINK NOTHING OF.  
SOME GIRLS YOU MARRY,  
SOME YOU LOVE.

## #14 The Ball

*(DANIEL and TI MOUNE EXIT together. ANDREA has finished dressing, and is joined by a DANCING PARTNER. THEY begin to waltz elegantly, and are joined by other STORYTELLERS, masked and costumed for a ball)*

## STORYTELLERS

*(Spoken)*

THE GRANDS HOMMES AT THE HOTEL BEAUXHOMME:  
DANCING TO THEIR OWN LITTLE TUNE,  
WAITING TO SEE... TI MOUNE!

*(DANIEL ENTERS and greets the GUESTS. ANDREA comes to him, and THEY begin to dance)*

## ANDREA

*(Sung)*

SOME GIRLS ARE SAYING  
SHE'S SIMPLE AS ANY CHILD.

## DANIEL

PLEASE, ANDREA...

## ANDREA

BAREFOOT AND PRAYING  
AND RUNNING THE HALLS QUITE WILD!

## DANIEL

ANDREA...

## ANDREA

AND IS SHE AS PRETTY AS WE'VE ALL HEARD?  
YOUR OWN PRETTY...

*(Spoken)*

WELL, WHAT'S THE WORD?

*(TI MOUNE ENTERS hesitantly. DANIEL sees her, breaks away from ANDREA and goes to greet her)*

## DANIEL

Ti Mouné!

## TI MOUNE

Daniel!

*(ANDREA joins them)*

ANDREA

So this is your Ti Moune. How beautiful she is.

DANIEL

Ti Moune, may I present Andrea Devereaux.

TI MOUNE

Hello.

ANDREA

*(Spoken)*

I'M SO HAPPY TO MEET YOU,  
MY DEAR MAD'MOISELLE.  
I'VE HEARD YOU'RE A HEALER —  
AND A DANCER, AS WELL.

*(Sung)*

WON'T YOU DANCE FOR US NOW?  
WON'T YOU GIVE US A SHOW?  
PLEASE, MAD'MOISELLE...  
DON'T SAY NO.

DANIEL

Don't be afraid, Ti Moune. Dance as you always do — just for me.

*(TI MOUNE looks around at the people watching her. SHE hears the tentative strains of her own music, and slowly, she begins to move her feet)*

### #14a Ti Moune's Dance

MAMA

*(OFFSTAGE)*

WE DANCE...

TONTON

*(OFFSTAGE)*

WE DANCE...

MAMA, TONTON, LITTLE TI MOUNE

*(OFFSTAGE)*

WE DANCE...

*(Spoken)*

We dance!

*(TI MOUNE dances without inhibition in the peasant style. Gradually, the onlookers are swept into the dance. At the end of the dance, TI MOUNE is surrounded by enthusiastic GUESTS. SHE EXITS with them. DANIEL and ANDREA stand alone)*

### #14b Andrea Sequence

#### ANDREA

WELL, IT'S VERY CLEAR  
SHE'S IN LOVE WITH YOU.  
DANIEL, IF YOU CARE,  
IF YOU CARE AT ALL, YOU MUST TELL HER...

*(TI MOUNE comes to DANIEL)*

#### TI MOUNE

Oh, Daniel, did you see me? The Ambassador said I was beautiful! Everyone is so happy I'm here with you!

*(Sensing something is wrong)*

What is it?

#### ANDREA

MY DEAR MAD'MOISELLE,  
I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY,  
SOMETHING I FEAR WAS LEFT UNSAID...  
MANY THANKS FOR ALL YOU'VE GIVEN DANIEL,  
BUT DO NOT BE MISLED.  
MY DEAR MAD'MOISELLE,  
YOU DANCE SO VERY WELL...  
I PRAY YOU'LL DANCE FOR DANIEL  
AND FOR ME  
WHEN WE ARE WED.

Ti Moune, Daniel and I...

*(DANIEL stops her from saying any more. SHE EXITS)*

#### DANIEL

Andrea and I have been promised to each other since we were children. Our parents are old friends.

#### TI MOUNE

But, Daniel...

#### DANIEL

This is how things are done, Ti Moune. It's expected.

TI MOUNE

Daniel, please...

DANIEL

There will always be a place for you here.

TI MOUNE

WE'LL RACE AWAY IN A CAR -

DANIEL

I can't change who I am or where I'm from.

TI MOUNE

- AS SILVER AS THE MOON...

DANIEL

I wish it could be so.

TI MOUNE

WE WILL LIVE BESIDE THE SEA.

WE'LL HAVE CHILDREN,

A GARDEN

AND A TREE...

DANIEL

Ti Moune, I thought you understood. We could never marry.

