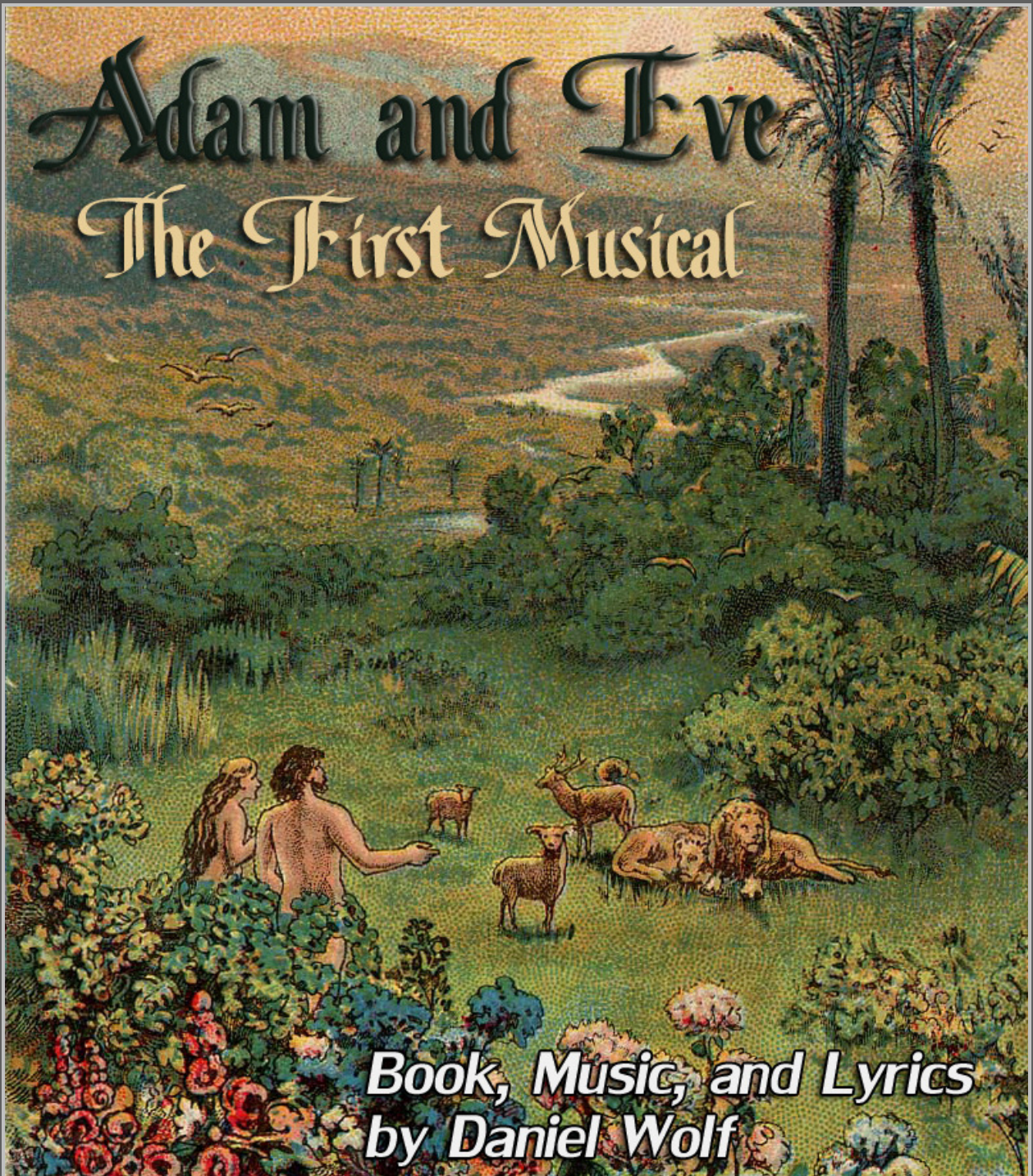


Adam and Eve

The First Musical



Book, Music, and Lyrics
by Daniel Wolf

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Adam and Eve: The First Musical

