

A
White Rose

Written by
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INTROITO

PHOEBUS, SEVERUS, ÉRIO, THE FAIRY, IRIDE, ANDREA

SCENE I

EXT. LOCUS AMOENUS - DAY

ÉRIO and PHOEBUS are placidly resting on the grass. It is Spring and the air feels sweet and ethereal, like being in a dream. There are beautiful and colourful flowers growing from the green ground. There is a great, ancient willow at the top of a little hill. A white rose bush grows around its trunk.

The sun is at its zenith and the light rays come from the left.

I

PHOEBUS, smiling, lets out a gasp. He stands and sits beside ÉRIO

PHOEBUS

Oh, Éri... This place is simply perfect!

Dost not 'ou feel like 'ou were in a dream?

The Sun so warm, the air so clean,
far away from the urban reckless
life...

He rests his back on the soft grass, with a sad expression across his face

PHOEBUS (cont'd)

Alas! Why cannot I stay here?
Why have I duties to attend?
Why must I go away? I fear
every time I had left
that I never saw 'ee, my dear,
nor return to this world I always
dreamt.

(He breaks in tears)

Why have I to return there?

ÉRIO Looks right into PHOEBUS' soaked eyes, tenderly, caring and serous. Hugs him and pets lightly his head

ÉRIO

Don't worry, dear, don't cry,
don't let those tears fly
to ruin this moment.
For 'ou knowst 'ou must descend
from this place of lust and joy
to face the reckless real world...

(MORE)

ÉRIO (cont'd)

And that is not thy fault
the place where 'ou were born,
I'll wait for 'ee,
I'll dream alone,
and thus, for me,
'ou willt never be really gone.

(Kisses his head
lightly)

PHOEBUS' eyes are wet. He looks up weeping the tears away.

PHOEBUS

(His voice is cracked
from crying)

I know and I trust 'ee with my life,
but I am here, in the air this ease,
this sweet breeze, this lovely
peace...
The term pends over my head like a
knife,
when the Sun rises I will turn
eighteen,
and seven years and seven and three
more
sum, indeed, seventeen years old!
To the fate, remember, I made a plea,
to live a story, to find my love with
seventeen!
I asked a wish and she nothing but a
dream
that I will never with my eyes see.
And the only thing I care about now,
I feel it's about to flee!
Why I cannot stay here,
sitting to rest with 'ee,
whispering nothings in thy ear,
beside this old ancient tree?

ÉRIO stares right into PHOEBUS' eyes.

ÉRIO

(Very close to
PHOEBUS' face, with
determination)

Dear, we cannot stay forever 'cause
there's time,
and time flows and thus shall be...
Though, we still have a while...
Thou sayst that thou asked for love,
and for a story as well,
and now I ask to thee:
Isn't thy life that story?
Isn't that love thy dream?
Tell me, loved darling,
If thou hurtst me,
do I not weep?
Tell me, sweet sleepy head,

(MORE)

ÉRIO (cont'd)

If thou priksts me,
do I not bleed?
I am as real as thy bestest friend,
I am as real as the air thou
breathest,
Why, if not, dost thou fell weary
after a night of sleep
when the Moon is full at thy sky?

ÉRIO Caresses PHOEBUS' cheek, tenderly and soft, and
approaches very slow to his face.

ÉRIO (cont'd)

(Whispering)

This I feel I know is real,
this I feel burns paining my chest,
this I feel is love, my dear,
for I'm thy princess,
and this thy story:
of how a boy fell in love
with the princess he once dreamt...

Their noses touch briefly. ÉRIO tilts the head, while
caressing gently PHOEBUS' cheek. Their eyes are locked, sunk
and lost in the depth of their minds, their faces, red, the
heat spreads from their cheeks.

ÉRIO (cont'd)

(In the softest
whisper)

Can I?

PHOEBUS nods so lightly. ÉRIO kisses very softly and briefly
PHOEBUS' lips, and pulls back with a bright smile across the
face, resting the head on his shoulder.

