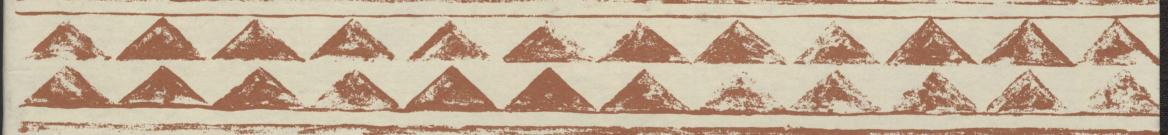
THE TALE OF WILLIAM MARINER THE TALE OF WILLIAM MARINER



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TWO MELODRAMAS FOR SYNCLAVIER



HARRANA AN

THE SNOW QUEEN

10.10.11

JON APPLETON TWO MELODRAMAS FOR SYNCLAVIER

SIDE ONE

The Tale of William Mariner This tale from the South Pacific is based on the diaries of a young English sailor who spent four years in the Kingdom of Tonga at the beginning of the 19th century.

SIDE TWO

The Snow Queen
A précis of the famous tale by Hans Cristian Andersen serves as the text for his melodrama. All compositions ASCAP



Jon Appleton is the composer, performer and narrator of these two melodramas. The music is performed on the Synclviar II® digital synthesizer.

Cover art: Esmé Thompson

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JON APPLETON TWO MELODRAMAS FOR SYNCLAVIER

THE TALE OF WILLIAM MARINER / THE SHOW QUEEN

DESCRIPTIVE NOTES ARE INSIDE POCKET

FOLKWAYS RECORDS FTS 37470

JON APPLETON TWO MELODRAMAS FOR SYNCLAVIER

The Tale of William Mariner

and

The Snow Queen*

*Based on the original story by Hans Christian Andersen

THE TALE OF WILLIAM MARINER

Ι

In 1805 a young Englishman named William Mariner went to sea on the ship Port au Prince. Mariner was the cabin boy and the ship was under the command of Captain Duck. It took a year for the ship to cross the Atlantic and to sail around the Horn. It was November when they found themselves in the South Pacific. Each island they came to held new adventures for the crew and Mariner began a journal in which the following episodes appeared.

II

In November the seas became heavy and the Captain hoped to find shelter in 'Otaheite. Adverse currents forced the ship Westward and on November 27th they spotted the islands of the Ha'pai group in the Kingdom of Tonga. Two days later the ship anchored in seven fathoms of water off one of the Ha'apai islands called Lefuka, the same spot where Captain James Cook had once anchored.

In the evening a group of Tongan chiefs came on board bearing gifts; a baked pig, some bread fruit and some ready dressed yams.

The next morning there was much work to be done on board but the crew wanted to go ashore. The Captain refused, only to suddenly find his life threatened by fifteen men who hailed a Tongan canoe and deserted the ship. In the afternoon the remaining crew members reported that a large number of Tongans were assembling between the decks armed with clubs and spears. Soon there were three hundred Tongans on board.

Fearing violence, young Mariner ran to the gun room and on returning to the hatch saw one of the Tongans club Mr. Dixon, the cooper, from behind. Mariner ran to the deck with hands outstretched, hoping to be killed quickly rather than by delay subject himself to greater cruelty. To his horror he discovered the deck covered with twenty-two bodies dreadfully bruised and battered. Mariner was held prisoner by one of the chiefs who ordered him taken ashore. On the beach were the bodies of the rest of the crew and Mariner realized that he was the only survivor.

He was stripped of his clothes and marched through crowds of jeering Tongans who spat apon him. Finally he was taken to a small grass hut and forced inside. He ached from the rough treatment, the lack of water and the intense sun that had beat upon his naked body. He fell asleep and dreamed of the massacre he had witnessed that day.

III

The next morning a young Tongan dressed in a bark cloth skirt led him to understand that he was to be taken to Finow, the King of the Islands. The King, thinking him the son of the

Captain, took a liking to Mariner and ordered him to be washed and fed. Toward evening he was taken to a large feast where he was offered pork, but fearing it might be human flesh, he refused. Mariner was frightened, and the songs sung by the Tongans did little to allay his fears. Later in the evening he was returned to his hut. Now he could not sleep. He lay on his mat and listened to the music of the nose flutes as they played a counterpoint against the insect chatter and the noises of the geckos, and the sea.

