



INSURRECTION: THE MUSICAL

Written by

Sonny Keyes

Copyright (c) 2025

Draft 7.1.10

[sonnykeyes@skamusic.ca](mailto:sonnykeyes@skamusic.ca)

## INSURRECTION: THE MUSICAL

### CAST

TRIPP CARSON - UCLA student home for the 1st time since COVID  
Tripp is happy to be back, but sees  
some differences with his L.A. life.

SANDY CARSON - Tripp's younger sister  
Sandy is just on the cusp of womanhood.

BUCK MILLER - Very good-looking, grew up friends with  
Tripp, but since Tripp went to L.A.  
he's been hanging out with Rusty.

BILL CARSON - Tripp and Sandy's father  
An engineer and amateur songwriter.

ELEANOR CARSON - Tripp and Sandy's mother  
Eleanor has a faith in humanity and the  
forces of good that might seem quaint  
these days.

CLINT - Buck's dad, an auto mechanic  
A MAGA convert, he's aware that Buck  
grew up with Tripp, but he only has a  
nodding acquaintance with the Carsons.

RUSTY - Buck's MAGA friend.

MIDGE - The MAGA bartender/waitress at Kitty's, Midge could be  
described as 'a whiskey blonde in jeans'

TV ANNOUNCER - Generic TV newsman - can be prerecorded

PATRONS AT KITTY'S - A small mixed crowd of regulars,  
they provide the vocal chorus.

## ACT I

The stage is set up with Kitty's bar/restaurant on stage right, and the Carson's house on stage left, with a swinging divider, hinged in the middle that expands each of the two sets further depending on which way it's swung. The divider incorporates the door to Kitty's on the one side, and the door to the Carsons' garden shed on the other, with the back door (hinged to the divider hinge) and a little foliage between the shed and the house. The upstage wall of the Carsons' living room has a mirror next to their front door, while the upstage wall of Kitty's is where the bar is, with a door to the kitchen near the pivot in the middle of the stage.

We open at Kitty's, where a few customers are eating and drinking. Buck, wearing chef's whites sits with Rusty at a table downstage center, sharing a plate of nachos.

RUSTY

Mmm, Buck, this is delicious!

BUCK

You know, Rusty, I spent two years fixin' up the truck an' the smoker; two years fine-tuning Mom's barbecue recipe; two years gettin' ready to compete at Memphis in May, an' head out on the RibFest circuit, an' now the god damn Democrats wanna go have a pandemic an' shut down the whole country, so instead, here I am makin' nacho platters at Kitty's.

RUSTY

(frightened)

An'...you...you make 'em real good...

BUCK

(sarcastic)

Oh yeah, my nacho platters are famous! Next person comes through that door, you ask 'em an' they'll tell ya "I'm here for Buck's nacho platter!"

The door opens and Sandy comes in, dressed in overalls. Buck straightens up in his chair.

BUCK (cont'd)

Hello Beautiful! Tell me now, what brings you to Kitty's?

SANDY

Well, it ain't your nacho platter, Buck Miller.

Buck is taken aback.

BUCK

I didn't catch your name.

SANDY

I didn't throw it. But Buck...you don't recognize me?

BUCK

I usually don't forget a pretty face,  
but I confess...I'm at a loss...

SANDY

Sandy Carson? Tripp's little sister?  
Lived next door long as I been alive?

BUCK

Sandy?! Holeeeeey! You went an' grew up!  
I swear, last time I saw you, you were ridin' a BMX!

SANDY

Last time I saw you, you were ridin'  
the back seat of a police cruiser.

BUCK

That was not my fault. Tripp dared me  
to go in there. How's he doin' anyhow?

SANDY

I was hopin' you could tell me? So he  
ain't here yet?

BUCK

I thought he was stuck in lockdown at  
that fancy school in L.A.?

SANDY

Oh no, they just lifted that. He got  
back from UCLA yesterday. I'm supposed  
to give him a ride home, but he wanted  
to come find you first.

BUCK

(delighted)

Tripp's back? An' he's comin' here? Hot  
damn! Midge! Break out the good stuff,  
we are gonna celebrate!

MIDGE

(giggling)

Ain't we still s'posed to be workin'?

BUCK  
I won't tell Kitty if you don't.

SANDY  
(laughing)  
Now y'all are not gonna keep me here  
partying for hours, y'hear? Just catch  
up quick an' we'll be outta here...if  
Tripp ever shows up...

Buck is about to object, but Tripp comes in the front door,  
and holding a "Shh" finger to his mouth sneaks up behind  
Sandy.

SANDY (cont'd)  
(checking her phone)  
Typical Tripp, wastin' my time. He said  
he'd be here by now...

Tripp grabs her shoulders, laughing as she screams.

SANDY (cont'd)  
(spinning around)  
Aww, cut it out!

BUCK  
Tripp Carson! How ya doin', party  
monster!

TRIPPE  
Hey Buck! How are ya?

The introduction to *Welcome Home* begins.

BUCK  
Sooo much better now you're back in  
town!

TRIPPE  
I am happy to see you too!

He holds up his arms for a hug.

BUCK  
Get over here!

Tripp goes over and embraces Buck who starts singing.

BUCK (cont'd)  
(singing)  
SIT DOWN  
HANG YOUR COAT AROUND THE CHAIR

WE ARE SO  
 GLAD TO SEE YOU HERE  
 COME JOIN THE PARTY,  
 YOU BEEN GONE SO LONG!  
 MIDGE!  
 COULD WE ADD ANOTHER PLATE?  
 YES ONE MORE  
 TABLE WOULD BE GREAT!  
 HOPE NO ONE MINDS, WE'RE GONNA BE SINGIN' OUR SONG...

WE SING

(the crowd joins in  
 singing, but Buck only  
 sings the word "Home")

KITTY'S PATRONS

HOME WITH A WARM FIREPLACE FOR THE HOLIDAYS  
 HOME WHERE THE LAW KNOWS YOUR FACE 'N LOOKS THE  
 OTHER WAY  
 HOME SUCH A BEAUTIFUL PLACE WHEN YOU'VE BEEN AWAY

BUCK  
 (singing solo)

WE BEEN COUNTIN' THE DAYS  
 AND WE ALL WANNA SAY  
 WELCOME HOME!

TRIPP  
 (to Midge as she's  
 helping Buck move  
 another table over)  
 Hey, Midge, good to see ya!

BUCK  
 (still singing)  
 WELCOME HOME!

MIDGE  
 We missed ya, Tripp!

BUCK  
 (singing)

MAN,  
 HOW YA DOIN'? HOW'S L.A.?  
 BET YA COULDN'T WAIT TO GET AWAY  
 THAT AIN'T THE PLACE FOR REDNECK BOYS LIKE US  
 ROUND HERE  
 AIN'T POLITICALLY CORRECT  
 WE GOT TRADITION TO PROTECT  
 AN' THOSE WEST COAST LEFTIES JUST DON'T LIKE US THAT  
 MUCH

SO WE SING

(the crowd sings with  
him)

KITTY'S PATRONS

(again, Buck only sings  
"Home" with them)

HOME WITH A WARM FIREPLACE FOR THE HOLIDAYS  
HOME WHERE THE LAW KNOWS YOUR FACE 'N LOOKS THE  
OTHER WAY  
HOME SUCH A BEAUTIFUL PLACE WHEN YOU'VE BEEN AWAY

BUCK

(singing alone)

WE BEEN COUNTIN' THE DAYS  
AND WE ALL WANNA SAY  
WELCOME HOME !

KITTY'S PATRONS

HOME WITH A WARM FIREPLACE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

BUCK

WELCOME HOME !

KITTY'S PATRONS

HOME WHERE THE LAW KNOWS YOUR FACE 'N LOOKS THE  
OTHER WAY

BUCK

WELCOME HOME !

KITTY'S PATRONS

HOME SUCH A BEAUTIFUL PLACE WHEN YOU'VE BEEN AWAY

BUCK

(singing alone)

WE BEEN COUNTIN' THE DAYS  
AND WE ALL WANNA SAY  
WELCOME HOME !  
WELCOME HOME !

(the crowd joins in )

As the song progresses, another bar table is pulled over with some more chairs, and Tripp and Sandy end up sitting with Buck and Rusty.

BUCK (cont'd)

(spoken)

Welcome home, California Boy!

TRIPP

Good to be back! But answer me this: if I am a California boy, then is this really my home?

BUCK

Oh, that's funny! Okay, it's like this then: California is like a disease that you're currently sufferin' from, an' when you recover, you'll come back here. So yes, this is your real home.

TRIPP

A disease, huh? Well, look out Buck, it could be catchin'!

BUCK

Don't worry, I'm immune. But it does look good on you, man, I like your fancy California haircut!

TRIPP

Oh, that ain't California; you know, pandemic closed all the barbers. That's Sandy, she cut it this morning.

Buck is amazed, and turns towards Sandy.

BUCK

You did that?

SANDY

I did.

Buck thinks a moment.

BUCK

Can you do mine?

SANDY

(checking on her phone)

Oh sure! ...um...I can fit you in at one o'clock tomorrow, just come by the house.

BUCK

Fit me in...?

SANDY

I have a business cuttin' hair.

BUCK

Ohhhh. The enterprising Miss Carson. I'll see you tomorrow then.

SANDY

Don't be late.

BUCK

No ma'am. Tripp, it turns out I ain't seen Sandy since she was a little kid, an' I'm goin' through an adjustment seein' her now as a...businesswoman.

TRIPP

Oh wait...are you...Sandy, has he been puttin' the moves on you?

SANDY

If he was, he ain't good enough at it so as I noticed.

BUCK

(defensive)

If I was puttin' moves on you, darlin', you'd notice.

TRIPP

Wouldn't matter anyhow, Buck, she ain't your type.

BUCK

What? Whadda you know about my type?

SANDY

He means I'm a Democrat.

BUCK

A Democrat? Why?

SANDY

You really want the full explanation?

BUCK

(waving it off)

Nah, nah, your brother's right, you ain't my type. Not that I was tryin' in the first place, mind you.

TRIPP

(unconvinced)

Okay...

BUCK

So what's California like, anyhow? Did ya see any movie stars? How'd ya stand it, ain't it all bicycles an' LGBBQ or whatever it is?

TRIPP

Well, first off, it turns out we were lied to, and there's nobody eatin' babies out there at all!

BUCK

Really.

TRIPP

Cross my heart. We never ate anyone younger'n five or six...four at the youngest.

BUCK

(laughing)

Okay.

TRIPP

But, seriously, outside of great weather and great beaches, it's a lot like here. An' I didn't even get to see much of it anyhow 'cause we got locked down halfway through second term, an' I was stuck in my dorm taking courses on my laptop.

BUCK

Aww, poor baby, sittin' in your room all alone!

TRIPP

(chuckling)

Now who said I was alone?

BUCK & RUSTY

Oooohhh!

BUCK

What's her name?

TRIPP

Her name's Ryler, and she's...well, I gotta be honest, Buck, I think she's The One.

SANDY

We can't wait to meet her!

BUCK

That's great, Tripp! I'm happy for ya!

RUSTY

Wait a minute...wait a minute...is  
she...is she a California girl? Like,  
from California?

TRIPP

She sure is.

RUSTY

Like, a granola wind farm tree-huggin'  
California girl?

TRIPP

(laughing)

I guess you'd call her that.

BUCK

Well, what in the Sam Hill is she doin'  
with you? Ain't you still a good ol'  
boy?

TRIPP

I'm just the same as I ever was, Buck.

BUCK

So...she's okay with you poundin' J.D.  
an' playin' mailbox baseball?

TRIPP

Nah nah nah, that's Teenage Tripp. This  
here is Adult Tripp. And I highly doubt  
Ryler would put up with that kind o'  
foolishness.

BUCK & RUSTY

Ooohhhhhh!

BUCK

Ryler wouldn't like it!

TRIPP

(holding up his hands)

Excuse me, are you just so dead set  
against the high road you can't stand  
someone else walkin' it near you?

BUCK

You sound like you mighta been  
brainwashed.

RUSTY

More like Woke Whipped!

BUCK

Ain't that what California girls are  
all about nowadays?

(falsetto Valley accent)

'Honey, get me a Kombucha!'

RUSTY

(laughing)

But save the environment, take your e-  
bike!

BUCK

(falsetto Valley accent)

'Pick me up a Pride flag while you're  
there!'

TRIPP

(sighing)

Oh for pity's sake.

BUCK

(his regular voice)

Yeah, and suddenly you got a man-bun!

RUSTY

...and a hipster beard!

BUCK

...an' a BLM T-shirt!

RUSTY

...and then one day you find yourself  
standin' in front of a Wokeaholics  
Anonymous meetin', and you gotta tell  
'em:

Buck and Rusty break into *Good New Boy*.

BUCK &amp; RUSTY

(singing)

SHE MADE ME TAKE THE SMOKESTACKS OFF MY FORD  
I CAN'T WOLF-WHISTLE ANY MORE

Buck starts a wolf whistle, and Rusty smacks him.

BUCK

Ow!

BUCK &amp; RUSTY

(singing)

MY GOOD OLD FRIENDS ARE ALL ANNOYED  
'CAUSE NOW I AM A GOOD NEW BOY

BUCK  
(singing alone)

FELL FOR A GIRL FROM CALIFORNIA  
THOSE OUT-OF-TOWNSERS, THEY SHOULD WARN YA  
I USED TO BE A CLIMATE SKEPTIC  
BUT MY NEW PICKUP IS ELECTRIC

RUSTY  
(singing alone)

NO HAZIN' JUNIORS AFTER PRACTICE  
AND NO MORE SMACKIN' BUTTS I FIND ATTRACTIVE  
NO HUNTING DEER IN ALABAMA  
NOW WE GO SHOOTIN' WITH A CAMERA

BUCK & RUSTY  
(together)

SHE MADE ME TAKE THE SMOKESTACKS OFF MY FORD  
I CAN'T TELL GAY JOKES ANY MORE  
INSTEAD OF STEAK I'M GRILLIN' SOY  
'CAUSE NOW I AM A GOOD NEW BOY

BUCK  
(spoken)  
Careful now, Tripp.

BUCK & RUSTY  
(singing together)  
YOUR JUDGEMENT IS DEFECTIVE  
Y'ALL NEED A NEW PERSPECTIVE  
IS THIS THE WOMAN OF YOUR DREAMS?  
SHE'S A KILLJOY CRUSADER  
SO MAYBE YOU SHOULD TRADE HER

Midge passes by and they notice.

