

THE ROAD TO HAPPILY EVER AFTER

An Original Musical by Harry J. Evry
Book, Words and Music by Harry J. Evry
Additional Dialogue by Jeffrey Braer

MASTER MUSICAL BOOK & SCENE OUTLINE

Revised working draft — 48 storyboard-aligned scenes | Stage and Feature-Film Musical
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Story Overview

Jonathon, a gifted but reckless apprentice magician, is expelled from the academy and travels toward Faregarden hoping Royal Wizard Banitar will take him on. Princess Elana flees a future chosen by her mother, Queen Phyllis. Their journeys converge at the Marigold Inn, where they fall in love but separate over incompatible ambitions. Both reconsider and seek one another, narrowly missing on the road. Bart deposes honorable brigand leader Stu and kidnaps Elana for ransom. Jonathon returns to the inn, learns of the abduction and follows a magical trail to the wharf. Stu attempts to rescue Elana, but is thrown overboard; she frees herself and saves him. Skeezy refuses to murder Jonathon and warns him that Elana was aboard the barge. Believing she is still captive, Jonathon summons a star-like blast that destroys the barge and pier. Convinced Elana died, he surrenders for unlicensed magic. Elana returns with the wounded Stu, pleads for Jonathon and secures his pardon. Banitar offers Jonathon an apprenticeship, the Queen honors Stu, and the company celebrates new beginnings.

Characters

Jonathon — Talented, enthusiastic and impulsive; grows from reckless ambition into responsibility, humility and love.

Princess Elana — Independent daughter of the Queen; seeks freedom, rescues herself and Stu, and chooses her future.

Queen Phyllis — A loving mother who learns to trust her daughter rather than control her.

Chancellor Banitar — Royal Wizard and Chancellor; eventually recognizes Jonathon's maturity and becomes his mentor.

Stu / King of the Night — Leader of the wharf brigands with a code of honor; refuses to betray Elana and later becomes Royal Harbormaster.

Skeezy — Conflicted gang member; ultimately rejects Bart's order and warns Jonathon.

Bart — Ruthless brigand who deposes Stu and kidnaps Elana for ransom.

Constable Slater — Officer investigating the wharf disaster and receiving Jonathon's surrender.

Innkeeper Steve — Welcoming Marigold Inn proprietor; principal singer of 'Dance the Part'; injured defending Elana and departs to alert the Guard.

Marigold — Steve's wife; counsels Elana and supports the tavern performance.

Harpsichord Player — Supporting performer during 'Dance the Part,' not the principal singer.

Headmaster; Instructors 1 and 2; Student Council — Academy authorities responsible for Jonathon's discipline.

Young Noble; Chambermaid — Elana's frustrated fellow suitor and attendant, respectively.

Ensemble — Academy students, courtiers, nobles, guards, brigands, tavern guests, farm workers, townspeople and magical reflections.

White Dove — Recurring visual guide connecting Elana's escape and Jonathon's journey.

ACT I — THE ROADS WE CHOOSE

SCENE 1 — The Apprentice Academy

♪ *MUSICAL NUMBER 1 — Overture & The Apprentice Academy*

Jonathon races across the academy campus using magic, shortcuts, dexterity and wit to reach the demonstration field before his absence is noticed.

SCENE 2 — Demonstration Field

♪ *MUSICAL NUMBER 2 — Magic by the Book*

At a faculty-supervised incantation exercise, Jonathon's overconfident magic starts a fire. When the exercise is repeated, he summons a small star; the impact knocks everyone down and burns a crater in the field.

SCENE 3 — Judgment of the Circle

♪ *MUSICAL NUMBER 3 — By Order of the Circle*

The Headmaster, instructors and Student Council expel Jonathon. They confiscate his wand and license. Unlicensed magic is punishable by death; Banitar's apprenticeship or leaving the continent are his remaining options.

SCENE 4 — Leaving the Academy

♪ *MUSICAL NUMBER 4 — Look for Me*

Jonathon sets off toward Faregarden, determined to prove himself and recover his future as a magician.