TV

Mariner became the adopted son of King Finow. Weeks and months passed and Mariner became part of the village life. The Port au Prince had been burned but the King had taken the weapons off first. Ha'apai had been at war for nearly a decade with the Tongans of Vava'u to the North and Tongatapu to the South. Mariner was asked to show the Tongans how to use the weapons and to take several military expeditions with the Tongans. One day, on returning from battle, Mariner learned that the King had fallen ill. Mariner feared that the King's demise might occasion his own death and he began to join the Royal household in prayers for the King's life. The men sat in a large circle, drinking kava, and singing the Mule Tupe.

V

By morning the King was near death and the Prince declared that his father had offended the Gods by not having executed Mariner. Mariner left the household and returned to his grass hut, contemplating escape. But escape was impossible, and although the villagers were friendly to him, he knew the word of the King was final. In the evening a young Tongan man, Na'a Fiefia, came to him to say that the King had died, but that if Mariner were to marry the Princess Melanite, the eldest eligible daughter of the late King, his life might be spared. The Tongans of the village agreed to organize a secret wedding ceremony the following day. Mariner went to sleep that night wondering if he wanted to go through with the wedding, for he realized that while it might save his life, he would never be able to return to England.

VI

The next day fate intervened. Late in the afternoon a European fishing vessel was sighted by the villagers and Mariner decided to make his escape. At dusk, less than an hour before the wedding feast was to begin, he left his hut and concealed himself in a grove taro plants on a cliff overlooking the harbor. He spotted the vessel and began to make his way down the cliff. When darkness fell he knew that the villagers who had befriended him would begin to search for him, fearing his capture by the new King. Mariner dragged a canoe into the water and began to paddle toward the ship, but soon the swift current breaking through the reef began to move him away from his goal.

Beyond fear, Mariner dove into the warm water and started to swim for his life. As he approached the ship he glanced back at the beach. He was terrified to see ten outriggers, lighted by torches, coming toward the ship and he called from the water for help.

VII

William Mariner escaped, four years after his capture, aboard the ship Favorite under the command of Captain Fisk who had come in search of the survivors of the Port au Prince. There are those who say there were none, for Mariner had so changed that he was never able to live again in England. He told his story in the West Indies where he remained forever the banished son of the King of Tonga.

THE SNOW QUEEN

Ι

Once upon a time the Devil made a magic mirror with a special power; everything good and beautiful that was reflected in it shrivelled up almost to nothing, but everything evil and ugly seemed even larger and more hideous than it was.

One day the Devil's demons decided to fly up to Heaven with the mirror to make fun of the angels. The higher they flew with the mirror, the more it twisted until they could scacely hold on to it. The mirror shook so violently with its weird reflections that it sprang out of their hands and went crashing down to earth, where it burst into hundreds of millions of tiny pieces which some of these pieces were hardly as big as a grain of sand. These flew here and there, all through the wide world. Whoever got a speck in his eye saw everything good as bad or twisted - for every little splinter had the same power that the whole glass had. Some people even caught a splinter in their hearts, and that was horrible for their hearts became just like cubes of ice.

TT

At about this time there lived two poor children. They were not brother and sister, but they were just as fond of each other as if they had been. They lived in the attics of adjoining houses where they played together in winter and summer.

The boy's grandmother told him stories of the Snow Queen who flies through the streets of the town and peers into the windows and then they freeze into the strangest patterns, like stars and flowers. Every night the boy would press his face against the window and watch for the Snow Queen.

One day the boy and girl sat reading a book. Suddenly he said "Oh, something pricked me in my heart. Oh, now I've got something in my eye." The little girl looked into his eyes and said she could see nothing...that it must be gone. But it wasn't. It was one of those tiny splinters from the demon's looking-glass. And he had another piece right in his heart, which would soon be like a cube of ice. Almost at once the boy became a stranger to the girl. He became mean and angry all of the time and although she still loved him, she could not understand what had happened to her friend.

III

The next day the boy went tobogganing in the town square. As he usually did, he looked for a passing sleigh and hitched his own little sleigh to the back to take a ride. A very large sleigh arrived; it was painted white all over, and in it sat a figure muffled up in a white fur cloak and wearing a white fur hat. The boy fixed his sleigh behind it and they took two swift turns around the town square. The big sleigh went faster and faster and turned off onto the road leading out of town. The boy thought he should unfasten his sleigh but the driver turned around and nodded to him and he was having such fun. Soon they left the city gates but now the boy could not unfasten his sleigh. On they rushed and the boy cried out at the top of his voice. Suddenly the sleigh stopped and the driver turned around. The boy gasped..it was the Snow Queen who had driven him away from his town and into the forest deep with snow. The Snow Queen invited the frightened boy up onto the large sleigh and put her cloak around him. She kissed him and suddenly he forgot his friend, his family and his town.