Music and Lyrics by Daniel A. Wolf

Book by Daniel A. Wolf

Orchestration and additional music by Ed Etkins

Cast of Characters

Adam

Eve

Snake

God (*heard but not seen*)

Scene 1

Adam enters upon a backdrop of natural surroundings – fields, hills, rivers, mountains. There are sounds of birds chirping. On stage are 2-3 trees. He walks/runs around in sheer delight, stopping to touch the trees, ground, and breathe in the fresh air. Though naked in scripture, both Adam and Eve wear a kind of body suit designed to cover their private areas. Both are in their 20's to early 30's.

Adam: What a place! Mountains, oceans, rivers, and such wildlife though that tiger with the long tooth doesn't exactly make my day (*lion roar is heard, Adam recoils in fear*). Still, all in all, this is quite a place.

God: You're happy?

Adam: (*looks up*) Couldn't be happier. And may I say you are quite the Creator. So, guess you'll be on your way soon. I mean with everything now complete. Just curious, who's next for the (*makes the quotation sign on the word God*) God treatment? (*looks up and around*) Can I see it from here? Well, whatever you do and where- ever you go, thanks for everything. And don't forget to drop in from time to time if you're in the neighborhood, that is.

God: I'm not done.

Adam: What?

God: I said, "I'm not done."

Adam: What do you mean you're not done? Of course you're done. What else could there be? Alright look, let's review. Day one, or should I say "In the beginning" you created light. And that was good. (*somewhat indignant*) In fact, you said so yourself. Second day, oceans and sky. Day three, dry land. Fourth day: the sun, moon, and stars. Day five, birds and fish. Then, just yesterday, of all things, land animals and me! So, like I said, what else is there?

God: It is not good for man to be alone. You need a wife.

Adam: (*pause*) A what?

God: A wife. A helpmate.

Adam: (*to himself*) I knew this was too good to be true. (*to God*) Lord, listen, don't worry. I can handle things perfectly well myself. In fact, I make this pledge: (*places hand over heart*) I, Adam, do solemnly swear that I will never litter nor do graffiti. Furthermore, I promise to recycle and be kind to all the animals. (*lion roar is heard*) Well, almost all.

God: I need children.

Adam: Children? What? Soon you'll be telling me you need towns, cities, uh, uh...

God: Starts with a "c".

Adam: Uh...I give up.

God: Countries.

Adam: Damn.

God: Watch it.

Adam: Sorry. Lord, look, couldn't you just think about this a little more?

You Need a Wife

Adam (*sings*): I need a wife
Like a hole in the head
If I want to be sedentary
Just kill me instead.

God: (*sings*) Someone who's there for you

Adam (*sings*): To point out my faults. (*speaks*) God sings?

God (*sings*): Someone who's there for you

Adam (*sings*) to clean out the vault. (*speaks*) Who knew?

God (*sings*): You need a wife
To brighten each day.
Someone to chase your cares
And troubles away.

Ever since time began
I've had this plan
To continue this thing called life
You need a wife.

Adam: I need a wife
Like a kick in the...

God (*speaks*): Watch it.

Adam (*sings*): Pants
In this thing you call matrimony
I don't stand a chance.

God: Someone who's there for you

Adam: To count my mistakes

God: Someone who's there with you

Adam: Until I awaken

God: You need a wife
Just do as I say
Someday you will thank me for it
Just when I can't say.

Ever since time began

Adam (*speaks*): Last Tuesday, right?

God (*speaks*): No, Monday.

(sings): I've had this plan.
To continue this thing called life
To help with the daily strife
To make everything go right

You need a wife.

Adam (speaks): How about just a girlfriend?

God (sings): You need a wife.

