LEVIATHAN
A MUSICAL

Inspired by the Legend of George and the Dragon

Book by Aaron and Beth Alsmeyer

Music and Lyrics by Aaron Alsmeyer

TRACKS

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CAST

GEORGE Zach Elliott
MARA Becca Jones
ALETHEIA Kenlin Calhoun
UNCLE HIRAM Daniel “Huffy” Tolbert
BARTHOLOMEW WELCH Luke Haskins
SIGRID WELCH Esther Jackson
LADY CHARLISE Becky Emerick
THE BAILIFF Jason Athialy
AUNT SUSANNAH Abby Pohl
FERMIN Jacob Stockton
AGNES Pricella Connolly
BRIDGETTE Sophia Delgado
TIM Joseph Schwind
MADGE Ruth Elliott
TERRANCE Nick Haskins
ETHEDRED Robin Tolbert
ARCHIBALD Nathan Rollins
AMICE Cana Haskins
NIGEL Corey Stockton

and

Anya Burke as **SYLVIE**

CHORUS

Scott Apple, Jason Athialy, Bob Burger, Sophia Delgado, Ruth Elliott, Zach Elliott, Becky Emerick, Emily Garnes, Cana Haskins, Luke Haskins, Nick Haskins, Esther Jackson, Becca Jones, Elli Jones, Grace Miller, Joshua Minnich, Caleb Paultre, Abby Pohl, Karl Pohl, Susan Powell, Ashlyn Rollins, Joseph Schwind, Alex Stockton, Corey Stockton, Jacob Stockton, Joseph Strietelmeier, Daniel “Huffy” Tolbert, Robin Tolbert, Logan Wells, Sue Wickliff

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DRUMS Dion Wickliff
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ELECTRIC GUITAR Quad Hogan, Karl Pohl

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SWORD ASSISTANTS Katie Elliott, Sally Alsmeyer, Linus Alsmeyer, Grace Alsmeyer, Eliza Alsmeyer, Karis Alsmeyer

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Choral arrangements by Aaron Alsmeyer and Jonelle Heaton

Soundtrack produced by Aaron Alsmeyer
Recorded by Aaron Alsmeyer and Dion Wickliff
MIDI programming by Aaron Alsmeyer and Karl Pohl
Mixed by Quad Hogan
Mastered by Sam Anderson

Leviathan logo designed by Kendyl Adams

SPECIAL THANKS
Neighborhood Fellowship
John Hobelman

LYRICS

Track 1: Sleepy Village

SYLVIE
In a sleepy village,
Full of dreams and promises,
Full of plows and tillage,
Full of doubting Thomases,
Ev'ry person has a history
That is woven through this place,
And ev'ry myth and ev'ry mystery
May be cause for dispute or disgrace.

WOMEN
But we share our stories,
And they become a part of us,
All the wounds and glories
At the very heart of us.

MEN
For a man without a tale to tell,
Like a smith without a forge,
Hasn't means to plan a future well,

COMPANY
And nobody has a story like George.

SYLVIE
George is of that honorable and undeniably awkward age at which a lad becomes a man. But to truly understand his story, you have to understand something about his father, who lived in another village, far to the north of us, where the mountains meet the sea…

COMPANY
It wasn't so very long ago,
There was a village that in many respects was very much
Like us.

BAILIFF
There was a bailiff

CHARLISE AND ALETHEIA
And nobility

BAILIFF, CHARLISE, ALETHEIA
With the ability to guide and to govern the common folk

COMPANY
Like us!
They had houses made of wattle and daub,
And ev'ry peasant was born into a job
Like us!
There were people you could trust.

BARTHOLOMEW AND SIGRID
There were people that you couldn't trust

COMPANY
Like them!

SYLVIE
But that's where the similarities end. While in this village we live peacefully and without threat, that village was terrorized constantly by dragons, who lived in hidden caves under the mountains. The people had no recourse, until one day, George's father purposed to rid the land of these monsters, and life began to change.

COMPANY
He would go ev'ry month or so
Deep into the labyrinth of tunnels beneath those hills,
Then come back with a gunny sack, with something inside

WOMEN
That never ceased to give the villagers chills!

MEN
It was the dead bloody severed head

COMPANY
Of yet another dragon that had fallen by his hand.
He alone evermore was known
As the greatest dragon slayer in the land!
And George's father was a warrior

WOMEN
Who was still within his prime,

COMPANY
But George's father was taken

MEN
Before his task was done.

COMPANY
And George's father was a legend,

WOMEN
The Ulysses of his time!

MEN
Who was celebrated with flagons in all of the taverns!

COMPANY
And George's father was a hero,
Who eradicated the dragons from all of the caverns
Except one!

SYLVIE
At last, the greatest dragon slayer faced the greatest dragon: Leviathan, a creature said to be larger, stronger, and more cunning than any other. This time, George's father did not come back. And Leviathan destroyed that village. George, an infant at the time, was rescued and brought to be raised here by his uncle. And no one has seen Leviathan since. Some say he's dead; some say he's hibernating; and others say he was nothing more than a myth. But regardless of what the truth may be, time has dulled our memories and given us a sense of security which we've come to cherish, for better or for worse…

COMPANY
In a sleepy village,
Full of faith and fumbling,
Just to say you're from here
Is a wee bit humbling.
In a lonely corner of the land,
We are ignorant and safe.
There is nothing feared and nothing planned
By the noble or the waif.
And if a dragon ever comes around,
If it ever treads upon this ground,
If a dragon ventures this far south,
If we feel the heat from the dragon's mouth,
And if a dragon ever catches up with us…
Nay!

HIRAM
George! Do you have the longswords bundled up?

GEORGE
Nay, but I'm packing daggers now.

HIRAM
Leave the daggers and finish the longswords. I'd like to be in Trusston by sundown.

GEORGE
It's not too late to let me take the trip for you. I could arrive well before sundown.

HIRAM
Always so sure of yourself.

GEORGE
Uncle Hiram, you make this journey to sell your wares every spring. I know every word of every story you've ever told. I can picture every bend in the path!

HIRAM
George—

GEORGE
I know the name of every village along the way!

HIRAM
George! You don't know all the perils that lie on the road.

GEORGE
I can face any peril that you can. When that band of marauders came to town, I drove them off almost singlehandedly!

HIRAM
Aye, you kept your head when many men could not.

GEORGE
And that was half a year ago! I've only grown stronger since!

HIRAM
I know, George, but in many ways, you're still a lad.

GEORGE
A lad! A lad?!
Are you really that oblivious to what you see?
I've been everything you taught me that a man should be,
In every trial
Proving that I'll
Rise to the task;
What more can you ask?

HIRAM
I admit you have tenacity I wouldn't change,
But your youth and impulsivity can make you dangerous
To yourself—

GEORGE
So back on the shelf!
I'll sit till I'm dead.

HIRAM
Dramatic'lly said.

And another thing
I haven't
Mentioned yet…

GEORGE
In a sleepy village…
In a lonely corner…

Look at your stance! Like a mother pelican trying to lay an egg!

GEORGE
That's an unfair tactic!

