**ACT II:** AT RISE, the NARRATORS are discovered.

FIRST NARRATOR

Hello again. We're back!

SECOND NARRATOR

(To audience)

I hope you had a nice break.

FIRST NARRATOR

I did.

SECOND NARRATOR

So did I. But -- now it's time to tell you about Jamel's unexpected adventure.

FIRST NARRATOR

Are you ready?

SECOND NARRATOR

Good! Then ...

JAMEL (OFFSTAGE)

Goodbye Dalia. Goodbye, my children. I will be home soon.

(TOGETHER)

FIRST NARRATOR

Jamel bid goodbye to his family,

and set forth along the road.

(JAMEL enters, whistling.)

SECOND NARRATOR

As he walked he sang to himself...

**JAMEL** 

I am a happy man.

A happy man am I.

I'll help bring in the grain

The rice and sugar cane.

And sing the harvest songs.

Beneath the bright blue sky

My friends will sing along with me.

A happy man am I.

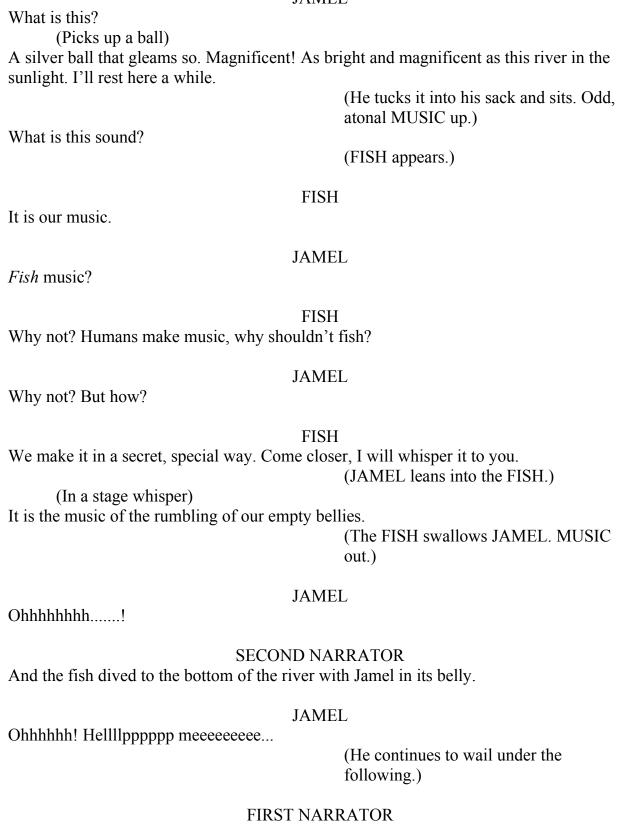
(He whistles or hums the tune and does a

little dance,)

FIRST NARRATOR

And then, as he reached a wide river, he came upon ...





And there he stayed, for no one could hear his cries.

#### SECOND NARRATOR

But at last he said:

#### **JAMEL**

Alas. But someone will rescue me. And whoever does, I will give this silver ball.

(Softly, MUSIC up. LIGHTS change.)

I have an idea! While I am waiting, I will make up a story to tell the children when I return home.

## FIRST NARRATOR

And so, he sat back, and thought, and...

#### **JAMEL**

Ah! ... Once upon a time a young woman named Cleota took a job as a clerk in a store. On the day she was paid for the first time, she went to a farmer who was known far and wide for the - unusual pigs [she/he] kept, and...

#### **CLEOTA**

[Sir/Madam]: My name is Cleota and I would like to buy a pig.

**FARMER** 

A pig? Are you a farmer?

# **CLEOTA**

No. I work in a store selling cloth and tools to men and women who have need of them.

## **FARMER**

I thought as much: You are a young woman and dressed in good clothes. Why would you want a pig?

**CLEOTA** 

I want to keep it as a pet.

