

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

Viewer-reconciled working draft — 48 original numbered scenes; Scenes 19A–19D; 15 illustrated ice-sequence panels and 9 later inserted panels. Scenes 10, 44, and 45 retained from the previous PDF without revision.

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

Jonathon uses magic to race up the academy tower toward the demonstration field before his absence is noticed. 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

Jonathon's reckless magic unleashes a fiery star, sending students and professors running for cover. 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

Jonathon surrenders his wand to the Headmaster after the Circle revokes his right to practice magic. 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

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

SCENE 5 — The Wilderness

Jonathon struggles along a treacherous forest path, uncertain of the way ahead. On the mountain forest road, Jonathon struggles through confusing paths, rivers and dangers, trying to maintain his optimism.

SCENE 6 — The Princess's Chamber

Elana imagines a gallant hero in the mirror. 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

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

SCENE 8 — The Royal Ball

Elana and her partner glance toward the garden exit as the Queen and Chancellor proudly watch the ball. 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

Banitar attempts to coax Elana back to the ball. She reads from her late father's book of fairy tales. 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 I At her father's memorial statue, Elana mourns his absence and longs for his advice. A glimpse or recollection of the royal garden pond establishes that Elana learned to skate there as a child.

SCENE 11 — The Dove

Elana empathizes with a caged white dove and releases it. Inspired by the dove's flight, Elana sneaks out of the castle. Elana releases a caged white dove, packs her belongings and escapes the castle in pursuit of freedom.

SCENE 12 — A Mother's Decision

The Queen chooses to trust Elana and allow her to discover her own dreams. 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

A hooded man guides Elana through the shady underworld and across rooftops. 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)

Stu keeps his bargain and escorts Elana safely out of the city; Bart and Skeezy react differently. 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

Jonathon asks the white dove for direction and follows the branching path it chooses. 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

Jonathon is shown around the inn and farm and repeatedly crosses paths with Elana. 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

Steve plays as Jonathon and Elana dance together at the inn. 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

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

SCENE 19 — A Possible Romance

Jonathon considers the possibility of romance with Elana. Preparing for the picnic, Jonathon imagines that he and Elana might share a romantic future.

SCENE 19A — The Picnic by the Pond

BOOK SCENE

PANEL 19A — The Picnic by the Pond

Jonathon and Elana picnic beside a woodland pond, sharing candied apples. Jonathon proudly talks about his magical training and ambition to become a royal magician. Elana recalls loving to skate on a pond like this, almost accidentally mentioning that she used to skate at the castle, then quickly changes the subject by asking what kind of magic he can actually do.

SCENE 19B — The Ice Rose

BOOK SCENE

PANEL 19B — The Ice Rose

Jonathon uses the candied apple stick as a wand, dips its tip into the pond, and magically transforms the water around it into a delicate ice rose, with the stick becoming its stem. He presents the ice rose and the magic continues unexpectedly, forming a frozen skating rink and crystalline roses. He hides his surprise with a flourish as if transforming the pond into a rink was exactly what he intended.

SCENE 19C — Gliding on the Ice

INSTRUMENTAL MUSICAL SEQUENCE — Magic on the Ice (unnumbered; no lyrics)

PANEL 19C — The Invitation to Skate

With the pond frozen and lined with ice roses, Jonathon proudly invites Elana to skate. He steps confidently onto the ice, realizing too late that he has absolutely no idea how to skate.

PANEL 19D — The Fall

Jonathon's feet slide out and he falls flat, flailing helplessly. Elana, an accomplished skater, glides over with effortless confidence and helps him to his feet.

PANEL 19E — Learning to Skate

Elana takes Jonathon's hands and begins teaching him to skate, guiding him gently across the ice. He struggles but gradually finds balance with her encouragement, their awkward steps turning playful.

PANEL 19F — Finding Their Rhythm

Growing more confident, Jonathon begins to glide more smoothly with Elana's guidance. Their lesson turns into a romantic duet, and Jonathon discreetly uses magic to improve his balance as they move together.

PANEL 19G — Taking the Lead

Jonathon adds more magic to his skating, takes the lead, and guides Elana through faster, more elaborate movements. Elana is delighted.

