

“Heidi”

**A FAMILY MUSICAL
IN TWO ACTS**

Based upon the novel by Johanna Spyri

**Music, Book & Lyrics
by Michael Lancy**

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“HEIDI”

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CHARACTERS

HEIDI: The world’s most exuberant and cheerful ten-year-old girl. She has an infectious smile, and can find the bright side of almost anything. Heidi has her own special way of saying “Wonderful!”

THE GRANDFATHER: Before meeting Heidi, the Grandfather was the terror of the village, gruff and bitter, living a hermit’s life on the Alm. But after Heidi comes to live with him, he becomes an outgoing, loving and caring man.

PETER: The twelve-year-old goatherd. He was very shy, lonely and perhaps a bit greedy. But after Heidi comes into his life, Peter is as kind and happy a person as you could meet.

THE GRANDMOTHER: She is Peter’s blind Grandmother, who can see more with her heart than others can see with their eyes.

BARBEL: A well-intentioned but overly-eager lady of the village, who is also the classic town gossip.

DETE: Heidi’s Aunt. She is probably a nice person although somewhat impetuous. At present, however, she is thinking only of herself.

FRAU ROTTENMEIR: Overbearing, demanding, bombastic and, in short, the classic if not infamous German housekeeper. She is very accustomed to getting her own way.

KLARA: Herr Sesemann’s daughter. She’s pretty but very fragile. She is twelve and probably not the invalid to the degree that others treat her.

HERR SESEMANN: A wealthy businessman. He is a loving man, intelligent and kind. Although he adores Klara, business takes him away much of the time.

FRAU SESEMANN: (GRANDMAMA) She is Herr Sesemann’s mother, and the only person alive with the nerve to put Rottenmeir in her place. She is a dignified and personable lady of the Old World.

SEBASTIAN: The Sesemann household’s head butler. Kindly, fun-loving, a tad bit rotund, he finds it difficult to take Rottenmeir too seriously. But he is efficient, clicks his heels with precision, and is able to get around Frau Rottenmeir in every way he can.

HERR KANDIDAT: Klara’s teacher. He always expresses both sides of an issue, not because he’s fair but because he’s something of a mealy-mouthed toad. Frau Rottenmeir makes him very nervous.

TINETTE: The maid. Her feet hurt... constantly. She’s probably not a pretty person.

JOHANN: Good-natured but a little dense, he is the doorman of the Sesemann household. He has a strange sense of humor.

DOCTOR REBOUX: Klara’s doctor, old and wise and an old friend of the family.

ORGAN GRINDER BOY: (DAVID) Pushy but talented.

— *AND VARIOUS CHILDREN, MEN AND WOMEN OF DORFLI.*



PRONOUNCING GUIDE

ADELHEID (ah´ del hite)
HERR KANDIDAT (hare kahn deedat´)
TINETTE (tee net´)
BRIGITTE (breh git´eh)
JOHANN (yo han´)
FRAU ROTTENMEIR (frow rot´un my yur)
DETE (day´tuh)
SEBASTIAN (zay bas´tyan)
DORFLI (durf´ lee)
SESEMANN (zay´ zeh mahn)

SCENES & SONGS

ACT I

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ACT II

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ACT ONE

SCENE I

WHEN THE LIGHTS COME UP, WE ARE IN THE TOWN SQUARE OF THE SMALL VILLAGE OF DORFLI, HIGH IN THE SWISS ALPS. THE TOWNSFOLK HAVE GATHERED AND ARE EXCITEDLY TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING...

BARBEL: Did you see her?

WOMAN ONE: Oh, yes. What a precious child!

MAN ONE: I wonder who she is?

BARBEL: I don't know.

KID ONE: She was with a lady.

KID TWO: Maybe it was her mother.

WOMAN TWO: Maybe our village is getting a new family.

THE CROWD REACTS WITH EXCITEMENT

MAN TWO: When was the last time someone moved to Dorfli?

BARBEL: Maybe the little girl is a relative of someone already living here?

CROWD REACTS.

MAN ONE: Maybe so.

KID THREE: It would be wonderful to have a new friend.

KIDS REACT.

WOMAN THREE: (ENTERING) What's going on? What are you all chattering about?

MAN ONE: Have you heard?

WOMAN THREE: Heard what?

BARBEL: There's a new girl in town.

SONG: “THERE’S A NEW GIRL”

ALL: There’s a new girl, there’s a new girl,
 and she’s coming to our mountain.

3 WOMEN: We saw her at the fountain.
3 MEN: I wonder who she can be?
KIDS: I wonder who she can be?
WOMEN: She was smiling, she was smiling,
 and she waved her hand to greet us,
 Then ran right up to meet us—
 just as friendly as can be.

MAN #1: I wonder what she’s doing here?
KIDS: I wonder is it for just a visit.
BARBEL: She seems to be so full of cheer.
 How nice it would be, if it could be
 That she could stay a year!

