

Lyric Sheets



1. Partners. From *The Ransom of Red Chief*

Two two-bit scam artists, SAM and BILL, have kidnapped the local banker's son, hoping to extract two thousand smackers in ransom money. However, when they find out what a holy terror the boy is, they wrangle over who gets to fetch the ransom money, risking bullets, ambushes and lynching...and who has to stay with the boy. It's an even toss.

SAM

I'll only be a hour there and a hour back.

BILL

WAIT SAM.
DON'T GO SAM.

SAM

Now, Bill...

BILL

DON'T SAY IT,
I KNOW SAM.
BUT PLEASE UNDERSTAND SAM,
THIS AIN'T WHAT WE PLANNED SAM.

SAM

What're you talkin' Bill?

YER THE BESTEST WHEN IT COMES TO THINKIN',
YER BRAININ' MAKES US RICHER EV'RY DAY.
AND I RARELY DOUBT A WORD A' WHAT YOU TELL ME,
THOUGH I BARELY CATCH A LICK A' WHAT YOU SAY.
BUT IN ALL YER YEARS OF DREAMIN'
AND YER SCAMMIN' AND YER SCHEMIN',
I WAS NEVER LEFT TO BATTLE
WITH A HUNDRED POUNDS A' DEMON,
AND I'M MORE THAN JUST A SLIVER UNPREPARED.
SO SAM, DON'T LEAVE, I'M SCARED!

SAM

I KNOW THIS AIN'T NO PICNIC,
THE KID'S A BRATTY CURSE,
BUT WE SEEN OUR SHARE A' SCUFFLES,
AND THIS SQUIRT AIN'T NOTHIN' WORSE.
WE BEEN PINNED FER PICKIN' POCKETS,
CAUGHT FER RIGGIN' CARDS,
AND DEPARTED PLENTY GAMBLIN' HALLS
IN MIGHTY LOW REGARDS.

I GIVEN UP ON COUNTIN'
THE NIGHTS WE SLEP' IN JAIL,
OR THE HOURS SPENT WHILE SCRAMMIN'
WITH A POSSE ON OUR TAIL.
BUT WE STUCK 'EM OUT TOGETHER,
AND TOGETHER AS A TEAM WE NEVER FAIL.

SAM

That's right. And right now my job on the team is to leave you here.

BILL

Sam.

I KNOW THERE'S NO DENYIN' THAT YER LOYAL.
IN TERMS OF BUDDIES, WHO COULD WANT FER MORE?
BUT THIS BONY LEGGED BELLY-BEATIN' BULLY
GETS ME GOIN' LIKE I NEVER GONE BEFORE.
WITH HIS INJUN CHIEF ATTACKIN'
AND HIS "WIGGA WAGGA" YACKIN'
IT'S A WONDER THAT WE HAVEN'T
GIVEN UP AND SENT HIM PACKIN'!
WE OUGHTA JUST FERGIT THE KID AND SPLIT.
OH SAM, PLEASE SAM, LET'S QUIT!

SAM

Now, Bill, you wanted to quit that time before, need I remember?

THE TIME WE HEISTED LIQUOR,
YOU WANTED WE SHOULD STOP,
BUT I KEP US EVENHEADED
AND WE FLED WITH EV'RY DROP.
YOU GOT SAMMY IN YER CORNER,
AND WITH SAMMY HERE YOU'LL ALWAYS LAND ON TOP.

AND TO PROVE MY LOVE TODAY,
I'M GONNA LET YOU STAY,
WHILE I AFFRONT THE DANGERS DOWN BELOW.
THOUGH THE JOURNEY MAY GET BLOODY,
I'LL BRAVE IT FER MY BUDDY,
CUZ' I'LL NEVER BE THE LEAST UNSELFISH FRIEND YOU'LL EVER KNOW.

Sing it with me, Bill....

SAM/BILL

FER YOU, I'D TAKE A BULLET
AND NEVER BLINK AN EYE.
WE'LL STAY THE BEST A' PALS UNTIL THE DAY WE UP AND DIE.
THERE AIN'T NO MUDDLE WE CAN'T MANAGE,
NO BURDEN WE CAN'T BEAR,
CUZ' WE GOT OURSELVES A BOND THAT NOT A MAN ALIVE COULD
TEAR.
WE'RE A PERFECT SET A' PARTNERS,
AND THERE'S NOTHIN' THAT CAN BEAT A WINNIN' PAIR.
PARTNERS.

2. Such Faded Beauty. From *Dr. Heidegger's Experiment*

Clara Wycherly has been invited to witness a strange experiment by the enigmatic Dr. Heidegger, unaware that her two former lovers have also been invited. Clara, still vain even in her advanced years, is mortified to have her lovers see her so far beyond her prime.