HIRAM
George, you know it doesn't matter what your stance looks like, as long as it's efficient and effective.

GEORGE
…efficient and effective, I know, I know.

HIRAM
Try again?

GEORGE
Are you sure you want to exert yourself with your long journey ahead?

HIRAM
Are you sure you want to hold your weapon as if you're afraid of it?

GEORGE
I'm not afraid of it. You're afraid of it. That's why you keep… backing… away!

HIRAM
Hold on, hold on! My bad leg is out of bounds. Off limits.

GEORGE
I thought I was supposed to take advantage of my opponent's weakness!

HIRAM
Try to find something a little less obvious.

GEORGE
Perhaps the fact that you're like 92 years old?

HIRAM
52 years old! Not at all the same thing.

GEORGE
Might as well be.

HIRAM
Alright. I do need to be done now. Awful lot of walking to do tonight.

GEORGE
Uncle Hiram…
Can I not make this journey for you?
I do not mean to be rebellious;
I'm only asking…
Again.

HIRAM
Let me tell you something long overdue:
I think you're ready,
But give your uncle just a little more time…
And then…
I will let you go next year.

GEORGE
You will let me go next year!

BOTH
Next year!

HIRAM
Well, I've already kissed your aunt goodbye, so I'll be on my way now. Take care of her for me, and keep your eyes fixed on the Lord Christ.

GEORGE
By His grace, I will. You be safe.

HIRAM
By His grace, I will. Goodbye George.

GEORGE
Goodbye Uncle.

COMPANY
In a sleepy village,

GEORGE
With a world of nothingness,

COMPANY
We will live and die here,

GEORGE
And there's no discussing this.

COMPANY
If a dragon's out there anywhere,
Then it's somewhere far away,
And it doesn't know and wouldn't care
How we live from day to day.

WOMEN	MEN
And if a dragon	Dragons never
ever comes around,	come around,
If it ever treads	Never tread
upon this ground,	upon this ground,
If a dragon ventures	Dragons never
this far south,	venture south,
If we feel the heat	Never look
from the dragon's	it in the
mouth,	mouth,

COMPANY
And if a dragon ever catches up with us…

SOPRANOS AND TENORS	ALTOS AND BASSES
In a sleepy	If a dragon ever
village,	snatches one of us,
In a lonely	If it ever even
corner,	scratches one of us,
In a sleepy	If a dragon ever
village,	matches wits with us,

COMPANY
If a dragon ever catches up with us,
And if a dragon ever finds us,
He'll find us…
Asleep!

Track 2: Message #1/Come with Me Now

MARA
You are the son of the dragon slayer?

GEORGE
His name was Nigel.

MARA
Nigel's son. I come with a message.
"Your father's flesh was burned in
Dancing spark and flame of my design.
Your soul is mine; I rise again;
The time for us to meet is now…"

BAILIFF
…That's the message?

MARA
Dragons… are not renowned for their poetic skill.

SUSANNAH
Dragons!

GEORGE
What is this about?!

MARA
It's a message for you.

GEORGE
A message from whom?

MARA
Leviathan.

BAILIFF
He's alive?

SYLVIE
Where is he?

MARA
One thing at a time.

BARTHOLOMEW
Hold on a second!
Why should we believe you?

SIGRID
Aye, who are you anyway?

MARA
My name is Mara.
I was with a band of trav'ling entertainers
Accosted by Leviathan
On a desolate road.
He incinerated ev'ry last one of us…
Except for me.

GEORGE
Why?

MARA
That I might bear his message to you.

BAILIFF
I need proof.

MARA
Have a little respect!

ALETHEIA
Aye, she's just lost her friends.

BAILIFF
Have a little reality!
You say you saw the long-lost dragon
face-to-face?!

MARA
He was no further from me than you are!

GEORGE
What did he look like?

MARA
Please save your questions for the road.
Be off and pack quickly! I'll take you to
Leviathan.

GEORGE
Now?

MARA
Do you not recall the message?

GEORGE
"The time for us to meet is now."

MARA
Aye, what do you say to that?
Come with me now. I'll lead the way.
Destiny calls your name.
The journey awaits. Mustn't delay.
The dragon has spoken and you would be wise to obey.

GEORGE
I should make ready!

SYLVIE
Oh, George, this is so exciting!

SUSANNAH
George, you're not thinking of leaving while your uncle's gone…? He expects you to tend to his work.

GEORGE
Oh fie, I forgot! I should stay! Although…
Uncle Hiram didn't know this opportunity would come.

SYLVIE
Surely he would understand!

SUSANNAH
You may have a point.

ALETHEIA
Mother, what do you think?

CHARLISE
Well, I agree with—

BARTHOLOMEW
I hate to interrupt, but may I ask a question?
Why does this creature want to meet with George anyway?

MARA
The lord of all dragons did not exactly confide in me.

BARTHOLOMEW
Well then, if he didn't give a reason,
Then you have no obligation—

MARA
It's his duty to go as the dragon slayer's son!

BARTHOLOMEW
I defer to the Lady of the village.

CHARLISE
Well, I agree with—

BAILIFF
Look, I'm not too sure about dragons,
But I do believe in duty. If you think this is your duty,
Then Godspeed.

CHARLISE
I agree with—

MARA
It doesn't matter what you think!
George, decide!
Come with me now!

I'll lead the way!

Destiny calls your name!

GEORGE
I should go.
SYLVIE
You should go!
ALETHEIA
Give him space.
BARTHOLOMEW
I would stay if I were you.
SIGRID
So would I!
CHARLISE
Well, I agree with—

(MARA)
The journey awaits.

Mustn't delay.

SUSANNAH
But what about your uncle?

GEORGE
I don't know!

BAILIFF
A man should do his duty.

MARA
The dragon has spoken and you would be wise—

ALETHEIA
It's a matter for prayer.

GEORGE
That's true.

ALL
Today we don't know what to do.
Yesterday was much easier with lives
Unaffected by Leviathan!

Track 3: Monsters Make Heroes

GEORGE
I want to test my strength.
I want to know what I can take
As I'm trav'ling, unrav'ling,
Will I come undone?
I want to taste and feel,
To know what lies beyond this lake.
And if I don't go, I won't know,
And I'll always wonder.
And just as thunder follows lightning,
I must follow this road—

ALETHEIA
George, listen to yourself!
I want this; I want that;
I would love to stop and chat about
Dreams and schemes and plans with you.
I wanna move; I want more;
But at some point,
You've got to talk about what's true,
And here's what's true…
This is not about adventure.
This is not about emotion.
Let someone who loves you fiercely
Firmly ground your starry notion.
This is about going forward and counting the cost.
This is about a battle too big to be lost.
I see a dragon in your future.
Some kind of dragon in your future.
If there's a dragon in your future…

ALETHEIA
And I need to let you go.

Hear me now,
I insist.
I would bleed to let you know
You'll be missed.
I believe in you.

GEORGE
If there's a dragon in my future…
Then I need to go now.

Leave behind even you.

Would that I could show how

ALETHEIA
Goodbye, George.