SCENE 5 — The Wilderness

♪ *MUSICAL NUMBER 5 — Winds Are Blowing*

On the mountain forest road, Jonathon struggles through confusing paths, rivers and dangers, trying to maintain his optimism.

SCENE 6 — The Princess's Chamber

♪ *MUSICAL NUMBER 6 — Someone Is Out There*

The Chambermaid prepares Princess Elana for the ball. Elana imagines a hero searching for her; magical reflections express her romantic hopes.

SCENE 7 — Lost on the Road

♪ *MUSICAL NUMBER 7 — Where's the Road to Happily Ever After*

Lost in the wilderness, Jonathon wonders whether he can ever find the road to the life he dreams of.

SCENE 8 — The Royal Ball

♪ *MUSICAL NUMBER 8 — Round N' Round*

Queen Phyllis and Banitar watch the ball. Elana meets a young noble who also resents the marriage ritual; they dance out and flee separately.

SCENE 9 — The Late King's Study

♪ *MUSICAL NUMBER 9 — Magic Answers*

In her late father's study, Elana reads his fairy-tale book. Banitar tries to bring her back to the ball but dismisses her dreams; she closes the book and leaves.

SCENE 10 — The Memorial Garden

♪ *MUSICAL NUMBER 10 — Tell Me a Story*

At her father's memorial statue, Elana mourns his absence and longs for his advice.

SCENE 11 — The Dove

♪ *MUSICAL NUMBER 11 — Softly in the Dark*

Elana releases a caged white dove, packs her belongings and escapes the castle in pursuit of freedom.

SCENE 12 — A Mother's Decision

♪ *MUSICAL NUMBER 12 — Where Your Dreams Belong*

The Queen learns of the escape. Banitar and the Guard prepare to retrieve Elana, but Phyllis decides to trust her daughter and let her choose her own path; Elana does not know she has been permitted to leave.

SCENE 13 — The King of the Night

♪ *MUSICAL NUMBER 13 — King of the Night*

A hooded man, Stu—the King of the Night—guides Elana through the wharf underworld and across rooftops, explaining the thieves' code. He distributes her money and jewels to his gang.

SCENE 14 — The King of the Night (continued)

♪ *MUSICAL NUMBER 13 — King of the Night (continued)*

Continuing 'King of the Night,' Stu keeps his promise and escorts Elana safely out of the city. Skeezy admires his honor; Bart resents the wealth they let escape, foreshadowing their conflict.

SCENE 15 — The Reluctant Guide

♪ *MUSICAL NUMBER 14 — The Reluctant Guide*

Jonathon meets the released white dove at a wilderness crossroads, asks it for direction and follows the route it chooses.

SCENE 16 — The Marigold Inn

♪ *MUSICAL NUMBER 15 — At the Marigold*

At the Marigold Inn and farm, Jonathon receives food and lodging in exchange for work. As he is shown the property, he repeatedly encounters Elana, also working for her room and board.

SCENE 17 — Evening at the Tavern

♪ MUSICAL NUMBER 16 — Dance the Part

During the tavern evening, Steve leads 'Dance the Part' as principal singer. Marigold and the harpsichord player also perform, but are not the principal singers. Steve encourages Jonathon to dance with Elana. Afterwards Steve and Marigold suggest a picnic on the day of rest.

SCENE 18 — After the Dance

♪ MUSICAL NUMBER 17 — Once Like a Dream

Helping Marigold clean the kitchen, Elana relives her delightful evening with Jonathon and wonders what it means.

SCENE 19 — A Possible Romance

♪ MUSICAL NUMBER 18 — Perhaps

Preparing for the picnic, Jonathon imagines that he and Elana might share a romantic future.

SCENE 20 — Different Dreams

♪ MUSICAL NUMBER 19 — Why Don't We

At their prairie picnic, Elana dreams of freedom and a quiet anonymous life; Jonathon dreams of magical prestige, position and nobility. They recognize their ambitions may be incompatible.

SCENE 21 — Marigold's Advice

♪ MUSICAL NUMBER 20 — Deep in the Heart

Marigold advises Elana to listen to her heart. Jonathon and Elana reluctantly part, each unwilling to surrender a cherished dream.

