

Prodigal Son

Sylvia Dorham

1/24/2019

LIST OF CHARACTERS

Father

Prodigal Son

Sirena

Pointing Man/Pig Employer

Older Brother

Servants

Market Goers/Friends/Crowd

SCENE ONE

FATHER: Son, stay with the sheep. I'm going to speak with the buyer.

PS: Yes, Father.

FATHER: Don't wander around the market.

PS: Yes, Father.

FATHER: And son?

PS: Yes Father?

FATHER: Don't forget that I love you! And one day...

PS: Yes, Father. One day my brother and I will inherit everything you own, so we should behave with honesty and truthfulness, be kind and just to everyone we meet, and avoid sin at all costs.

FATHER: Yes, Son.

(PS kicks around the sheep, throws a rock, gets bored. Starts to listen to noises in the market)

SIRENA:

Silk purses! Silk purses!
So lovely are my purses
The competition's yelling curses

(Aside)

Truth be told my dears,
They're made of old sows' ears
But what is truth?
And what does it matter ANYWAY?

(PS leaves sheep to go look at singer's wares)

PS:

Hey! I see that you aren't from around here.
Welcome to this place of farms and sheep.
D'ya like our pretty town?
Please take a look around!
We're mostly kind and food is good and cheap.

SIRENA (Aside):

Hmmm. An Innocent who's wearing pricey clothing.
His family's prob'ly wealthy, do-good folk.
His type is what I want
I've got some goods to flaunt
I'll take him in and use him 'til he's broke.

(Aloud):

What a HANDsome man you are, I bet you know it.
Much handsomer than all I've seen so far!
You think this dump is pretty?
You oughtta see the city!
Come sometime, and I'll make you a star!

PS:

You really think that I am something special?
You're right! There's so much more that I can be!
Why should I stay on here
Working from year to year?
I deserve to be with you in your great city!

SIRENA:

You're right, my handsome prince, to recognize it
So many chose to waste their lives, it's true!
Come away and see
The far-off great city
There's just one little thing you need to do.

PS: Anything, for you

SIRENA:

You must bring CASH.
You must bring CASH.

When you've got a bunch of money
Come and find me, honey
I'll be waiting for you, Handsome, down
On Lowbrow street. (goes out)

FATHER: Son! Why aren't you with the sheep?

PS: The sheep? The sheep. I don't care about any old sheep.

I want to go and live in the City.
And I need CASH.

FATHER: You want to do what?

PS:

I want to LIVE (beat)in a faraway city.
Wasting my looks out here -it's such a pity.
I want a different life, without sheep or strife.
Father!
You're standing between me and my appetite.
I'm packing up and leaving home this very night.
And while we're near the bank,
I might as well be frank,
Give me everything you'll leave me when you die.
For pity's sake, old man, don't start to cry.

FATHER: Son, don't forget that...

PS: Sirena! Wait for meeeeeeee!!!!

FATHER (low voice): I love you.

SCENE TWO

SIRENA: Now, my darling, I need food and I need wine.

PS: Right now?

SIRENA:

Of course right now, my darling, ALL the time.
All these friends of ours, too
They need some fun to do
Of course you'll go and buy them something new.

PS:

Sirena, it's been months that I've been buying
The food and wine and fun and now I'm trying
To keep a little stash
'Cause I'm getting low on cash.

SIRENA: How much left?

PS: Well, none.

SIRENA: We're done!

PS: But, Sirena!

(FATHER is looking from a distance)

FATHER:

The famine all around is getting serious.
I worry for my son 'til I'm delirious.
Whatever he has done
I hope he's NOT too proud to come
Back home.

SCENE THREE

PS: (shoveling, still not humbled)

Cleaning public toilets for a quarter
Shoveling manure for a buck
With the passing time
I'm getting sick of grime.
And wishing that I had some better luck.

(PS sent away by man pointing a finger down the road)

PS: (slower, humbled, holding empty belly):

Today I got a job guarding piggies.
To touch them is forbidden and unclean.
It doesn't matter now.
I have to feed that sow.
Hungry? I know exactly what you mean.

You see? I am so weak from lack of eating
I can hardly feed the swine their daily slop
If I could just have some
Give me a pod or crumb?
What can I do to make this hunger stop?

(PS stops and looks into the distance where his Father's servants are working and eating)

No servant of my Father's ever hungry.
As his servant, I would surely get to eat
I could go right now
Forget this crabby sow
I'll go and beg for mercy at his feet.

(PS throws down his shovel and hobbles off stage)

SCENE FOUR:

OLDER BROTHER:

My father is forever gazing westward.
Hoping that his worthless son will come.
While my father cries
I hope that stinker dies
I'm doing all his work, ungrateful bum.

FATHER:

As usual I'm scanning the horizon
Today, there's someone coming down the road
I recognize that walk!
Oh, what a joyous shock!
"My Son! You're home! My heart might just explode!"

OLDER BROTHER:

Look! Is that my father who is running ?
Unusual. He lifts a man who kneels.
He treats him like a king?
Gives him a robe and ring?
The fatted calf is slaughtered for his meals?

Surely now, My Father, you are joking.
This worthless jerk that once you called your son,
Has squandered half you own
And you welCOME him home?
And I get nothing after all I've done?

FATHER:

My dear and faithful son, my heir and glory,
Don't be jealous of your brother who returned
Along WITH my throne
You will get all I own
The dead are living now, a lesson learned.
The lost are found and will not now be spurned.