

# Mammon

## A Poem in Three Acts

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*Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through no steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

*No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You can not serve both God and Mammon.*

—Matthew 6:19-21,24

# The Movement of the Play

Dramatis Personæ .....	v
Staging Rules .....	vi
Prolog.....	1
Act I: Mammon Ascending.....	2
Scene 1: Land of the Free .....	2
Song of Ascents .....	2
Song of Ascents (reprise):.....	4
Scene 2: Land of the Faux Free .....	5
Windfall Song .....	6
Windfall Song (Reprise) .....	7
Scene 3: The Great Gamble .....	8
Soul Song.....	9
Soul Song (Reprise) .....	10
Scene 4: Patriotism .....	11
Patriot’s Love Song.....	12
Patriot’s Love Song (Reprise).....	14
Scene 5: Poor Darwin .....	15
Darwin Knew It.....	16
Song of Happiness .....	17
Scene 6: Golden Job .....	19
Song of Missing You .....	19
Interlude .....	21
Act II: Mammon Descending.....	22
Scene 1: At Risk .....	22
Song of Liberation .....	24
Scene 2: Coming Home .....	25
Song of Coming Home .....	25
Song of the Budget.....	26
Scene 3: Capital Ascendant .....	28
Scene 4: Walking the Perimeter.....	31
Song of Midas .....	33
Scene 5: Deposed.....	34
Fist Song .....	34
Scene 6: Grim Reaper .....	35
Song of Sorrow and Regret.....	37
Interlude .....	39

Act III: Mammon Released.....	40
Scene 1: Bail Out .....	40
Song: Market of Fools .....	41
Frankenstein’s Song.....	41
Scene 2: Fall Out.....	43
Rose Song .....	43
Scene 3: Darwin Redux .....	47
Song: Son of Darwin.....	48
Scene 4: The People Arise .....	50
Vision Song.....	51
Scene 5: Buy Out .....	54
Scene 6: Cancer Squeeze .....	55
Scene 7: The Peoples Union .....	57
Song: Enlightenment.....	57
Epilog.....	58
Study Guide .....	59

## **Dramatis Personæ**

Narrator .....	The Poet
Melpómené .....	The Poet's Muse
Radio .....	Capital's Propagandist
Freddie .....	mortgage broker
Fannie.....	mortgage broker
Johnnie Q .....	ordinary man
Jeannie Q.....	ordinary woman
Cassie .....	everyone's aunt
Marie .....	a neighbor
Speculator .....	an archetype
Governor .....	well-meaning official
Assistant.....	his silent helper

## Staging Rules

Producer, heed these staging rules by the wright:

- Item:           The play is in iambic pentameter verse<sup>1</sup>  
                  To lift the audience above the present curse  
                  And open hearts and souls to the present age  
                  Of greed unleashed and its sinful wage.  
                  But most of all to find in th' ordinary  
                  Transcendent hope and cause not t' tarry.
- Item:           The Tragic Muse Melpómené emerges  
                  Out of the mysts of time. So set her dirges  
                  Stage rear, t' echo in the smoking light  
                  Her prophecy of this era's plight.
- Item:           The wright narrates from center stage  
                  Up close to th' audience; the curtain drawn to hide  
                  The tribulations of this present age.  
                  At last he parts the veil for all to see inside.
- Item:           The radio announcer covers the play  
                  And is a disembodied voice to say  
                  The news through th' eyes of Capital's drones  
                  In flat, professional, iron-steady tones.
- Item:           The songs are in search of scores that move and stir.  
                  The verses sung must be clearly heard  
                  & the music call the valiant to sing  
                  & the revolution's dreams and hopes to take wing.

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<sup>1</sup> N.B. *t'* is "to" elided; *'t* is "it" elided; *th'* is "the" elided and *'d* is "-ed" elided.

## Prolog

[Narrator with Melpómené proclaiming from the fog]	1
O Muse, out of the fog, you have appeared	2
And cry to us to see what we have feared	3
“Proclaim! Proclaim!” you silently shout,	4
“Disperse the fog of th’ age, no longer doubt:	5
“Behold the world of your harsh hands and minds!	6
“Reveal the homage of Mammon <sup>2</sup> that binds	7
“All, no matter rich or poor.”	8
“Behold, the growth of childish Capital,	9
“The spawn of ancient Mammon, to enthrall	10
“You, whether rich or poor, t’ accumulate	11
“Possessions, dead of Soul, and t’ acclimate	12
“You, whether good or bad, t’ consumption’s fate.”	13
O Melpómené, your voice assaults and tears us	14
From comfort, right or wrong; your weeping dares us:	15
“Prophecy, O wright, before these captive ones.	16
“Assault their ears and eyes with written guns.	17
“Awaken them to Capital’s sure cheating	18
“And pray, this play be more than a moment’s fleeting.”	19
O come now, men and women, hear my rhymes.	20
Behold this age and its deceptive times!	21
We stand on the Right of th’ River Prosperous.	22
Do we remain or dare its currents dangerous?	23

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<sup>2</sup> The God of Greed.

## Act I: Mammon Ascending

Narrator: I now invite you, friends, to listen in 24  
Subversively to Fred and Fan, as they, 25  
Both management professionals, rejoice 26  
In generating wealth from their pristine 27  
Position high upon the People's shoulders... 28

### Scene 1: Land of the Free

Fannie (before her laptop):  
I've sold my ninety ninth subprime just now. 29

Freddie (in front of his laptop);  
You'll sell your hundredth soon today, I'll vow! 30

Fannie: Oh? You know in truth? How can you be so sure? 31

Freddie: Ah! Don't you know how great is our allure! 32

Radio: Today housing prices reached an all time high. 33  
To satisfy demand for housing new and old 34  
Financial services galore are providing 35  
Affordable mortgages for one and all... 36

Freddie (looking out the tower window):  
How wonderful this view extending out 37  
Before our feet: resources all about. 38  
How beautiful a sight beyond our glass 39  
Of possible profit building up *en masse*. 40  
Imagine all the riches in our dreams 41  
Increasing th' means, to more increase our means. 42

Fannie: Oh, yes, we stand above the smog and mess. 43  
Give thanx to Capital that we never have less. 44  
How long I wonder will such blessing last? 45  
Have we finally defeated th' impoverished past? 46

Freddie: At last, so long in coming, we're released 47  
From th' artificial regulations beast. 48  
Now th' invisible hand of the Market, pure and free, 49  
Can work its natural promised destiny. 50  
Everyone, the poor, the rich unchained, 51  
Can reach their maximum in profits gained. 52  
A new age is dawned... 53

### Song of Ascents

Freddie: How many novel ways this age presents! 54  
To make more money, money! Paradise! 55  
More wealth from wealth, no end, no sacrifice! 56  
A revolution in our moral sense. 57

Fred & Fan:	This land of opportunity is bless'd	58
	With Capital; success alone its guide.	59
	Here nothing's wasted, everything's possessed.	60
Fannie:	For wealth demands that we lead our parliaments	61
	With money each and everyone t' entice;	62
	Lord Profit, each and everyone's vice;	63
	The engine driving food and armaments.	64
Fan & Fred:	In our achievements, we are full of pride,	65
	Prepared to scale the financial Everest;	66
	To shape th' economy's affairs worldwide.	67
<hr/>		
[Now enters Johnnie Q., his hat in hand]:		
Johnnie Q:	Dear sir and madam, without any cheating	68
	I'm told you offer mortgages cheaply.	69
	I seek to buy a nice, reliable home	70
	And need an easily affordable loan.	71
Freddie (to Johnnie Q.):		
	We're pleased you chose our firm to meet your need.	72
Freddie (to Fannie):		
	You're looking for your hundredth – greet your lead!	73
Fannie (to Johnnie Q.):		
	I'm pleased to help you purchase your new home.	74
	We'll even add a home improvement loan!	75
	I need your name and the house address. That's all!	76
	This very morning you'll have your windfall.	77
	For now we'll keep the interest small.	78
	Just sign here ... fast and sure, we'll keep you poor.	79
	Have any questions? NO? Then here's the door.	80
Fannie (after Johnnie Q. leaves):		
	Oh wow, how dumb was that Neanderthal!	81
	How when his mortgage interest's over prime,	82
	He'll even manage payments! What a crime!	83
Freddie:	What does it matter to us? We'll divest it	84
	For Profit, as will the next and next investor –	85
	As will each and everyone up the riches ladder	86
	Expanding wealth as each becomes ever fatter.	87
	Our mister Q is at th' apex of his one loan,	88
	Increasing wealth of paper stone on stone,	89
	Expanding out, a pyramid of wealth	90
	Upside down, built upon his budget's health.	91
	It's Capital, the fittest, richest wins the race,	92
	Surviving while the weak receive our grace.	93

## **Song of Ascents (reprise):**

Fannie:	How fit are we to scale this pyramid!	94
	So strong to climb its inverted golden wall	95
	With our ubiquity, there'll be no fall!	96
	With our influence, we cannot be forbid!	97
Fan & Fred:	This land of opportunity is bless'd	98
	With Capital, success alone its guide!	99
	Here nothing's wasted, everything's possessed.	100
Freddie:	Awaken, we have heard the clarion call	101
	To generate more profit, to outbid	102
	Competitors successfully amid	103
	The world's resource and meager wherewithal.	104
Fan & Fred:	In our achievements, we are full of pride,	105
	Prepared to scale the financial Everest;	106
	To shape th' economy's affairs worldwide.	107

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## **Scene 2: Land of the Faux Free**

Radio:	The economic news today is favorable	108
	For all retail outlets: consumption's up	109
	And very costly goods are popular	110
	Especially SUVs and home theaters.	111
	[Now Jeannie Q and Johnnie Q. arrive on stage.]	112
Johnnie Q.:	Did you see that entertainment center?!	113
	Oh! Once I'd had been an envious frequenter	114
	To their home, but well we can compare.	115
	Now the playing field is more than fair.	116
Jeannie Q.:	Am I envious of Maria's home!	117
	The walls, the furniture – all just for a loan.	118
	Our home is just as good in reality.	119
	Ours just as much designer quality!	120
Johnnie Q.:	Oh yes, our home is pleasingly designed.	121
	We've made a good purchase; its well refined.	122
Jeannie Q.:	It's beautiful. I love this house, our home.	123
Johnnie Q.:	I love the yard in which our children'll roam.	124
Jeannie Q.:	Now we're a family like our Moms and Dads,	125
	No longer wandering like some homeless nomads.	126
Johnnie Q.:	Before, I felt unable to provide.	127
	How long could my worthlessness abide?	128
	Because of me we faced a life long fight	129
	For wealth t' escape our marginal plight.	130
Jeannie Q.:	I dreaded life with you and all the bills.	131
	Always, always, the constant budget drills.	132
	But what worth was I with hardly more ability;	133
	My value without any credibility.	134
Johnnie Q.:	Now all of that is done. Our home will gain	135
	In equity for us; our worth won't wane.	136
	We'll be as good as th' Jones, not behind	137
	Them anymore; instead among their kind.	138
Jeannie Q.:	And like them you and I can enjoy our wealth	139
	Available from our home by plan or stealth.	140
Johnnie Q.:	Let's get an entertainment center too.	141
	We can afford to keep our home all new.	142
Jeannie Q.:	And furniture too, made of solid yew.	143
	Yes, we can afford to keep our home all new.	144
Johnnie Q.:	And now's the time to take a trip away.	145

	It's time for us to stop and take a break.	146
	Let's find a shore line with a wondrous view.	147
	We can afford to make our lives all new.	148
Jeannie Q.:	Somewhere romantic hidden, full of fun	149
	Where we can play into oblivion.	150
	Let's find a place where not a thing's taboo.	151
	We can afford to make our lives all new.	152
Johnnie Q.:	Maybe we, even, can afford some kids.	153
	Maybe few or many – what a zoo!	154
	We can afford to make their lives all new.	155
Jeannie Q.:	Yes, children! What about the lives of kids?	156

### Windfall Song

Johnnie Q.:	O praise, O praise, our worth and value gained.	157
	The wind of change is blowing hope our way.	158
	No longer waiting, but acquired today.	159
	All that we crave, at last, at last unchained.	160
Jo&Je Q.:	I'll/He'll <sup>3</sup> be awhile nearby our children's manger.	161
	Soon I'll/he'll have to labor – what a bomb!	162
	I'll/He'll be a father absentee, a stranger ...	163
Jeannie Q.:	O praise, O praise, our money we've obtained.	164
	The games of one-upping we can play;	165
	No longer waiting, life with no delay	166
	– free at last our living unconstrained.	167
Jo&Je Q.:	Now she's/I'm <sup>4</sup> qualified to be a soccer mom.	168
	She'll/I'll be a super mom, expert arranger.	169
	Our daughter'll be the queen of the prom!	170

[A knock and enters Auntie Cassie, elderly and wheelchair bound.]

