

**S  LAMANDER LEVIA†HAN**  
**a new bit-pop musical fable**

By Krista Knight and Barry Brinegar

**Characters:**

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN	The loneliest man in the world.
GRACIE COCHRAN	A young bride.
THE DEVIL	The Devil.
VICTORIA MINI	An actress.
OTTO SCOFIELD	A vaudeville manager.

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**Setting:**

Black River Falls, Wisconsin. 1890

**Song List:**

1. Passerby
2. The Sister is Mine
3. So This is Wisconsin
4. I Like U (I like U more)
5. Every Day's a Celebration
6. I Like U (Reprise)
7. Go 2 Sleep (I)
8. H8 4 Her M8
9. Shining Singing U
10. Vaudeville is Dead
11. Dining @ the Leviathans
12. Go 2 Sleep (II)
13. Understand UR Leviathan
14. Here's UR shit
15. Wisconsin Death Trip
16. You've Been a Prince
17. Wisconsin in the Sky

A note about Salamander's progressive disability:

His difficulty with speech is less about stuttering and more about a struggle to articulate what is formed in his brain, but what he is less and less able to communicate.

## SCENE ONE

**Lights up on 1890s Wisconsin where Salamander Leviathan digs up a tree stump.**

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

'Good morning, Salamander Leviathan, good morning.' This is how you greet each day. To yourself and by yourself because you have no one to say good morning to you. No one to say good night. You have no one. You are the loneliest man in the world. God, I would give anything for somebody to love me.

**The Devil pops out of the hole in the ground.**

DEVIL:

Did I hear *'anything'*?

**He disappears back into the hole.**

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Raaaaaaaaaar.

**Salamander digs in the ground with increased fervor.**

-ar-ar-ar-ar-ar.

DEVIL'S VOICE:

Ow.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Ow?

DEVIL'S VOICE:

Ow.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Ow.

DEVIL'S VOICE:

Ow.

**Something grabs on to the other end of his shovel. They have a tug of war.**

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Ow. ow. ow. ow

**The tugging on the other end stops.**

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Ow-lo?

**Salamander yanks out the shovel. Attached to it comes The Devil— dressed in a fine 19<sup>th</sup> century suit with blinking red horns—coughing and spewing up dirt.**

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Where—

DEVIL:  
It went down the wrong pipe!

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
What—

DEVIL:  
Is that the shovel that was stabbing at my head? Give me that! Give it!

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
I was just digging out a stump! A tree stump.

DEVIL:  
Because you're a lumber baron.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
I am. These trees are my trees. I inherited them from my father who inherited them from his father who planted the first saplings in the ground. Three hundred acres of some of the finest lumber to be found in the Americas.

DEVIL:  
You're the richest man in the state of Wisconsin.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
I am.

DEVIL:  
Woo Ee!

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Woo Ee!

DEVIL:  
And yet you are miserable.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
No, I'm not. What? I'm not. I'm happy.

DEVIL:  
Don't you lie to me.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
....Who are you?

DEVIL:  
Who do you think I am?

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
I shouldn't say.

DEVIL:  
Oh come on now. You can say it. Go on. Say it. Say it.  
    Call me your long lost prodigal passerby  
    Passing by, one more time  
    I got that name when I fell out of the sky from on high  
Hi.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Oh my.

DEVIL:  
    I'm just your long lost prodigal passerby  
    It is I

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
What are you doing in Wisconsin?

DEVIL:  
Running out of territory.  
    Just shake my hand and have a helluva life 'till you die.  
    Then you're mine

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
    I've heard so much about you.

DEVIL:  
    Some of it is true.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
    So what can you do?

DEVIL:

I'll tell you what I can do-do-doot-doot-doot-do

**The Devil does a mini Devil Dance.**

Riches! Titties! Booze! Loose women! Steam engines! Wads of cash! Large penis! Large penis! Large penis! Huge penis! Thongs! Bitches! Steak! Gold wagons! Baby seal coat! Baby seal coat! Baby seal coat! Baby-seal-coat-baby-seal-coat—

**Salamander interrupts song. Music stops.**

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Love!?

DEVIL:

Excuse me? No no no. Pleasures of the flesh, buddy. That's the way to go.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

But what I really want is a wife. A baby.

DEVIL:

Ugh. When you say that it makes me throw up a little in my mouth.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

But it's what I want. I would give anything for somebody to love me. I would give anything for a family.

DEVIL:

If I can get you a wife, if I can get you a baby, then I get your soul. Do we have a deal?

Just trust your lost prodigal prodigal one

I am your long lost prodigal one

Just shake my hand and you won't have to die all alone

On your own

Come'on! Just trust your long lost prodigal passerby.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

I will try.

DEVIL:

Now sign right here and I'll go get you a wife and a child,  
no lie.

**Salamander Leviathan extends his hand. He and the Devil shake. Salamander signs a contract. The Devil composes a newspaper want ad.**

## SCENE TWO

**The Devil composes a newspaper want ad.**

DEVIL:

Wealthy lumber baron seeking decent woman for marriage arrangement....

**Lights up on a Vaudeville stage in one of the other 43 states in the union.**

**Victoria Mini and Gracie perform their act singing THE SISTER IS MINE as conjoined twins.**

VICTORIA MINI:

I'd like to introduce you to my sister  
You'll never meet another girl like her  
She has the suave sophistication of a girl of nineteen  
With a taste for Oriental rugs and French cuisine

GRACIE COCHRAN:

I'd like to introduce you to my sister  
She really is the best one in the bunch  
Her heart has the circumference of a pumpkin pie  
She would gladly go to hell before she'd harm a fly

GRACIE COCHRAN & VICTORIA MINI:

Pick Gracie or Vicki you can't go wrong  
but whichever one of us you choose the other comes along

**Dance break.**

VICTORIA MINI:

I'd like to introduce you to my sister  
her appeal is truly far beyond compare  
She has every ounce of class that a gentlemen could want  
She keeps company with princes, dukes, and debutants

GRACIE COCHRAN:

I'd like to introduce you to my sister  
She's one to bring back home to mom and dad  
Ever tireless and vigilant with household chores  
You will see her sweet reflection in your polished floors

GRACIE COCHRAN & VICTORIA MINI:

Pick Gracie or Vicki you can't go wrong  
But whichever one of us you choose the other comes along  
I won't be separated from my sister

It's the only offer that I must decline  
We'll be anything you please except your sister  
this sister is mine  
I'll be anything you please except your sister  
this sister, mister, is mine.

**Backstage. The women unwrap themselves.**

VICTORIA MINI:  
Why did I add that 'mister.' He's going to kill me.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Don't worry, Vicki, no one heard it. Really. There was no one out there.

VICTORIA MINI:  
We can't do this anymore. Why don't we pawn off these costumes and get out of here.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
We both know what Otto would do.

**There's a knocking at the door.**

VICTORIA MINI:  
Gracie, please—

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Just stay here with me and I'll take care of you. Haven't I always?

**Otto enters. Gracie treads water/trails off.**

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
I thought the show went well tonight...did you think the show went well tonight?...I mean, it's a Monday night. It's cold out there...Things are going to turn around, I know it. And what with that quarantine ...

**Otto hands the newspaper Want Ad to the women.**

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
What is this?

**Victoria Mini reads over Gracie's shoulder:**

VICTORIA MINI:  
"Wealthy lumber baron seeking decent woman for marriage arrangement...."



GRACIE COCHRAN:  
I don't do that anymore.

OTTO SCOFIELD:  
I was referring to your sister.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
No!

OTTO SCOFIELD:  
You are both under contract, and obliged to raise capital for my production.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
We are. We will. But not like that. Not since you've come into our lives. We have you now, your show. It's going to be a success again—

OTTO SCOFIELD:  
A lumber baron, Gracie. In rural Wisconsin. A rich recluse without scruples. A man so horrible that despite his wealth he still has to resort to anonymous courtship.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Please, Otto—

OTTO SCOFIELD:  
And I think you'll agree she's better off taking his last name than my telling anyone the one you're both wanted for.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Ok! Ok. But Vicki doesn't know what she's doing. Why don't we go together?

VICTORIA MINI:  
We do everything together. We're like Siamese twins with the flesh separated.

OTTO SCOFIELD:  
Only one of you needs to go. And you're already happily married.

**Otto grabs Victoria by her hair.**

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
No! No! Otto, please. Look at her. Let me go. You know it's the only way you'll get the money. I'll be back before you know it.

OTTO SCOFIELD:  
Don't be long—your family will be here waiting.

### SCENE THREE

**The train pulls up. The doors open and Gracie Cochran stands in the threshold. Backlit and ethereal and gorgeous. Salamander is temporarily blinded.**

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Hello. I come from St. Louis. I saw your Want Ad.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
What Want Ad?

**The Devil mimes writing a want ad, gives Salamander the thumbs up.**

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
I'm Gracie Cochran.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
I'm Gracie Cochran.