BUCK & RUSTY (cont'd)

FOR A WHISKEY BLONDE IN JEANS?  
(they start singing to  
Midge)

SHE MADE HIM TAKE THE SMOKESTACKS OFF HIS FORD  
HE DON'T CHEW RED MAN ANY MORE  
HE DON'T DO THINGS HE ONCE ENJOYED  
'CAUSE NOW HE IS A GOOD NEW BOY

They collapse into laughter.

TRIPP

Well now, I'm glad you boys find this so amusing, but I confess, I don't completely understand your animosity towards a perfectly nice girl who you've never even met.

SANDY

Yeah!

TRIPP

An' as for bein' 'woke,' I don't necessarily see that as bein' a bad thing.

BUCK

Oh, now I know you spent too long in La La Land!

TRIPP

No, I came to this opinion even before I left. I've just done some thinkin' about it all, an' I have come to believe that we were lookin' at politics all wrong y'know: we were treatin' the politicians like they were some kinda football stars, like we had to show our allegiance to the home team. But lately I started noticin' that our team was fumblin' the ball a great deal an' did not necessarily deserve our loyalty.

BUCK

Wait...

RUSTY

Are you tellin' us...

TRIPP

If you are askin' whether I have become a Democrat...answer's yes.

Buck and Rusty are stunned.

BUCK

Well, holy shamoley, that...was not what I was expecting.

RUSTY

Tripp..?

TRIPP

Well, get used to it, that's how it is now. So Buck, where we at now? Are you gonna stop bein' my friend 'cause of my political beliefs?

BUCK

(awkwardly)

I...I don't...think...so?

Midge returns from taking an order and passes them.

MIDGE

Buck, get your ass back in the kitchen, I need three burgers all with fries.

BUCK

(relieved)

I'm awful sorry, I gotta go. Great to see you, man, I mean it!

TRIPP

You too, buddy!

SANDY

Tomorrow, one o'clock, right?

BUCK

Oh yeah, I'll see you then.

He beats it into the kitchen.

SANDY

C'mon Tripp.

TRIPP

Rusty, we gotta go too, but good to see you again.

RUSTY

Uhhh...uhh...you too guys.

Tripp and Sandy leave. Rusty heads over to the bar and addresses Midge.

RUSTY (cont'd)

Did you hear that? Tripp's gone an' turned Democrat!

MIDGE

I did! That's so weird, I always saw Buck an' Tripp like besties forever, like, y'know, the two main guys in a male bondage movie!

Rusty whirls to stare quizzically at her, then has a realization.

RUSTY  
Bonding. Male bonding movie.

MIDGE  
Bonding, bondage, you know what I meant. Anyway, I don't see how Tripp goin' woke is gonna...well...won't be the same movie, anyhow.

RUSTY  
Ya got that right. Buck's gonna be steerin' clear o' that now.

MIDGE  
An' little Miss Haircut...throwin' herself at him.

RUSTY  
Oh I...didn't notice...was she..?

MIDGE  
(mocking)  
Are you kiddin' me? "I can fit you in"  
Whaddaya call that?

RUSTY  
I thought they were bookin' a haircut.

MIDGE  
Rusty you need a woman to explain the world to you.

RUSTY  
Oh yeah? Know any who'd take a hard case like me?

Midge takes a long, approving look at Rusty.

MIDGE  
I'll let you know.

The lights go down on Kitty's and up at the Carsons' house, where Sandy is setting up the living room for the next haircut, with one dining chair out in the middle of the room, and haircutting tools on the sideboard. A knock comes at the door, and Sandy answers it. It's Buck.

SANDY  
Hey Buck. Come on in.

BUCK  
Thanks Sandy.

Buck enters and looks around.

BUCK (cont'd)  
Wow. Been a while since I been over  
here.

SANDY  
Ain't changed much, I guess.

BUCK  
(sarcastic)  
Except for this barber's chair.

He sits, and they talk as Sandy capes him and begins cutting.

SANDY  
You want a barber's chair, you just  
waltz right into a barbershop...oh  
wait! They're all closed, ain't they!

BUCK  
I am startin' to remember what a  
smartass kid you always were.

SANDY  
Yeah, some things never change. So what  
are we doin' here, practical to fit in  
your hairnet, or male model for your  
heartbreaker reputation?

BUCK  
Practical would be fine and my what  
now?

SANDY  
Buck, I hear you change girlfriends  
like I change my socks.

BUCK  
Who's tellin' you that?

SANDY  
(snorts)  
The girlfriends! Whose hair do you  
think I cut?

BUCK  
Well now, I believe they're just  
readin' too much into a first date.  
You're callin' 'em girlfriends, I  
wouldn't call 'em that.

SANDY

I guess I heard about some first dates  
with third date benefits then.

BUCK

I take no pleasure in breakin' hearts,  
y'know. Truth be told, I'm only datin'  
all those girls 'cause my daddy wants  
me to find a wife to help look after  
Mom.

SANDY

So you ain't even really datin'! You're  
auditioning personal support workers!

BUCK

No! No, it ain't like that! Well...  
it's...I guess it's sorta like that...  
but I ain't filled the position.

SANDY

An' why's that?

BUCK

Well, I think it's just a testament to  
how many girls I meet who don't measure  
up to my discriminatin' taste.

SANDY

(laughing)

None of 'em wanna be an unpaid nurse?

BUCK

Sandy! No, I'm lookin' for very  
specific qualities, like y'know,  
favorite foods, musical tastes, that  
kinda thing.

SANDY

Don't tell me. You like that bro  
country, all tequila, trucks an'  
tradwives?

BUCK

No, I like old-time country. I got no  
time for those hick-hop wannabes  
singin' Texas twang over loops.

SANDY

Oh, thank heavens, you got that right!  
George Strait all the way!

Buck whirls and points at her in agreement.

BUCK

There ya go.

SANDY

And favorite foods? I'm guessin' you  
lean towards barbecue?

BUCK

You know it. I got the truck all set to  
compete in Memphis this year, but it  
all got cancelled 'cause o' the China  
Virus.

SANDY

Really. What happens in Memphis?

BUCK

What happens? Every May they have the  
World Championship Barbecue Cooking  
Contest!

SANDY

Oh! So if there hadn't been a lockdown  
you'd be gone, right?

BUCK

Absolutely. I believe my recipe is a  
top contender.

SANDY

Oh, I believe it. You made it at the  
street fair last summer, didn't you?

BUCK

I tweaked it a little better since  
then, but yeah.

SANDY

I thought it was the best I ever had,  
if you wanna know the truth.

BUCK

Well, I guess us Republicans are good  
for somethin' after all, ain't we?

SANDY

(laughing)

I guess. So that means you're stuck  
cookin' at Kitty's 'til next May?

BUCK

Yeah, I'm stuck workin' two jobs to  
make ends meet, least until Daddy's  
shop opens up again.

SANDY

I know what that's like, my haircuttin'  
business is keepin' us afloat same as  
you.

BUCK

Really? You make enough to feed the  
family doin' this?

SANDY

(indignant)

Cuttin' hair is a perfectly real job.  
Did you think cookin' burgers is more  
of a real job 'cause you gotta leave  
the house to do it?

BUCK

Now don't get all touchy, I was just  
surprised is all.

SANDY

Hey, what if you didn't leave the house  
for your job? Why don't you just set up  
on the driveway an' sell barbecue from  
home?

BUCK

Aw, no one's gonna hike all the way  
over here for barbecue.

SANDY

Daddy used to drive all the way across  
town every Saturday to get us Bubba's  
Chicken. People go where the food is,  
Buck.

BUCK

Any rate, I reckon we're better off  
with income I know about over a pig in  
a poke. And that reminds me: what's  
this gonna cost me?

SANDY

Oh, I charge twenty for regular  
folks...but for a Republican...gotta be  
a hundred.

BUCK

I'll have to owe ya.

SANDY

I'm just kiddin', first one's on the  
house.

BUCK

Nice! But yeah, I guess I better make  
sure you know what you're doin' 'fore I  
start payin' you for it.

SANDY

Satisfaction guaranteed...or you get  
your hair back.

BUCK

I get my...?

SANDY

Just wait six weeks!

BUCK

(chuckling)

Ohhh! Tell ya what, if my mom likes it  
I'll keep comin' back, an' I'll pay  
like everybody else.

SANDY

Deal. Hey, how is she, anyhow?

BUCK

Well, she won't be goin' dancing any  
time soon, but she's okay...long as she  
don't run outta puffers, like today.  
Pharmacy's locked down, so Daddy had to  
take her to hospital for more.

SANDY

The hospital? Is he crazy? Don't you  
know what's goin' on down there?

BUCK

Yeah, yeah, I know, every Nervous  
Nellie with a tickle in their throat is  
crowdin' in there 'cause they think  
they got that new Hoax Virus.

He shrugs.

SANDY

So Trump says it's a hoax, and now you  
think they shut down the whole world  
over nothin'. If I was you I'd be more  
worried about your mom down at the  
hospital with all those sick people  
coughin' on her.

BUCK

She'll be fine.

SANDY

I hope you're right. Anyhow, you're done, go take a look.

She points at the mirror by the front door as she pulls the cape off him, shakes it out and folds it up. Buck gets up and goes to examine his new cut.

BUCK

Thanks Sandy.

He checks himself in the mirror and likes what he sees.

BUCK (cont'd)

Hey...you...that looks...kinda good!

SANDY

(dryly)

I guess Democrats are good for somethin' after all, huh?

BUCK

(chuckling)

I guess so. Thanks, Sandy.

SANDY

You are most welcome, Buck. Just gonna go get a broom.

Sandy exits stage left with the folded cape. Buck's phone rings as the intro to *Momma's Gone* begins.

BUCK

(glancing at the phone screen before answering)

Hey dad!

(his face changes as listens)

Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa!  
(he sings)

SLOW DOWN, DAD, I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE TELLIN' ME, WHAT'D YOU SAY?  
ALL I GOT WAS THE PART ABOUT MAKIN' THEM WHITE COAT CRIMINALS PAY  
ONE MORE TIME, JUST TAKE A DEEP BREATH, I GOTTA BE HEARIN' YOU WRONG  
IT SOUNDED LIKE MOMMA, MOMMA, MOMMA  
MOMMA'S GONE

Sandy returns with a broom and hears Buck's last line.

SANDY

Buck? Everything okay?

BUCK

(spoken, holding a hand  
up to Sandy)Just...just...just a minute, Sandy.  
(turning his attention  
back to the phone)

Okay, Dad?

(singing)

WHEN THEY TOLD YOU, WHAT DID THEY SAY, AND HOW COULD  
THEY BE SURE?'CAUSE I HEARD IDIOTS THINKIN' THEY'RE SICK ARE  
JAMMIN' UP EVERY WARD  
DON'T YOU THINK IN ALL O' THAT MESS IT'S POSSIBLE  
THEY COULD BE WRONG?  
SAYIN' MOMMA, MOMMA, MOMMA  
MOMMA'S GONE

SANDY

(running over to  
comfort Buck)

Oh Buck! Your momma? I'm so sorry!

BUCK

(peevish)

Sandy, we don't know anything yet. Just  
let me deal with this.

(to the phone)

So Dad?

(singing to the phone)

STAY RIGHT THERE I'M GONNA COME DOWN AND GIVE 'EM A  
PIECE OF MY MINDAIN'T NO WAY A WOMAN LIKE THAT GETS TAKEN OUT RIGHT  
IN HER PRIMEWAIT 'TIL THOSE INCOMPETENT QUACKS SEE WHO THEY'RE  
TRYIN' TO CON

TELLIN' US MOMMA, MOMMA, MOMMA

MOMMA'S GONE

WHOA, MOMMA'S GONE

Buck lets his phone arm drop to his side and crumples into a chair, dazed; the lights go down on the Carsons' house, and up at Kitty's, where the patrons are dressed sombrely as Clint hosts a memorial, with a photo of Trixie in a wreath on a stand beside him. Bill and Eleanor enter, and Midge spots them and silently brings them drinks.

CLINT

Bill! Eleanor! Thanks for comin',  
neighbors. Means a lot.

ELEANOR

Oh Clint, I'm so sad about Trixie,  
she's one of my...was one of my dearest  
friends.

BILL

We're all pretty busted up. So sad.

CLINT

So not only did they prevent us from goin' in to say goodbye at the hospital, but now she's gone, we can't even have a proper church service to bury her. Lucky thing Kitty stepped up an' let us use this place for the memorial.

ELEANOR

I think it's lovely, we've spent so many nights here all together, and now with Buck working here, it seems fitting. Did I ever tell you about that time we were here...you boys were off playing darts or something, so it was just Trixie and me, and I was complaining that all these years Bill's been making up songs on his guitar, but he never once wrote a love song about me, an' you know what Trixie said?

CLINT

No, what?

ELEANOR

She says to me, "Don't he keep a roof over your head?" She says, "You know how I think of it El? Every car repair leaves the shop, every muffler, every transmission job, every single one is like a love song to our family, 'cause I know Clint's doin' it all for us."

Clint is overcome, speechless for a moment.

BILL

Awww, that's so sweet. An' for the record, I am workin' on that song for ya, it...uh...just ain't done yet.

ELEANOR

I believe you Bill, but this is about Trixie.

BILL

Right. Right. She was a good woman. How's Buck dealin' with it?

CLINT

He's good. He's good. He's keepin' me together, just carryin' on. Back workin' the kitchen, chasin' girls an' whatnot.

BILL

He's always been a ladies' man. I'm kinda surprised Kitty's still open with so many businesses shuttin' down for the pandemic.

CLINT

Aw, Kitty don't believe in any o' that hokum about the China Virus.

Bill and Eleanor exchange a glance.

BILL

I'm confused, Clint. Wasn't it COVID that took Trixie from us?

Clint becomes agitated, and more and more so until the next song begins.

CLINT

Trixie was taken by rank incompetence from those god damned nurses!

ELEANOR

What did the nurses do?

CLINT

I ain't figured out exactly what yet, but I know they did somethin', 'cause they were so frikkin' determined to cover it up!

BILL

Cover it up? What makes you say that?

CLINT

They wouldn't let us in at all, not to see her, not to say goodbye, nothin'. Why would they do that 'less there was somethin' they didn't want us to see?

ELEANOR

I'm pretty sure the hospitals are all under quarantine for the pandemic.

CLINT

Yeah, I don't know what Big Pharma's up to, but they sure pulled a fast one this time, didn't they? Got the whole country to shut down because a couple Chinese folks got sick over in China!

BILL

Well, if you read about it there's good reasons to keep your guard on.

CLINT

Bill! Don't tell me you're buyin' that crap! President Trump says it's all just fake news tryin' to make him look bad.