TV

It was a long dark winter for the girl. She could not forget her little friend. When at last the spring brought the first warm sunshine the girl decided to search for the boy. But where to begin? She went down to the river and asked the waves "Is it true you have taken my little playmate?" They nodded back to her very strangely so she climbed into a boat that lay among the rushes and let it carry her down the river. Along the way she asked all the flowers if her friend was dead? All the flowers answered the same way, "We have been in the earth where the dead are and your friend was not there."

The girl travelled on the boat until the trees on the banks became red and gold and the nights were cool. She watched the birds begin to fly south and she asked them all if they had seen her friend. Finally a raven flew down to her and said "You are now in a kingdom where a queen dwells. Not long ago she decided

to find a companion and it was not long after that your little friend appeared in the palace. I am sure he has forgotten you now for he lives there happily with the queen." "But I must find him," cried the girl. "Then you must go north through the dark forest and find a reindeer to carry you. It is too far to walk and you will surely get lost." And so the girl left the boat and started to walk through the forest. The trees were now bare and the nights cold but the memory of her friend keptthe girl warm. Soon, however, she was lost and as the light began to fade, she sat down beneath a tall tree and began to cry. She missed her family and her warm home.

V

Suddenly a reindeer came out of the trees. The girl leaped up and told the reindeer her whole story and that she was now lost. "Do not cry, little one, you are now in Lapland where the Snow Queen has her summer palace. She is not here any longer but in her real home, a castle far far off towards the North Pole, on an island called Spitzbergen. Climb on my back and I shall take you there." The reindeer sped away past brush and briar, through the great forest, over marsh and moor, and the wide plains, as swiftly as he could go. The wolves howled; the ravens screamed, the sky seemed filled with sneezing, crackling noises - each time with a glow of red. "Those are my dear old Northern Lights" said the reindeer. And faster and faster he ran.

They finally stopped at a little hut where an old Lapp woman fed the little girl. The reindeer told the Lapp woman the girl's story and the woman said, "You still have several hundred miles to cross before you get to Finmark - that's where the Snow Queen is just now sending off those fireworks of hers every night." The reindeer asked the woman if she could give the girl a magic drink that would give her the strength to overcome the Snow Queen. The woman looked at the little girl and said, "I cannot give her greater power than she already has. Don't you see how great that is? Her power comes from her own heart, from her being a dear and innocent child. See how far she has come on her own bare feet? Take her north to the Snow Queen's garden for she must go the rest of the way from there on foot."

VI

The palace walls were of drivensnow, and the doors and windows of cutting wind. There were over a hundred halls, just as the drifting snow had formed them, all lit by the Northern Lights. They were vast, empty, glittering, bleak as ice and deathly cold. In the very midst of the palace was a frozen lake. The little boy was in the middle of the lake, quite blue and cold. But he never noticed, for the Snow Queen had kissed away his shivering and his heart was already a cube of ice. He was busily dragging about some sharp flat pieces of ice, arranging them in every possible pattern for the Snow Queen had told him if he could spell out the word ETERNITY he would be his own master.

It was just then that the girl stepped into the palace through the great doors of cutting wind. She saw the boy at once and rushed towards him and flung her arms about his neck and held him tight, crying "I've found you at last." She wept hot tears and they fell on his breast and reached right through to his heart where they thawed the cube of ice, and washed away the splinter from the Devil's mirror. Suddenly his color returned and he recognized the girl and began to weep with joy. The tears washed the splinter of the mirror from his eye and he cried out "Where have you been all this time? And what has been happening to me? How cold it is. How huge and empty." The air was so filled with happiness that even the pieces of ice began dancing for sheer delight, and when they were tired they lay down and formed the very word the Snow Queen had told the boy to make.

VII

Hand in hand, they walked out of the great echoing palace. Wherever they went the winds were still and the sun broke out. When they reached the Snow Queen's garden, there was the reindeer waiting for them. They climbed on his back and he began to race South. They rushed through Lapland where it was now midsummer. They rode along the banks of the beautiful river for hundreds of miles until they saw ahead the towers and walls of a city. They said farewell to the reindeer for now they knew they were nearing home. They entered the town, and went up the stairs of the grand-mother's house, and into the room near the roof, where everything stood just where it was before. But as they went through the door they noticed that they themselves had grown, they were not young children. They sat together and looked into each other's eyes, the same children still at heart. And it was summer, warm delightful summer.....

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