Cassie:	I've come to see your new and precious home.	171
	My – it's like a classic villa out of Rome –	172
	So Mediterranean, spacious, breezy	173
	And open for living free and easy.	174
Jeannie Q.:	We're happy, very happy you approve.	175
	You've validated the wisdom of our move.	176
Cassie:	No, no. I just admire the atmosphere.	177
	I really don't approve – to be sincere.	178
Johnnie Q.:	But look at the fountain, pool and sparkling light.	179
	We're having kids to really make it right.	180

<sup>3</sup> Johnnie Q. sings "I'll" and Jeannie Q. sings "He'll".

<sup>4</sup> Johnnie Q. sings "she's" and Jeannie Q. sings "I'm".

Cassie:	But how can you afford to pay for this?	181
Johnnie Q.:	Like everyone, we borrowed at subrates.	182
Cassie:	And years from now you'll fall into the abyss ...	183
Johnnie Q.:	We'll sell before the interest inflates.	184
	We'll make a fortune when prices inflate.	185
Cassie:	... You stand upon a paper edifice.	186
	[Disapproving, Cassie exits.]	187
Jeannie Q.:	My, she's a cynic, out of touch with the times ...	188
Johnnie Q.:	She's had too many years for counting dimes.	189

### **Windfall Song (Reprise)**

Johnnie Q.:	O praise, O praise, our worth and value gained.	190
	The wind of change is blowing hope our way.	191
	No longer waiting, but acquired today.	192
	All that we crave, at last, at last unchained.	193
Jo&Je Q.:	I'll/She'll <sup>5</sup> make my mark outside the homely calm.	194
	To contribute shares to our account – a stranger	195
	Who each and everyday, I'll/she'll be up at dawn.	196
Jeannie Q.:	O praise, O praise, our money we've obtained.	197
	The games of one-upping we can play;	198
	No longer waiting, life with no delay	199
	– free at last our living unconstrained.	200
Jo&Je Q.:	He'll/I'll <sup>6</sup> switch into investment – money changer –	201
	Accumulating funds with not a qualm	202
	So good he's/I'm free of all financial danger.	203

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<sup>5</sup> Jeannie Q. sings "I'll" and Johnnie Q. sings "She'll".

<sup>6</sup> Jeannie Q. sings "He'll" and Johnnie Q. sings "I'll".

### **Scene 3: The Great Gamble**

[At the high tower:]

Fannie:	We are exhausting all our funds to fast.	204
	The interest due won't soon enough be amassed.	205
	We'll facing bankruptcy ...	206
Freddie:	... we're survive the storm blast!	207
	Don't worry: the Market offers many choices.	208
	We'll sell our loans in the Market, backed by homes	209
	Whose values rise and rise beyond our loans.	210
	'Tis a wonder how wealth can be magnified.	211
	As we sell our debt, its worth is amplified.	212
	One single home of wood and glass begets	213
	In concert with other homes immense assets.	214
Fannie:	I know beyond our border, speculators,	215
	Amazing great financial innovators,	216
	Who surely will support us in our need –	217
	And take a risk on us – isn't that their creed?	218
Freddie:	Let's do it! Please contact them here and now.	219
	No time to waste! We need to secure their vow.	220
[Now turns Fan t' wards the hi-def screen		221
and quickly she connects to one who speculates.		222
He answers all business.]		223
Speculator:	So Fannie do you have mortgages to sell?	224
	I can help market them; I cannot fail –	225
	I will convert them into stocks for trade.	226
	They'll have inherent value that'll cascade	227
	Beyond the home and hearth, to help to grease	228
	Th' economic engine of Increase.	229
	A mortgaged home is th' most reliable pledge.	230
	Afraid of losing, owners will not hedge.	231
	Now the mortgage can be used to back more loaning	232
	So riches grow with virtually no postponing.	233
	Each time they're sold and bought, their worth improves	234
	And th' economy, from top to bottom, moves:	235
	The more wealth the rich possess, the more provided	236
	For Progress and by the wealthy wisely guided.	237
	What we do here propels the well being	238
	Of towns and nations: For their sure freeing	239
	From want and need, from fear, decline and blight.	240
	Generating wealth is good; we underwrite	241
	Investments, home improvements, innovation,	242
	And great Progress beyond all calculation.	243
	In Capital the poorest poor are richer than	244

	Those richest poor where Market's hand is banned.	245
Freddie:	What a miracle; magnified, accelerated wealth!	246
Fannie:	What a wonder: ever better economic health!	247
Freddie:	Imagine the wonder: homes, then mortgage lent,	248
	The loans securitized; at each assent	249
	The base of wealth increases, expands and grows	250
	Upon the apex of homes, banisher of woes.	251
Speculator:	But I'm a speculator called to grease	252
	The finance engine and allow release	253
	Of energies to accelerate the growth	254
	Of money: by my eternal oath.	255
	I shortly sell on loan what you will sell.	256
	You need investors with like clientele.	257
	To give to you the best of deals around.	258
	Such financiers of mortgage stock abound.	259
Fannie:	Then we are off to see the wizardry	260
	Of investment and other witchery!	261

## **Soul Song**

Freddie:	We've sold our souls to Mammon, life for dimes.	262
	We've given fraudulent hope to trusting souls.	263
	Poor innocents, digging themselves deep, deep holes,	264
	In these impatient, unforgiving times.	265
Fannie:	We've given our souls to Capital's smug crimes.	266
	The saps're convinced its best – so say the polls	267
	They fantasize our means can be their goals,	268
	In these consumptive and self-serving times.	269
Freddie:	My soul takes flight upon the wings of greed.	270
Fannie:	No matter th' means or tools, on wealth I thrive.	271
Freddie:	No longer an option, but a desperate need.	272
Fannie:	I make more wealth with wealth so I'll survive.	273
Freddie:	On money making now I have to feed.	274
Fannie:	It's my life boat; it's what it is to be alive.	275

[Arrives Aunt Cassie wheel-chair bound.] 276

Cassie:	I am retiring, natural and quiet.	277
	I need to get away from the Market's riot.	278
	So I have bought a pretty bungalow	279
	And need a mortgage; I've no funds to show	280
	From my abode of many, many years.	281

	My equity was too much in arrears	282
	And I have nothing left to pay for it.	283
	I am so desperate, I'd slay for it!	284
Freddie:	We have just the thing for what you need.	285
	It starts so you can quickly get your deed	286
	At lowest interest for years to come.	287
	And later it'll not be so burdensome,	288
	Because like all of us you'll be better off.	289
	Believe me, it's the Market's deal—don't scoff.	290
Cassie:	Oh well, I will be dead before its due!	291
	I'm old and going blind; I've no revenue.	292
Freddie:	That's ok. Your mortgage will contribute to wealth	293
	And as we invest it, t' economic health.	294
	As securitized stock others trade in it.	295
	As options others get their pay in it.	296
	Your mortgage helps create wealth more and more,	297
	Supporting the richest rich whom we adore.	298
Cassie:	My God, my little house supports so few.	299
	With so very much. Oh what am I to do?	300
	I have to be a juggler, plates on rods	301
	And rods on plates as steady as the gods	302
	Or th' whole damn'd edifice'll collapse.	303
	My later life's become like shooting craps.	304
	I am retiring , natural and quiet.	305
	I need to get away from th' Market's riot!	306

### **Soul Song (Reprise)**

Freddie:	We've sold our souls to Capital for dimes.	307
	We've taken senior citizens to town,	308
	And given them a chain instead of a crown,	309
	In these disrespectful, greedy times.	310
Fannie:	We've bartered souls for the fruits of Mammon's crimes.	311
	We've left our clients no where but straight down	312
	And buried them in debts until they drown.	313
	It's worthy work making better these fresh times.	314
Freddie:	My soul takes flight upon the wings of greed.	315
Fannie:	No matter th' means or tools, on wealth I thrive.	316
Freddie:	No longer an option, but a desperate need.	317
Fannie:	I make more wealth with wealth so I'll survive.	318
Freddie:	On money making now I have to feed.	319
Fannie:	It's my life boat; it's what it is to be alive.	320



	My life with you is ever more bonnie.	362
	Consuming we contribute to our well-being ...	363
Johnnie Q.	... together we enable our nations clear-seeing	364
	Towards unending golden, wealthy times	365
	As we conform to Capital's true lies.	366
	We're patriots! A life subsumed in loan	367
	Defends, uplifts and aids our national home.	368
Jeannie Q.:	And we will shed our blood for nation	369
	With the Reddish Ink of Debt's amplification.	370

### **Patriot's Love Song**

Johnnie Q.:	When Ms Liberty embraces Master Dough,	371
	In their embrace our love need find no bound.	372
	As we wave the Red, White and Blue all around	373
	Dough provides for Liberty's trousseau.	374
Jeannie Q.:	Now Liberty unbinds and frees her beau:	375
	In their expansive acts our hope is found.	376
	Let our praise of their fertility resound.	377
	Engaged in theirs, may living overflow!	378
J&J Q.:	O! Our debt is a patriotic, trumpet-call	379
	Forever growing rich, expanding wealth,	380
	Empowering ownership for one and all.	381
	O! We, alive in an age unparalleled,	382
	Can celebrate in the bounteous banquet-hall	383
	Of SUVs, iPods, and costly health.	384

	[Marie, neighbor, enters]	385
Marie:	O Jeannie, O! I need to talk.	386
	Our budget we can't sustain	387
	And now the debt collectors stalk:	388
	They call and call again and again.	389
Jeannie Q:	Why are your frightened? There's always some way –	390
	A loan – until the next pay day ...	391
Marie:	But that's it: We have too many.	392
	Now we have not ev'n a penny...	393
	Our mortgage rate's increased beyond	394
	Our capability t' respond.	395
Jeannie Q:	Your husband's job will certainly provide ...	396
Marie:	But there's no hope for that: all raises are nullified.	397
	And food and fuel and health and gas	398
	Have all increased beyond our class.	399
	No hope, none at all, no hope, no hope.	400

	We're at the end of our affluent rope.	401
	[Jeannie Q. now speechless, hesitates.]	402
Marie:	Dear Jeannie, pray for us.	403
	Pray that we'll delay our lust.	404
	[And so Marie departs distraught.	405
	The Qs remain in silent thought.]	406
Johnnie Q.:	The failure of their personal economy	407
	Is not the tolling bell of our autonomy.	408
	My Boss this day announced a new contract	409
	With secretive details and government impact.	410
	I'm an essential and preferred resource.	411
	I'll stay for its entire extended course.	
	Should I take the strenuously long assignment	412
	My average income will multiply	413
	And our economy will reach alignment.	414
	We need to have no fear of running dry.	415
Jeannie Q.:	Accept it! Accept whatever it takes!	416
	... it's worth the pains and aches!	417
Cassie [enters in her wheelchair]:		
	What's happened here? The air is glooming, tense.	418
	Have both of you had a dose of sense?	419
Jeannie Q.:	No. No. Marie, our neighbor vented.	420
	Their budget's failure cannot be prevented.	421
Johnnie Q.:	But I have great and new prospects!	422
	Alas! We can begin to mail out tardy checks.	423
Cassie:	I have a mortgage loan, believe it or not!	424
	And I can barely pee in my own pot!	425
	Ah, yes, beware of bankers bearing gifts	426
	And their reliance on us being spendthrifts.	427
	My dears, I hope you have decided rightly	428
	And when rates increase you can continue tightly...	429
Jeannie Q.:	We know. There's virtually no risk or chance ...	430
Johnnie Q.:	When the time arrives, we can refinance.	431
Cassie:	Do you not see? Do you not hear? Or feel?	432
	We're locked away in Capital's Bastille.	433
	We're chained to the rich; they own us soul and health.	434
	We bear the weight of their expanding wealth.	435
	Upon our labor, homes and even our silhouettes	436
	They pile up massive, phantom, magical assets.	437
Johnnie Q.:	That's silly. Th' Universe's Masters	438
	Are wise enough t' prevent disasters!	439

