

Smile, Make Nice

Hail and Reign

© Crowley-Lewis 2009

~context~

England has a new queen – the Empress Matilda – after a long and bloody civil war that saw many nobles change sides as freely as wind changes its direction. Matilda must grudgingly accept the semi-traitorous notables Henry of Winchester and Robert of Gloucester back into her fold – but she doesn't have to do so gracefully. Matilda can't help but remind her newly re-loyal compatriots about their past treason.

MATILDA

(Singing.)
SMILE, MAKE NICE.
GOODWILL HAS DAWNED.
COME, COME, LET'S BOND
LIKE CRUMPETS AND TEA DO.
SMILE, MAKE NICE.
UNCORK THE GLEE.
BETWEEN WE THREE
NO MORE "BRUTE, ET TU?"

MY REVENGE
HAS JOINED STONEHENGE
IN THOSE ANNALS IT'S EASY TO BORE WITH.
NO MORE DO I
CRAVE AND CRY
TO BE WIPING THE FLOOR WITH
YOU SLIMY TRAITORS.

SMILE, MAKE NICE.
LET'S MAKE AMENDS.
FROM FRIEND TO FRIENDS
ALL GIRLS LOVE A TRAITOR.
PAY THE PRICE.
NEXT UP IS HELL.
OUR CHUM B. L.
WILL CATCH YOU BOTH LATER.

MATILDA (CONT)

BUT PRE-DEATH
DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH
FOR I ONLY DESIRE DÉTENTE NOW.
CIAO, SUN TZU.
I FLIP THROUGH
MISTER KANT NOW.
CHEER UP, YOU LICE.
LET'S SMILE AND MAKE NICE.

(Spoken.)

Come on, Bishy, let's take a twirl.

MATILDA starts dancing with the desperately unpleased HENRY. Meanwhile, ROBERT waits on the sidelines in hope that HE won't be next - but no luck. MATILDA soon grabs HIM, too, and THEY ALL dance together. Then, a big finale that leaves HENRY and ROBERT damaged for life. With that, MATILDA freezes, the LIGHTS dim, and HENRY and ROBERT look to God and sing:

HENRY, ROBERT

(Singing.)

SAVE US.
WE'RE ON OUR KNEES.
PLEASE...
PLEASE...
PLEASE.
BE A SPORT.

COME SAVE US.
HEAR AS WE PRAY.
SAY
'NAY'
AS A
LAST RESORT.

COME SAVE US FROM THIS CRUEL HADES.
PLEASE PUT A GAG IN-
SIDE THIS DRAGON
LADY'S JAWS.
DON'T SWAY OR PAUSE.
SET US FREE OR IT'S ISLAM FOR ME.

The LIGHTS brighten. MATILDA comes alive again.

MATILDA

Not a chance! Friends stick by each other - always. That's how you can get close enough to stab them in the back.

MATILDA
(Singing.)
SMILE, MAKE NICE.
REHEARSE THAT GRIN.
NO WRESTLING IN
THE MUCK AND
THE MUD HERE.

HERE'S ADVICE.
DON'T PLAY THE FOE.
WATCH, WORLD, AS RO-
MANCE DOTH BLOOM AND BUD HERE.
'ME' IS DONE.
NOW ALL FOR ONE.
YES, SIR, THAT IS OUR
NEW JOLLY MAXIM.

(Singing.)
THOUGH IN MY DREAMS
SOME VOICE SCREAMS
TO ME 'AXE 'EM!
THEY'RE TRAITORS!

(Singing.)
LET'S MELT THE ICE.
LET'S SMILE AND MAKE NICE.
MAKE NICE.
MAKE NICE.

(Singing.)
WHY DON'T WE SMILE AND MAKE NICE?

(Singing.)
NICE.

HENRY, ROBERT
(Singing.)
SMILE, MAKE NICE.
REHEARSE THAT LOVELY GRIN.
FROWNS ARE A SIN.

THE MUD HERE.

HERE'S ADVICE.
WON'T PLAY THE FOE.
HEY, WORLD, STOP AND WATCH
FOR ROMANCE WILL BUD HERE.
'ME' IS DONE
AND 'WE' HAS WON.
NOW 'ALL FOR ONE'
IS OUR NEW MAXIM.

MATILDA

MATILDA, HENRY, ROBERT

MATILDA

MATILDA, HENRY, ROBERT