HYENA IN PETTICOATS - Second Draft
BOOK AND LYRICS BY: LILY DWOSKIN
MUSIC BY: AUSTIN NUCKOLS

Prologue
Out of Time

#1 Hyena in Petticoats
Mary, Ensemble

(Bare stage. Lights up on ENSEMBLE. They move as one.)

ENSEMBLE
UNDoubtedly unPatriotic.
Her Book is immoral, chaotic.
Blasphemous Indeed.
She is Corrupt and depraved.
Not how she ought have behaved.
Disguised as a rose, is a Weed.
She’s out for blood,
The blood of our men.
Her weapon regrettably is the tip of her pen.
She’d force a smile while slitting all our throats.
Our hyena in petticoats!
Hyena, Hyena, Hyena, Hyena, Hyena, Hyena!

(In runs HORACE WALPOLE, brandishing papers.)

WALPOLE
Ladies and gentlemen, I come bearing tremendous news!

ALL
What news! What news! (Indistinguishable chatter...)

(ANNA BARBAULD snatches the papers.)

BARBAULD
In childbirth?

(Charles talleyrand takes them.)

TALLEYRAND
Ironic, isn’t it? She has forsaken God. With her writing, and her… (Mocking) “Vindication of the Rights of Women”.)
And God has forsaken her.

The lies!

The lust!

Will someone think of the children?!

Oh, the children!!

Let the whole world hear. Mary Wollstonecraft is dead!

The hyena has been slain!

SHE WAS OUT FOR BLOOD,
THE BLOOD OF OUR MEN.
HER WEAPON REGRETTABLY WAS
THE TIP OF HER PEN.
JUST THINK, A WORLD WHERE WOMEN ALL HAVE VOTES!
OUR HYENA IN PETTI–!

(From behind the crowd, bursts MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT. She sings in isolation.)

AH-AH!
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN TOLD THAT I OUGHT TO HAVE VIRTUE.
VIRTUE IS THE ONE TRUE TRAIT OF A LADY.
LADIES OUGHT TO BE GOOD.
THAT MUCH I'VE ALWAYS UNDERSTOOD.
BUT HOW CAN I BE VIRTUOUS
WHEN VIRTUE IS THE POWER TO CHOOSE?
AND I DON'T EVEN HAVE THE POWER TO REFUSE.

YOU HAVE THE POWER.
YOU WIELD THE GUNS.
YOU DROWN YOUR DAUGHTERS,
TO LIFT UP YOUR SONS!
BUT NOW I STAND UP.
I AM POISED TO FIGHT.
MARK MY WORDS,
I WILL MAKE THINGS RIGHT.

ENSEMBLE
VILLAINESS WASP! SERPENTINE FIEND!
POISONING THE MINDS OF THE YOUNG AND NAIVE!
WHORE! BURN HER BOOK!
ERASE IT FROM OUR MINDS!

MARY
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN TOLD THAT I OUGHT TO HAVE PATIENCE.
PATIENCE IS A VIRTUE

ALL
FIT FOR A LADY!

MARY
PARENTS SHOULD BE OBEYED
DESPITE MISTAKES THAT THEY HAVE MADE.
BUT HOW CAN I BE PATIENT
WHEN PATIENCE IS THE POWER TO WAIT?
BUT WE’RE WAITING FOR YOU TO DECIDE OUR FATE.

MEN
WE’LL DECIDE YOUR FATE!

MARY
YOU HAVE THE POWER.
YOU WIELD THE GUNS.
YOU DROWN YOUR DAUGHTERS,
TO LIFT UP YOUR SONS!
BUT NOW I STAND UP.
I AM POISED TO FIGHT.
MARK MY WORDS,
I WILL MAKE THINGS RIGHT.

ENSEMBLE
THINK OF A LIONESS HIDING HER ROAR.
THINK OF A DOVE WITH THE HEART OF A BOAR.
THINK OF A VIPER, WITH NASTIEST BITE,
HISSING AND SCREECHING, SHE KNOWS SHE IS RIGHT!

MARY

VILLAINIZE ME! DEMONIZE ME!
CRUCIFY ME! I WILL STAND IT!
YOU CAN BEAT ME! YOU CAN STRIKE ME!
YOU CAN KILL ME! I WON'T DIE!

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<th>MARY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIT ME!</td>
<td>TRAITOR!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HURT ME!</td>
<td>VILLAIN!</td>
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<tr>
<td>HOPE THAT I FADE!</td>
<td>WHORE!</td>
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ENSEMBLE

THERE'S NOTHING SO WRONG AS A WOMAN WHO HOWLS
AND WRITES LIKE A MAN WITH HER MASCULINE VOWELS!

MARY

YOU CAN'T HIDE THE FOOTPRINTS THAT I'VE MADE!

<table>
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