BILL

President Trump says a lotta things, an' a lotta them, well...they just ain't true!

CLINT

Awwwww, you been suckered in by the lamestream media, ain't ya! Don't you know those people are paid to keep The Swamp right where it is, in Washington D.C.!

ELEANOR

Clint, how about we take a little time to remember dear Trixie?

CLINT

Trixie felt the same about all this as me! That woman had no time for the naysayers draggin' the president down all the time!

ELEANOR

I meant - it's a memorial, Clint, don't you have a story about her?

CLINT

I was just tellin' you about her, an' how she felt about President Trump! I'm sorry if I ain't doin' memorial proper, but Bill here's been rattlin' my chain!

BILL

Sorry, I...I really didn't mean to...

The intro for *I Ain't Puttin' You Down* starts, and Clint sings.

CLINT  
(singing)  
NOW I DON'T WANNA START A FIGHT  
BUT I'M RIGHT

I WISH I DIDN'T BELIEVE  
THAT YOU WERE LYIN' TO ME  
WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S WORDS  
AND WHEN I TELL YOU MY OPINION OF THE LATEST NEWS  
WELL, IT'S THE DUMBEST THING THAT YOU'VE EVER HEARD

I WISH THAT I COULD MAKE  
YOU STOP BELIEVIN' THE FAKE  
NEWS OUR ENEMIES ARE PUTTIN' AROUND  
AND WHEN I ASK YOU TO EXAMINE WHERE YOU GOT YOUR  
FACTS  
I'M ONLY LOOKIN' FOR SOME COMMON GROUND  
I AIN'T PUTTIN' YOU DOWN  
I AIN'T PUTTIN' YOU DOWN

BILL  
(singing)  
NOW YOU BELIEVE THERE'S A CONSPIRACY

CLINT  
(spoken)  
Yeah!  
(sung)  
TO BURY THE TRUTH

BILL  
I KNOW YOU'RE CERTAIN THAT I'M

CLINT  
YOU'RE UNDER ITS SPELL  
(spoken)  
I can see it!

BILL  
(sung)  
YOUR FAVORITE STATION RAN AN EXPOSÉ  
WITH UNASSAILABLE PROOF  
I'M IN THE COUNTRY'S BIGGEST  
TERRORIST CELL  
(spoken)  
Now, do you really believe that?  
Really?  
(sung)  
NOW I DON'T WANNA START A FIGHT  
BUT I'M RIGHT

I WISH I DIDN'T BELIEVE  
THAT YOU WERE LYIN' TO ME

WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S WORDS  
 AND WHEN I TELL YOU MY OPINION OF THE LATEST NEWS  
 WELL, IT'S THE DUMBEST THING THAT YOU'VE EVER HEARD

CLINT  
 (spoken, surprised)  
 That's what I said!

BILL  
 (singing)  
 I WISH THAT I COULD MAKE  
 YOU STOP BELIEVIN' THE FAKE  
 NEWS OUR ENEMIES ARE PUTTIN' AROUND  
 AND WHEN I ASK YOU TO EXAMINE WHERE YOU GOT YOUR  
 FACTS

I'M ONLY LOOKIN' FOR SOME COMMON GROUND  
 I AIN'T PUTTIN' YOU DOWN

CLINT  
 I AIN'T PUTTIN' YOU DOWN

BILL  
 I AIN'T PUTTIN' YOU DOWN

CLINT  
 I AIN'T PUTTIN' YOU DOWN

As the song progresses, Clint seems to see more of the humor in the fact that they both have the exact same criticisms of each other's positions, and by the end they both raise their glasses with Eleanor.

The lights go down at Kitty's, and come up back at the Carsons' house, where Sandy is wiping her haircutting equipment. Again, there's a knock at the door, and Sandy answers.

SANDY  
 Buck!

BUCK  
 Hey, Sandy, you got time for a quick trim?

SANDY  
 You know, you can book online.

BUCK  
 I'm in a bind, Sandy. Kitty had to comp a four-top today 'cause they found a hair in the nachos, so I'm under orders to get my hair cut 'fore I can come back to work.

SANDY

Okay, I get it. Come on in an' sit down then.

Buck goes straight to the chair and sits.

BUCK

I'm grateful. And while you're doin' favors for me, can I ask one more little one?

SANDY

How little?

BUCK

Would you mind not tellin' my dad I was over here, if you find yourself talkin' to him?

SANDY

Why's that?

BUCK

I was tryin' to raise the idea of openin' a barbecue stand in front o' the house like you said, so I told him what a smart kid you are, an' how you're runnin' your own business, an' I told him you'd had this great idea. Turns out Daddy didn't think it was such a great idea, an' now he don't want me catchin' any more great ideas from you.

SANDY

What?! I was just makin' conversation, an' now your daddy hates me for it?

BUCK

Sandy, I swear I never imagined he'd take it like that, but he ain't really been himself since mom passed.

SANDY

Did you really say all that about me bein' smart an' all?

BUCK

Well, it's true, ain't it, or you wouldn't have a business!

SANDY

(pauses)

You really do surprise me sometimes,  
Buck Miller.

BUCK

In what way?

SANDY

When I see you at Kitty's, you act like  
I'm just a dumb kid, but then you go  
an' say somethin' like that to your  
dad.

BUCK

I just thought the driveway stand was a  
good idea is all.

The front door opens and Eleanor comes in with a small bunch  
of wildflowers. As they talk, she finds a vase on the  
sideboard and arranges the flowers in it on the table.

SANDY

Oh hi Mom, Buck came by for a trim.

ELEANOR

Hello Buck, how are you? How's your dad  
doing?

BUCK

Hey Mrs. Carson, I'm doin' good. I was  
just tellin' Sandy that dad ain't  
really himself lately.

ELEANOR

Oh that's too bad! I know he was very  
agitated when we saw him at the  
memorial. I was hoping he'd been  
feeling better.

BUCK

He just ain't over losin' mom, y'know?  
He's pretty mad...well, y'know in  
truth, we're both pretty mad about the  
nurses at that hospital.

ELEANOR

Oh, not you too!

SANDY

What happened with the nurses?

BUCK

They are hidin' somethin', Sandy, I swear. Kept Dad from seein' Mom, kept him from sayin' goodbye, kept him completely in the dark the whole time, 'til it was too late, an' then when I got there they stonewalled me too, so we never did find out what they were up to.

SANDY

(shocked)

Buck!

BUCK

Honest, they were like storm troopers, with their masks an goggles on, it was like some kinda horror movie I tell ya.

ELEANOR

Those people are heroes! They wouldn't let you in so you wouldn't get sick too, meanwhile they're risking themselves!

BUCK

Way I heard it, they just got sick o' dealin' with all the visitors, so they just stopped lettin' anyone in! Stupid, lazy nurses!

The introduction to *What Would Your Mama Say?* begins.

ELEANOR

Buck! You surprise me! I can't believe you'd be so...so ungrateful!

(singing)

REMEMBER WHAT YOUR MOMMA SAID  
WHEN TIMES ARE TOUGH, DON'T LOSE YOUR HEAD  
AND CAREFUL WHO YOU HANG YOUR TROUBLES ON  
THE DEVIL POINTS A FINGER WHEN  
HE KNOWS GOD BROKE YOUR HEART AGAIN  
AND LAYS THE BLAME SOMEPLACE IT DON'T BELONG  
AN' I THINK THIS TIME THAT'S WHY YOU GOT IT WRONG

ELEANOR &amp; SANDY

(singing together)

WHAT WOULD YOUR MOMMA SAY  
IF SHE HEARD YOU TALKIN' THAT WAY?  
WOULD SHE THINK THAT IT WAS OKAY?  
WHAT WOULD YOUR MOMMA SAY

IF SHE SAW YOU ACTIN' THAT WAY?  
 WOULD SHE THINK THAT YOU WERE OKAY?  
 WHAT WOULD YOUR MOMMA SAY?  
 WHAT WOULD YOUR MOMMA SAY?

ELEANOR

(singing alone again)  
 I NEVER HEARD YOUR MOMMA SAY  
 "I'M HURT SO SOMEONE HAS TO PAY"  
 HER CHRISTIAN HEART COULD NEVER BE SO HARD  
 AND NO ONE THOUGHT THAT HE WAS WEAK  
 WHEN JESUS TURNED THE OTHER CHEEK  
 WHAT WOULD HE THINK TO SEE YOU GO THAT FAR?  
 'CAUSE I DON'T THINK THAT'S WHO YOU REALLY ARE...

ELEANOR & SANDY

(singing together)  
 WHAT WOULD YOUR MOMMA SAY  
 IF SHE HEARD YOU TALKIN' THAT WAY?  
 WOULD SHE THINK THAT IT WAS OKAY?  
 WHAT WOULD YOUR MOMMA SAY  
 IF SHE SAW YOU ACTIN' THAT WAY?  
 WOULD SHE THINK THAT YOU WERE OKAY?

ELEANOR

(singing alone again)  
 SHE COULD ALWAYS SEE RIGHT THROUGH THE LIES YOU TOLD  
 NOW CAN YOUR MOMMA'S SPIRIT SEE INTO YOUR VERY SOUL?

ELEANOR & SANDY

(singing together)  
 WHAT WOULD YOUR MOMMA SAY  
 IF SHE HEARD YOU TALKIN' THAT WAY?  
 WOULD SHE THINK THAT IT WAS OKAY?  
 WHAT WOULD YOUR MOMMA SAY  
 IF SHE SAW YOU ACTIN' THAT WAY?  
 WOULD SHE THINK THAT YOU WERE OKAY?  
 WHAT WOULD YOUR MOMMA SAY?  
 WHAT WOULD YOUR MOMMA SAY?  
 WHAT WOULD YOUR MOMMA SAY?  
 WHAT WOULD YOUR MOMMA SAY?

ELEANOR

(spoken firmly)  
 I guess I know what she'd say.

Buck looks uncomfortable, then finally replies, nodding.

BUCK

Yaaaaah.

The lights go down on the Carsons' house and up on Kitty's, where Clint is very drunk, haranguing Midge at the bar. Tripp is sitting at the downstage center table.

CLINT

(slurring angrily)

...so if the president says they're overcountin' the virus deaths, then what was it really killed Trixie? I just know there's somethin' they ain't tellin' us!

MIDGE

(placating)

You're so right. It's very concerning.

CLINT

(slurring)

You should be concerned! Everybody should be concerned! Those doctors an' nurses, they're up to somethin', an' it ain't good - did you know they got refrigerator trucks full o' bodies back behind the hospital? An' now no one knows what's killin' 'em all!

MIDGE

Mr. Miller, you should maybe get yourself a good night's sleep an' try an' figure it all out in the morning.

CLINT

Fine, fine. But ignore me at your peril! You mark my words, those whitecoats, they're comin' for us all!

Tripp has been watching this, and gets up to help.

TRIPP

(to Midge)

Hey Midge, I'm waiting for Sandy, but I'm just gonna grab Buck from the back real quick, so if she comes in can you tell her I'm here?

MIDGE

Sure!

(then under her breath)

Ohmigod thank you.

Tripp heads for the kitchen.

CLINT

(contemptuously)

Is that the Carson boy? Pfft. Used to be such a nice kid, an' now Buck told me he went Democrat like the rest of 'em, like things aren't messed up enough already without a whole family o' hostiles right next door!

Sandy comes in the front door.

CLINT (cont'd)

And there's another one! Can't I even get a drink without a horde of 'em floodin' in like cockroaches?

Tripp and Buck reappear from the kitchen as Clint gets to the end of this.

BUCK

Hey Dad, I think it's time to go home now.

CLINT

Are you all...gangin' up on me now? Is that why you brought these...commies here, Buck? To take me on?

BUCK

I was in the kitchen - I didn't even know they were here. But let's just pay up an' head on home, okay?

Clint stumbles a bit, really drunk.

CLINT

Put it on my tab, honey.

BUCK

(waving to Midge)

I got it.

Clint pulls out his car keys as Buck grabs on to steady him.

BUCK (cont'd)

Dad, I ain't lettin' you drive the truck.

CLINT

(slurring and falling)

I'm fine.

BUCK

(to Tripp)

Tripp, can I ask a huge favor?

TRIPP

You want me to get him home?

BUCK

Aw, man, could you? I'd owe ya bigtime.

Tripp looks at Sandy.

SANDY

Don't let me stop you.

TRIPP

Sure, Buck, I'll get him home.

BUCK

I can't thank you enough. Dad, you go with Tripp now, okay?

CLINT

No way! You're gonna make me ride with that lefty libtard?

TRIPP

Don't worry, Mister Miller, ya can't catch The Woke on a single car ride. C'mon!

He puts his arm around Clint, who is too far gone to resist, and with Tripp holding Clint up, they head out the door.

BUCK

(calling after them)

Thanks Tripp, thanks again!

Sandy watches Tripp and Clint go, and is left standing awkwardly with Buck, who is shaking his head.

SANDY

Well, there goes lunch, I guess.

BUCK

I'll make you lunch, Sandy! Least I can do after all those haircuts.

SANDY

Well...I gotta eat.

BUCK

You gotta eat!

He sits down at Tripp's table with her and picks up the menu to show her.

BUCK (cont'd)

(teasing)

Now look, we got Dino Chicken Nuggets,  
or there's a whole Under Twelve menu on  
the back here!

Sandy playfully smacks him on the forehead.

SANDY

I am not a little kid any more!

(she pauses)

An' I know you know that, Buck; you  
remember that night when Tripp came  
home? You were sittin' right here, an'  
you called me "Beautiful!"

BUCK

Well, that was 'fore I knew it was you,  
Sandy!

SANDY

Exactly! An' I gotta tell you, I did  
feel pretty young back then, an' I was  
still comfortable with it, but ever  
since then I been thinkin' about you  
callin' me that, 'cause... 'cause...

BUCK

'Cause what?

Sandy starts singing *Grown Up* with unseen vocal accompaniment.

SANDY & SINGERS

Cause

(singing)

YOU MAKE ME FEEL LIKE A GROWN UP

Buck is taken aback.

SANDY

(singing alone)

WE

WE USED TO BE

CHILDISH AND FREE

RIDIN' THOSE COUNTRY LANES

PLAYIN' BICYCLE GAMES

BUT THEN YOU

YOU FILLED OUT AND GREW

MADE ME FEEL SOMETHIN' NEW

NOW IT AIN'T THE SAME ANY MORE

IT AIN'T A GAME ANY MORE

YOU USED TO BE THE NEIGHBOR KID AND NOT A THING MORE  
WHEN DID YOU TURN INTO THE PERFECT BOY NEXT DOOR?