GEORGE
Through the heart,
Through the bone,
Piercing, slashing through my rhetoric.
No one else,
She alone
Knows what's going on inside.
She was right.
I was wrong.
It's not wanderlust or boredom
That's giving me my drive.
I just want that dragon to be alive!
Monsters make heroes.
The doubters may doubt him,
But without him I'll never be great!

(GEORGE)
Straggle and stagnate!
Monsters make heroes.
I cannot deny it.
To my eye, it is plain to behold,
Written of old.
Beowulf and Grendel;
Ulysses and Cyclops.
Ev'ry time I hear one, I hear both,
Sure as an oath.
Monsters make heroes
The likes of my father.
Would they bother to mention his name?
Give him acclaim now?
I am the dragon slayer's son.
Ev'ryone calls me that.
Whether or not there is a hero down inside me who can know?
No way to prove it,
No way to show them,
No way for me to see if
Somewhere deep inside of me
My father's latent legacy
Is waiting,
Unless I best a deadly foe!
Monsters made Nigel.
I may not remember,
But he lives in the air that I breathe,
Sword that I sheathe!
Dragons made Nigel.
His death wasn't hollow.
Can I follow and give him his day?
I know of one way.
Monsters make heroes.
The bigger the better!
You're a debtor to every beast
Downed and deceased!
Monsters make heroes.
There's no way around it.
I have found it in every case:
You're known for who you face!
George and Leviathan.
Nay.
George and the dragon.
Aye.
The time for us to meet is now!

Track 4: Skipping Ahead/Opportunity

GEORGE
What a lovely day to begin a journey,
Don't you think it's a lovely day?
Which way are we turning when we reach the lake?
Say!
I should kill a boar before nightfall
So we have some meat to eat tomorrow!
Can't you walk a little bit faster?
Tell you what, I'll meet you by the pasture
Just ahead!
These are the first steps on the
First day of the
First journey I've ever begun!
And if I were the type
To chronicle it all,
I think I would call this…

GEORGE AND VILLAGERS
Day One!

VILLAGERS
Day one, day one, day one,
Day one, day one, day one!

MARA
It's the day where I only see his back,
Mostly from a distance, and usually off track.
At my insistence, he keeps himself on course…
George, bear left! Your left!
But I'm getting hoarse.

VILLAGERS
Skipping ahead to Day Two!

CHARLISE
Life goes on. We forget about the dragon.

VILLAGERS
Speak for yourself!
He's always on our mind!

ALETHEIA
Is it too much to ask that George would find him quickly,
Come out on top and come home to those he left behind?

BARTHOLOMEW
Sigrid, my sweet!

SIGRID
Bartholomew, my love!

BARTHOLOMEW
I was just thinking…
A question.
Just curious.
If you had to guess who wins this furious contest,
What would you say?
Does Georgie get the dragon's head,
Or does the dragon emerge unscathed and well-fed?

SIGRID
Good question.
'Twould be a spurious claim indeed if I claimed to know.
For though George is quite the man,
His foe is known to be
Injurious.

BARTHOLOMEW
Exactly! It's a toss-up! The sort of match on which every man in town would love to place a wager!

SIGRID
Oh baby! I just love to see your mind work!

BARTHOLOMEW
So do I!
I see an opportunity
To assist our community.

SIGRID
If we pitch it propitiously,

BARTHOLOMEW
I'll bet they'll bet deliciously.

BOTH
And though our lives are not penurious
They could be much more luxurious
If we take this opportunity to be
Entrepreneurious!

VILLAGERS
Skipping ahead to Day Four!

GEORGE
She continues her maddening slow trudge…

Track 5: Mostly Good

VILLAGERS
Skipping ahead to Day Six!
George's uncle comes home.

SUSANNAH
"…Your soul is mine; I rise again;
The time for us to meet is now."

HIRAM
Who was she? You've never seen her before?

SUSANNAH
She called herself "Mara." Some kind of traveling entertainer. She was probably about our age… more worn down…

(SUSANNAH)
Certainly looked as if she spends most of her time on the road.

HIRAM
Is it possible? Has Leviathan made himself known again after all this time? And what made George think he could just leave? The lad has no idea what he's up against—

SUSANNAH
He's a young man now, Hiram. He would've consulted you, but he didn't have that option.

HIRAM
Job's bones!
I feel as if I'm dealing with my brother again!
How difficult it is to raise another man's child,
Prone to the other man's sin.
This arrogant indiscretion,
This ill-advised and headlong rushing in!
What was he thinking?

SUSANNAH
He had to make a choice,
And you've got to trust your life-long steady voice
Was still guiding him.

HIRAM
I know.

SUSANNAH
We've done the very best that we could.
A handful of regrets, perhaps,
But mostly good.

Track 6: Mostly Good, Continued

HIRAM
I raised my only nephew and I have to let him go.
Can't tell if I should weep or lie down and sleep,
But there are others, I know,
Others that I care for who'd profit from the wisdom of my years.

SUSANNAH
The wisdom of our years.

HIRAM
Right.
If we could just save them some tears,

SUSANNAH
We'd look back on our lives as we should.

BOTH
A handful of regrets, of course,
But mostly good.

Track 7: Miscreants

TIM
Greetings.

GEORGE
Aaah! Oh… You gave me a start.

TIM
You're probably wondering why I'm here.

GEORGE
Wondering? Ah, no. I'm still busy catching my breath. But give me a moment…
Alright. Now I'm wondering why you're here.

TIM
Terrance! Madge! This young fellow is wondering why we're here.

GEORGE
Actually… I believe you're here to rob me.

MADGE
He's not so dumb.

TERRANCE
Nay, but his answer is incomplete. Before we rob you, we'll knock you out, drag you off, and tie you up! …Just so you can't follow us.

GEORGE
Forgive my lack of thoroughness. Unfortunately for you, I'm prepared for such a contingency.

TIM
Really?

GEORGE
Well, I'd like to think that if I can defend my entire village against marauders, I can face the likes of three would-be miscreants.

TERRANCE
Would-be miscreants?! Uh, we're full-fledged miscreants, thank you very much.

MADGE
Aye, we've accumulated years of experience in the field of miscreancy. A combined total of, what is it, twenty-six years?

TERRANCE
Twenty-six… twenty-five… because of the, um…

TIM
I don't usually count the year that I struggled with bowel obstruction. I wasn't much use to the enterprise at that time.

GEORGE
Sounds reasonable.

TERRANCE
What's your story, lad?

GEORGE
Firstly, I'm not a lad. I'm the grown son of Nigel, the dragon slayer.

MADGE
Ah! Small wonder you've some skill with the blade.

TIM
And the branch.

GEORGE
Do I taste victory?
Seems contradictory.
Three swordsmen losing to one!

MARA
George, is this your pan?

GEORGE
What?!

MARA
Oh, George.

Track 8: Beside the Lake

SYLVIE
Where is everyone? Oh, Mother! I was out by the lake!

CHARLISE
Oh, Sylvia.

SYLVIE
But I saw something!

CHARLISE
Sylvia! You're making a scene!

