

**Stephen Sondheim****"On The Steps Of The Palace"**

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he's a very smart prince  
he's a prince who prepares  
knowing this time i'd run from him  
he spread pitch on the stairs  
i was caught unawares  
and i thought,  
well he cares  
this is more than just malice  
better stop and take stock  
while you're standing here stuck  
on the steps of the palace

you think what do you want  
you think make a decision  
why not stay and be caught,  
you think, well, that's a lot  
what would be his response  
but then what if he knew who you were  
when you know that you're not  
what he thinks that he wants

and then what if you are  
what a prince would envision  
although how can you know who you are  
til you know what you want  
which you don't so then which do you pick  
where you're safe, out of sight, and yourself  
but where everything's wrong  
or where everything's right and you know  
that you'll never belong

and whichever you pick,  
do it quick  
cause you're starting to stick  
to the steps of the palace

it's your first big decision  
the choice isn't easy to make  
to arrive at a ball is exciting and all  
once you're there though, it's scary  
and it's fun to deceive

when you know you can leave  
but you have to be wary

there's a lot that's at stake  
but you've stalled long enough  
cause you're still standing stuck  
in the stuff on the steps

better run along home  
and avoid the collision  
even though they don't care  
you'll be better off there  
where there's nothing to choose  
so there's nothing to lose  
so you pry up your shoes

then from out of the blue  
and without any guide  
you know what your decision is  
which is not to decide  
you'll just leave him a clue  
for example...a shoe  
and then see what he'll do  
now it's he and not you who  
is stuck with a shoe  
in a stew  
in the goo  
and you've learned something too  
something you never knew  
on the steps of the palace

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