SANDY & SINGERS

(singing together)

YOU MAKE ME FEEL LIKE A GROWN UP  
YOU'VE BLOWN UP MY INNOCENCE

SANDY

(singing alone)

I TRADED IN MY OVERALLS

SANDY & SINGERS

(singing together)

FOR LIPSTICK AND SKINNY JEANS  
I KNOW YOU SEE IT  
I KNOW YOU NEED IT  
CAN'T YOU SEE THAT YOU  
HAVE TO DEAL LIKE A GROWN UP  
AND OWN UP

SANDY

(singing alone)

THAT YOU FEEL IT TOO

I WAS A CHILD  
THEN ONE DAY YOU SMILED  
SOMETHIN' IN ME WENT WILD  
I SAW YOU THROUGH DIFFERENT EYES  
LIKE YOU'D TAKEN OFF A DISGUISE

HOW CAN YOU BE OBLIVIOUS TO MY AFFECTION?  
WHEN YOU'RE THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS ATTRACTION?

SANDY & SINGERS

(singing together)

YOU MAKE ME FEEL LIKE A GROWN UP  
YOU'VE BLOWN UP MY INNOCENCE

SANDY

(singing alone)

I TRADED IN MY OVERALLS

SANDY & SINGERS

(singing together)

FOR LIPSTICK AND SKINNY JEANS  
I KNOW YOU SEE IT  
I KNOW YOU NEED IT  
CAN'T YOU SEE THAT YOU  
HAVE TO DEAL LIKE A GROWN UP  
AND OWN UP

SANDY  
(singing alone)  
THAT YOU FEEL IT TOO

PAPA SAYS "GO SLOW  
"YOU'RE ONLY GONNA BE A LITTLE GIRL ONE TIME."  
BUT MAMA SAYS "OH NO!  
"YOU GOTTA LIVE YOUR LIFE IN YOUR PRIME!"

SANDY & SINGERS  
(singing together)

YOU MAKE ME FEEL LIKE A GROWN UP  
YOU'VE BLOWN UP MY INNOCENCE

SANDY  
(singing alone)  
I TRADED IN MY LEMONADE

SANDY & SINGERS  
(singing together)  
FOR RUM PUNCH AND CINNAMON  
I KNOW YOU SEE IT  
I KNOW YOU NEED IT  
CAN'T YOU SEE THAT YOU  
HAVE TO DEAL LIKE A GROWN UP  
AND OWN UP

SANDY  
(singing alone)  
THAT YOU FEEL IT TOO  
YEAH, YOU FEEL IT TOO  
YEAH, YOU FEEL IT TOO  
I'VE GROWN UP FOR YOU

As the last notes of the song die off, Buck starts singing *Easy*, with the guitar joining him on the third word.

BUCK  
(singing)  
IT'S BEEN HARD  
TO ACT LIKE NOTHIN' YOU EVER DO COULD EVER CATCH MY  
EYE  
HID MY HEART  
I DIDN'T KNOW WHETHER YOU EVER KNEW THAT IT WAS ALL  
A LIE

IF MY FRIENDS  
HAD SEEN ME LOOKIN' AT YOU THAT WAY THEY'D THINK I  
LOST MY MIND  
BUT I JUST CAN'T PRETEND  
AND NOW THAT IT'S BOTH OF US HAD ENOUGH IT'S GOTTA  
BE A SIGN

BUCK & SANDY  
 (singing together)  
 WHY COULDN'T YOU MAKE IT EASY?  
 YEAH, WHY DID I FALL SO HARD?  
 WHY COULDN'T YOU LIVE A THOUSAND MILES AWAY  
 FROM MY BACKYARD?  
 WHY COULDN'T YOU JUST BE CRAZY  
 LIKE ALL MY FRIENDS SAID?  
 WHY COULDN'T YOU STAY IN CRAZYTOWN  
 INSTEAD OF INSIDE MY HEAD?  
 WHY COULDN'T YOU MAKE IT EASY?  
 WHY COULDN'T YOU MAKE IT EASY?

SANDY  
 (singing)

WITH YOUR BUDS  
 YOU SHOW 'EM YOU PUSH ME ROUND, SHUT ME DOWN, GIMME  
 ATTITUDE  
 BUT WHEN IT'S JUST US  
 YOU GET A TOUCH OF CLASS, FOR JUST A FLASH SUDDENLY  
 YOU AIN'T CRUDE

I DON'T CARE  
 I'M ALWAYS ON YOUR SIDE NO MATTER WHICH SIDE YOU'RE  
 TALKIN' TO  
 BUT LORD HELP ME I SWEAR  
 SOME DAYS IT'S HARD TO TRY, WHY DO I EVEN BOTHER  
 WITH YOU!

BUCK & SANDY  
 (singing together)  
 WHY COULDN'T YOU MAKE IT EASY?  
 YEAH, WHY DID I FALL SO HARD?  
 WHY COULDN'T YOU LIVE A THOUSAND MILES AWAY  
 FROM MY BACKYARD?  
 WHY COULDN'T YOU JUST BE CRAZY  
 LIKE ALL MY FRIENDS SAID?  
 WHY COULDN'T YOU STAY IN CRAZYTOWN  
 INSTEAD OF INSIDE MY HEAD?  
 WHY COULDN'T YOU MAKE IT EASY?  
 WHY COULDN'T YOU MAKE IT EASY?  
 WHY COULDN'T YOU MAKE IT EASY?  
 WHY COULDN'T YOU MAKE IT EASY?

On the final chord of the song, they kiss, and the lights go down to end the act.

## ACT II

We open on Kitty's, which still has a few Holiday decorations up, where Clint is drinking alone at the bar again. Midge is hanging on his words.

CLINT

So if you count up all the fraudulent mail-in ballots, an' add in all the dead people votin', an' subtract out the bags of Trump ballots that went missin', it all adds up to one thing: Rigged.

MIDGE

I know, right? But how in the heck are we gonna e-rectify it?

CLINT

Oh you don't know? Trump's havin' a big rally in D.C. on January sixth.

MIDGE

I heard somethin' about that!

CLINT

Buck an' Rusty are goin' - an' we're gonna get this election fraud fixed!

MIDGE

...wait, Buck's goin'? Who's coverin' his shifts?

CLINT

...oh an' I almost forgot the god damned crooked votin' machines!

Rusty enters and spots Clint, who he approaches gingerly.

RUSTY

Uhhh...Mr. Miller! I...I think I got somethin' I gotta tell you.

CLINT

You think? You got somethin' to tell me?

RUSTY

Okay, I know. I gotta tell you, I know why Buck's been pullin' all those extra shifts every night.

CLINT

Makin' money ain't he?

RUSTY

Well that's just it, sir, he ain't makin' money. He ain't workin', he's spendin' time with a girl.

Clint bursts out laughing.

CLINT

So what else is new. But why'd he tell me he's workin'?

RUSTY

Well, see that's the part I wasn't supposed to tell you. It's who he's spendin' time with is why he didn't tell you.

Clint waits for Rusty to continue, but he doesn't.

CLINT

Yeah, so? Who is it?

RUSTY

It's...he's seein' that Sandy Carson.

CLINT

That Democrat next door? Buck?! Geez, no wonder he didn't tell me. How long has this been goin' on?

RUSTY

Buck swore us all to secrecy. It's been a few months now.

CLINT

A few months?! So you been lyin' about it all this time?

RUSTY

I never lied, sir, I just...didn't say nothin' while Buck was lyin', that's all.

CLINT

So what made you tell me now? Somethin' happen?

RUSTY

Uh...yeah! Buck just told me he ain't comin' to the January sixth rally.

CLINT  
 (exploding)  
 Ain't comin'?! He promised me! God  
 damned ungrateful brat! Rusty, you go  
 get that boy outta the kitchen an'  
 bring him here to talk to me.

RUSTY  
 (relieved to leave)  
 Okay. Be right back.

Rusty heads back to the kitchen to get Buck.

CLINT  
 (to Midge)  
 Whadda you know about this? You work  
 with him, did you know? You been hidin'  
 it from me all this time too?

MIDGE  
 I didn't know either! I mean, she  
 visits him here a lot, but neither of  
 'em said anything about seein' each  
 other!

CLINT  
 You're all Woke! Everybody's gone Woke!  
 Completely surrounded by it, they're  
 here, they're next door..!

Buck and Rusty emerge from the kitchen.

BUCK  
 What's goin' on, Dad, do I have to get  
 you a ride home again?

CLINT  
 Rusty says you been seein' that  
 Democrat girl next door, 'an she talked  
 you outta goin' to the Trump rally!

BUCK  
 (to Rusty)  
 You told him what?

RUSTY  
 Well, when you backed outta the rally,  
 I had to!

BUCK

Okay, first of all, she never talked me outta nothin', I just got different priorities now, an' takin' days off to drive to D.C. just to wave a sign for a few hours didn't seem like one of 'em.

CLINT

But this is important! Ain't you worried about what happens if we let them charlatans steal our election like that? That's it! The whole country's gonna be gone!

RUSTY

Yeah!

BUCK

(to Rusty)

So this is what it took to get you to sell me out to my old man, huh?

RUSTY

I just couldn't take it any more, Buck, since you got with Sandy, it's like you're a whole different person!

The intro to *You Ain't The Man* begins, and Rusty starts singing.

RUSTY (cont'd)

(singing)

THAT GIRL AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT A HONEY-TRAP  
 MAKIN' YOUR MIND ALL CRAZY WITH HER DEVIL TALK  
 I HEAR YOU TALKIN' LIKE A DEMOCRAT  
 CHASIN' BEHIND HER LIKE A LITTLE PUPPY-DOG  
 I THOUGHT YOU'D BE A MAN OF YOUR WORD  
 BUT YOU AIN'T THE MAN I THOUGHT YOU WERE

YOU AIN'T THE MAN

YOU AIN'T THE MAN

YOU AIN'T THE MAN I THOUGHT YOU WERE

NO, YOU AIN'T THE MAN

YOU AIN'T THE MAN

YOU AIN'T THE MAN I THOUGHT YOU WERE

YOU AIN'T THE MAN

YOU AIN'T THE MAN I THOUGHT YOU WERE

YOU AIN'T THE MAN

YOU AIN'T THE MAN I THOUGHT YOU WERE

BUCK

(singing)

DID YOU THINK WE WERE GONNA BREAK IT OFF  
 'CAUSE OF A FEUD YOU'RE HAVIN' WITH HER POLITICS?  
 THAT'S HOW I KNOW YOU NEVER BEEN IN LOVE

SEEIN' AS YOU'D BE GIVIN' HER THE EIGHTY-SIX  
 AND DON'T PRESUME YOU KNOW ME BECAUSE  
 I AIN'T THE MAN YOU THOUGHT I WAS

RUSTY

(singing)

NO, YOU AIN'T THE MAN  
 YOU AIN'T THE MAN  
 YOU AIN'T THE MAN I THOUGHT YOU WERE  
 YOU AIN'T THE MAN  
 YOU AIN'T THE MAN  
 YOU AIN'T THE MAN I THOUGHT YOU WERE  
 YOU AIN'T THE MAN  
 YOU AIN'T THE MAN  
 YOU AIN'T THE MAN I THOUGHT YOU WERE

CLINT

(singing)

BUCKY, YOU BEEN LYIN' NOW IT ALL MAKES SENSE  
 ALL THE TRICKS YOU'RE TRYIN' ALL THE RULES YOU BENT  
 NOW YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR, BOY,  
 YOU CROSSED THAT LINE  
 BETTER PACK YOUR BAGS, YOU AIN'T NO SON O' MINE!

BOY,

YOU AIN'T THE MAN  
 YOU AIN'T THE MAN  
 YOU AIN'T THE MAN I THOUGHT YOU WERE

RUSTY

(singing)

YOU AIN'T THE MAN  
 YOU AIN'T THE MAN  
 YOU AIN'T THE MAN I THOUGHT YOU WERE

CLINT & RUSTY

(singing)

YOU AIN'T THE MAN  
 YOU AIN'T THE MAN  
 YOU AIN'T THE MAN I THOUGHT YOU WERE  
 NO, YOU AIN'T THE MAN  
 YOU AIN'T THE MAN  
 YOU AIN'T THE MAN I THOUGHT YOU WERE

CLINT

(singing)

YOU AIN'T THE MAN I THOUGHT YOU WERE

CLINT (cont'd)

(spoken angrily)

An' you better be outta the house by  
 the time I get home, I can't even look  
 at you, boy!

Buck is surprised by this, but recovers quickly.

BUCK

Wow. Well, have fun payin' the bills without me - I'm the only thing keepin' you afloat right now!

CLINT

I don't need this...an' I don't need you!

They glare at each other for a moment.

BUCK

I gotta get back to work.

Buck turns and strides back into the kitchen, leaving Clint steaming. The lights go down on Kitty's, and up at the Carsons, where Bill and Tripp sit reading their phones, and Eleanor and Sandy stand behind them.

SANDY

Uh...Daddy?

BILL

What is it Monkey?

SANDY

You know Buck next door?

BILL

Yeah?

SANDY

Well, I been cuttin' his hair lately, an' I kinda got to know him better.

BILL

Oh? Is he a big Trumper like his dad?

SANDY

I don't really know his dad, but I...

BILL

He's been a good friend to you, ain't he, Tripp? Didn't he take the rap when you idiots got caught breakin' into that burned-out farmhouse?

TRIPP

Yeah, I was eighteen, but he was still a juvie, so he said it was all him, an' he just got probation. I definitely owe him for that.

SANDY

Daddy, I started datin' him.

BILL

You what?

SANDY

Buck an' I are in love.

BILL

(sputtering)

Sandy. Monkey. You are infatuated. An' Buck...well, all I can say is I hope it don't hurt too much when he moves on.

SANDY

He ain't movin' on, Daddy, he chose me!

ELEANOR

Bill, they've been together for quite a while now, and Buck has been a perfect gentleman.

BILL

Quite a while? How long?

SANDY

Maybe...four...or five months?

BILL

Four or ff...

(to Eleanor)

An' you knew about this? Why am I just findin' out about it now?

SANDY

We were keepin' it quiet 'cause I know you don't think too much of Buck, but he ain't what you think.

ELEANOR

Bill, he's a nice boy, and Sandy deserves to be happy.

BILL

Oh, I've known my share of 'nice boys' like him, El, an' they all have one thing in common: they ain't that nice!

ELEANOR

But we've known Buck since he was little!

BILL

Yes, an' I've known a dozen like him  
growin' up, an' I know the story of  
every one o' the girls they left  
behind, an' it's always the same!

