

I'll Rule You A Lovely Reign

Hail and Reign

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~context~

Matilda, daughter of the English king, Henry I, has just been informed that her father has died and that she is now Queen of England – and just in time, too. Matilda – a rather strong personality – is fed up with being the Countess of Anjou (a small principality in France) and can't wait to escape from her provincial prison. She is overjoyed to be queen and rejoices in her good fortune, as courtiers look on.

MATILDA

(Singing.)
NIX THE FIRE
UPON YOUR PYRE
FOR A QUEEN
UNSEEN
IN GRACE AND BEAUTY
WILL RULE YOU A LOVELY REIGN.
A LOVELY REIGN.

NO, NO TO
MERCY BEAU COUP
FOR TO BRING
THE SPRING
IN IS MY DUTY.
I'LL RULE YOU A LOVELY REIGN.

EVERY FROWN
I'LL UPSIDE DOWN
THROUGHOUT YOUR LITTLE REALM.
MANDALAY
WILL SEEM BLASÉ
WITH THIS SWEETIE AT THE HELM.

MATILDA (CONT)

TURN EACH TEAR
INTO A CHEER
FOR A TIME
SUBLIME
WILL GRACE YOUR ISLE SOON.
YES, I'LL BOON EACH LITTLE BANE.
OH, MY SWEET DEARS, I'LL RULE YOU A LOVELY REIGN.

The PLAYERS spring to life and
choreographically fawn.

PLAYERS

(Singing.)
HALLELU
AND PRAISE JESU
FOR IT SEEMS
OUR DREAMS
FIN'LLY WILL COME TRUE.
MATILDA WILL RULE HER REIGN.

MATILDA

(Singing.)
YES, RULE MY REIGN!

PLAYERS

(Singing.)
AFTER SLEEP
DREAMS SELDOM KEEP
BUT AT TIMES
GOD CHIMES
IN TO MAKE SOME TRUE.
MATILDA WILL RULE HER REIGN.

MATILDA

(Singing.)
WITH PANACHE
I'LL ADD A DASH
OF CULTURE TO YOUR ISLE.
WITH ME IN CHARGE
PAIN LIVES AT LARGE
AND ANGUISH LIVES IN EXILE.

NIX EACH POUT
FOR I'LL PICK OUT
THAT DEAD FLY
THAT'S GLI-
DING IN YOUR TEACUP.
I'LL CHIC UP YOUR KINGDOM PLAIN.
YES, MY SWEET DEARS, I'LL RULE YOU A LOVELY REIGN.

The CHRONICLER brings in glamorous
traveling attire for MATILDA to put on
while the PLAYERS chirp:

PLAYERS

(Singing.)
THE CLOCK IS
TICK-TOCKING,
THE FATES ARE
NOW KNOCKING,
SO PLEASE START
YOUR JOURNEY
ON PLANE, SHIP,
OR GURNEY,
OR BROOMSTICK,
IF NEED BE
FOR WITHOUT
YOU WE'D BE
LIKE FEET WITH-
OUT FROLIC
OR LAUGH WITH-
OUT ROLLICK.

SO HASTEN!
PLEASE HASTEN!
THESE HOURS
TO PACE IN
WITH WORRI-
SOME WAITING
ARE PAST TOL-
ERATING.
SO TELL TIME
TO SPEED UP.
ALL ENGLAND
IS KEYED UP.
WE NEED YOU
TO DEED YOU
A CROWN.

The PLAYERS gasp. MATILDA poses dramatically. SHE is gorgeously attired and ready to leave. Dazzling LIGHTS shine on HER.

MATILDA

(Singing.)
HERE I COME
TO SAVE YOU FROM
YOUR CURRENT GHASTLY STATE.
HISTORY
WILL CHRISTEN ME
MATILDA THE REALLY GREAT.

PLAYERS

(Singing.)
SHE'S SO GREAT, BOYS.

MATILDA

(Singing.)
WAIT AND SEE
YOU'LL TREASURE ME
BECAUSE I
DEFY
WHAT MURPHY'S LAW SAYS.
WHAT MOIS SAYS IS MUCH MORE SANE.

MATILDA, PLAYERS

(Singing.)
NAMELY THAT I/SHE WILL RULE YOU/US A LOVELY REIGN.