#### MAYBE POLITICS ARE OVER

# Cabin by a River



https://www.scitheatre.org/dramaturgy/playwrights/sloka\_krishnan/maybe\_politics\_are\_over/music/1-cabin by a river



# **SONGS**

<u>#</u>	<b>Scene</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Location</b>	Working Title	<u>Characters</u> onot entirely there
1.	2	2	Copse	Cabin by a River	outcasts
1	3	3	Bathroom	Cabin by a River (echo)	THE BEAUTIFUL ONE   outcasts
2.	6	7	Copse	Bigfoot in the Forest	outcasts
?.	9	11	Copse	?	outcasts
1a.	11	13	Copse	Cabin by a River (reprise)	outcasts
1	12	16	Café	Cabin by a River (echo)	1   2   3   <i>outcasts</i>
3.	14	19	Ambiguity	Do You Know? (Nor Do I)	outcasts   1   2   3
1	15	23	Bathroom	Cabin by a River (echo)	P   1   2   3   outcasts
4.	18	25	Office	We Move On	outcasts
5.	23	30	?	Plotting and Scheming	outcasts
1	24	34	Café	Cabin by a River (echo)	1   2   3   <i>outcasts</i>
?.	26	37	Café	?	1, 2   outcasts
1	27	39	Office	Cabin by a River (echo)	B, I   outcasts
6.	28	40	Senate	They Were Real	THE TRUE BELIEVER   outcasts
1	30	42	Ambiguity	Cabin by a River (echo)	3   B   I   T   outcasts
2a.	31	44	Bathroom	Bigfoot in the Forest (reprise)	outcasts
1	34	46	Room	Cabin by a River (echo)	THE TRUE BELIEVER   outcasts
7.	34	47	Room	Political Chairs	outcasts   P   B   I   T   1   2   3
1b.	35	47	Center of the Room	Cabin by a River (finale)	outcasts

SCENES					
1: Bathroom   Powerful, Beautiful	2: Copse   Outcasts				
3: Bathroom   Beautiful	4: Café   Incompetent, 1, 2, 3				
5: Bathroom   True	6: Copse   Outcasts				
7: Café   Incompetent, 1, 2, 3, Beautiful	8: Senate   True, Beautiful				
9: Copse   Outcasts	10: Bathroom   Powerful, Beautiful				
11: Copse   Outcasts	12: Café   Incompetent, 1, 2, 3, Beautiful				
13: Office   Beautiful, True	14: Ambiguity   1, 2, 3, Outcasts				
15: Bathroom   1, 2, 3, Powerful	16: Copse   Powerful				
17: ?   True	18: Office   Outcasts				
19: Café   Incompetent	20: Bathroom   Beautiful, Powerful, Outcasts				
21: Café   1, 2, 3, Outcasts	22: Office   Beautiful, Believer				
23: ?   Outcasts	24: Café   Incompetent, 1, 2, 3, Outcasts				
25: Powerful, Beautiful, Outcasts	26: Café   Incompetent, 1, 2, Outcasts				
27: Office   Incompetent, Beautiful	28: Senate   True, Outcasts				
29: 1, 2	30: Ambiguity   3, T, Outcasts, B, I				
31: Bathroom   Powerful, Outcasts	32: Café   1, 2				
33: Ambiguity   Outcasts, Powerful, 3	34: Room   P, O, B, I, T, 1				
35: Center of the Room   Outcasts, 3	P, B, I, T (dead); 1, 2 (dissipate)				

#### SCENE 2

(An ethereal<sup>1</sup> copse, where a TRIO OF OUTCASTS sing with simplicity and earnestness.)

#### THE OUTCASTS

There's   a   lit tle   log   ca bin   by   a   riv er,	11	1-1	
And a sprink   ling of fresh   ly - fall   en   snow;		10	1-2
There's the bright glare of sun light in the mor	n  <mark>in</mark> g	11	1-3
In this place we found so many years algo.		11	1-4
In this place we found so many years ago,		11	2-1
There  are  th <mark>in</mark> gs  we  nev er  knew  that  there  cou	11	2-2	
Things like fun gulses and poi sons and all sort	s  of  strange  de  <i>bris</i> ,	15	2-3
Things like some how for the first time feel ing	11	2-4	
And the bears that share the for est are maljest	15	3-1	
And ulto pi a was qui et ly do mestic all along,	15	3-2	
And we were foolish in the city, we were foo	16	3-3	
But now we're here,		4	3-4
But now we're here.	{^horn^}	4	3-4
With a little log cabin by a river,		11	1'-1
W <mark>it</mark> h a spr <mark>in</mark> kl <mark>in</mark> g of freshly-fallen snow,	10	1'-2	
With the bright glare of sunlight in the morning,	11	1'-3	
And with more and more and more of this to go.		11	1'-4

<sup>&</sup>quot;And then I heard "it."" -  $\underline{\text{https://www.artsatl.org/marium-khalid-journey-sky-creature-upcoming-sin-piel/}}$ 

"In / It" scansion {clarinet - Bb}

In[2]: 1-4, 2-1 | in[14]: {highlighted}

Thing[2]: 2-3, 2-4

~With[3]: 1'-1, 1'-2, 1'-3 | with[1]: 1'1-4 {scansion: reed instrument}

~it[6]: {highlighted} ~ic[2]: {highlighted}

And[5]: 1-2; 3-1, 3-2, 3-3; 1'-4 | and[5]: 2-3(2) | 3-1, 1'4(2)

But[2]: 3-4(2)

There[3]: 1-1, 1-3; 2-2 | there[1]: 2-2

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Ethereal – related to dark wave music and dream pop

#### SCENE 11

(Back in the thicket with the TRIO OF OUTCASTS, who sing again, or try to. Their vocals and the music are halting, distorted.)