SYLVIE
That's alright! I need everyone's attention!
Listen to me!!!
  Outside of town there's a creature like
      you've never seen.
  It's kinda black, kinda silver, sorta grayish
      green.
  It moves around like the workings of a
      great machine.

AGNES
  Is it a boar?

SYLVIE
  Nay!

FERMIN
  A boar that's green?

SYLVIE
  Can I—

WOMAN
  Boars are mean!

SYLVIE
  Don't you think I'd know if it was just a
      stupid pig?

MAN
  Aye, but was it big?

SYLVIE
  Enormous!

MAN
  Like an ox?

WOMAN
  Bigger than a box
  Of bread?

SYLVIE
  If you'd—

AGNES
  It's terrific!

FERMIN
  It's horrific!

BAILIFF
  It's not terribly specific.

SYLVIE
  Stop! Look and listen. I have more to tell.
  It has a tail that could plumb the depth of
      any well.
  It has a face like a demon from the pits of
      Hell.

BAILIFF
  You say it's large?

SYLVIE
  It was immense!

BAILIFF
  And are there wings?

SYLVIE
  Aye, like giant tents, although I didn't see
      it fly.

BAILIFF
  What did it do?

SYLVIE
  I saw it slide into the lake
  Like a water snake.

BAILIFF
  What about scales?

SYLVIE
  Like a million!

BAILIFF
  So it's probably reptilian.

SYLVIE
  To be honest, I think I know exactly what
      it is,
  Although I pray it isn't so, and I hesitate to
      say it.

COMPANY
  You hesitate to say it?!
  She hesitates to say it!

BAILIFF
Then I'll say it.
I'm putting two and two together and I'm getting four.
The mighty dragon killer's killer is a myth no more.
That old Leviathan is here and busting down our door.

FERMIN
Can it be true?

HIRAM
What does he want?

AGNES
He wanted George!

BAILIFF
I don't care what motivates him, to be blunt!

HIRAM
But there's something strange.

BAILIFF
What?!

HIRAM
A dragon typically attacks before you even know it's there.
But to let himself be seen?

FERMIN
Aye, he's right!

AGNES
What does it mean?

BAILIFF
Analyzing his behavior, even with your expertise,
While our brawny little savior is off chasing wild geese,
Is a waste of precious energy that cannot be disbursed.
We should go on the offensive so he doesn't strike us first!

HIRAM
You're probably right.

BAILIFF
It's simple…
If it's a fight he wants, we'll win.
If it's a game, we won't give in.
If it's a war, we'll rise victorious in the end!
Beside the lake we'll meet his eye
Until he falls or we all die.
We'll lift his dreadful ugly head up to the sky!

MAN
We'll take his teeth and make necklaces for our wives!

WOMAN
His shiny scales will adorn our houses all our lives!

BAILIFF
You've got to keep the goal before you so that hope survives
When there's a dragon in your future.
We'll need some weapons!

HIRAM
I can give you all the swords you need,
But there are ways to fight a dragon that you've got to heed.
Superiority in numbers isn't guaranteed
To win the day.
Now listen. Your best hope is a narrow band of flesh at the top of the neck, which is only visible if he turns his head to the side. It's almost impossible to get close enough.

BAILIFF
I could use some men to divert his attention while others approach from the opposite way.

HIRAM
Aye, but he'll see right through your tricks unless he's in a blind rage.

(HIRAM)
You might have to make him angry on purpose. You will likely lose men.

BAILIFF
I intend to bring every man back alive, or die fighting beside the last of them.

HIRAM
I'm sorry George isn't here to help.

BAILIFF
It's not your fault. Alright! I'll take Douglas, Richard, Rowan, and Bran! The rest of you stay here to defend the village… and pray it doesn't come to that.

COMPANY
If it's a fight he wants, we'll win.
If it's a game, we won't give in.
If it's a war, we'll rise victorious in the end!
Beside the lake, we'll meet his eye
Until he falls or we all die.
We'll lift his dreadful ugly head up to the sky!
We need a dragon slayer's son,
But since he left and we have none,
We'll alter course and muster force to get this done!
We can't afford to waste more time.
Repay the creature for his crime.
Sometimes you need to change your rhythm and your rhyme
When there's a dragon in your future,
When there's a dragon in your future,
When there's a dragon in your future!

COMPANY
If it's a fight he wants,
We'll win.

SYLVIE
Outside of town, there's a creature
Like you've never seen.

(COMPANY)
If it's a game,
We won't give in.

SYLVIE AND BAILIFF
It's kinda black, kinda silver,
Sorta grayish-green.

BAILIFF
You've got to keep the goal before you
So that hope survives

(COMPANY)
If it's a war,
We'll rise victorious in the end!

SYLVIE AND BAILIFF
When there's a dragon in your future!

SYLVIE
Beside the lake
We'll meet his eye

SYLVIE
It has a tail that would
Plumb the depth of any well.

SYLVIE AND BAILIFF
Until he falls
Or we all die!

SYLVIE AND BAILIFF
It has a face like a demon
From the pits of Hell.

BAILIFF
We'll lift his dreadful ugly head
Up to the sky!

BAILIFF
We'll take his teeth and make necklaces
For our wives

SYLVIE AND BAILIFF
His shiny scales will adorn our houses
All our lives!

COMPANY
'Cause there's a dragon in our future.
'Cause there's a dragon in our future.
'Cause there's a dragon in our future!

Track 9: Home

MARA
What do you like about her?

GEORGE
Who?

MARA
Aletheia. Why do you like her?

GEORGE
Oh...

MARA
What?

GEORGE
I've… I guess I've never tried to put into words.

MARA
That's alright.

GEORGE
Besides…
You picked a funny time to ask it.

MARA
It seems as good a time as any.

GEORGE
But I'm much handier with swords than with words.

MARA
Excuse!

GEORGE
And what if she defies description?

MARA
You might as well just stumble through it.

GEORGE
To try to pin her down seems futile and absurd.
The best that I can do is wonder aloud.

MARA
Well, it's not as if you are in front of a crowd.

GEORGE
Alright.
She's humble but can be persuasive,
Logical yet somehow warmer.
The latter hides behind the former
And rarely shows.
She's quiet but she's not evasive,
Blunt, but not destructive.
She knowns when she should correct me
Or let it go.
An air of royalty with no room for pride,
A sense of loyalty that won't be denied.
When there's someone who
Will listen to you
Even when you're wrong,
Who will challenge you
With something true
As gentle as a song,
When there's someone
Who waits for you
No matter where you've gone—

MARA
Then there's somewhere that you can call home.

GEORGE
Aye, that sums it up! Being with her is like… being home.

MARA
Believe it or not, I do understand. I once had a home. A family.

GEORGE
I didn't know.

MARA
Aye, well, I've tried not to think about it for quite a few years. Until recently.

(MARA)
Much of my life is behind me,
Much of it lived on the road.
Things I regret,
Long to forget.
Who can help carry this load?
When there's someone who
Can laugh at you
Without a hint of scorn,
Who can comfort you
And cater to
A spirit bruised and torn,
When there's someone
Who welcomes you
No matter what you've done,
Then there's somewhere that you can call home.