## **Patriot's Love Song (Reprise)**

Johnnie Q.:	When Ms Liberty embraces Master Dough,	440
	In their embrace our love need find no bound.	441
	As we wave the Red, White and Blue all around	442
	Dough provides for Liberty's trousseau.	443
Jeannie Q.:	Now Liberty unbinds and frees her beau:	444
	In their expansive acts our hope is found.	445
	Let our praise of their fertility resound.	446
	Engaged in theirs, may living overflow!	447
J&J Q.:	O! Our debt is a patriotic, trumpet-call	448
	Forever growing rich, expanding wealth,	449
	Empowering ownership for one and all.	450
	O! We, alive in an age unparalleled,	451
	Can celebrate in the bounteous banquet-hall	452
	Of SUVs, iPods, and costly health.	453
Cassie [joins the chorus singing this alternative verse]:		454
	O what a burden citizenship is now.	455
	The Red, White and Blue are so oppressive.	456
	The wealth of Master Dough so weighs us down!	457
	Miss Liberty demands are all-possessive.	458
	The few expand against their wealth and drown	459
	The growing poor in debting so aggressive.	460

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## **Scene 5: Poor Darwin**

[Now we return to th' Tower High...]	461	
Radio:	In th' midst of high consumption, social services	462
	Announced increase in homeless families	463
	And individuals seeking food and shelter...	464
Freddie:	Why are you so moody and downcast?	465
	At our retreat you were quite th' enthusiast.	466
Fannie:	Yes, it was wonderful and generous.	467
	The rooms and meals were all luxurious.	468
	The celebrity speakers were informative.	469
	The taken-actions were performative.	470
	The after hour amenities allowed release	471
	From th' tension, letting us relax in peace.	472
	Thank you for the rich trip away.	473
	Augh! But now I have to switch to th' workday!	474
Freddie:	Is that why you are gloom and doom?	475
	I was hoping you'd be all abloom.	476
Fannie:	Oh no, oh no, I was high until ...	477
	His eyes, Oh God, his eyes so chill.	478
	And gazing so empty, so filled	479
	With Capital's sins and ills.	480
Freddie:	Oh? Who is this you're talking about?	481
	Some vagrant or some crazing lout?	482
Fannie:	That One, as we were driving from the airport,	483
	Whose loitering caused our joy to abort.	484
Freddie:	You mean that homeless man,	485
	In the intersection whom we nearly overran?	486
	Why so affected by such human waste	487
	Who rightfully from our concern's erased?	488
Fannie (sotto voce):	Oh! Those captivating eyes yearning for death,	489
	Swallowed up by Agony's length and breath.	490
	O you forgotten man!	491
	O you invisible hand...	492
	... damning him to hell	493
	... it is for you the bell tolls.	494
Freddie:	We need not be guilty of our success	495
	Or that we take pleasure in Money's caress.	496
	It is the natural order to weed out the weak	497
	And to promote the strong to their utmost peak.	498
	We who are the fittest survive.	499

By nature we are the best to thrive. 500  
 For Capital is the natural order; left unassailed 501  
 It guarantees that the best will prevail. 502  
 Civilization moves forward advancing 503  
 While the life of everyone enhancing. 504

Fannie: Even my forgotten man with his handicaps? 505

Freddie: He only needs to pull himself up by th' bootstraps. 506

### **Darwin Knew It**

Freddie: Ol' Darwin knew it for the animals and plants: 507  
 The weak must die so the fittest will prevail – 508  
 And what success from microbe to the whale 509  
 And for us Nature's own enriching grants. 510  
 We humans knew it too in the Market's hands: 511  
 That Main must work, so Wall can use and bail – 512  
 And how successful even when they fail. 513  
 For the world is always there for a chance. 514  
 It nags, it nags, some feeling nags unseen. 515  
 It wordlessly assails me that its wrong – 516  
 Somehow the world is more than Nature's been. 517

Fannie: Is this Humanity's end; its final song? 518  
 It's your own soul that nags in silent scream 519  
 For the desperate, ignored, forgotten throng! 520

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Freddie: O Fan, I need your spirited support. 521  
 I don't want our relationship t' abort. 522

Fannie: Then can we see beyond ol' Darwin's sight 523  
 For just a glimpse to share our riches' light? 524

Freddie: We must then hand out some of our surplus 525  
 To give successful help a stimulus. 526  
 What does our homeless friend require? A home! 527  
 In a nice and pretty residential zone. 528  
 And we can provide the cost effective loan 529  
 With very tiny interest for some years 530  
 While he settles into work his very own. 531  
 We can become community financiers 532  
 Of our city's worker placement and training 533  
 Commission, who with our help will be naming 534  
 One of us to the governing board. 535  
 Then our friend can get a home he can afford 536  
 When we place him and not go into arrears. 537

Fannie: But he is not alone; there's many others! 538  
 What of this growing horde who e'en now smother 539

	Us with invisible power, untapped, explosive	540
	And leaves ours and our children's lives corrosive?	541
Freddie:	We cannot house each and everyone.	542
	We're just a pair of ordinary souls.	543
	We'll help out one if he enrolls	544
	In Labor's duties and unrelenting hum.	545
	Then he can succumb to Capital's demand	546
	For wealth creation OR return to the damn'd.	547
	O Fan, we can only do so much.	548
	Only a few can we really touch.	549
	We'll open the gates of Capital to them,	550
	But they must become a loyal citizen.	551
Fannie:	Yes, but it seems so small	552
	When it's so close to a fall.	553
Freddie:	But realize, we do more than we know:	554
	We hold some stocks in our portfolio	555
	Of companies enhancing common lives	556
	Of people here and within foreign tribes.	557
	We hold in agribusiness, energy,	558
	And e'en defense that works in synergy	559
	To feed, to warm and defend the masses	560
	Of all cultures, faiths and classes.	561
Fannie:	But still so many fail, I've seen.	562
	Can everyone of them be unredeemed?	563
Freddie:	This way will work for all in time.	564
	As it evolves, everyone will reach their prime.	565
	O Fan, now you and I have found the Dream –	566
	– The American Dream, where you and I are king and queen.	567
	Rejoice, be happy, lighten up and smile.	568
	Our work is good; we've gone the next mile.	569

## **Song of Happiness**

Fannie:	O Happiness, the child of th' American Dream,	570
	O We, the strong and fit, have captured you.	571
	Rejoicing that we are right in all we do,	572
	As we sail along your ever flowing stream.	573
Freddie:	O Joy and Happiness, we mount th' Apex	574
	Of Civilization, Masters of our times,	575
	Commanders in a world chaotic and complex.	576
Fannie:	O Happiness, from worry we are redeemed	577
	So long as we stand with the Red, White and Blue	578
	And non-stop the better and richer we pursue.	579
	Then we're right with Nature's Way ... so it would seem.	580

Freddie:	O Happiness, we stand above our crimes	581
	Assured in our achievements, cures or wrecks.	582
	O Joy, defend society's designs!	583
<hr/>		
Fannie:	And what of Auntie Cassie, old and frail?	584
	We loaned to her in a cheap and cheating sale.	585
	When she cannot afford to pay,	586
	She'll become a homeless castaway!	587
	[Now, Cassie rolls her wheelchair onto the stage.]	588
Cassie:	I want to thank you both for your good will	589
	And invite you to my new home in Everyville.	590
	At last in my declining years I own	591
	A home: a fairy house of slate and stone.	592
	It's nestled in a grove of gnarly trees.	593
	Along a creek, with a gentle breeze..	594
Fannie:	We'd love to come and see your bungalow.	595
	It's great for us to see that which we sow.	596
Cassie:	Arrive soon! I may not be there for long.	597
	I could default my loan at th' Street's next gong –	598
	Investors gambling can soon drive my rate	599
	A-soaring – way beyond my meager state!	600
Fannie:	Don't fret! We'll care for you ...	601
Cassie:	No! You won't be able to –	602
	The enemy that undermines our lives	603
	Accumulating our assets, deprives	604
	Us of labor's value tiny step by step	605
	Until we all succumb to deepening debt.	606
Freddie:	'Tis an assailant who's attacking our traditions,	607
	An alien with devilish ambitions.	608
	O, Cassie even that we've covered good.	609
	We have invested wisely as we should	610
	In military industrial stocks	611
	And in significant blocks ...	612
(sotto voce)	Of course with raging war our wealth has grown.	613
Cassie:	No! No! It is not Them; it's Us, our Own!	614
	[Exeunt]	

## **Scene 6: Golden Job**

[Johnnie Q. strolls onto th' empty stage.]	615
Johnnie Q: I'm home!	616
[Jeannie Q. appears]	617
We've got th' contract and the pay is great!	618
The job's our best construction work to date!	619
Jeannie Q.: Congratulations! Come to me, my love.	620
Johnnie Q.: I'm hoping this improves our life, my dove.	621
[They embrace].	622
Jeannie Q.: Do you begin soon? Will it last awhile?	623
Johnnie Q.: In just a week. We have to be versatile.	624
It's guaranteed at least for half a year.	625
We're promised after that positions here.	626
Jeannie Q.: Oh, here? Where's the job? You're going away!?	627
Johnnie Q.: It's the best – it's really all they had in play.	628
It was bankruptcy or a golden haul.	629
Our choice was this or not a thing at all.	630
Jeannie Q.: Where?	631
Johnnie Q.: Over There.	632
It's a no bid contract inside Iraq.	633
We're guaranteed to be far from attack!	634
Jeannie Q.: You'll be away from me for all those weeks!	635
I'll be alone by myself under th' sheets	636
To worry what is happening to you	637
In danger in a land all but unglued.	638
Johnnie Q.: I'll miss you too; but six months will fly.	639
I'll work with cautious vigor; I'll survive.	640
I'll come back home to you a better man.	641
We'll be improved and live a better plan.	642

## **Song of Missing You**

Jeannie Q.: I'll be missing you when you leave in anxiety.	643
Do not forget to e-mail me every night.	644
I'll be alone concerned about your plight,	645
My sacrifice for our personal economy.	646
Johnnie Q.: I'll be missing you when I leave you for brutality.	647
I shall remember t' write at failing light	648
And be alone until we re-unite –	649
My sacrifice for our national economy.	650

Jeannie Q.:	Alone with the endless chasing after a penny...	651
Johnnie Q.:	Alone with the endless chasing after a buck...	652
Jeannie Q.:	And here in a Capitalism with out any ...	653
Johnnie Q.:	And there in a Capitalist's Harvest stuck.	654
Jeannie Q.:	But coming home so rich you'll bring so many...	655
Johnnie Q.:	But come back home so rich, with any luck.	656
	—————	
Jeannie Q.:	Well – come with me; we have a week for us	657
	To be in the moment sensuous	658
	And make more memories of ecstasy...	659
	And maybe one to keep me company.	660
[Exeunt]		

