



Lyric Sheets

Perfect
The 200 Meter Marathon
11th Place
The Osterhagen Ghost
The Suitcase

(excerpts taken from rehearsals of a concert reading
at the Academy for New Musical Theatre, Los Angeles)

Perfect

Book by Scott Guy; music and Lyrics by Michael Dresser

A former Olympian, now confined to a wheelchair, can't bear to watch the opening ceremonies of the London games.

Rehearsal recording with Christina Valo and Randy Guiaya

MARCIA

(overlapping)

No, Sandor, the woman you married would have listened to your advice. It's like a perfect equation, you said.

SANDOR

PERFECT LENGTH

MARCIA

Stay with the longer pole, you said.

SANDOR

THE PERFECT LEAD

MARCIA

Lead up with longer strides, you said.

SANDOR

PERFECT BALANCE GIVE YOUR TALENTS
ROOM TO SHINE.

MARCIA

But no, I knew better. Shorter pole. Faster approach.

SANDOR

PERFECT STRENGTH

MARCIA

Couldn't trust my own abilities.

SANDOR

PERFECT SPEED.

MARCIA

Ended up going too fast after all.

SANDOR

PERFECT LIFTOFF AS YOUR GIFT OF
GRACE AND LINE COMBINE.

MARCIA

Overshot the pit. Landed on the concrete.

SANDOR

NEARLY PERFECT.

MARCIA

And now I'm nothing but a burden to you! I can't go, Sandor. I can't bear to see the opening ceremonies. I hate being dependent on you, Sandor. I want to be the woman you married.

SANDOR

Marcia, you're not going to walk again.

(SHE flings the hat across the room in a rage.)

MARCIA

I'm not going. And I won't watch it on TV either.

SANDOR

I FELL IN LOVE WITH THE ONE
WHO LEFT NOTHING UNDONE.
THE LIGHT IN HER EYE
ALWAYS FLYING SO HIGH.
GOD, YES, I FELL IN LOVE WITH A GIRL
WHO COULD CONQUER THE WORLD,
SCALE MOUNTAINS WITH ONE LEAP OF FAITH.

I WATCHED YOU GROW,
WATCHED YOU GO,
THEN KEEP GOING.
OUT THERE ACHIEVING
AND ALWAYS BELIEVING
IN SOMETHING MUCH HIGH,
IN SOMETHING INSPIRING,
RUNNING OR ROLLING,
IT'S YOU!

YOU'RE THE WHOLE OF MY LIFE.
PERFECT WIFE.
PERFECT STUNNER,
THE ONE I ADORE.
PERFECT SCORE,
PERFECT WORLD CLASS,
I CAN'T ASK FOR MORE.

PERFECT WOW,
PERFECT WONDER,
DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW,
BUT IT'S TRUE.
I'M INSPIRED BY YOU.
YOU'RE THE HOPE IN MY EYES,
YOU'RE MY GOLD MEDAL PRIZE.
YOU'RE MY PODIUM STAND,
THEN MY NATIONAL ANTHEM
AND I LOVE YOU.

BUT WHO CARES WHAT THEY ALL EXPECT TO SEE?
PERFECTION'S RIGHT NEXT TO ME.
SO TURN ON THE TV.
WE'LL WATCH AN OLD MOVIE.
JUST YOU AND JUST ME.
WE CAN BE HERE, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU NEED.
'CAUSE THIS IS PERFECT

BBC2? Or 3?

(MARCIA remains motionless, her face turned away and set.)

MARCIA

PERFECT PIG.
PERFECT SWINE.
PERFECT COW...NO, PERFECT COWARD
WITH NO SPINE!

(SHE turns around and reaches out to touch SANDOR's cheek gently.)

PERFECT STRENGTH,
PERFECT GRACE.
TAKE MY ARM AND WE HAVE HARMONY.
WE BOTH CAN SHINE.

Hand me my hat. We have an opening ceremony to attend.

SANDOR/MARCIA

(HE hands her hat)
AND YOU'RE PERFECT
AND YOU'RE MINE.

(HE hands her the hand; she puts it on her head. HE wheels her out,
beaming at her.)