(SPOKEN)

MAN #1: I hope she likes it here in Dorfli.
WOMAN #1: Then maybe she will stay.
WOMAN #2: Forever.
BARBEL: And then there would be someone new to talk about.
MAN #2: Spoken like a true gossip, Barbel.

(SUNG)

KIDS: There’s a new girl, there’s a new girl,
 So, we’ll have to teach her all our names.
 And then we’ll show her all our games
 so every day we can play.

(DANCE BREAK, FOLLOWED BY)

ALL: There’s a new girl, there’s a new girl
 And she’s coming to our mountain.
 We’ll dance and we’ll sing and we’ll show her all around.
 There’s a new girl, a new girl in town.
 Come and see the little new girl in town.

AFTER THE SONG, THE CROWD BUZZES WITH EXCITEMENT. DETE AND HEIDI ENTER IN THE BACKGROUND, EACH CARRYING A SMALL BUNDLE. HEIDI WEARS AN OLD STRAW HAT: SHE’S WALKING BACKWARDS, LOOKING AT ALL THE SIGHTS. WHEN THE TWO ARRIVE DOWN STAGE CENTER, HEIDI TURNS FORWARD.

KID #4: Look, it's her!

THE CROWD TURNS ITS ATTENTION TO HEIDI AND DETE STANDING DOWN CENTER

DETE: Hello.

CROWD: Hello, etc.

DETE: (CLEARS HER THROAT, NOTICES EVERYONE STARING AT HER AND HEIDI) I was wondering if someone might be able to help us...

WOMAN TWO: Are you looking for someplace to stay?

DETE: Well, not exactly. We're looking for Heidi's grandfather.

BARBEL: (CROSSING to THEM) And is this Heidi?

HEIDI: (CURTSIES) It's very nice to meet you all.

MAN ONE: It's nice to meet you, Heidi.

CROWD AGREES.

BARBEL: You said you're looking for her grandfather?

DETE: Yes. You see, Heidi is an (GLANCES AT HEIDI, THEN) o-r-p-h-a-n.

BARBEL: (BEAT) I can't spell.

HEIDI: Neither can I, but I know that spells "orphan." (PUTS DOWN ON HER BUNDLE)

DETE: Her parents died when she was very young. And I have cared for her ever since. But now I have been offered a position.

HEIDI: Auntie Dete has a chance to work for a wealthy family in Frankfurt.

DETE: Yea and, you see, the child would be a great burden, I mean... they wouldn't allow me to...

HEIDI: Do you know where my grandfather lives?

MAN TWO: What's his name?

HEIDI: I don't know. I've never even seen him before.

DETE: They told us in Maenfeld that he had moved here. They said that, here, he is called the Alm-Uncle.

THERE ARE GASPS AND THE CROWD IS IN SHOCK

CROWD: What? Hunh? The Alm-Uncle? etc.

WOMAN ONE: You are taking this child to live with him?

DETE: Why, yes.

THE CROWD,GROANS AND STARTS TO EXIT

KID #5; (TO HEIDI) You poor thing.

KID #6: I feel sorry for you.

KIDS #7,8,& 9: Me, too....

KIDS EXIT

WOMAN #2: (TO DETE) You should be ashamed of yourself, taking this lovely child to live with that old hermit.

THE LADIES EXIT

MAN #1: (TO MAN #2 AS THEY EXIT) She'll be gone tomorrow.

MAN#2: Unless the Alm-Uncle eats her for dinner tonight.

THEY LAUGH

DETE: I take it the Alm-Uncle is not well liked here.

BARBEL: Let's just say he is widely misunderstood. (EXTENDS HER HAND) My name is Barbel. People say I'm the town gossip, but that's just a nasty rumor.

HEIDI: Is the Grandfather really mean? Will he be mean to me?

BARBEL: Heidi, I don't think anyone could be mean to you. Rumor has it that he was once a wealthy, well-liked man of property but, now he lives up there on the Alm (POINTS HIGH ABOVE THE AUDIENCE)...like an angry hermit.

DETE: (A BIT FRIGHTENED) Up there?

HEIDI: (EXCITED) You mean I'm going to live way up there on the mountain? (DETE

SHAKES HER HEAD) That’s wonderful!

DETE: But how do we get up there? It’s awfully high and steep.

BARBEL: There’s a path. I’ll show you.

STARTS TO LEAD THE WAY, BUT DETE STOPS HER

DETE: But you see, I’m afraid of heights... I get a sickness.

BARBEL: Oh, don’t worry. I’ll hold your arm when we go through the cliffs.

DETE: Cliffs?

HEIDI: Let’s hurry. I can’t wait to get there!

SONG: “WAY UP THERE”

DETE: We’re going way up there.
HEIDI: We shouldn’t waste a minute.
BARBEL: The sooner we begin it,
The sooner we’ll be there.

HEIDI: The sooner we’ll be there.
DETE: But, it isn’t fair.
I’m really very tired.
And since you’re so inspired
You can go ahead alone.