GRACEY COCHRAN:  
Pardon me?

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
You're Gracey Cochran. I'm not Gracey Cochran. Haha. Me. Haha.  
...I'm Salamander Leviathan. All these trees, these are my trees.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Then I believe, Mr. Leviathan, that I am your new wife.

**Perhaps Gracie slaps a mosquito on her arm.**

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Where is your estate?

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Well, I'll show you!

**Salamander takes Gracie's bags and shows her around.**

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN  
So this is Wisconsin  
And this is our nursery  
And I am a simple man  
Named Salamander Leviathan

Anything we could hope for  
Grows on forever here  
Anything we could dream of  
Reaches up to the sky  
So if you want to have timber  
Or some lovely mahogany  
I reckon I got the lion's share  
I got trees growing everywhere  
Even some pine

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Even some pine?

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Even some pine.

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Even some pine.

DEVIL:

I now pronounce you husband and wife.  
You may kiss the bride!

**Gracie eludes Salamander's kiss.**

GRACIE COCHRAN:

So this is Wisconsin  
There's not much of anything  
Except trees and oppression  
For Mrs. Gracie Leviathan  
If I am to be kept here  
Amidst such rustic surroundings  
I risk dying of boredom  
Before I find satisfaction

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

If you're at all fond of forestry  
You'll find these trees tend to grow on you  
Gracie we can be happy here  
Just as happy as anywhere  
Give it some time

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Give it some time?

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Give me some time.

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Give me some time.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Gracie...Gracie...I've waited for you for so long. There's so much I want to share with you-

GRACIE COCHRAN:

We have our whole lives ahead of us.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

My father told me that the only time you forget you're alone is when you're asleep, but it's no life when to wake up means to remember. Now we'll wake up next to each other, now we'll watch the seasons change—

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Together.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Together.

## SCENE FOUR

**Victoria Mini narrates a human puppet show – Salamander and Gracie play the marionettes.**

VICTORIA MINI:

There once was a girl from St. Louis.  
She was beautiful and smart and all the men loved her.  
So many men: big men, little men, old men, young men.  
Bakers, cobblers, tailors, preachers.  
Sailors, stable boys, actors of the stage.  
All the men loved her. She had to beat them off with a stick.  
But there was a problem.  
Isn't there always?  
Every man who loved her met an awful death.  
Their hearts expired, their heads exploded.  
They fell out of windows, they fell off of cliffs.  
They drowned, they burned, they stumbled face first into a hornets nest.  
They died by the hands of others. They died by their own.  
But the main thing was, they died. They fell in love with her and they died.

**Salamander exits. We see Otto watching from the wings.**

Until she met a man impervious to her charms.  
A man who didn't die.  
A man who saw her for what she was and used it to his benefit.  
A man who sent her away to do it again.

**Gracie breaks away.**

**Otto roars.**

## SCENE FIVE

**Salamander and the Devil are chopping down a tree together with a saw. The Devil thinks he hears a roar.**

DEVIL:  
Are there bears in these woods?

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Oh sure.

DEVIL:  
What kind of bears?

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Black bears, grizzly bears.

DEVIL:  
Are they big, these bears?

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Well yeah. They're pretty big. You know, bear size. Are you afraid of bears?

DEVIL:  
No.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
You are, aren't you? Don't worry. I'm here. I'll protect you.

DEVIL:  
I am not afraid of bears. I'm not afraid of anything.  
I'm the Devil. I'm the Devil. I'm the Devil!

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
You keep saying that, I'm not sure I know what that means.

DEVIL:  
It means I'm the Devil. I'm bad news. I'm evil incarnate.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
But you're not. You're kinda nice.

DEVIL:  
I'm not nice. I'm bad. Baaad, Salamander.

**Salamander goes in to hug the Devil.**

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Do you need a bear hug?

DEVIL:  
Come on. Sal. Sal. Stop it. Come on—

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Gracie won't touch me either—

DEVIL:  
—It's just not typical for me to—  
Wait. Wait a second. What did you say?

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
It's nothing.

DEVIL:  
Don't you lie to me, Sal.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
We're still getting to know each other.

DEVIL:  
Your wife won't have sex with you?

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
It's not like that. We have an emotional connection.

DEVIL:  
Oh yeah? Then why won't she put out, seal the deal, sign on the dotted line, do the horizontal hokey pokey?

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
You wouldn't understand.

DEVIL:  
Oh I understand. If she's not delivering it means I'm not delivering.

**The Devil takes out his contract.**

The longer you don't get a wife *and* a child, the longer I'm stuck in rural Wisconsin downstream from pestilence and two towns over from tragedy.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
You can make her to, um...

DEVIL:  
I can't make anyone do anything. But I can incentivize. I'm very good at offering incentives. Does Gracie have everything she wants?

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
I don't know—Gracie is used to living in the city. I think she feels cooped up. I don't think she's taking to domestic life. The narrow availability of bibliographic variety at the Black River Falls Library along with her limited literacy mean that intellectual pursuits don't interest her.

**Ding! Lights up on Gracie flipping through botanical books.**

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
She's shown little passion for the nursery. Although she does seem to enjoy casual gardening.

**Ding! Lights up on Gracie picking apart a hot pink rose.**

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
I worry a lack of diverse and rigorous exercise may lead to cabin or otherwise fever.

**Ding! Lights up on Gracie jumping up and down rapidly with her fists clenched around a hot pink vial.**

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
She's gotten rid of the mice problem like you wouldn't believe, but a woman is more than a mice solution.

**Ding! Lights up on Gracie with an eye dropper releasing hot pink liquid in between the floorboards. The sound of sizzling, squeaking mice as they are rid from the house.**

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
A wife is a woman. A woman has needs. I should never have let you get your hopes up, Mr. D, you'll never get your soul because not even a contract can bring me love. No, we should scrap the whole thing and you should devote your time to someone who has a chance.

**Salamander takes the contract from the Devil.**

DEVIL:  
Let's not get rash here. Maybe. I can help you.



SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

No no no—thank you—that’s very nice of you—matrimony through demonic acquisition is one thing, but love shouldn’t come from wicked contrivances.

DEVIL:

Hey hey! No wicked contrivances, just advice. I know a few things. Maybe I help you, you know, woo her.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

You’d do that for me?

DEVIL:

Yeah. What’s the point of being friends with the Devil if I can’t give you some pointers?

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

We’re...friends?

**The Devil regains possession of the contract.**

DEVIL:

Sure!

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

You’re not being serious.

DEVIL:

It doesn’t make any sense, but I am!

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Why?

DEVIL:

I like you!

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Me? Really? Do you mean it?

DEVIL:

I like you!

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

I like you more.

DEVIL:

I like you.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

I like you more.

DEVIL:

I like you.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

I like you more.

DEVIL:

I like you.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

I like you more.

DEVIL:

I could search the surface for seasons  
**(aside):** and never hope to find another sucker like you  
I've often thought there must be a reason  
every single kingdom keeps a prince and a fool

you were the loneliest fool in the state of Wisconsin  
you partnered with me and your problems are passing away  
Happy da-ay-ay!

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN

I like you.

DEVIL:

I like you more.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

I like you.

DEVIL:

I like you more.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

I like you.

DEVIL:

I like you more.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

I like you.

DEVIL:

I like you more.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

I could hunt all over the county  
and never hope to find a better Devil than you  
I could want to keep you around me  
forever doing all the crazy things that we do

I was the loneliest man in the state of Wisconsin  
But you shook my hand and you showed me an easier way  
Hey-ey-ey!

**Maybe the Devil and Salamander continue waltzing through the following.**

DEVIL:

You know, when you really look at it, you're not so bad. You're more a victim of your remote circumstance than anything. Maybe you...just be yourself.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Yeah! We can bond over my profound and previously crippling loneliness!

DEVIL:

Or... maybe we start simple!

Maybe you give Gracie something nice for Valentine's Day.  
Women love Holidays.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHANL:

Yeah! My father once said: streamers are heaven's way of cradling the earth.  
I guess if everything goes well, I won't be going to heaven anymore—all the more reason to hang them high now!

**Salamander and the Devil snap into action.**

DEVIL:

This is kinda fun!

**Music out.**

DEVIL:

Huh. That's weird.

**The Devil hands Salamander flowers and hides outside the window. Gracie enters.**

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Happy Valentine's Day, Gracie.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
I didn't know it was Valentine's Day.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
It's a rural tradition you might not be familiar with. On occasion, we'll celebrate all the Holidays at once.

**The Devil shakes his head and arms "NO" but Salamander goes through with this explanation anyways. In anticipation, the Devil scrambles to find decorations of a second Holiday.**

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Why is that?

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
By packing significant events in our lives together, we feel a more profound connection to each other faster.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
How curious.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Like Valentine's Day for instance.  
Happy Valentine's Day, Mrs. Leviathan.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Happy Valentine's Day, Salamander.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
See, this way we don't have to say it to ourselves anymore!