## Interlude

[Now speaks our Narrator guided by the Muse's voice afar.]	661
Dear friends, what say you: am I sage or fool	662
Proclaiming Capital's relentless rule	663
With easy loans and tempting merchandise	664
And claim this is the road to Paradise?	665
But judge not yet; the Muse is still not done	666
For our society is overrun:	667
“Proclaim! Proclaim!,” she cries, “More must be told!	668
“Reveal th' assault on th' Republic's soul! Behold!	669
“Have you not heard? Have you not seen?	670
“Before you plain and clear, so mean	671
“The stewardship of what you have inherited	672
“In law and rights reduced from what they merited?”	673
So calls the Muse to us t' confront our laziness	674
And ope our ears and eyes to dispel our haziness:	675
“O people turn, behold Mammon's altar	676
“Whereat your Servants pray least it falter.	677
“Escape you'll not from judgment's exposure	678
“And with your Servants suffer Doom's foreclosure!”	679
Be aware! Be alert!	680
New Governors of good intent will fix	681
Th' old corpse of Capital with various tricks	682
T' resuscitate the body prosperous	683
& reclaim the Market's confidence in us.	684
Then once again we boom with wealth and gifts,	685
Committed once again to Market's Myths.	686
But bust is sure, for the Market has to fate it.	687
And good intent will not eradicate it.	688
How many, once again for Market's greed,	689
Must succumb to its unchallenged creed?	690
So come, dear friends, if you dare.	691
To the Second Act and risk a care ...	692



Radio:	The governor announced today that	729
	He will submit a legislative bill	730
	To halt all predatory lending now.	731
	The bill will cause all those involved in selling loans	732
	Deemed unfair t' be liable legally.	733
	Speculators, mortgage brokers, all involved	734
	Could be subjected to fines and even jail.	735
	The governor explained with this will come	736
	Accountability and	737
	Responsibility...	738
Fannie:	He's trying t' put us out of business.	739
	This will be surely cataclysmic	740
	For us – and what of all of those we've waived	741
	Who can't afford a house – now they must save!	742
Freddie:	The legislature won't allow this t' pass –	743
	Assuredly if they want their reign to last.	744
	For Capital possesses them as clearly	745
	As it possesses you and I so dearly.	746
	[Now Auntie Cassie enters with her cane;	747
	No longer does she need a wheeling chair:]	748
Cassie:	You need to help me out of this affair ...	749
	You waived me through the loan. You were aware	750
	Of what I would have to face and did not care:	751
	That inexpensive loans are frauds and cheats;	752
	That hour by hour unseen the cost accretes	753
	Until my interest adjusts its charge	754
	To a monthly payment, budget-busting large.	755
	You knew this! Stand up now and pay your dues	756
	-- redeem yourself of this abusive ruse!	757
Freddie:	You should have known – 'twas written down	758
	In our contract; you should've read it by now!	759
	[Now suddenly a computer call arrives:]	760
Speculator:	Attention, colleagues have you heard	761
	The governor's assault – although absurd –	762
	Upon our rights, th' American Way?	763
	He thinks he's some Messiah in a Passion-Play.	764
	Already some investors have conferred	765
	And will approach the Governor in a day.	766
	Will you join to protect our rights	767
	Before he can turn out the lights?	768
Fannie:	O yes, we shall be there. Our lives, our hopes	769
	Depend on not being strangled by his ropes.	770

## Song of Liberation

Fan & Fred:	My rights I will defend through thick and thin	771
	To live in hope of riches without end,	772
	Unhindered by a lord who'd not let us lend.	773
	This I will fight until I kill this sin.	774
	I'll not submit to such a discipline.	775
	I'll battle mightily this regulatory trend	776
	With all I have: with every dime and dividend.	777
	This I will fight until I totally win.	778
Cassie:	And where is th' place for me in your ideal?	779
	I'm old, retired and need to walk with a cane.	780
	And how are Mine assured of their next meal?	781
Fred & Fan:	Whatever place that you and yours attain	782
	Is yours for th' taking without appeal.	783
	Just for the non profit is it a bane.	784
<hr/>		
Cassie:	Beware, Farmers of Greed, what you sow.	785
	For not long will we lay fallow.	786
	Then your harvest will be grim	787
	And your pickings all too slim.	788
[Exeunt]		

## **Scene 2: Coming Home**

[The stage unpeopled] 789

Radio: Today demand for housing is th' highest ever. 790  
Yet there's increased amount of homes foreclosed. 791  
Financial sellers still continue t' give 792  
Unprecedented cheap and easy loans. 793

[Now enter pregnant Jeannie Q. and Cassie] 794

Jeannie Q.: I just received an e-call from Johnnie Q. 795  
His news is good, exciting; yet askew. 796  
He was not due t' return from War until 797  
A month from now, expected t' use his skill. 798  
But now he's spoken he's coming home this week. 799  
In it there was a secret, hidden streak. 800  
His words were joyously relieved. 801  
But even so his disembodied voice 802  
Was flat as if unable t' rejoice. 803

Cassie: He's tired, been working hard in fighting zones 804  
A devastated world of bones and moans. 805  
Rejoice! He's coming homeside, safe and sound. 806  
He'll need a lot of solid ground. 807

Jeannie Q: Yes, I will ground him good and solid 808  
And lighten him from being so stolid. 809  
And I'll at last no longer be alone 810  
And he'll no longer ever be on loan. 811  
Now sooner he'll be home for our new baby – 812  
Now life'll return him to the fold – maybe. 813  
As a civilian he won't have any trauma. 814  
He – and I – won't have t' go through all that drama. 815  
And I won't be any more alone in bed. 816  
No longer nights of terrible dread. 817  
He's coming home! He's coming, come to me 818  
– Less pay; I'll have to end my spending spree. 819

## **Song of Coming Home**

Jeannie Q.: Divided we have been for war and oil. 820  
We're far apart for love of living well. 821  
We're both existing in th' shadow of th' tolling bell. 822  
Our lives on hold in agonized turmoil. 823  
Now you will be returning, done with toil 824  
Of distant war, our home your citadel 825  
In my yearning arms, ne'er more to say farewell. 826  
But stay at home and bring our blood to a boil! 827

Cassie: The war will rage and rage, for profit's sake. 828

	But yours, thank God, will come back safe and sound	829
	To you, I pray, and heal your heart of ache.	830
Jeannie Q.:	O come! O quickly come and I'll surround	831
	Your soul and body, never forsake,	832
	With arms of sure concern forever bound.	833
<hr/>		
	[Now Jeannie Q. begins to weep.]	834
Cassie:	Why weep? Your love returns; soon you'll be complete.	835
Jeannie Q.:	No, no! My dear Maria went down to defeat!	836
	She and her husband failed t' succeed in life	837
	And were both overwhelmed by debtor's strife.	838
	Their Budget haunted them with endless Hell	839
	Of life un-lived always up for sell.	840
	Despair, no hope, no existence just abyss.	841
	So they chose Grim Reaper's liberating kiss.	842
	They finished 't on the fiery pyre of their assets,	843
	Discarded gods in th' world's twilight of senseless bets,	844
	Consumer's flames and smoke, reduced to ash.	845
	They're momentary news, then out with th' trash.	846
	O! Never, not ever will I succumb!	847
	O! What to do if we are overcome?	848
	My baby moved. Your Dad's returning.	849
	How much our hearts for him are turning!	850
	O Marie, will we become like you?	851
	So desperate, so totally unglued?	852
Cassie:	You'll have no need for fiery pyres.	853
	You can transcend – just try – your trials	854
	And stand beyond material life	855
	T' engage in th' one, true people's strife.	856
Jeannie Q.:	My baby, life we'd give you without need.	857
	But our economy we have to heed –	858
	Each dime and dollar counts, no loss is small,	859
	A loss income will sound the trumpet call	860
	Of unpreventable slide into th' abyss –	861
	O Dad's returning home's a toxic kiss...	862

### **Song of the Budget**

Jeannie Q.:	O happy days, my Johnnie's marching home.	863
	O happy days, my baby's daddy's coming soon,	864
	Contributor to War's sure profit boon.	865
	How great in stature Johnnie must've grown.	866
	Yet what value does he bring from th' battle zone?	867
	What harvest has he gleaned out of this doom?	868
	Will Johnnie come with streams of cash t' consume?	869

Or will we face a budget loss full-blown? 870  
O happy days are here again at last. 871  
My love'll be home in Prosperity's sure Peace, 872  
In my embrace from Warfare's stormy blast. 873  
O Respite, let his strife and worry cease 874  
And be our child's foremost enthusiast 875  
At Military, Inc's excessive feast. 876

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Radio: A spokesperson for Military, Inc. 877  
Announced a lost contractor unit was captured. 878  
The Red Crescent arranged for their release 879  
Conditioned on th' immediate return 880  
Of the contractors home and never coming back. 881

### **Scene 3: Capital Ascendant**

[Again we visit th' governor on Center Stage.	882
But now his Captors will confront him ...]	883
Speculator: Dear Governor we come t' prevent a mistake	884
& to help you see how terrible's your brake	885
On our efforts to steer th' economy	886
Along the road of opportunity.	887
Again you want to strangle us with rules	888
& return to constant regulatory duels.	889
At last we're free of them and can't you see	890
By feeding Greed we're near to guarantee	891
That one and all will reap consumption's wages.	892
This age is best of all proceeding ages.	893
If you impose restrictions now on us,	894
You end our driving, profit impetus	895
And wealth and human hope for wealth will die.	896
To your career you surely can say good bye.	897
Governor: Yet how do you account in Greed ordained	898
That people suffer when you Masters' gain?	899
If all will gain when Money's making Money	900
Why then so many bluffed by the Market's honey?	901
From easy loans to stocks for living old	902
Your Market leaves so many in the cold.	903
Speculator: No! Capital is part of Nature's Way.	904
As Darwin visioned life, so th' invisible hand	905
Winnows out the fittest, th' rest it throws away.	906
'Tis right some people fall, some people stand.	907
O Governor, d' you understand, we're Freedom's womb?	908
We to this day persist as Freedom's boon.	909
Governor: I agree that Capital, new born, released	910
The people from the Baron's land t' increase	911
By their own choice, be it trade or land.	912
They soon conceived that they could take a stand.	913
Yes, Freedom was your gift – also your doom.	914
You ope'd Pandora's Box and out it came—	915
Rebellious and never to be tamed.	916
For th' fuel of Capital's success is Greed.	917
From your start that guided nearly every deed	918
& motivated Freedom's care and feeding.	919
In Freedom's void, more freedom you were breeding.	920
Then you were small merchants and democrats.	921
You needed freedom t' feed your greed.	922
Now you are huge collective plutocrats	923

	No longer small and weak, but always in th' lead	924
	Resisting your own unexpected child	925
	And with it hopelessly unreconciled.	926
	Accept it! Don't resist! You must evolve	927
	From top down to bottom up or else dissolve!	928
Speculator:	It's too complex for th' ordinary peasant ...	929
Governor:	So said King George, long past, no longer present!	930
Speculator:	Well, be that as it may, we know what's best	931
	And th' time has come to end this crazy quest.	932
Governor:	What about Marie? D' you even know her?	933
Fannie (sotto voce):		
	We know her ... we know ...	934
Governor:	Did you know the sure impact of what you loaned her?	935
	Is it natural to cast away the weak?	936
	What deity creates a world so bleak?	937
	Who wins? Who's the fittest? Are we captive rivals	938
	In a relentless struggle for survival?	939
	Is this our destiny? T' endlessly	940
	Compete with one another friendlessly?	941
	[Our Capitalist friends remain silent.	942
	Then speaks our Speculator ...]	943
Speculator:	Beware! Our credit ties and binds all trade.	944
	Production, jobs and consumption ... if we break	945
	Those bonds because we cannot offer credit	946
	Then it's the End ...	947
Governor:	... now you've said it.	948
	Have you no civic duty t'wards the public?	949
	Would you jeopardize the welfare of th' Republic?	950
Freddie:	We'd have no choice; constraints that you propose	951
	Will shut off wealth increase and as profit goes	952
	So goes prosperity and revenue.	953
	Why then impoverish all just for the few?	954
Speculator:	We won't do business unless we're Free.	955
	The Land of Freedom's our guarantee.	956
Governor:	In this Land of Freedom, I'll expose to light	957
	For all to see Marie's destructive plight.	958
Speculator:	Do as you will. We will appeal to our friend,	959
	The Congress who'll stay this foolish trend.	960
	[As fades the one-time ruling office	961
	The Radio announces the news of the day ...]	962
Radio:	Foreclosures have increased in th' quarter past.	963

