THE ELVES AND THE SHOEMAKER - EXCERPTS

SCENE I  Interior of shoemaker's shop plus exterior in front of store. Glass door at stage left is entrance to shop; bell above it tinkles whenever it is opened. The shelves in the shop are all bare; the shop is not well lit and the entire scene is depressing.

Mr. Carr  Well, I don't see anything here that would fit me. In fact I don't see any shoes at all. Did you have a big sale or something?

Mr. Pringle  I know there aren't any shoes here. That's what I've been telling you. But I can make a pair for you.

Mr. Carr  I don't know how you expect to sell any shoes when you don't have any on the shelves. Can you put some up there so I can see them?

Mr. Pringle  No, I can't, not until I get money to buy more leather.

Mr. Carr  That's too bad. I guess I won't buy any shoes today. (CARR exits)

Mr. Pringle  (He shakes his head and looks down at his one piece of leather) One piece of leather to make one last pair of shoes.
SCENE 2 Interior of the shop. It is now dark outside and all the lights in the shop are off. Two silhouetted figures stand in the light of the streetlamp outside the door to the shop. They are Bingo and Jingo, two elves. Bingo jiggles the handle of the door but it is locked and won't open.

BINGO (Stage whisper) Stand back! (They move back and Bingo motions at the door with his hand and there is a bright flash of light or a loud noise and the door flies open. The elves enter. Bingo, a sexy young woman dressed in black leotards and Jingo, a nerdy young man dressed in black leotards. Both have elfin ears since they are, of course, elves. Jingo pulls out a sheaf of papers from the briefcase he's carrying and sits down to start reviewing the papers. Bingo sits down and pulls out an emory board from the same briefcase and starts filing her nails.)

JINGO Their names are Clara and Herman. Both of them Austrian German. They have no food; they have no leather. All they have is the two of them together. Our mission tonight is if we choose Is to make them a wonderful pair of shoes.
JINGO Whether you like it or not
We've a job to do
So grab a hammer
And make a shoe.

BINGO (Reaches into the briefcase and retrieves a piece of leather)
What shall I make? High-heeled sling pumps? Cuban heels?
Stilettos? Oh, the possibilities.

JINGO Make a beautiful pair
And make them plain
It's a style that will sell
Again and again.
(They quickly begin to make a pair of shoes, each one making
a shoe. In a matter of seconds each pulls up a newly made shoe)

BINGO (Looking proud) That ought to knock their socks off. No, I don't
mean that. We want their socks on but I don't know how to say
it that way. Anyway, Jingo, I'm proud to be working with you.
We make a good team, don't we?

SCENE 3 It is morning in the shop. We see a pair of new shoes on
the shelf waiting to be discovered. We hear voices from
off-stage.

PRINGLE (He sees the new pair of shoes) I must be seeing things.
This isn't possible. (Calling) Clara, Clara, come here this
minute. I must be seeing things. I must be going crazy. I
guess it has something to do with having nothing to eat.

MRS. PRINGLE Herman, what is it now? What are you talking about and
why haven't you finished dusting those shelves?

PRINGLE (Pointing to the shelf with the shoes on it) Look! (She is
so taken aback that she can't speak) You don't see them,
do you? I thought I was hallucinating. You don't see a
beautiful new pair of shoes sitting there on the shelf. It's
just me. The strain has been too much. I'm obviously losing
my mind. Call the loony wagon and make me a reservation.

MRS. PRINGLE Herman, they're beautiful! (Gives him a bear hug) This
is the husband I married. No wonder you're sleepy in the
morning. You snuck out here and worked all night making
these shoes as a surprise for me. And what a wonderful sur-
prise. They're the most beautiful pair you've ever made.
I'm so proud of you. Now we'll have money for food and more
leather. It's a miracle. I don't know how you did it, but
you did.

PRINGLE But I didn't.

MRS. PRINGLE Don't be so modest, Herman. That's one of your problems.
You never give yourself credit for anything. When you make
something as wonderful as these shoes, just say so.

PRINGLE So you mean these shoes are real?
MRS. PRINGLE (Picks them up) Of course they're real and you'll sell
them in five minutes flat for a good price.

PRINGLE I can't believe it.

(Mrs. Glockenspiel enters the shop. Pringle shows her the shoes. Mr.
Glockenspiel enters)

MRS. GLOCKENSPIEL TO MR. GLOCKENSPIEL I came here to buy something
for your birthday. And I found this wonderful pair of shoes for you. Don't you like them?

MR. GLOCKENSPIEL (Tries on the shoes) I love them. They fit perfectly.