Adam (speaks): A live-in maid perhaps?

God (sings): You need a wife.

Adam (speaks): (*a la Jerry Lewis*) Household appliances?

God (sings): You need a wife.

After some applause God speaks:

One more time!

Adam slaps his head exasperatedly.

Adam: Oh my...God?

God (sings): You need a wife

Adam (speaks): Might as well dance.

Adam dances.

God (sings): Just do as I say.
Someday you will thank me for it
Just when I can't say

Ever since time began
I've had this plan

To continue this thing called life
To help with the daily strife
To make everything go right

You need a wife

Adam stops dancing.

Adam (*speaks*): Can I at least have a life-line?

God (*sings*): You need a wife

Adam (*speaks*): Is she from Match dot com?

God (*sings*): You need a wife

Adam (*speaks*): Better be an Eagles fan! [Choose any popular, local sports team]

God (*sings*): You need a wife

During applause Adam points up.

Adam (*speaks*): How 'bout some love for the big guy [God]!

At director's discretion there could be a second encore. If so, perform as follows:

God (*speaks*): What? What? Do I hear a second encore?

Adam (*speaks*): No, no.

God (*speaks*): Yes, I do. One more time!

Adam (*speaks*): You are such a ham. Oh, sorry. Not kosher.

God (*sings*): You need a wife

Adam (*speaks*): Well, guess I can use the exercise.

Adam dances.

God (*sings*):
Just do as I say
Someday you'll thank me for it
Just when I can't say

Ever since time began
I've had this plan
To continue this thing called life
To help with the daily strife
To make everything go right

You need a wife

Adam stops dancing.

Adam (*speaks*): Can I at least see her picture?

God (*sings*): You need a wife

Adam (*speaks*): But what if she's a Republican?! [Democrat?!] (*Director's choice*)

God (*sings*): You need a wife

Adam (*speaks*): Just tell me- is she PC or Mac?

God (*sings*): You need a wife

God (*speaks*): Now lie down and go to sleep. You'll feel much better in the morning.

God laughs like in Beavis and Butthead. Adam lies down looking skeptical and falls asleep. Set goes dark.

Scene 2

Lights slowly come up to reveal Adam sleeping while Eve lies behind him fully awake. He opens his eyes and feels something in back of him. Too afraid to turn around, he takes his arm and touches Eve's hair, face, neck, and shoulder.

Adam: I hope it's not the tiger with the long tooth! (*springs up and discovers Eve*) Oh no, it's worse! Who are you?

Eve: (*sitting up*) I'm Eve, your wife. Didn't He...? (*points up*)

Adam: Yes, He did. But I told Him...

Eve: I know. You don't need a wife.

Adam: How do you know?

Eve: I was there. I heard everything. I'm part of you. Don't you feel a little different this morning?

Adam: Well, my ribs (*holds his side*) do hurt a bit, now that you mention it.

Eve: So, are you ready?

Adam: Ready for what?

Eve: Show me around. After all, you *were* here first and there must be some really great places out there. (*breathes in deeply*) And nothing like an early start.

Adam: Look, uh...

Eve: Eve.

Adam: Eve. You seem like a very nice person, but I told Him I don't need anyone. And besides I'm a very busy man. I simply have no time to show you around.

Eve: What do you have to do?

Adam: Well, first (*pauses, thinking*) I have to wake up.

Eve: Then?

Adam: Then, (*pauses, thinking*) I have to stand up.

Eve: And then?

Adam: Then...oh you don't need to know that part.

Eve: Well, that settles it. So, which direction should we start? How about that way? (*points*)

Adam: Please, listen to me. I simply don't need anyone. I'm quite content being alone. Anyway, you don't need me. It's a big, beautiful world out there. Walk around. You'll be amazed what you see.

Eve: But it's no fun seeing things yourself. It's better to share an experience then keep it (*hand over heart, looks slightly up*) as a fond memory as we get older.

