

#2 Alice and Lizzie

#11 "THE MILK" (UNDERScore)

(LIZZIE, outside, runs into ALICE again who has come calling as planned)

[SFX: crickets and cicadas]

[SFX: wind rustling through trees]

[SFX: horse drawn carriage in the distance]

ALICE

Lizzie!

LIZZIE

Alice...

ALICE

Will you receive a friend here in the yard, or shall we go upstairs?

LIZZIE

Oh Alice. I am so sorry. I must go to Bence's pharmacy.

ALICE

Why?

LIZZIE

Mr. and Mrs. Borden were awfully sick last night.

ALICE

Are your Father and Mother alright?

LIZZIE

(dark and deliberate)

Don't call her mother.

(crickets and cicadas are silent)

ALICE

(reaches out to touch her)

Are you well?

LIZZIE

We were all sick.

(casually)

All but Maggie.

(music starts...we see Bridget's ear perk up)

LIZZIE (CONT'D)

The milk ... I think our milk might be poisoned. We all drank of it, all but Maggie, and Maggie wasn't sick.

(BRIDGET, irritated at the inadvertent set-up that may make her a suspect, exits)

ALICE

If it had been the milk from the farmer himself, I should suppose other people would be sick, and I haven't heard of anybody. How do you get your milk?

LIZZIE

We have the milk come in a can and set on a step, and we have an empty can. We put out the empty can overnight, and the next morning when they bring the milk, they take the empty can.

ALICE

And what time does the farmer come?

LIZZIE

I think about four o'clock.

ALICE

Well it is light at four. I shouldn't think anybody would dare to come then and tamper with the cans for fear that someone should see them.

LIZZIE

I shouldn't think so. But Mrs. Borden even told the Doctor that she thought she had been poisoned.

(music stops)

ALICE

Who would do something like that?

#12 WILL YOU STAY?

(back in the world of Alice, outside of the house...the stage is dappled in leafy shadows, green and yellow...the evening fades...the portraits are now windows looking out/...from dusk to night across a sky, silhouettes of branches of pear trees ripe with fruit...as if Alice makes the world fecund)

LIZZIE

I don't know, but I can't sleep at night. Father has so many enemies. I'm afraid that somebody will do something. I don't know but what somebody will do something.

I WANT TO SLEEP WITH MY EYES HALF OPEN
ONE EYE OPEN HALF THE TIME

(ALICE touches LIZZIE)

ALICE

BUT IF YOU CLOSE YOUR EYES
YOU'LL SEE THE GOLDEN PEAR
IT HIDES THE KEY THAT CAN
OPEN UP YOUR HEART AND END YOUR TOIL
SEE HOW THEY RIPEN ON THE BOUGH
NOW THEY'RE FALLING TO THE GROUND
TO BE GATHERED UP IN SKIRTS BEFORE THEY SPOIL

WILL YOU LAY NEXT TO ME
IN THE SHADE OF THE TREE
WILL YOU BITE THROUGH THE SKIN
TO THE SWEET FLESH WITHIN
WILL YOU REST FOR AWHILE
LET ME BRING BACK YOUR SMILE
WILL YOU LAY NEXT TO ME
WILL YOU STAY

LIZZIE

I ought to be on my way...

(LIZZIE moves as if to leave...the song transforms and becomes a rock-show number with ALICE as super sister woman lover, rock force, pulling LIZZIE to her bosom, to her heart)

ALICE

THE PEAR IS JEALOUS OF THE ROSE
BECAUSE SHE HEARS OF ALL YOUR WOES