#### THE OUTCASTS

There's a little log cabin by a river That is stunning and so peaceful in the gloam, And you think that you could stay there for forever, But there's something that keeps calling you back home.

And that something that keeps calling you back home Isn't something you can easily ignore. It keeps haunting you and taunting you and beckoning you back, And you turn around and follow in its track.

And the bears that shared the forest were majestic and so strong, And utopia was quietly domestic all along, And we were foolish in the city, we were foolish in the throng, But it was home.

So we head home.

We say goodbye to the cabin and the river; We bid farewell to the friends that we had made; We look forth into the sunlight of the morning; We step out from the woods' protective shade.

#### SCENE 35

(The TRIO OF OUTCASTS step to the center, still among the carnage, and sing as they did at the beginning of the play.)

#### THE OUTCASTS

There's a little log cabin by a river And a sprinkling of freshly-fallen snow; There's the bright glare of sunlight in the morning; It's a place where any one of us could go.

In this place where any one of us could go,
There are things we never knew that there could be:
Things like funguses and poisons and all sorts of strange debris,
Things like somehow for the first time feeling free.

And the bears that share the forest are majestic and so strong, And utopia was quietly domestic all along, And we were foolish in the city, we were foolish in the throng, But we're still here.

We're all still here.

And we imagine a cabin by a river,
While we lick all the blood from our hands.
And we hope there'll be sunlight in the morning—
And with more and more and more of this to go.

#### An echo of the OUTCASTS' song

Scene 3 (pg 3), 12 (pg 16), 15 (pg 23), 24 (pg 34), 27 (pg 39), 30 (pg 42), 34 (pg 46)

SCENE 3 pg 3

#### THE BEAUTIFUL ONE

On it, Mr. President!

(He continues with his expressions. But the last one sticks too long and suddenly morphs into something horrible. He stares. There is an echo of the OUTCASTS' song. What is he doing here? There is a knock at the door. He recomposes himself.)

THE BEAUTIFUL ONE

One moment.

SCENE 12 pg 16

(It is Lynndie England at Abu Ghraib. Projected, overwhelming, inescapable. A moment. Then we return to the women.)

#### WOMEN 1 AND 2

Hashtag she persisted!

(WOMAN 3 uses her phone to try and take a group selfie once more. There is an echo of the OUTCASTS' song. When WOMAN 3 pulls her phone back to look at how the picture turned out, it mysteriously hasn't taken.)

WOMAN 3

That's strange.

. .

WOMAN 2

It's fine though, we can use mine. To—document the movement, ha.

(She makes the same attempt. The echo continues.)

**WOMEN 1, 2, AND 3** 

Hashtag she persisted!

(WOMAN 2 looks at her phone and sees it didn't work.)

### SCENE 15 pg 23

#### THE POWERFUL ONE

I'm in the ground floor men's bathroom, the one with the broken stall. I've got three unauthorized guests in here. Get someone out here now.

(He hangs up. He looks around at the WOMEN. They are on the ground, quiet. They do not make eye contact with each other. An echo of the OUTCASTS' song. The transitions into and out of the following scene are performed unseen.)

SCENE 24 pg 34

WOMAN 3

I just wonder about the woods, though.

WOMAN 1

Wonder what?

WOMAN 3

Will you be free there?

(They think on it.)

I don't think so.

(WOMAN 3 leaves, unimpressed. WOMEN 1 AND 2 are startled.

An echo of the OUTCASTS' song.)

SCENE 27 pg 39

THE BEAUTIFUL ONE

You just need more confidence, man.

THE INCOMPETENT ONE

Yeah—yeah, I guess. Thanks.

(They sit in silence. There is an echo of the OUTCASTS' song. After a moment, for the first time, they both hear it. They listen in, grow mesmerized. They look at each other, wondering what it is, where it's coming from. THE BEAUTIFUL ONE makes a decision.)

SCENE 30 pg 42

(The OUTCASTS, with THE TRUE BELIEVER in tow, bring on an ambiguous in-between space. They travel through it on their way elsewhere, THE TRUE BELIEVER kicking up a bit of a fuss. They exit. The space is empty for some time.

Then, THE BEAUTIFUL ONE enters, followed by THE INCOMPETENT ONE, who is still holding his hand. <u>They are still following the OUTCASTS' music</u>. They stop, listen intently, then continue on their search. Again the space remains empty, longer this time.

WOMAN 3 enters. <u>She listens to the music</u>. She looks around. She addresses the audience.)

SCENE 34 pg 42

(THE TRUE BELIEVER sits alone in a room, <u>listening peacefully to the OUTCASTS' music</u>. The TRIO OF OUTCASTS and THE POWERFUL ONE enter. THE POWERFUL ONE, previously limp, now struggles.)

#### THE POWERFUL ONE

Let go of—hey, what the fuck is this? What are you doing here?