MRS. GLOCKENSPIEL You don't have to wrap them. He'll wear them home. Take these old shoes and throw them away. From now on we buy only from you. (To song)
THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SHOES
IN VIENNA

Ms. Glockenspiel: How can
I dear you anything when
you've given me these shoes?

The most beautiful shoes in Vienna

Are the ones I hold (pringle) are the

Ours I sold (glock) the most beautiful

IN ONE CON MOTO
SCENE 5 Back in the shop where the shelves are filled with many, many new pairs of beautiful shoes, the shop has been cleaned up.

PRINGLE Clara, my dear. All day long I've had one customer after another with hardly a second to rest. I thought you'd be so happy with our success, but you seem so sad. What can I do to make you happy? Is there anything you want that I can get for you? Just name it and I'll do my best.

MRS. PRINGLE (Sings) YOU
YOU

E₇  D₇  B₆

YOU'VE GIVEN ME THE BEST THERE IS, EV'-RY TIME I ASK YOU TO, BUT THE ONLY THING I TRULY NEED IS THE
YOU USED TO BE YOU.

POSTCARDS ARE TO HAVE WHEN YOU WANT TO SHOOT THE WORK, BUT JUST

GIVE ME BACK THE MAN I MARRIED WITH.

ALL HIS PE-CU-LI-TAR QUIRIES, THERE'S
SILLY ONE THING I REALLY WANT TO DO

ONLY ONE THAT WILL DO THE

YOU WHO HAD TO BE YOU.
SCENE 6  Later that night in the shop. Bingo and Jingo are busily cleaning up at the end of their shoemaking.

JINGO     This is our final evening here
       We've done the job we were sent to do
       The shoemaker can now retire
       He and his wife can start anew.

BINGO   I get so tired of the same old stuff. Do good deeds. Work, work, work. Same old uniform. Black, black, black. I am also so tired of hearing you always rhyme, rhyme, rhyme. When are you ever going to stop that?

JINGO   You know I can't help it
       That witch cast a spell on me
       I have to talk in rhyme
       Until a human sets me free
       It only takes a kiss of love
       And then I'll talk like you
       But where will I ever find
       A human who will do?

(Mr. and Mrs. Pringle come out of hiding)

MRS. PRINGLE     I will!

JINGO   But you're not supposed to see us.

PRINGLE   We see you because of what you've done for us and all the joy brought back to our lives.

MRS. PRINGLE   And we want to share that joy with you. It's Christmas and we have some gifts for you. (She pulls out two presents beautifully wrapped)

(Both Bingo and Jingo eagerly unwrap their gifts. Each one pulls out a beautiful red uniform)

BINGO   Red! My favorite color! Aren't they gorgeous?

BINGO AND JINGO sing       FANCY CLOTHES
"FANCY CLOTHES"

"JINGO! I DON'T KNOW I MIGHT"
Wear them all at once. I can't wait to show off now.

(CISO AND JINGO) were gonna paint the town in FANCY-

(CLOTHES,)
Don't have to play the casual in fancy-

(CLOTHES,)
And we will lose that crown for heaven knows—
How we love to step out in fancy clothes!

Don't we look just right in fancy clothes?

And we would never fight in fancy clothes.

Though we can't quite write in fancy prose,
How we love to step out in fancy clothes.
MRS. PRINGLE  You two have been giving us presents for months now and you've given us a new life. We'll never forget you.

PRINGLE  I'm going to sell the shop and retire. Then Clara and I can have that honeymoon we never got all those years ago and it'll last for the rest of our lives.

JINGO  They're right. We live in Christmas all year long. And I wouldn't have it any other way.

BINGO  Neither would I.

(All sing)  THE LAND OF ONCE UPON A TIME
THE LAND OF ONCE UPON A TIME

[MUSIC NOTATION]

Chord symbols and lyrics: Check the score for the exact chord symbols and lyrics.

Chorus:

[LYRICS]

S.E.S. THAT RAINBOW BENDING LOW OUT THERE.

IN THAT LAND BEYOND THE RAINBOW'S END.

[SONG TEXT]

ALL THE AIR IS FILLED WITH SONG AND RHYME, O COW.

[SONG TEXT]

WITH ITS ARMS JUST BEGGING US TO CLIMB, O COW.

ALL THE AIR IS FILLED WITH SONG AND RHYME, O COW.

[SONG TEXT]

AND LET'S GO CLIMB IT, IT'S THAT LAND OF

AND LET'S GO FIND IT, IT'S THAT LAND OF

[SONG TEXT]
Once upon a time,