*(Exits)*

TI MOUNE

OH, GODS...

OH, GODS...

ARE YOU THERE?

ARE YOU THERE...?

*(LIGHTS dim to darkness, except for a PINSPOT on TI MOUNE, who stands, desolate and alone. The STORYTELLERS surround her, and their accusing voices seem to echo in her head. DANIEL is among them)*

STORYTELLERS

*(With overlapping solo lines)*

There can never be anything between a peasant and a *grand homme*.

They despise us for our blackness.

Marry you! You are mad!

You're not supposed to be in here.

Now what can he want with a woman like her?

If he lives, how angry the gods will be!

The boy has the will of the devil himself.

## STORYTELLERS (CONT'D)

He'll soon throw her out!  
 What can a peasant do for a *grand homme* but shine his shoes?  
 He will not want you, Ti Moune!  
 Blacker than coal and low as dirt.  
 They'll never stand before a priest!  
 Some girls you marry, some you love.  
 Oh, Ti Moune, what has this boy done to you?  
 The girl will have the gods to repay!  
 The gods to repay... the gods to repay...  
 The gods to repay... the gods to...

*(PAPA GE emerges from the STORYTELLERS, holding a knife. The STORYTELLERS freeze)*

## #15 Promises / Forever Yours - Reprise

## PAPA GE

THERE WERE PROMISES MADE IN THE DARKNESS,  
 PROMISES MADE IN YOUR SLEEP,  
 PROMISES THE GODS DEMAND YOU KEEP!

YOU GAVE HIM LOVE,  
 LOVE HE WOULD SOON BETRAY!  
 YOU GAVE HIM LIFE.  
 I AM THE PRICE YOU'LL PAY!  
 SURE AS THE GRAVE,  
 YOU MUST ACCEPT WHAT IS...  
 NOW YOUR LIFE IS FOREVER MINE...

*(HE raises the knife to strike)*

## TI MOUNE

Please, don't.

## PAPA GE

*(Spoken in rhythm)*

Trade yours for his!

## TI MOUNE

*(Spoken)*

What?

**PAPA GE**

You saved him. You loved him. And he betrayed you.  
Why should you die for him now? Kill him, Ti Moune.  
Kill the love you feel for him.  
Prove that death is stronger than love and you can have your own life again.  
Just as if you had never loved at all.

*(TI MOUNE takes the knife and walks toward DANIEL, as the STORYTELLERS move slowly away from him, leaving him exposed. ERZULIE now appears from their midst)*

**STORYTELLERS**

OOH –

OOH –

AH AH –

AH –

OOH –

OOH –

AH AH AH AH –

AH AH AH AH –

AH AH AH AH –

AH AH AH AH AH!

**PAPA GE**

I AM THE ROAD  
LEADING TO NO  
RETURN...

SECRET OF LIFE,  
FINALLY HIS TO  
LEARN...

I AM THE CAR  
RACING TOWARD  
DISTANT SHORES...  
NOW HIS LIFE IS  
FOREVER MINE...

FOREVER

**ERZULIE**

THE COURAGE  
OF A DREAMER...

YOU ARE PART,

PART OF THE HUMAN  
HEART,

FOREVER...

*(As the voices of the STORYTELLERS become a cacaphony, TI MOUNE lunges toward DANIEL, the knife raised to strike. At the last moment, SHE hurls it down, and crumples to the floor. A moment of silence, as DANIEL looks at her in fear and shock)*

**DANIEL**

Why?

*(HE gingerly picks up the knife and EXITS)*

**TI MOUNE**

I love you.



## #16 Wedding Sequence

## STORYTELLER (ASAKA)

And Ti Moune was cast out of the Hotel Beauxhomme, and the gates slammed shut behind her.

*The STORYTELLERS form a wall. TI MOUNE approaches the people forming the wall, but as she speaks, THEY turn from her one by one)*

OOH –

## TI MOUNE

*(Over STORYTELLER'S vocalese)*

I... I am Mademoiselle Ti Moune. I... I am the mistress of Daniel Beauxhomme. I was the one who danced at the ball. I wore a beautiful dress. The people applauded! All eyes were on me. The gods sent me. They want me to be with him. Daniel needs me. He loves me. Without me, he'll die. Surely you can see that. There's been a terrible mistake. He must be wondering where I am. Tell him. Tell him I'm here. Tell him Ti Moune is waiting for him at the gate. Ti Moune is waiting for him.

*(Sinks gradually to the ground)*

## STORYTELLER (ERZULIE)

And for two weeks, Ti Moune did wait at the gate. Not eating. Not sleeping. Only waiting, only watching, as the grounds of the Hotel Beauxhomme were made even more lovely, in preparation for the wedding.

