Once On This Island Jr.

Characters

Little Girl/Little Ti Moune/Peasant Girl

Storytellers (1-4)

Mama Euralie

Tonton Julian

Ti Moune

Daniel Beauxhomme

Daniel's Son

Gatekeeper

Daniel's Father

Andrea

Papa Ge

Asaka

Agwe

Erzulie

Ensemble: Storytellers, Grands Hommes, Villagers, Gossipers, Dancing Partner, Guests, Peasants
In darkness, we hear the sounds of a violent storm. Thunder roars and lightning flashes to reveal a group of peasant STORYTELLERS huddled together in fright around a fire. A LITTLE GIRL cries out in terror and the adults begin to tell her a story in order to soothe her.

**STORYTELLER 1**

There is an island where rivers run deep.

**STORYTELLER 2**

Where the sea sparkling in the sun earns it the name “Jewel of the Antilles.”

**STORYTELLER 3**

An island where the poorest of peasants labor—

**STORYTELLER 4**

And the wealthiest of the grands hommes play.

**STORYTELLER 1**

Two different worlds on one island!

**STORYTELLER 2**

The grands hommes, owners of the land and masters of their own fates.

**STORYTELLER 3**

And the peasants, eternally at the mercy of the wind and the sea, who pray constantly... to the gods.

*(The GODS step forward.)*

**ASAKA**

Asaka, Mother of the Earth.

**AGWE**

Agwe, God of Water.

**ERZULIE**

Erzulie, beautiful Goddess of Love.

**PAPA GE**

And Papa Ge, sly Demon of Death.

*(The VILLAGERS enter the stage.)*
PROLOGUE/WE DANCE

25 GIRLS:
ASA- ka, grow me a gar-den.

27 BOYS:
Please Ag - we, don't flood my gar - den.

(GIRLS:)  
Er - zu - lie, who will my love be?

(BOYS:)  
Er - zu - lie, who will my love be?

31  
Pa - pa Ge, don't come a-round me.

Pa - pa Ge, don't come a-round me.
Please Ag - we, don't flood my gar - den.

A-sa - ka, grow me a gar - den...

We dance...

to the mu - sic of the gods,
the music of the breezes through the green plantain,
the murmur of the river and the roar of rain.

And

if the gods decide to send a hurricane;
if the gods decide to send a hurricane;

Once On This Island.
(The GRANDS HOMMES enter striking elegant poses. DANIEL BEAUXHOMME and ANDREA DEVERAUX enter.)

ANDREA

On the other side of the island, safe behind high walls and iron gates, the grands hommes dance to a different tune.

DANIEL

They drink champagne, entertain tourists at their fine hotels, and tell their servants, “Polish up the Mercedes.”
e dance!

How fine our clothes— are!— How fast we drive!

VILLAGERS:

We dance.

We dance at parties...

BOYS:

— We dance.

While

(ANDREA and DANIEL join the group.)

GIRLS:

we are dancing just to stay alive!

(BOYS): we are dancing just to stay alive!

we dance to the earth, we dance to the wa-

Once On This Island JR.
The gods awake and we take no
ter.

The gods awake and we take no

chance. Our hearts hear the song,

chance. Our hearts hear the song,

feet move along and to the music of the

feet move along and to the music of the

gods, we dance to the earth, we

gods, we dance to the earth, we
we take no
we take no

our
our

sic of the
sic of the

genre
we
we

we take no
we take no

DANIEL and TI MOUNE separate themselves from the group and begin to move slowly toward one another. PAPA GE steps between them.)

PAPE GE:

and we take no chance... Two different worlds

and we take no chance...

GIRLS:

PAPE GE:

GIRLS:

Ooh la! never meant to meet. Ooh

Ooh la!

BOYS:

PAPE GE: (TI MOUNE and DANIEL embrace.)

GIRLS:

We

la! But if the gods move our feet...

We

la!

We

Once On This Island Jr.
(STORYTELLERS take their original positions around the fire as the lights dim and the storm rises again.)

STORYTELLERS

The story of Ti Moune.

(DANIEL exits and TI MOUNE follows him.)

STORYTELLER 1

Once on this island, there was a terrible storm.

(The LITTLE GIRL is lifted up into a flood created by STORYTELLERS. Now playing the part of LITTLE TI MOUNE, she paddles for dear life.)

STORYTELLER 2

Many huts washed away!

STORYTELLER 3

Many peasants drowned by Agwe's angry water!

STORYTELLER 4

But one small girl caught his attention.

LITTLE GIRL

Mama!!!
AGWE

And she was spared. An orphan plucked from the flood by Agwe.

*(AGWE takes LITTLE TI MOUNE out of the arms of the flood.)*

ONE SMALL GIRL WAITING FOR LIFE

17

ASAKA:

*Sheltered in a tree by A-

*(ASAKA takes LITTLE TI MOUNE from AGWE.)*

ERZULIE:

*sa-ka... And sent on a jour-ney

by the gods: A jour-ney that would test the strength of

*(The STORYTELLERS form a tree with their bodies, and LITTLE TI MOUNE climbs up into it. She sobs with terror.)*

PAPA GE:

*love... A-against the pow-er of death... On this

ALL:

*FULL COMPANY except LITTLE TI MOUNE:

is-land of two diff-er-ent worlds! One small
girl in a tree, torn from her
moth-er, cry-ing in fright One small girl,
tossed by sea and left to face the storm-y-

PART 1:
night. One small girl holding

PART 2:
One small girl holding

(The storm ceases and morning arrives. MAMA EURALIE and TONTON JULIAN come down the road. They are not yet in character.)
tight.
tight.