**FARMER** 

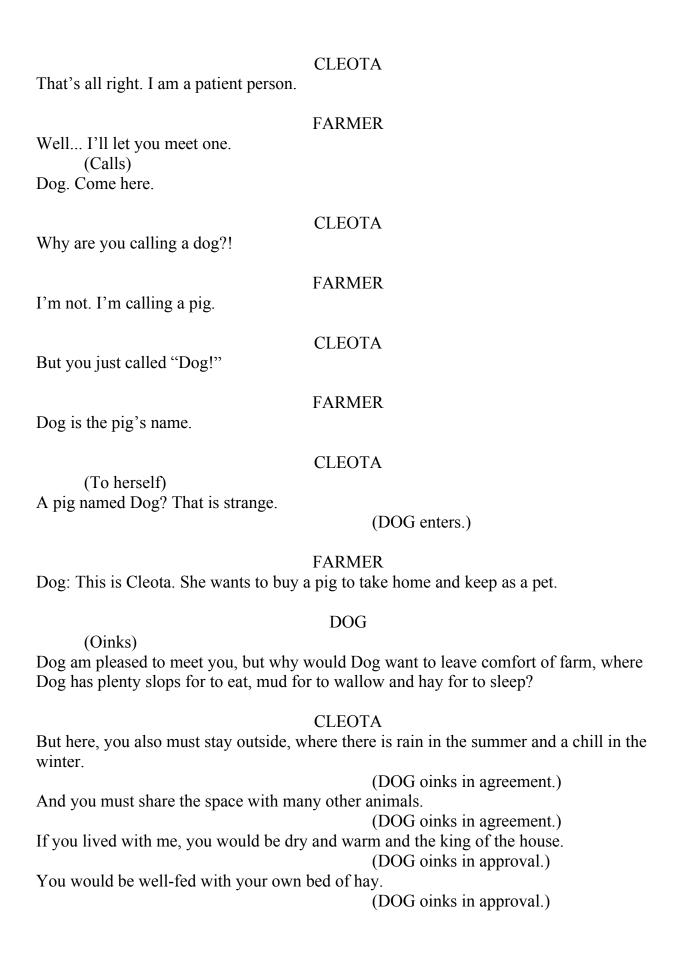
A pig as a pet!

### **CLEOTA**

Yes. I have heard pigs make very good pets, and that your pigs are most unusual.

#### **FARMER**

I do have pigs unlike any you have ever seen. They can walk upright, and talk. But they can be *very* stubborn.



# CLEOTA (cont.)

And I would take you for long walks through the fields where you could play in the rain, and you could slosh in the mud as much as you could ever wish for.

(DOG oinks in strong disapproval.)

## **DOG**

Well... Dog especially not like rain, or water at all except for to drink. It wash off all the mud! Water bad; mud good! Dog do like fresh hay, and being king of house.

(Oinks)

And food.

(Oinks enthusiastically)

But walking -- Dog care not for that. Dog prefer sedentary life.

### **CLEOTA**

Then that's what you shall have. I will build a large pit in the living room and fill *it* with mud, and you will be able to wallow there to your heart's content. And, once you have reached my home, you will not have to walk at all.

DOG

Well...

**FARMER** 

Well?

DOG

Well... Dog ask you riddle. If you can answer it, Dog am to leave with you.

**CLEOTA** 

All right. What is the riddle?

DOG

There be four thousand people in one carriage; who they are?

**CLEOTA** 

Why, that would be Mr. and Mrs. Thousand, and their two children.

DOG

Yes, them it would be. -- Then, goodbye, Farmer.