	Responding Mortgage Banks have raised their rates	964
	Insuring them increasing profits ...	965
	[Now as Fred's and Fan's high office, stage Front, illuminates	966
	The Radio continues ...]	967
Radio:	In other news, the homeless numbers rose	968
	In both suburbs and cities ...	969
Freddie:	With help from us the Congress understood	970
	To override the rules as we knew it should.	971
	The Governor's career will soon be lost –	972
	He ought to know by now who not to cross.	973
	The Congress knew to follow our lead	974
	In economic matters or they bleed	975
	As our donations dry up bit by bit.	976
	When Wealth succeeds its t' both our benefit.	977
Fannie [downcast, sotto voce]:		
	Yes, we've won this round of dominant control.	978
	We're cleared of all but our financial goal.	979
Freddie [annoyed]:		
	You should be joyous! Happy! Life is good!	980
	Our own destruction we successfully withstood.	981
Fannie:	This morning we foreclosed on Ms Bloom.	982
	D' you know how she responded to her doom:	983
	"I'm going t' join my neighbors in the car park."	984
	In her car her life's reduced to th' stark and dark.	985
Freddie:	And so it is: 'tis normal that some fail	986
	That others, more effective, may prevail.	987
Fannie:	D' you not see what I see beyond our tower:	988
	The lots on lots of autos occupied	989
	By homeless ex-homeowners disempowered,	990
	All fingering PDAs for work t' provide	991
	Them sustenance against the starving hour.	992
	Something is missing, loss in our success ...	993
Freddie:	Just the Governor's career and reasonableness.	994
Fannie:	No! Something has fled and left an empty hole	995
	In our very selves – something that meeting stole:	996
	We're fractured, isolated, mean and cold;	997
	Yes, our own hard-fought success has turned to gold.	998
	But our house, our food of gold cannot console –	999
	No joy, no music, no name in Heaven's Scroll.	1000
[Exeunt]		

#### **Scene 4: Walking the Perimeter**

[Johnnie Q. is walking ‘round and ‘round	1001
From door to window, stairs to phone.	1002
... around the Guardian Perimeter.	1003
He looks out a window:]	1004
Radio:           Dateline today: New housing starts are up.	1005
Realtors are reporting the hottest sales	1006
Are new MacMansions.	1007
In other news, the Eastern Branch of Bank, Inc.	1008
Reported falling profits...	1009
Johnnie Q. (sotto voce);	
There might be snipers over there behind	1010
The Hedge; it’d make a good, effective blind.	1011
[Our Jeannie Q arrives. She clutches close a bill:]	1012
Jeannie Q.:    How went your test? Did this attempt succeed?	1013
If so you’d get a job with all due speed.	1014
Johnnie Q. (Though noticing the bill, ignores it):	
No, I could not concentrate or focus.	1015
Somehow it seemed unimportant and bogus.	1016
O something new will come; I’ll find a job	1017
Eventually; don’t worry and don’t sob ...	1018
Jeannie Q.:    Wouldn’t it be easier t’ return t’ construction?	1019
Or what about automobile production?	1020
I know investment would be so much more fun.	1021
But if the course exam’s too burdensome...	1022
Johnnie Q.:    Look, I was laid off when I returned.	1023
I do not want t’ again get burned.	1024
I cannot do construction work again.	1025
I am too dangerous, inept, a strain.	1026
Jeannie Q.:    Why didn’t Military, Inc. provide	1027
A pension – certainly you qualified?	1028
Johnnie Q.:    I was a resource and while I was good I was good.	1029
But when I wasn’t good I was dead wood,	1030
Discarded, useless rubbish, non-existent,	1031
Off the radar, no name, beyond distant.	1032
Jeannie Q.:    My job is not enough. On mine alone	1033
We can’t survive. E’en more our budget’s blown.	1034
Soon th’ baby will come and what are we to do?	1035
Another mouth to feed, more need t’ pursue!	1036
Johnnie Q.:    Into what a world we’re bringing our child –	1037

	No hope, no peace, th' untamed financial wild!	1038
	[Johnnie Q. abruptly stands and flees th' stage.]	1039
Cassie	(enters as he brushes past her):	
	Where's Johnnie going, exiting so fast?	1040
	He seems so harried, angry and down cast.	1041
Jeannie Q.:	He's been all over th' map since he's returned.	1042
	I am becoming worried and concerned.	1043
	It's like he never come back t' me.	1044
	His mind's elsewhere; as good as absentee.	1045
	He'll not take construction jobs – I don't know why.	1046
	He gets provoked if I should ask him t' try.	1047
	He cannot focus t' start a new career.	1048
	Right now it'd do if he'd just work as a cashier.	1049
Cassie:	Has he talked about his war experiences?	1050
	He may be suffering the consequences.	1051
Jeannie Q.:	No, never. It was only work he says.	1052
	But now we have a lot of bills to pay.	1053
	Now we have just received our mortgage bill	1054
	(She waves the bill in hand ...)	1055
	And th' interest ballooned – a bitter pill.	1056
	We cannot make ends meet without his working.	1057
	What am I to do – he's got to stop the shirking –	1058
	And the baby will be here soon – it's not fair!	1059
	Another mouth to feed, more needing care!	1060
Cassie:	D'you have a friend who'd come t' your aid?	1061
Jeannie Q.:	Nobody steady; not unless they're paid.	1062
	We're all so busy working jobs to thrive.	1063
	No one has time, desire, or even the' drive	1064
	T' support us – shouldn't we be taking care	1065
	Of us! It's shameful we can't do our share.	1066
	Let no one know – if Johnnie cannot work,	1067
	I'll go to social services for what its worth –	1068
Cassie:	Beware! In Capital there's no real place	1069
	For social services; they'll always be debased:	1070
	As able and nurturing as their practitioners	1071
	Are, it's their non-performing petitioners	1072
	Who benefit and there's no profit t' be made.	1073
	Indeed profits are reduced through taxes paid.	1074
	So social services may or may not provide	1075
	What minimally you may need t' survive.	1076
	Capitalism broke the workers' chains	1077
	To feudal land and freed them for their own gains	1078
	To work or starve, to stay or go,	1079

To reap the harvest of what they sow –	1080
But if you cannot bring in revenue,	1081
Then Capitalism has no use for you –	1082
It does not free from want or despair.	1083
It simply has no interest in such an affair.	1084

### **Song of Midas**

Jeannie Q.:	Where has gone our golden lives, our treasure-trove?	1085
	We were endowed with golden touch by debt.	1086
	– So good while th’ Market was a trusted bet.	1087
	Across the world on golden legs we strove.	1088
	In our heyday with golden thread we wove	1089
	Our lives in luxury, not a regret	1090
	For anything done – ignoring th’ sapping threat	1091
	That followed us doomly where’er we rove.	1092
Jeannie Q.:	But all of th’ gold we’ve gathered here won’t feed us.	1093
Johnnie Q. (resonating from outside):		
	No hope at all for work t’ support our touch.	1094
Jeannie Q.:	Our touch has turned to lead; it’s going t’ bleed us!	1095
Johnnie Q.:	Each day the weight is building far too much	1096
Jeannie Q.:	Weighed down by gold and starving: who will heed us?	1097
Johnnie Q.:	Until we fall and need some welfare crutch.	1098
	_____	
Jeannie Q.:	I have to get to my precarious job.	1099
	How long I have work I do not know – help me God!	1100
	[Jeannie Q. and Cassie exit stage RIGHT.]	1101
Johnnie Q. (enters walking his perimeter):		
	Now th’ hedge is gone; they can’t attack from there –	1102
	But th’ neighbor can now see us from his chair ...	1103

## **Scene 5: Deposed**

[Stage CENTER illuminated. 1104  
The Governor behind his desk. 1105  
His silent assistant before the desk ...] 1106

Governor: Well, our proposal went down to defeat. 1107  
Now made acceptable is Capital's deceit. 1108  
We wait, just wait until it runs its course – 1109  
Until the people cry out and seek divorce. 1110  
In time a Peoples Union will arise to claim 1111  
Their rights to run th' economy unchained. 1112

## **Fist Song**

Governor: How far? How far will we push them to th' edge? 1113  
We, dominant, enclose them in a web 1114  
Of cheating promises while their lifestyles ebb 1115  
Until they have no where to go but off the ledge. 1116  
How long? How long will we continue t' hedge 1117  
Our civic duty, blinding ourselves red 1118  
With social debt of avarice so widespread 1119  
They're driven t' cast our efforts over th' edge? 1120  
Our acts can only drive the weak t' arise 1121  
In Fists of Resistance t' overcome the strong. 1122  
With only fists of anger t' energize 1123  
Them out of their sleep, they become a throng 1124  
Of power, explosive, chaotic, dehumanized. 1125  
At our peril we've ignored this all-along! 1126

[Stage CENTER fades. 1127  
Stage RIGHT illuminates our Fred and Fan:] 1128

Freddie: We won the day! So much for th' people's mages. 1129

Fannie: We may have won the day, but lost the ages ... 1130

Radio: Flash! Bank, Inc. announced it failed today. 1131  
Investors holding debt demanded quick repayment 1132  
Unnerved by accelerated mortgage failures. 1133  
Bank, Inc. disclosed 'twas under capitalized ... 1134

[The scene darkens to black.] 1135

## **Scene 6: Grim Reaper**

[Johnnie Q. is sitting upon a chair, stark and plain. 1136  
All is dark except the light on Johnnie, Stage CENTER. 1137  
He holds a bottle full of pills.] 1138

Johnnie Q.: O holy vial, my savior to be. 1139  
I cannot tell her 'bout what happened there. 1140  
I don't e'en know myself! But it can happen here! 1141  
– Any place and any time – to me, 1142  
To her: from a wall or from a tree. 1143  
Our safety can't be trusted anywhere. 1144  
There's hidden, lurking dangers everywhere. 1145  
It'll be a bomb! Exploding, incinerating, 1146  
Indiscriminate – searing, hating. 1147  
Oh... It will not desist, it haunts and haunts. 1148  
Oh... Go away, just peace – that's all I want. 1149  
[Johnnie falls into silence ...] 1150  
What could I have done? 1151  
I shouldn't've had to do anything! 1152  
I was there just to run... 1153  
... Machines and make the roads – and bring 1154  
Home – oh where is my home! – I've lost its taste – 1155  
All I have is worthless, so much dross and waste. 1156  
[Again he falls into silence ...] 1157  
Oh, what was I doing there? 1158  
I should've found something here. 1159  
We were just building a new school! 1160  
– In a safe town – what war is safe? 1161  
I was caught... 1162  
... I didn't know what to do! 1163  
... I needed to survive! 1164  
I have – had – a family! 1165  
I was there just to make money – 1166  
Wasn't that why we were fighting? 1167  
To preserve our prosperity, 1168  
To keep our wheels turning and homes warm? 1169  
I didn't care who was who 1170  
& what they did ... 1171  
They came from nowhere 1172  
Blasting and shooting! 1173  
Blasting and shooting! 1174  
Fire, explosions everywhere! 1175  
I supported my family with a fine income 1176  
No better paying job than in a war zone 1177  
We contractors made great money! 1178  
I sent it home to Jeannie – she lived well 1179