HEIDI: But, it looks so peaceful and still,
just a quiet walk up a little hill.
BARBEL: The child is really right
And if you wait too long
you’ll have to climb back down at night.

DETE: (SPOKEN) That “little hill” looks treacherous enough in the daytime. I’m not about to risk it at night. (GULPS) Well, come on... let’s go.

SUNG:
ALL: We’re going way up there,
through the rocks and trees.
DETE: Won’t someone help us, please?
HEIDI: I wish that I could fly
straight up the mountain, high.
DETE: So do I.
ALL: We’re going from the bottom to the top,
and we won’t stop, ‘til we’re way up there.

Up there.

BLACKOUT.

SCENE II

(CROSSOVER) ON THE PATH TO THE ALM...
DETE ENTERS, VERY SHAKY AND PROPPED UP BY BARBEL AND HEIDI...

DETE: (VERY ACROPHOBIC) Ohh... Are we almost there?

BARBEL: Just a little bit farther.

HEIDI: (LOOKING DOWN) Isn't this wonderful? Look, Auntie Dete, how high we are above the village!

DETE: (LOOKING DOWN, THEN REELING) Ohh...! My goodness! This is an awfully tall mountain. Ohh!

BARBEL: Don't look down, look up.

DETE: (LOOKING UP) Ohhh! That's worse. I never thought I'd have to walk to heaven.

SUDDENLY THERE IS A CLEAR, MELODIC WHISTLE.

DETE: What's that? That's not Gabriel's Trumpet, is it?

HEIDI: No, it sounded like a whistle.

BARBEL: It's probably Peter.

DETE: (OUT OF BREATH) Saint Peter? Oh, no, I'm not ready to die!

BARBEL: No, Peter the Goatherd... (SEES HIM) There he is now.

PETER ENTERS WITH HIS SHORT STAFF. HE WHISTLES AGAIN AND IS STARTLED WHEN HE SEES THE PECULIAR PROCESSION. HE IS A BOY OF FEW WORDS.

BARBEL: Peter? Help us here, would you? Carry these bundles and follow us.

PETER TAKES BUNDLES FROM DETE AND HEIDI

BARBEL: We're going to the Alm-Uncle's.

PETER DROPS THE BUNDLES AND STARTS TO LEAVE

BARBEL: For a penny?

PETER STOPS, THINKS, THEN CROSSES TO BARBEL AND HOLDS OUT HIS HAND.

BARBEL: I'll pay you when we get there.

SHE STARTS TO EXIT WITH DETE. HEIDI REMAINS

BARBEL: Now, pick up the bundles and follow us... we'll go on ahead.

DETE: (AS THEY EXIT) Maybe I'll just close my eyes....

BARBEL: That's a good idea.

PETER CROSSES TO THE BUNDLES NEAR HEIDI AND PICKS THEM UP WITHOUT SPEAKING TO HER. HE STARTS TO FOLLOW AFTER BARBEL.

HEIDI: (CURIOUS) Boy? (PETER STOPS) Wait for me. (SHE CROSSES TO HIM) You don't talk much, do you? (PETER SHAKES HIS HEAD INCONFIRMATION) Why not? (HE SHRUGS) You can talk, can't you? (HE NODS) Then, why don't you say something?

PETER: (BEAT) I'm a man of few words.

HEIDI LAUGHS

PETER: What's so funny?

HEIDI: That's not at all what I thought you'd sound like. (HE STARTS TO LEAVE) Oh, don't go, Peter. (SHE GRABS HIS ARM) Don't you want to know my name?

PETER: (BEAT) No.

HEIDI: (BEAT) It's Heidi.

PETER: That's nice. (STARTS TO LEAVE)

HEIDI: (WALKING WITH HIM) You should take my hand. I might be afraid of heights, like Auntie Dete. (RELUCTANTLY, HE DOES) Peter... do you think we will ever be good friends?

PETER: (BEAT) Probably not.

HEIDI: (SMILES, THEN GIGGLES) Hmmm, I think we will. (PETER ROLLS HIS EYES)

THEY EXIT, WITH HEIDI SINGING A FEW NOTES OF “WAY UP THERE”

BLACKOUT

SCENE III

SPLIT STAGE WITH INTERIOR OF HUT. THE LIGHTS COME UP ON THE EXTERIOR OF THE GRANDFATHER’S HUT ON THE ALM, VERY RUSTIC BUT WELL- KEPT. THERE IS A BENCH, TABLE, AND A BUTTER CHURN CENTER. BARBEL ENTERS WITH DETE, WHO STILL HAS HER EYES CLOSED.

BARBEL: (RELIEVED) Thank goodness... (NOTICES DETE) You can open your eyes now, we’re here.

DETE: (OPENS EYES, ONE-AT-A-TIME) Oh, what a relief, here at last. (LOOKS AROUND) How can anyone live this high up?

BARBEL: No one else does. I guess the Uncle must like the privacy here on the Alm. It’s just him and his goats. Where are... (LOOKS) Oh, here they come now.

