

Fiddler on the Roof Audition Scene 1 – 7F, 1M
(Shprintze, Golde, Hodel, Bielke, Tzeitel, Chava, Yente, Motel)

(Kitchen of TEVYE's house. GOLDE, TZEITEL, and HODEL are preparing for the Sabbath. SHPRINTZE and BIELKE enter from outside, carrying logs)

SHPRINTZE

Mama, where should we put these?

GOLDE

Put them on my head! By the stove, foolish girl Where is Chava?

HODEL

She's in the barn, milking.

BIELKE

When will Papa be home?

GOLDE

It's almost Sabbath and he worries a lot when he'll be home! All day long riding on top of his wagon like a prince.

TZEITEL

Mama, you know that Papa works hard.

GOLDE

His horse works harder! ... And you don't have to defend your Papa to me. I know him longer than you. ... He could drive a person crazy ... He should only live and be well ... Shprintze, bring me some more potatoes.

(CHAVA enters, carrying a basket, with a book under her apron)

Chava, did you finish milking?

CHAVA

Yes, Mama.

(SHE drops the book)

GOLDE

You were reading again? Why does a girl have to read? Will it get her a better husband? Here.

(Hands CHAVA the book. CHAVA exits into the house. SHPRINTZE enters with basket of potatoes)

SHPRINTZE

Mama, Yente's coming. She's down the road.

HODEL

Maybe she's a finally found a good match for you, Tzeitel.

GOLDE

From your mouth to God's ears.

TZEITEL

Why does she have to come now? It's almost Sabbath.

GOLDE

Go finish in the barn. I want to talk to Yente alone.

SHPRINTZE

Mama, can I go out and play?

GOLDE

You have feet? Go.

BIELKE

Can I go too?

GOLDE

Go too.

TZEITEL

But Mama, the men she finds. The last one was so old and he was bald. He had no hair.

GOLDE

A poor girl without a dowry can't be so particular. You want hair, marry a monkey.

TZEITEL

After all, Mama, I'm not yet twenty years old and ...

GOLDE

Shah!

(Spits between fingers)

Do you have to boast about your age? Do you want to tempt the Evil Eye? Inside.

(TZEITEL enters the house as YENTE enters from outside)

YENTE

Golde Darling, I had to see you because I have such news for you. And not just every day in the week news, once in a lifetime news. And where are your daughters? Outside, no? Good, such diamonds, such jewels. You'll see, Golde, I'll find every one of them a husband. But you shouldn't be so picky ... Even the worst husband, God forbid, is better than no husband, God forbid ... And who should know better than me? Ever since my husband died I've been a poor widow, alone, nobody to talk to, nothing to say to anyone. It's no life. All I do at night is think of him, and even thinking of him gives me no pleasure because, you know as well as I, he was not much of a person ... Never made a living, everything he touched turned to mud, but better than nothing.

MOTEL

(Entering from door L)

Good evening. Is Tzeitel in the house?

GOLDE

But she's busy. You can come back later.

MOTEL

There's something I'd like to tell her.

GOLDE

Later.

Oh, Motel, I thought I heard you.

TZEITEL

Finish what you were doing.

GOLDE

(To MOTEL)

I said later.

MOTEL

(Exiting L)

All right!

YENTE

What does that poor little tailor Motel want with Tzeitel?

GOLDE

They have been friends since they were babies together.
They talk, they play ...

YENTE

(Suspiciously)

They play? What do they play?

GOLDE

Who knows? They're just children ...

YENTE

From such children, come other children.

***Fiddler on the Roof* Audition Scene 2 – 0F, 5M
(Innkeeper, Tevye, Mendel, Avram, Perchik)**

INNKEEPER

There he is! ... You forgot my order for the Sabbath!

TEVYE

Reb Mordcha, I had a little accident with my horse.

MENDEL

Tevye, you didn't bring the Rabbi's order.

TEVYE

I know, Reb Mendel.

AVRAM

Tevye, you forgot my order for the Sabbath.

TEVYE

This is bigger news than the plague in Odessa.

AVRAM

Talking about news, terrible news in the outside world ... terrible.

INNKEEPER

What is it?

MENDEL

What does it say?

AVRAM

In a village called Rajanka, all the Jews were evicted, forced to leave their homes ...
(ALL look at each other)

MENDEL

For what reason?

