

Without You

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AIDA the Musical: Songfic: AU

Aida escapes with her father, leaving Radames on Egyptian soil. As they both contemplate love and loss, they assess the future that lies for them both.

~Songfic to RENT's "Without You"~

Provided by Fanart Central.

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1 - Without You

She has traveled the Nile twice in one week. One time led her into slavery, the other took her home. Freedom. That was what she wanted, she was sure of it. She didn't expect to fall in love, especially with the enemy. She loved him, yet in a sense betrayed him. The guilt still tore at her, and she wondered why going home left her with such anguish. The answer was obvious. Him.

"Aida," Amonasro said gently, observing his daughter's melancholy behavior. Could she be thinking of that Egyptian filth? Was that man causing the pain in her eyes? Perhaps it was the death of Henu's boy, Mereb. "Sleep, daughter. We're free." Aida nodded, but continued that saddened gaze over the river.

~*~Without you,

the ground thaws

The rain falls

The grass grows~*~*

Tears stung at the back of Aida's eyes, threatening to fall. She'd lost many loved ones in a week. Mereb, Nehebka...both whom Aida was sure she would see in the next life. Radames, however...Aida let out a soft, broken sob, a sound not unnoticed by Amonasro. Radames might as well be dead to her forever.

~*~Without you,

the seeds root

the flowers bloom

the children play

the stars gleam

the poets dream~*~

On the shore, Radames stared out at the river. His shoulders heaved from anger and utter dejection threatening to break free. She was gone. Not traveling gone, or even dead gone. She was gone...gone from his life.

"They're gone because of you," Zoser said maliciously. "You shame me."

"Funny, I think the same of you," Radames replied curtly.

"Not only has the enemy escaped," Zoser kept his gaze even with Radames' glare. "But so has your

distraction.”

~*~Without you,

the earth turns

the sun burns

but I die without you

but I die withoutyou~*~

“Whatseparates us, Father,” Radames said icily. “Is that I contain love,compassion...”

“Loyalty?” Zoser chuckled. “These traits from a boy whose sword ended countlesslives...”

“Likeit ever bothered you!”

“Aman, betrothed, going behind his destined to fool with a mere slave!” Zosertapped his chin. “Pardon me. A princess disguised as a slave. Tell me, Radames.You claim to be capable of love, so answer this. Did you ever love Amneris?”

“Didyou ever love Mother?” Radames tossed back, but Zoser had blended into thenight. “I have always loved Amneris,” he whispered to the warm breeze. “Butshe’s not Aida.”

~*~The breeze warms

the girl smiles

thecLOUDS move

without you~*~

“Father,why don’t I take over?” Aida gestured toward the oars.

“Areyou up to it?” a concerned, yet tired Amonasro asked. Aida nodded. Anything to get her mind off the sun-kissed blond hair, river blueeyes, smile, and rhythmic laughter. Aida took her fathers place, while hesettled in for a rest. Once his eyes closed, Aida’s eyes spilled with uncheckedtears. A breeze swept at her neck, painfully reminding her of a hand caressingher neck as its owner whispered impossible dreams in her ear.

~*~Tideschange

boys run

oceans crash

crowds roar

days soar

babies cry

without you~*~

“Radames! Radames!” Amneris rushed up to him as he walked stiff-legged into the palace. Confusion flecked her blue eyes. Obviously, not much light had been shed on the topic of what just happened. “All I know is that the king of Nubia escaped,” her gaze turned frantic. “I can’t find Aida anywhere!” Radames opened and closed his mouth a few times, but no words came. He simply shook his head.

“I don’t know... I haven’t seen her,” he nearly choked on the lie. Amneris turned to him.

“Why?” she whispered.

“Why what?” Radames said distantly.

“Why don’t I believe you?”

~*~The moon glows

The river flows

But I die

Without you~*

“Something bothers you, Aida,” Amonasro said in a soft voice, his eyes closed. For this Aida was grateful. He couldn’t see the tears that stained her cheeks.

“Are you hungry, father? We didn’t pack anything, but...”

“You avoid my question, daughter.”

“No, father.”

“Not what? My commenting on something bothering you, or you avoiding my question?” Amonasro opened his eyes.

“Both, I suppose,” Aida smiled.

“You’re crying. Why?” Amonasro sat up and studied her. He never failed to pick up on Aida’s emotions. Aida sighed.

“A mix. I’m happy to be going home, but I’m so miserable that Mereb won’t be coming. He asked me to take him home, father. It was his last wish,” Aida was telling the truth, just leaving Radames out of it.

“Mereb. An inquisitive boy, but nonetheless a charmer,” Amonasro recalled. Aida bit back a fresh deluge of tears, and nodded. “I feel you are hiding something.”

“Nothing, father. I’ve nothing to hide,” Aida raised her chin and smiled. Nothing...

~*~The world revives

Colors renew

But I know blue

Only blue

Lonely blue

Within me blue

Without you~*~

Amonasro caught a flicker of sadness in Aida’s eyes. It was then that it dawned on him. It WAS...it WAS...the captain. The Egyptian captain...Radames, was it? Amonasro sat back in disbelief, and looked at his daughter. Lovesick. That’s what she was...mourning. Mourning over a lost love.

~*~Without you

the hand gropes

the ear hears

the pulse beats~*~

“Why...why wouldn’t you believe me, Neris?” Radames slowly turned to face her.

“Something in my heart tells me you aren’t being totally honest. I don’t know, Radames. I suppose,” Amneris’ voice became strong. “People may not think I’m able to handle life beyond fashion, accessories and make-up. I hear, Radames, and I see. Above all, I know.”

“Know?” Radames’ throat became dry. Amneris looked at him, tears filling her eyes.

“You and Aida.”

~*~Without you

the eyes gaze

the legs walk

the lungs breathe~*~

“Amneris, it’s not...no. There isn’t anything between your handmaiden and I.”

“Isn’t, right. Wasn’t...Oh, Radames. You can’t lie to me. I see how you look at her, and she at you. I put aside my feelings, and masked it with an oblivious nature. Wasn’t, isn’t...it doesn’t much matter. She’s my best friend, Radames, and quite frankly, I demand to know where she is!”

“Neris...I never...” Radames murmured. Amneris smiled vaguely and looked at him, expecting an answer. “She’s gone.”

“Gone? Gone where?”

“Just...gone!” Unable to control himself, he turned and rushed from the room. Amneris could only watch him go, his name on her lips.

~*~The mind churns

the heart yearns

the tears dry

without you

Life goes on

But I’m gone

Cause I die~*~

On the shores of Nubia, Aida stood stiff and regal. Her tears had dried on her face. She felt she had no tears left in her entire body. She didn’t feel anything. She was numb to the core. Mereb, faithful Mereb....sweet, encouraging Nehebka....Radames....Radames...Radames.

“Daughter,” Amonasro came up and rested a hand on her shoulder. “Time to move on.”

“Yes...” Aida nodded slowly.

“You’re home.”

~*~Without you

Without you

Without you

Withoutyou~*~