**The Devil passes Salamander Christmas decorations. Music comes in.**

DEVIL:  
Christmas.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
The same with Christmas. Merry Christmas, Gracie.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Merry Christmas. Why are we celebrating Christmas?

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Because every day's a celebration  
When I get to spend it with you

**The Devil passes Salamander Easter decorations.**

DEVIL:  
Easter.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Or Easter! Happy Easter, Gracie!

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Happy Easter, Salamander.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Every moment's an invitation  
To laugh and sing and have a good time

**The Devil passes Salamander New Year's decorations. Gracie gets kind of into it.**

DEVIL:  
New Year's.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Happy New Year!

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Happy New Year, Salamander.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Every morning I open a present  
I open my eyes up and look at you

**The Devil passes Salamander 4<sup>th</sup> of July decorations.**

DEVIL:  
4<sup>th</sup> of July.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Happy 4th of July!

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
It's not even July.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

But every day's a celebration  
let's laugh and sing and have a good time

la la la la la—

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Salamander.

**Maybe Salamander has maracas.**

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

la la la la la—

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Salamander.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Monday Valentines. Tuesday Christmas. Wednesday Easter. Thursday New Years. Friday  
4th of July. Saturday Valentines. Sunday Christmas—

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Salamander Leviathan!

**Music cuts out.**

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Yes?

GRACIE COCHRAN:

We don't need to celebrate all the time. Not every day has to be a holiday!

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Then what will we wish each other?

**Gracie leads Salamander to bed.**

GRACIE COCHRAN (**sexy**):

Goodnight.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Oh! Good night, Gracie.

**Gracie exits, or otherwise occupies herself getting ready.**

**The Devil gives Salamander the thumbs up.**

DEVIL:

Here we go, Sal, here we go!

**Salamander and the Devil do a buddy handshake perfectly or other physical manifestation of synchronicity.**

DEVIL & SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

I like you.  
I like you more.  
I like you.  
I like you more.  
I like you.  
I like you more.  
I like you.  
I like you more.

There's a lot to do in Wisconsin  
if you can find a friend like the one I found in you  
trees and schemes for us to get lost in  
together now Wisconsin is a dream coming true

O Wisconsin, Wisconsin  
I like you!

DEVIL:

So you know what you're doing right?

**SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN (undressing):**

Before she was hospitalized in the asylum at Madison, Han Neilson's aunt used to send me obscene letters through the mail. It was as good an incentive as any to learn the alphabet.

DEVIL:

um...close enough.

**The Devil sends Salamander into the ring.**

**Midwestern awkward but earnest sex montage. Casio-pop sexy music.**

**It pointedly does not result in fornication (Gracie has made sure that it hasn't).**

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Goodnight, Salamander, Goodnight.

**Gracie starts singing the lullaby GO 2 SLEEP (I) to Salamander, hypnotizing him into sleep. She leans over him and with the eye dropper drops three drops of hot pink rose acid into Salamander's ear. We hear the sizzle of it eating through his brain. Foaming.**

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Go to sleep, say goodnight  
Everything is alright  
Go to sleep, I'm your wife  
You can trust me with your life

DEVIL:

Sal. Sal. How's it going in there, Sal?

**Salamander starts to stir. The Devil knocks on the door. Salamander wakes with a start. He can't use the right side of his body—right arm and right leg.**

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Damnit.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Ahhh. Ahhh. Ahhh!

**DEVIL (mistaking for sex screams):**

Sounding good, Sal. Sounding good!

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Who's there?!

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Ahhh! Ahhh!

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Shh. Shhh.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

What?! What's happening? What's happening to me?

**From outside, the Devil hears Salamander's panic.**

DEVIL:

Sal – is that you?

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

I can't move my arm. Oh my god, I can't move my arm—what's happening to me?!



GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Shh. Shhh! It's ok.

DEVIL:  
Sal. Sal?? What are you saying? Are you ok?

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Quiet! Quiet!

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
I can't move my arm.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
It's only temporary.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
There's something wrong.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
You probably had a stroke.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Gracie. I'm scared Gracie. Gracie?

**Salamander tries to grab on to Gracie for comfort but she stiffens.**

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Why won't you hold me?

**The Devil is trying to get into the house.**

DEVIL:  
Sal? Sal? Are you ok in there?

**Gracie panics.**

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
I will! See? I will.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
I was so lonely.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
You won't be anymore.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

I was so sad.

GRACIE COCHRAN:

It's ok, now. I'm here. It's ok.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

I want to try for a baby. I want us to have a baby.

DEVIL:

Hey, hey, Sal?

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Tonight.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Really?

GRACIE COCHRAN:

I wasn't sure if it was time, but I know now that it is. We'll try for a baby tonight.

We're going to get everything we want. We're going to get everything we need.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

That's worth it then. That's worth....anything.

**Gracie secretly takes out her diaphragm and puts it in. She and Salamander disappear under the sheets.**

**SCENE SIX**

OTTO SCOFIELD:

Ladies and gentlemen—the moment you’ve all been waiting for—St. Loui’s own Black Widow.

**Victoria Mini sings HATE 4 HER MATE as a burlesque number/strip tease.  
Meanwhile Gracie is having sex with Salamander.**

VICTORIA MINI:

She's got hate for her mate  
Hate for her mate, hate for her mate  
She's got all this hate

VICTORIA MINI & GRACIE COCHRAN:

yeah yeah yeah yeah yeah

VICTORIA MINI:

Hate for her mate  
Oooh and I can relate  
Believe me I can relate, hey, I can relate  
She's got all this hate

VICTORIA MINI & GRACIE COCHRAN:

yeah yeah yeah yeah yeah

VICTORIA MINI:

Hate for her mate, and it's great  
She's had like seven or eight  
Had to let them fornicate, and penetrate  
while holding back the hate

VICTORIA MINI & GRACIE COCHRAN:

yeah yeah yeah yeah yeah

VICTORIA MINI:

hate for her mate, they all shared the same fate  
she's wanted in twenty states  
they want her for their inmate  
to lock up all that hate

VICTORIA MINI & GRACIE COCHRAN:

yeah yeah yeah yeah yeah

VICTORIA MINI:

hate for her mates she demonstrates, ooooooh

## SCENE SEVEN

**Salamander and the Devil are chopping up the tree they cut down earlier. Salamander is negotiating the loss of the right side of his body.**

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
I am happy. I'm really happy.

**Salamander looks really happy. The Devil bats Sal's bum arm.**

DEVIL:  
What happened to your arm?

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
It's only temporary.

DEVIL:  
You are happy, aren't you.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
I am. I'm in love with the most beautiful girl in the world. And we're going to have a baby, a small little future thing baby, who will one day inherit these trees.

DEVIL:  
You are?

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
We will be.

DEVIL:  
That's swell, Sal.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
So I guess that means you'll be on your way soon.

DEVIL:  
What? Why?!

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Gracie and I are in love.

DEVIL:  
So?

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

You fulfilled your end of the bargain. Don't I not see you again until it's time to collect?

DEVIL:

Yeah but. There's no baby yet. So. Just because you think you're in love doesn't mean anything. It's no guarantee. It could still end badly.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

What do you have against love? What did love ever do to you?

DEVIL:

I'm the Devil. I'm by nature skeptical.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

No it's more than that.

DEVIL:

Oh please. **(Beat.)** What? Don't look at me like that.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Like what?

DEVIL:

Like you're trying to look into my...you know...

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Soul?

DEVIL:

The Devil has no soul.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Yes, you do.

DEVIL:

Get away from me.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Right in there. A big warm, chicken soup soul.

Hi soul, hi!

I think I can hear it rattling around in there—

DEVIL:

I will smite you.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

You don't fool me. You don't fool me one bit.

DEVIL:

Listen. This is how it works: There's carnal desire. There's mutually beneficial arrangements. And then there's love-struck Romeos who can't see the forest for the trees.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

What are you saying?

DEVIL:

There is no WAY you can be in love already. No way! You just met her. How well can you possibly know her?

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

I know I love her. I know she's beautiful. I know I love her.

DEVIL:

Do you know her favorite color?

**Ding! Lights up on Gracie.**

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Lavender.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Lavender.

DEVIL:

Do you know her favorite food?

**Ding!**

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Chocolate cake.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Chocolate cake.

DEVIL:

Do you know her favorite animal?

**Ding!**

GRACIE COCHRAN:

The ostrich.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
The ostrich.

DEVIL:  
Do you know why she would marry someone sight unseen?

**Gracie disappears. Salamander looks in vain for Gracie to answer.**

DEVIL:  
Think about it.

**Salamander exits. The Devil enters the house and riffles through Gracie's suitcase. Ding!  
The Devil finds a 19<sup>th</sup> Century Diaphragm.**

DEVIL:  
Huh. That's curious. Why does she have a diaphragm if they're trying to have a baby? Poke.  
Poke. Poke poke poke. That solves that.