AVRAM

It doesn't say. Maybe the Tsar wanted their land ... maybe a plague ...

INNKEEPER

May the Tsar have his own personal plague.

ALL

Amen.

MENDEL

(To AVRAM)

Why don't you ever bring us some good news?

AVRAM

I only read it. It was an edict from the authorities.

INNKEEPER

May the authorities start itching in places that they can't reach.

ALL

Amen.

PERCHIK

Why do you curse them? What good does your cursing do? You stand around and curse and chatter and don't do anything. You'll all chatter your way into the grave.

MENDEL

Excuse me, You're not from this village.

PERCHIK

No.

MENDEL

And where are you from?

PERCHIK

Kiev. I was a student in the University there.

INNKEEPER

Aha! The University. Is that where you learned to criticize your elders?

PERCHIK

That's where I learned that there is more to life than talk. You should know what's going on in the outside world.

INNKEEPER

Why should I break my head about the outside world? Let them break their own heads.

TEVYE

He's right. As the good book says, if you spit in the air, it lands in your face.

PERCHIK

That's nonsense. You can't close your eyes to what's happening in the world.

TEVYE

He's right.

AVRAM

He's right and he's right? How can they both be right?

TEVYE

You know, you are also right.

INNKEEPER

He's right! He's still wet behind the ears! Good Sabbath, Tevye.

AVRAM & OTHERS

Good Sabbath, Tevye.

(THEY take their orders and leave. MENDEL remains)

MENDEL

Tevye, the Rabbi's order. My cheese!

TEVYE

Of course. So you're from Kiev, Reb ...

PERCHIK

Perchik.

TEVYE

Perchik. So, you're a newcomer here.

As Abraham said, "I am a stranger in a strange land."

MENDEL

Moses said that.

TEVYE

Forgive me. As King David put it, "I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."

MENDEL

That was also Moses.

TEVYE

For a man with a slow tongue, he talked a lot.

MENDEL

And the cheese!

(TEVYE notices that PERCHIK is eyeing the cheese hungrily)

TEVYE

Here, have a piece.

PERCHIK

I have no money. And I am not a beggar.

TEVYE

Here ... It's a blessing for me to give.

PERCHIK

Very well... for your sake!

(HE takes the cheese and devours it)

TEVYE

Thank you ... you know, it's no crime to be poor.

***Fiddler on the Roof* Audition Scene 3 – 2F, 2M
(Golde, Tevye, Motel, Tzeitel)**

(GOLDE)

(To PERCHIK)

You can wash outside at the well.

(To TEVYE)

Tevye, I have something to say to you.

TEVYE

Why should today be different?

(HE starts to pray)

GOLDE

Tevye, I have to tell you ...

TEVYE

Shhh. I'm praying

(Prays)

GOLDE

Lazar Wolf wants to see you.

(TEVYE begins praying again, stopping only to respond to GOLDE, then returning to prayer)

TEVYE

The butcher? About what?

(Prays)

GOLDE

I don't know. Only that he says it is important.

TEVYE

What can be important? I have nothing for him to slaughter.

(Prays)

GOLDE

After the Sabbath, see him and talk to him.

TEVYE

Talk to him about what? If, he is thinking about buying my new milk cow ...

(Prays)

He can forget it.

(Prays)

GOLDE

Tevye, don't be an ox. A man sends an important message, at least you can talk to him.

TEVYE

Talk about what? He wants my new milk cow!

(Prays)

GOLDE

Talk to him!

TEVYE

All right. After the Sabbath, I'll talk to him.

(HE and GOLDE exit - HE is still praying. MOTEL, TZEITEL and CHAVA bring the table into the house. CHAVA exits)

TZEITEL

Motel, Yente was here.

MOTEL

I saw her.

TZEITEL

If they agree on someone there will be a match and then it will be too late for us.

MOTEL

Don't worry Tzeitel. I have found someone who will sell me his used sewing machine, so in a few weeks I'll have saved up enough to buy it and then your Father will be impressed with me.

TZEITEL

But Motel, a few weeks may be too late.

MOTEL

But what else can we do?

TZEITEL

You could ask my father for my hand tonight. Now!

MOTEL

Why should he consider me now? I'm only a poor tailor?

TZEITEL

And I'm only the daughter of a poor milkman. Just talk to him.