The opening of *You Can't Tell Her Nothin'* starts.

ELEANOR

And you know for sure that Buck is just  
like your old school friends, huh?

BILL

Boys been boys since the stone age, El.  
I know exactly how it's gonna go...  
(singing)

SHE DON'T CARE WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT BAD BOYS  
SHE DON'T CARE WHAT YOU'VE SEEN BEFORE  
SHE TUNES OUT WHEN SHE HEARS YOUR DAD VOICE  
RATTLIN' ON ABOUT THE PAIN IN STORE  
"HONEY, YOU SHOULD JUST LET HIM GO,  
"I DON'T WANNA SAY 'I TOLD YOU SO'"

BUT YOU CAN'T TELL HER NOTHIN'

ELEANOR

Maybe she won't listen 'cause there's  
nothing really wrong with him?

BILL

(spoken)

Oh, no, just wait. I can see it all  
now:

(singing)

HE DON'T ACT LIKE HIS HEART IS DONE IN,  
HE DON'T HANG ON HER EVERY WORD  
SHE'S SO PROUD SHE'S THE ONE WHO WON HIM  
BUT HE TREATS HER LIKE SHE CAME IN THIRD  
THERE SHOULDN'T EVEN BE A REASON TO SAY  
SHE AIN'T JUST A WAITRESS AND A MAID

BUT YOU CAN'T TELL HER NOTHIN'  
SHE THINKS THAT HE'S THE REAL THING  
AND YOU CAN'T TELL HER NOTHIN'  
SO DON'T EVEN START  
YOU CAN'T TELL HER NOTHIN'  
SHE KNOWS EVERYTHING  
AND YOU CAN'T TELL HER NOTHIN'

THERE'S ALREADY BEEN TROUBLE IN PARADISE  
YOU'VE ALREADY SEEN HIM MAKE HER CRY  
HE'S ALREADY BEEN CAUGHT OUT TELLIN' LIES  
SQUEAKED BACK PROMISING THE MOON AND SKY

"DADDY, IT WAS JUST THAT ONE TIME  
"NOW IT'S ALL BLUE SKIES AND SUNSHINE"

AND YOU CAN'T TELL HER NOTHIN'  
SHE THINKS THAT HE'S THE REAL THING  
AND YOU CAN'T TELL HER NOTHIN'  
SO DON'T EVEN START  
YOU CAN'T TELL HER NOTHIN'  
SHE KNOWS EVERYTHING  
SO YOU CAN'T TELL HER NOTHIN'

NO YOU CAN'T TELL HER  
HOW TO SPOT THOSE LITTLE TELLS  
THE CONSTANT SEARCH FOR SOMEONE ELSE  
THE HIDDEN WINK, THE LITTLE SMILE  
HE'LL ONLY BE WITH HER  
A LITTLE WHILE

BUT YOU CAN'T TELL HER NOTHIN'  
SHE THINKS HE'LL BUY HER A RING  
YOU CAN'T TELL HER NOTHIN'  
SO DON'T EVEN START  
NO, YOU CAN'T TELL HER NOTHIN'  
SHE KNOWS EVERYTHING  
SO YOU CAN'T TELL HER NOTHIN'  
'TIL HE'S BROKEN HER HEART

SANDY

He's not gonna break my heart, Daddy.

BILL

He better not.

SANDY

You just need to get to know him  
better. An' right now, if you're  
willin', you could have the perfect  
opportunity!

BILL

What's that mean?

SANDY

Buck an' his dad just had a huge fight,  
an' his dad threw him outta the house.  
An' I was thinkin', if you were okay  
with it, maybe he could stay with us  
'til he gets settled somewhere?

BILL

What?! You want him to...?

(he pauses, then)

What was the fight about?

SANDY

Buck's dad wants him to go to that Trump rally in D.C., an' Buck wouldn't go.

BILL

Hmm. Well, he scores a point there. But wait, I'm still gettin' used to the idea of you datin' him, now you want him to move in with us?

ELEANOR

He can sleep in the spare bedroom, He works two jobs, Bill, we'll hardly see him.

BILL

So you're fine with all this?

ELEANOR

Why wouldn't I be?

Bill looks pained.

BILL

Well...if I agree to this, I don't wanna see him layin' around here...

(to Sandy)

...an' I specially don't wanna see him sneakin' around your bedroom!

SANDY

(hugging him)

Oh, thank you Daddy!

BILL

When's he comin'?

SANDY

He's just waitin' on my call.

BILL

I'm gonna make myself scarce then.

He grabs a coat and heads for the door.

BILL (cont'd)

You young people are enough to drive a man to drink.

Bill dons his coat as he exits through the front door. The lights go down on the Carsons' house and up on Kitty's, where Clint is drinking alone at the bar again. Bill enters, having come directly from home in the last scene.

CLINT

Carson! Did you know about this?

BILL

I just found out about it myself, an' I woulda preferred different news.

Bill motions to Midge to bring them a round, and she nods.

CLINT

It's disrespectful, is what it is.

BILL

Well, hold on now, are you sayin' it's disrespectful for Buck to want to date my daughter?

CLINT

No! It's disrespectful for Buck to refuse my one request: I told him he had to commit to go to Washington for the rally, an' then he went an' backed out.

BILL

I had no idea you were so gung-ho about it, Clint.

CLINT

Well sure I am! Everybody should all be gung-ho about it, you liberals stole the election!

BILL

I can't say I've seen...

CLINT

(interrupting)

Stole it just as sure as crooks are crooks, an' that's why we gotta put together an army an' go take it back.

BILL

An army? What kind of protest you think this is gonna be?

CLINT

(counting them off on his fingers)

With all the shenanigans with the votin' machines, an' the illegals votin', an' the fake mail-in ballots an' all that, it's gonna take an army to fix it.

BILL

I bet I know what station you watch on TV. Y'know, just 'cause it says 'News' in the name don't mean a big chunk of it ain't just half-baked opinions.

CLINT

You don't know. You don't know. They got this investigative reporter who's got all the dirt on the election!

BILL

Investigative reporter? Who's that?

CLINT

You know, that guy, that guy,  
(snapping his fingers)

The intro to *Tell The Truth* begins.

CLINT (cont'd)

(in time with the beat)

Now what's his name?

(singing)

HE'S GOT THE GIFT FOR PREACHIN'  
HE'S GOT THE GOLDEN TONGUE  
HE GIVES A SERMON ON THE TV EVERY EVENIN'  
WHEN MY DAY IS DONE

I WONDERED IF I WAS STUPID  
BUT THEN I FOUND HIS SHOW  
WHERE HE EXPLAINS IT SO IT ALL MAKE SENSE TO EVEN  
THIS AVERAGE JOE

HE TELLS IT LIKE IT HAPPENED  
THERE IN THE VOTIN' BOOTH  
HE AIN'T AFRAID TO DO THE ONE THING NO ONE ELSE WILL  
HE CAN TELL THE TRUTH

TELL THE TRUTH  
TELL THE TRUTH  
TELL THE TRUTH  
I DONNO WHY SO MANY PEOPLE DON'T WANNA  
TELL THE TRUTH

I HEARD A BUNCHA BALONEY  
ABOUT ELECTION DAY  
BUT THEN HE TOLD US WE SHOULD GO BY WHAT THEY DO  
INSTEAD O' WHAT THEY SAY

HE SHOWED US ALL THE PICTURES  
 AND THEN HE BROKE IT DOWN  
 SHOWED ALL THE UNDERHANDED TRICKS THEY USED TO CHEAT  
 AND TURN THE WHOLE THING ROUND

TELL THE TRUTH  
 TELL THE TRUTH  
 TELL THE TRUTH  
 I DONNO WHY SO MANY PEOPLE DON'T WANNA  
 TELL THE TRUTH  
 TELL THE TRUTH

TELL THE TRUTH  
 (spoken)  
 Tell the truth, Bill, do you know where  
 Buck is?

BILL  
 (pointing)  
 Ain't he back in the kitchen there?

CLINT  
 You know what I mean, do you know where  
 he's stayin'?

BILL  
 Where he's stayin'?  
 (he pauses)  
 No, Clint, no idea.

The lights go down on Kitty's and come up on the Carsons'  
 house again, where Sandy is greeting Buck, who is at the door  
 with a suitcase.

SANDY  
 C'mon in, Buck. Mom's just gettin' the  
 guest room ready, so if you could wait  
 here with me for a minute she'll come  
 get us. This is gonna be so great  
 havin' you here!

(whispering)

No one else knows, but you can hear  
 through the heatin' registers 'tween my  
 room an' the guest room - I found that  
 out when my cousin Bella came - so we  
 can talk late at night...

BUCK  
 (interrupting loudly)  
 Sandy, STOP!

SANDY  
 Buck? What is it? What's wrong?  
 (MORE)

SANDY (cont'd)

BUCK

Now, I know you're excited, but just look through my eyes for a minute: I'm fightin' with my dad, losin' my home, an' moochin' off you. I don't feel that great about it.

SANDY

I'm...I'm so sorry, Buck, I didn't think about that.

BUCK

I had a plan, Sandy, I was gonna keep workin' an' save up for my own place... maybe for...our own place...if you were ready for that.

SANDY

Oh!

BUCK

An' now I'm headed for an even worse debt treadmill, payin' for my own place instead of just Dad's bills.

SANDY

What if you stayed here longer, an' just chipped in a little bit, like rent? Then you could save all the rest!

BUCK

Sandy, you don't know what he's gonna do if he even suspects I'm here, an' I ain't puttin' you an' your family in front o' that. I gotta find somewhere else to stay as soon as I can.

Sandy steps back from him, defeated.

BUCK (cont'd)

Aww, but don't make a long face, good news is, we don't have to keep it secret no more. It'll be like a fresh start for us!

SANDY

Yeah, a fresh start where we're both workin' our tails off an' gettin' nowhere.

The intro to *Luxury* begins.

BUCK

See, that's where you're wrong! Between  
your great business sense an' my  
unbeatable barbecue recipe, we can't  
help but get somewhere; all we gotta do  
is keep workin', just keep on workin'!

(singing)

I WORK HERE AN' I WORK THERE  
I DON'T CARE WHAT AN' I DON'T CARE WHERE  
BUT THOUGH I WORK SO HARD EACH DAY  
I CAN'T GET BY ON WHAT I'M PAID

BUT I WON'T QUIT, AN' I WON'T FAIL  
I WON'T LET MY AMBITION PALE  
AS LONG AS ALL THE WORLD CAN SEE  
THAT I LOVE YOU AND YOU LOVE ME

BUCK & SANDY

(singing together)

SOMEDAY  
THE SUN WILL SHINE AND WE'LL LIVE IN LUXURY  
SEND UP LUXURY FOR TWO  
SOMEDAY  
THE HARD LIFE'S GOT TO END, BUT 'TIL IT'S OVER  
MY ONLY LUXURY IS YOU

During the instrumental breaks in the song, Buck and Sandy talk over the music.

SANDY

Hey Buck, we should treat ourselves an'  
go on a real date!

BUCK

So...you mean stay at Kitty's as  
customers after my shift?

SANDY

Well it is more comfortable than the  
car, ain't it?

SANDY (cont'd)

(singing)

YOU WORK HARD, I KNOW YOU DO  
AN' I WORK JUST AS HARD AS YOU  
AN' THOUGH WE EARN OUR DAILY BREAD  
WE NEVER SEEM TO GET AHEAD

BUT I WON'T QUIT, AN' I WON'T FAIL  
I WON'T LET MY AMBITION PALE  
AS LONG AS ALL THE WORLD CAN SEE  
THAT I LOVE YOU AND YOU LOVE ME

BUCK & SANDY  
(singing together)

SOMEDAY  
THE SUN WILL SHINE AND WE'LL LIVE IN LUXURY  
SEND UP LUXURY FOR TWO  
SOMEDAY  
THE HARD LIFE'S GOT TO END, BUT 'TIL IT'S OVER  
MY ONLY LUXURY IS YOU

Again they talk.

SANDY  
(seductively)  
As it turns out, I have tomorrow night  
off.

BUCK  
Kitchen closes early Sundays.

SANDY  
I knew that.

BUCK  
(chuckling)  
Well, alright.

BUCK & SANDY  
(singing together again)

NO, I WON'T QUIT, AN' I WON'T FAIL  
I WON'T LET MY AMBITION PALE  
AS LONG AS ALL THE WORLD CAN SEE  
THAT I LOVE YOU AND YOU LOVE ME

SOMEDAY  
THE SUN WILL SHINE AND WE'LL LIVE IN LUXURY  
SEND UP LUXURY FOR TWO  
SOMEDAY  
THE HARD LIFE'S GOT TO END, BUT 'TIL IT'S OVER  
MY ONLY LUXURY IS YOU

As Sandy and Buck embrace, the lights go down on the Carsons' house and up at Kitty's, where Rusty is at the bar talking to Midge.

RUSTY  
What would you say if I told you I can  
make Buck change his mind an' come wave  
a sign with me after all?

MIDGE  
I'd say you ain't seen Buck whistlin'  
an' grinnin' while he works here every  
day, like some dumb dude in a Wrongcom.

RUSTY

Don't worry about that, just sit back  
and watch The Master work. When's he  
clock out?

MIDGE

Any minute, but did you know that today  
him an' little Miss Haircut are stayin'  
here to have a date?

RUSTY

I did not know that.

MIDGE

This morning he told me to have a tray  
of shooters ready for 'em when he  
finishes up.

Sandy comes in the front door.

SANDY

Hi Midge, Rusty. Buck done yet?

MIDGE

He's just packin' up, he'll be out  
probably in a minute.

SANDY

Okay, thanks.

Sandy sits at a vacant table.

SANDY (cont'd)

Uh...Could I please get...just a Coke?

MIDGE

Of course. Coke.

She gets Sandy a Coke and brings the tray of shooters over  
with it as Buck appears from the kitchen.

SANDY

Buck! I'm over here!

BUCK

Well then get over here!

Sandy runs over for a big hug and kiss.

SANDY

Ooops! I guess that's a bit forward for  
a first date.

BUCK

(laughing)

That's right, it is! It's our first date ain't it? Midge! Bring us those shooters!

MIDGE

Already there, Buck, but you know, she ain't got ID.

BUCK

Come on. You know they're all for me.

Buck and Sandy sit at the table, and Buck gulps a shooter.

RUSTY

Buck, if I could just get a moment...

SANDY

Rusty! Do you not see that we're on a date? Now is definitely not the time!

BUCK

Yeah, Rus, it'll keep.

