

MAMMALTON

By Alec Sciandra and Nathaniel Bath

ACT ONE

Scene 1 *On a deserted street in New York City.*

Alexander Mammalton walking determinedly down an empty, quiet street lit only by the faint lights of a distant tavern. Alexander Mammalton approaches the tavern and walks inside.

Scene 2 *In a tavern barroom beneath an inn. Hushed voices come from different corners of the room.*

THOMAS GIRAFFERSON: *[Looking up from the bar.]* Who are you?

ALEXANDER MAMMALTON: My name is Alexander Mammalton. I come from England bearing gifts.

THOMAS GIRAFFERSON: From England? Who hath sent thee?

ALEXANDER MAMMALTON: Just... England. No one sent me. I just came here bearing gifts.

THOMAS GIRAFFERSON: Gifts? What gifts?

ALEXANDER MAMMALTON: Just... some gifts.

THOMAS GIRAFFERSON: This is outrageous! A man from England sauntering into our land? And with gifts!? Why mustn't I toss thee from the tavern at once?

GEORGE WASHINGTON: *[Approaching the tavern bar.]* Thomas, enough. Allow me to greet our guest with more dignity than your own. *[Looking towards Alexander Mammalton]* My

apologies, our good friend can be... excitable. *[Extending hand]* George Washington, I am the Vice President of our humble tavern.

ALEXANDER MAMMALTON: My name is Alexander Mammalton *[shaking hand.]* I come from England. I bear gifts.

GEORGE WASHINGTON: Your arrival is most unexpected, we seldom see our brothers from across the pond.

ALEXANDER MAMMALTON: Then it is with all the more grace I bestow upon our meeting. And to whom do I owe the respect to call President?

AARON BURR: *[Entering the tavern from the stairs.]* That would be me.

GEORGE WASHINGTON: *[Surprised]* Mr. President, your presence is unprecedented. Why art thee not resting in thy chambers?

AARON BURR: The voices I heard from beneath my floorboards compelled me. I must meet the man who has travelled many nights at sea to adorn us with his offerings. *[Looking at Alexander Mammalton]* Aaron Burr, President of this great tavern. If my ears do not deceive me, you are Alexander, correct?

ALEXANDER MAMMALTON: Yes, sir. Alexander Mammalton.

AARON BURR: What treasures have you brought us?

ALEXANDER MAMMALTON: First, confectionaries. Chocolate made fresh from the streets of London. It would be—

AARON BURR: I can't eat chocolate. I'm a dog.

ALEXANDER MAMMALTON: ...Oh. How... unfortunate. May I offer you a second gift?

AARON BURR: ...If you must.

ALEXANDER MAMMALTON: The bone of a great warrior who fought for the freedom we cherish today. It is said to bring good luck to all those who—

AARON BURR: Alex, I am a dog. I have bones upstairs and I don't need more. If that is all you have, then I bid you farewell *[turning to walk away.]*

ALEXANDER MAMMALTON: Wait! I have a final gift, one I think you may enjoy. *[Aaron Burr turns around, looking unamused.]* A marble, cherished by the hands of my late grandfather. It may be small and worn, but it withholds history. A history that echoes my own.

AARON BURR: *[Taking the marble from Alexander Mammalton]* I have run out of things to chase... this may serve me well, for now. I shall be upstairs in my chambers *[exits.]*

Scene 3 *In the tavern*

PEGGY: ...That went better than expected.

JAMES CATISON: Hey, just be thankful it didn't go worse.

MARIA: True!

JAMES CATISON: [To Maria] Shut up, Maria.

MARQUIS DE LAFLYETTE: Who?

JAMES CATISON: Maria.

ALEXANDER MAMMALTON: Who is Maria?

JAMES CATISON: No one important...

PEGGY: *[To James Catison]* Hey! Be nice! *[To Alexander Mammalton]* She's our resident mouse. You may have to look down a bit to see her.

MARIA: *[Waving frantically at Alexander Mammalton]* Hi! Hi! Hi! I'm Maria!

ALEXANDER MAMMALTON: *[To Maria]* ...Hey. *[Hushed to Thomas Girafferson]* Is she always that annoying?

THOMAS GIRRAFERSON: Brutally so, I'm afraid.