STORYTELLERS:
At last, the storm sub-sid-ed,
and the morn-ing sun glowed,
from her—
nall girl,
e storm-y—
hold-ing

(TONTON and MAMA)

and two old peasants came

(Reminded by the other STORYTELLERS that they are now supposed to be playing older people, MAMA and TONTON assume more elderly postures.)

cautiously down the road.

70

Ma-ma Eur-a-lie. Ton-ton Ju-lian.

MAMA: Ah, Julian, just listen to those birds. (MAMA and TONTON pass by the tree.)

75

STORYTELLERS (GIRLS): (8va if possible) (They stop as LITTLE TI MOUNE cries out.)

(as birds)

Coo coo coo coo coo, coo coo coo coo coo—

LITTLE TI MOUNE: (MAMA and TONTON stop and look around.) (They stop as LITTLE TI MOUNE cries out.)

Waah!

83

TONTON: What kind of bird is that?

87

MAMA:

Look! There! One small face, two small
TONTON:

knees... Why are you up there? What is your name?

(A silence, in which LITTLE TI MOUNE doesn’t respond.)

MAMA:

The girl can’t speak... ‘And they’re to—— blame!

(ERZULIE gestures and TONTON and MAMA are suddenly drawn to the GIRL.)

TONTON

But we’re too old for children.

(They begin to move away, but ERZULIE makes a gesture and they are drawn back.)

MAMA

We have no room, and no food...

(ERZULIE gestures again, and they turn back.)

ERZULIE

And not knowing quite why, they followed their hearts back to the tree, gently lifted the terrified child down...

(LITTLE TI MOUNE screams very loudly.)

LITTLE TI MOUNE

No!

ERZULIE

And discovered she could speak after all.
ERZULIE:

(LITTLE TI MOUNE begins to play. MAMA and TONTON begin to run after the mischievous LITTLE TI MOUNE.)

And they scold-ed and teased and held her---

and mended the clothes she tore.

STORYTELLERS

GIRLS:

And the hut was crowded and food was

BOYS:

And the hut was crowded and food was

scarce, and some-how, their lives held more---

scarce, and some-how their lives held more---

One small girl

One small girl
ERZULIE

They named her "Ti Moune."

LITTLE TI MOUNE

What does "Ti Moune" mean, Mama?

MAMA

It means "little orphan." Saved by the gods for something special.

LITTLE TI MOUNE

Saved for what, Mama?

MAMA

Ti Moune, if we knew why the gods did the things they do, we would be gods ourselves!

LITTLE TI MOUNE

Someday I'm going to ask them!

(ALL begin to play hide and seek with LITTLE TI MOUNE.)

STORYTELLERS:

Sweet as a eucalyptus and terrible as a tempest,

bang ing a drum and humming a

tune... Ti Moune, falling and running and

Once On This Island JR.
(LITTLE TI MOUNE vanishes and in her place stands a beautiful, full-grown version—TI MOUNE as a young woman.)

something
grows they do, we

TTLE TI MOUEN.)
a tempest,
ing a

run-ning and

One small girl, not so small. But in my heart she always will be...

One small girl in a tree.

One small girl
STORYTELLERS:

Ooh... ooh way ooh...

(GIRLS)

Ooh... ooh way

(BOYS)

Ooh... ooh way

(STORYTELLERS now begin to work in the field.)

ooh...

ooh...

(WAITING FOR LIFE)

Bright Calypso 4
(Suddenly, DANIEL BEAUXHOMME drives by and TI MOUNE stops to stare.)

TI MOUNE:

A stranger in white

in a car, going some-where,
ooh...

How it must feel to go racing where ever you please,

Girls & Boys:

Oo la, oo la,

Flying as free as a bird

Where, where, where,

Oo la, oo la, oo la, ooo.
Even the fish in the sea must be longing to fly,

Oo la, oo la, oo la, oo la.

(TIMOUNE:)
catching a glimpse of a stranger in white racing

(TIMOUNE:)
(DANIEL enters "driving" and TIMOUINE sees him.)

by.

A stranger,

GIRLS & BOYS:

Oo la, oo la, oo la,

(TIMOUNE:)
racing down the beach, racing to places
ng - ing to

Your car will stop and in I’ll hop and off we’ll

white rac-ing

stran - ger,

Don’t you re - mem - ber your lit - tle Ti Moune from the

I was meant to reach! My

stran - ger! One day you’ll ar - rive...

drive... we’ll drive!

Oh,

gods, oh, gods, please, be there.

acing to pla - ces
tree? Wake up! Look down! Hear my prayer! Don’t single me out and then forget me! Oh, gods, oh gods,

(TIMOUNE:)

let me fly!

STORYTELLERS:

Oh, oh oh.

Send me to places where no one before me has
Hear my
and then for-
oh... gods,

Oh, oh...
Waiting for life to begin!

GIRLS:
One small girl,

BOYS:
One small girl.

Waiting...
TI MOUNE lies down to rest. Four of the STORYTELLERS transform themselves into GODS. The other STORYTELLERS begin to exit.)