MOTEL

Tzeitel, if your father says no, that's it, it's final ... He'll yell at me.

TZEITEL

Motel!

MOTEL

I'm just a poor tailor.

TZEITEL

Motel, even a poor tailor is entitled to some happiness.

MOTEL

That's true.

TZEITEL

Will you talk to him? Will you talk to him?

MOTEL

All right, I'll talk to him.

TEVYE

(Entering)

It's late! Where is everybody? Late.

MOTEL

Reb Tevye ...

TEVYE

Come in, children, we're lighting the candles.

MOTEL

Reb Tevye ...

(Repeats, summoning courage)

TEVYE

Yes? What is it?

(Loudly)

Well, Motel, what is it?

MOTEL

Good Sabbath, Reb Tevye.

TEVYE

Good Sabbath, Good Sabbath ... Come children, come.

(FAMILY, PERCHIK, MOTEL gather around table. GOLDE lights candles, says prayer under her breath)

**Fiddler on the Roof Audition Scene 4 – 0F, 2M
(Lazar, Tevye)**

Ah, Tevye – sit down. Have a drink.

(Pours drink)

LAZAR

TEVYE

I won't insult you by saying no.

(Drinks)

LAZAR

How goes it with you, Tevye?

TEVYE

How should it go?

LAZAR

You're right.

TEVYE

And you?

LAZAR

The same.

TEVYE

I'm sorry to hear that.

LAZAR

(Pours drink)

So how's your brother-in-law in America?

TEVYE

I believe he is doing very well.

LAZAR

He wrote you?

TEVYE

Not lately.

LAZAR

Then how do you know?

TEVYE

If he was doing badly he would write. May I?

LAZAR

Tevye – I suppose you know why I wanted to see you.

TEVYE

(Drinks)

Yes, I do, Reb Lazar, but there is no use talking about it.

LAZAR

(Upset)

Why not?

TEVYE

Why yes? Why should I get rid of her?

LAZAR

Well, you have a few more without her

TEVYE

I see! Today you want one. Tomorrow you may want two.

LAZAR

Two? What would I do with two??

TEVYE

The same as you do with one!

LAZAR

Tevye, this is very important to me.

TEVYE

Why is it so important to you?

LAZAR

Frankly ... because I am lonesome.

TEVYE

Lonesome? What are you talking about?

LAZAR

You don't know?

TEVYE

We're talking about my now milk cow. The one you want to buy from me.

LAZAR

(Stares at TEVYE, then bursts into laughter)

(LAZAR)

A milk cow! So I won't be lonesome!

(HE howls with laughter. TEVYE stares at him)

TEVYE

What's so funny?

LAZAR

I was talking about your daughter. Your daughter Tzeitel!

(Bursts into laughter. TEVYE stares at him, upset)

TEVYE

My daughter Tzeitel?

(Turns to audience)

***Fiddler on the Roof* Audition Scene 5 – 1F, 1M
(Perchik, Hodel)**

PERCHIK

Please don't be upset, Hodel.

HODEL

Why should I be upset? If you must leave, you must.

PERCHIK

I do have to. They expect me in Kiev tomorrow morning.

HODEL

So you told me. Then goodbye.

PERCHIK

Great changes are about to take place in this country. Tremendous changes. But they can't happen by themselves

HODEL

So naturally you feel that you personally have to ...

PERCHIK

Not only me. Many people. Jews, Gentiles, many people hate what is going on. Don't you understand?

HODEL

I understand, of course. You want to leave. Then goodbye.

PERCHIK

Hodel, your father, the others here, think what happened at Tzeitel's wedding was a little cloudburst and it's over and everything will now be peaceful again. It won't ... Horrible things are happening all over the land ... pogroms, violence, whole villages are being emptied of their people. ... and it's reaching everywhere, and it will reach here. You understand?

HODEL

Yes, I ... I suppose I do.

PERCHIK

I have work to do. The greatest work a man can do.

MODEL

Then goodbye, Perchik.

PERCHIK

Before I go,

(HE hesitates, summons up courage)

There is a certain question I wish to discuss with you.

HODEL

Yes?

PERCHIK

A political question.

HODEL

What is it?

PERCHIK

The question of marriage.

HODEL

This is a political question?