BOTH
When there's someone
Who waits for you
No matter where you've gone,
Then there's somewhere that you can call home.

Track 10: Message #2

BAILIFF
"You gave me not the man I seek
And now your men have paid the price.
You shall remain within my keep
Henceforth till Nigel's son returns.
A pair of sheep will be required daily
As a sacrifice."

Track 11: Twenty-Six Sheep

MEN
Twenty-six sheep.

WOMEN
Who can lift a hand against Leviathan?

MEN
Twenty-six sheep.

WOMEN
We will not forget this day of battle.
We will not try it again.

BARTHOLOMEW
Charlise dear, you carry such a load. Let us lighten it for you.

CHARLISE
Of what do you speak?

BARTHOLOMEW
Sigrid and I will manage the arrangements for the sheep. Won't we, dearest?

SIGRID
Ahh, darling, that does sound like quite a bit of work.

BARTHOLOMEW
Nonsense! What do you say?

CHARLISE
If you would do that, I would be most grateful. Come, children, I have a headache.

SIGRID
Lovey!!! Why should we want to handle all those mangy sheep?

BARTHOLOMEW
Tut-tut, biscuit. We needn't actually touch the sheep. We merely make the arrangements. If we craft the system, we can also rig the system…

SIGRID
Ohhhhh!!!

BARTHOLOMEW
That's right!
I see an opportunity
To exploit our community.

SIGRID
These dear people, so blind they'll be.

BOTH
But our purses, so lined they'll be!

GEORGE AND MARA
Day eleven!

MARA
It took all night to tear the ropes asunder.

GEORGE
The bandits took our stuff…
My weapons…

MARA
And my pan!

GEORGE
But it's a new day;
We can move beyond our blunder!

MARA
We have our health

GEORGE
And our strength,

BOTH
And we have a plan!

MARA
When I was with the traveling entertainers—
May they rest in peace—
We kept a covert stash of supplies not far away.
I think I can find it!

GEORGE
Will wonders never cease?

VILLAGERS
Twenty-two sheep!

Track 12: Message #3

SYLVIE
"I warned you once, and this is twice,
You must remain within my keep.
What happens next when sheep are gone
And Nigel's son is yet waylaid?
A single maiden will be offered daily as a sacrifice."

Track 13: Stay Here/Act I Finale

ALETHEIA
Sylvie, when we talked about sending somebody to find George, I didn't mean—

SYLVIE
I know, Lettie. I know you didn't mean for this to happen, but… what could I do?
Maybe I should've told you first;
Maybe I shouldn't have.
Maybe I'm not too good at planning for the worst.

ALETHEIA
Maybe I would've tried to stop you;

ALETHEIA
Maybe I shouldn't have.

SYLVIE
Maybe you wouldn't have.

ALETHEIA
Is it too high a price to pay?
Who can say?

SYLVIE
I just knew
I couldn't stay here,
Doing the things I've always done,
Tending the garden in the sun all day,
When I'd seen
The enemy raging,
And there's a hero to be sought,
A village to be bought back
Now.

ALETHEIA
You've always loved this sleepy village—

SYLVIE
All that I've ever known.

ALETHEIA
If there is any spark of zeal, it's thanks to you.

SYLVIE
Leaving behind this quirky village,
Going ahead alone.
Now that I'm here, I must admit
Part of me, just a bit
Wishes to stay here.
I wanna see what happens next,
To be here in this extraordinary time,
Ready to hail George
As he comes home and wins,
Then gets back to his forge,
And claims his princess.
But I'm going Home now.
I belong to the Lord Christ
And He is my reward.
He is my reward.

ALETHEIA
Look at you, my baby sister,
Going first to meet the Master.

SYLVIE
I always was faster.

ALETHEIA
Who's gonna make me laugh when you're gone?

SYLVIE
George makes you laugh.

ALETHEIA
Not like you do.

SYLVIE
Lettie, will you sing me that song we sang when Daddy died?

ALETHEIA
Of course.

SYLVIE
I'm just… I'm just gonna rest now.

ALETHEIA
Death, where is your victory?
Where is your sting?
You cannot hold one of His.

CHARLISE
Sylvia!!!

MEN
Beside the lake, we can't pretend
That this will have a happy end,
As into chaos and confusion we descend.

VILLAGERS
What kind of action can we take?
Our daughters' lives are now at stake.
We face catastrophe with ev'ry move we make.

GEORGE
I'm on a journey where my ev'ry step is shifting sand.

MARA
But if he only knew what I know, then he'd understand!

GEORGE
Her desp'rate claim that I'm her son is both unlikely and
Completely unsubstantiated!

SIGRID
Do we continue with a strategy so utterly illicit,
Making money off of tragedy—

BARTHOLOMEW
They'll never even miss it!
I don't know if we should curse the dragon to his face or kiss it

BARTHOLOMEW AND SIGRID
For the profit he's created!

VILLAGERS
We need a
Dragon slayer's
son

But since he
Left and we have
none,

We have to
Hope that we
can cope
Till this is
done!

What kind of
Action can we
take?

So many things
are now at stake.

You face
catastrophe with

Ev'ry move you
make

GEORGE
I'm on a
Journey where my
ev'ry step is shifting
sand.

MARA
But if he
Only knew what I
know, then he'd
understand!

GEORGE
Her desp'rate
Claim that
I'm her son is both
unlikely and
Completely
unsubstantiated!

SIGRID
Do we
Continue with a
strategy so utterly
illicit?
Making money
off of tragedy—

BARTHOLOMEW
They'll never even
miss it!
I don't know
if we should
curse the dragon
To his face
or kiss it

BARTHOLOMEW AND SIGRID
For the profit he's created!

COMPANY
When there's a dragon in your future,
When there's a dragon in your future,
When there's a dragon in your future!
Today we don't know what to do;
Yesterday was much easier with lives
Unaffected by Leviathan!

Track 14: Visible yet Invisible

ETHEDRED
As we wander town to village,
Here and hither, there and yon,
As we entertain the nobles—

ARCHIBALD
And the noblings that they spawn!

ETHEDRED
With their genteel sensibilities,
So courtly and so couth,
Why are they all so ill at ease,
We ask ourselves, forsooth?

AMICE
But we swallow all our questions,
And we put up our façade.
We pretend to be subservient,
While they pretend they're God.
And the things that make us who we are
Are things they'll never know.
They only want to see a good show.

TRIO
We are visible yet invisible,
Ever seen but never known.
Brighter colors, fewer cares
Than any monarch on his throne.
You can join us if you like,
But we don't feast on caviar.
If you're one of us,
You're just as much a nobody as we are.

ENTERTAINERS
We are! We are! We are! Oh, we are!

ARCHIBALD
If the physical makes them quizzical,
Then we've done our job alright.
They can't see inside my head;
They don't know what I did last night!
And they'd never shoulder-rub with me
To socially advance,
But they let us in their big fat house,
'Cause we can sing and dance!