RUSTY

I'll only be a mo...

BUCK & SANDY

Not now.

They resume cuddling and Rusty heads back to the bar.

MIDGE

Well, that was masterful. Show me more, Master!

RUSTY

That's fair. But I am still not defeated.

He heads back to Buck and Sandy's table and stands squarely in front of them, holding prayer hands in front.

RUSTY (cont'd)

(very politely)

Look, I apologize for this, as well as my earlier interruption, but I have some very important information that I think you both should hear, an' I'll only take a couple of minutes of your time, but it could improve the way your night goes, so may I please interrupt for just a couple minutes?

Buck and Sandy look at each other, Sandy shrugs and rolls her eyes so Buck nods at Rusty.

RUSTY (cont'd)

Thank you. Here's the thing: As I understand it, you're staying home from the rally because your priority is workin', to make more money to put away for your barbecue business, right?

BUCK

That's my reason, yeah.

RUSTY

But now that you're not going, you have to rent an apartment. That right there's gonna cost ya more than all your daddy's bills put together. So if you really wanted to put away more money, you should go to Washington with me, move back in with your dad, and keep the peace.

BUCK

You expect me to just forgive him after he went an' threw me out?

RUSTY

It don't matter what he thinks, or what you think, what anybody thinks, as long as you're savin' more money, right?

BUCK

Well, I'll admit, I ain't thought about it like that before.

SANDY

Buck! Are you seriously thinking about this?

BUCK

Well, you gotta give it to Rusty, he's got a point there, it is sure gonna cost me more to stay here an' work now, ain't it?

SANDY

Buck, you promised!

BUCK

Well, that was before that promise went an' screwed up my whole life, wasn't it?

SANDY

I thought you agreed with me that it  
was a dumb waste of time!

BUCK

I never said that! It's still important  
to stand up against cheatin' an' fraud,  
I just didn't think I had time for it.

He angrily downs another shooter.

SANDY

So you're still sold on this election  
fraud story they're sellin'?

BUCK

Sandy, it ain't just a story! I seen  
too much evidence, all the poll workers  
shufflin' bags around in the middle of  
the night, all the dead people votin',  
tricked out votin' machines, you name  
it!

SANDY

Even if any of that were true, which it  
ain't, what difference does it make if  
it's both of ya holdin' your sign up or  
just Rusty?

BUCK

Whadda you care anyway? It ain't like  
your Fake News says, with this rally  
bein', like, the end of American  
democracy or somethin', we're just  
standin' up for what's right!

SANDY

No you're not! It's a wrongheaded  
response to a big lie! Biden won the  
election. Period.

BUCK

I'd probably think that too if I  
watched as much Fake News as you, but I  
like to keep an eye on what's really  
goin' on.

He downs another shooter.

SANDY

Oh, you're really gonna know what's  
goin' on if you keep suckin' back  
shooters like that.

(MORE)

SANDY (cont'd)  
(pouting)  
Some date.

The intro to *Don't Tell Me What To Do* begins

BUCK  
Oh, so now you're the drink police. I gotta tell ya, Sandy, I'm startin' to wonder...

BUCK (cont'd)  
(singing)  
SO I BEEN THINKIN' THAT WE GOTTA GET ONE THING STRAIGHT  
'CAUSE I DON'T THINK YOU UNDERSTAND  
NOW YOU ONLY HAVE TO WORRY 'BOUT BEIN' THE GIRL  
'CAUSE I'M GONNA BE THE MAN

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOU THINKIN' YOU'RE BETTER THAN ME  
AND I'M TIRED OF YOU CALLIN' ME OUT  
I THINK YOU ONLY WANNA TRY TO THROW ME OFF MY GAME  
AND THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE ALL ABOUT

DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO  
I AIN'T YOUR HIRED HAND  
I KNOW I SAID I LOVE YOU  
BUT I'M MY OWN MAN  
I MAKE MY OWN DECISIONS  
I DON'T NEED YOU  
TO TELL ME WHAT TO DO  
DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO  
DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO

While Sandy sings her verse, Buck defiantly downs another shot.

SANDY  
(singing)

WELL, YOU'RE A FINE ONE TO TALK ABOUT BEIN' A MAN  
WHEN YOU ACT LIKE A LITTLE BOY  
'CAUSE I ONLY SAID YOU OUGHTA TRY SLOWIN' IT DOWN  
AND NOW YOU'RE ACTIN' ALL PARANOID!

SO YOU CAN RAISE YOUR VOICE, TRY TO ORDER ME ROUND  
BUT IT WON'T MAKE ME TOE YOUR LINE  
AND YOU CAN DISAGREE AND CURSE AT ME AND STAMP YOUR FEET  
BUT I AIN'T GONNA CHANGE MY MIND

DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO  
IT'S ONLY ARROGANCE  
YOU TELL ME THAT YOU LOVE ME

SO MAKE IT MAKE SENSE!  
 I MAKE MY OWN DECISIONS  
 I DON'T NEED YOU  
 TO TELL ME WHAT TO DO  
 DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO  
 DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO

BUCK

(singing)

ONCE UPON A TIME I THOUGHT THAT YOU WOULD BE MY  
 WHOLE WORLD  
 BUT WHY WOULD I BE DOWN FOR THAT IF ALL IT MEANS IS  
 ALWAYS  
 TAKIN' ORDERS FROM A LITTLE GIRL?

DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO  
 I AIN'T YOUR HIRED HAND  
 I KNOW I SAID I LOVE YOU  
 BUT I'M MY OWN MAN  
 I MAKE MY OWN DECISIONS  
 I DON'T NEED YOU  
 TO TELL ME WHAT TO DO

SANDY

(singing)

DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO  
 I AIN'T YOUR HIRED HAND  
 I KNOW I SAID I LOVE YOU  
 BUT ACT LIKE A MAN  
 I MAKE MY OWN DECISIONS  
 I DON'T NEED YOU  
 TO TELL ME WHAT TO DO

BUCK

DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO

SANDY

NO, DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO

BUCK

NO, DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO  
 DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO

As Buck sings the last lines of the song, Sandy whirls and leaves indignantly. Midge and Rusty watch approvingly from the bar.

MIDGE

I gotta hand it to you...Master!

RUSTY

That's nothin'. Watch this.

(MORE)

RUSTY (cont'd)  
 (calling over to Buck)  
 Hey, Buck, ain't you gonna go after  
 her?

BUCK  
 (after a pause)  
 I...guess I probably should... But I  
 ain't gonna.

He picks up another shot and downs it, and looks at Rusty.

BUCK (cont'd)  
 We got a trip to plan.

The lights go down on Kitty's and up on the Carsons' house.  
 Eleanor is seated, and Sandy is pacing, holding her phone.

SANDY  
 Buck still ain't answerin'. An' today's  
 that dumb rally, god I hope he didn't  
 go.

ELEANOR  
 Oh, honey, it's just a lovers'  
 squabble, it'll blow over.

SANDY  
 Mom, you didn't see him, he was like a  
 totally different guy, he was mean, he  
 was deliberately hurtful, I don't know  
 if I want it to blow over!

ELEANOR  
 Is that how you really feel though?

Sandy pauses, looks her mother in the eye, and starts crying.

SANDY  
 (crying)  
 I'm gonna go down to Kitty's and see if  
 he's there.

Sandy grabs a jacket and heads out the door.

ELEANOR  
 Okay, but don't worry, honey, I'm sure  
 it'll all be fine. When Papa gets home  
 we'll work it all out, okay?

SANDY  
 (distracted)  
 Sure Mom, bye now!

Just after the door closes, Tripp runs in from stage left.

TRIPP

Turn on the TV! It's crazy, there's  
people swarming the Capitol!

Eleanor picks up a remote and points it in the direction of the audience to switch on the TV, which we only hear, with the imaginary screen between us and the actors.

TV ANNOUNCER

...and now we're seeing protesters actually inside the building now, they are inside the building. This is a large group of protesters who are now walking through Statuary Hall, \*where, only a few minutes ago, U.S. lawmakers were walking around...and this is not a small group of protesters, there's a significant number, the doors to the Capitol have now been broken open, as we saw those scenes earlier of the crowd breaking the glass in those doors to get in...

\*ELEANOR

(over the announcer's voice, which fades a little as she speaks)

I think Sandy should see this.

TRIPP

Yeah.

ELEANOR

I'm gonna go get her and bring her home. There's a lot of those Trumpers at Kitty's, and they know she's not one of them.

TRIPP

I'll come with you.

ELEANOR

Good. Yes, do that. Come on, Tripp.

Tripp and Eleanor put on their coats and exit through the front door, leaving the TV announcer sound carrying through as the lights go down on their house and up at Kitty's, where the crowd is silently watching the same broadcast unfold on their TV screens. (the imaginary screen also faces away from the audience, so we see their faces, horrified or gleeful, depending on their politics)

TV ANNOUNCER

...and here's that footage again from a few minutes ago, and you can see protesters breaking the windows to get the doors open, and now there's a large number of protesters walking through the Capitol building, \*\*and we're seeing them carrying flags, several American flags, but I also see Trump banners and even a Confederate flag, and a good number of the protesters are using their phones to shoot video inside.

While the announcer speaks, Sandy bursts in, and is distracted by the events unfolding on the TV.

SANDY

\*\*What the hell..Is that the Capitol?

MIDGE

Oh, you didn't know? It's great, we're takin' back the fake election!

SANDY

(staring at the TV)

...you're takin' back the fake...

CLINT

Aww, hell yeah, it's the Boogaloo!

SANDY

Mr. Miller! Where's Buck? Is he here?

CLINT

It's a revolution! He's a soldier in the Trump Revolution!

SANDY

(pointing at the TV)

He's there?

Tripp and Eleanor arrive, and make their way over to Sandy's side.

ELEANOR

Sandy, Sandy, you shouldn't be here.

SANDY

Mom, Tripp! What're you doin' here? And look what's happening! The Capitol is under attack!

ELEANOR

Yes, honey, we saw, Let's all go home  
and watch it there, okay?

CLINT

(excited)

Look at that! They're inside the  
frickin' chamber now! This is really  
happening!

SANDY

How can you be okay with this? They're  
attacking our country's capitol!  
Smashing windows to break in!

CLINT

People are angry, little girl. There's  
got to be some kind of reckonin'!

SANDY

(exasperated)

Reckonin' for what? You lost the  
election, that's all this is!

The intro for *Insurrection* starts.

CLINT

(working himself up)

Lost the election? Lost the election? I  
can't believe the nerve of you people!  
(singing)

MAN, WE'VE HAD IT

IT WOULD TAKE TOO LONG TO LIST THE THINGS WE'RE MAD  
AT

ALL THESE VOTERS

THEY WANNA SHOW YOU YOUR ELECTION FRAUD IS OVER  
WE KNOW HE HEARS THE SECRETS THEY DON'T SHARE  
THAT'S THE REASON HE'S A BILLIONAIRE  
AND HOW HE KNOWS IT WASN'T FAIR

SANDY

(spoken)

Unbelievable!

(singing)

YOU THINK WE'RE CHEATIN'

AW BUT YOU'RE LISTENIN' TO LIES DISGUISED AS FREEDOM  
DON'T YOU SEE NOW?

THIS COUNTRY'S JUST A PIGGY BANK FOR HIM TO CLEAN  
OUT

NOW, I KNOW WHERE YOU GET YOUR NEWS  
BUT IT'S PROPAGANDA LIT THE FUSE  
AND THERE'S ONLY ONE WORD TO USE!

SANDY (cont'd)  
(all the Democrats in  
Kitty's join her)  
INSURRECTION!

CLINT  
(singing)  
IT'S A CORRECTION

SANDY & DEMOCRATS  
(singing)  
INSURRECTION!

CLINT  
OF OUR ELECTION

SANDY & DEMOCRATS  
INSURRECTION!

CLINT  
IT'S A REJECTION

SANDY & DEMOCRATS  
INSURRECTION!

CLINT  
OF YOUR SELECTION

SANDY  
(singing solo)  
INSURRECTION!

CLINT  
(spoken)  
I tell ya what...

(singing)  
IN A MINUTE  
ALL OF THOSE TRAITORS ARE GONNA KNOW THEY'RE IN IT  
IN AN HOUR  
THEY'LL BE HUNTED DOWN AND STRIPPED OF ALL THEIR  
POWER

SANDY  
(singing)  
SO YOU FELL FOR A FAIRY TALE  
YOUR REBELLION IS GONNA FAIL  
AND THEY'LL ALL END UP IN JAIL

SANDY & DEMOCRATS  
INSURRECTION!

CLINT  
IT'S A CORRECTION

SANDY & DEMOCRATS  
INSURRECTION!

CLINT  
OF OUR ELECTION

SANDY & DEMOCRATS  
INSURRECTION!

CLINT  
IT'S A REJECTION

SANDY & DEMOCRATS  
INSURRECTION!

CLINT  
OF YOUR SELECTION

SANDY & DEMOCRATS  
INSURRECTION!

CLINT  
IT'S A PROTECTION

SANDY & DEMOCRATS  
INSURRECTION!

CLINT  
FROM YOUR INFECTON

SANDY & DEMOCRATS  
INSURRECTION!

CLINT  
IT'S OUR OBJECTION

SANDY  
(singing solo)  
INSURRECTION!

(NOTE: Clint's interjections in the choruses can be sung instead by other Republican restaurant patrons) Clint and Sandy end up nose-to-nose at the end of the song, glaring at each other.

SANDY (cont'd)  
(spoken)  
So tell me, Mr. Miller, is Buck there?

CLINT

(waits a beat, then  
burst out laughing and  
continues)

Course he's there little girl, him an'  
Rusty are right there in the thick of  
it!

(he points at the TV  
screen and notices  
something)

Oh, wait! There they are! That's them  
right there, that's Buck's jacket!

(he rushes toward the  
TV to point them out)

Sandy burst out crying and hugs Eleanor.

SANDY

This is all my fault!

ELEANOR

This is definitely not your fault,  
honey, c'mon, let's go.

CLINT

Nobody leaves.

(he produces a gun from  
under his jacket and  
holds it up)

This is the beginnin' now, and we're  
gonna take the country by force if we  
have to. It's time for the woke  
Democrats to step aside and let the  
patriots run things! All you cheatin'  
Democrats over here

(he indicates stage  
right)

and the rest of you, give me a hand  
watchin' 'em!

The restaurant patrons look at each other nervously, but no  
one moves except Tripp, who comes down to confront Clint.

TRIPP

Come on, Mr. Miller, this is not some  
heroic war here, this is a bunch of  
people watching the news at a bar. Put  
it away, and let's have ourselves a  
good day.