PETER SAND HEIDI ENTER. PETER DELIVERS THE BUNDLES TO DETE WHILE...

HEIDI: Oh, Auntie Dete... isn’t it beautiful here?

DETE: (UNIMPRESSED) Hmmm, beautiful.

PETER CROSSES TO BARBEL AND HOLDS OUT HIS HAND. BARBEL TAKES A PENNY OUT OF HER POCKET AND HANDS IT TO HIM)

BARBEL: There you are, Peter.

PETER TIPS HIS HAT AND STARTS TO EXIT

HEIDI: Oh. Peter... will you come and visit me? We could play and talk and have great fun.

PETER: (PAUSES, THEN TURNS TO HER) I come here every day to take the goats up to the pasture. Listen for my whistle.

HEIDI: I will. (HE TURNS TO LEAVE AGAIN) Good-bye, Peter.

PETER: (TURNING) Good-bye. (HE SMILES AND EXITS)

BARBEL: I think that’s the first time I’ve ever seen that boy smile.

HEIDI: He’s nice. (SHE SKIPS AROUND SOME MORE)

DETE: I wonder if the Grandfather is home. Surely he would have heard us.

BARBEL: He might be behind the hut with the goats. (STARTS TO EXIT) Just call him; he must be there.

DETE: Barbel, you're not leaving, are you? I don't want to go back down alone.

BARBEL: No. I'll wait for you over there. (POINTS OFF STAGE) I just don't want to be here when the Alm-Uncle gets this little surprise.

HEIDI: Good-bye, Barbel. I'll see you whenever we come down to the village.

BARBEL: (AS SHE EXITS) Good-bye, Heidi. Good luck.

DETE: (AFTER A COURAGE-GATHERING PAUSE) Well. I guess I should call him.

HEIDI: (CROSSING TO DETE'S SIDE, NERVOUS) Oh, I hope he likes me.

DETE: (CALLING OUT) Hello! Hello, there!

THERE IS ONLY SILENCE AND HEIDI & DETE MOVE A BIT CLOSER TO EACH OTHER.

HEIDI: Try again, Auntie Dete; maybe he didn't hear you.

DETE: (LOUDER) Hello! Hello, Uncle! It's...

SHE IS CUT SHORT WHEN THE GRANDFATHER EMERGES FROM BEHIND THE HUT. HE IS SHOCKED TO SEE HER. HEIDI HIDES BEHIND DETE — HE LOOKS BIG AND MEAN.

GRANDFATHER: Dete... what are you doing here?

DETE: (NERVOUSLY) Uh, hello, Uncle. How have you been?

GRANDFATHER: Never mind how I've been; what do you want?

DETE: Unh... I have brought Adelheid and Tobias' daughter to you.

GRANDFATHER: What!?!

DETE: (AS SHE PULLS HEIDI OUT FROM BEHIND HER SKIRTS) Heidi, this is your Grandfather.

HEIDI, STARING, OPENS HER MOUTH... BUT NOTHING COMES OUT

DETE: (AFTER A MOMENT) I have brought Heidi to live with you, Uncle.

GRANDFATHER: (ROARING) To live with me? Are you out of your mind? (HEIDI

HIDES BEHIND DETE AGAIN) What am I to do with a helpless little child? No!! It's out of the question. (STARTS TO EXIT)

DETE: Uncle, I'm leaving Heidi with you.

GRANDFATHER: (TURNING BACK) I said No!! I will not take her.

DETE: You must take her. I have cared for the child for as long as I can. I have given up everything for her! But now I have a chance at something and I have to think of myself first.

GRANDFATHER: You? But think about her. She doesn't even know me. And I have no place to put her. All she would do is cry and wish she were not here. She wouldn't get proper food and she'd freeze in the winter.

DETE: That's your concern. Tobias was your son and Heidi is his daughter. You are her grandfather and you will take care of her! (PROUD OF HERSELF, SHE PULLS HEIDI OUT FROM BEHIND HER) Good-bye, Heidi. I'm sure that the old man has a heart somewhere. If anyone can find it, you can. (SHE TURNS TO LEAVE)

HEIDI: Won't I ever see you again, Auntie Dete?

DETE: (TURNING) Maybe I'll come back some day, Heidi. Maybe some day. (SHE EXITS)

HEIDI: (ALMOST CRYING) Good-bye, Auntie Dete. (SHE WAVES)

THERE IS A MOMENT OF SILENCE. HEIDI TURNS TOWARD THE GRANDFATHER WHO, EXASPERATED, SITS DOWN ON THE BENCH. HEIDI HESITATES A MOMENT AND THEN CROSSES TO HIM, CAUTIOUSLY. A PAUSE...

HEIDI: (SLOWLY) I'm not mean. (PAUSE) And I don't cry much. (HE LOOKS AT HER) I can help you with your chores. (HE TURNS AWAY FROM HER) And I don't take up much room, I promise... Auntie Dete says I'm very small for my age.

GRANDFATHER: (LOOKING AT HER, STILL COLD, ASKS SOFTLY) How old are you?

