

ACT ONE

SCENE 7

(Later that night. Still in the mountains.)

PEER

Dreams and lies. Lies and dreams. It was all a fake. Reindeers, trolls, Ingrid, those three farm girls...God, was I drunk. Drinking, carousing...Why can't I ever be happy with the way things are? Dreams, all dreams. That's all it was. But there was this girl...Solveig. Oh, my head. Lies and dreams, dreams and lies...lies, lies, lies

(During his speech a WOMAN IN GREEN has mysteriously appeared. Their conversation appears to already be in progress.)

WOMAN IN GREEN

Is it true?

PEER

(standing)

As true as my name is Peer Gynt. As true as you are a beautiful woman. Will you marry me? I promise to be good to you. You'll never have to cook or sew or clean. I'll never treat you bad or yell at you...

WOMAN IN GREEN

Nor beat me?

PEER

A prince would never do such a thing.

WOMAN IN GREEN

So, you're the son of a king?

PEER

Yes. Yes I am.

WOMAN IN GREEN

My father is the King of the Mountain.

PEER

The King of the Mountain? You're a princess? Well that makes us two of a kind.

WOMAN IN GREEN

My father's palace is inside the mountain.

PEER

My mother's castle is far to the South.

WOMAN IN GREEN

(indicating his clothing)

You must have traveled far.

PEER

You should see me when I really get dressed.

WOMAN IN GREEN

I always wear gold and silks.

PEER

They look more like rags.

WOMAN IN GREEN

There's one thing you must remember, Peer Gynt: Inside the mountain everything has another meaning. That is the way of the mountain people.

PEER

It's exactly the same with my family.

WOMAN IN GREEN

Black looks white and bad seems good.

PEER

Great seems small and foul is fair.

WOMAN IN GREEN

Oh, Peer, we were made for each other.

PEER

As the hand fits the glove.

WOMAN IN GREEN

Yes, I'll marry you. Come, my bridal steed.

PEER

(PEER picks her up in his arms.)

We'll ride straight through the mountain.

WOMAN IN GREEN

Straight to my father's palace!

(They exit together.)

(End Scene 7)