ÉRIO (cont'd)

'Ou knowst what they say, my friend,
Carpe Diem, seize the day,
as if it were the last we met...

PHOEBUS

(His face is the mask
of pain)

And why, oh God!, I have to realize
now
that 'ou art all I've ever loved?
I had to realize now, in this awful
last time,
when we both are about to leave,
'ou were the one who to my fears gave
light,
'ou art the one who hugged me to cry,
'ou art the one who I fell for, even
in dreams...
'Ou art my soul, the wish I once
wished.

ÉRIO

(Hugging PHOEBUS)

Cry, my lover, don't hold back 'y
tears,
for it is the last time, the last
night we share.
Don't think in future, just stay and
hear,
just hug me and weep my cry,
until the sunset we'll be here.
Until then, my prince, stay beside,
hold back my greatest fears...

PHOEBUS Hugs ÉRIO back, and they stay for a while.

PHOEBUS

(Dreamingly and
softly)

I wish... I wish I were always
here...

ÉRIO

(Whispering in his
ear)

Then leave across thy world,
abandon thy duties,
start a journey, my love,
to find me in flesh and bone.

LIGHTS OFF

SCENE II

INT. PHOEBUS' BEDROOM - DAY

PHOEBUS is sleeping in his bed, mumbles and turns in the bed
as if he were having a nightmare.

PHOEBUS
 (Wakes up, shouting)
 Ério! Oh, where hast 'ou gone,
 my friend, my love...

There is a paper sheet on the ground, a white rose beside.

PHOEBUS (cont'd)
 A letter?
 (Reading out aloud)
 Phoebus, my dear friend and my
 soulmate love,
 the cursed day has come, thy fate is
 done.
 Cross the mountains, the paths craved
 in hard stone,
 be adventurous, seize the day, find
 thy love!
 Remember me, carry this white rose...

PHOEBUS breaks in a hurry and takes from the wardrobes what
 is needed for a long trip.

Exit PHOEBUS

LIGHTS OFF

SCENE III

EXT. PIACENZA, A PUBLIC PLACE - DAY

Piacenza, a public place. The gothic palazzo degli Signoria
 stands ominously in the background, watching over the
 citizens. PHOEBUS is next to the monument of someone dead.
 The sun is setting.

III

PHOEBUS
 (Solemn, the hand in
 the monument.)
 I must flee, my good friend
 For there is nothing left,
 Nor good in this awful land.

My dreams are gone.
 Some friends are dead.
 The rest, I do not care.
 (MORE)

PHOEBUS (cont'd)

I waited a long time,
eighteen years for my love.
And all this time, was beside.

So fare thee well,
and rest in peace, my good friend.

Enter SEVERUS

IV

SEVERUS

(With lust and joy.)
Good day to thee, my friend!
May thou tellst me,
what art thou doing there,
with the hand on the tomb
of the one who left us alone,
in the day thou turnst eighteen?

PHOEBUS

(To SEVERUS, serious)
I may, and I will tell
to thee what I'm doing here:
I depart Severus, I must leave,
for never I will come back again.

SEVERUS

(Surprised)
And may I ask the reason
of thy hurried depart?
Art thou going to other land?

Tell me, my friend,
why thou leave
like he left?
Will I be the only one
remaining here?

Tell me, my friend,
for the love of our God,
why thou leavest,
and when and where?

PHOEBUS

(Serious)
I must leave, Severus,
for this is not my place,
for I have waited for so long,
for my love, for a story, for my
fate.

And I never noticed it was there

Thou ask for when and where,
to thee I contest:
(MORE)

SEVERUS (cont'd)

I leave, I flee nowhere,
wherever my love has gone,
wherever the stories are made.

PHOEBUS starts wandering to the corner of the stage.

PHOEBUS

And when?
I have already left

Exit PHOEBUS

SEVERUS

(Shouting)
Will I see you again?

PHOEBUS

(V.O, ethereal and
prophetic)
Remember, Sev:

*Far over, in a time that has not
come,
Away, through the mountains,
Under the Moon fair,
Beyond the mists of time,
We will meet again.*

Fare thee well until then!