ENTERTAINERS
Sing and dance! Sing and dance!
Purple pants! Sing and dance!

ETHEDRED
Lovely lady, noble gentleman,
We hope you're all amused,
For we plan to stay until
Your hospitality's abused.
We'll just fill your belly full of laughs
At who-cares-whose expense,
Then go and sleep like babies
In our cold and leaky tents!

TRIO
We are typical yet atypical
Specimens of humankind,
Try'n' to earn a little silver
Like a slow and steady grind.
But we share and share alike;
We don't divide what's yours and mine,
'Cause nothing is divisible by zero!

ENTERTAINERS
Divide by zero! Divide by zero!
Divide by zero! And you're a hero!

ARCHIBALD
Look, Mara's back! Give us a verse, Mara!

MARA
We are visible yet invisible
To the crypt and from the crib.
I remember all the words,
Though I'm as old as Adam's rib!
Though my flab is yet more flabby
And my singing's gotten worse,
I've managed to come home
With one new mediocre verse!

ENTERTAINERS
Mara's back! Mara's back!
Mara's back! Mara's back!

(ENTERTAINERS)
We are visible yet invisible
Ever seen but never known.
Brighter colors, fewer cares
Than any monarch on his throne.
You can join us if you like,
But we don't feast on caviar.
If you're one of us,
You're just as much as nobody as we are.
And the things that make us who we are
Are things they'll never know.
They only want to see a good…
Show!

Track 15: Dragon Slayer on Mara's Side

ENTERTAINERS
Dragon slayer on Mara's side;
I wanna run, I wanna hide
From you!
Tu-pah tu-pah tu!

Track 16: Message #1 (Entertainers' Reprise)

ENTERTAINERS
"Your father's flesh was burned
In dancing spark and flame of my design;
Your soul is mine; I rise again;
The time for us to meet is now;
And you will vow you shall not move;
And I will seek and I shall find."

Track 17: Have You Ever Wondered Why

GEORGE
Tell me about my father.

MARA
Have you ever wondered why
Ev'ry story Nigel spun,
Not a solitary one
Had any eyewitnesses?
Ev'ry dragon's death he claimed,
Somewhere far away unnamed,
Nothing ventured, no one shamed
Until he faced…

GEORGE
Leviathan. Get to the point.

MARA
Nigel's legacy he longed to complete,
In all his insolent pride,
Was in reality replete
With manipulation and deceit.
Can't you see it?
Never slew a dragon in his life.

GEORGE
Then who killed all those dragons?

MARA
Leviathan.
When I met your father, he was charming and strong.
I was young and alluring; my hair was raven and long.

(MARA)
I was seeking status, so I latched onto his;
Only cared what something looks like,
And not what it is.
I stepped into the life of the dragon slayer's wife,
Soaking up the attention, till I noticed some strife.
Just a hint of tension,
A bit of circumvention
When I happened to question his mysterious quests.
Always came home with his prize.
Never varied, no surprise.
Something hidden in his eyes.
Finally tired of his lies,
I said I'd leave if he didn't tell the truth.

GEORGE
Sounds familiar.

MARA
So he told me the truth.
Several years before I met him,
Your father found Leviathan,
Young and frail,
Wounded and dying beside a lake.
He was about to run him through with his sword,
When the cunning little creature said,
"Wait!
I could be of inestimable value to you.
If we bind ourselves together,
There's much that I can give.
Let me live, and I'll pledge myself forever,
Do your bidding,
Whatever you say; I'll swear an oath today."
Now the choice before him might seem simple to you,
But the heart that beat within was self-absorbed and askew.
And he saw a path to greatness that was painless and swift,
Never dreamed the course if taken would set him adrift.
So he used his sword to spill some blood on the ground,
Precious liquid from himself and from the captive he'd found,
Mixed together, now forever to this creature was bound.
His own counsel did he keep,
And nursed the dragon to health with stolen sheep.

GEORGE
This is nothing like the story
That I've known since I was young!

MARA
But it's the truth!
And he would meet up with Leviathan
And bid him to slay one more…
So that he could bask in all the glory
With the story of the trophy he bore!
Of yet another dragon that Leviathan had Slaughtered by his hand
And your father evermore was known

GEORGE
No!!!
He would go ev'ry month or so
Deep into the caverns…
Then come back with a gunny sack…
It was the dead bloody severed head…
And my father evermore was known

BOTH
As the greatest dragon slayer in the land!

MARA
And when Leviathan wasn't killing his own kind

(MARA)
At your father's behest,
He built a name of his own,
Flying throughout the land,
Murdering people and
Burning down their villages and homes.
And as time marched onward, Nigel had some remorse,
For the thing he had created was a terrible force.
But he kept moving forward for the sake of the oath,
Which had bound the two together,
Enslaving them both.
And when the dragons were gone, circumstances collided,
For the oath would only break when one participant died.
And when each had gained an indestructible name,
Leviathan destroyed him in smoke and in flame.
Can you see it now? Don't you see it now?

GEORGE
I can see it now…
Monsters make heroes.

MARA
And sometimes,
Heroes make monsters.

Track 18: Monsters Reprise

GEORGE
I am the dragon slayer's son.
Ev'ryone used to call me that.
Can it be true there's nothing more than failure coursing through my veins?
Do I believe it? Can I accept it?
Is there a part of me that knows my father's legacy
Was no more than a fallacy created
To mask a man behind his name?
Why should I believe her now?
She's been lying all along.
Most of what she says is wrong,
Or at the least, very misleading.
Yet it bears the ring of truth,
Somehow jibes with what I feel.
If I sleep or if I kneel,
It will be there, haunting me.
Why should I believe her?
Why do I believe her?
Is it because my uncle always had misgivings about his brother?
Was it the way Giselle broke down when I refused to call her "mother?"
That could be part of it,
Could be part of it,
But the heart of it is a reason that compels me like no other.
This man that she said was not so very diff'rent from her,
This man, I admit, was not so very diff'rent from me.
Monsters make monsters!
This apple's too close to the tree.
I see in myself this tendency
To heed my darkest innermost voices.
I come on a journey,
A pointless, meandering journey!
Accomplishing nothing, I swagger and strut,
Abandoning people I love, for what?
George and the dragon?!
How foolish it is looking back!
My family must have a knack for making
Stupid selfish arrogant choices!
I thought I could face him.
But how can I possibly face him?
Bereft of all but the strength of my frame,
My soul is left in confusion and shame!
If I met this creature, I might do the same
As my father!

(GEORGE)
And when Nigel fell,
Like an angel to Hell,
Was he sealing the destiny of his child as well?
Or can I refuse
To blindly follow, and choose
To slay my sin, regardless
Of what I might lose?
And when I look to the sky,
Lord Christ, what can I say?
Have I even acknowledged
That there's a part you might play?
Or have I forgotten
I'm a creature of clay
Who was formed to bear Your image
And fall on Your grace?
Can there be victory?
Feels contradictory.
Weakness so rarely prevails.
I'll just go home and be
Nobody great.
There with my friends,
Share their fate.
I pray I'm not too late.