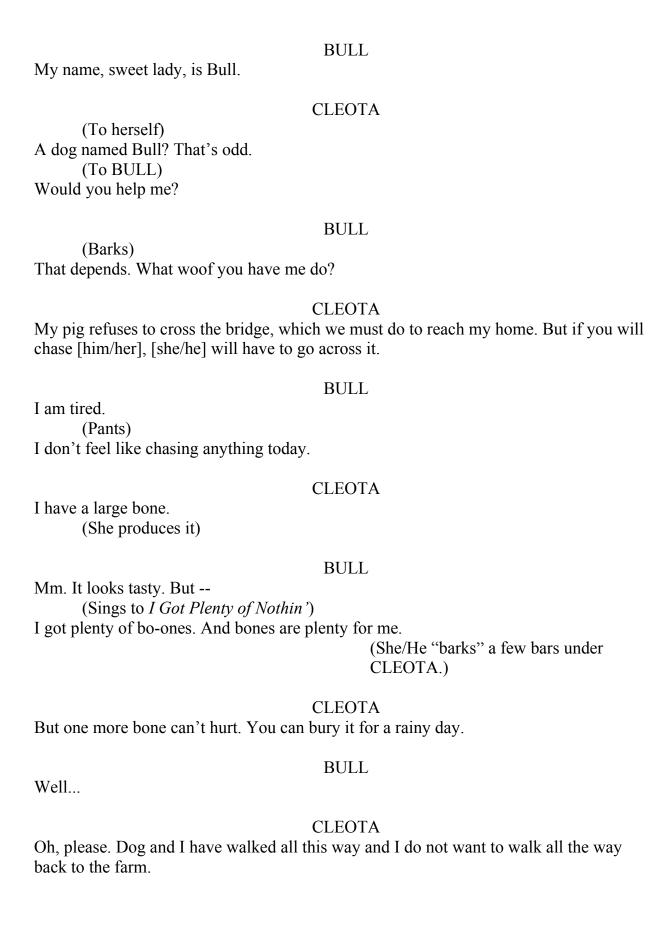
(Oinks; then *sotto voce*)

For now.