**The Devil takes out a long needle and pokes holes in the diaphragm before putting the  
diaphragm back in Gracie's suitcase.**



## SCENE EIGHT

**Otto is a ventriloquist. He holds Victoria on his lap as his dummy and does the voices of a man and a woman.**

OTTO SCOFIELD:

M: "I love you, but I don't really know much about you."

W: "My favorite color is lavender. My favorite food is chocolate cake."

M: "That tells me nothing about you."

W: "There's nothing really to tell."

M: "Oh now, that's not true. We both know you have an unfortunate effect on men. Who are you? Who are you really?"

W: "Tee hee hee. I don't know how to answer that. Tee hee hee."

M: "What's so funny? Come on. Tell me. You can tell me anything. What is it? What are you hiding?"

**Otto goes off script.**

W: "Do you want to know something really secret about me?"

M: "I want to know everything about you. I love you!"

W: "Tee hee. Well. Tee. Well. Tee. Well. My husband sent me to Wisconsin but I screwed up!"

VICTORIA MINI (**whispering**):

What are you doing?

OTTO SCOFIELD:

W: I almost got caught. It's going to take longer than I promised. Tee hee. My new husband is so nice. My new husband doesn't hit me or rip my skirts. I might even fuck him because I'm a huuuuuge whore. Hee hee. I wrote to my sister about it. I hope she's ok. I hope my real husband Otto isn't angry. Tee hee. Because my sister is really good at keeping secrets. But not as good at hiding letters!"

**Otto takes out a letter.**

VICTORIA MINI:

Give that back!

**Otto stops laughing.**

OTTO SCOFIELD:

Do you want to know what happens to the girl? Do you?

**Otto approaches Victoria Mini menacingly.**

VICTORIA MINI:

She comes back with the money.

OTTO SCOFIELD:

And if she doesn't? If she makes me lose the show, everything? You don't know? You don't know what will happen if she doesn't come back when she's supposed to? I'll show you.

**Otto reaches out to Victoria Mini. He wraps his hands around her throat. He starts to choke her.**

## SCENE NINE

**Gracie is making Salamander his breakfast.**

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Tell me something, Gracie: Why do you suppose somebody might marry somebody else sight unseen?

GRACIE COCHRAN:

That's a very interesting question. You are such an interesting, interesting man.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

But really, why would somebody do that? I mean, take you, for example. Why did you, do you think, marry me without having ever met me or gotten to know me or seen a picture of me even? Why do you think?

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Perhaps I had an unwavering faith in the power of love.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

That could be. But still it's kind of an odd thing to do. I mean, I could've been ugly.

GRACIE COCHRAN:

But you're not. You're the most handsome man in the whole wide world.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

I could've been an axe murderer.

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Ooh. That's so scary and dangerous.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Gracie –

GRACIE COCHRAN:

What's troubling you, darling?

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

I just, I don't know much about you is all.

GRACIE COCHRAN:

You know my favorite color. You know my favorite food and my favorite animal.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Somehow, somehow it's not enough.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Well what do you want to know?

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
I don't know. Why someone would marry someone else sight unseen?

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
We went over that already.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
And yet I am somehow unsatisfied by your answer.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Perhaps I'm a daring young woman. Perhaps I like to take a gamble. Perhaps I had nothing to lose. Happily, it all worked out. You win. I win. We both win.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
But love isn't about winning. You win games. You win wars.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
What is it about then?

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
It's about seeing the other person for what they really are. Even the parts of them that they don't like. Even the parts of them that are scary and ugly and don't make sense. It's about seeing all of that, and loving them anyway.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Just just just no matter what.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Yes. No matter what.

**Beat.**

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Do you want some more pancakes, have some more pancakes. Butter? Here's some more butter. How about bacon? Would you like some more bacon?

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Please. I feel like I could eat the world!

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Easy now.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
I could eat a horse.

**Salamander looks out the window.**

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
That horse right there! I could eat you. And there was a time last fall when my loneliness was such that I didn't think I could get down the grass that the horse eats. Now even my trees are thriving. Don't they look taller to you today?

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
How about coffee? Would you like some more coffee?

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Gracie?

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
I don't know that much about you either. I mean your name even. Salamander Leviathan. Good Lord! How on earth did you acquire such a peculiar name? I couldn't begin to tell you.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Well, I'll tell you! Leviathan because I come from Biblical stock. And Salamander for the lizard of the earth to keep me humble. Now you.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Now me what?

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Some story, some memory, some little piece of something, anything, that I might know you a little better.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
There's nothing really to tell. My life was so very uneventful before I met you.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
But Gracie –

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Besides, I believe in looking forward. I believe the past is dead and the future is what you make of it.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
But Gracie –

GRACIE COCHRAN:

And anyway, can you ever really know another person? Can you?

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

I think so. I mean I hope so. I don't know.

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Why did *you* marry someone sight unseen? Did you want someone who would take care of you?

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

I can take care of myself. I always have.

The first day I met you. I was going to meet you for the first time at the train station and as I was walking there I saw all these bees.

This cloud of bees by the depot, and I knew it was a bad sign.

But then I picked you up at the train station and you were beautiful.

And as we were walking home I saw this oak sapling starting to sprout and I thought: that's the sign I should have gotten as I went to the train station.

Because you were so beautiful. And I fell in love with you and the good sign was the right one.

Gracie—

I know how I feel. I know I want to have a baby with you.

I know I know I know—

GRACIE COCHRAN:

What?

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Here's the truth

Here's the bright beautiful shining singing truth

Here's the proof

**Salamander kisses Gracie's hand.**

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

I want you

Bright beautiful shining singing you (My Leviathan)

So much I dream about you (I dream)

What do you want me to do (I dream)

To make you feel this way too (Mrs. Leviathan)

**Salamander kisses Gracie. She reciprocates.**

**Salamander spins Gracie and she giggles with delight. They climb into bed together (Gracie sneaks in her NOW PUNCTURED diaphragm).**

## SCENE TEN

**Otto is performing a soft-shoe/cane/ comedy routine.  
Gracie's laughing bleeds into the top.**

OTTO SCOFIELD:

As a performer, there's nothing quite so satisfying, or lucrative, as tickling your audience. But sometimes I ask myself: why is that man chuckling? What has gotten that woman's goat? Why is my wife laughing? Can you guess? What's that? Because she's simple?! No, but good guess.

Some people laugh when they're nervous or scared  
when faced with situations for which they're unprepared  
me I'm often left to wonder are they laughing at me, could  
that be?

I'm missing the punch line  
I keep missing the punch line  
Missing the punch line lately  
I'm missing the punch line  
If this is the punch line  
Some ridiculous punch line, that's me

I refuse to see that Vaudeville is dead  
despite what all my critics have said  
I keep grasping for some kind of answer  
as to what happens next, I'm perplexed

I'm missing the punch line  
I keep missing the punch line  
Missing the punch line lately  
I'm missing the punch line  
If this is the punch line  
Some ridiculous punch line, that's me

I'm the kind of guy who talks with his hands  
It's just the mark of any modern man  
let me squeeze out some solution from the face of the  
earth, something of worth

Did you hear that my wife is a funny woman? Did you hear she tried to kill me?  
Most people get to spend their honeymoon drinking fancy drinks and making love but  
mine? I spent mine fishing cyanide out of my cocktail.

I push her off of me whenever she mounts me with a knife and I say honey, honey, what the fuck are you doing? You're not going to kill me. You are my wife now. Welcome to happily ever after.

I'm married to a dangerous lie  
And I'm watching all I think I know die  
Have you chosen some new life in Wisconsin?  
Over me, Gracie  
Are you out there in Wisconsin, mocking me...?



## SCENE ELEVEN

**Outside Sal's kitchen at a metal trough.  
Salamander and the Devil hold primitive toothbrushes.**

DEVIL:  
I don't know.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Trust me.

DEVIL:  
You want me to put that in my mouth.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
It'll feel nice.

DEVIL:  
It will?

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Well, not at first.

DEVIL:  
So I'm just going to stick it in there.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Right in.

**Salamander attempts to help the Devil.**

DEVIL:  
Whoa now.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
And swirl it around a little bit.

DEVIL:  
What's the game here?

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
No game! Here, let's put some of this paste on it.

DEVIL:  
Stay away from my tooth device!

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
This is the soap. Otherwise you're just swirling it around willy nilly.

DEVIL:  
Maybe that's how I like it.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Then no hard sugars.

DEVIL:  
Excuse me? Where did you get this tooth tooth tooth—

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Brush.

DEVIL:  
Where did you get it?

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
The apothecary.

DEVIL:  
Don't you lie to me, Sal!

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Gracie.

**Salamander readjusts his bum arm.**

DEVIL:  
Listen, I'm starting to think maybe I led you astray with this Gracie person.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
What do you mean?

DEVIL:  
I'm not sure she's who I see you with.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
But you're the reason she's here.

DEVIL:  
I just set the wheels in motion. I wrote a Want Ad. I had nothing to do with who answered it.