PANEL 19H — Skating in the Air

Jonathon's magic lifts them into an airborne skating figure above the pond. Elana is exhilarated. High above the ice at sunset, they spin together in a weightless magical duet.

PANEL 19I — Losing Control

Still airborne, Jonathon realizes he has no idea how to land; his concentration falters and control slips away as panic sets in. They are still close, still spinning, but his expression shifts to alarm as his concentration falters and control slips away.

PANEL 19J — The Uncontrolled Descent

Their spinning devolves into a tumble toward the pond. Jonathon tries to shield Elana as they fall. The sunset sky streaks behind them as they plummet downward.

PANEL 19K — The Crash Landing

They plummet to the ice with Elana landing atop Jonathon. They laugh, then look into each other's eyes, gazing happily, neither wanting to move. The pond is still beneath them as the world briefly quiets around their gaze.

SCENE 19D — The Cracking Ice and Return to the Hillside

BOOK SCENE

PANEL 19L — Breaking the Ice

Their romantic respite is interrupted as cracks begin to creep through the ice. Cracks from their fall begin to spread as trickles of water start to seep through beneath them.

PANEL 19M — Escaping the Ice

Still laughing and caught in each other's clothes and arms, they cling to each other, scrambling off the icy wet surface. Spreading fractures and thin trickles of water follow them toward the bank.

PANEL 19N — Safe on Solid Ground

Soaking wet, they collapse beside the picnic blanket, exhilarated, relieved, and laughing. The grassy bank and picnic blanket frame their damp reunion as Elana retrieves her precious ice rose.

PANEL 19O — Lying Together in the Sun

They lie together drying in the setting sun. Gazing at the sky, Elana and Jonathon reflect together on their uniquely different dreams for the future.

SCENE 20 — Different Dreams

Jonathon and Elana discover their dreams for the future differ. 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

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

PANEL 21A — Considering Marigold's Advice

Considering Marigold's advice, Elana gazes at the ice rose. Elana weighs a life of freedom and independence against following Jonathon and returning to her duties.

SCENE 22 — The Return of the Reluctant Guide

Jonathon decides to return to Elana, following the dove. 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

Elana sets out to find Jonathon while he heads back toward the inn. Act II opens as Elana goes in search of Jonathon while he returns toward the Marigold Inn. Their journeys pass narrowly by one another.

PANEL 23A — A Parting Touch

As Elana prepares to leave the Marigold Inn, Marigold affectionately tucks the ice rose into her hair. Still torn between freedom and her feelings for Jonathon, she sets out to find him.

PANEL 23B — Racing Toward Elana

Jonathon leaps and climbs walls, logs, and trees, rushing to reach Elana by sunset. Jonathon races through the countryside toward the Marigold Inn, determined to reunite with Elana.

SCENE 24 — The Princess's Identity Revealed

BOOK SCENE

The brigands discover Elana is a princess from a royal proclamation. 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.

PANEL 25A — The Fallen Ice Rose

During Elana's struggle with the brigands, her precious ice rose is dropped, kicked, and trampled. The ice rose is knocked from Elana's hair outside the Marigold Inn as she is dragged away.

SCENE 26 — Jonathon Arrives Too Late

Excited to reunite with Elana, Jonathon happily makes his way back to the Marigold Inn, unaware that she has been abducted. Approaching the Marigold Inn, Jonathon sings 'Just When I Thought,' with joyful anticipation of seeing Elana again. Having chosen love over his ambitions, he eagerly imagines their reunion and regrets waiting so long to return. He has no idea that Elana has been abducted.

SCENE 27 — Jonathon Learns of the Abduction

BOOK SCENE

Jonathon returns to the Marigold Inn. Marigold alone tells him that Elana has been abducted. Steve, the innkeeper, was injured defending her and has already ridden off to alert the Royal Guard. Jonathon searches desperately for a sign of Elana.

PANEL 27A — The Abandoned Rose

Jonathon discovers the ice rose, kicked aside and abandoned by the side of the inn. Searching for any sign of Elana, Jonathon finds the ice rose among the traces of her abduction.

PANEL 27B — A Precious Reminder

Through tearful eyes, Jonathon kneels and retrieves the rose. He holds the rose, recalling Elana and resolving to find her.