SCENE 22 — The Return of the Reluctant Guide

♪ MUSICAL NUMBER 21 — The Return of the Reluctant Guide

On the road toward Faregarden, Jonathon doubts his decision. The white dove flies back toward the inn. Jonathon chooses love and turns to follow it. End of Act I.

ACT II — THE ROAD BACK

SCENE 23 — Searching for One Another

♪ *MUSICAL NUMBER 22 — To the Ends of the Earth*

Act II opens as Elana goes in search of Jonathon while he returns toward the Marigold Inn. Their journeys pass narrowly by one another.

SCENE 24 — The Princess's Identity Revealed

BOOK SCENE

The brigands learn from a royal proclamation that the traveler they escorted was Princess Elana. Bart proposes ransom; Stu refuses to break his promise. The gang chooses Bart over Stu. Skeezy reluctantly stays with the gang.

SCENE 25 — The Brigands Seize Elana

BOOK SCENE

Bart and the brigands seize Elana outside the Marigold Inn. Steve is injured trying to protect her. Stu follows the abductors to attempt a rescue; Skeezy begins to question Bart's cruelty.

SCENE 26 — Jonathon Arrives Too Late

♪ *MUSICAL NUMBER 23 — Just When I Thought*

Approaching the Marigold Inn, Jonathon sings 'Just When I Thought,' anticipating a reunion and regretting that he waited so long to choose Elana.

SCENE 27 — Jonathon Learns of the Abduction

BOOK SCENE

Jonathon finds Marigold and the innkeeper and learns of the kidnapping. Steve, injured while defending Elana, has already gone to alert the Queen's Guard. Jonathon uses magic to reveal Elana's trail.

SCENE 28 — Following the Trail

BOOK SCENE

Jonathon follows the glowing magical trail toward Faregarden's harbor, where the brigands are holding Elana aboard a barge.

SCENE 29 — Stu Helps Elana

BOOK SCENE

Stu sneaks onto the barge, knocks out Elana's guard and tosses her a knife. He draws the arriving brigands away from her.

SCENE 30 — Stu Confronts the Brigands

BOOK SCENE

Stu battles two brigands, luring them toward the stern so Elana can reach the knife.

SCENE 31 — Elana Cuts Her Bonds

BOOK SCENE

While Stu fights, Elana uses the knife to saw through her bonds, taking an active role in her escape.

SCENE 32 — Stu Overpowered / Thrown Overboard

BOOK SCENE

The brigands overpower Stu, choke him unconscious and throw him into the harbor.

SCENE 33 — Elana Rescues the King of the Night

BOOK SCENE

Elana escapes from the barge, sees Stu wounded in the water, dives in and brings him ashore. She attends to his injuries; she does not hide him near the shore.

SCENE 34 — Skeezy's Change of Heart

BOOK SCENE

At the wharf, Bart orders Skeezy to attack and stab Jonathon. Skeezy refuses the killing order, secretly warns him that Elana was taken aboard the barge, drops the knife and walks away. His departure saves him from the coming blast.

SCENE 35 — The Wharf Fight

♪ MUSICAL NUMBER 24 — The Wharf Fight

Jonathon confronts Bart and the brigands on the cargo pier. They beat him while he fights to survive, believing Elana remains aboard the barge.

SCENE 36 — The Improvised Wand

♪ *MUSICAL NUMBER 24 — The Wharf Fight (continued)*

Jonathon makes an improvised wand from a branch; Bart laughs at his apparent helplessness.

SCENE 37 — The Magic Takes Shape

♪ *MUSICAL NUMBER 24 — The Wharf Fight (continued)*

With the brigands advancing, Jonathon traces magical incantations with the makeshift wand and summons destructive power.

SCENE 38 — Catastrophic Magical Blast

♪ *MUSICAL NUMBER 24 — The Wharf Fight (conclusion)*

A star-like magical blast devastates the pier and barge. Jonathon survives but believes Elana was killed aboard the barge; Bart and the brigands caught in the explosion are presumed dead.