Track 19: Opportunity Reprise

SIGRID
Who wants to live in a dragon-infested place like this anyway?

BARTHOLOMEW
Oh!!! The dragon! He won't let us leave.

SIGRID
Oh fie, you're right. Wait! What about this… (She whispers conspiratorially in his ear for an extended period of time.)

BARTHOLOMEW
Ohhhh, peachy-pie, I just love to see your mind work!

SIGRID
So do I…
I see an opportunity
To escape our community

BARTHOLOMEW
Living slyly and snappily

BOTH
Ever after, so happily!
And though these plans might break like pottery
We're still glad we rigged the lottery
'Cause no matter what we did this town would be
Far less "daughtery!"

VILLAGERS
No sheep left!
No… sheep… left.

Track 20: Town Meeting

BAILIFF
Who did the Welches plan to send to the lake today?

GEORGE
Aletheia!

CHARLISE
Nay!!!

BAILIFF
No wonder.
Small miracle.
At just one glance this tiny spherical object
Can tell the tale.
Snakes in the grass
Tried to slither away!

CHARLISE
Lock them both up
Till they wither away!

AGNES
Wait a second, wait a second, what is this?!
All of a sudden,
You have something to say,
Now that it's your daughter?!
Out of your stony silence you come out to play?!

CHARLISE
I've already lost a daughter!

HIRAM
Listen to me please,
A word in season;
Tensions are high,
And for good reason—

BRIDGETTE
I'm not afraid to admit what I've done!
Isn't it time we all admit what we've done?
Every dirty secret is on the table,
Every penny spared as we were able,
Giving up our savings hand over fist,
To keep our Molly's name at the bottom of the list.

HIRAM
Thank you for your words.
It's my impression
Many folks here have a similar confession.
Now it's in the open, maybe we can
Put it all behind us—

BRIDGETTE
I don't think you understand.
Providence would have us use wealth in a way that's wise.
He has purposes and plans that are only His.
As part of a family that's labored for all our lives…
I say we keep the list as it is!

AGNES
My little Eda is your Molly's closest friend.
How could you do this to her?
The poor lose first 'cause we have so little to spend!

BRIDGETTE
It isn't what I prefer!

FERMIN
Ladies!
Have you forgotten?
There's no need to contend!
What is all the fuss?
The dragon slayer's son is here to defend us!
Right?

GEORGE
I wish that were so, but much has changed,
Things in my head rearranged.
Long story short, I cannot beat him;
Not a person here can hope to defeat him!
…But, that doesn't mean we give up altogether. I'm willing to go to the dragon, divert his attention for as long as I possibly can… while the rest of you flee the village.

HIRAM
Look, you can't admit defeat before we even try. We need to go out there and put up a real fight. We'll take every man—and woman—who can hold a sword—

BAILIFF
Hiram, we tried! We don't have the strength! We'd have to get word to a neighboring village to help us, or—

BRIDGETTE
You cannot mount an offensive that quickly. We need to buy ourselves more time. Use the lottery that's already been established.

AGNES
Why are you so keen to send other peoples' lasses to their graves?!

BRIDGETTE
I don't like it one bit! But when times are desperate, you have to do what would normally be unconscionable.

HIRAM
Nay, that's not a path we take! Ever!

BRIDGETTE
Oh, awfully easy for you to say! I say those who've worked hard deserve to use our means for our own good! What do you think of that?

HIRAM
None of us deserves a blessed thing, not even our next breath! Not for ourselves, not for our children! It has nothing to do with deserving!

BRIDGETTE
So self-righteous!!!

CHARLISE
Alright, people, stop it! Stop it!!!
You've all had your say, but my word stands.
You'll be refunded in full without being held in contempt.
The lottery begins afresh; No money changing hands.
But the daughter of nobility is exempt.

ALETHEIA
Mother, you're wrong. Mother, you're wrong!
Mother, you're wrong when you suggest
Everyone's had her say.
I represent the silent daughters of this town.
All of the lasses with whose lives and deaths you dare to play.
Has anyone asked them what they seek?
Mother, sit down! Let me speak!
All of them waiting
Holding their breaths outside this room,
Fearing decisions made by people trusted since the womb,
Shuffling and slating girls
Like pennies in a purse.
Well, I for one am done,
So I'll go
First.

GEORGE
Aletheia!

CHARLISE
Nay! I absolutely forbid it!

ALETHEIA
Not this time, Mother. Now, one of you can either take me out to the lake and tie me up and say goodbye, or I'll walk out there on my own… and stand on the shore… and call Leviathan's name until he comes.

GEORGE
Aletheia, don't do this. You can't do this. This isn't… this can't happen.

ALETHEIA
Then come save me, George.

GEORGE
But you know what I… I told you, I—

ALETHEIA
Stop saying you can't. I'm getting a little tired of it.

GEORGE
I'm sorry.

ALETHEIA
I have to go. There's a dragon in my future.

MEN
I see a dragon in your future.

WOMEN
Who can make a bargain with Leviathan?

MEN
I see a dragon in your future.

WOMEN
Who can close the eyelids of the dawn?

MEN
If there's a dragon in your future…

WOMEN
If there's a dragon in your future…

ALETHEIA
Then I need to go now.

Track 21: Even If

ALETHEIA
What if I was wrong to trust him so completely,
Wrong to think he'd come?
What if I was wrong to call his bluff?
What if my words were not enough
To break him out of his confused paralysis,
Give him pause, a cause for reanalysis?
What if I was hasty or just unfair?
Saw something in him that simply wasn't there?
And if he doesn't come,
And if he doesn't come.
I believe my actions were no mistake.
The next move is his to make.
I can rest knowing that I did what was right.
I won the battle that was mine to fight,
Even if he doesn't come,
Even if he doesn't come.

Track 22: Battle and Finale

GEORGE
You haven't seen him yet?

ALETHEIA
Nay.

GEORGE
He'll be here soon, now that you're here.

ALETHEIA
He'll be here soon, now that *you're* here.

LEVIATHAN
Your father's flesh was burned
In dancing spark and flame of my design.
Your soul is mine; I rise again;
Your soul is mine; I rise again;
The time for us to meet is now.
And you will vow you shall not move,
And I will seek and I shall find.
You ignored my orders.

GEORGE
I was deceived and just a portion of your message was received.

LEVIATHAN
Turned and fled these borders.

GEORGE
Your words are overplayed; I bear enough regret without your aid.

LEVIATHAN
Very well then.

GEORGE
Where do we go from here?

LEVIATHAN
Relax, George. I only want to talk to you.

GEORGE
I have some things to say!

LEVIATHAN
Go ahead.

GEORGE
You've got to answer for the maiden and the men you slew.

LEVIATHAN
I only ever did exactly what I said I'd do.

GEORGE
Give me a reason for the pain you put my people through!

LEVIATHAN
It was for you.

GEORGE
What is *that* supposed to mean?!

LEVIATHAN
I had to be sure you knew the stakes were high.
And I will not play games.

GEORGE
Nor will I.