GEORGE WASHINGTON: Our unanimous indignation for Maria's pestilence is neither here nor there at the moment, for we have larger matters that need tending to. Mr. Mammalton, it has been a pleasure to become acquainted with you. Peggy, if you would please show our guest to an available room.

[Peggy and Alexander Mammalton exit upstairs]

Scene 4 *In the tavern at night*

THOMAS GIRAFFERSON: You know, this mysterious man... Mammalton... he may be just what we need for this tavern.

GEORGE WASHINGTON: If the prophecy is true, then the chosen one is said to have already arrived.

THOMAS GIRAFFERSON: Do you think it could be him? Mammalton? The chosen one?

GEORGE WASHINGTON: If you ask, you will never know. If you know, you need only ask. All men wise with the lore of the prophecy know that, Thomas. When he is at his destiny, he will reveal himself as the chosen one. We shall see...

Scene 5 *In Aaron Burr's room.*

MARIA: *[Entering room.]* Mr. President, you've summoned me?

AARON BURR: Please, out of uniform you may call me Aaron. Take a seat. *[Maria takes a seat.]* I am troubled, Maria. And I seek your confidence. I overheard Thomas and George discussing our newest recruit, Alexander. I believe he may be a threat to us... a martyr sent to topple all that we stand for. All that we hold dear.

MARIA: Oh wow! That's... wow!

AARON BURR: As someone who hates cats as much as I do, I find solace in your trust. I am afraid that we may be better off without Alexander. If, say he were to die, would the repercussions be that severe? Would they be of malpractice at all? I am not confessing to you a plot of execution, but like, just imagine if I were to kill him. Would that be good?

MARIA: I don't know I mean maybe! Wow! This is crazy!

AARON BURR: I never said I was going to kill him. Just... I mean like what if I did? Like, I totally could... I probably should but I mean I'm not going to— at least not now. But I mean... I might. I might kill him. I'm probably going to end his life. I will murder Alexander Mammalton.

ACT TWO

Scene 1 *In the tavern for a jubilant gathering*

The characters are having a fun night in the tavern. There is music, dancing, and drinking.

Alexander Mammalton is beginning to get a lot of attention. Aaron Burr continuously looks annoyed and mischievous. Maria sits by herself in the corner, worried.

ALEXANDER MAMMALTON: *[Finishing a joke.]* And then I said, how much wood CAN you chuck!?

ALL: *[Laughs.]*

MARIA: *[Approaches Peggy.]* Hi! I need to tell you something!

PEGGY: *[Dismissively]* Not now.

MARIA: But it's important! Someone could die!

PEGGY: Tell me later.

MARIA: But—

PEGGY: *[Walks away.]*

MARIA: *[Looks dejected.]*

JAMES CATISON: *[Walks up to Maria.]* Hey can I talk to you privately...?

MARIA: ...Okay! *[Walks upstairs with James Catison.]*

Scene 2 *In the tavern the following morning.*

PEGGY: Has anyone seen Maria? She had something important to tell me?

MARQUIS DE LAFLYETTE: Who?

PEGGY: Maria.

JAMES CATISON: I haven't seen her at all. *[Coughs up fur and a small tail.]*

PEGGY: We need to find her.

GEORGE WASHINGTON: Well let's not get ahead of ourselves. I'm sure we don't need to go look for Maria that's... let's try something else first.

THOMAS GIRAFFERSON: Let's get someone who knows how to think. Someone who can figure out whatever it was Maria needed to say.

GEORGE WASHINGTON: I shall DM the King of England and invite him to our tavern.

AARON BURR: *[Panicked.]* Are you sure you want this to be unraveled? It's Maria, after all.

PEGGY: She said it could determine the welfare of another's life.

AARON BURR: Did she really use the word welfare?

PEGGY: Well, no. But she said someone could die.

GEORGE WASHINGTON: Let's put it to a vote. Those in favor of calling upon the King?

ALL EXCEPT AARON BURR: *[Raises hand.]*

GEORGE WASHINGTON: Well there we have it. I will have his arrival no later than tomorrow.

Scene 3 *In the tavern awaiting the King's arrival.*

AARON BURR: It's nearly noon, he won't come.

ALEXANDER MAMMALTON: Mr. President, there's a lot of hours that occur after noon...
in the afternoon... that hold promise of his arrival.

AARON BURR: Yes... thanks for that Alex.

[Knock coming from the door.]