The 200 Meter Marathon

music by Carl Johnson; lyrics by Chana Wise

In 1948, women were banned from running long distances in competitions. So a group of eleven women decide to run the exact course of the men's marathon a few days before the actual men's competition. In this scene, American runner Nancy Fedders contemplates not finishing the marathon, twenty miles into the race, because no one is watching, and there is no press -- and therefore little point finishing. She explains to two British gentlemen what made her think she could finish in the first place.

NANCY

AND THEN ONE DAY I WAS RUNNIN'
WHEN I SAW SOMETHING STRAIGHT UP AHEAD.
IT WAS BLAZIN' IN THE DISTANCE,
ORANGE RED.
AND I SWORE I MUST BE DREAMIN'
WHEN I SPOTTED WHAT HUNG FROM THAT TREE.
JUST AS PROUD AS YOU PLEASE AS IT WAVED IN THE BREEZE--
"LOOK AT ME!"

One whole branch just busting with fruit and saying "I may be over here all by myself, no one watching, I may be battling a wind which none of the rest of you is, but I can be just as bright and fruitful as you can." And it just got me to thinking...

SEE IT'S THIRTEEN POINT ONE MILES
TO THAT LITTLE ASH TREE.
THIRTEEN POINT ONE MILES OF THE WORLD FLIES BY.
AND THAT SCRAWNY 'OL TREE BORE FRUIT
WITHOUT NO ONE TO GIVE A HOOT.
SO, IF SHE COULD DO THAT, WELL SHOOT, I HAD TO TRY-
So I got on a plane and came here... to run this marathon!
CUZ, I FIGURED IF SHE CAN BLOSSOM, SO COULD I!

I'D JUST RUN TO THE TREE
I WOULD REALLY SHOW 'EM SOMETHIN'
PROVE TO THE WORLD
THAT I COULD.

(suddenly back to reality)

Pretty stupid, huh? I don't know what I was thinking.

CUZ THE MARATHON IS DONE.
AND NO MEDALS CAN BE WON.
SO, WHO CARES HOW GOOD I RUN? HOW GOOD I RUN,
TO THE TREE.

11th Place

Music and lyrics by Clay Zambo

London, 2012. American marathon runner Karen Johnson is in 11th place and she's two minutes behind the leader with only seven miles of race left. Karen contemplates dropping out, although it would cost her her sponsorship and endorsement deals.

Rehearsal recording with Christiana Moffo, Sari Rose Poll and Christina Valo

OLIVIA

Come on, Karen, let's move it along. Mile 19. Seven more to go. You run, and I'll get back in the follow-car.

(off Karen's inertia)

C'mon....

KAREN

NO. IT'S NOT GONNA HAPPEN.

OLIVIA

Whoa. No.

KAREN

I'm not going to finish.

OLIVIA

What! A-course you are. You're doing great!

KAREN

Yeah, you can hold off on the inspirational speeches, Lydia. If I don't get a medal, all my sponsorship money's out the window, and you ain't seeing ten percent of nothin'. I got it.

OLIVIA

All right, all right, calm down. It's not over yet. You have seven miles, you're only a minute thirty-four behind the leader.

KAREN

I KNOW. BUT IT'S NOT GONNA HAPPEN.
No way am I going to make all that up.

OLIVIA

A minute fifty four. I'll coach you back up to speed. You can't just stop.

KAREN

I actually can.

OLIVIA

You're an athlete. You live to win; you love the competition, pushing through the pain --

KAREN

You ever read Andre Agassi's autobiography? He hated tennis; he played for the money and fame, not for the sport. That's me. Only difference is, he actually WON. Best I'm going to do now is eleventh.

ELEVENTH PLACE.

OLIVIA

Okay, I understand where this is coming from, but as your coach, Karen, I'm telling you that seven miles from now you're going to feel different. Maybe not gold; but you're a closer; you can get, you can get silver. I'd settle for bronze.

KAREN

ELEVENTH PLACE.

WHO WANTS ELEVENTH PLACE?

NAME A SINGLE ATHLETE WHO CAME IN ELEVENTH.

MIGHT AS WELL BE TWENTIETH

OR FIFTIETH.

OR LAST.

OLIVIA

Okay, you're a closer, we know that, so I'm not worried. But you need to get back on the route.

LYDIA

If I may....

OLIVIA

(utterly dismissive)

I got this.

KAREN

Here's the thing. I'm the athlete. You don't know; you're just a coach.