We were suppose to be in a safe zone	1180
– the soldiers promised	1181
They did their best	1182
– on what little they made	1183
Everything was going up in smoke.	1184
I was separated from my co-workers	1185
– just for a moment.	1186
Through the smoke I saw them rounded up	1187
By the terrorists	1188
A dead soldier at my feet	1189
I grabbed his rifle	1190
Why! Why? I’ve never ever	1191
... touched a gun	1192
I backed away – must escape	1193
Still shooting, smoke, fire all around...	1194
I heard a sound behind me	1195
Turned and fired – how easy – too easy	1196
A child laid on the ground in a pool of blood ...	1197
[He, once again, was silent ...]	1198
No peace, no sleep,	1199
Just ghosts – ghosts – ghosts	1200
No place, no time, no respite	1201
Everything crowded out – just bloody ghosts	1202
And my co-workers, captured, tortured	1203
– And I was free	1204
It won’t go away	1205
... in my head, in my world	1206
[Again he is silent...]	1207
Oh holy vial – only you can save me.	1208
To sleep, to sleep at last	1209
Oblivion, peace,	1210
... eternal peace ...	1211
[Johnnie Q. swallows the vial’s contents.	1212
Stage CENTER suddenly darkens.]	1213
[Stage CENTER becomes illuminated.	1214
Johnnie Q. is sprawled out on the floor, dead.	1215
Jeannie Q. arrives, collapses on him, weeping ...	1216
At last, she sits up, pulling Johnnie Q into her fecund lap...	1217
<i>Pietà.</i> ]	1218

## Song of Sorrow and Regret

[Perform here Gayna's Sorrowful Adagio.]	1219
Jeannie Q.: O why? O why? What has he done? What hove I done?	1220
O no! O no! O Johnnie, wake and rise!	1221
Please don't do this. Get up! Here comes the sun!	1222
Awake! Awake! This can't be our demise!	1223
[Behind in th' shadows dance the souls of th' lovers. Beyond, the dark is filled with swirling fog.]	1224 1225
Our life together's good – the best just maybe –	1226
Our days are cozy, warm and full of fun.	1227
And now we have a wonderful gift – our baby.	1228
Our lives are running at a steady hum.	1229
[The mortgage brokers come from the back And dance around the couple. The couple part and dance alone ...]	1230 1231 1232
I know, I know, our budget took a hit.	1233
Betrayed by Capital, we still were sweet	1234
E'en though we worked a lot t' be money fit	1235
& you had to go to war to budget-meet.	1236
[The dancers come together ...]	1237
But you have given me a gift divine,	1238
New life, potential, love so pure and small.	1239
Our baby soon will come – oh your design!	1240
Untimely, hurtful, just t' escape this Fall!	1241
[A soldier comes from the swirling fog And beckons th' man to aid the war.]	1242 1243
Where did you go? Returning – really not.	1244
Where did my lover go? What took you from me?	1245
Our life is dying! Oh, we were so hot.	1246
You shouldn't have left! You should've stayed! O come t' me!	1247
[The lovers join, but closeness is illusive.]	1248
Hold me, hold me, just this one last time.	1249
Don't leave me yet; just wait awhile until ...	1250
Our baby's born and hold her, love sublime.	1251
O hold her – she's far better than a pill!	1252
[The man backs into the fog. The woman with outstretched arms Attempts to draw him back.]	1253 1254 1255
(Jeannie Q. picks up the vial)	1256

O wicked vial! What demon did you feed? 1257  
Why didn't Johnnie talk to me, and not t' you? 1258  
O tell me anything of any deed! 1259  
O evil vial, I will his soul pursue! 1260

[The woman dances alone.] 1261

Alone, I'm all alone, bereft of love. 1262  
What could I've done? I should've been with him. 1263  
Now gone from me and mine is the Spirit's dove 1264  
Of hope and peace, in a world so bare and dim. 1265

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Radio: Flash! Today, Bank, Inc. announced that it will close. 1266  
The Market plunged ... 1267

## Interlude

[Again our Narrator speaks as th' muse proclaims...]	1268
What now? Does th' weight of Capital's control	1269
Opress you? Where will Despair's winds blow?	1270
These scenes have come unbidden from the muse.	1271
Into my mind appear these sights and sounds	1272
Demanding that their prophecy be loose	1273
And show us how to break from Money's bounds:	1274
"Beware! Beware!" Melpómené proclaims.	1275
"Who? Capital? The Congress? Will you blame?"	1276
I say to send them straight to th' guillotine	1277
At last to amputate the hand unseen.	1278
"Who would you send? The greedy who abused	1279
"Their claim to nature's fortune & stand accused?	1280
"And have you not yourself succumb to Greed's	1281
"Unholy promise t' answer all your needs?	1282
"How are you less responsible than the gamblers	1283
"Who offer you fulfillment free of cost?	1284
"And have you not joyfully and freely crossed	1285
"Into the mythic, magical domain	1286
"In which consumption meets your ev'ry aim?	1287
"Do you not believe you can have no power	1288
"Without your riches, though your very self is devoured?	1289
"So you believe in hope the bourgeois lie	1290
"Ignoring crash and burn and victim's cry."	1291
What can I say? We're caught indeed in th' web	1292
Of Capital and fuel its flow and ebb.	1293
What now? Do we again forebear to suffer	1294
Through the Market's wiles or stand now tougher?	1295

## Act III: Mammon Released

Narrator: Now join our final act and see if here 1296  
May be possibility of hope and cheer. 1297  
From gloom and tragedy, we pray you find 1298  
Release from darkly doom and tortured mind 1299  
In th' risk transformative to found an age 1300  
Of righteous freedom & not just on this stage! 1301

### **Scene 1: Bail Out**

[The Governor's office once again. 1302  
His assistant, the speculator, Fred and Fan, all present ...] 1303

Governor: What orders have you now Dear Financiers? 1304  
What does the future hold, Master Seers? 1305

Speculator: We come to you today with bills of aid 1306  
To help prevent a crashing cascade 1307  
Among the banks and on the Street we walk. 1308

Governor (sotto voce);  
But on our Street – our Street! – what fears will stalk! 1309

Speculator: The Congress, wise and practical, has passed 1310  
This bill t' improve on th' ominous forecast. 1311

Governor: So we're to take responsibility 1312  
For your excess and culpability? 1313

Freddie: We had no control over the housing bust. 1314  
The owners did not responsibly adjust 1315  
Their lifestyles t' manage their expenses. 1316  
We warned them all about the consequences ... 1317

Speculator: When th' interest was due and owners had not planned 1318  
And couldn't sell their homes the cascade began – 1319  
Foreclosures swiftly cut through bonds and stocks. 1320  
The Market suffered through too many shocks. 1321  
The very structure th' world depends upon 1322  
Will fail and culture will be entirely gone. 1323

Governor: But is this not what your belief demands? 1324  
Is this not what your Capital commands? 1325  
You've proven by your handling t' be unfit: 1326  
Into a bottomless and pitch dark pit 1327  
You've cast th' economy of which you claim 1328  
To be th' All Knowing Masters without blame. 1329  
Now you appear here, hat in hand, to cry 1330  
Sign these bills or business will die! 1331  
Am I a socialist to prop up the Rich? 1332

I should throw you into a road-side ditch!	1333
Let us be true to faith in <i>laissez-faire</i>	1334
And let the Market work its cold despair.	1335
Am I a fool to follow fools	1336
And not stand aside while the Market rules?	1337

### **Song: Market of Fools**

Governor:	You Master Gamesters, how you played at th' game	1338
	With able expertise to buy and sale	1339
	Assets accumulating through travail	1340
	Until one of you all th' stocks and bonds could claim.	1341
	And th' more you won, the more you had to gain	1342
	Yet more and more to grasp the Holy Grail	1343
	Of wealth, eliminating all who fail –	1344
	On them and their despair you built your fame.	1345
	Th' despair! Th' despair you spread among the players!	1346
	The winner stands alone, most dissolute.	1347
	And all of those without become the payers	1348
	Of debt consuming nature's gold and fruit:	1349
	O Master Gamester's, economic slayers,	1350
	You fall you fools and all are destitute!	1351

Governor:	Now you want t' restart your cruel game of Greed	1352
	And come to me t' enable your addictive need.	1353
	Alright! Alright! I'll sign your damnéd bills,	1354
	But not for you and your money making mills!	1355
	But for the millions who'd be made bereft	1356
	By a failed economy with nothing left	1357
	To buffer them from your profligate raid	1358
	On labor, goods, and pensions, thus freezing trade.	1359

Radio:	Today the Congress passed	1360
	And th' Governor did sign	1361
	A bail out bill for Bank, Inc.	1362
	Thus adding Billions to th' wealthy Bankers' coffers ...	1363

### **Frankenstein's Song**

[Stage REAR in th' Fog Fannie, Jeannie Q., and Cassie in unison:] 1364

People:	October Twenty Nine in Twenty Nine	1365
	The Monster died; its rotting corpse consigned	1366
	To history's garbage heap.	1367
	But Frankenstein resuscitated th' fiend	1368
	And ever since it's buried every routine	1369
	In it's dying keep.	1370
	The Monster roamed accumulating power	1371
	From land and people that it would devour.	1372

Yet drained itself in hazardous assaults, 1373  
And trashing its own buried, hidden vaults, 1374  
'Til Frankenstein again restored its strength 1375  
And once again it strode the world's full length. 1376

September Nineteen in Oh Eight it crashed and burned! 1377  
It crashed and crashed – putrefied rot well-earned! 1378  
And Frankenstein inside his broken castle-lab 1379  
No longer can restore the Monster from the damned. 1380  
Let th' Monster's charred remains disintegrate! 1381  
Let th' Villagers a new life fabricate! 1382

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## **Scene 2: Fall Out**

[Stage CENTER: Our Jeannie shows her baby roses ...] 1383

Jeannie Q.: Aunt Cassie sent us Roses t' heal our doom. 1384  
How beautiful is each colorful bloom. 1385

### **Rose Song**

Jeannie Q.: O Rose, so red and deep a countenance 1386  
Of all of those who suffer, even die 1387  
In th' struggle to live t' momentarily thrive 1388  
And hope against the odds of statist finance. 1389  
O Rose, so red and deep a radiance 1390  
Of th' coming Dawn of th' age t' revivify 1391  
The People's true indomitable drive 1392  
To gain from shackles their deliverance. 1393  
O Rose, so red, so true to our heart-pain, 1394  
No fists returning th' pain will bring the Dawn 1395  
With hate, with angry vengeance, dragging chains. 1396  
O Rose, so red, so lovely as you call 1397  
Us t' change transformative into domains 1398  
Of love and help, embracing all-in-all. 1399

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[Now Jeannie Q sits and rocks her baby:] 1400

Jeannie Q.: O love! O pure and innocent of life 1401  
O child of love now lost by common strife! 1402  
You are my All! My life! My world and cause! 1403  
My frozen heart your guileless smiling thaws – 1404  
Your eyes, your toes and fingers, legs and arms 1405  
Are perfect, pure and overflowing charms. 1406  
O absolute affection, ever giving – 1407  
O unconditional sunshine, ever living. 1408  
Your eyes and nose so lovely, from your Dad ... 1409  
Your father, gone, he would have been so glad ... 1410  
[Our new Mother silently adores her child.] 1411  
O Johnnie Q., she's beautiful and pure! 1412  
For hopelessness, for aimlessness, she's th' cure! 1413  
New life, new change, she's from the womb of time. 1414  
She watches me, but sees Tomorrow's prime. 1415  
I wish you were here! I need you, miss you ... 1416  
If only we – I – again could just kiss you. 1417  
I can't do this alone! Oh! Lonely child! 1418  
I need your Dad! Why can't your life be mild, 1419  
Unthreatened, innocent, and full of choice 1420  
In this abundant land of freedom's Voice? 1421  
Why must I worry that your days will come 1422