AND THE GODS HEARD HER PRAYER/RAIN

GIRLS: (as they exit)

BOYS: Oo la, oo la, oo la, oo la.

STORYTELLER 1: And the gods heard her prayer.

Oo la, oo la, oo la, oo la...

Faster-Moderato
(The GODS burst into raucous laughter, looking down at the sleeping TI MOUNE.)

ASAKA: The peasant girl wants a grand homme to carry her away.

I should... Find a tree all covered with mangos,

juicy mangos, fat and well-fed. Pick a mango-

AGWE: ERZULIE:

A juicy mango, a
PAPA GE:
love-ly man-go, a poi-son man-go
(The GODS all whistle, imitating the sound of a mango falling.)

ASAKA:
Drop the man-go... (Whistle) Boom! And

knock some sense in her head!

ERZULIE, AGWE, PAPA GE:

Knock some sense in her head!

AGWE:
Splash her with a wave! Scare her half to death!

PAPA GE:

ERZULIE:
Give her what she wants!

ASAKA, AGWE, PAPA GE:

ERZULIE:
Give her what she...? Give her what she wants.
Love has many powers. If the love is true, it can cross the earth and withstand the storm.

PAPA GE:
Love conquer death?!

It can conquer even you!

(PAPA GE snaps his fingers.)

Why I could stop her heart... like that.

ERZULIE: Stop her heart from beating, yes. But not from loving. Not if love is what she chooses.

PAPA GE:

Ridiculous!

AGWE: ASAKA: In-terest-ing! More a-mus-ing than man-gos!

(The GODS begin to circle, deep in collective thought. They all come up with an idea at the same time.)

(A funny idea now strikes them.)

ALL:
Hum...

No!
(And then, the best thought of all:)

Hmm! A journey!

ERZULIE:

I will give her strength, when the time is right.

ASAKA: PAPA GE:

I will guide her way. I will make her choose!

AGWE: And I’ll provide the place

where two different worlds will meet...

Once On This Island Jr.
(RAIN)

Samba tempo

(A pact; whispered)

ALL GODS:

night... To-night!

(ERZULIE, PAPA GE, and ASAKA exit, as AGWE creates a mysterious night of rain. TIMOUNE begins to wake up.)

AGWE:

Let there be no moon.

Let the clouds race by.

Where the road meets the sea, let the tide be high.

Let there be a girl.

is right.

choose!

the place will to -
walking by the sea. And

(STORYTELLERS enter and create rain;
TI MOUNE dances with them.)

AGWE,
STORYTELLERS:

let there be... Rain!

AGWE:

Rain on the road,

rain on her face. Rain makes a road

(DANIEL enters, driving through the dark, rainy night.)

such a dangerous place...

STORYTELLERS: Aahhhh...

Driving
AGWE:

Let there be a car,

PART 1:

PART 2:

Let there be a
And

where the road meets the sea. let__ her wait! Where the road meets the sea. let__ him spin! Where the road meets the sea. ___
road meets the sea... let__ their fate be__ gin__

road meets the sea...

in__ the rain!__

ALL: rain!

(DANIEL crashes, and lies unconscious. AGWE exits. The STORYTELLERS remain onstage, frozen. TI MOUNE sees DANIEL.)

**TI MOUNE**

Help! Someone! Come quickly! A car has crashed! A boy is hurt! Help me, someone!

(A silence. TI MOUNE realizes no one is coming. She approaches DANIEL.)

Hello? Can you hear me? Can you see me?
DISCOVERING DANIELS PRAY

TIMOUNE:
Oh, gods, oh, gods, You saved my life

for a reason and now, I think I know why!

(PRAY)

Fast

VILLAGER 1:
He roared down the road like the

VILLAGER 2:
Devil himself... Going too fast around

VILLAGER 3:
the curves... Sent us scrambling off the road

ALL:
like chick-ens... He has what he de-serves!
VILLAGER 4:  
Pa - pa Ge_ wants him... And Pa - pa Ge_ will

VILLAGER 5:

VILLAGER 6:  
have him! The boy is dy - ing be - fore our eyes!

VILLAGER 7:  VILLAGER 8:  
(TONTON and MAMA enter along with STORYTELLERS and LITTLE GIRL.)

Help him! Hide him!

TONTON:

No, don’t touch him! Better

(TONTON:)

leave him where he lies. Ev - en a

wealthy man some - times dies.

TI MOUNE:

Please! He needs help! If this boy dies

TONTON:

TI MOUNE:

— in our hands, the rich will send po - lice. He needs
MAMA: Ge will care! And if he lives, oh, how angry the gods will be!

VILLAGERS: The only thing that will save the boy's life is to send him back to his world!

TI MOUNE: The only thing that will save— the boy's life is

TI MOUNE: I have prayed to the gods and at last they have answered. They have saved my life so that I could save his. My heart knows this, please, Tonton.

TONTON: I will me!

MAMA: Julian! No! I will find where he comes from.

TONTON: find who he is, and soon! But 'til I re-turn,
STORYTELLER 1
And bidding his wife and daughter good-bye, Monsieur Julian
set off down the road toward the black mountains. Off to a
world he knew nothing of, the world of the grands hommes.

STORYTELLER 2
And the peasants carried the boy to the village and laid him on
Ti Moune’s mat. And her long vigil began.

VILLAGERS:
One day gone by.
And two days gone by.

