

# Hail and Reign

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Matilda, Countess of Boulogne ("Matty"), is overjoyed to know that her war against the Empress Matilda is drawing to a successful conclusion. The Empress is losing the fight and Matty – a meek character, most typically – can't help but celebrate her good fortune.

MATTY

(Singing.)  
GRIM AND GRUESOME  
ONCE SUMMED UP MY SORRY LOT.  
THAT BLEAK TWOSOME  
WAS THE SOLE PAIR THAT I'D GOT.  
WELL, LET'S LOSE 'UM  
FOR A CHEERIER REFRAIN.  
WHY NOT TRY HAIL AND REIGN?

TRUE, FATE TOLD ME  
THAT MY PLACE WAS IN THE REAR.  
HOW HE'D SCOLD ME  
IF I EVER TRIED TO STEER.  
LITTLE BOLD ME  
I'VE CARVED OUT MY OWN DOMAIN.  
WELL, NOW, I HAIL AND REIGN.

SO GOODBYE NOW  
TO THOSE DOORMAT DAYS OF YORE.  
EVERY SIGH NOW  
MIRRORS LESS A NOISY SHORE.  
HELLO SKY NOW.  
IT'S TIME TO HAIL A GALE AND SOAR.

YES, I'LL RISE TO  
ALTITUDES WHERE ANGELS SWOON.  
SAY MY HI'S TO

MY NEW NEIGHBORS, SUN AND MOON.

MATTY (CONT)

BREAK MY TIES TO  
EV'RY POTHOLE, RUT, AND DRAIN.  
IT'S TIME TO HAIL AND REIGN.

MUSIC continues. The LIGHTS rise in the back to reveal the PLAYERS (PEOPLE OF ENGLAND). THEY are oppressed, toiling, and in chains. MATTY faces front and proclaims:

MATTY

People of England! Your days of suffering are over. The Empress Matilda has been overthrown. Soon the banners of King Stephen will be flying over London.

Overjoyed, the PLAYERS break their chains and cheer.

MALE PLAYERS

(Singing.)  
ONCE OUR HEYDAY  
WAS KEPT WAITING IN THE WINGS.

FEMALE PLAYERS

(Singing.)  
WE'D SCREAM MAYDAY  
FROM LIFE'S ARROWS AND LIFE'S SLINGS.

MATTY

(Singing.)  
NOW EACH GRAY DAY  
CAN GO PLAGUE A PRINCELY DANE.

MATTY, FEMALE PLAYERS

(Singing.)  
IT'S TIME TO HAIL AND REIGN.

ALL PLAYERS

(Singing.)  
COME, LET'S PIN UP  
ALL OUR HOPES AMONG THE STARS.

MATTY

(Singing.)  
KEEP THAT CHIN UP  
FOR THE WORLD OUT THERE IS OURS.

MATTY, ALL PLAYERS

(Singing.)  
PROP THAT GRIN UP  
LIKE THE U IN THE UKRAINE.  
COME ALL, LET'S HAIL AND...

WILL  
(Singing, bouncing in.)  
REIGN!  
OF US, EACH IS  
BUT A LIGHT THAT BEGS TO GLEAM.

MATTY  
(Singing.)  
NOW IN REACH IS  
EVERY RAINBOW AND SUNBEAM.

MATTY, WILL, PLAYERS  
(Singing.)  
STORM THE BEACHES.  
IT'S TIME TO SNAG AND BAG THE DREAM.

Jubilantly, THEY ALL dance.

MATTY  
(Singing.)  
LIFE WAS WHEEZING.  
NOW IT RUNS A MARATHON.  
TIME FOR SEIZING  
EV'RY BREATH WE COME UPON.

WILL, PLAYERS  
(Singing.)  
WITH SOME SQUEEZING  
AND SOME PULL BY THE DIVINE  
OUR WATER TURNED TO WINE.

MATTY  
(Singing.)  
OOPS! PLEASE RE-SING.  
IT IN TRUTH TURNED TO CHAMPAGNE.

MATTY, WILL, PLAYERS  
(Singing.)  
IT'S TIME TO HAIL AND REIGN.