	To dread and your childhood burdensome?	1423
	[She, silent, rocks her baby.]	1424
	What am I to do? I must keep my job ...	1425
	[Now enters Cassie standing on her own	1426
	No chair, no cane, to admire the baby.]	1427
Cassie:	She's beautiful! Oh, she'll be such a heart throb!	1428
	How are you doing? Why are you so glum?	1429
	Rejoice in such a wondrous sugar plum –	1430
	Pure love, so innocent of th' world's corruption,	1431
	A gift from God, a divine disruption.	1432
Jeannie Q.:	O Cassie th' world's collapsing 'round us.	1433
	Alone, our loving needs and wants have bound us	1434
	To desperate designs t' reduce our lives	1435
	To primitive and starved survival drives.	1436
	We're doing nothing, buying nothing now	1437
	Unless we absolutely need it now.	1438
	We live paycheck to paycheck, a life bereft	1439
	Of fun and joy, with just the basics left.	1440
	Then even so we have some weeks we end	1441
	Without enough; on debt we have to depend:	1442
	Now I may lose my job – I have to care	1443
	For my own darling babe e'er so threadbare.	1444
	Now I must work more hours or lose my job.	1445
	What can I do, but join the forgotten mob?	1446
	I can't afford to pay for baby care.	1447
	To leave her all the day, I cannot bear!	1448
	If only work provided a children's place.	1449
	Such a People's need's too much t' embrace!	1450
	And even with the longer hours its still	1451
	Too small amount to pay my biggest bill:	1452
	My mortgage's stratospheric; I have skipped	1453
	Already payments; soon we may be stripped	1454
	Of our abode – to wander homeless	1455
	As the faceless, broken mob; at least then loanless!	1456
Cassie:	Alone, we can't survive; we only fail.	1457
	Together, though, we can more than prevail!	1458
Jeannie Q.:	What happened? 'Twas just yesterday we soared	1459
	Atop the world – all things we could afford!	1460
	Then suddenly from th' blue we crashed and burned!	1461
	What did we do so wrong and dumb t' have earned	1462
	So many losses so severe and deep,	1463
	With traumatic penalty so very steep?	1464
Radio:	Today a study was released and told	1465
	The facts of CEOs of Bank, Inc.	1466

	Though calling on the Congress t' save them	1467
	With billions, billions! They received still	1468
	Gigantic bonuses – failed attempts at greed	1469
	Rewarded – with the People's money ...	1470
Cassie:	Ah! Diamonds for the rich, but coal for us!	1471
	Declared us free, yet they're in control of us.	1472
	What have you done but freely chosen th' One	1473
	Approach t' prosperity our leaders spun –	1474
	Supporting it alone, so other choices	1475
	Are drowned by their selected media voices:	1476
	Consume! Enrich the rich! And never show a frown.	1477
	For surely Capital will pass it down.	1478
	Trust no other means, no other goals –	1479
	They would surely lead to uncontrollable tolls.	1480
Jeannie Q.:	Ah! To be rich! A CEO secured	1481
	Against the bust; of th' boom assured!	1482
Cassie:	Beware! I wouldn't want to be a chief	1483
	When th' Revolution comes with its relief!	1484
Jeannie Q.:	Then let me be retired like you! So free	1485
	Of work and strife and loss catastrophic!	1486
Cassie:	You think? I wish! I was sold a bill of goods.	1487
	In my old age I'll never get out of th' woods.	1488
	When I was young like you and thinking not	1489
	Of being old I bought into a pot	1490
	Of golden funds – the new Four Oh One Kay –	1491
	That Capital and Congress said it'd pay	1492
	For itself year by year and grow and grow	1493
	With my employer's matching fund; no woe	1494
	From this, a gifted supplement, they said,	1495
	To th' guarantee of pension 'til I'm dead.	1496
	Then Capital discovered ways to save	1497
	(At my expense!) by capping pensions and gave	1498
	Us more incentive – really need – t' invest –	1499
	No more communal help for hard-earned rest.	1500
	Each one of us were on our own –	1501
	An individual all alone.	1502
	In booms we counted our retirement rich.	1503
	In busts, we watched as our retirement ditched.	1504
	Now mine's evaporating, week by week	1505
	And my income destroyed in th' losing streak.	1506
	Why should my and your livelihood depend	1507
	On anxious feelings driving th' Market's trend?	1508
	Th' anxiety of Gamblers so detached	1509
	From labor's worth and product's merit has snatched	1510

	Away our means to live in nature's nest,	1511
	To labor, raise a family, and rest.	1512
Jeannie Q.:	We two, comrades-in-arms, can face this time	1513
	To stand against this economic crime.	1514
Cassie:	Yes! Let's join together hand-in-hand	1515
	And heart-to-heart in a neighbor band.	1516
	I need a home. You need a sitter.	1517
	I can depart and we can be bitter	1518
	With th' world and Market or I can remain	1519
	With you and yours t' invent a new domain.	1520
Jeannie Q.:	You could provide excellent, loving care.	1521
	I would provide sufficient, needed fare.	1522
	We can rebuild our lives, not solitary,	1523
	Instead united, our own sanctuary ...	1524
Cassie:	And maybe even revolutionary ...	1525
	So many struggle isolated.	1526
	So many give up desolated.	1527
	Your beautiful abode is roomy,	1528
	Release for lives too often doomy.	1529
	Another would bring more talent, heart and hope,	1530
	Increasing our collaboration's scope.	1531
Jeannie Q.:	Out of this forced financial reduction	1532
	We can begin our living's re-construction.	1533
Cassie:	What we will do can be the start	1534
	Of a Union of People, strong in heart.	1535

### **Scene 3: Darwin Redux**

[Now we return to th' Tower;	1536
Fan, alone, is on the phone ...]	1537
Fannie: You have too many payments overdue.	1538
I know it's hard, but we're required t' pursue	1539
This matter, bringing it t' foreclosure court.	1540
Maybe your children'll offer some support?	1541
[She listens tensely trying not to weep ...]	1542
I fear it's past the time I can adjust	1543
Your payments; I'm afraid it's all a bust.	1544
I really wish I could do something t'aid	1545
Your situation, but it's beyond my trade.	1546
I have to go – I am so sorry	1547
– I mustn't tarry.	1548
[Our heroine stares off into space ...]	1549
I cannot do this labor anymore.	1550
My soul is torn and cursed as if at war.	1551
[Now enters Fred ...]	1552
Freddie: O what a day! Another loss, more t' come,	1553
Too many more; the picture's really glum.	1554
Soon we'll have nothing but unsellable homes.	1555
And a great cacophony of client cries and groans.	1556
Now one by one they've given up on their debt.	1557
We were too easy – what good is it t' regret?	1558
Next time we will be more severe with them	1559
And surely make it more austere for them ...	1560
If we survive, that is, and not be one	1561
Of Darwin's failed phenomenon.	1562
Fannie: But were we not as guilty roping them	1563
With easy credit and then hoping their	1564
Abodes would value higher and higher; & so rescuing	1565
Th' financial wizards to continue pursuing	1566
Excessive, crazy, unrealistic yields?	1567
And they're e'en protected by official shields!	1568
Freddie: Th' People were partakers in prosperity	1569
Improving th' world for their posterity.	1570
They risked as all of us; no risk, no gain –	1571
It's th' price of being free to self-sustain.	1572
Fannie: What freedom do they have? What options? Choices?	1573
When have we even recognized their voices?	1574
Freddie: In fact we have. Our system makes provision	1575
For those who fail, so must be in transition:	1576
There's helping groups to whom is given aid...	1577

Fannie:	A mere concession t' control and blockade	1578
	The fear and ire of lost, forgotten folk –	1579
	A force unseen; beware they will be soon provoked!	1580
Freddie:	Be that as it may. We still have work to do.	1581
	You have another client to pursue.	1582
	I know it will be hard; it's Jeannie Q...	1583
Fannie:	No, we have living there more than one client.	1584
	In their own way becoming self-reliant –	1585
	Where we foreclosed, they rose and overcame	1586
	Their economic peril, their lives t' reclaim.	1587
Freddie:	A temporary measure doomed to die	1588
	In th' competitiveness to sell and buy.	1589
Radio:	Returning to their homes	1590
	The Congress learned the People's anger	1591
	At Capital's rescue,	1592
	And leaving them to fend alone.	1593
	The People were demanding change	1594
	Of their ill plight and Congress itself.	1595

### **Song: Son of Darwin**

Fannie:	We know it better for the animals and plants:	1596
	The fittest often work together t' prevail –	1597
	And what success from microbe to the whale	1598
	And for us Nature's own enriching grants.	1599
	We humans need to manage the Market's hands:	1600
	That Main can rule and Wall will need no bail –	1601
	And how together we will need not fail.	1602
	Then the world is always set for a chance.	1603
	No longer will some feeling nag unseen,	1604
	It wordlessly assailing that there's wrong –	1605
	Because the world is more than Nature's been.	1606
	This is Humanity's start; its vision song.	1607
	Then our own souls rejoice in caring theme	1608
	For the hopeful, manifest, creative throng!	1609
	—————	
Fannie:	I'll call. I'll talk to them and see	1610
	What can be done to cover you and me...	1611
	[Our Freddie shrugs and leaves	1612
	And Fannie places her call ...]	1613
	(Sotto voce) I can't do this. Oh, no I must do this.	1614
	Our very souls are yearning for some bliss.	1615
	Hello, I'm Fan from th' mortgage bank – I'm calling ...	1616
	Yes, I'm supposed to be, but I've been stalling...	1617
	I cannot do this anymore; it's wrong.	1618

Just simply wrong – I can no longer belong	1619
To this destructive system and it's doom.	1620
– May I become a part of your commune?	1621
[The lighting fades as Jeannie talks on th' phone.]	1622

#### **Scene 4: The People Arise**

[In th' back of th' stage, in myst and dark	1623
Recites Melpómené:]	1624
<i>Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,</i>	1625
<i>With conquering limbs astride from land to land;</i>	1626
<i>Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand</i>	1627
<i>A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame</i>	1628
<i>Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name</i>	1629
<i>Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand</i>	1630
<i>Glow's world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command</i>	1631
<i>The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.</i>	1632
<i>"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she</i>	1633
<i>With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,</i>	1634
<i>Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,</i>	1635
<i>The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.</i>	1636
<i>Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,</i>	1637
<i>I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"<sup>7</sup></i>	1638
[Our Fannie, Cassie, Jeannie Q and baby sit	1639
Around the living room of their collective home ...]	1640
Cassie: We all have labored for a corporation.	1641
Now we've a choice t' declare emancipation.	1642
Fannie: Oh yes! We were resources, nothing more,	1643
Objects to use, replace, discard, ignore –	1644
Jeannie Q.: They cared about the bottom line – that's all.	1645
Our lives were driven by its rise and fall.	1646
They – Master Money Makers – far away	1647
With promised options, hyper bloated pay	1648
And golden parachutes have to be bribed –	1649
Unlike us – t' do their jobs just as prescribed.	1650
Fannie: They did not know us, talented and skilled,	1651
Or care whether or not we were fulfilled.	1652
Demanding total time and energy	1653
And never caring if there's synergy,	1654
They drove us hour by hour for Profit's Greed	1655
With no concern for our or th' client's need.	1656
Cassie: Yes, profit, more and more, at any cost –	1657
A flimsy warrant dooming us t' be tossed	1658
From boom to bust to loss of ways and means	1659
To live a civic life with human dreams.	1660
But at this moment, in this place by us	1661
We can create a novel base for us.	1662

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<sup>7</sup> *The New Colossus*; Emma Lazarus; 1883

	We must establish business whatsoe'er	1663
	Would serve our clients first with superior care.	1664
Jeannie Q.:	We must remain a smallish enterprise,	1665
	So we will never, never dehumanize	1666
	Ourselves or any worker we employ –	1667
	So they and we comradery will enjoy.	1668
Fannie:	Our profits then will come so naturally	1669
	From dedicated and fulfilled employees	1670
	And satisfied, committed, happy clients.	1671
	But what of th' mortgage on this property?	1672
	We simply can't expect an amnesty.	1673
	I just received a message from dear Fred.	1674
	He'll soon arrive and no matter what is said	1675
	He's come to dispossess this very day.	1676
	We need to understand how we can stay.	1677
Jeannie Q.:	We just require some time to get a start –	1678
	A moratorium that would be smart –	1679
	The bank would sell this house at a discount.	1680
	Just wait awhile and we'll pay the whole amount.	1681
[Arrives now our Freddie, sheepishly ...]		1682
Freddie:	I've come to do the duty that I must.	1683
	Oh please, can we do this with little fuss?	1684
Cassie:	This is our home. It is not some asset.	1685
	This is where we live and thrive; it's not some bet –	1686
	We have no where to go – we shall not move.	1687
	Here we will stay e'en if you don't approve.	1688