SEVERUS

(Sad)
Fare thee well, my old loved friend.

Exit Severus

LIGHTS OFF

SCENE IV

EXT. THE PATH TO THE MOUNTAINS - NIGHT

A ray of light shines on a drop of dew, that stands softly on a leaf swung by the night's breeze.

A windblow moves slightly the limbs of an august willow, that seems to weep tears of emerald over THE FAIR LADY resting on its trunk. THE FAIR LADY, with ethereal expression stares the stars with her orbs as deep as the ocean, waiting the one who must arrive.

At her feet, a profound forest spreads the hard ground with a dark green of herbs and leaves. A creek of liquid silver flows below the palid moonlight through the woods.

A path, more a groove, runs near to the water clear, guiding
a young man, PHOEBUS, in a cape.

The prints of the wanderer vanish in the distance, where
crystal towers and glass houses stand on the mountain,
lighting the world taking away it from shadow.

The World, tranquil, sleeps calmly, the waves go to die to
the cliffs.

The Moon is rising in the sound of silence.

V

PHOEBUS arrives at the Willow's feet, a solemn and slow
peace in his walk.

PHOEBUS

Oh, is there God above?
Is it true that feeling they call
love?
Why, oh angels, if it is so,
mine, my soulmate, my love, has left
me alone?

Am I cursed, am I a fool?
Will I ever know how it is the
feeling
of waking up next to the loved being
softly caressing my locks?

Oh God, if there is one, oh, winds,
if there is not,
to thee I pray, let me find my long
lost love!

He sits exhausted.

THE FAIR LADY appears from behind the willow

VI

THE FAIR LADY

(Faerial)

By your lament I came,
oh, noble lord,
by your lament sent me God.

PHOEBUS

(Frightened)

Who are ye, my lady, may I ask?
And why are ye here?
Why sent you God, what's your task?

THE FAIR LADY

I am this land's seventh chord,
 I am the Faery of this land,
 I am the one whose sword

Ruleth the fates of man
 and the one who bloweth the wind.
 Now salute me, hold my hand!
 (Extends her hand.)

PHOEBUS

(Hesitating.)

Not before ye tell me what do ye
 want,
 for what I know,
 Ye could be a demon, and rip my soul
 apart.

THE FAIR LADY

(Commanding.)

Come forth, you fool, blind!
 Behold my eyes and see!
 Ye could any evil find!

PHOEBUS

Then tell me now,
 before our contract is done,
 what will be my vow?

THE FAIR LADY

Ye spoke to God a plea,
 ye asked for your love,
 for ye said your love cannot be seen.

Now ye must to God prove
 that what ye have said
 is in fact and totally true.

So, tell me your story,
 and I'll lead where
 your love waits in His glory.

PHOEBUS

(Determined.)

Then, hear how my life I played,
 hear my story,
 hear the fate
 that I did not see
 until it was too late.

PHOEBUS takes the FAIR LADY's hand.

EXEUNT

ACT I: A FRIENDSHIP BEGINS

*SEVERUS, PHOEBUS, AULUS, ANDREA, IRIDE, MICHAELLA, VALERIA,
LUCA, DIANNE, THE FATE*

SCENE I

EXT. OUTER FIELDS - DAY

The fields outside the walls of Piacenza, a group of kids - PHOEBUS, SEVERUS, ANDREA and AULUS- is playing. SEVERUS wears a monster mask, and they seem like having fun. There are some trees and near a tiny river, crossed by a bridge.

I

PHOEBUS

(Laughing and
running)

Dare to catch me, ugly monster,
thou seemst like a monk in his
cloister:
fat, slow and drunk when he prays a
paternoster!

AULUS

(With fear)

If it touch me, I swear
I will faint right here

He climbs up a tree.

AULUS (cont'd)

Andrea, my dear,
send that monster a dare!

ANDREA

Yo! Ugly monster!
For my honour,
take that glove
that I've thrown!