Alone

Eve (*sings*): This world is full of wonder
From plains to icy cones
And I'm sure that it's amazing
Exploring lands unknown

But I might as well just stay here
And call this spot my home
If I had to wander
And see it all alone.

I am sure there's places
Where animals do roam
Where birds fly high and harmonize

In nearly perfect tone.

But it would not make a difference
If all of this I owned
If I had to wander
And see it all alone.

Refrain sung melodramatically. Adam begins to feel bangs of guilt and shame for refusing to help Eve. These feelings are expressed through low-level growls, grunts, and exaggerated motions which become more pronounced as the song progresses.

Refrain: Alone, we know this place so well
 Alone, it is the house we dwell in
 Alone, it isn't life at all
 Alone, if there's no one to call your name

I can see you're busy
Each day is tightly planned
And I wouldn't want to bother
Such a busy man

But could you take a moment
And take me by the hand
And let's explore together
This new and wondrous land.

Eve is more melodramatic; lips quivering, hand over heart. Adam can't bear to hear much more as he displays paroxysms of guilt and shame.

Adam (*speaks*): Oh, no. Not again.

Refrain:

Eve (*sings*): Alone, we know this place so well
 Alone, it is the house we dwell in
 Alone, it isn't life at all
 Alone, if there's no one to call your name.

But if it's too much trouble
Then I guess I'll try

Even if I'm torn to bits
And left alone to die

And animals devour me
And birds pick at my hide.

Adam: Stop! Stop! Enough! "And birds pick at my hide"? What the . . ?

God: Watch it.

Adam: (*looks up*) Oh, you too now. (*to Eve*) Alright. Alright, I'll take you.

Eve: Thank you, Adam.

Adam: You're welcome.

Eve: What was that?

Adam: I said, "You're welcome."

Eve waits for Adam to say her name. Adam growls, grunts, pulls his face and hair, goes through a series of extreme physical expressions, all in an effort to avoid saying Eve's name. These actions should continue for some time until he is finally exhausted. At last he relents.

Adam: You're welcome, Eve! Let's go.

Eve: I'm right behind ya!

As Adam and Eve exit, Eve turns to audience and smiles knowing she got her way.

Scene 3

It's midday. Adam and Eve sit under a tree center stage. Adam is sharpening a stick with a crude knife while Eve is placing wood to make a camp fire.

Adam: Well, since we're together I was hoping you could help me with something.

Eve: What's that?

Adam: God gave me a job.

Eve: A job? What kind of job?

Adam: I have to name things.

Eve: What things?

Adam: *(a la Jack Benny, with characteristic mannerism: left hand on right elbow, right hand on right cheek)* Everything. I have to name everything. Think you can help me?

Eve: Piece of cake.

Adam: What?

Eve: Never mind. Let's get started.

Adam and Eve stand and walk down center. Routine may elicit occasional grunts and perhaps some friendly booing. Adam and Eve could ad lib retorts such as: "Hum, seems like the first audience in history is a bit hostile."

Adam: *(points)* OK, what's that?

Eve: Let's call it...a cat.

Adam: And if it can talk?

Eve: Then it's a dog.

Adam: And what about that?

Eve: I think it's a rat.

Adam: But in a house?

Eve: Then it's a mouse.

Adam: *(upper-class British accent)* And if it has wings and occasion'ly sings?

Eve: *(upper-class British accent)* I've got just the word. We'll call it... a bird!

Both return to normal voice.

Adam: Hey, this is fun. Let's keep going. How about that animal?

Eve: Which one?

Adam: Over there. The one wearing sunglasses. Walks around all day like it's so cool.

Eve: I know. And it never stops eating.

Adam: Are you thinking what I'm thinking?

Together: It's a *hip-po-bottomless!* [hippopotamus] (*look at audience, mouths agape*)

Adam: Oh, that's strange. There's a camel with no humps. What should we call that?