PERCHIK

In a theoretical sense, yes. The relationship between a man and woman known as marriage is based on mutual beliefs, a common attitude and philosophy towards society ...

HODEL

And affection ...

PERCHIK

And affection ... This relationship has positive social values. It reflects a unity and solidarity ...

HODEL

And affection ...

PERCHIK

Yes, and I personally am in favor of it. Do you understand?

HODEL

Yes. I think you are asking me to marry you.

PERCHIK

In a theoretical sense, yes, I am.

HODEL

I was hoping you were.

PERCHIK

Then I take it you approve. And we can consider ourselves engaged, even though I am going away?

(SHE nods)

I am very happy, Hodel. Very happy.

***Fiddler on the Roof* Audition Scene 6 – 3F, 3M
(Tevye, Golde, Lazar, Tzeitel, Chava, Fyedka)**

TEVYE

(Enters)

We'll have to hurry, Golde.

(SHE is looking at goblets)

Come, Golde, we have to leave soon.

GOLDE

Leave ... it sounds so easy.

TEVYE

(Indicating goblets)

We'll all be together soon. Motel, Tzeitel and the baby, they'll come too, you'll see.
That Motel is a person.

GOLDE

And Hodel and Perchik? When will we ever see them?

TEVYE

Do they come visiting us from Siberia every Sabbath? You know what she writes.
He sits in prison, and she works, and soon he will be set free and together they will
turn the world upside down. She couldn't be happier. And the other children will be
with us.

GOLDE

(Quietly)

Not all.

TEVYE

(Sharply)

All. Come, Golde, we have to get finished.

GOLDE

I still have to sweep the floor.

TEVYE

Sweep the floor?

GOLDE

I don't want to leave a dirty house.

(SHE exits behind the house as LAZAR enters, carrying a large suitcase)

LAZAR

Well, Tevye, I'm on my way.

TEVYE

Where are you going?

LAZAR

Chicago. In America. My wife, Fruma-Sarah, may she rest in peace, has a brother there.

TEVYE

That's nice.

LAZAR

I hate him, but a relative is a relative!

(Embrace)

Goodbye, Tevye.

(LAZAR exits. TEVYE enters the house, passing TZEITEL, who enters with a blanket and a small bundle)

TEVYE

Tzeitel, are they finished inside?

TZEITEL

Almost, Papa.

(TZEITEL puts the blanket on MOTEL'S wagon, crosses DL with bundle, kneels, and begins rummaging in it. CHAVA and FYEDKA enter. TZEITEL turns to enter the house, sees them)

Chava!

(CHAVA runs to her, THEY embrace. TZEITEL looks toward house)

Papa will see you,

CHAVA

I want him to. I want to say goodbye to him.

TZEITEL

He will not listen.

CHAVA

But at least he will hear.

TZEITEL

Maybe it would be better if I went inside and told Mama that ...

(GOLDE enters around R of house)

GOLDE

Chava!

(SHE starts toward her as TEVYE enters from house. HE sees them, turns, re-enters house, returns with a length of rope. HE crosses down to tie up the straw trunk, his back to CHAVA and FYEDKA)

CHAVA

Papa, we came to say goodbye.

(HE does not respond, continues working)

We are also leaving this place. We are going to Cracow.

FYEDKA

We cannot stay among people who can do such things to others.

CHAVA

We wanted you to know that. Goodbye, Papa, Mama.

(SHE waits for an answer, gets none, turns to go)

FYEDKA

Yes, we are also moving. Some are driven away by edicts ... others by silence ...
Come, Chava.

TZEITEL

Goodbye, Chava, Fyedka.

TEVYE

(To TZEITEL, prompting her, as HE crosses upstage to another box)

God be with you!

TZEITEL

God be with you!

CHAVA

We will write to you in America. If you like.

GOLDE

We will be staying with Uncle Abram.

CHAVA

Yes, Mama.

(THEY exit. TEVYE turns, watches them leave. There is a moment of silence; then HE turns on GOLDE)

TEVYE

"We will be staying with Uncle Abram. We will be staying with Uncle Abram."
The whole world has to know our business.

GOLDE

Stop yelling and finish packing. We have a train to catch.

(MOTEL, SHPRINTZE, BIELKE enter from the house)

TEVYE

I don't need your advice, Golde. Tzeitel, don't forget the baby.