VILLAGER 1:
The boy has the will of the De-vil him-self,

VILLAGER 2:
VILLAGER 3:
clinging to life by one small thread. If it

ALL VILLAGERS:
hadn’t been for Julian’s daugh-ter, he’d
You just need sleep, you just need food,
if the girls possessed, this chess—
says hymn, she rubs his chest—
bathes him and touches— ponders him. She
look how she—
cer-tain-ly be dead, is homest, s. of to a

IT MIONE:

MAMA:

ALI VILLAGE:

BOYS:

BOYS:

VILLAGE:

BOYS:
His skin is hot.

Have some tea, have a

He needs me here!—Can't you see how much this matter.

Can't you see how much this matter.

ALL VILLAGERS
PART 1:
ters to me? I know what's best! Now the

PART 2: (8vb)
ters to me? I know what's best! Now the

sky is growing dim... and the clouds are racing by

sky is growing dim... and the clouds are racing by
...and the gods are looking down at a

much this mater-

boy they meant to die and a girl who placed her-self

in their way... Pray!

racing by

racing by

GATEKEEPER:

Pray! You want what?

TONTON:

Pray! I've come so far
Get back!

—and I need—

I have some news for Mon-sieur—

(He slaps TONTON.)

Pea-sant pig! (Slap)

Mon-sieur Beaux-homme has a...

You must be mad!

Please, I beg...

I must see Mon-

Mon-sieur Beaux-homme?!

I have come so
So far to die!

I have found his son!

ALL VILLAGERS

PART 1:

Now the sky has turned to black and the

PART 2:

Now the sky has turned to black and the

wind is like a knife. Pa-pa Ge is com- ing back

wind is like a knife. Pa-pa Ge is com- ing back

— for the boy who clings to life, — and the

— for the boy who clings to life, — and the
girl will have the gods to repay—
girl will have the gods to repay—

SOLO: (opt.)
Pray!

GODS: Pray!

VILLAGERS: Pa- pa Ge, don't come a-round me, Don't

come a-round me, Don't come a-round me!
Some say it was the worst storm the gods had ever sent. The Peasants prayed that they would live to see the morning.

*(TI MOUNE cradles DANIEL in her arms.)*

**FOREVER YOURS**

Gently

TI MOUNE:

I am a tree holding away the storm.

Here in my arms I'll keep you safe and warm. Even the gods
won't dare to cross this line, where

my life is forever yours,

TI MOUNE, DANIEL:

and you are mine.

PAPA GE: (overlapping, PAPA GE from offstage)

Mine...

(PAPA GE:) (opt. 8va)

Mine! Arrogant fool,

TI MOUNE: Stay away!

think you can hold back death?

PAPA GE:

This boy is mine. I am his dying breath!

TI MOUNE:
I won't let you have him!

PAPA GE:

Sure as the grave, you must ac-
where
yours,

(PAPA GE:)

Take mine for his!
ever mine...

Freely

What?

Take my life...

My soul... for his...

VILLAGERS:

Oooh, oooh.

PAPA GE:

I am the road leading to no return.

you must ac-
Oooh.

Secret of life nobody

oooh. aaah.
wants to learn I am the car

aaah. Oooh.
racing toward distant shores.

TIMOUNE: 63

(VILLAGERS:) Now his life is forever mine.

(PAPA GE:) Oooh
no - bo - dy

I am the car

shores.

er — mine.

(TI MOUNE:)

(VILLAGERS:)

(PAPA GE:)

Your life is for - ev - er mine.

and I am yours.

Hmm...  hmm...  hmm!

(PAPA GE exits. Blackout. The STORYTELLERS enter with LITTLE GIRL.)

STORYTELLER 1

But the Beauxhommes came and reclaimed their injured son, and took him back to their fine hotel, with its high iron gates, on the other side of the island.

(Two people carry DANIEL offstage. The STORYTELLERS exit after them. TI MOUNE watches DANIEL being carried away. She runs after him, screaming. TONTON enters, catches and restrains her.)

TI MOUNE

No! Let him go! You can’t take him! Come back!

TONTON

Now the gods are happy. He is in his world. And you are here, in ours.
TI MOUNE

Tonton, he needs me! Without me, he'll die!

MAMA

Let the gods decide his fate.

TI MOUNE

Mama, his ancestor once loved a peasant girl. This time, a grand homme will marry one! Daniel is going to marry me.

MAMA

Are you mad!? He will not marry you, Ti Moune!

TI MOUNE

I must go to him! His heart beats for me like a drum. The gods are dancing for me, Mama! Please, Tonton. Give me your blessing and let me go. I will go!

MAMA:

What can I say to stop you now,

now that you've heard your drums and seen your dancers,

now that you think your heart has all the answers?

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This time, a
to marry me.

Who knows how high those mountains climb?

Who knows how deep those rivers flow?

Who knows how wrong a dream can go,

(MAMA:)

Moune?

I won’t be there to guide your way,

MAMA:

To braid your hair or dry your tears,

(MAMA:)

as we have done these many years, Ti Moune. Ti

TONTON:

as we have done these many years, Ti Moune. Ti
Moune.
Moune. What you are, we made you.

(TONTON:)
What we gave, you took. Now you run with-

out one back-ward look.

a tempo
MAMA:
You'll find some oth-er boy to save,
some oth-er life that you can share. Your heart is young.