It's not too late to start the search again. I can just put another ad in another paper! Yeah—

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Why?

DEVIL:  
I think she might be up to something.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
How can you say that? She makes me breakfast. She has sex with me. She tells me how interesting I am.

DEVIL:  
She is definitely up to something.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
She's on a mission to make me a better man.

DEVIL:  
What does that mean?

**Ding! Lights up on Gracie with a toothbrush.**

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Daily brushing is important for dental hygiene.

**Salamander brushes his teeth and retrieves a comb from his pocket. Ding!**

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
A comb helps to eradicate lice.

**Salamander alternately combs his hair and brushes his teeth.**

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Spit.

**Salamander spits. Ding!**

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
A gentleman always dresses with an air of sophistication.

**Salamander puts on a vest. Ding!**

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
A modern gentleman follows the latest fashion trends from Paris.

**Salamander puts on a cape and spins around gleefully.**

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Weeeee!

DEVIL:

Whoa whoa whoa WHOA. She's making you look like an idiot.

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Excuse me. Who are you?

DEVIL:

I'm Sal's best friend.

GRACIE COCHRAN:

He has a best friend? Since when?

DEVIL:

We go way back.

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Funny. He's never mentioned you.

DEVIL:

He hasn't mentioned a lot of things. Just like you haven't mentioned a lot of things.

GRACIE COCHRAN:

What do you know?

DEVIL:

I know nefarious and no good when I see it.

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Salamander, I am sorry to inform you that your best friend is no friend at all.

DEVIL:

Sal, your wife is falsely accusing me and I resent it.

GRACIE COCHRAN:

I am doing no such thing. You are a liar.

DEVIL:

You are a fake and a fraud. And that might just be the tip of the iceberg.

**Gracie disappears.**

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

You're too hard on Gracie. If you spent a little time together, you would realize you have a lot more in common than you think. Why don't I leave out some milk tomorrow morning and you two can churn it together and have a nice chat.

DEVIL:

I am not churning butter with that she-demon.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Now now now. Let's not say things we don't mean. How about we sit down to a nice supper then and see if we can work this out. Otherwise I just don't see how this can continue.

DEVIL:

Fine!

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

You and Gracie have got to be friends, you hear me?

DEVIL:

Yes.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

You'll be on your best behavior?

DEVIL:

Yes.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

You'll show yourself to be the gentleman I know you are?

DEVIL:

I said yes!

<b>SCENE TWELVE</b>
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**Montage: The Devil, Salamander, and Gracie get ready for dinner.**

**Gracie is baking a cake. Salamander is trying to trying to coordinate his dress, though crippled. The Devil is practicing human etiquette.**

ALL:

Tonight's the night  
it's gonna be just right  
Dining at the Leviathan's

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Gonna bake us a cake

DEVIL: **(tasting batter/licking spatula..):**

Hey, that's not all that bad

ALL:

Dananananananaaaaaaa

**Devil is received at the door. He bows to the couple.**

DEVIL:

Good evening. Miz Leviathan, how beautiful you look.

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Come on in, my dear friend, hang your hat up on a hook!

ALL:

Tonight's the night  
It's gonna be just right  
Dining at the Leviathans

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

My wife and best friend are gonna makes amends

ALL:

Dananananananaaaaaaa

**Gracie sets the table.**

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Dinner fork, salad fork, butter knife, spoon

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN **(to the Devil):**

Elbows off, sit up straight, say "please" and "thank you"

ALL:

Tonight's the night  
It's gonna be just right  
Dining at the Leviathan's

DEVIL:

Gonna make them see  
Just how polite I can be

ALL:

Dananananananaaaa

DEVIL:

Put a napkin in your lap, take small bites, chew

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Would you like another slice?

DEVIL:

Don't mind if I do.

ALL:

Tonight's the night  
It's gonna be just right  
Dining at the Leviathans

DEVIL:

Gonna try to be  
Part of this family

ALL:

Dananananananaaaa  
Dananananananaaaa  
Danana-ing at the Leviathans

**Salamander, Gracie and the Devil sit down to dinner at Salamander's homestead.  
Salamander inquires if anyone would like seconds.**

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

More peas? Carrots? Potatoes? Gravy? Fixins? Game hen? More game hen?

**They eat in stony silence.**

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

This is delicious, Gracie. Delicious. **(To the DEVIL:)** Isn't it delicious?

DEVIL:  
Mm-hm.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
So how do you two know each other?

DEVIL:  
I was passing through.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Passing through, huh? From where to where?

DEVIL:  
From hither to yon, from near to far, from here to there.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
We're doing some business together.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Oh? What kind of business?

DEVIL:  
None of your BUSINESS business. So tell us a little bit about yourself, Mrs. Leviathan. Do you have brothers? Sisters?

GRACIE  
I have one sister.

DEVIL  
Older? Younger?

GRACIE  
Twin.

DEVIL  
And have you ever been married before?

GRACIE:  
I have.

DEVIL:  
And why did the marriage end?



GRACIE:  
He died shortly after.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
That's so sad.

GRACIE  
It was. It was very sad. He loved me very much.

DEVIL  
Did you remarry?

GRACIE  
I did in fact, and sadly I found myself a widow once again.

DEVIL  
And did you remarry after that?

GRACIE  
What if I did?

DEVIL  
You did, didn't you? And let me guess: you were widowed yet again.

GRACIE  
Just what are you insinuating?

DEVIL  
I'm not insinuating anything. I'm noticing a trend.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
I don't like you.

DEVIL:  
Honey, it's mutual.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
One thing I like to do!  
This is one thing I like to do. One thing I like to do is this thing!  
I call it the apple and the turnip.  
The apple is the good thing and the turnip is the thing that presented a disagreeable event or a challenge.

**Silence.**

I'll start. This week the yellow brown mare gave birth to a black foal.  
Which means if my calendar is correct that the black stallion is not infertile after all.  
That's my apple.

**Salamander claps with one hand.**

My turnip this week is that Mr. Higgen two farms over tripped on a root while chopping  
wood and fell mouth first onto his axe.  
Gracie? Come on you two.

**The Devil raises his hand before Gracie gets a chance.**

DEVIL:  
I'll go.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Thank you.

DEVIL:  
My apple is my friendship with the nicest man in the world, my friend, my best friend, my  
lifelong friend: Salamander Leviathan.  
Would you please pass me some that chocolate cake, Mrs. Leviathan?

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Cake is for guests that have washed their hands.

DEVIL:  
I have washed my hands thoroughly.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Then what's that smell?

DEVIL:  
Just pass me the cake!

**The Devil puts his fingers in his ears.**

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
How nice I am; my best I do.  
I use the words "please" and "thank you."

DEVIL:  
Dananananana.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
We should keep going.

DEVIL:

Ok. My apple is you, Sal.  
And my turnip, my turnip is female deception.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
I think you're trying to tell me something, but I can't imagine what it is.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Your turn, Gracie!

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
My apple is my husband, my wonderful, wonderful husband, my interesting, handsome, kind husband who loves only me with all his heart.

DEVIL:  
Ugh. Gross.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
And my turnip, my turnip is you. My bean sprout is you. My carrot head is you. My potato root is you. And I'm going to make a soup.

DEVIL:  
Sal!

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
She means for supper tomorrow.

DEVIL:  
She does not. She doesn't mean anything she says.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
She cooks for me. She's an excellent cook.

DEVIL:  
I used to cook for you!

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Yes. But you use occult kind of things.

DEVIL:  
It's called cumin!  
Are you choosing her over me? I thought we were friends. Whatever happened to—

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
She's my wife!! I love her. **(To GRACIE:)** I love you. No matter what. I love you.

## SCENE THIRTEEN

**Otto Scofield performs a magic show.**

**In Wisconsin, Salamander is experimenting with his disability.**

OTTO SCOFIELD:

And now, ladies and gentlemen, a bit of magic for your delectation and amusement. Because with magic, you see, you can defy the rules of the universe. The laws of gravity need no longer apply.

**Salamander tries to lift his bum arm.**

OTTO SCOFIELD:

The laws of nature are miraculously suspended.

**Salamander drags his bum leg.**

OTTO SCOFIELD:

Things behave in mischievous ways.

**Salamander has a small convulsion.**

OTTO SCOFIELD:

Are we really seeing what we think we're seeing? Or are we seeing only what we want to see? Magic is like love. You never know what you can trust.

**Otto starts to saw through a human sized box. We hear a scream. Otto opens the box – Victoria Mini is inside.**

OTTO SCOFIELD:

Where are you hiding the letters?

VICTORIA MINI:

I'm not.

OTTO SCOFIELD:

Then where are they!

VICTORIA MINI:

There are no letters—the letters have stopped.

OTTO SCOFIELD:

Why?

VICTORIA MINI:

I don't know.

OTTO SCOFIELD:  
You're lying.