HEIDI: I'm ten.

GRANDFATHER: Hmm... and I'm sixty-seven. (SHAKES HIS HEAD)

HEIDI: (THINKS)Hmmm... that's really a very good thing.

GRANDFATHER: What is?

HEIDI: That you're so old. (STANDS AND CROSSES TO HIM) I mean, you must know almost everything there is to know.

GRANDFATHER: (LOOKS AT HER, SIGHS) Are you hungry?

HEIDI: Well, maybe just a little. But I don't eat very much, hardly anything at all.

GRANDFATHER: Well, let's go inside. I'll see what I can find for you. (HE STANDS AND SHE TAKES HIS HAND)

HEIDI: Are we going in the house?

GRANDFATHER: (TAKING NOTE OF HER HAND IN HIS) Yes.

HEIDI: Then... does this mean I can stay?

GRANDFATHER: (SIGHS) I suppose it does.

HEIDI: Oh, that's wonderful! (JUMPS UP AND DOWN) That's wonderful! Oh, I'm so happy, Grandfather. I just knew you weren't as mean as everybody said. I just have so much to tell you about myself. (THEY PICK UP BUNDLES) I have my whole life to tell you.

GRANDFATHER: Yes, yes...

THE LIGHTS CROSS-FADE AS THEY ENTER THE HUT.

HEIDI: (SHE LIKES IT) Oh, this is just how I thought it would be. (SHE LOOKS ALL AROUND HER - PUTS BUNDLES DOWN)

GRANDFATHER: It's not much. (HE CROSSES TO THE SHELVES AND GETS A LOAF OF BREAD AND SOME CHEESE)

HEIDI: It feels so warm and cozy in here.

GRANDFATHER: That's because it's very small. Sit down, I'll give you some bread and cheese. (ON HER WAY TO THE LITTLE TABLE HEIDI LOOKS OVER AND UNDER EVERYTHING) What are you looking for?

HEIDI: The old goat.

GRANDFATHER: The what?

HEIDI: The old goat. I've never seen one before. (SHE SITS DOWN) On the way up here, I heard Barbel ask Auntie Dete why she was going to let me live with an old goat.

GRANDFATHER: Sit. Eat. Put the cheese on the bread, it tastes better that way. (SHE BEGINS TO EAT AS IF THERE WERE NO TOMORROW) Would you like some milk?

HEIDI: Yes, please.

GRANDFATHER: Well, at least you have some manners.

HEIDI: Hmmm, this tastes wonderful, Grandfather. This is the best cheese I've ever tasted, and the bread is wonderful, too. (HE POURS HER SOME MILK FROM A WOODEN PAIL) Everything tastes so much better here.

GRANDFATHER: It is the mountain air.

HEIDI: No, I think it's the cheese.

GRANDFATHER: (SMILING) Here, drink this. (SETS GLASS DOWN. SHE PICKS IT UP AND DRINKS) It's goat's milk. Fresh. And the cheese is goats cheese.

HEIDI: (IN AMAZEMENT) You mean both of these came from the same place?

GRANDFATHER: From a goat.

HEIDI: Oh, Grandfather, you must be very smart. I would never have thought of that!

GRANDFATHER: I guess we all have many things to learn.

HEIDI: Well, they both taste wonderful. (HE SMILES AGAIN, OBVIOUSLY STARTING TO LIKE HER)

GRANDFATHER: Well now, we must find a place for you to sleep.

SUDDENLY, THERE IS A MELLOW WHISTLING FROM OUTSIDE. HEIDI LOOKS UP

HEIDI: What's that sound, Grandfather?

GRANDFATHER: Oh, that's just the whistling of wind through the fir trees.

HEIDI: It's very pretty. What's the wind whistling about?

GRANDFATHER: (TELLING IT AS IF IT WERE A LITTLE STORY) Oh... the wind is calling out to the darkness, reminding it that it's evening and the sun has long gone down, and that now it's time for the darkness to protect the sky. (HE BEGINS TO ARRANGE A BED OF STRAW AND BLANKETS IN THE LOFT) The big fir trees sway with the music.

HEIDI: You know so many things, Grandfather. (SHE FINISHES HER MILK. THE WIND WHISTLES AGAIN) And does the darkness always follow?

GRANDFATHER: Always. Just like the goats follow Peter when he whistles.

HEIDI: (THINKS) That’s wonderful.

GRANDFATHER: Here, now, this will be your bed. And you have your own little window, so you can look straight up to the sky.

HEIDI: (JUMPS UP, EXCITED: HE LIFTS HER INTO THE LOFT) Oh, Grandfather, it’s just perfect!

GRANDFATHER: I’ll find you a blanket. (HE OPENS A CHEST AND RUMMAGES AROUND BEFORE FINDING ONE)

HEIDI: I can see them, Grandfather, the big fir trees. And when the wind whistles they move, just like you said. (SHE THINKS FOR A MOMENT) I love the sound of the wind. It’s almost like it’s singing to me.