Freely
Choose your dreams with care,— Ti Moune.
(All three embrace. But then, TI MOUNE pulls away.)

**TI MOUNE**

But I have chosen. And my dreams are there. Down that road.

**TONTON**

You're a child, Ti Moune! The road is hard and dangerous. The city is miles away. And even if you get there, even if you get to the Hotel Beauxhomme, you will never get through that gate!

**TI MOUNE**

I will get there Tonton. I will get through the gate. I'm not a child any longer.

---

What I am, you made me.

What you gave, I owe. But if I look

Freely

back, I'll never go.

Who knows how high those mountains
TI MOUNE:

climb?

TONTON: (8vb)

MAMA: Who knows how high those mountains climb?

Who knows how deep those rivers flow?

I know he's there.

Who knows how deep those rivers flow?

(TI MOUNE): (MAMA and TONTON hesitate, then make their decision.)

That's all I need to know...

(TONTON:)

MAMA:

Go and find your love.

Go and swim the sea.
MAMA, TONTON: Always there with

You know where we'll be...

(All three embrace. But then, TI MOUNE pulls away. She runs off. TONTON and MAMA hold one another and exit. The STORYTELLERS enter, leading the LITTLE GIRL.)

STORYTELLER 2

And Ti Moune set off into the world, leaving behind the ones who loved her. On every side was the terrible devastation of the storm.

(STORYTELLERS enter, dancing.)
MAMA WILL PROVIDE

Bright, Caribbean feel

STORYTELLER 1:

But on this island, the

STORYTELLER 2:

earth sings as soon as a storm ends. And as Ti

Moune set out, she realized she was

walking with old friends. The birds...

STORYTELLERS (sopranos):

Coo coo, coo coo, coo coo coo—

Coo coo, coo coo, coo coo coo—

STORYTELLERS (tenors):

Sha sha sha—aah! The trees... Sha
s - land, the

TELLER 2:
And as Ti

she was

he birds...

coo coo—

coo coo—

STORYTELLERS (tenors):

es... Sha

STORYTELLERS (basses):

sha sha sha— aah! Bum bum bum!

STORYTELLER 2: STORYTELLERS STORYTELLER 3:

(basses):

The frogs... Bah - um, bum, bum And the bree - zes...

STORYTELLERS (altos):

Ooh

Ooh

(The STORYTELLERS playing BIRDS, TREES, FROGS, and BREEZES begin to sing together.)

STORYTELLERS (sopranos):

Coo coo, coo coo, coo coo coo!

STORYTELLERS (altos):

Ooh

STORYTELLERS (tenors):

Sha sha sha— aah! Sha

STORYTELLERS (basses):

Bum bum bum! Bah -
Coo coo, coo coo, coo coo coo!

Ooh

sha sha sha aah!

Sha

um, bum, bum!

Bah -

Coo coo, coo coo, coo coo coo!

Ooh

Sha sha sha aah!

Sha

um, bum, bum!

Bah -
Coo coo, coo coo, coo coo coo!

Ooh

sha sha sha—aaah!

um, bum, bum!

STORYTELLER 4:

Ti Moune lost all her fear.

She knew As - a - ka was near!

ASAKA: (ASAKA appears and begins to dance with TI MOUN.)

You've nev - er been a - way from the sea, child.

You're gon - na need a help - ing hand. A
fish has got to learn to swim on land!

ALL: ASAKA:

Huh! Walk with me, little girl,

don't you be afraid.

Follow me, little girl, let me be your guide.

A pretty thing like you

will need a thing or two, and whatever you need, Mama will provide.

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Oh... Down the road, little girl,

— you may lose your way,

all alone, in a world that may seem too wide.

But sit on Ma-ma's lap —

GIRLS:

and I will draw a map — and what-

ever you need, Ma-ma will pro-vide!

ASAKA:

I'll pro-vide you: To soft-en the road!

STORYTELLER 1:

Moss!
To sit on! To sleep

Rocks! Trees!

underneath! Fun for your toes!

Sand! Plantain!

To fill up your belly!

To fan your face! For make-

Breeze! Grass!
To sleep

(ASAKA gives them a dirty look.)

ing your bed!

Ha!!

Mos-quit-os?!

ASAKA:

Bugs will bite, little girl, and the night will fall.

All alone in the dark, you'll be terrified.

But you will make it through, 'cause I am liking you!

And whatever you need, Mama will...

ALL:

Provide!!!
(The STORYTELLERS enter and continue the story.)

STORYTELLER 1
At last, Ti Moune arrived at the gates of the Hotel Beauxhomme.

GATEKEEPER
Stop!

STORYTELLER 2
But Ti Moune smiled her most beautiful smile. And Erzulie must have touched the fierce guard on the shoulder, for he nodded. The gate swung open. And Ti Moune entered, and went in search of her Daniel.

(TI MOUNE enters Daniel's room and approaches him. DANIEL sits up in bed, startled.)

DANIEL
Where did you come from? You're not supposed to be in here.

TI MOUNE
You don't know me! I saved your life!

DANIEL
Saved my life? What are you talking about?

TI MOUNE
I was the one who found you crushed inside your car. I watched over you when you nearly died. I have seen the scar on your chest. Like a half moon. Here.

DANIEL
So it was you.

TI MOUNE
Yes. The gods sent me to make you well.