SCENE 39 — The Devastated Wharf

BOOK SCENE

Amid the ruined wharf, Skeezy tells Constable Slater that Jonathon uttered words and an explosion followed. Jonathon accepts responsibility and surrenders for practicing magic without a license, an offense carrying a death sentence.

SCENE 40 — Elana's Return

BOOK SCENE

Having saved and tended Stu, Elana escorts the wounded former King of the Night back to the royal castle. She learns of Jonathon's arrest and returns voluntarily to save him.

SCENE 41 — The Queen and Princess Reunited

♪ *MUSICAL NUMBER 25 — A Mother's Gift*

Queen Phyllis and Elana reunite. In 'A Mother's Gift,' Elana learns that her mother trusted her and deliberately let her leave; they affirm their love, pride and friendship.

SCENE 42 — Jonathon Before the Queen

BOOK SCENE

Jonathon is brought before Queen Phyllis in shackles. Skeezy appears as a witness. The charge is unlicensed magic, not murder, and the stated penalty is death.

SCENE 43 — Elana Pleads for Jonathon

BOOK SCENE

Elana appears and pleads for Jonathon, explaining that he fought for his life and believed she was a captive on the barge. Jonathon is astonished and relieved to discover she survived.

SCENE 44 — The Queen's Decision

BOOK SCENE

The Queen considers Jonathon's intentions and responsibility. He admits knowingly using prohibited magic and pledges never to use it again. Phyllis grants him a royal pardon on that condition.

SCENE 45 — Together in the Royal Garden

♪ MUSICAL NUMBER 26 — *Where Is All the Magic*

In the royal garden, Jonathon and Elana reunite in love. In 'Where Is All the Magic,' Jonathon accepts that he may never practice magic again, because Elana is the only magic he needs.

SCENE 46 — The Chancellor's Offer

BOOK SCENE

Banitar arrives in the garden, recognizes Jonathon's courage and newfound responsibility, and offers to accept him as an apprentice, subject to the Queen's approval.

SCENE 47 — Recognition and New Beginnings

BOOK SCENE

Banitar brings Jonathon and Elana before the Queen. She recognizes Stu's courage and integrity in helping Elana and appoints him Royal Harbormaster, welcoming him to court; Skeezy smiles nearby.

SCENE 48 — Happy Endings

♪ MUSICAL NUMBER 27 — *Happy Endings*

The Queen approves Jonathon's apprenticeship. Banitar releases celebratory magic, and the company joins 'Happy Endings' in a celebration of love, forgiveness and new beginnings.

END-CREDITS INSTRUMENTAL — MUSICAL NUMBER 28

WORLD OF MAGIC — Instrumental transition into the end credits following Scene 48. Not a separate numbered scene or storyboard panel.

Character Arcs

Jonathon: Talented, enthusiastic and impulsive; grows from reckless ambition into responsibility, humility and love.

Princess Elana: Independent daughter of the Queen; seeks freedom, rescues herself and Stu, and chooses her future.

Queen Phyllis: A loving mother who learns to trust her daughter rather than control her.

Chancellor Banitar: Royal Wizard and Chancellor; eventually recognizes Jonathon's maturity and becomes his mentor.

Stu / King of the Night: Leader of the wharf brigands with a code of honor; refuses to betray Elana and later becomes Royal Harbormaster.

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Bart: Ruthless brigand who deposes Stu and kidnaps Elana for ransom.

Stage and Film Adaptation

The two-act stage musical ends Act I with Jonathon's decision to return to Elana after "The Return of the Reluctant Guide"; Act II opens with "To the Ends of the Earth." Stagecraft uses choreography, lighting, sound, projections, scenic transformations and theatrical illusion to realize the magic. The dove recurs as a visual motif; the barge rescue and wharf explosion are the principal Act II effects sequence.

The feature-film musical preserves the same narrative, songs and character arcs. Cinematic locations expand the academy, wilderness, Faregarden, castle and wharf. Parallel editing emphasizes the lovers' near misses; visual effects enhance the barge rescue and catastrophic wharf fight. "World of Magic" transitions into the end credits.

Central Theme

Happily ever after is not a predetermined destination at the end of a fairy-tale road. It is an unexpected new beginning that the characters must choose, rise to and earn for themselves.