CLINT

(worked up now)

But you don't know! We've been plannin'  
this for years!

(MORE)

CLINT (cont'd)

Finally it's time for the Boogaloo, and Trump's gonna fix everything! No more o' this goddamned political correctness, no more forced vaccinations, an' gun restrictions, an' no more treadin' on people who just wanna...wanna believe in Jesus, and the way things used to be!

TRIPP

(moving towards Clint)

Nobody is trying to stop you from...

CLINT

(interrupting by suddenly pointing the gun at Tripp)

No, no, don't get any ideas!

TRIPP

(putting his hands up)

Just...trying to calm everybody down and...

CLINT

(interrupting)

I don't need to calm down, I don't want to calm down! This is it, don't you get it? It's our moment, and all over the country, people like me are followin' their example

(he points at the TV)

and takin' our country back for We The People! 'Cause it's We The People, the ones who voted, big numbers, bigger numbers than anyone ever before, for our president, Donald J. Trump!

TRIPP

Look, everyone here, they're We The People too, aren't they? They didn't do anything wrong, why d'you have to keep them here? How about you just let everybody go home, and you and me can talk this out, what do you say?

He takes a step towards Clint, who fires in surprise, and Eleanor (who is standing beside Tripp) slumps into Tripp's arms. Sandy screams and runs to her.

SANDY

(screaming)

Mom!

TRIPP

Mom? Mom! Are you okay?  
(finding blood on her  
head)  
Ohmigod, Midge! Call 911!

CLINT

(crumbling)  
I didn't...I didn't...

SANDY

(sobbing)  
You shot her! You shot Mom!

The lights go down suddenly to end the act.

## ACT III

The lights come up on Kitty's, with some regulars seated, and Midge behind the bar. Buck, dressed in his kitchen whites, (over a Trump T-shirt) is seated at the downstage table talking with Tripp.

BUCK

Midge told me...everyone told me...how you tried to calm my dad down.

TRIPP

Well, I knew him better than some other people there, so I thought I'd better be the one to talk to him.

BUCK

Anyhow, I'm grateful. Even if he did jack it all up in the end, at least you tried. Y'know, I always knew Dad was a hothead, but...negligent discharge of a firearm? Anyhow, thank you Tripp, an' I gotta know, what's the news about your mom?

TRIPP

Doc says the bullet passed through part of her skull, so she's still in a coma. He says if she wakes up, she can probably recover, but it could be a week, could be a year, or she might...

He trails off, shaking his head.

BUCK

Aw man, let me apologize one more time for my idiot dad.

TRIPP

Don't. Don't. It was him, not you.

BUCK

No, it wasn't just him though, I believe all those groups he talked to on the internet about The Boogaloo and all that stuff was part of it. That's also why he was so fired up to send me to D.C., but I did it! I went! An' then when we got there...Tripp, we were doin' the right thing, but now it's all over, we're gettin' painted as the bad guys!

TRIPP

You did...kind of try to take over the capitol by force...

BUCK

(confidently)

But we had to! The election was stolen, right?

TRIPP

No, it wasn't! That's why you're the bad guys...

BUCK

(interrupting)

But we were...

TRIPP

...wait wait wait, it's not your fault, Buck! You got drafted into an army of patsies, just regular folk like you an' Rusty an' that guy in the horns and facepaint, all taking the fall for the rich people pulling strings behind the scenes!

BUCK

(amused)

Aww, now that just sounds like a crazy conspiracy theory!

TRIPP

Think about it, though: Trump himself is a billionaire; the only law he got passed this whole four years was a tax cut for his rich buddies! And the owners of that station you watch all the time are also billionaires, so they tell the talking heads what to say on the air.

The intro to *Golden Rule* begins.

TRIPP (cont'd)

The whole country is run by the rich. They pay off the right people and they get exactly what they want. It's like this:

(singing)

ADAM WAS THE RICHEST MAN  
WHO EVER WALKED THE EARTH  
'CAUSE HE HAD THE WHOLE WORLD TO HIMSELF  
AND EVER SINCE THERE'S BEEN A WAR  
TO KEEP THE BIGGEST SHARE

THAT'S HOW EVERY RICH MAN GOT HIS WEALTH

OH LORD, PITY US FOOLS  
 WE GOT THE MINESHAFT, THEY GOT THE JEWELS  
 'CAUSE THEY GOT THE GOLD SO THEY MAKE THE RULES  
 AND WE GOT TO LEARN TO LIVE  
 BY THAT GOLDEN RULE  
 THE GOLDEN RULE

(spoken)  
 That's right...  
 (sung)

FIRST THING THAT A RICH MAN DOES  
 IS TRY TO RIG THE GAME  
 SO HE CAN KEEP THE TAXMAN AWAY  
 SO WHEN YOU VOTE FOR BILLIONAIRES  
 NO MATTER WHAT THEY CLAIM  
 THEY'LL FIX IT SO THAT THEY NEVER PAY

OH LORD, PITY US FOOLS  
 WE GOT THE MINESHAFT, THEY GOT THE JEWELS  
 'CAUSE THEY GOT THE GOLD SO THEY MAKE THE RULES  
 AND WE GOT TO LEARN TO LIVE  
 BY THAT GOLDEN RULE  
 THE GOLDEN RULE

WHY SHOULD A POOR MAN  
 ONLY GET PAID A FRACTIONAL PORTION  
 'CAUSE ALL OF HIS WORK IS MAKIN' A FORTUNE  
 SHOULDN'T HE GET THE PENTHOUSE SOMEDAY?

OH LORD, PITY US FOOLS  
 WE GOT THE MINESHAFT, THEY GOT THE JEWELS  
 'CAUSE THEY GOT THE GOLD SO THEY MAKE THE RULES  
 AND WE GOT TO LEARN TO LIVE  
 BY THAT GOLDEN RULE

(as Tripp sings 'rule'  
 the restaurant crowd  
 sings the chorus,  
 while doing some  
 choreographed steps,  
 with Tripp  
 interspersing his  
 'Golden rule' lyric  
 between their lines)

KITTY'S PATRONS  
 (singing)

OH LORD, PITY US FOOLS  
 THEY GOT THE GOLD SO THEY MAKE THE RULES

TRIPP  
 THE GOLDEN RULE

KITTY'S PATRONS  
OH LORD, PITY US FOOLS  
THEY GOT THE GOLD SO THEY MAKE THE RULES

TRIPP  
THE GOLDEN RULE

KITTY'S PATRONS  
OH LORD, PITY US FOOLS  
THEY GOT THE GOLD SO THEY MAKE THE RULES

TRIPP  
THE GOLDEN RULE

KITTY'S PATRONS  
OH LORD, PITY US FOOLS  
THEY GOT THE GOLD SO THEY MAKE THE RULES

TRIPP  
WE GOT THE GOLDEN RULE

BUCK  
I guess I never thought of it like  
that. But you're not...are you...tryin'  
to tell me that the Fake News was...our  
news?

TRIPP  
Well, they told some news, but they  
left a lot out, and then they whipped  
people up with what they left in.

BUCK  
But what about all those reports about  
voter fraud?

TRIPP  
Those reports only played on the  
networks the billionaires own, like  
your favorite there. The other networks  
all ran stories about how every one of  
those claims had been debunked in court  
cases.

BUCK  
Really?!  
(pauses, then)  
Well now don't I feel like a sucker. No  
wonder Sandy won't talk to me, I'm one  
o' the saps who fell for the swindle.

TRIPP

Well, like I said, it's not your fault.  
Maybe if she knew how you feel now,  
she'd listen...

BUCK

No man, it's hopeless, she ain't  
answerin' calls or texts or nothin'.

TRIPP

Well, she sure spends enough time  
storming around the house cussin' you  
out! That tells me she's not done with  
you yet.

BUCK

So...she's cussin' me out an' you think  
that means she wants me back? What...  
how...?

TRIPP

Buck, how'd you get this far in life  
without understanding girls?

BUCK

Well I...I...I ain't got a sister to  
enlighten me, I guess.

TRIPP

So when you go talk to her...

BUCK

Yeah?

TRIPP

Don't wear your Trump T-shirt.

The lights go down on Kitty's and up at the Carsons' house,  
where Bill is strumming the chords for *Still In Love* while  
Sandy tidies her haircutting tools.

SANDY

That's pretty, Papa, what is it?

BILL

Song I been meanin' to write for a very  
long time.

SANDY

It's nice, can I hear the rest of it?

BILL

Not yet. I gotta play it for your mom  
first.

SANDY

(after a pause)

I read some people in comas can hear  
everything goin' on around 'em.

BILL

Well, she ain't stirred yet, an' Doc  
Shapiro don't paint a rosy picture.

Sandy runs over to him and hugs him.

SANDY

(crying)

Oh Papa!

Tripp comes in, home from having that drink with Buck.

TRIPP

What's going on? Oh no! Is there...  
news?

SANDY

Nothin's happened, Tripp, we're just  
sad because...well, nothin's happened.

BILL

I was just tellin' Sandy, Doc Shapiro  
has not...filled me with hope. So I'm  
gonna head over an' see if they'll let  
me spend a little time tellin' her to  
wake up, or at least...say goodbye.

Sandy starts crying a little again, but the electric lead  
guitar introduction to *Drinkin' In The Dark* interrupts the  
scene.

TRIPP

What the hell was that?

BILL

Is that...comin' from the shed?

SANDY

(opening the screen  
door and heading  
outside)

Hello? Is someone out here?

As the song progresses, Tripp and Sandy make their way slowly  
out to the shed and open the door, where Buck is sitting on  
the floor with a flask in hand. He keeps singing as they try  
to pull him up, eventually succeeding during the last chorus  
and carrying him, still singing, back into their house, where  
they deposit him on the sofa.

BUCK

(singing)

YOU HAD EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE I WOULD KEEP  
MY WORD  
TO YOU  
THAT'S WHY YOU WERE CRYING WHEN YOU SAW THAT THE  
RUMOUR  
YOU'D HEARD  
WAS TRUE  
I BROKE MY PROMISE, I RUINED MY VOW  
AND NOW I'M DEALIN' THE WAY I KNOW HOW

I'VE BEEN DRINKIN'  
DRINKIN' IN THE DARK  
AND I'VE BEEN THINKIN'  
I CAN'T HEAL YOUR SHATTERED HEART  
I DON'T WANNA SEE THE FALLOUT  
'CAUSE I KNOW IT'S ALL MY FAULT  
I DON'T WANNA SEE TOMORROW  
I DON'T WANNA SEE ANYTHING AT ALL  
THAT'S WHY I'M DRINKIN'  
DRINKIN' IN THE DARK

NO ONE HAS TO TELL ME THE DECISION I MADE  
THAT DAY  
WAS WRONG  
ALL I HAD TO DO WAS THROW A BILL ON THE BAR  
AND SAY  
"SO LONG."  
I SEE THAT MOMENT ON REPEAT IN MY MIND  
DRIVIN' ME CRAZY, I'D RATHER BE BLIND

SO I'VE BEEN DRINKIN'  
DRINKIN' IN THE DARK  
AND I'VE BEEN THINKIN'  
I'VE GOT NO WAY TO HEAL YOUR SHATTERED HEART  
I DON'T WANNA SEE THE FALLOUT  
'CAUSE I KNOW IT'S ALL MY FAULT  
I DON'T WANNA SEE TOMORROW  
I DON'T WANNA SEE ANYTHING AT ALL  
THAT'S WHY I'M DRINKIN'  
DRINKIN' IN THE DARK

I WANNA BLAME IT ALL ON SOMEONE ELSE  
OR BLAME IT ON THE BOOZE, YEAH  
BUT IT DON'T MATTER HOW I LOST  
NOW I'VE GOT NOTHIN', NOTHIN' LEFT TO LOSE

SO NOW I'M DRINKIN'  
DRINKIN' IN THE DARK  
AND I'VE BEEN THINKIN'  
THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD EVER FORGIVE MY GUILTY  
HEART  
I DON'T WANNA SEE THE FALLOUT

'CAUSE I KNOW IT'S ALL MY FAULT  
I DON'T WANNA SEE TOMORROW  
I DON'T WANNA SEE ANYTHING AT ALL  
THAT'S WHY I'M DRINKIN'  
DRINKIN' IN THE DARK  
YEAH THAT'S WHY I'M DRINKIN'  
DRINKIN' IN THE DARK  
THAT'S WHY I'M DRINKIN'  
DRINKIN' IN THE DARK

SANDY

(angry)

Buck, what are you doin'? Am I supposed  
to feel sorry for you or somethin'?

BUCK

I'm sorry, Sandy. Sooooo sorry.

TRIPP

Yeah, maybe getting polluted in our  
shed wasn't your best opening line. But  
go on, say what you came to say. Dad,  
c'mon, you an' me gotta head over to  
the hospital.

He motions to Bill that they need to leave Buck and Sandy  
alone

BILL

No way! You want me to leave my  
daughter alone with this drunken MAGA  
hooligan?

TRIPP

Dad, it's okay. Buck's had a change of  
heart.

BILL

A change of heart?

BUCK

Mr. Carson, I know this don't look  
great, but I promise you, I am a  
different man, an' I'm here to make  
things right.

BILL

You're right about it not lookin'  
great...

TRIPP

Dad, it's okay, trust me.

BILL

(after a pause)

Well, alright, if you say so...Sandy,  
you can hear him out, an' if you don't  
like what you hear, kick him right back  
out.

SANDY

Oh, I will!

BUCK

Thank you, that's all I ask.

BILL

An' Sandy!

(he points at her)

No monkey business! Okay, c'mon, Tripp.

Bill grabs a coat and his guitar, and he and Tripp head out  
the front door, with Tripp motioning Buck to get on with it.

SANDY

Well? Whaddaya got to say for yourself?

BUCK

I came to say I'm sorry.

SANDY

I'll say you are, you're about the  
sorriest thing I ever seen.

BUCK

I messed it all up. It's all my fault,  
I never shoulda gone.

SANDY

It ain't just that you went though, it  
was more about you believin' all those  
lies.

BUCK

Oh, but Sandy I don't! I don't! Tripp  
laid it out for me, an' now I get it!

SANDY

Tripp laid it out? Was it also Tripp's  
idea for you to come over here and get  
drunk in the shed?

BUCK

No, no, he showed me how it all works, with the rich people pushin' lies on TV, an' I wanted to come over and tell you that I've changed, and that I get it now, and...

SANDY

...and you decided to polish off a mickey in our back yard?

BUCK

I came over to apologize, and then I thought I'd just take a little liquid courage in the shed, and...