SEVERUS

(With a sort of
monster voice)

I do as you see

Pretends to catch the glove, but clings on ANDREA'S sleeve.

SEVERUS (cont'd)

Oh, fool! Now, the monster
you will be!

PHOEBUS
 (To AULUS)
 My princess of skin fair,
 take my hand, come,
 far away from this damned, unholy
 lair!

AULUS takes PHOEBUS' hand. He pulls and they fall into the water of the river.

AULUS
 (Surprised)
 Traitor! Thou threw me into the river

PHOEBUS
 You know lady that is funnier--

ANDREA
 --to be a monster, indeed--

SEVERUS
 --and to sink the looser very deep!

PHOEBUS
 To the water, my friends! Don't
 quiver!

They jump to the water and play for a while. They exit the river and sit under the tree near the river, exhausted and panting. SEVERUS looks worried.

SEVERUS
 (Serious)
 And ye, my friend, what would ye do,
 when ye reach seven and three years
 more?
 What will ye do when men we will be
 called?

PHOEBUS lies back on the grass

PHOEBUS
 (Thinking)
 I do not know, I've never asked
 myself before...
 (To AULUS)
 And thou, Aul, hast thou thought
 anysome?

AULUS
 (Excited)
 Yes, I do.
 I will find my love,
 while sailing overseas
 on a great pirate boat!

ANDREA
(Chuckling)
What a dream, my friend!

AULUS
(Annoyed)
Dost thou not believe my word?

ANDREA
I've never said so!

AULUS
(Ironic)
Then what would ye do, my lord?

ANDREA
(Excited)
I'll be the strongest
and gentlest knight in this land,
and I'll marry a princess, a true
one!

Takes a branch as if it were a sword and does silly things.

AULUS
(Apart)
What a fool!

ANDREA
What?

AULUS
It is so cool!

PHOEBUS
(A bit down)
And thou, Sev what wilt thou do?

SEVERUS
I do not know...
I'll be banker after my father's
death...
Or so I thought...

He tilts his head low, as if he were troubled.

ANDREA
(Worried)
What's the matter, Sev?
What troubles thy head?

SEVERUS starts crying

SEVERUS
(Sobbing)
My father has a mortal debt,
that could, indeed, mean his death:
(MORE)

SEVERUS (cont'd)
 if he looses his last ship,
 if he by any reason cannot pay,
 then he is condemned to die,
 and I'll be sold as slave...

AULUS
 (Horrorized)
 That cannot be!

SEVERUS
 How I wish some to save me!

Enter THE FATE

III

THE FATE comes slowly from the corner of the stage, wearing an old weary coat. The kids haven't noticed her.

PHOEBUS
 (To SEVERUS)
 My friend, don't cry!
 When is the contact's deadline?
 How much he have to pay?

SEVERUS
 (Crying constantly)
 A million florins is it,
 and only three years rest!

ANDREA
 Do not worry, my friend!
 For there'd be something we could do!

AULUS
 Come here, my friend, I'm sure
 that thou needst rest, isn't it true?
 (To ANDREA)
 Andrea, would thou go to my house?
 Bring him some bread and some fruit!

ANDREA nods and *Exit*

IV

THE FATE has already come to the tree, and she seems majestic and powerful.

THE FATE
 (With voice profound)
 Oh, ye children, help please a
 wanderer lost!
 Could ye say me, where is the city
 door?

PHOEBUS points beyond the bridge to the corner of the stage

PHOEBUS

Of course my lady, there ye shall go!
But, madam, could ye help a troubled
young?

THE FATE

For sure! What is the matter, young
lord?

PHOEBUS

Our friend is now a soul lost
in the realms of grief and doom.
We don't now how to give him comfort!

THE FATE

(To SEVERUS)

What is it boy, why dost thou weep?
Take this white rose and make a wish.

SEVERUS takes the flower but can only sob

Enter ANDREA

V

ANDREA

(Panting)

Friends, I'm here!
I bring the fruit,
I bring the food,
Sev, there's no need for tears,
we will save thy house!