GRANDFATHER: Here’s your blanket.

HEIDI: Grandfather, I love it here. It’s... it’s...

GRANDFATHER: Wonderful?

HEIDI: (LAUGHS AND HUGS HIM AROUND THE NECK) Yes! It’s wonderful!

THE GRANDFATHER LAUGHS AND SITS HEIDI ON HIS LAP AS HE RECLINES IN HIS CHAIR. THEY BOTH SIT FOR A MOMENT WITH CONTENTED LOOKS ON THEIR FACES

HEIDI: Grandfather... why did you come to live way up here on the Alm? (AS SHE ASKS THIS QUESTION, SHE LAYS HER HEAD ON HIS SHOULDER)

GRANDFATHER: Just to be alone, mostly. To get away from people.

HEIDI: Don’t you like people? (SHE YAWNS)

GRANDFATHER: (SLOWLY, THOUGHTFULLY) They don’t like me. I guess my way of life wasn’t to their liking... or maybe they didn’t like the things that I said. They didn’t give me much of a chance. And, after a while, I didn’t give them much, either. So I moved up here so that I wouldn’t have to worry about people, one way or the other. I guess if there were more people in the world like you... (HE NOTICES THAT SHE’S FALLEN ASLEEP)...Heidi... Heidi.(TO HIMSELF) And to think I didn’t want you at all.

SONG: “HEIDI”

GRANDFATHER: Heidi, Heidi.
Pretty little flower
Dancing in the hour
of the morning sun.

You fill my life with fun.
Heidi, Heidi,
Shining like the crystal snow.
In your face, I see a glow
And I feel so wise.
Each time that I look in your eyes.
You have a very special way,
and I'm not sure that I understand
All the feelings that I felt today
The moment that you took my hand.
Heidi, Heidi.
I have found a secret treasure.
You have made my life a pleasure,
This very day.
Please, Heidi, don't ever go away.
Away.

BY THE END OF THE SONG, THE GRANDFATHER HAS TUCKED HEIDI INTO HER BED. HE KISSES HER CHEEK ON THE LAST BEAT OF THE MUSIC.

BLACKOUT

SCENE IV

LIGHTS COME UP ON THE EXTERIOR OF THE GRANDFATHER'S HUT. THE TIME IS THREE WEEKS LATER. GRANDFATHER IS HAPPILY WHISTLING A TUNE AS HE FINISHES REPAIRING A STOOL AT THE SMALL TABLE, CENTER. HE STANDS.

GRANDFATHER: (CALLING) Heidi, hurry up! The sun is laughing at you!

HEIDI: (FROM INSIDE) I'm almost ready! Just one more button!

GRANDFATHER: How would you like to go up to the pasture with Peter and the goats today?

HEIDI: (STILL FROM INSIDE) That would be wonderful'

GRANDFATHER: I thought you might say that.

SHE COMES OUT OF THE HUT, WEARING THE TRADITIONAL “HEIDI” OUTFIT.

HEIDI: Good morning, Grandfather. (SHE KISSES HIM ON THE CHEEK) Good morning trees. Good morning, birds, and good morning Mr. Mountain (SHE STARTS TO SIT DOWN AT THE TABLE) And hello, food! (TAKES A BITE OF BREAD) Can I really go with Peter this morning?

GRANDFATHER: If you want to.

HEIDI: (THINKING) I think he’s a very interesting person. But, you know, I’ve been here almost a month now and he still won’t talk to me very much.

GRANDFATHER: That’s just his way.

HEIDI: He talks to the goats, though.

GRANDFATHER: Maybe that’s because the goats don’t talk back.

HEIDI: Maybe. (REMEMBERS) Oh, I almost forgot to say good morning to Barli and Swanli.

GRANDFATHER: You can say good morning to the goats later. Finish your bread; Peter will be whistling any minute now.

HEIDI: (STUFFS HER CHEEKS LIKE A CHIPMUNK) Alright.

GRANDFATHER: I’ll pack something for you and Peter to eat at noontime. You wash your face. (POINTS TO A BOWL OF WATER ON THE BENCH) Here’s your cloth to dry. (PUTS CLOTH ON TABLE AND EXITS INTO HUT)

HEIDI CROSSES TO THE BOWL, TRYING TO WHISTLE.

HEIDI: (TO HERSELF) I wonder how Peter can whistle like that?

SHE SQUINTS HER EYES AND SPLASHES COLD WATER ON HER FACE AND SCRUBS. JUST THEN, WE HEAR PETER WHISTLE.

HEIDI: Oh no, it’s him! (SHE STILL HAS HER EYES CLOSED AND STARTS GROPING AROUND, UNABLE TO FIND THE CLOTH)

PETER ENTERS WITHOUT SAYING A WORD AS HEIDI, STILL TRYING TO FIND THE CLOTH WITHOUT OPENING HER EYES, ENDS UP DRYING HER FACE ON PETER’S SHIRT TAIL. HE JUST STARES AT HER AS SHE FINISHES, THEN SHE OPENS HER EYES.