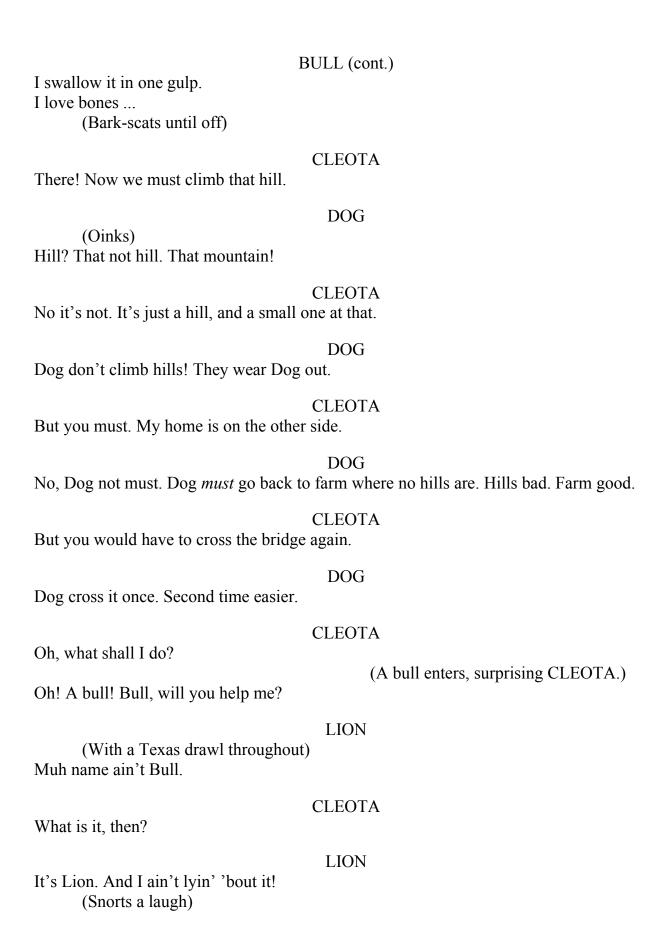
**FARMER** 

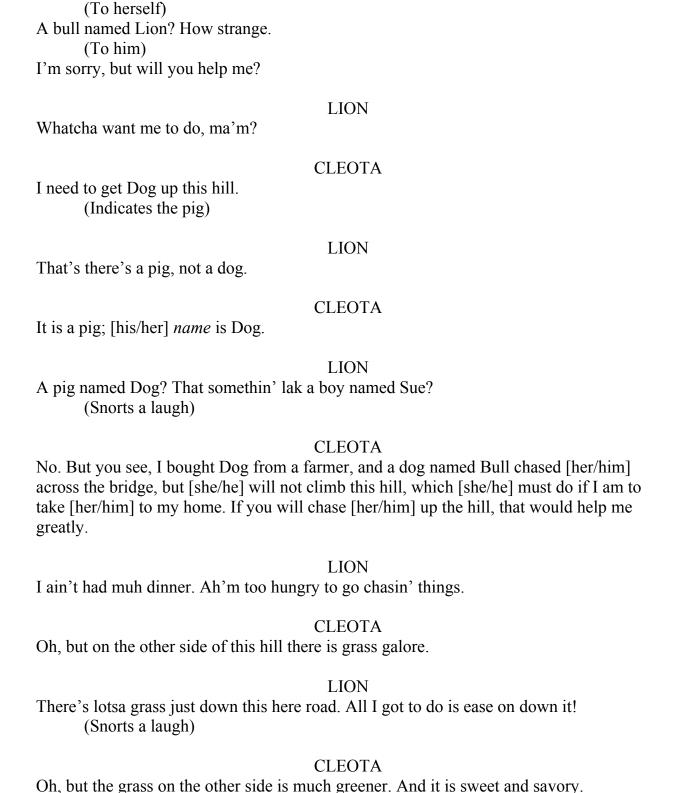
Farewell, Dog.

	CLEOTA
I promise to take the best care of you	
Come, Dog. It's not far.	(She gives the FARMER money.)
For had Noon and	DOG
Far bad. Near good.	
And so Cleota and Dog set off for Cleoriver, and	JAMEL ta's home. But to get there, they had to cross a
What this?!	DOG
It's a river, with a bridge across it.	CLEOTA
River? It look like water to Dog.	DOG
It is water. But all we must do is go acre	CLEOTA oss the bridge.
Oh, no! Dog might to fall in. All mud E Besides: Dog can't swim.	DOG Dog has worked to cake skin would wash away.
But I can't carry you across!	CLEOTA
	DOG
Then Dog will have to go back to farm. you! Dog do not to cross bridges.	Dog promise to leave with you, not to stay with
	CLEOTA
There must be some way!	
(To herself)	(A dog enters.)
I have it.	
(To the dog)	
Excuse me: dog.	



BULL (Sniffs DOG)						
That is a pig, not a dog! I am a dog.						
CLEOTA Yes, but [his/her] name is Dog.						
BULL A pig named Dog? That is unusual. Well, all right. Sweet lady, I will ask you a riddle. If you can answer it, I will chase your pig across the bridge. But, it is a rrrrrufffff one.						
CLEOTA What is the riddle?						
BULL						
Legs have I but never walk, I make you dream, but never talk. When it is dark I let you lie. When it is light you say goodbye. Who am I?						
CLEOTA						
Oh, that is easy. You are my bed!						
BULL						
That is right. (Pants)						
De	BULL chases DOG across the bridge. OG complains. CLEOTA follows. nce THEY are all across the bridge:)					
That was exciting! I love chasing things. But now	I must BULL lifts [his/her] leg.)					
Ah, that's better! Now about that bone						
CLEOTA Here. And thank you!						
(Exits singing; to <i>C'est si bon</i> ) I love bones. Chewing them to a pulp. And when one's all chewed up						





**CLEOTA** 

LION				
Well okay. I'm gonna ask you a riddle, ma'm. If you can answer it, I'll chase your pig up the hill.				
(Snorts a laugh) Chasin' a pig up a hill ain't a hill o' beans to me!				
CLEOTA What is the riddle?				
LION I am a five-letter word. But when you take two letters off, you still got ten. What am I?				
CLEOTA That is a difficult one. Let me think.				
(Jeopardy theme plays.)				
LION Time's up.				
CLEOTA  (To herself)  What shall I do? I don't know the answer.  (Sighs. To LION)  Alas: It is something I will think on. Often.  (Pronounced: off-ten)				
You got it!				
CLEOTA I do?				
LION Yes, ma'm, you shore do! Take away the "o" and the "f" in "often" (Pronounced: off-ten) and you got "ten" left. (Snorts a laugh)				

CLEOTA

Of course!