

HOPE

START

was something of a strumpet in my day. (*She removes HOPE's gag.*) But never in my wildest—

HOPE: Enough!

ALL: [*Gasp?!*]

HOPE: My heart is telling me many things right now, as you can all well imagine. But one thing it's bellowing louder than anything else is that when there's wrong in the world we must right it. (*She frees herself from her chair.*) You did a wonderful thing by coming here, Ms. Pennywise. Mom. And if you can reform yourself, maybe we can reform a lot more than we know. Ladies and gentlemen of the rebellion, if you want to do to me what they did to Bobby, I wouldn't blame you.

LITTLE BECKY TWO-SHOES: Seize her!

(*All move toward HOPE.*)

HOPE: But if this righteous rebellion were to peter out in Bobby's absence, sending his memory to oblivion, I *would* blame you. All of you! Kill me and the rebellion dies with me. Let me lead you and the rebellion will triumph!

TINY TOM: Lead us?!

ROBBY THE STOCKFISH: She's mad!

HOPE: Lead you to the very nerve center of my father's empire.

PENNY: I've got a key!

HOPE: And the guards know not to question me. But once there, we'll question Daddy. Oh dear, yes, we'll question him plenty!

JOSEPHINE: Why should we trust you?

HOPE: Because Bobby—your hero—loved me. And I loved him.

JOSEPHINE: Hope, dear girl, on behalf of the people of the rebellion, perhaps we, in time, might be able to love you, too.

(*They embrace.*)

HOPE: It's all that really matters, isn't it? Love? Now let's go do to them what they were ultimately going to do to us!

ALL: Hooray!!

(*Segue into . . .*)

END