SANDY

And you stayed to drink the whole bottle?

BUCK

I think I was puttin' off comin' in. I guess...I guess I was just scared.

SANDY

Scared? Of me?

BUCK

I was scared you...you wouldn't listen. I was scared you wouldn't forgive me. I'm still scared you won't forgive me.

SANDY

Well, you should be scared. You broke your promise to me. An' then gettin' wasted in the shed like a coward? What were you doin' in there anyway?

A gentle solo acoustic guitar intro for *Make It Great* begins during the following exchange.

BUCK

Sandy, I know you got no reason to trust anything I say right now, but I just gotta tell you anyway. I went to Washington, partly to make Dad happy, but also because I really believed that we were doin' the right thing. But I understand now that we were all just caught up in a lie, those TV people tricked us into believin' a lie. And Sandy, I do know what's true, an' that's you.

(MORE)

BUCK (cont'd)

You are why I'm back here, beggin' your  
forgiveness, an' ready to start over  
doin' it right this time.

SANDY

(initially impressed)

Wow. Pretty words, Buck! But how do I  
know you ain't just sayin' that to get  
me to forgive you, an' then you'll go  
get suckered back in again?

BUCK

Sandy, the whole time I was there in  
your shed, I was thinkin' about what  
Tripp told me, that it's just rich  
people tryin' to hoodwink us, an' at  
first I couldn't wrap my mind round it,  
but...but that's what Trump's famous  
for in the first place, ain't it? For  
bein' rich!

SANDY

Right.

BUCK

So why wouldn't he be tryin' to help  
rich people? That's him! An' his  
buddies! An' it started to make more  
an' more sense.

Anyway, it wasn't only me, Dad an'  
Rusty got hoodwinked too. We all  
thought we were on the side savin' the  
country, but then we ended up  
rabbletrekkin' through the Capitol an'  
makin' a mess o' everything. An' then  
all I could think about the whole time  
was how pissed you were gonna be, an'  
then my dad...

He pauses, unable to put it into words

BUCK (cont'd)

So I'm sorry. I am truly sorry.

SANDY

So you have done a complete one-eighty  
about Trump an' MAGA an' everything?

BUCK

Absolutely. Know how I see it now?

He starts singing *Make It Great*.

BUCK (cont'd)

(singing)

GENERAL WASHINGTON HE FOUGHT A BLOODY WAR  
 FOR INDEPENDENCE FROM A WEALTHY KING  
 SO WHEN A BILLIONAIRE CAN BE THE PRESIDENT  
 MEANS WE'VE BACKSLID, LOST EVERYTHING

WHEN I WENT TO MARCH THE SIXTH OF JANUARY  
 THOUGHT I WAS JOININ' IN THIS NOBLE FIGHT  
 BUT WHEN THE WARRIORS BECAME A LYNCH MOB  
 I SHOULD HAVE ASKED MYSELF JUST WHO WAS RIGHT

'CAUSE I DON'T WANNA TAKE - TAKE LYNCH MOB'S WORD  
 TO TELL ME WHO I'M SUPPOSED TO HATE  
 IF THIS COUNTRY AIN'T - AIN'T FOR EVERYONE  
 WELL NOW THAT DON'T  
 DON'T MAKE IT GREAT  
 SO MAKE IT GREAT  
 YEAH MAKE IT GREAT

As the song progresses, Buck and Sandy slowly move down stage across to Kitty's, as the divider swings over and the lights change to Kitty's, where the crowd joins in the song, answering Buck's 'Make it great' lines with an answer echo.

WHEN THE TV NEWS CAN GET YOU RILED UP  
 OVER AMERICANS WHO DON'T VOTE LIKE YOU  
 DON'T YOU ASK YOURSELF WHO OWNS THE TV NEWS?  
 AND DON'T THEY LIVE ON PARK AVENUE?

I DON'T WANNA TAKE - TAKE A NEWSMAN'S WORD  
 TO TELL ME WHO I'M SUPPOSED TO HATE  
 IF THIS COUNTRY AIN'T - AIN'T FOR EVERYONE  
 WELL NOW THAT DON'T  
 DON'T MAKE IT GREAT  
 SO MAKE IT GREAT  
 YEAH MAKE IT GREAT

THROUGH ALL THE HISTORY OF OUR DEMOCRACY  
 THE FIGHT WAS RICH AND POOR, NOT LEFT AND RIGHT  
 BUT WE'VE BEEN MAKIN' WAR AGAINST EACH OTHER NOW  
 'CAUSE BILLIONAIRES SAY WHO WE SHOULD FIGHT

I DON'T WANNA TAKE - TAKE A RICH MAN'S WORD  
 TO TELL ME WHO I'M SUPPOSED TO HATE  
 IF THIS COUNTRY AIN'T - AIN'T FOR EVERYONE  
 WELL NOW THAT DON'T  
 DON'T MAKE IT GREAT  
 SO MAKE IT GREAT

KITTY'S PATRONS  
(singing)  
MAKE IT GREAT!

BUCK  
YEAH MAKE IT GREAT

KITTY'S PATRONS  
(singing)  
MAKE IT GREAT!

BUCK  
YEAH MAKE IT GREAT

KITTY'S PATRONS  
(singing)  
MAKE IT GREAT!

BUCK  
OH MAKE IT GREAT

KITTY'S PATRONS  
(singing)  
MAKE IT GREAT!

BUCK  
MAKE IT GREAT!

As soon as Buck finishes his last vocal line, the lights go out, and then a single spotlight comes on (downstage from the Carson house set) where Eleanor lies in a hospital bed with a bandaged head and tubes attached to her arms. Bill stands over her wearing his acoustic guitar. He starts playing and sings *Still In Love*.

BILL  
(singing)  
WHEN I PLAY MY GUITAR  
I FEEL LIKE I'M STROKIN' YOUR CHEEK  
AND WHEN SHE MAKES A SOUND  
I FEEL LIKE I'M HEARIN' YOU SPEAK  
WHEN I STRUM OUT A WALTZ IN A MINOR KEY  
IT FEELS LIKE YOU'RE SENDIN' A MESSAGE TO ME  
STILL IN LOVE  
STILL IN LOVE

I REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME  
I PLAYED YOU THIS SONG AND YOU LAUGHED  
AND YOU CALLED IT A MUSICAL  
SEPIA-TONED PHOTOGRAPH  
BUT I KNOW THAT YOUR TEASIN' IS MEANT TO HIDE  
THE WELL OF EMOTION YOU'RE FEELIN' INSIDE  
STILL IN LOVE  
STILL IN LOVE

YOU'RE STILL IN LOVE LIKE A MOUNTAIN IN LOVE WITH  
THE SKY  
AND I'M STILL IN LOVE FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE  
I KNOW THAT I CAN'T SAY GOODBYE

WHEN I'M PLAYIN' ALONE IN MY ROOM  
AND THERE'S NO ONE AROUND  
AND I FIND MYSELF LOST IN THE TUNE  
WELL I'LL HEAR A SOUND  
WHEN I COME TO THE END OF A SOLO SONG  
I STILL HEAR YOUR HARMONY AFTER IT'S DONE  
STILL IN LOVE  
STILL IN LOVE

As Bill reaches the end of the song, Eleanor stirs in the bed, opens her eyes and speaks.

ELEANOR  
Well, that's a pretty song.

BILL  
(pulling off his guitar  
and leaning over her)  
El! Oh thank God! You're awake! Oh, my  
darlin' Eleanor! How do you feel?

ELEANOR  
I have a splitting headache. What  
happened?

BILL  
(putting down his  
guitar and hugging her)  
A lot, Darlin'. A lot. I'll tell you  
all about it. Oh my sweet darlin' El!

The spotlight goes out again, and the lights go back up at Kitty's, where Rusty and Midge are staring into each others' eyes at the bar, like the honeymoon-phase couple they now are. A "Welcome Home Buck!" sign hangs behind the bar.]

RUSTY  
I can't believe they're gonna give Buck  
the royal treatment just for gettin'  
outta jail, an' now you're stuck  
servin' 'em drinks all night.

MIDGE

Honey, it's gonna be worth it just so's  
I can get home to you!

RUSTY

An' that is why you are my one an'  
only, Midge. Now, you know I'd stay  
here with ya, maybe try'n talk a little  
sense into Tripp, but I know Buck, he'd  
run me outta here quick as a fox.

MIDGE

Oh I know it. Now go on, you better get  
out before they all get here.

RUSTY

Yeah, that'd be awkward. See ya at  
home!

He heads for the door, but before he gets there, Tripp comes in with his parents. As they talk, the Carsons get seated at a table in front and order silently from Midge, while Rusty stands nearby.

RUSTY (cont'd)

Ohhhh heeyyy!

ELEANOR

Rusty, so nice of you to be here to  
welcome Buck home!

RUSTY

I was actually just gonna...

ELEANOR

(interrupting)

Come and sit with us Rusty, all Buck's  
best friends together!

TRIPP

Mom, I don't know if...uh...

RUSTY

Yeah, Mrs. Carson, me an' Buck, we  
ain't such close friends these days.

ELEANOR

Well, of course I know that, but look,  
we're all going to have to live  
together for a very long time now,  
aren't we, so we might as well practice  
getting along.

RUSTY  
I'd just as soon sit this one out.

TRIPP  
(amused)  
What's the matter, Rusty, you afraid of spending time with a bunch of Democrats?

RUSTY  
I just don't wanna listen to hours of you guys beatin' up on President Trump. Y'know, the way you guys talk about him, he's a Russian agent, an' he's gonna...bulldoze the White House or somethin'! He ain't like that at all! He just got ripped off in the election, an' I'm proud o' what we did. I'm proud we tried to help fix the damage done at the ballot box, an' Buck, he's the opposite, he's embarrassed for what we did! I just don't get that.

Rusty shakes his head.

TRIPP  
Come on. You are not proud of bustin' windows and breaking into the capitol like a bunch of naughty kids! Are you proud of all the police who got injured?

RUSTY  
Ashli Babbitt was shot dead!

TRIPP  
Shot dead committing a crime, the same crime you were committing!

ELEANOR  
(reproachfully)  
Uh uh uh! We are trying to get along here, Tripp, remember? Rusty, it may surprise you to learn that we don't talk nonstop about Trump and January sixth whenever we get together. We're here to talk about Buck, anyway. Have you seen how well the barbecue truck is doing in our driveway? I mean, until Buck...took time off.

RUSTY

I see it here, with the business Buck  
stole comin' back to Kitty's while he  
was locked up.

ELEANOR

(indignant)

But Buck never stole anything! In  
America, whoever earns the most  
customers gets the business.

RUSTY

My girl Midge been worryin' about  
payin' the rent, the way Kitty's was  
goin', an' now Buck's back it's gonna  
happen again. I get that you wanna have  
a party for him, but for me he's just  
Bad Luck Buck.

ELEANOR

(outraged)

Bad Lu... that's a terrible thing to  
call him, Rusty!

BILL

(mimicking Eleanor's  
interruption at first)

Uh uh uh! Ain't we tryin' to get along,  
El? But can we even do that? Until we  
can know what's truth an' what's lies,  
we can't agree, an' if we can't agree,  
we can't get along. Truth is, until  
the whole country meets a common enemy,  
we may not be able to.

RUSTY

Yeah, an' I don't think that's gonna be  
tonight, so Imma just...

He points at the door.

BILL

But wait, Rusty. What if the common  
enemy turned out to be...Donald Trump?

Rusty rolls his eyes and starts towards the door, just as Buck  
and Sandy enter.

RUSTY

Buck!

SANDY

He's back! Look out!

The intro to *Welcome Home - End* starts as the bar patrons crowd around Buck cheering. Rusty is lost in the crowd and resurfaces later at the bar making eyes at Midge.

TRIPP

Hey Buddy!

BUCK

Tripp! Oh my god, I got stories for you, Buddy!

TRIPP

I bet you do!

Tripp starts singing, and as he does Buck makes his way through the restaurant, shaking hands and hugging people, with Sandy by his side as they finally arrive at the Carsons' table.

(singing)

SIT DOWN

HANG YOUR COAT AROUND THE CHAIR

WE ARE SO

GLAD TO SEE YOU HERE

COME JOIN THE PARTY,

YOU BEEN GONE SO LONG!

BREATHE IN THE FREEDOM IN THE AIR

THIS COUNTRY'S GREATER EVERY YEAR

HOPE NO ONE MINDS, WE'RE GONNA BE SINGIN' OUR SONG...

WE SING

KITTY'S PATRONS

(singing and dancing a  
choreographed Western  
dance)

HOME WITH A WARM FIREPLACE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

HOME WHERE THE FAMILY CAN CHASE ALL YOUR BLUES AWAY

HOME SUCH A BEAUTIFUL PLACE WHEN YOU'VE BEEN AWAY

TRIPP

WE BEEN COUNTIN' THE DAYS  
AND WE ALL WANNA SAY  
WELCOME HOME!

KITTY'S PATRONS

HOME WITH A WARM FIREPLACE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

SANDY

(takes over one time)

WELCOME HOME!

Sandy gives Buck a big kiss.

KITTY'S PATRONS  
HOME WHERE THE FAMILY CAN CHASE ALL YOUR BLUES AWAY

TRIPP  
WELCOME HOME!

KITTY'S PATRONS  
HOME SUCH A BEAUTIFUL PLACE WHEN YOU'VE BEEN AWAY

TRIPP  
WE BEEN COUNTIN' THE DAYS  
AND WE ALL WANNA SAY  
WELCOME HOME!

KITTY'S PATRONS  
HOME!

TRIPP  
WELCOME HOME!

KITTY'S PATRONS  
HOME!

TRIPP  
WELCOME HOME!

KITTY'S PATRONS  
HOME!

TRIPP  
WE BEEN COUNTIN' THE DAYS  
AND WE ALL WANNA SAY  
WELCOME HOME!

KITTY'S PATRONS  
HOME!

TRIPP  
WELCOME HOME!

KITTY'S PATRONS  
HOME!

TRIPP  
WELCOME HOME!

KITTY'S PATRONS  
HOME!

TRIPP  
WE BEEN COUNTIN' THE DAYS  
AND WE ALL WANNA SAY

WELCOME HOME !

KITTY'S PATRONS  
HOME !

TRIPP  
WELCOME HOME !

KITTY'S PATRONS  
HOME !

TRIPP  
WELCOME HOME !

KITTY'S PATRONS  
HOME !

TRIPP  
WELCOME HOME !

The instrumental and the Whoa melody continue as long as necessary for the cast to step forward and bow collectively and individually.

THE END