Final Draft 8 Demo

An Artist and The Ember

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By Evan Cullinan

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CAST OF CHARACTERS:

EVE
EMBER
JACK
BRI
MARTIN
SHAY

ENSEMBLE (utilize doubling):

PASSEBY(S)
WOMAN
BEAST
SAILORS
TRAVEL AGENT
BARE ACTOR
SAD ACTOR
CAPTAIN
SIREN
TOURIST 1&2
ECHOS
TAYLOR
MEG
TIFF
BRITT
JEN
JESS
SERVER
**SONG LIST:**

**ACT 1**
1. SYMPHONY OF MY MIND............................................................................................ Eve, Jack, Bri
1A. EMBER.................................................................................................................... Ember
2. WHAT I AM................................................................................................................ Ember
3. IDEAS (PART ONE).................................................................................................. Eve, Ember, Bare/Sad Actor
4. FANTASTIES............................................................................................................. Eve, Ember, Captain, Siren
5. IDEAS (PART TWO)............................................................................................... Eve, Ember
6. OPENING NUMBER............................................................................................... Ensemble
7. INDIFFERENCE....................................................................................................... Eve, Ember
8. HEY......................................................................................................................... Martin, Eve, Ember, Taylor, Tiff
9. AGAIN..................................................................................................................... Ember, Eve
10. BREATHE............................................................................................................... Ember, Eve, Shay
11. YOU ARE NOT ME.............................................................................................. Eve, Ember
12. REAL...................................................................................................................... Ember

**ACT 2**
13. WORKING SONG................................................................................................... Eve, Ember
14. THE PRESENTATION............................................................................................. Bri, Jack
15. DONE WITH YOU................................................................................................. Eve, Ember
16. MY OBSESSSION................................................................................................... Eve, Ember, Shay
17. STRAWBERRIES................................................................................................... Eve
18. CONFLAGRATION................................................................................................. Ensemble
19. HEY (REPRISE)...................................................................................................... Martin
20. IDEAS (PART THREE)........................................................................................... Eve, Ember
21. OKAY...................................................................................................................... Eve
ACT 1
SCENE 1

Lights up while the orchestra tunes to A440. This moves into the opening:

SONG #1: SYMPHONY OF MY MIND

The lights come up on a woman, standing in a spotlight: EVE. Soon enough the music reaches its resolution and:

EVE
WAIT, THAT’S TOO “NEXT TO NORMAL”. MAYBE START WITH SOMETHING CHORAL?

She goes to the upright piano behind her, just out of the spotlight. It follows her as she sits down and plays something that sounds a little too familiar:

SHIT, NO THAT’S SONDHEIM. MAYBE “LIGHTS UP” ON A MIME?

Beat.

NO THAT’S STUPID.

She plays again:

HOW ABOUT SOFT PIANO OVER TOP? THEN SWEET CELLOS, WAIT, STOP. THAT’S FUCKING JASON ROBERT BROWN I CAN’T WRITE IT DOWN I DIDN’T REALIZE IT’D BE SO HARD NOT TO PLAGIARIZE.

I need to clear my head.

She stands away from the piano; it is moved away. The scene shifts: Chicago, summertime, dusk. She moves through the eve, looking about the space, every passing car, every passerby, everything.
EVE
I WALK ALONE IN SILENCE
I LISTEN TO THE SOUNDS FOR MANKIND
I HEAR THE WIND GIVE A MOAN
I FIND RHYTHM IN MY STEPS
I FEEL THE BEAT IN MY CHEST
THE MUSIC INCUBATES IN MY MIND

She attempts to conduct what she hears but is stopped by the odd look of a PASSERBY.

A MELODY'S INSIDE, IT'S LOCKED THERE
I WANNA LET GO, HAVE IT FLOW FROM MY SOUL
TO THE FREE AND THE OPEN AIR
I WANT ALL TO KNOW

She stands. She paints her world, the world begins to glow.

OF THE SYMPHONY OF MY MIND'S CREATION
TO MY HEART'S ELATION
I WANT TO SHARE MY MUSIC
WITH THE BROKEN, HEARTSICK WORLD.

She moves again, a group of PASSERSBY impede her path. She dodges around them as one would during rush hour.

IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE I'VE MOVED HERE
TO CHICAGO WHERE I NOW CALL MY HOME.
I HAVE WORKED AND I'VE WAITED
NOT JUST TABLES BUT FOR MY OPPORTUNITY
FOR A PROJECT THAT SETS A FIRE IN MY BONES
A YEARNING LIVES IN ME IT'S ALWAYS BEEN HERE.
I WANNA WRITE A MUSICAL THAT CHANGES THE WORLD
YOU WILL SEE PEOPLE SHED A TEAR
YOU JUST WAIT AND SEE

The PASSERSBY form a make-shift orchestra with their briefcases and newspapers some even dance as if in Carneige Hall.
EVE
FOR THE SYMPHONY OF MY MIND’S CREATION
AN ARTFUL CELEBRATION
I WANT TO GIVE MY MUSIC
TO THE BROKEN, HEARTSICK WORLD.

EVE gets a message on her phone from JACK, a friend from college:

JACK
Yo! We’re outside George’s!

She types back:

EVE
Oh right, on my way!

EVE moves and exits. A bench is moved onstage: JACK and BRI, married, sit eating ice cream.

EVE
Hey guys! It’s so good to see you!

BRI
You too! How’ve you been?

EVE
Good, good, just been working and submitting and // all that--

BRI
Oh god, auditioning.

EVE
Right? I mean, I’m so happy I get to do what I came here for but Jesus.

JACK
So, Eve, we’ve got a proposition for you.

BRI
We’ll chat later.
EVE
What’s up?

JACK
So:
WE’VE BEEN TALKING A WHILE AND WE’VE GOT AN IDEA.

BRI
YOU REMEMBER WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT BACK IN SCHOOL?

EVE
I THINK I DO.

JACK/BRI
WILL YOU WRITE A MUSICAL WITH US?

EVE
OF COURSE.
YES!
I HAVE SO MANY IDEAS
I HAVE SOME THOUGHTS FOR YOU BOTH
I’LL START ON A BIG THEME RIGHT A--

JACK
Eve, we don’t know what we’re doing yet. Think of some ideas, a story, google some stuff, we’ll text you for a follow up meeting, okay?

EVE
Sounds good, sorry, yeah my mind just goes million miles a minute.

BRI hugs EVE. JACK does the same.

BRI
Oh we know. We’ll text you. We’re excited!

EVE
Me too, obviously. See ya!

JACK and BRI exit. EVE is alone on stage.
EVE
FATE COMES MY WAY IT’S ALWAYS ON MY SIDE
I WILL FIND THE RIGHT STORY TO TELL THROUGH MY SONG
YOU WILL KNOW OF MY NAME IN TIME
AND ALL WILL KNOW
OF THE SYMPHONY OF MY MIND’S CREATION
A WONDROUS EXULTATION
I WANT TO GIVE MY MUSIC
TO THE BROKEN, HEARTSICK WORLD!

The final theme plays. EVE turns around and behind her she conducts melody, the lights of the world shift and change at her direction. And finally the last modulation occurs. She turns to face front:

EVE

HERE I COME!

With the last note, she holds out her hands, conducting the orchestra in her mind. When she reaches the climax she signals the orchestra, with a cutoff gesture, for the stinger.

Blackout.
End of Scene.