## Vision Song

l' Internationale

Cassie:	From Liberty's Eternal Torch	1689
	I behold our fertile and rich land■	1690
	And its Masses groaning under	1691
	Bust and boom, loss and gain, again.	1692
	Now they yearn at last for freedom	1693
	And justice in th' Market's place.■	1694
	All in this great commonweal cry out	1695
	To Heav'n: "The Market is ours to steer!"	1696
<i>Chorus:</i>	<i>So arise ye men and ye women; strike for your rights</i>	<i>1697</i>
	<i>So to cast down all of the plutocrats from their heights.</i>	<i>1698</i>
	<i>Your Democracy can be only half of the loaf.</i>	<i>1699</i>
	<i>The economy must be yours to rule its fair growth!</i>	<i>1700</i>
Jeannie Q.:	Keep watch! Eternal Vigilance!	1701
	Th' economic democracy's price!■	1702

	Wake! We must never sleep again!	1703
	Long have we fostered Greed alone.	1704
	Now we must turn and, changed, atone!	1705
	Keep a watch on th' nation's soul!■	1706
	All now command its reformation!	1707
	Demand it feed our Population!	1708
<i>Chorus:</i>	[repeat]	1709
Fannie:	Command the powers that enterprise	1710
	Be as small as viableness allows.■	1711
	But let us own and operate	1712
	The too big to fail companies	1713
	So we can manage them with care	1714
	For just peace and abundance.■	1715
	At last we can rejoice and live	1716
	In forward progress with a human face.	1717
<i>Chorus:</i>	[repeat]	1718
Cassie:	A righteous age will be dawning	1719
	From the ruins of Mammon's stronghold ■	1720
	If we all pay heed to the call	1721
	Of our responsibility	1722
	To humans of every kind	1723
	And to all of Creation ■	1724
	To nourish wherever the need is	1725
	And to be nourished whenever in need.	1726
<i>Chorus:</i>	[repeat]	1727
Jeannie Q.:	O People! Stand for Mother Earth.	1728
	Care for her life in air, land and sea.■	1729
	The time has come to live with her;	1730
	To green our lives and work for her.	1731
	Let fossils sleep; let us re-build	1732
	With the work of vast new jobs.■	1733
	Let sun and wind flow from coast to coast,	1734
	And pole to pole along high-tech pipes.	1735
<i>Chorus:</i>	[repeat]	1736
Fannie:	The Future's ours! Not bound to earth,	1737
	But bound for the planets and the stars.■	1738
	Behold the vast new jobs needed	1739
	To send humans to worlds beyond:	1740
	New towns and farms in space living	1741
	By novel constitutions.■	1742
	Behold the renewal of our home	1743
	With unheard-of commence and culture.	1744
<i>Chorus:</i>	[repeat]	1745

Freddie:	I see far past the counting house	1746
	Of wealth built on virtual assets■	1747
	To fresh new opportunities	1748
	Like a rising sun after night	1749
	When wealth is built on real assets	1750
	Of nature and production.■	1751
	To risk the People's Union to go	1752
	Beyond profit first to duty first.	1753
<i>Chorus:</i>	[repeat]	1754

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## **Scene 5: Buy Out**

[The governor and his assistant ...]	1755
Radio:	1756
Th' economy received another blow	1757
This morning: Auto, Inc reported	1758
It'll have t' declare bankruptcy	1759
Unless the Congress dutifully rescues it ...	1760
[Alone now enters th' Speculator...]	1761
Governor:	1762
Ah! Master Financier with hat in hand –	1763
Again you come – and now with what demand?	1764
Speculator:	1765
Well, have you heard? Now Auto, Inc. has failed.	1766
Consumers have their buying sprees curtailed –	1767
And cars are going nowhere on the lot.	1768
The Makers can't afford t' continue th' rot.	1769
They will soon close; their workers unemployed.	1770
And many, many other jobs destroyed:	1771
The dealer, th' parts contractor, th' mechanic –	1772
All will collapse and throughout there be panic.	1773
You have the power, th' resources and the reach	1774
T' prevent the fall and fill the money breach.	1775
Governor:	1776
So once again you need a lot of money.	1777
I give you that and everything'll be sunny?	1778
Speculator:	1779
We can rely on Auto, Inc. to use	1780
The funds t' rebuild the needed revenue.	1781
Governor:	1782
Why would we trust a culture that destroyed	1783
It's business because of arrogance	1784
And over confidence in cars deployed –	1785
They'd just continue their extravagance.	1786
No! I'll rescue the workers – all of them.	1787
But the bosses to oblivion I'll condemn:	1788
I cannot serve the people and serve your Greed.	1789
I have to choose; and choose I shall for their need.	1790
I'll give you nothing; th' people everything.	1791
It will be for them t' return the line t' full-swing –	1792
We, the people, will acquire controlling share	1793
In Auto, Inc. t' produce for cleanest air	1794
Th' environmental car for this new age	1795
Releasing Mother Earth from her fossil wage.	1796
We'll sell at cost so they'll become	1797
The standard car for everyone.	1798
No worker loses, even gains – all gain!	1799
For profit will arise from earth sustained.	1800
[Speculator exists.]	1801

## **Scene 6: Cancer Squeeze**

[At home with Cassie, Fannie, Freddie, Jeannie Q.:]	1796
Fannie:	1797
The corpse of Capital is squeezing us.	1798
It rears its head up by appeasing us:	1799
Already giant corps are hungering	1800
For our business with mongering	1801
To pay us richly for our clients –	1802
So willingly we be eaten by these giants.	1803
They care not for compassionate relation,	1804
But only profit maximization.	1805
Our people-centered business model lost	1806
In th’ tangled layers of bureaucratic cost.	1807
And once again our clients as past times	1808
Become dehumanized, mere profit mines.	1809
Then Capital, just as past times, will reap	1810
What they can’t sow and we are never t’ keep –	1811
Established clients nurtured with true care	1812
Which model, corps can culturally not dare.	
Freddie:	1813
It’s like a cancer that metastasizes	1814
Throughout its host, our global Marketplace.	1815
Its tumors spread and eat our business	1816
And eventually our very beings	1817
‘Til everything’s available for a price.	1818
Not only buildings, autos, rice and land,	1819
But beauty, love, esteem and people –	1820
Not a single thing is spared the price tag.	1821
The painful cancer rips apart the fabric	1822
Of life; civility succumbs to cheapness.	1823
No longer honor, duty, service are valued,	1824
But just commodities that can be sold:	1825
The pain of alienation eats at us ...	
Cassie:	1826
Beneath lies Capital’s own fatal flaw:	1827
That Greed is good – its unbreakable law.	1828
The drive for more and more produces more	1829
And no amount’s enough: let profits soar!	1830
And everyone is for themselves to reap	1831
At any cost as much as they can keep	1832
In their own secure and strong account –	1833
And the weaker loses – left with no amount.	1834
So must our work of care be overwhelmed	1835
In Capital’s restored, recovered realm.	
Fannie:	1836
Then now is th’ time t’ excise the cancer.	1837
Our quiet risk’s no longer t’ answer.	

	We have to act with any means we need	1838
	No matter how brutal seemingly the deed –	1839
	Now Capital has flooded th' Marketplace	1840
	With weapons profiting in th' savage race.	1841
	We can avenge the murdered when excising,	1842
	Defeating it with power of its own devising.	1843
Jeannie Q.:	No! No, never! Fool! Aggressor! So misguided!	1844
	Th' War Profiteers will be so much delighted!	1845
	You gain just angry hate and th' silent screams	1846
	And leave behind the corpse of our hope and dreams.	1847
Cassie:	Amen! Our power united, force of peace	1848
	And non-cooperation will be the grease	1849
	To move the Marketplace towards our day.	1850
	To th' Governor! Its time for the People's Way!	1851
[Exeunt].		

## **Scene 7: The Peoples Union**

[In th' end at th' Governor's 1852  
with Cassie, Freddie, Fannie, Jeannie Q. and the Speculator.] 1853

Cassie: I speak for th' Peoples Union: We come t' demand 1854  
A voice proportional to our massive numbers. 1855  
We call for laws t' rebuild th' economy 1856  
For th' people, of th' people, and by th' people. 1857  
No more delay t' avoid the risks of change – 1858  
Of revolutionary change – its now! 1859  
We have the will; we will be heard or strike! 1860  
We, th' People, demand a democratic market 1861  
With a Peoples Market Congress as the target! 1862

### **Song: Enlightenment**

Governor: The Light of Genesis is dawning bright. 1863  
It's th' Age of People ready t' claim the helm 1864  
Of th' democratic-economic realm 1865  
With fists of words of promise, truth and sight. 1866  
It's th' Era they will exercise their right 1867  
T' direct th' economy for th' commonweal 1868  
So one and all can fairly buy and sell 1869  
With th' Rose of justice reaching Heaven's height. 1870

Cassie: Beware imperfect humans: be restrained 1871  
No less than th' Speculator's hand – 1872  
Eternal Vigilance is t' be maintained! 1873

Speculator: I'm cast into th' abyss of ruination. 1874  
What now in my career can I command? 1875  
Am I to wander loss in separation? 1876

Fan, Fred, Jeannie Q.:  
O Happy Days at last are here to stay! 1877  
We'll rise to th' task and gladly hold t' account 1878  
All that we do in a new transparent way. 1879

All: A People's Marketplace: that's what it's about! 1880  
We'll build today in faith for th' future day 1881  
When Happy Days are here without a doubt. 1882

[The governor now exits followed by 1883  
Jeannie, Fan and Fred. 1884  
But Cassie lingers; th' Speculator hangs back. 1885  
Cassie turns to him ...] 1886

Cassie: Well, aren't you coming ... 1887  
[Now exits Cassie and th' Speculator.] 1888

## Epilog

[For th' final time our Narrator speaks as th' muse proclaims...]	1889
So we've arrived at th' end of our romance.	1890
What say you of our revolutionary stance?	1891
We've crossed to the Left of the River Prosperous	.1892
Its time we build here a Nation Fabulous.	1893
"Women! Men!" proclaims Melpómené, "How long?"	1894
"How long will you be tolerant of th' song	1895
"Of Capital's seductive demagogue	1896
"And blindly roam in its consumptive fog?	1897
"Awake from your convenient sleep	1898
"And risk your All, your Own and take the leap	1899
"Into a new unknown and fresh increase,	1900
"Not born in blood, but born in th' fire of peace.	1901
"Abandon none; embrace your friend and foe.	1902
"Proclaim th' completed Republic high and low!	1903
"So now to vote for law and labor	1904
To win for peace and sheath the saber."	1905
And now I am released from this long bane	1906
Of th' sight and cry of th' Prophet's truth campaign.	1907
The muse is fading fast into the myst.	1908
So now it's left to you, to I, to resist,	1909
I fear, th' temptation to dismiss our play	1910
As a foolish and naïve utopic way.	1911
But think and feel for th' ordinary souls	1912
And their anxiety and love and goals.	1913
Now go in peace with thoughtful mind and heart	1914
& turn not away, but risk a radical restart!	1915

## Study Guide

1. What is the primary message of the play?
2. What are the secondary messages?
3. What is the role of:
  - a. Fannie and Freddie?
  - b. Johnnie Q. and Jeannie Q.?
  - c. Cassie?
  - d. Narrator?
4. What is the significance of Cassie needing a wheelchair in Act I, a cane in Act II, and nothing in Act III?
5. In Act II, Johnnie Q. goes to war and returns with PTSD. How is this relevant to the economic arc of the play?
6. In Act III is the revolution a Socialist revolution or a People's revolution or both?
7. Where is God/Holy Spirit in the play?
8. When did the class war begin? Who started it? Who waged it?
9. Who is Capital? Speculator? Governor?
10. Where is Mammon in the play? Who are the children of Mammon? The worshippers of Mammon?
11. How is Mammon dramatized in the play?
12. What does the Vision Song offer by way of today's moment?
13. Which characters are the victims in the play? Who – or what – is the victimizer?
14. An Angel is the transcendent spirit of a system or institution. Describe the Angel of Capital? How is it related to Mammon? How are the characters related to Capital's Angel?