LEVIATHAN
Good. Now it's my turn to ask questions.
Do I detect a fond affection for this would-be bride,
Or is it chivalry alone that brings you to her side?
She'd love to help you fight your dragon, but her hands are tied.

GEORGE
Leave her alone!

LEVIATHAN
So I've hit a nerve.

GEORGE
You will not harm her!

LEVIATHAN
You're right. I will not.

GEORGE
…Really?

LEVIATHAN
…*If* you help me.

GEORGE
Help you?

LEVIATHAN
It's decision time, George.
Beside the lake, it all gets real.
You come to die or strike a deal.
You're in the court of last resort with no appeal.
This is a fight you cannot win,
A battle you did not begin.
You'll find a compromise is wiser in the end,
When there's a dragon in your Presence.

GEORGE
What do you want from me?

LEVIATHAN
Nothing complicated. I want something back. Something the so-called "dragon slayer" stole from me.

GEORGE
This has something to do with my father…

LEVIATHAN
It has everything to do with him! He was so cocky; he lorded his authority over me for years. And I played my part well. The downtrodden slave, the subservient pet. He actually began to believe he was as powerful as everyone said. And after I had slaughtered the last of my "brethren," your father came in all his hubris to meet with me one last time.

GEORGE
And you murdered him!

LEVIATHAN
I did.
I always understood that I would have the last laugh.
I had built him a reputation as the greatest dragon slayer alive,
And if I killed him,
Well, you can only imagine the implications.
I'd be the undisputed greatest of all time,
The celebrated most-feared dragon in history.
The universal glory of the mighty Leviathan would be unparalleled!
But as he was dying
Lying in the remnants of his own dead skin
Trying to find a way to redeem his sin,
That's when it happened.
That's when he cursed me,
Did the worst thing he could possibly do to me,
Words burst forth from his lips
With his last drink of breath
On the brink of death.
He said…
"May you never again sail above the trees,
Catch a current of wind or a lofty breeze.
Your terrible splendor's come to an end,
My serpentine friend.
Let ev'ry sinew that's within you be unfit to fly;
My parting benediction as I lay me down to die.
The blood that I shed will serve to ensure
Long after I'm dead, the curse will endure."

GEORGE
…You cannot fly!

LEVIATHAN
I cannot. Thanks to your father.

GEORGE
Of course! That's why you disappeared for all those years.

LEVIATHAN
Aye. The lord of all dragons does not spread his majesty by *slithering* from town to town.

GEORGE
So you hid.

LEVIATHAN
In the caverns. Subsisting on tasteless fish from underground rivers. Waiting. Just waiting.

GEORGE
Waiting for me to grow up.

LEVIATHAN
Exactly.
And now that you've come of age,
You're fin'lly useful to me.
You are the only soul that's capable
Of setting me free.

GEORGE
Then it was you that gently carried me to safety that night,
Left me on my uncle's doorstep.

LEVIATHAN
That's right.
I needed you alive!
I needed you to live!

I needed you to reach manhood
'Cause only a man could do
What I need you to do,
What I'm asking you to do.
As the last man alive with Nigel's blood in your veins,
You could speak the word to break the curse and sever these chains.
I could rise above the dust and from this moment I won't
Have to crawl upon my belly.

GEORGE
That's the reason I'm alive!
The only reason you would Give me a chance to survive!

GEORGE
And what if I don't?

LEVIATHAN
Then I'll kill you, and your precious princess, and I'll burn your village to a crisp, along with everyone you love.

GEORGE
And if I comply with your request?

LEVIATHAN
I leave you in peace. You'll never see me again. I'll make my glory known in other lands far away.

GEORGE
You mean you'll terrorize and destroy other villages!

LEVIATHAN
But not *yours*. The choice is before you, George.

GEORGE
Aletheia!

ALETHEIA
I'm here.

GEORGE
You trust me, right?

ALETHEIA
I'll match your bravery step for step.

GEORGE
I am not my father. And I am not my mother. And I am going to fight you now.

LEVIATHAN
Very well. The offer stands until you draw your last breath!

GEORGE
You're toying with me, aren't you?

LEVIATHAN
I'm giving you time to reconsider.

GEORGE
I've made my choice!

LEVIATHAN
George, you seem so tired. Really…
Can we not take a moment just to marvel at this,
That words may have the power to restore broken things?
Mend these wings, and I'll leave this very hour,
On my honor,
Forsaking this shore.
You'll see my face no more.

GEORGE
Never!!!

LEVIATHAN
Last chance, George. If I exhale, you're finished. Then your princess will know what it is to suffer.

GEORGE
Aletheia, help me! I'm out of strength! I know I should refuse, but I—

ALETHEIA
Don't you *dare* say you can't, George!

GEORGE
Right. Kill me.

LEVIATHAN
You're not giving in. Well, there are other ways we can do this. I know how to keep a man on the precipice of death without pushing him over. I'll take you to the caves, both of you. I'll keep you alive for weeks, months, whatever it takes. I'll slaughter one villager every day until you do what I want.

ALETHEIA
Just kill us now! You'll never get what you want!

LEVIATHAN
Is that so?

ALETHEIA
George…?

GEORGE
I don't know…

MARA
George! I say, George! What in the world are you doing?

LEVIATHAN
Giselle.

MARA
Your hideousness.

LEVIATHAN
The years have been unkind to you.

MARA
You'll get no argument from me on that.

LEVIATHAN
You're not welcome here! This has nothing to do with you.

MARA
I think I'll stay anyway.

LEVIATHAN
Leave us alone, Giselle! We were about to make a bargain.

ALETHEIA
George, it's her! Can you hear me?

LEVIATHAN
Leave her out of this!!!

GEORGE
How did she get here?

LEVIATHAN
George…

MARA
I was a half a day behind you,
Hoping and praying I would find you.

LEVIATHAN
Leave us alone, Giselle.

MARA
And I don't blame you if you hate me,
But I just had to come remind you,

LEVIATHAN
Leave us alone, Giselle!

MARA
What you have is remarkable,
It's remarkable,
But if you hearken to him,
He'll use his power to break you down and blind you.

LEVIATHAN
Don't listen to her!

MARA
I regret that I ever gave in to this creature you see.

LEVIATHAN
Leave us alone, Giselle!

MARA
Hold fast to your strength or become like your father and me!

LEVIATHAN
Leave us alone, Giselle!
Leave us alone, *Giselle!!!*

GEORGE
I'm sorry I said what I did.

MARA
Well… it's all worked out in the end, hasn't it?

GEORGE
More questions.

MARA
Don't worry. That's probably the last one.

GEORGE
Aletheia, this is… my mother, Giselle.

ALETHEIA
Oh, thank you, thank you so much!

MARA
Aletheia, I feel like I know you already. I wish I could watch you two build a life together. I'm so proud of you, son. Your father would be proud.

GEORGE
I love you, Mother.

MARA
I've always loved you, George. I didn't always know how to do it right. My brave son.

MEN
For a man without a tale to tell

WOMEN
And a woman without a tale to tell,

COMPANY
Like a smith without a forge,
Hasn't means to plan a future well.
And nobody has a story like George!
And everybody has a story like George!