*(ANDREA and DANIEL appear, arm in arm, already married)*

## STORYTELLER (PAPA GE)

And at last, Andrea and Daniel were married. And as superstition dictated, they came to the gates of the hotel to throw coins to the peasants, thus assuring that their own fortunes would multiply.

*(DANIEL and ANDREA pass the wall. TI MOUNE reaches out, weakly)*

## TI MOUNE

Daniel!!

*(ANDREA EXITS, but DANIEL turns and sees TI MOUNE. DANIEL returns to her, kneels and takes her hand. For a moment, they look into one another's eyes. Then, HE EXITS. TI MOUNE opens her hand, and in horror, drops the coin he has placed there. SHE curls up in despair, close to death. MAMA ENTERS)*

## #17 A Part of Us

## MAMA

OH, TI MOUNE...

**MAMA (CONT'D)**

OH, TI MOUNE...

YOU WILL ALWAYS BE A PART OF US.

OH, TI MOUNE...

**LITTLE TI MOUNE**

*(Enters with TONTON)*

OH, TI MOUNE...

**MAMA, LITTLE TI MOUNE**

OH, TI MOUNE...

**MAMA, LITTLE TI MOUNE, TONTON**

YOU WILL ALWAYS BE A PART OF US.

OH, TI MOUNE...

*(The STORYTELLERS Enter)*

**TONTON**

OH, TI MOUNE...

**TONTON, MAMA,  
LITTLE TI MOUNE**

OH, TI MOUNE...

**STORYTELLERS**

OOH —

OOH

**STORYTELLERS, TONTON, MAMA,  
LITTLE TI MOUNE**

YOU WILL ALWAYS BE A PART OF US.

OH, TI MOUNE...

OOOH —

**STORYTELLER (ASAKA)**

*(Over above vocalese)*

And the gods began to cry — tears of compassion for the orphan Ti Moune, who proved that love could withstand the storm, and cross the earth, and survive even in the face of death.

*(The GODS step forward from the group, and pass TI MOUNE from hand to hand, pantomiming her death)*

**ALL EXCEPT ERZULIE, TI MOUNE**

ERZULIE TOOK HER BY THE HAND,

AND LED HER TO THE SEA,

**ALL EXCEPT AGWE, TI MOUNE**

WHERE AGWE WRAPPED HER IN A WAVE,  
AND LAID HER TO HER REST.

**ALL EXCEPT PAPA GE, TI MOUNE**

AND PAPA GE WAS GENTLE  
AS HE CARRIED HER TO SHORE,

**ALL EXCEPT ASAKA, TI MOUNE**

AND ASAKA ACCEPTED HER  
AND HELD HER TO HER BREAST,  
HELD HER TO HER BREAST.

*(ASAKA carries TI MOUNE UPSTAGE and places her on the ground. The rest of the STORYTELLERS surround her, hiding her from view)*

**ALL EXCEPT TI MOUNE**

OH, TI MOUNE...

**STORYTELLER (MAMA)**

And then, the gods blessed her, and transformed her into...

**ALL EXCEPT TI MOUNE**

*(Spoken)*

A TREE!

*(TI MOUNE is lifted high above everyone else and becomes a glorious tree)*

## #18 Why We Tell The Story

**STORYTELLER (ASAKA)**

A tree that sprang up and cracked the walls of the Hotel Beauxhomme, so that its gates could never close again.

**STORYTELLER (ANDREA)**

A tree that lived forever, sheltering peasants and *grands hommes* alike.

**STORYTELLER (TONTON)**

A tree that watched over Daniel for his lifetime.

**STORYTELLERS (MAMA)**

A tree in which his children played.

**STORYTELLERS**

OOH WAY OOH...

OOH WAY OOH...

**STORYTELLER (ERZULIE)**

*(Simultaneous with above)*

And one day, as Daniel's young son sat in the shade of the tree, he noticed a beautiful young peasant girl high in its branches, looking out at the world.

*(DANIEL now plays his own SON. TI MOUNE plays the young PEASANT GIRL in the tree)*

**STORYTELLER (ERZULIE)**

And the spirit of Ti Moune touched their hearts and set them free to love.

*(DANIEL'S SON lifts the PEASANT GIRL out of the tree, and they become STORYTELLERS once again)*

**STORYTELLER (TI MOUNE)**

AND SHE STANDS AGAINST THE LIGHTNING  
AND THE THUNDER,

**STORYTELLER (DANIEL)**

AND SHE SHELTERS AND PROTECTS US FROM ABOVE,

**ALL EXCEPT LITTLE GIRL**

AND SHE FILLS US WITH THE POWER AND THE WONDER  
OF HER LOVE...