I'M THE ONE WHO'S OUTTA BREATH.

I'M THE ONE WHOSE QUADS ARE FRIED.

I'M NOT TALKING TIRED AND SORE,

I'M THE ONE WHO KNOWS INSIDE

IT'S NOT GONNA HAPPEN.

OLIVIA

All right, time to dig deep, Karen. Find all the reasons you wanted to run in the first place. The zen of the long-distance runner, the connection to Ancient Greece, remember?

KAREN

Yeah, it's none of that. It's cash, it was always cash.

ELEVENTH PLACE.

SCREW THAT, ELEVENTH PLACE.

NAME A SINGLE SPONSOR WHO'S OUT FOR ELEVENTH.

GONNA GIVE A HUNDRED G'S TO ME?

OH, PLEASE! NO WAY.

WAIT, I KNOW, HERE'S WHAT WE'LL SAY:

HOW 'BOUT THIS FOR AN AD CAMPAIGN:

"THE HELL WITH BECKHAM,

FORGET USAIN.

YOU'LL NEVER RUN THE WAY THEY DO,

SO WEAR THE SHOES THAT ARE MADE

FOR LOSERS LIKE YOU!

WEAR THE SHOES KAREN JOHNSON HAD ON

IN HER OLYMPIC MARATHON.

SHE CAME IN ELEVENTH.

FUCKING ELEVENTH!

FOLLOW ME, COACH?

AIN'T GONNA BE NO SPONSORSHIP MONEY.

AIN'T GONNA BE NO ESPN.

AIN'T GONNA BE NO SPORTS ILLUSTRATED.

AND IF THERE AIN'T GONNA BE, WHAT THEN?

WHY BOTHER WITH ELEVENTH PLACE?

I MEAN, ELEVENTH PLACE?

WHY, CAN SOMEONE TELL ME

WHY BOTHER TO FINISH?

LYDIA

PARDON ME, FOR THE GLORY?

FOR THE PURE JOY....

(KAREN pulls off her number bib. SHE hands it to LYDIA.)

KAREN

HERE. SOUVENIR.

I'M NOT GONNA NEED IT.

Sorry, Liv. I really am. I just don't see the point. It's all right. I'll walk back to the hotel.

Sorry.

(KAREN walks off, stage right. OLIVIA avoids LYDIA's aggressively-silent stare.)

OLIVIA

(looks at her stopwatch)

Six and a half minutes back. Ain't gonna happen.

(OLIVIA walks off left, broken. THEY're gone, leaving LYDIA alone with the number bib. SHE reads a tag on the back of the bib.)

LYDIA

(disillusioned; sad)

“The important thing in the Olympic games is not winning, but taking part. The essential thing in life is not conquering, but fighting well.”

(SHE puts the bib in her shoulder bag. SHE rises, and rolls away with her executive cart, stumbling off with great difficulty. HER leg is in a brace. Lights fade.)

The Osterhagen Ghost

music by Michael Levine; lyrics by Richard Castle

As the gold medal is being placed around her neck, Karyn Osterhagen fights her emotions, as she sees the spirit of her grandfather, who flew for the Luftwaffe, strafing the very soil upon which she now stands.

KARYN

Go away, Grandpa. Leave me alone, for once!

MY GOLD MEDAL MOMENTS ARE NEVER JUST MINE
FOREVER I'M PAYING YOUR DEBT.
YOU SHOW UP WHENEVER IT'S MY TIME TO SHINE
MY SOLO BECOMES A DUET.

ALL I WANT IS TO HAVE MY MOMENT
AND NOT HAVE TO SHARE IT WITH YOU.
ALL I WANT IS TO NOT BE HAUNTED
BY A GRANDFATHER I BARELY KNEW.
ALL I WANT IS TO HAVE MY MOMENT.

TAMMY

Wish I saw my grandfather's ghost.

BRYNN

Yeah, me too.

I NEVER KNEW MY GRANDFATHER
HE DIED IN THE LONDON BLITZ

TAMMY

HEY! MAYBE YOUR GRANDFATHER
KILLED HER GRANDFATHER
HERE, WHERE THIS STADIUM SITS!

In March, 1941. And you're obsessed with his guilt.