VICTORIA MINI:  
I'm not! I just know she's trying—I know she's still trying—

OTTO SCOFIELD:  
If she's trying so hard then where is she? Where is the sister that's supposed to take care of you—where is she now?

VICTORIA MINI:  
Wisconsin!

OTTO SCOFIELD:  
She doesn't love either of us, does she? It's just me and you now, Victoria. Gracie has so little sense of self preservation. She has no idea what going to happen to her if she doesn't come back. But you know, don't you, Victoria. You and I have so much more in common. And you've been so good at taking over her part—

**Otto wheels Victoria in the box offstage. Her upper arms are bleeding where Otto cut into the box.**

## SCENE FOURTEEN

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
He's telling you the truth, you know.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
What are you talking about?

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
I'm no good, Salamander. Your friend is right. I'm not who you think I am.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
So you have a past? So what? I don't care.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
I don't think you understand.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
You're not a virgin. I get it. It's OK. There were men before me. A few men. OK, more than a few. A lot. There were a lot of men. OK.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
It's not that.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
I don't care. It's what you said. The past is dead. Let's just look towards the future. Our future. Together.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
I can't.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
So what is it then? Oh! Is it the clap? You have the clap. That's OK. There are mercury treatments, extract of wild pansy. We'll snuff it right out.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
I don't have the clap!

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
I didn't think you did. It's just your conspicuous modesty in the bedroom and reluctance at first to consummate the marriage and embrace the customary conjugal expectations that a husband might have of a –

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
I don't love you.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Oh. Oh....Oh.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
I will never be able to love you.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
That's OK. I don't care. I'll love you anyway. It's not about being loved. It's about loving someone else with all your heart. That's all that matters.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Salamander—

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
I love you!

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Don't say that!

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Why not? I love you!

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
How can you be so naïve?

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Gracie —

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Are you really that foolish? Can you pry your head out of the sand and take a look around you for one moment?

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Why are you so mad at me?

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
I'm sorry. I'm not. Come to bed. I'm not mad, I promise, I'm not.

**Gracie kisses Salamander.**

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Goodnight, Salamander.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Goodnight.

**Gracie sings GO 2 SLEEP (II) to Salamander, hypnotizing him into sleep. She leans over him and with the eye dropper drops three drops of hot pink rose acid into Salamander's ear. We hear the sizzle of the acid eating through his brain. Foaming.**

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Go to sleep, it's ok  
Your pain is passing away  
Go to sleep, close your eyes  
The good man always has to die

**Smoke rises out of Salamander's ear.**

**In the woods the Devil is frustratedly cutting down trees.**

DEVIL:

All these trees, these are your trees, huh?

**One falls.**

DEVIL:

TIMBER!

**This causes Salamander to wake up.**

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Ahhh. Ahhh. Ahhh!

**He struggles but his arms flop about. He body continues to be disabled and now his speech is affected.**

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

No! N-n-no! What's ha-happening to me?

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Shh. Shh. Salamander.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

P-Please no more. Please!

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Come here.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:



No!

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Calm down. Quiet. You have to be quiet.

SALAMANDER COCHRAN:  
No no no no no.

GRACIE COCHRAN (**making up a lie on the spot**):  
Salamander! I'm having our baby.

**Salamander stops struggling.**

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
What?

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
I just found out. I'm pregnant. I'm pregnant with our baby. We're going to have a baby!

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
I can't s-speak!

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
I'm going to have our baby.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
I can't m-move my arms.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
You can hold him in your lap.  
You don't need arms for him to sleep in your lap.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Why is this ha-happening to me?

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
It's only temporary.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
You're lying!!

**Salamander pins Gracie in whatever way he can.**

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
You're hurting me.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
H-happy Father's Day, Salamander Leviathan, H-happy Father's Day.  
Celebrate. This is your ch-chance. Celebrate it, S-Salamander. Celebrate it now.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
What are you doing?

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
You'll show him the trees?  
G-Gracie?  
You'll show him the trees!

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Yes.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Tell him how to d-dig up the dead roots. And how to triple dig the soil.  
Show him what t-trees grow best together.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Yes.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Let him know he can c-cut down the forest if he needs to.  
He can cut it d-down if he needs the land.  
He can c-cut it d-down if he needs the money.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Yes. Come on, lie back down, the night is almost over. It's almost over.

**Salamander and Gracie sing UNDERSTAND UR LEVIATHAN.**

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
I don't want to hurt you  
I don't want to hurt you anymore  
My favorite days have been with you  
But now I don't know what to do

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Are you aware, do you care, do you understand, what I am?

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
My Leviathan, You're my Leviathan

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN

I'm the one who wants to wrap himself around the world and  
squeeze  
while I watch over my trees

GRACIE COCHRAN:

My Leviathan, You're my Leviathan

I don't want to hurt you  
I don't want to hurt you anymore  
all of my life I've been afraid  
I'm sorry you got in my way

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Gracie every little thing I ever wanted was you  
Gracie I can't help but wonder why you want so much proof

Are you aware, do you care, do you understand your man

GRACIE COCHRAN:

My leviathan, you're my leviathan

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

I'm the one who wants to wrap himself around your heart and  
squeeze  
You may do as you please—

GRACIE COCHRAN:

My Leviathan.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

—with me.

GRACIE COCHRAN:

You're my Leviathan.

I'm so sorry that I hurt you  
I don't want to hurt you anymore  
you were the sweetest of them all  
But now I'm up against a wall

G: Are you aware, do you care (S: Gracie please don't hurt me)

G: Do you understand what I am (S: Gracie please don't hurt me)

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Mrs. Leviathan, You're my Leviathan

GRACIE COCHRAN:

I'm the one who tried to wrap my hands around your throat  
and squeeze (S: Gracie please don't hurt me)

G: All my life I've been afraid (S: I gave you everything I had)

G: I'm sorry you got in my way (S: Just so I could be a dad)

**Gracie almost throws up.**

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Oh god, I think I'm going to be sick.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

You're pregnant.

GRACIE COCHRAN:

It's not from that.

**Gracie throws up out the window.**

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

That's what happens when you're pregnant.

That's what happens when we're having a baby.

GRACIE COCHRAN:

I can't possibly be pregnant.

**Gracie finds her ruptured diaphragm, looks through the hole in it.**

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Oh god! Excuse me.

**Gracie runs out of the bedroom.**

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

We're having a baby.

**SCENE FIFTEEN**

OTTO SCOFIELD:

Ladies and gentlemen—the moment you’ve all been waiting for—St. Louis’ own Black Widow—

**The music starts for H8 4 Her M8 but Victoria doesn’t enter.**

St. Louis’ own Black Widow—

**The music restarts.**

Vicki? Victoria—you’re on. Where are you?! Victoria!!

**Otto exits in pursuit.**

**SCENE SIXTEEN**

**Gracie runs into the parlor. She takes out her vial of acid. She drops a drop on the ground. It eats through the floorboards. We hear it sizzle. She thinks through her hypothetical options.**

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Shit shit shit.

What am I going to do with this stuff?

Ok. What are my options?

**Hypothetical Option One—Gracie considers the floor.  
Ding! The Devil discovers the acid.**

DEVIL:

What is this acid burn on the floor? You're trying to kill Salamander.

GRACIE COCHRAN:

No...

**Gracie considers the grass. Ding! The Devil discovers the acid again.**

DEVIL:

What is acid burn through the grass? You're trying to kill Salamander.

GRACIE COCHRAN:

That's not going to work.

**Gracie considers the trees. Ding! The Devil discovers the acid again.**

DEVIL:

What is this acid burn through the trees? You're trying to kill Salamander! AND cut down his forest for its virgin lumber!

GRACIE COCHRAN:

No, that's not going to work!

**Gracie looks around for another solution that won't leave a mark.  
A whinnying from a horse out back.**

**Ding! Gracie gets an idea.**

**She motions to the farm horse standing unseen outside the window.**

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Here horse.

**Gracie almost throws up again. She holds it back.**

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Here horsey. Here horsey horse. Come here. Good boy.

**Gracie reaches outside the window. She pours the rest of the acid into the horse's ear.**

**The sizzling sound of horse brain.**

**A pound on the door. Whinnying.**

GRACIE COCHRAN:

God-damned brain dead horse—

**Another pound on the door.**

**Ding! Victoria Mini is standing in the threshold.**

**Victoria Mini enters and hugs Gracie. She doesn't let go.**

VICTORIA MINI:

Gracie!

GRACIE COCHRAN:

What are you doing here?

VICTORIA MINI:

I missed you.

GRACIE COCHRAN:

I missed you too—

**Gracie almost throws up.**

VICTORIA MINI:

Are you ok?

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Not so tight around the waist...I think I'm pregnant.

VICTORIA MINI:

What? How?

GRACIE COCHRAN:

I don't know.

VICTORIA MINI:

Jesus, Gracie. That was a mistake.

GRACIE COCHRAN:

I know.

