

DOGPLAY#?

"CROOKED SKY"

PART I (dogs)

GUINEVERE

What do the simple folk do
To help them escape when they're blue?
The shepard who is ailing, the milkmaid who is glum
The cobbler who is wailing from nailing his thumb
When they're beset and besieged
The folk not noblessly obliged
However do they manage to shed their weary lot?
Oh, what do simple folk do we do not?

ARTHUR

I have been informed by those who know them well
They find relief in quite a clever way
When they're sorely pressed, they whistle for a spell
And whistling seems to brighten up their day
And that's what simple folk do
So they say

GUINEVERE

They whistle?

ARTHUR

So they say

(They whistle for a while)

GUINEVERE

What else do the simple folk do
To pluck up the heart and get through?
The wee folk and the grown folk
Who wander to and fro
Have ways known to their own folk
We throne folk don't know
When all the doldrums begin
What keeps each of them in his skin?
What ancient native custom provides the needed glow?
Oh, what do simple folk do?
Do you know?

ARTHUR

Once, upon the road, I came upon a lad
Singing in a voice three times his size
When I asked him why, he told me he was sad
And singing always made his spirits rise
And that's what simple folk do
I surmise

GUINEVERE

They sing?

ARTHUR

I surmise

BOTH

Arise, my love, arise, my love
Apollo's lighting the skies, my love
The meadows shine with columbine
And daffodils blossom away
Hear Venus call to one and all
And taste delight while you may
The world is bright and all is right
And life is merry and gay

PART II (chickens)

PEASANT CHORUS

Here's what we're thinking tonight
As home through the shadows we wander
Smiling in secret delight
We stare at the castle and ponder
Whenever the wind blows this way,
Aloud we can hear ourselves say:

Wonder what the king is doing tonight?
What merriment is the king pursuing tonight?
The candles at the court, they never burned as bright
Wonder what the king is up to tonight?
How goes the final hour
As he sees his bridal bower
Being regally and legally prepared?
Well, let's tell you what the king is doing tonight:
He's scared! He's scared!

You mean that a king who fought a dragon,
Hacked him in two and fixed his wagon,
Goes to be wed in terror and distress?
Yes!

A warrior who's so calm in battle
Even his armor doesn't rattle
Faces a woman petrified with fright?
Right!

You mean that appalling clamoring
That sounds like a blacksmith hammering
Is merely the banging of his royal knees?
Please!

Wonder what the king is wishing tonight?
He's wishing he were in Scotland fishing tonight!
What occupies his time while waiting for the bride?
He's searching high and low for some place to hide
And oh, the expectation,
The sublime anticipation
He must feel about the wedding night to come

Well, let's tell you what the king is feeling tonight:
He's numb!
He shakes!
He quails! He quakes!
And that's what the king is doing tonight...

PART III (back to dogs)

GUINEVERE

What else do the simple folk do?
They must have a system or two
They obviously outshine us at turning tears to mirth
And tricks a royal highness is minus from birth
What, then, I wonder, do they
To chase all the goblins away?
They have some tribal sorcery you haven't mentioned yet
Oh, what do simple folk do to forget?

ARTHUR

Often, I am told, they dance a fiery dance

And whirl 'til they're completely uncontrolled
Soon the mind is blank and oh, they're in a trance
A violent trance astounding to behold
And that's what simple folk do
So I'm told

GUINEVERE
They dance?

ARTHUR
So I'm told

(They dance)

GUINEVERE
What else do the simple folk do
To help them escape when they're blue?

ARTHUR
They sit around and wonder what royal folk would do
And that's what simple folk do

GUINEVERE
(spoken)
Oh, no, really?

ARTHUR
I have it on the best authority.

BOTH
(sung)
Yes, that's what simple folk do!