DANIEL
You think your peasant superstitions can do what doctors can't, little girl?

TI MOUNE
I came all this way to be with you. Let me stay.
story.)

el Beauxhomme.

And Erzulie must for he nodded. and went in search

aches him.

d to be in here.

our car. I watched ne scar on your

what doctors can't,

**DANIEL**

A pretty Ti Moune sent by the gods. What harm can it do? Stay. Make me forget this pain.

*(TI MOUNE strokes his face. Gradually, she cradles him in her arms. STORYTELLERS close around the bed, hiding DANIEL and TI MOUNE from view.)*

**THE HUMAN HEART**

ERZULIE:

The courage of a dreamer,

the innocence of youth,

the failures and the foolishness that lead us to the truth.
ERZULIE:

The hopes that make us happy.

STORYTELLERS:

The hopes that make us happy...

--

the hopes that don't come true.

and all the love there ever was.

and all the love there ever was...

(ERZULIE):

I see this all in you.

ERZULIE, PART 1:

You are part.

PART 2:

You are part.
part of the human heart.

part of the human heart.

ERZULIE:

You are part...

Of

PART 1:

You are part.

PART 2:

You are part.

(ERZULIE:)

all who took the journey and

managed to endure,

ones who knew such tenderness,
the ones who felt—so sure.

(ERZULIE:)
The ones who came before you,

STORYTELLERS:
The ones who came before you...

the others yet to come.

and those who you will teach it to,

and those who you will teach it to...

(ERZULIE:)
and those you learned it from.
ERZULIE, PART 1:

You are part.

PART 2:

You are part.

part of the human heart.

part of the human heart.

ERZULIE:

You are part.

PART 1:

You are part.

PART 2:

You are part.
Tonight.

Tonight.

Tonight...

Tonight...

Tonight...

Tonight...

Part of the human heart.

Heart.

Heart.
(Suddenly, they turn, one by one, to become the GOSSIPERS in the Hotel Beauxhomme.)

**GOSSIPER 1**

And the night became day, and still Daniel kept the gentle Ti Moune beside him!

**GOSSIPER 2**

And the day became a week!

**GOSSIPER 3**

And after two weeks, a buzzing began, spreading through the halls of the hotel.

**GOSSIPER 4**

And even into the city!

**GOSSIPER 5**

Until everyone had heard the news:

**GOSSIPER 6**

That the ailing Daniel Beauxhomme was spending all his time with a peasant. And little by little, she was...

**ALL GOSSIPERS**

(in unison, very knowingly)

Healing him!

---

**PRAY (REPRISE)/ THE BALL**

Now, what can he want with a wo-man like her?
G OSSIPER 2:
Out of the field—and low—as dirt! He could
G OSSIPER 5:
haps his brain was hurt!—Look how she
G OSSIPER 6:
holds him and touches and attends him. The
boy believes she can make him well.
G OSSIPER 4:
have the world but takes a peasant! Per-
G OSSIPER 3:
ALL GOSSIPERS:
And she has him in a
 SPELL.

(T OSSIPERS part to reveal DANIEL and TI MOUNE embracing.)

TI MOUNE
I have a gift for you...

DANIEL
What is it?
TI MOUNE
A charm... If you wear it next to your heart, it will make you whole.

DANIEL
You are my charm. Without you, I could never be whole again.

(TI MOUNE places the charm around his neck.)

TI MOUNE
I will never leave you, Daniel.

(The GOSSIPERS return again, whispering and laughing.)

GOSSIPER 1:
Now, what do you make of a peasant like her?

GOSSIPER 2:
Put-ting on airs— without— a doubt! When the

GOSSIPER 3:
boy is well—and does not need her how

GOSSIPERS:
soon he'll throw her out.
(DANIEL walks, supported by TI MOUNE.)

DANIEL

Soon, I'll be dancing!

TI MOUNE

And I'll dance with you! But for now, walk slowly, Daniel.

DANIEL

Then you must walk even more slowly, Ti Moune.

TI MOUNE

Why?

DANIEL

So that I can catch you!

(DANIEL begins to follow TI MOUNE off, laughing, when DANIEL’s FATHER catches DANIEL’s arm, and detains him for a moment.)

FATHER

Daniel.

DANIEL

Father.

FATHER:

How long do you think you'll be playing this game?

DANIEL: This is no game, Father.

FATHER:

Surely you can't believe it's real?

DANIEL: I'm in love with Ti Moune.

FATHER:

You are my son. You'll

72
Do what must be done, no matter how you feel!

(DANIEL and FATHER exit in opposite directions.)

(ANDREA has finished dressing, and is joined by a DANCING PARTNER. They begin to waltz elegantly, and are joined by other STORYTELLERS, masked and costumed for a ball.)

(The Ball)

The grands hommes at the Ho-tel Beaux-homme:

dancing to their own lit-tle tune,

(A little slower)

wait-ing to see... Ti Moune!

(DANIEL enters and greets the GUESTS. ANDREA comes to him, and they begin to dance.)

Some girls are say-ing she’s sim-ple as
44  an- y child._

DANIEL:

Please, An-dre-a.

49  Bare-foot and praying and running the halls quite

ANDREA:

wild!__

(ANDREA:)

And is she as

DANIEL:

An-dre-a...

53  pret-ty as we’ve all heard? Your

(ANDREA:)

own pret-ty...