Eve: How about *Humphrey?* [hump free]

Adam: And look. There's a kangaroo that can't jump.

Eve: Yes, a completely *hopless* [hopeless] situation. You know, Adam, I've been thinking. Why don't we get a pet?

Adam: What kind?

Eve: How about a giraffe?

Adam: A giraffe? Are you crazy? Too high maintenance. But I did see two giraffes race yesterday.

Eve: Really? Who won?

Adam: Not sure but it was neck and neck all the way.

Eve: Adam, I'm thinking of raising goats

Adam: You're *kid*-ding. [kidding] And I'm thinking of going into the skunk selling business.

Eve: Finally, you're making *scents!* [sense] Adam?

Adam: Yes?

Eve: I saw a snake yesterday. I was completely rattled.

Adam: Oh, stop it. You're just being overly *hiss*-terical. [hysterical] And while we're at it, stop pampering the cows.

Eve: But I like cows.

Adam: Oh, so you want to drink spoiled milk the rest of your life?

Eve: Hey, look who's talking. I saw you kissing a bird yesterday.

Adam: So, what's wrong with that?

Eve: Alright, fine. But don't come running to me if you get an *untweet*-able [untreatable] disease.

Adam: Oh look, there's some porcupines. I played volleyball with them yesterday. Hi, guys!

Eve: Did you have a good time?

Adam: Not really. All they like to do is spike. Eve, I have a joke.

Eve: It's about time. Let's hear it.

Adam: What did the termite say when he entered the tavern?

Eve: I don't know. What did the termite say when he entered the tavern?

Adam: Is the *bar tender* [bartender] here?

Adam laughs while Eve looks at him expressionless.

Get it? *Bar-tender?* (*continues to laugh but stops when Eve shows no reaction*)
 Humm. Any idea what the weather will be tomorrow?

Eve: Can't say. Ask the horse. He usually knows.

Adam: No, I'm not asking the horse. Every time I ask the horse I get the same answer—the weather's stable. I need new friends. Say, did you ever notice how all the animals listen so carefully to what the elephants have to say?

Eve: Yes, why is that?

Adam: I'm not sure but it just seems their opinions (*points for emphasis*) carry a lot of weight.

Adam: Eve, I sent you ten puns yesterday. I'm curious. Did any of them make you laugh?

Eve: Sorry. No pun *in ten did*. [intended] And don't be so curious. You know what they say. Curiosity killed the cat.

Adam: I know. And they weren't *kitten*. [kidding] (*laughs*)

Eve: Adam, stop! Haven't I suffered enough *pun*-ishment for one day?

Adam: (*a la George Burns, smoking an imaginary cigar*) Say goodnight, Eve.

Eve: Goodnight, Eve.

Adam and Eve exit.

Scene 4

Adam and Eve sit at a campfire in front of grass hut. There is a straw basket on the ground near the hut. Adam ferociously eats a piece of meat from a bone, wiping his mouth with the back of his hand. Eve quietly picks nuts from a bowl. Near her is a plate with more pieces of meat.

Adam: This is truly delicious.

Eve: I can see. Want some more?

Adam: Absolutely. *(She hands him the plate. Adam takes another piece and continues eating.)* You know, Eve, I must say you're a very fine cook. And don't think I don't notice things either. I mean, with your cooking, cleaning, naming things...

Eve: *(pause)* Adam?

Adam: What? *(continues eating)*

Eve: Do I sense something?

Adam: Huh? *(pause)* Oh, no way.

Eve: You are. You're starting to like me.

Adam: Dream on, sister.

Eve: No, it's true. I can see it. It's in your eyes. You like me! You really like me! Say it.

Adam: Say what?

Eve: Say "I like you."

Adam: I can't.

Eve: Yes, you can. Come on. Stand up.

They stand.

Now say it. I...

Adam: (growls and grunts) I...

Eve: like...

