SCENE 5

#9: Timber! (Reprise)

Woods on screen. It is daytime again. Lights up on ALEX and SAM confusedly marching around the stage, each with smartphone in hand. Industrial machinery whirrs offstage.

ALEX & SAM
TIMBER. TIMBER.
TIMBER. TIMBER.

ALEX
AN HONEST DAY’S SWEAT AND TOIL

SAM
EVERY JOB NEEDS AN UPDATE, CEOS NEEDS A RAISE

ALEX & SAM
TIMBER.

SAM
CHOPPING DOWN TREES IN MUD AND SOIL

ALEX
EVERYONE NEEDS A PAYCHECK, SO I’LL TAKE WHAT I’M GAVE

ALEX & SAM
TIMBER.

JOJO enters, nervously clutching the guitar.

JOJO
Gather ‘round, everybody...everybody gather ‘round...

ALEX
What now Jojo?

SAM
We’re behind our targets, Jojo. We have to make our quota for the day.

ALEX
Mr seeds will dock our pay.
JOJO
...Well, you see, that’s what I want to talk to you about.

ALEX
We don’t have time.

SAM
The app is telling us to get back to work.

ALEX
TIMBER.

Crash! Thud!

SAM
TIMBER.

Crunch! Wham! ALEX and SAM start to leave, but are stopped by JOJO

JOJO
Listen up, dammit, I said gather around!

ALEX
Quit it, Jojo.

#10: Carmen the One-Armed Lumberjack

JOJO sighs and begins to play.

JOJO
I CASH MY PAYCHECK EVERY MONTH
FOR TWENTY YEARS WORKED IN THE WOODS
THE WOMAN’S WAGE MY FAMILY FED
THE FEMALE FRAME MY LOT TO BEAR

MR. SEEDS, MR. SEEDS. WHY DID YOU PLANT THAT SUFFERING IN ME
MR SEEDS, MR SEEDS. WHY DID YOU PLANT THAT HATRED IN ME

SAM
WE REALLY SHOULD GET BACK TO WORK...

JOJO
IN ILLINOIS
SWEET CARMEN LIVED
THE BOSS-MAN CAME AND TOOK HER ARM
MADE HER SO REDUNDANT
HOW COULD HE LET HER COME TO HARM

MR. SEEDS, MR. SEEDS

ALEX
THERE SHE GOES AGAIN…

JOJO
WHY DID YOU PLANT THAT SUFFERING IN ME

SAM
GOD, GIVE IT A REST…

JOJO
MR SEEDS, MR SEEDS. WHY DID YOU PLANT THAT HATRED IN ME-

SAM
(Interrupting JOJO) WE DON’T REALLY LIKE FOLK MUSIC, JOJO
YOUR SONG’S A BIT ON THE NOSE, JOJO
AND EVER HEARD OF SHOW, DON’T TELL?

JOJO
BUT, GUYS. I’M TRYING TO UNIFY YOU! SOLIDARITY FOREVER!

ALEX
JOJO, YOU’RE DISTRACTING US, WE HAVE TO RUN THESE MACHINES

JOJO
SOLIDARITY FOREVER!

SAM
JOJO, YOU’RE DISTRACTING US, AT LEAST PLAY SOMETHING WITH A BACKBEAT

ALEX & SAM
ALL THAT STRUMMING IS GIVING US A HEADACHE

JOJO
I thought we were going to have a sing along and, I don’t know, maybe fight the power… or something like that…
SAM
Fight the power?  Solidarity forever?  You’re spouting clichés.  A slogan can’t pay my rent, I need a wage.

ALEX
What happened to Carmen was sad… but Seeds promised extra precautions.

JOJO
But… your benefits, your pensions, your healthcare.

ALEX
My son’s going to college next year, Jojo.

#11A: What Use is a Legend?

SAM
We’ve got to go.  *(Takes her phone out of her pocket)  Goodbye.  TIMBER…*

ALEX
TIMBER…

They continue to sing and slowly make their way off the stage, leaving JOJO alone.  *She looks around.*

JOJO
Paul!  *(Beat)  John!  *(Beat)  Mr. Bunyan?.... Mr. Henry?....

*JOJO falls to her knees and cries.*

WHAT USE IS A LEGEND
A SONG, AND A BEAT
A LEGEND’S A LIE
FOR MINDS THAT ARE WEAK

WHAT USE IS A MYTH
A GOD ON A PLINTH
TO LET YOU SLEEP AT NIGHT
A BUNCH OF BULLSHIT!

*JOJO plays a few notes on the guitar, sighs, takes it off, and gets up.*

WHAT USE IS A LEGEND
A SONG, AND A BEAT
I KNOW ONLY I
CAN PUT MYSELF ON MY FEET

WHAT USE IS A LEGEND
A SONG, AND A BEAT
I KNOW ONLY I
CAN PUT MYSELF ON MY FEET

IF A SLOGAN WON’T DO
I’LL WORK MORE METHODICALLY
I’M SURE THESE SILLY MACHINES
ARE A FALSE ECONOMY

I’LL DRAW UP A PLAN
AND I’LL MAKE A PROPOSAL
I’LL CHECK ALL THE ANGLES
AND I’LL BEAT THE MOGUL
I’LL SCOUT HIS WORKERS
AND I’LL SEE HIS REACTION
SEEDS WILL SEE
THERE’S NO SENSE TO HIS ACTIONS

#11B: Carmen the One-Armed Lumberjack (Reprise)

MR. SEEDS, MR. SEEDS. WHY DID YOU PLANT THAT SUFFERING IN ME?
MR. SEEDS, MR. SEEDS. WHY DID YOU PLANT THAT HATRED
WHY DID YOU PLANT THAT HATRED
WHY DID YOU PLANT THAT HATRED IN ME?
IT’S GONNA BE A NEW DAY, YOU’LL SEE.

As she leaves, JOJO places the guitar back at on its stand. Blackout.