PANEL 27C — Revealing the Trail

Jonathon flourishes the rose like a wand, openly casting a spell in front of Marigold; magic flares, revealing and illuminating Elana's trail. The ice rose becomes Jonathon's improvised wand as his magic illuminates the route taken by Elana's abductors.

SCENE 28 — Following the Trail

BOOK SCENE

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

PANEL 28A — The Trail's End

At the trail's end, Jonathon tucks the rose safely away, then looks toward the pier, wharf, and barge below. The glowing trail leads Jonathon to the harbor, where he surveys the pier, wharf, and barge below.

SCENE 29 — Stu Helps Elana

BOOK SCENE

Stu intervenes as Elana is held captive aboard the barge. 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 struggles against two brigands aboard the barge. Stu battles two brigands, luring them toward the stern so Elana can reach the knife.

SCENE 31 — Elana Cuts Her Bonds

BOOK SCENE

Elana uses Stu's knife to cut through her bindings. 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 and throw him overboard into the harbor. 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 pulls the wounded King of the Night ashore. 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

Skeezy reveals where Elana was taken. 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

Jonathon is beaten down by Bart and the brigands. 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

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

SCENE 37 — The Magic Takes Shape

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

SCENE 38 — Catastrophic Magical Blast

A star-like blast destroys the barge and pier. 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

Skeezy calls to Constable Slater amid the ruins. 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

Guided by the King of the Night, Elana escorts him, wounded, back through the royal city to the castle, where he can receive treatment. He knows the route and guides her. Elana has not yet learned of Jonathon's arrest.

SCENE 41 — The Queen and Princess Reunited (Elana's Private Chambers)

MUSICAL NUMBER 25 — A Mother's Gift

Elana expects Queen Phyllis to berate her for running away, but her mother instead welcomes her with affection and asks about her journey. In "A Mother's Gift," Elana learns that her mother trusted her and deliberately let her leave. They affirm their love, pride, and friendship, bonding more deeply than before. Neither knows that Jonathon has been arrested.

SCENE 41A — The Queen Is Summoned (Elana's Private Chambers)

BOOK SCENE — NEW STORYBOARD PANEL 041a

Shortly after the song, Banitar enters Elana's private chambers and announces that she is needed in the throne room for the trial of a rogue magician. Queen Phyllis responds familiarly, "Very well, Ban. I'll be along directly." She invites Elana to join them, an extraordinary gesture because Elana has ordinarily been excluded from high-level royal discussions and trials. Elana responds, "Thank you, Mother! I will join you." She turns to follow, but the chambermaid discreetly clears her throat and holds up a fresh dress. Elana glances at her travel-worn clothes, slightly embarrassed, and calls after the Queen, "That is, later, once I'm properly presentable!" The Queen smiles and departs with Banitar. Elana remains to dress, which delays her arrival until the trial is already underway. Neither Elana nor Queen Phyllis yet realizes the accused magician is Jonathon.

SCENE 42 — Jonathon Before the Queen

BOOK SCENE

Skeezy is brought before the Queen as a witness. Jonathon is charged with unlicensed magic, which carries a mandatory death sentence. 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.

PANEL 42A — Facing the Consequences

Shackled before the Queen, knowing the end is near, Jonathon clutches the ice rose. Appalled by his actions and mourning Elana, Jonathon faces the mandatory death sentence for practicing unlicensed magic.

SCENE 43 — Elana Pleads for Jonathon

BOOK SCENE

Elana rushes in and pleads Jonathon's case before her mother. 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

Asked whether he has anything to say in his defense, Jonathon accepts responsibility for his reckless use of magic and expresses his relief that Elana is alive. He looks toward her, addresses her as 'Princess,' takes the ice rose from his buttonhole and says, 'I believe you dropped this.' He returns the rose to her. Queen Phyllis pardons Jonathon on the condition that he swear never to practice magic again.

SCENE 45 — Together in the Royal Garden

MUSICAL NUMBER 26 — *Where Is All the Magic I* 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. Elana has the ice rose he returned to her.

SCENE 46 — The Chancellor's Offer

BOOK SCENE

Banitar offers to train Jonathon as his apprentice, subject to the Queen's approval. 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 the couple before the Queen as she promotes Stu to Harbormaster. 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

The Queen blesses Jonathon's apprenticeship; Banitar unleashes a royal magical celebration. 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.

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

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.