Adam: (growls and grunts louder, pulling his face and hair, stomping the floor) like...

Eve: you!

Adam: (smiles and laughs) you. Alright, I like you.

I Like You

Adam: (sings) Ev'ry time you go away
All I do is sit and wait
Guess it's true
I like you

Eve: (sings) The way you eat is hard to bear
I'd rather eat with the bears
But it's true
I like you.

Adam: (sings) Those early days were rough

Eve: (speaks) Boy, I'll say.

Adam: (sings) Ev'ryday I was gruff

Eve: (speaks) You're telling me.

Adam: (sings) But then to my surprise
You caught my eye
You caught my eye

There were times I have to say
How I wished you'd go away
But don't do
I like you.

Eve: (sings) Can't believe this man I found
Though there's no other (looks around) man around
But it's true
I like you.

Adam: (sings) Those early days were rough

Eve: *(speaks)* You can say that again.

Adam: *(sings)* Ev'ryday I was gruff

Eve: *(speaks)* Well, at least you can admit it.

Adam: *(sings)* But then to my surprise

Adam and Eve: *(sing)*

You caught my eye
You caught my eye

Guess we'll just have to stick it out
But at least there is no doubt
That it's true
I like you
That it's true
I like you.

They hug.

God: Adam.

Adam: *(looks up)* Yes?

God: Eve.

Eve: *(looks up)* Yes, Lord.

God: There is something I must tell you. From every tree in the garden you may freely eat. But from one tree you may not eat. This is the Tree of Knowledge. To do so you will surely die. Do you understand?

Adam: We understand. *(Eve nods)* Lord...Lord? *(to Eve)* I have so much to ask Him.

Eve: He will come again. Let me go now. *(picks up the basket)* I need to pick a few things for dinner. Oh, by the way, I'm making your favorite dessert.

Adam: What's that?

Eve: Apple pie! *(starts to leave)* See you soon.

Adam: *(waves)* Bye.

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Eve exits. Adam looks concerned.

Scene 5

Eve enters. There is a tree with apples hanging from it. The snake slithers on the ground.

Snake: And how are you today, Eve? Oh, I happened to hear Adam's little joke about being overly *hisss-* terical. Very funny. So, what brings you into the forest?

Eve: I'm here to pick a few things for dinner.

Snake: Well, why don't you pick some of those delicious red apples? I'm sure Adam would love them.

Eve: Oh, I can't do that. This is the Tree of Knowledge and God warned us not to eat from it or we will die.

Snake: Is that what He told you? And you believe Him? Oh, poor child, you are sorely mistaken. On the contrary, to eat from this tree will give you great power-power as great as God Himself. So of course He doesn't want you to eat from it. He fears the competition.

Eve: I don't know. Maybe you're trying to trick me.

Snake: Not at all. I only want to help. Oh, why doesn't anyone trust me?

The Snake Song

Snake: (*sings*) I have this reputation
Completely undeserved
I'm fated for damnation
The animals concur

From where do they perceive this?
No gentler soul than I
Grievous accusations
How they fly

I have no legs but slither

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On rodents I survive
How could I devour
Creatures far my size?

A deer, an antelope, a bison
So they claim
Sad to see my old friends
Go insane.

So instead of doubting me
Pity me instead
So maligned, misunderstood
The rumors that are spread

Could you then stand up for me?
Believe me when I say
Take an apple, bite
Then go your way.

Eve pulls an apple from the tree, looks at it, then takes a bite. Set goes dark.

Scene 6

Adam is sweeping in front of the hut as Eve enters with a basketful of apples.

Adam: Where were you? I was starting to worry. Did you find some good apples?

Eve: *(looks worried)* I think so. Here, try one.

Adam takes an apple from the basket and bites into it.

Adam: Very good. I can't wait for dessert. Your apple pie... *(notices Eve's worried look)*
Is anything wrong?

Eve: Maybe.