VICTORIA MINI:

Otto's going to kill you. He got crazy when you were taking so long. I think he snapped. What's taking you so long to get the money?

GRACIE COCHRAN:

There is no money.

VICTORIA MINI:

The man at the train station told me you married richest man in Wisconsin.

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Trees. His money is all in trees.

VICTORIA MINI:

Then we'll cut them down.

**The Devil eavesdrops.**

VICTORIA MINI:

I was so worried. But it's ok now. Now we'll kill your husband and cut down the trees and get the money and if we do it fast enough maybe we can run away to San Francisco or Alaska or somewhere else and we'll be free.

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Not like that.

VICTORIA MINI:

What's wrong? Is something wrong? Can I do something? Whatever you need me to do.

GRACIE COCHRAN:

It's not that easy.

VICTORIA MINI:

Why don't we shoot him?

GRACIE COCHRAN:

No.

VICTORIA MINI:

Hack him up?



GRACIE COCHRAN:  
No.

VICTORIA MINI:  
Decapitate him with the gardening shears?  
Push him out of the church tower?  
Bleed him and tell him it's medicine?

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
No!

VICTORIA MINI:  
Do you want me to plant a rattle snake in his outhouse?

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
No.

VICTORIA MINI:  
Drive a spike through his face.  
Bake arsenic into a cake.  
Run him over with a horse and buggy.  
Crush his skull with a brick.  
Pour quicksilver in his ear.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
I was using rose acid.

VICTORIA MINI:  
Do you want me to do it? I don't understand when we are going to kill your husband.

**The Devil exits.**

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
He doesn't deserve this.

VICTORIA MINI:  
You're falling for him, aren't you, husband number – what is it now?

GRACIE:  
Shh, Vicki, please—

**Victoria counts on her fingers.**

VICTORIA MINI:

First there was the patents clerk from Cleveland. You didn't have a problem with him dying in that fire—

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
That was an accident.

VICTORIA MINI:  
Then there was the factory manager from Detroit.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
He force fed you your own hair when it clogged the sink.

VICTORIA MINI:  
Then what do you tell yourself about the librarian from Charlotte who pinched and saved and then we buried in the rare books cellar.  
What about him? He was a nice guy too and now he's catalogued next to Vesalius and Guttenberg.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
I can't do it to him anymore. He's a lonely man.

VICTORIA MINI:  
Otto will come for you. Whether you like it or not. Or he could just turn us in and hang us that way!  
You're all I have.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
You're all I have too.

VICTORIA MINI:  
Then why didn't you come back for me?

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
I was trying.

VICTORIA MINI:  
It doesn't look like it. It looks like you've been making yourself at home.  
It's him or us, Gracie. Don't you understand that? He's a stranger who doesn't mean anything to you. It's him or us.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
I already got rid of the acid. It's gone. I got rid of it.

VICTORIA MINI:  
Make more.

## SCENE SEVENTEEN

**Lights up on Salamander trying to cut down one of his trees though disabled.  
The Devil runs up to Salamander.**

DEVIL:

Sal. Sal! Sal! Sal! I have to talk to you.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Will you will you help me c-cut down one of my good trees. Not the b-best tree. But a good tree. Maybe a pine. It's for the new c-casket I'm making. The casket should be as t-tall as I am. And as wide-wide-wide as I am.

DEVIL:

She's trying to kill you.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

I don't know what you mean.

DEVIL:

She's doing something to your brain.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Who?

DEVIL:

Your wife.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

It just tastes like that.

DEVIL:

Excuse me?

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

She wouldn't d-do that to me.

DEVIL:

Then why can't you use your arms. Or leg. Or talk. You're trying to make your own casket. Hello? You have to put a stop to this.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Do you think she's not going to have my baby?

DEVIL:

I didn't say that.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

She's pregnant with my ba-baby. She's going to have my baby. That's the end of the story.

DEVIL:

You have to stop her. I'll show you—

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

I know, Ok? I know.

She's t-testing me to see if I really love her. She's testing me to see if I will d-do anything for her.

She'll stop when she knows that I will. She'll s-stop. At least I hope that she will stop.

I don't care how much it hurts. I'm going to have a family. Even if I d-don't get to enjoy it, at least I'm going to have a family.

DEVIL:

She's turning you into a vegetable!

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

I found love!! You'll still g-get my soul. It'll just be—It'll just be—It'll just be a little earlier than we thought.

DEVIL:

If you won't stop her, I will.

**Salamander starts kicking the Devil's things out of the house. They fight. Salamander swings his arms at the Devil, the Devil ducks – the Devil gets Salamander in a headlock – Salamander dives onto the Devil's suitcase and the Devil drags both by Salamander's leg, etc.**

DEVIL:

What are you doing?

Hey. Hey!

Those are nice things!

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

I'm k-icking you out.

DEVIL:

Don't do that.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Has to be done, Salamander Leviathan, has to be done.

DEVIL:

Wait, let's talk about this.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

You d-don't have a choice.

DEVIL:

Sal. Stop! Sal!

Don't kick me out.

Stop it, come on, stop it!

**Salamander sings HERE'S UR SHIT while continuing to rid the house of Devil items.**

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Here's your shit and there's the door  
I can't live like this anymore  
I'd rather make love than wage a war  
go somewhere, somewhere

and if you're gonna feel sorry for yourself, don't  
and I won't if you won't, don't  
look at me that way ok  
just say you'll stay away from Gracie

DEVIL:

but I thought you were my pal, Sal—

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Now don't pout just get out right now  
  
here's your shit and there's the door  
I can't do this anymore  
I want to make love not wage war  
go somewhere outside the state  
go somewhere outside my life  
go somewhere, somewhere

DEVIL:

Ok. Listen. Sal! Listen.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Get out!

GO SOMEWHERE

**The Devil exits.**

## SCENE EIGHTEEN

**Down in hell, the Devil scribbles an article in the paper.**

**DEVIL (writing in the paper):**

A young woman from St. Louis has descended upon Black River Falls, Wisconsin, to the delight of the local community...

**Ding! Lights up on Otto Scofield skimming the paper for news about his wife.**

OTTO SCOFIELD:  
Black River Falls.

**DEVIL (writing in the paper):**

While not much is known about this young bride, her mystery continues to excite all around her who wait in eager anticipation for her first child with local lumber magnate Salamander Leviathan.

OTTO SCOFIELD:  
Child? She's having a child with him?

**DEVIL (aside):**

People do not just show up in Wisconsin.

**Otto buys a train ticket.**

OTTO SCOFIELD:

Ticket for one please  
out to Wisconsin  
I have a little business matter there I must attend to, if  
you please

I'm checking my china  
And boarding my body bag  
I'm hoping to have my wife  
Or hang her from a tree, over tea

**Gracie and Victoria are remaking their hot pink rose acid concoction.**

**GRACIE & VICTORIA:**

Just one more victim  
and we're through with Wisconsin  
one more man to meet his maker prematurely, by our hands  
we're prepping the poison  
for Salamander Leviathan

we're going to see if he's got any brains remaining, to  
dissolve

**The sisters part ways. Gracie crawls in bed next to Salamander.  
Gracie has the acid ready to go, but she is dragging her feet.**

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Do you need to sleep? Right now?

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
It's t-time for bed.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Don't go to sleep yet.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Why? Are we going to m-miss out on something if I sleep now? We have all those years. All the years when we get old. Why do I need to stay up now, Gracie, when we have all of those years?

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
I'll stay up with you.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
It's time for bed.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
I love you.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Goodnight, my Leviathan.

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN (**Gracie mouths the words**):  
Goodnight.

**Gracie leans over Salamander with the eye dropper drops three drops of hot pink rose acid into Salamander's ear. We hear the sizzle of it eating through his brain. Salamander's eyes are WIDE OPEN.**

**Lights up on the Devil down in Hell. He's fondly recalling memories of Salamander and the Devil's time together.**

DEVIL:  
There was the time we cut down that tree.  
There was the time we tied our shoes to each other's shoes!

There was the time we...yeah.

**Otto arrives on the train platform.**

OTTO SCOFIELD:

You there—on the platform. Would you please direct me to the Leviathan estate?

**The bedroom: from his fever dream:**

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Help! Help me! Mr. D! I don't want to hurt. I don't want to hurt anymore!

**Back down in Hell:**

DEVIL:

Sal? Sal? Is that you? I'm coming up there. I'm coming up!

**Salamander struggles to sing in the background.**

S: I don't wanna hurt.

**Otto finds Victoria.**

VICTORIA MINI:

Oh Jesus, Otto, you scared me. Welcome to Black River Falls. I'm just scouting locations for our next musical review.

OTTO SCOFIELD:

Take me to my wife!

**Otto Scofield grabs Victoria Mini and puts the knife to her neck. She struggles to get free.**

VICTORIA MINI:

You're hurting me!

S: I don't wanna hurt.