HEIDI: (REALIZING WHAT SHE’S DONE) Oh... I’m sorry Peter, I...

GRANDFATHER: (ENTERING) Ah, good morning, General. I have special orders for you today. (CROSSING TO PETER) You will have another in your troops this morning.

PETER: Did you get a new goat?

GRANDFATHER: Uh... Yes. A pretty little goat.

PETER: Well, you have Barli, and Swanli what’s the new goat’s name?

GRANDFATHER: (SMILES) Heidi...

HEIDI: (LIKE A GOAT) Baaaah...

PETER: (BRIGHTENING) Heidi’s coming with me?

GRANDFATHER: Yes.

PETER: (CATCHING HIMSELF, THEN PRETENDING DISINTEREST) That’s fine.

GRANDFATHER: Here, give me your haversack. I have bread and cheese for your lunch. And here’s a bowl for milk.

PETER: From Swanli!

GRANDFATHER: Of course, General.

HEIDI: Why do you call him General, Grandfather?

GRANDFATHER: Because he’s a leader. He leads and the goats follow. They obey his every command. He’s the General of the Goats.

SONG: “GENERAL OF THE GOATS”

GRANDFATHER: He’s the General of the Goats
every goat on the Alm salutes him.
When his whistle calls
the whole herd falls behind him
resolutely.
He’s fearless and strong
as he leads the throng;
Up through the pass to fight the grass;
He’s the General of the Goats.

GRANDFATHER EXITS TO GET THE GOATS.

HEIDI: He’s the General of the Goats.
And I think he’s really cute,
With his dimpled cheeks
And the way he speaks,
If I were a goat, I’d salute.
With his stick held high
and a twinkle in his eye.
Though he’s kind of shy
You can sure see why
He’s the General of the Goats.

THE GRANDFATHER COMES OUT WITH THE TWO GOATS AND PETER LEADS HEIDI, GRANDFATHER AND THE GOATS IN A LITTLE MARCH.

PETER: With my stick held high
GRANDFATHER: And a twinkle in his eye
HEIDI: Though he's kind of shy
GRANDFATHER
AND HEIDI: You can sure see why
ALL 3: He's the General of the Goats.
He's the General of the Goats.

AFTER THE SONG.

GRANDFATHER: Now, go along, children. I'll come up and join you on the pasture later.

HEIDI: This should be fun. This is very exciting.

PETER: Everything is exciting to you. (HE STARTS OUT WITH THE GOATS)

HEIDI: (VERY FAST) Are we going to go very high up? How do the goats stay all together? Can you teach me to whistle?

GRANDFATHER: (SMILING) Take care of her, General.

PETER STOPS, LOOKS AT THE GRANDFATHER, AND JUST ROLLS HIS EYES AS HEIDI KEEPS GOING ON AND ON...

HEIDI: (AS THEY EXIT) How did you learn to lead goats? Is it cold up where we are going? How many goats do you have?

GRANDFATHER: (LAUGHS AS THEY EXIT, THEN SINGS) Heidi, Heidi, pretty little flower.....

FADE OUT.

SCENE V

THE LIGHTS COME UP ON THE PASTURE ABOVE THE ALM. VERY PRETTY, IN FACT PROBABLY WONDERFUL. THERE IS A BIG ROCK, CENTER, NEAR WHICH HEIDI IS PICKING FLOWERS. PETER IS SEATED NEAR A TREE...

HEIDI: Oh, Peter, this must surely be the most beautiful place in the whole world. I have never seen so many pretty flowers. No wonder this is the goats' favorite place.

PETER: (HALF-ASLEEP) They like to eat the flowers... they'll eat anything!

HEIDI: (POINTING UP ABOVE AUDIENCE) Look how high they've climbed. Aren't you afraid they'll get lost?

PETER: No, there's only one way to go after you've gone up. (HE POINTS DOWN). Besides, goats can't get lost. (SUDDENLY) I'm getting hungry. Can we eat now?

HEIDI: Of course. It's so beautiful here... (SHE STARTS TO SET EVERYTHING OUT ON THE BIG ROCK) ...I completely forgot. It must be a long time past noon.

PETER: (ANXIOUSLY MOVING OVER TO THE ROCK) Long past.

HEIDI: Here's some cheese and some bread. (PETER TAKES IT AND STARTS TO EAT). Put the cheese on the bread, it tastes better that way. (SHE WATCHES AS HE WOLFS DOWN THE FOOD) Didn't you have any breakfast?

PETER: No, or supper last night.

HEIDI: Why not?

PETER: (RELUCTANTLY, AFTER A PAUSE) We don't have much food. Only milk from the goats.

HEIDI: (THINKS, THEN ASKS) Do you have any parents?

PETER: Just my mother and grandmother. (HE FINISHES HIS FOOD)

HEIDI: (OFFERING HER OWN) Here, Peter, I'm not very hungry. (HE HESITATES) Please take it. I don't want to waste it.