OTTO

KARYN, IT'S TRUE. BUT WHAT COULD I DO?
WHEN YOUR COACH TELLS YOU "NOW YOU MUST GO FOR THE GOLD"
YOU DON'T QUESTION ORDERS, YOU DO AS YOU'RE TOLD.
WHAT COULD I DO?
YOU'D DO IT TOO.

KARYN

I'm not listening to you. I'm getting a gold medal right now.

ARTHUR

About that gold medal. May I confide in you?

(suddenly in an exaggerated German accent)

I'm zecretly ein German! Ve are zo very proud of you, Karyn Osterhagen!

ARTHUR

JA! YOU MASTERED ZE RACE FOR GERMANY'S TEAM!
NOW VE CAN FINALLY REIGN SUPREME.
START A NEW REICH VIT A BRAND NEW REGIME
KARYN, VE'RE LIVING YOUR DREAM!

KARYN

WHY CAN'T I JUST IGNORE THESE VOICES
WHY DO THEY ALWAYS APPEAR?
I ADMIT THAT I LOVE MY COUNTRY
WITHOUT LETTING THE PAST INTERFERE
ALL I WANT IS TO HAVE...

ARTHUR

NOW YOUR TRIUMPH VIL VINDICATE GERMANY'S PAST
ARYAN PEOPLE ARE STRONG AND FAST
ALL OTHER NATIONS VILL SOON BE AGHAUST
A FINAL SOLUTION AT LAST!

OTTO

KARYN IT'S TRUE. BUT WHAT CAN YOU DO?
YOU CAN TRY TO FORGET BUT THE FACT STILL REMAINS
THE BLOOD OF YOUR GRANDFATHER RUNS THROUGH YOUR VEINS

BRYNN

I NEVER KNEW MY GRANDFATHER
HE DIED IN THE LONDON BLITZ

TAMMY

KARYN, YOUR GRANDFATHER KILLED HER GRANDFATHER HERE.

ARTHUR

HERE, YOU MASTERED ZE RACE FOR GERMANY'S TEAM

OTTO

KARYN, IT'S TRUE. I'M SO PROUD OF YOU. I AM.

ARTHUR

YOU ARE ZE ONE VE'VE WAITED FOR. YES, YOU ARE ZE ONLY ONE

BRYNN
YOU ARE THE ONE WE'VE WAITED FOR. THE ONE.

OTTO
YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE.

TAMMY
YOU ARE THE ONE WE ADORE.

BRYNN/OTTO/ARTHUR
THE ONE WE ADORE

ALL (except KARYN)
YOU ARE GERMANY'S FUTURE.

KARYN
ALL I WANT IS TO END THIS NIGHTMARE
I FEEL LIKE I'M GOING INSANE.
HOW COULD SOMEONE MY FATHER CHERISHED
HAVE CAUSED SO MUCH PAIN?

OTTO
My blood runs through your veins, Karyn.

BRYNN/TAMMY/OTTO/ARTHUR
FRAULEIN DEUTSCHLAND! (ETC.)
YOU ARE THE ONE WE ADORE.

KARYN
I KNOW GRANDPA IS DEAD AND BURIED,
BUT THE NOISE IN MY HEAD NEVER DIES.
ALL I WANT IS A QUIET MOMENT
PERHAPS IF I JUST CLOSE MY EYES.
MAYBE THEN I WILL SEE.

TAMMY/BRYNN
Bruderlich mit Herz und Hand!

KARYN
MAYBE THEN I WILL SEE.
I SEE LUFTWAFFE PLANES.

OTTO
From high in the air, they don't even look like people.

KARYN
I SEE AUSCHWITZ-BOUND TRAINS...

ALL (except KARYN)
CONGRATULATIONS KARYN.
THE GERMAN OF THE FUTURE
CONGRATULATIONS KARYN
THE GERMAN OF THE FUTURE
THE GERMAN OF THE FUTURE

(The music stops. Suddenly everything is calm, quiet and normal.
TAMMY and BRYNN roll OTTO away, as if nothing has happened.
KARYN blinks a few times. ARTHUR watches her, tapping her arm
gently.)

KARYN
ALL I WANT....

ARTHUR
(back to British accent)
Love, psst. The ceremony's over. You need to get off the podium now.

KARYN
(looking down, seeing the medal around her neck)
It's -- it's over?