CLARA

LOOK AT HIM?
I DARE NOT.
OH, THE DAMAGE TIME HAS WROUGHT.
SUCH FADED BEAUTY.
A TEMPLE IN RUINS.
IF HE SEEMS THUS TO ME,
WHAT A SHAMBLES HE MUST SEE.

KILLIGREW

SUCH FADED BEAUTY.

CLARA

WE FALL TO PIECES.

GASCOIGNE

A TOPPLED DIANA.

CLARA/KILLIGREW/GASCOIGNE

WHO CAN BEAR TO LOOK UPON
THE MIRROR ON THE WALL?
ALL SO WRETCHED,
HOW FAR WE FALL.

KILLIGREW/GASCOIGNE

LOOK AT HIM. LOOK AT HER.
NOT AT ALL AS ONCE WE WERE.

HEIDEGGER

LOOK AT THEM. LOOK AT HER.
MISSING WHAT THEY WERE.

KILLIGREW/GASCOIGNE

HOW CAN SUCH A CHANGE OCCUR?

HEIDEGGER

MOURNING.

SUCH FADED BEAUTY!
ALL FOUR

A TREE BARE IN WINTER.
HEIDEGGER

CLARA/KILLIGREW/GASCOIGNE
FEEBLED STANCE, WIZENED BROW.
PUNISHMENT FOR EVERY SIN,
FOR EVERY BROKEN VOW.
DEATH WOULD BE A PLEASURE!
CAN ANY GOD ALLOW
SUCH DESOLATION
TO BE DISPLAYED?
HOW CAN SUCH BEAUTY FADE?

3. The Tell-Tale Heart. an excerpt

Edgar's conscience/psyche is manifest in an unreal persona called *The Accomplice*, who has confided in us that though Edgar is contemplating the murder of an old man. The Accomplice has told us that Edgar bears the old man no ill-will, and will receive no monetary award for the crime. Nevertheless, Edgar has over the past few months been ill and developed a paranoia about the old man...whose time has come.

OLD MAN

*Who's there?
Is it Death come for me?
Stalking with your black shadow before you?
Enveloping me?
The mournful influence
Of the unperceived shadow.
No.
It is nothing.
Nothing but the wind in the chimney.
A mouse crossing the floor.
A cricket.*

ACCOMPLICE

*Now you may think that I drew back
But no.
I kept quite still and said nothing.*

OLD MAN & TELL-TALE HEART

(sounds of fear; and continuing throughout)

ACCOMPLICE

*It was
The groan of mortal terror.
The low stifled sound that arises
From the bottom of the soul
When overcharged with awe.
I knew the sound well.*

EDGAR/OLD MAN/ACCOMPLICE

*Many a night
Just at midnight
When all the world slept
It has welled up from my own bosom
Deepening, with its dreadful echo,
The terrors that distracted me.
I knew it well.
The groan of mortal terror.
The groan of mortal terror.*

ACCOMPLICE

*When I had waited a long time,
Very patiently,
Without hearing him lie down,
I resolved to open a little crevice in my lantern.
So I opened it
You cannot imagine how stealthily,
Until, at length a simple dim ray,
Like the thread of the spider,
Shot from out the crevice
And fell full upon the vulture eye.*

TELL-TALE HEART

(sounds)

ACCOMPLICE

*Have I not told you that what you mistake for madness
Is but over-acuteness of the sense?
There came to my ears a low, dull, quick sound.
A low, dull, quick sound
Much such a sound as a watch makes
When enveloped in cotton.*

EDGAR

*I knew that sound.
It was the beating of the old man's heart.*

TELL-TALE HEART

(sounds)

ACCOMPLICE

*Do you mark me well
I have told you that I am nervous: so I am.*

TELL-TALE HEART

(The sound of the old man's heartbeat grows louder, obsessive, and frightening.)

EDGAR

*And now at the dead hour of the night,
Amid the dreadful silence of that old house,
So strange a noise as this
Excited me to uncontrollable terror.*

ACCOMPLICE

*Yet, for some minutes longer I refrained
And stood still.*

EDGAR

*But the beating grew louder, louder!
I thought the heart must burst.*

ACCOMPLICE

*And now a new anxiety seized me
The sound would be heard by a neighbor!*

EDGAR/ACCOMPLICE

The old man's hour had come!

(EDGAR flings open the lantern, drags the Old Man out of bed to the floor, and beats him to death with the crowbar. The TELL-TALE HEART dissipates. A sudden calm comes over EDGAR, as HE wraps the man's body in the sacks and sheets, pries open the floorboards, and hides the man and the crowbar underneath. EDGAR replaces the floorboards and sits in a chair, spent.)

4. Making Dirt People. From *The Mysterious Stranger*

At a fishing hole in New England, circa 1840, three apple-cheeked youths contemplate their futures: NICHOLAS is going to be a sailor, THEODORE is apprenticed to a carpenter, and LISA is content to receive whatever fate God has in store for her. A STRANGER appears, spooking them by mysteriously knowing their names and reading their minds, but then dazzling them by creating wonderful things to eat and telling them he's an angel. To prove he's an angel, he offers to create small, living/breathing people out of dirt.