AND THIS IS WHY WE TELL THE STORY,  
WHY WE TELL THE STORY,  
WHY WE TELL THE STORY,  
WHY WE TELL THE STORY.

**STORYTELLER (MAMA)**

IF YOU LISTEN VERY HARD YOU'LL HEAR HER CALL US

**STORYTELLER (TONTON)**

TO COME SHARE WITH HER OUR LAUGHTER  
AND OUR TEARS,

**STORYTELLERS (ARMAND, ANDREA)**

AND AS MYSTERIES AND MIRACLES BEFALL US

**ALL EXCEPT LITTLE GIRL**

THROUGH THE YEARS,  
WE TELL THE STORY!

**MEN**

WE TELL THE STORY!

## WOMEN

LIFE IS WHY —

## MEN

WE TELL THE STORY!

## WOMEN

PAIN IS WHY —

## MEN

WE TELL THE STORY!

## WOMEN

LOVE IS WHY —

## MEN

WE TELL THE STORY!

## WOMEN

GRIEF IS WHY —

## MEN

WE TELL THE STORY!

## WOMEN

HOPE IS WHY —

## MEN

WE TELL THE STORY!

## WOMEN

FAITH IS WHY —

## MEN

WE TELL THE STORY!

*(ALL surround the LITTLE GIRL)*

## ALL EXCEPT LITTLE GIRL

YOU ARE WHY —

WE TELL THE STORY,  
 WHY WE TELL THE STORY,  
 WHY WE TELL THE STORY,  
 WHY WE TELL THE STORY.

*(ALL SING to the LITTLE GIRL)*

**WOMEN**

SO I HOPE THAT YOU WILL TELL THIS TALE TOMORROW.

**MEN**

IT WILL HELP YOUR HEART REMEMBER AND RELIVE.

**ALL EXCEPT LITTLE GIRL**

IT WILL HELP YOU FEEL THE ANGER AND THE SORROW

**STORYTELLER (TI MOUNE)**

AND FORGIVE...

**ALL**

FOR OUT OF WHAT WE LIVE

AND WE BELIEVE,

OUR LIVES BECOME

THE STORIES THAT WE WEAVE.

*(The STORYTELLERS take their original positions around the fire)*

**LITTLE GIRL**

There is an island where rivers run deep...  
where the sea sparkling in the sun earns it  
the name "Jewel of the Antilles". An island  
where the poorest of peasants labor — and  
the wealthiest of *grands hommes* play. And  
on this island, we tell the story!

**STORYTELLER**

WHY

WE TELL THE STORY...

WHY

WE TELL THE STORY...

**ALL**

WE TELL THE STORY...

WE TELL THE STORY...

WE TELL THE STORY...

*(The stars come out. The storm ends)*

**THE END**

TEXT CHANGES FOR AMATEUR PRODUCTIONS.

(Please use these only if absolutely necessary to your production. Thank You.)

Page 1, 6th speech down:

**STORYTELLER (ANDREA)**

The *grands hommes*, with their fine French ways, owners of the land and masters of their own fates.

Page 1, 7th speech down:

**PAPA GE**

And the peasants, eternally at the mercy of the wind and the sea, who pray constantly...to the gods.

Page 31, 1st speech down:

**MADAME ARMAND (ANDREA)**

ARMAND!

*(Spoken)*

BUT ARMAND TOOK HIS PLEASURE  
WITH THE WOMEN WHO SERVED HIM:  
YOUNG PEASANT GIRLS FROM THE VILLAGE BEYOND.

Page 31, 5th speech down:

**PEASANT GIRL (ERZULIE)**

*(Playing BEAUXHOMME'S mother; spoken)*

A beautiful child  
Half French. Half peasant—.  
Like coffee mixed with cream.

Page 32, 5th speech down:

**STORYTELLERS**

*(Spoken)*

PEASANTS FOUGHT AGAINST FRENCH  
AND THE HATED NAPOLEON.  
THEY FOUGHT FOR THEIR ISLAND  
AND FINALLY WON.

Page 34, 2nd speech down:

**ARMAND**

*(Spoken)*

Your low blood will keep you  
Forever on this island...  
While your hearts yearn forever for France.

Page 34, 3rd speech down:

**STORYTELLERS**

THEY DESPISE US,  
THEY DENY US.  
WE REMIND THEM WHERE THEY'RE FROM.  
THE SAD, SAD TALE  
OF THE BEAUXHOMME.

Page 51, first speech:

**GOSSIPER (ASAKA)**

OUT OF THE FIELDS AND LOW AS DIRT!