Well, what’s the word?
(TI MOUNE enters hesitantly. DANIEL sees her, breaks away from ANDREA, and goes to greet her.)

TI MOUNE

Halls quite

is she as

word?

(DANIEL)

Ti Moune!

TI MOUNE

Daniel!

(ANDREA joins them.)

ANDREA

So this is your Ti Moune. How beautiful she is.

DANIEL

Ti Moune, may I present Andrea Devereaux.

Hello.

TI MOUNE

ANDREA:

I'm so happy to meet you, my dear mad'moiselle.

I've heard you're a healer and a dancer, as well.

Won't you dance for us now? Won't you give us a show? Please, mad'moiselle... Don't say
DANIEL
Don’t be afraid, Ti Moune. Dance as you always do – just for me.

(TI MOUNE looks around at the people watching her. She hears the tentative strains of her own music, and slowly, she begins to move her feet.)

TI MOUNE’S DANCE

Slowly, Rubato

MAMA:
TONTON:
MAMA, TONTON, LITTLE GIRL:

We dance

ALL:

We dance...

(TI MOUNE dances without inhibition in the peasant style. Gradually, the onlookers are swept into the dance. At the end of the dance, TI MOUNE is surrounded by enthusiastic GUESTS. She exits with them.)

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do - just

ing her.
ic, and

ANDREA SEQUENCE

(DANIEL and ANDREA stand alone.)
Freely

ANDREA:

Well, it's ve-ry clear she's in love with you.

(TI MOUNE comes to DANIEL.)

Daniel, if you care, if you care at all,

TI MOUNE: (sensing something is wrong)
What is it?

you must tell her... My dear mad'-moi-selle, I have

some-thing to say, some-thing I fear was left

un-said... Many thanks for all you've giv-

en Daniel, but do not be mis-led. My

dear mad'-moi-selle, you dance so very well... I
pray you'll dance for Dan-iel and for me, when we are wed.

(DANIEL stops her from saying any more. ANDREA exits.)

DANIEL
Andrea and I have been promised to each other since we were children. Our parents are old friends.

But, Daniel...

DANIEL
This is how things are done, Ti Moune. It's expected.

TI MOUNE
Daniel, please...

DANIEL
Ti Moune, I thought you understood. We could never marry.

(DANIEL exits.)

Freely

TI MOUNE:

Oh, gods... Oh, gods... Are you there?

Are you there...?
we are
Once we were

See me.

you there?

PROMISES/FOREVER YOURS (REPRISE)

(vocals 2x)

There were promises made in the

darkness, promises made in your sleep,

promises the gods demand you keep!

You gave him love, love he would

soon betray

You gave him life.

I am the price you'll pay!
Sure as the grave, you must accept what is... Now your life is for ever mine... Trade yours for his!

(PAPA GE raises the knife to strike.)

TI MOUNE: Please, don't!

PAPA GE: Prove that death is stronger than love, and you can have your own life again. Just as if you had never loved at all.

TI MOUNE: What?

ERZULIE:

The

ENSEMBLE:

Ooh,

PAPA GE:

I am the road leading to no return...
sweetly...

Courage of a dreamer...

Ooh.

Secret of life, finally his to learn

You are part,

Ah ah, ah

I am the car racing toward

Part of the human heart,

Ooh.

Ooh.

Distant shores. Now his life is forever.
(ERZULIE:)  
for-ev-er  

(PAPA GE:)  
mine... For-ev-er.

(TI MOUNE raises the knife, poised to strike. At the last moment, she hurls it down, and crumbles to the floor. There's a moment of silence, as DANIEL looks at her in fear and shock.)

DANIEL

Why?

(DANIEL picks up the knife and exits.)

TI MOUNE

I love you.

(Lights dim to darkness, except for a pinspot on TI MOUNE, who stands, desolate and alone. The STORYTELLERS surround her.)

STORYTELLER 1

And Ti Moune was cast out of the Hotel Beauhommome and the gates slammed shut behind her.

(The STORYTELLERS form a wall. TI MOUNE approaches the people forming the wall, but as she speaks, they turn from her one by one.)
WEDDING SEQUENCE

Slow 4

STORYTELLER 2:Ti Moune: I... I am Mademoiselle Ti Moune. I... I was the one who
danced at the ball. I wore a beautiful dress. The people applauded!
The gods sent me. They want me to be with him.

Daniel needs me. He loves me. Without me, he'll die.

Tell him I'm here. Tell him Ti Moune is waiting for him. (sinks gradually
to the ground)

STORYTELLER 2
And for two weeks, Ti Moune did wait at the gate. Not eating. Not sleeping. Only waiting, only watching, as the grounds of the Hotel Beauxhomme were made even more lovely, in preparation for the wedding.

(ANDREA and DANIEL appear, arm in arm, already married.)
STORYTELLER 3
And at last, Andrea and Daniel were married. And as superstition dictated, they came to the gates of the hotel to throw coins to the peasants, thus assuring that their own fortunes would multiply.

(DANIEL and ANDREA pass the wall. TI MOUNE reaches out, weakly.)

TI MOUNE

Daniel!!

(ANDREA exits, but DANIEL turns and sees TI MOUNE. DANIEL returns to her, kneels and takes her hand. For a moment, they look into one another's eyes. Then, he exits. TI MOUNE opens her hand, and in horror, drops the coin he has placed there. She curls up in despair, close to death. MAMA enters.)