Adam: What? Did something happen?

Eve: The snake...

Adam: The snake? What about the snake? Eve, what about the snake?

Eve: He told me to take an apple from that tree.

Adam: The tree that God...?

Eve: Yes.

Adam: And did you?

Eve: Yes.

Adam: And did you bite?

Eve: Yes.

Adam: Why? Why did you?

Eve: The snake said if I ate from the tree I would be as strong as God.

Adam: Well, are you?

Eve: No. Are you?

Adam: Why would I? I didn't... *(looks at bit apple in his hand)* Eve. Eve! What...?

Eve: I'm scared! Can't you see I'm scared? What do we do? Adam, think! What do we do?

Adam: *(stunned but quickly gathers his thoughts)* We can't stay here. He'll see us. We'll go into the forest. We can hide there.

They run into the forest and crouch behind a tree. There is thunder and lightning.

God: Where are you? Where are you?

More thunder and lightning.

(louder) Where are you?

Eve: It's not thick enough. *(points)* There, over there.

They run and crouch behind another tree. More thunder and lightning.

Eve: This is better.

Adam: Eve, it's no use. He will find us. Better to reveal ourselves.

Adam stands up. Eve grabs his arm to pull him back down.

Eve: Adam, no!

Adam stands in the open.

Adam: *(to God)* I heard your voice and I was afraid.

Eve steps out from behind the tree and stands near Adam.

God: Why were you afraid? Did you eat from the tree I commanded you not to?

Adam: *(pause)* Yes.

God: And who told you to eat from the tree?

Eve looks at Adam fearfully.

Adam: *(looks at Eve)* No one told me. I freely ate from the tree myself.

God: Then because thou hast eaten of the Tree of Knowledge, you may no longer remain in the Garden but toil upon the earth of which you shall eat all the days of your life.

Adam looks down while Eve looks at Adam.

Scene 7

Adam and Eve are dressed in hiking wear. Adam collapses the grass hut and extinguishes the campfire while Eve places items into a backpack.

Adam: Got everything?

Eve: I think so, but I'm not sure what we'll need. Does it get cold there?

Adam: I don't know. Let's prepare just in case.

They stop and look at each other.

Eve: Life will be hard.

Adam: Yes.

Eve: We'll have to work just to survive.

Adam: That's right.

Eve; And you're not angry at me?

Adam: No.

Eve: But you should be. I ate from the tree and now we have to leave Paradise.

Adam takes Eve's hands and looks deeply into her eyes.

Adam: Then we will make our own Paradise.

A World Just As Fine

Adam: (*sings*) As we go forth today
To a land
We stumble and fall
But we'll soldier on
And plant till seedlings do rise
And we'll build a world just as fine
We'll build a world just as fine.

Adam and Eve: (*sing*)
With work and with hope we will strive
Though we are barred from Paradise
Still, each day we will try
To build a world just as fine
Let's build a world just as fine.

This land that we now embark upon
This green and fertile land
Though hard, with love
We're sure to carry on
And build a world just as fine.

Eve dances.

Adam: What do you call that?

Eve: This is called dancing. Try it.

Adam dances.

Adam: Hey, I think I like this.

Adam dances wildly.

Adam and Eve: (*sing*)

But we can't do all this ourselves
So we ask of you here to lend a hand
And someday we will succeed
To build a world just as fine
To build a world just as fine

And all that we ask is part of your time
To build a world just as fine
To build a world just as fine
To build a world just as fine
To build a world just as fine

Adam starts to put on the backpack.

Adam: Here, help me with this.

Eve helps Adam put the backpack over his shoulders.

Adam: Ok, that's good. Are you ready?

Eve: I'm ready.

Adam: Let's go.

Eve: *(sad, near tears)* I'm right behind ya!

Adam: No, *(extends his hand)* walk beside me.

Eve takes Adam's hand and exit together as Adam points to something in the distance.

End of Play

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