ALEXANDER MAMMALTON: 'Tis the King!

MARQUIS DE LAFLYETTE: ...Who?

ALEXANDER MAMMALTON: The King!

THOMAS GIRRAFERSON: Everyone smile! James, get it together!

JAMES CATISON: *[Violently coughing up fur and small bones.]* I'll be good!

[Door swings open.]

KING GEORGE III: *[Hops into the foyer.]* Who ya gonna call!

ALL: *[Confused.]*

KING GEORGE III: Me. I was *toad* to come here. Whaddup?

AARON BURR: ...Are you a mammal?

KING GEORGE III: No. I am a frog. We are amphibious folk.

AARON BURR: Well maybe you *frogot* that we don't like non-mammals here... *[Pulls out assault rifle.]*

ALL EXCEPT ALEXANDER MAMMALTON: *[Pulls out firearms of varying size.]*

ALEXANDER MAMMALTON: No!

ALL EXCEPT ALEXANDER MAMMALTON: *[Unloads multiple rounds directly into the King George III. This lasts for twenty seconds. Afterwards there is no longer a frog visible.]*

ALEXANDER MAMMALTON: You didn't have to do that.

ALL EXCEPT AARON BURR: *[Looks ashamed.]*

PEGGY: You're right... we shouldn't have

JAMES CATISON: Yeah... I do feel bad about taking his life. No one should ever have their life taken from them. *[Coughs and covers his mouth.]*

GEORGE WASHINGTON: What have we done...?

AARON BURR: I did what was necessary... *[Walks away.]*

ACT THREE

Scene 1 *Late at night in the tavern*

Alexander Mammalton and Aaron Burr have a heated discussion in the tavern. Tensions are rising and everyone is worried.

ALEXANDER MAMMALTON: Mr. President, there are consequences for your actions.

AARON BURR: Name one consequence.

ALEXANDER MAMMALTON: It's reckless!

AARON BURR: You will not lecture me. *[Leaves tavern.]*

ALEXANDER MAMMALTON: *[Follows Aaron Burr.]*

THOMAS GIRAFFERSON: Alexander, what are you doing?

ALEXANDER MAMMALTON: I'm going to make sure Aaron's reign on this tavern is met with justice.

THOMAS GIRAFFERSON: But why would you do something so noble and brave?

ALEXANDER MAMMALTON: Because... I. Am. Mammalton.

Scene 2 *Outside the tavern*

ALEXANDER MAMMALTON: Aaron!

AARON BURR: *[Looks up at Alexander Mammalton.]* Alex, what is this?

ALEXANDER MAMMALTON: This is the people of your tavern standing up for themselves.

AARON BURR: Then why are you the only one here.

ALEXANDER MAMMALTON: Because I'm the main character.

AARON BURR: From the moment you intruded on our tavern I've had my suspicions of you. Your constant opinions and demeanor proved my hunch: You are not here to do what you ought to do. You sauntered here with gifts but you'll leave behind a rift, your reason for arrival is this: You wish to steal my throne, not offer me chocolates or a bone. If you wish to put out the fire you've ignited, you must be ready to fight it. I challenge you, Alexander Mammalton, to a duel.

ALEXANDER MAMMALTON: If it will bring these people peace, then I accept.

[Alexander Mammalton and Aaron Burr turn on each other and take ten paces forwards. They draw their pistols and turn around. A shot is heard, and Alexander Mammalton falls.]

AARON BURR: *[Walks up to Alexander Mammalton.]* You weren't cut out for this world.

ALEXANDER MAMMALTON: *[Dying breaths.]* These quick jumps to conclusions you make aren't the ones you want to take. Be it mammal or amphibian, president or king, wolf or frog, the world needs not a leader but an underdog – someone to speak up when a shot is wrong, not just go along. King George may have been different, but his heart beat the same, but you go and blame him for not being a mammal too? You should be ashamed. We all live as one, and you don't have the right to say you've won cause you stand a little taller or shout a little louder. This world isn't worth to be cut out for if you're to abhor those for differences not chosen by them. Aaron Burr, I condemn you, for you took a life that was not yours to take.

AARON BURR: No... you were not cut out for this world... You were meant for a better one.

[Places the gifted marble from Act One, Scene Two, on Alexander Mammalton's chest. Walks away.]

ALEXANDER MAMMALTON: *[Dies.]*