PETER: (HE SLOWLY TAKES IT, LOOKS DOWN, VERY SOFTLY) No one has ever given me anything before. (BEAT)

PETER LOOKS UP AT HER AND THERE IS A PAUSE, THEN A LOUD SQUAWK THAT STARTLES BOTH OF THEM. HEIDI LOOKS UP.

HEIDI: What was that?

PETER: Oh, that's just the old Robber Bird.

HEIDI: Robber Bird? (SHE STANDS AND WATCHES THE BIRD)

PETER: Heidi, is it all right to take this food home? The Grandmother's teeth aren't very good and she would greatly like to eat something soft like this.

HEIDI: Of course. (THE BIRD SQUAWKS AGAIN AND SHE LOOKS). What is the

Robber Bird doing?

PETER: He’s laughing at us.

HEIDI: Why?

PETER: Because we have to live down here on the ground all cramped together in our little huts, while he can fly wide and free.

HEIDI: Hmmmmm... what does he rob?

PETER: Straw and sticks, mostly. He uses them to build his nest.

HEIDI: I like him.

PETER: You like everything.

HEIDI: He’s wonderful!

THE BIRD SQUAWKS.

PETER: So are you.....

REALIZING WHAT HE’S JUST SAID, HE’S SHOCKED AND EMBARRASSED. STANDING, HE RUNS OFFSTAGE. HEIDI SMILES, THEN GIGGLES.

GRANDFATHER: (FROM OFFSTAGE) Heidi! Heidi!

HEIDI: Over here, Grandfather, by the big rock!

GRANDFATHER: (ENTERING, A BIT WINDED) Ah, there you are. Well, have you enjoyed your day, Heidi?

HEIDI: : (RUNS TO HIM) Oh, yes, Grandfather... and I have so much to tell you’

GRANDFATHER: All right, let’s sit down and you can tell me all about it.

HEIDI: (LEADING HIM OVER TO THE BIG ROCK, ON WHICH THEY SIT, SHE TALKS RAPIDLY) Well, first we brought the goats to the pond so they could get a drink. And then I picked bunches and bunches of beautiful flowers. (SHE HANDS HIM SOME) These are for you.

GRANDFATHER: Thank you.

HEIDI: Then we let the goats go way up on the mountain. Peter says they like the food up there. And then we ate and then the Robber Bird laughed at us because we can’t fly like he can. (STOPS TO TAKE A DEEP BREATH)... and that’s all. (SHE LEANS AGAINST

“HEIDI”

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HIM).

GRANDFATHER: (LAUGHING) Heidi, you are truly wonderful.

HEIDI: That's what Peter said.

GRANDFATHER: He did?

HEIDI: And then he blushed and ran up the mountain. He said lots of things today, Grandfather. He told me about his mother and grandmother... she doesn't have very good teeth.

GRANDFATHER: (AMAZED) He said all this?

HEIDI: Yes. (THINKS) Can we go to their hut to visit someday, Grandfather?

GRANDFATHER: If you wish.

HEIDI: Soon

GRANDFATHER: As soon as you wish.....

HEIDI: Good, I want to meet them. They don't have much food, you know? We can take them some... (NOTICES SOMETHING STRANGE) Oh, Grandfather, what's happening to the mountain?

GRANDFATHER: What?

HEIDI: It's changing colors! See, it's almost red. Is something wrong?

GRANDFATHER: No, Heidi, that's just the sunset. You see, when the sun says goodnight to the mountains, he sends them his most beautiful rays so that they won't forget him before he comes back in the morning.

HEIDI: (IN WONDER) And then the wind whistles to the darkness to protect the sky.....

GRANDFATHER: That's right.

HEIDI: The mountain is so beautiful, Grandfather. Every single thing about it. (HER ATTENTION SHIFTS) Look, there's Peter. (POINTING)

GRANDFATHER: And I'd better help him with the goats or we won't be home by nightfall. (GETS UP) You wait here; it's too steep for you up there.

HEIDI: Alright, Grandfather. (HE EXITS AND SHE IS LEFT ALONE) I love it here on the mountain... my mountain...

SONG: “ON MY MOUNTAIN”

HEIDI: Here I am,
 Looking on my mountain,
 On my mountain,
 So high above.
 Feeling higher,
 Than my mountain,
 Can my mountain
 Fill me with love?
 I love the clouds so white,
 And the pretty birds in flight
 Singing all through the day,
 As the flowers gently sway.
 Look at me
 Upon my mountain,
 On my mountain,
 Here to stay.

*INSTRUMENTAL INTERLUDE, DURING IT, SHE PICKS FLOWERS, LOOKS AROUND,
SKIPS*

HEIDI: I love the whistle through the trees,
 And the buzzing of the bees,
 And the sweetness in the air,
 It’s all for me to share.
 Come with me
 We’ll go on my mountain,
 On my mountain
 I love it there.
 On my mountain.

BLACKOUT.

<end of excerpt>