STRANGER

Really, there's nothing to be afraid of, Theodore. Look, see! A man made of dirt. Now I'll breathe on him and --

LISA

HE MOVES!
NICHOLAS, LOOK!
OH MY!
THEODORE, WAIT!
THE ANGEL HAS MADE A MAN!

STRANGER

Merely animated dirt, nothing more....

LISA

HE MOVES!
LOOK AT HIM MOVE!
HIS FEET
LOOK AT HIM NOW!
HE JUMPED TO THE GROUND AND RAN!

STRANGER

IF I GAVE YOU THE CHANCE
WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO TRY IT TOO?
HERE, GIVE ME YOUR HAND
YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU CAN DO
NOW DON'T BE SHY.

LISA

BUT HOW CAN I?

STRANGER

YOU'LL NEVER KNOW 'TILL YOU TRY

(Stranger blows on LISA's hand.)

STRANGER

Go on!

(LISA begins to model the dirt, fascinated.)

LISA

IT'S WARM!
WHAT SHOULD I MAKE?
I KNOW!
HE NEEDS A WIFE
A WOMAN TO KEEP HIM CALM

IT MOVES!
NO, I MEAN "SHE".
SHE'S WARM!
I DON'T BELIEVE....
SHE'S WIGGLING IN MY PALM!

THEODORE

Not a good idea, Lisa.

NICHOLAS

Something's not right here.

THEODORE

Maybe it's time for us to go.

STRANGER

I understand your fear, gentlemen. But...here. Perhaps this will assure you I mean no harm. Open your hands. Go on, open them.

(THEODORE and NICHOLAS open their hands to find a silver dollar for each of them. THEY look at each other with amazement.)

STRANGER

That's a dollar each. And I've conjured twenty more dollars into the church's box for the poor.

IF YOU WANT MORE YOU'LL HAVE IT.
I ASK NOTHING IN RETURN.
I TRULY MEAN NO HARM AT ALL.
I'M SIMPLY HERE TO LEARN

LISA

NOW I UNDERSTAND
WHAT GOD AND MOTHER MUST FEEL
FROM MY HAND
A TRUE MIRACLE
PRECIOUS AND REAL!

Look, Nicholas, I just made them a baby!

STRANGER

A baby of dirt.

LISA

But a baby she loves. Theodore!

NICHOLAS

CAN WE GIVE IT A TRY

THEODORE

IT WOULD BE NICE IF I COULD MAKE A HORSE

NICHOLAS

I'LL MAKE A DOG

THEODORE

AND THEN OF COURSE A BONE TO CHEW!

(The STRANGER blows on their hands.)

THEODORE

IT'S REALLY TRUE!

NICHOLAS

MINE'S MOVING TOO!

STRANGER

THAT'S ALL THAT THEY'RE MEANT TO DO

LISA

OH NO! LOOK AT YOUR HORSE!
HE FELL!
LOOK AT HIS LEGS
THEY'RE EACH OF A DIFFERENT SIZE!

THEODORE

NO!

NICHOLAS
LOOKIT, YOUR HORSE HAS JUST TRAMPLED A CHILD

LISA
YOU HEAR HOW THE FAMILY'S CRIES!

STRANGER
Children, Children!
A MAN'S MADE OF DIRT
AND I SAW HIM MADE
AND EVERY MAN BEGINS AND ENDS AS DIRT

LISA
PLEASE! DO SOMETHING NOW!

THEODORE
WHAT DO YOU WANT?

LISA
THEY'RE SUFFERING!

LISA
PLEASE DON'T LET THEM CRY

THEODORE
BUT WHAT CAN I...?

NICHOLAS
TRY ANYTHING!

STRANGER
You're not listening.
MY FLESH IS NOT REAL, BUT FIRM TO TOUCH
FOR I AM BUT A SPIRIT OF THE EARTH AND SKY!

LISA
PLEASE! DO SOMETHING NOW!

THEODORE
WHAT DO YOU WANT?

LISA
THEY'RE SUFFERING!

EARTH AND SKY!	STRANGER
PLEASE DON'T LET THEM CRY	LISA
BUT WHAT CAN I...?	THEODORE
TRY ANYTHING!	NICHOLAS
EARTH AND SKY!	STRANGER
STOP IT RIGHT NOW!	LISA
I'M TRYING!	THEODORE
THEODORE NOW!	LISA
EARTH AND SKY!	STRANGER
THEY'RE CRYING!	NICHOLAS
ANGEL, MAKE IT STOP!	LISA/THEODORE/NICHOLAS

(The STRANGER reaches into the hole, pulls out the dirt family and squashes and pinches them to oblivion.)