STORYTELLER 4
And the gods began to cry – tears of compassion for the orphan Ti Moune, who proved that love could withstand the storm, and cross the earth, and survive even in the face of death.

(The GODS step forward from the group, and pass TI MOUNE from hand to hand, pantomiming her death. ASAKA carries TI MOUNE upstage and places her on the ground. The rest of the STORYTELLERS surround her, hiding her from view.)
A PART OF US/
WHY WE TELL THE
STORY

Slowly, simply

MAMA:

Oh, Ti Moune... Oh, Ti Moune...

6

You will al-ways be a part of us.

(LITTLE TI MOUNE
enters with TONTON.) LITTLE TI MOUNE:

Oh, Ti Moune... Oh, Ti Moune...

MAMA & LITTLE TI MOUNE:

Oh, Ti Moune... You will

15

al-ways be a part of us...
MAMA (as STORYTELLER):
And then, the gods blessed her and transformed her into...

PART 1:

Oh, Ti Moune...

PART 2:

Oh, Ti Moune...

ALL except TI MOUNE:

TI MOUNE is lifted high above everyone else and becomes a glorious tree.

STORYTELLER 1

A tree that sprang up and cracked the walls of the Hotel Beauxhomme, so that its gates could never close again.

STORYTELLER 2

A tree that lived forever, sheltering peasants and grands hommes alike.

STORYTELLER 3

A tree that watched over Daniel for his lifetime.

STORYTELLER 4

A tree in which his children played.
(WHY WE TELL THE STORY)

Bright "2" feel

17 STORYTELLERS: ERZULIE: And one day, as Daniel's young son sat in the shade of a tree,

Ooh, way

Ooh, way

he noticed a beautiful young peasant girl high in its branches, looking out at the world. (LITTLE TI MOUNE plays the young PEASANT GIRL in the tree.)

21 ooh.

25 ooh.

And the spirit of Ti Moune touched their hearts and set them free to love.

Ooh, way

Ooh, way
(The PEASANT GIRL climbs out of the tree.)

TI MOUNE:

And she

stands against the light - ning and the thun - der,

DANIEL:

And she shel - ters and pro - tects us from a -

and she fills us with the pow - er and the

bove, and she fills us with the pow - er and the

ALL except LITTLE GIRL:

won - der of her love.

ALL except LITTLE GIRL:

won - der of her love.
And she

hun-der-

us from a-
er and the

er and the

And this is why we tell the story,

why we tell the story.

Why we tell the story, why

Why we tell the story, why

we tell the story.

If you

we tell the story.
(MAMA:)
listen very hard—you'll hear her call us—

TONTON:
to come share with her our laughter and our

ANDREA:
And as mysteries and miracles be-

DANIEL:
teams. And as mysteries and miracles be-

ALL except LITTLE GIRL:
fall us, through the years...

ALL except LITTLE GIRL:
fall us, through the years...

We tell the story!

BOYS:
We tell the story! We tell
GIRLS:
Life is why...
We tell the story!

(BOYS):
— the story! We tell the story!

Pain is why... Love is why...
We tell the story! We tell

Grief is why...
We tell the story!

Hope is why... Faith is why...
We tell the story! We tell
(ALL surround the LITTLE GIRL.)

---

You are why

---

the story! You are why

---

we tell the story, why

---

we tell the story, why

---

we tell the story, why

---

we tell the story, why

---

we tell the story, why

---

we tell the story, why
GIRLS: (ALL sing to the LITTLE GIRL.)

story. So I hope that you will tell

story.

BOYS:

this tale to-mor-row.

(BOYS:)

It will help your heart re-mem-ber and re-live.

ALL except LITTLE GIRL:

It will help you feel the anger and the

ALL except LITTLE GIRL:

It will help you feel the anger and the

TI MOUNE:

sor-row...

p And for-give.

sor-row...
For out of what we live and we believe, Our lives become the stories that

A bit slower

we weave.

LITTLE GIRL: There is an island where rivers run deep... ...where the sea sparkling in the sun earns the name "Jewel of the Antilles"...

Why we tell the story... Why

Why we tell the story... Why

...an island where the poorest of peasants labor...

we tell the story... We tell the story...

we tell the story... We tell the story...
and

Our

LERS take their around the fire.

And the wealthiest of grands hommes play...
...and on this island, we tell the story!

We tell the story...

We tell the story...

We tell the story.

We tell the story.

(The stars come out. The storm ends.)

THE END
Words To Know From 
ONCE ON THIS ISLAND JR.

Below are some show-specific terms that are useful to know.

**ancestor**: A person whom we are descended from and typically referring to those who are no longer living.

**arrogant**: Having too much pride and treating others with undeserved inferiority.

**beauxhommes**: A French term that literally translates to “beautiful man.”

**eucalyptus**: Tall trees with leaves that produce oil commonly used for medicinal purposes and heavy wood used as timber.

**grands hommes**: A French term that literally translates to “great man.”

**Jewel of the Antilles**: A description of Haiti, the Caribbean island, in the 1800’s, when the colony was at its most prosperous.

**plantain**: A type of green banana, usually fried. It is a food staple of island cultures.

**putting on airs**: To act snobbish or superior to those around you.

**superstition**: A widely held belief or idea not based in reason.

**tempest**: A very strong windstorm.