(KAREN stands, staring at him, confused, fingering her medal. Blackout.)

The Suitcase

Music by Jake Anthony; Lyrics by Larry Todd Johnson

Marie, coach of the Czech women's gymnastic team. is urged by her husband to defect to the United States, even though it would mean leaving him behind.

Singers: Rehearsal recording with Christina Valo and Tedd Szeto

Musicians: Ross Kalling

Marie. Stop unpacking. DAL

I'm not going. MARIE

You are going. DAL

Not without you. MARIE

GO, MARIE. GO. DAL

(speaking over him)
But if I defect, the party will come after you.... MARIE

DAL
THAT MEDAL IS YOURS MARIE,
YOURS ALONE.

MARIE
(speaking over him)
Without you, I am silenced. You are my mouthpiece...

DAL

GO, MARIE. GO.
A DREAM HAS A PRICE, MARIE.
DEEP DOWN WE'VE BOTH ALWAYS KNOWN.
THE FIGHT WILL GO ON, MARIE.
EVEN SO.
YOU'LL BE MY VOICE NOW.
YOU DON'T HAVE A CHOICE NOW.
YOU MUST GO.

MARIE

Do I need to remind you how many of your university colleagues --

DAL

I know, but --

MARIE

-- were rounded up in that Communist *coup d'etat* in February? Slotzen, Belski, Rushenko, Dmitri Lusevitch!, all tried with treason and executed.

DAL

We can't be afraid. It is all over if we are afraid.

GO, MARIE. GO.
YOU'RE STRONGER THAN ME, MARIE.
YOU'LL SURVIVE.

MARIE

(trying to interrupt him)
But, Dal, you were my inspiration....

DAL

GO, MARIE. GO.
THE PLAN HASN'T CHANGED, MARIE.
YOU'LL GO, AND KEEP IT ALIVE.

MARIE

(trying to interrupt)
You are the reason I even dare to...

DAL
WE'VE PLANTED A SEED, MARIE.
IT WILL GROW.
THIS ISN'T ABOUT ME.
AND WITH OR WITHOUT ME.
YOU MUST GO.

MARIE
If I speak out, they will execute you.

DAL
Then that will confirm to the rest of the world you must be speaking the truth, which will only help our cause.

MARIE
(smiling finally)
Then they will not execute you.

DAL
And that will allow me to write you every day.

MARIE
You will not know where to send the letters.

DAL
Care of the American gymnasts. They will feel sorry for you. They will love forwarding the letters to their little anti-Communist friend! It will be "*fun*" to them.

MARIE
Maybe in time...the Czechoslovakian officials, they will let you come to me.

DAL
They'll not be able to stop me. I will come to you every night in your sleep. I will come to you every morning when you wake. My Marie, I will be with you always and always, and no ocean and no governmental papers or even execution will keep me from you.

MARIE
I COULD....

DAL
GO, OR SUFFER IN SILENCE WITH ME....

MARIE
I SHOULD....

DAL
GO, IT'S STILL WHAT WE PLANNED IT COULD BE....

MARIE
I MUST....

DAL
GO, AND SPEAK FOR THE PEOPLE, MARIE.

MARIE
I WILL....

DAL
GO, AND SPEAK FOR THEIR RIGHT TO BE FREE.

MARIE
FOR YOUR RIGHT TO BE FREE.

DAL
GO, MARIE. GO.

MARIE
NO, DRAHY, NO!

DAL
DON'T THINK ABOUT ME, MARIE,
I'M JUST ONE MAN.

MARIE
TO ME YOU'RE MORE THAN JUST A MAN.

DAL
GO, MARIE. GO.

MARIE
NO, DRAHY, NO!

DAL
WE BOTH KNEW THE RISKS, MARIE,
IT'S TIME TO FOLLOW THE PLAN.

MARIE
ALONE, I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN.

DAL

I'LL JOIN YOU ONE DAY, MARIE.
THIS I KNOW.
TO HAVE ME BESIDE YOU.
FREE, AND BESIDE YOU.
YOU MUST....

MARIE

When you visit me...in my dreams...bring my parka. There's no room for it in the suitcase.

BOTH

GO. GO (MARIE) GO. GO.

(MARIE breaks from him, burying herself in the task of finishing the packing. HE helps her. Lights fade.)