

# **A Star is Born (and the Universe Too)**

by Lilburne

## **Scene 1**

*All 9 Muses standing regally on stage. Hesiod enters guiding his sheep.*

**Hesiod:** Come here little sheepies. There's some good grazin' here by Mount Helicon. (*Sees Muses.*) Crikey! Shiny ladies!

**Calliope:** (*Pointing at Hesiod*) Simpleton! Nothing but a belly!

*(Hesiod looks at his stomach.)*

**Terpsichore:** We are the Muses. Goddesses of the performing arts!

**Melpomene:** Stage moms of the universe! Our names are...

**Calliope:** Calliope of epic myth telling! (*Makes action figures in her hands fight each other.*)

**Clio:** (*Jabbering like a "valley girl" gossip*) Clio of history telling, and our mom was Memory and our dad was Zeus and his dad was Cronus but Cronus tried to eat Zeus but...

**Polyhymnia:** ahem! (*In monotone*) Polyhymnia of the religious chant

**Euterpe:** Euterpe of the flute (*Plays a trill on her flute.*)

**Erato:** (*Singing over-wroughtly*) Erato of passionate singing!

**Thalia:** (*Twirls.*) Thalia of the happy tale!

**Melpomene:** (*Moaning in desperation*) Melpomene of the tragic story (*Pretends to die.*)

**Terpsichore:** (*Hip-hop dancing*) Terpsichore of the dance. Uh-huh!

**Urania:** (*Sounding like an apathetic "goth girl"*) Urania of prophecy. That sheep is about to die.

**Sheep:** Baaaa! (*Falls over dead.*)

**Hesiod:** Please... don't turn me into nothin' unnatural!

**Calliope:** Fool! We are here to make you a star!

**Clio:** You'll be an international singing sensation!

**Hesiod:** But I'm just a simple shepherd!

**All 9 Muses:** Not anymore you're not!

*Muses breathe heavily onto Hesiod.*

**Hesiod:** Yechh! Don't they have breath mints on Olympus! Wait, I feel a heavenly breath inside my lungs. I can siiiiiing! And my mind: I feel it downloading hundreds of stories! Now I know how the humans learned of fire, how the universe began, and why homework exists: it flew out of Pandora's box!

**All 9 Muses:** You must use your gift to give glory to the gods by telling their stories. But whenever you sing, you must sing about us first. Hesiod the shepherd, you are now Hesiod the Poet!

**Hesiod:** Thanks Muses! *(Runs off)*

## **Scene 2**

*Seacrestes is on stage addressing the an audience. Homer is standing off to the side. Simones and Hesiod are sitting in the middle of the audience.*

**Seacrestes:** Welcome to the funeral of Amphidamas, otherwise known as Euboean Idol! Who will win the prize and become Hellas's next great poet! Our first contestant comes from Smyrna. His name is Homer, and he will be singing his own poem called the Iliad: the story of Troy.

**Homer:** *(Singing poorly)* Once upon a time there was a girl married to a king. She ran off with a prince. The king and an army went to the prince's city to get her back. There was a war for ten years. The city fell for a trick, so the city was destroyed. And a lot of people died. The end.

**Seacrestes:** Thank you Homer. Let's see what our judge Simones has to say about your performance

**Simones:** Listening to that was like having the poisonous blood of the Hydra poured into my ear, and having a Minotaur stuffed into my other ear, horns first. If you were to start singing again, I would want to look at Medusa right in the face, so that, as a statue, I would be unable to hear a single note.

*Homer runs off crying.*

**Seacrestes:** Okay, that was harsh. And for our next victim, I mean contestant, we have Hesiod from Ascra! He will be singing his composition called the Theogony: the birth of the gods.

**Hesiod:** Muses don't fail me now! (*Singing well.*) The Muses have given me a heavenly voice, so now let me tell you the story of the universe! (*Imagination acts out the whole story*) First there was Air, then there was Earth, then there was Love, then there was Sky, who was king. Earth and Sky got married and had a bunch of kids. Sky hated the youngest, so he stuck them inside the Earth. The Earth got her son Time to overthrow Sky. And Time became king. Time and his wife had a bunch of kids, but he kept eating them. The youngest son, Zeus, made his dad throw up all the others. And there was another fight. Zeus won and he became king. So be good, because Zeus is watching! The end.

**Simones:** That was brilliant! First prize to Hesiod!

**Hesiod:** Thanks Muses!

*End.*