(Sees THE FATE)

Oh, madam, I beg your pardon,
I salute you and I bow down!

THE FATE

It's no worry, young lad,
I'm exhausted, let's make a toast,
tell me, what were ye doing
when I was passing through?

AULUS

We were talking about future,
about what will be of us
when we men should be called.

THE FATE

(Curious)

Tell me, lad, what will ye do?

AULUS

I will be a pirate and find true
love!

ANDREA

(Cutting AULUS)

I will be a knight, and I'll marry a princess, a true one!

THE FATE

(Apart)

Ça sera!

(To SEVERUS,
motherly)

And ye, Severus? Let out your dreams...

SEVERUS

(Weak)

I only want I could do something to save my dad...

THE FATE

(Apart)

A pure hearted lad...

(To PHOEBUS)

And ye, the last?

PHOEBUS

(Absorted)

I do not know...

Maybe I wish a true story of love?

To dream below other skies?

To wander through many worlds and many days,

and live a story like the ones

of books and stage plays?

I wish my fate to be different from all that once had been...

THE FATE

(Apart)

And a dreamer one...

Shall their wishes be fate,

for I rule destiny over men's head

(To the boys)

Now, boys, I shall go,

fare you well, and dream,

I say adieu.

Exit THE FATE across the bridge.

VI

AULUS searches for the food but finds any.

AULUS

(Exasperated)

Andrea! Thou broughst no food!

Only fruits,

(MORE)

AULUS (cont'd)
and only nuts!
I'm hungry, aren't you?

SEVERUS
(Trying to be well)
Yes! How about we eat
and forget about our fears?
how about we go and take
some cups and good wine red?

PHOEBUS
(Excited)
I agree! Go while I prepare the
things
and I clean the ground to eat!
(Apart)
And maybe I'll take a little rest...

PHOEBUS starts preparing the things ready to eat while they go.

Exit SEVERUS, AULUS, ANDREA

LIGHTS OFF

EXT. LOCUS AMOENUS - DAY

PHOEBUS is humming softly a song while making a flower crown from the white roses.

VII

PHOEBUS
(Singing)
Io non compro più speranza...~

Enter ÉRIO running and shouting, seems to be frightened.

ÉRIO
(Shouting)
Help! Help!

ÉRIO trips on the ground, starting to cry.

PHOEBUS
Hey, kid! 'ou OK?

He kneels trying to help

ÉRIO
(Sobbing)
Thank 'ee!

Takes PHOEBUS' hand.

PHOEBUS
 (Like a little
 curious boy)
 Why were 'ou running?

ÉRIO
 He was going to eat me!
 Help!

ÉRIO breaks in tears and PHOEBUS wraps his arms around.

PHOEBUS
 (Caring)
 Don't worry...
 What is 'y name?

ÉRIO
 (Stuttering)
 Ério...

PHOEBUS
 (Comforting)
 Oh! What a beautiful name!
 And why art 'ou here?

ÉRIO
 (Blushing)
 He was going to eat me!
 I've run away!
 (Serious)
 I would become free!
 No one will be able to rule over me!
 'Ou know, all the people should be
 free!
 And eat chocolate whenever they wish!
 And play all the time!
 (Thinking)
 And.. And.. And eat more chocolate!

PHOEBUS
 (Inspired)
 And cake!
 And don't have to bathe!

ÉRIO
 (Cutting PHOEBUS)
 And take a nap whenever they please

PHOEBUS
 (Yawning)
 I agree...

Tired, he starts petting ÉRIO'S hair.

ÉRIO
 (Half asleep)
 And not to be punched by 'y dad...

ÉRIO falls asleep. PHOEBUS caresses softly ÉRIO'S cheek, and sees a hit in the neck.

PHOEBUS

(Sad)

Don't worry Ério... All the people
should have at least one friend...

He kisses softly ÉRIO'S cheek and lies the crown over the
blobby golden bangs.

LIGHTS OFF