**Salamander's singing under the following gets progressively less well articulated.**

DEVIL:

I'm going up please  
and out to Wisconsin  
I'm wanting to walk about the earth  
as a roaring lion, like I do



I'm meeting my best friend (S: I don't wanna hurt)  
Salamander Leviathan (S: I don't wanna hurt)  
Gonna seek out the ones I may devour  
while I'm there.

**DEVIL & GRACIE & VICTORIA & OTTO:**

We're taking a death trip (taking a death trip)  
out to Wisconsin (out to Wisconsin)  
we're asking why should I have to be the one to lose,  
all the time

We're taking a death trip (taking a death trip)  
out to Wisconsin (out to Wisconsin)  
We're saying we won't choose to be the ones to lose  
this time

## SCENE NINETEEN

**Gracie and Salamander's bedroom.**

**She is bent over him administering the poison. Otto and Victoria interrupt before she can fully finish him off. Sal sits up.**

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Otto.

OTTO SCOFIELD:  
Gracie, good morning.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
What are you doing here?

OTTO SCOFIELD:  
You're my wife. I'm taking you back with me.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
I don't care if you kill me, I'm not going back with you.

**Otto goes for Gracie.**

VICTORIA MINI:  
No. No! Don't hurt her. You can't hurt her.

OTTO SCOFIELD:  
I know about your past. I know what you've done. I know who you really are.

**Otto comes after Gracie but Victoria jumps on his back to stop him. They struggle. Otto turns around and stabs Victoria. Gracie tries to stop him.**

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Stop it. Stop it. Stop it! That's my sister! STOP IT!

**Otto stabs Victoria to death. He picks up Victoria's dead body and starts ventriloquizing it to Gracie.**

OTTO SCOFIELD  
I'd like to introduce you to your sister  
She's a silly gal who got in my way  
She's like a sack of dead potatoes in a cheap costume  
I hope I'm not the only one aroused in the room

**Otto slices open Victoria's stomach.**

**He rips into it.  
He pulls out her intestines.  
He swings her intestines festively.  
Gracie throws up. The Devil runs in.**

DEVIL:  
I made it, Sal, I made it!

OTTO SCOFIELD  
You're the Devil!

DEVIL:  
Um. Well. Yeah.

OTTO SCOFIELD:  
And here I was afraid you might not even exist anymore—

DEVIL:  
Are you ok? Sal? Sal? I'm here now buddy, you're going to be ok.

OTTO SCOFIELD:  
What are you doing?

DEVIL:  
What?

OTTO SCOFIELD:  
You should be applauding me. Instead you're coddling a lumberjack?

DEVIL:  
Excuse me, what?

OTTO SCOFIELD:  
Hey dummy. Hey. Look at me, dummy. This is the man, Gracie? You're having this man's baby? What was the sex like? Did you just sort of focus on the neck up? A system of pulleys? Pack up your things, I'm taking you back with me.

DEVIL:  
Na-uh-no-not a chance. No. Step away from her.

OTTO SCOFIELD:  
Who's side are you on? The patron saint of Vaudeville has abandoned us—and for what? I see real evil all around me. I see hatred and fear festering. And this evil is not contracts among men. Chaos is coming and you're fucking around in Wisconsin instead of doing your job—

DEVIL:

My job? My job? My job is the small and the essential. The ringing in your ears. The cracking in your neck. The mediocrity of your talent.

If you want to slice open your chorus girls, go right ahead, I won't stop you, that's not my place.

But every time you have sex, she will laugh.

And when you die, each time I stomp on your grave you'll wake up and die again of suffocation. My job is to make you curse every little waking moment—grasping for relevance on your little stage, alone, because that's how you're leaving Wisconsin.

OTTO SCOFIELD:

My wife is leaving here with me or not at all.

DEVIL:

Not as long as I am the Devil!

OTTO SCOFIELD:

If you ever step down, don't think there won't be something right there to take your place.

**The Devil vanquishes Otto.**

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

“More p-pancakes?”

Please.

“More coffee?”

Please.

Happy Anniversary Gracie Le-Le—

DEVIL:

Leviathan.

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Please go away. This doesn't have anything to do with you.

DEVIL:

He's my friend.

GRACIE COCHRAN:

He was my husband.

DEVIL:

He's still here!

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Baby.

DEVIL:

That's right, Sal. You're having a baby. Sal, you're having a baby!

**The Devil rubs Gracie's stomach.**

DEVIL:

Right here, Sal.

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Stop it.

DEVIL:

Right here is your baby.

**Gracie makes to leave.**

DEVIL:

Where are you going?

GRACIE COCHRAN:

I can't stay here.

I don't have a sister. I don't have a functional husband. I'm not staying in Wisconsin.

DEVIL:

First you have the baby.

GRACIE COCHRAN:

No!

DEVIL:

I told you you're staying!

GRACIE COCHRAN:

You can't make me.

DEVIL:

Watch me!

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Then there are things I want.

DEVIL:

I'm not making a deal with you.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
There's more acid.

DEVIL:  
You're going to put it in your own ear?

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
You know that's not where I'd put it.

DEVIL:  
You wouldn't.

**Gracie lifts up her skirt.**

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Do you want to tempt me!

DEVIL:  
Fine.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
No one looking for me.  
I want independence.  
I want to own land.  
Not to be hospitalized against my will.  
No more husbands.  
To make my own money.  
To go to college.

DEVIL:  
Fine!

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
and voting rights.

DEVIL:  
No one is going to go for that. I facilitate incremental changes.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
Then goodbye...

DEVIL:  
Ok. Ok! I will.  
You leave after you have the baby.

**Gracie looks at Salamander.**

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
I tried to warn him. I did.  
This is what he wanted.

DEVIL:  
Yeah. Right.

GRACIE COCHRAN:  
He did. He's happy. At least he's happy.

**Gracie exits.**

DEVIL:  
You'll never run companies! You'll never be president!

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:  
Baby.

DEVIL:  
Nine months, Sal, nine months.

**Modernity approaches. Trees are cut down.  
The Devil climbs on top of Sal's roof. Nine months pass.**

## SCENE TWENTY

**Salamander Leviathan's farmhouse. Gracie enters and hands Salamander his baby.**

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Look, who's this. Who is this Salamander?

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

Baby.

GRACIE COCHRAN:

Yeah. Your baby.

You were the kindest man.

**Gracie kisses Salamander on the forehead and leaves.**

**The Devil comes down off the roof.**

**Salamander rocks with the baby tied to his arms.**

DEVIL:

Hi Sal – it's spring. It's spring, Sal. Sal?

I don't know how much brain you have left.

We'll get it back.

Modern medicine.

**Salamander's teeth fall out of his mouth.**

DEVIL:

Dental...I'm ripping up your contract, Sal. It's just about you and me. We have all your time on this earth to be together now. No matter what.

**The Devil rips up Sal's contract.**

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

B...

DEVIL:

What?

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

B...

**Salamander smiles.**

DEVIL:

What? Baby



**Beat.**

What's wrong with the baby?

**The baby cries.**

What's wrong with the baby, Sal? Is something wrong with the baby?  
You can't take care of a baby...

**Salamander cries.**

DEVIL:

No. No, it's ok. Nothing is wrong. Everything is going to be ok.  
This is what you get for being my friend, huh? This is what you got.  
Sal. In just a moment everything is going to be dark.. Do you understand?

They call me a prince  
I called you a fool  
You follow your heart  
I follow the rules  
You've been my friend  
Love has been cruel.  
But you loved your prince  
And I loved my fool

**Salamander starts to sing YOU'VE BEEN A PRINCE, but then he can't and he mouths the words. The ensemble takes over for him.**

ENSEMBLE:

You've been a prince  
I've been a fool  
I lost my brains  
You kept your cool  
You've been the best  
Time has been cruel-

DEVIL:

Goodbye Salamander Leviathan. Goodbye.

**The Devil mercy kills Salamander and takes the crying baby in his arms.**

**Lights down. End of play.**

## Epilogue

**Lights up on Salamander floating to Heaven.  
There are trees everywhere. Holiday decorations of every holiday. Valentines.  
Christmas. Easter. New Years. 4th of July. Birthdays.**

ENSEMBLE:

You finally made it  
And the streets are paved with pine  
There's pancakes and bacon  
Served with butter, black coffee, and wine  
Welcome home

SALAMANDER LEVIATHAN:

So this is Wisconsin in the sky

ENSEMBLE:

You finally made it (S: so this is Wisconsin)  
This is heaven (S: Wisconsin)  
heaven (S: Wisconsin)

**Back in terrestrial Wisconsin, the Devil is taking care of Sal Jr.**

SAL JR:

Can I have a lemonade?

DEVIL:

You want a lemonade, huh? What would you give for a lemonade, Sal Jr? Anything?

SAL JR:

I'm not selling you my soul, Dad.

DEVIL:

One day, Sal Jr, these trees are all going to be your trees...

SAL JR:

What am I supposed to do with all these trees?

DEVIL:

Have you ever thought about incorporating?

**Blackout.**